

RSU 21 SUMMER READING GUIDE

Incoming Fourth and Fifth Graders

Reading strategies to make summertime reading a success!

- **Set aside time each day for family and/or independent reading.**
- **Read to your children, even the older ones.**
- **Have your child read to you. (If a wordless book, let them create a story from the illustrations.)**
- **When traveling, bring an audio book for the whole family to listen to. (KFL and Graves Library have dozens of titles to choose from!)**
- **Let your child see you reading!**
- **Take advantage of the many summer activities your local library has to offer.**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

RSU 21 is pleased to present our students with this Summer Reading Guide to provide them with a list of age appropriate (“just right”) books, in all genres, that we hope will appeal to readers of all ability levels. Reading fluency requires practice and time, just like any other activity, and the more children practice, the more confident readers they will become!

Students entering Fourth and Fifth Grades are expected to read at least three “just right” books this summer - one Fiction, one Non-Fiction, and one free choice. In addition to reading 25 minutes each day, students should record their completed books on a reading log. Although students are not required to choose books from this guide, they are strongly encouraged to do so. Furthermore, please feel free to take a look at our reading guides for the other grades.

Most of the books in this guide are available at the Kennebunk Free Library and Louis T. Graves Public Library in Kennebunkport, in addition to local and online booksellers. A few printed copies of this guide will also be available at both of the public libraries and the district’s Central Office, located within the Kennebunk Elementary School.



4TH-5TH SUMMER READING GUIDE

Fiction

Chapter Books

***Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris**

Grabenstein. When the eccentric inventor of video and board games returns to his hometown to build a library the likes of which has never been seen, he brings with him the most spectacular puzzler of them all.

***Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminating Adventures* by Kate**

DiCamillo. 2014 Newbery Medal Winner. Flora, obsessed with superhero comics, immediately recognizes and gives her wholehearted support to a squirrel that, after a near-fatal brush with a vacuum cleaner, develops the ability to fly and type poetry.

***Island of Thieves* by Josh Lacey.**

Little did Tom Trelawney know that after accidentally burning down his family's shed he would embark on the adventure of a lifetime. Tom's parents are about to leave on a long-awaited vacation and send Tom to stay with Uncle Harvey.

***I Survived the Japanese Tsunami* by Lauren Tarshis.**

Visiting his dad's hometown in Japan four months after his father's death would be hard enough for Ben. But one morning the pain turns to fear: first, a massive earthquake rocks the quiet coastal village, nearly toppling his uncle's house.

***Liar & Spy* by Rebecca Stead.**

Seventh grader Georges moves into a Brooklyn apartment building and meets Safer, a twelve-year-old self-appointed spy. Georges becomes Safer's first spy recruit. But as Safer becomes more demanding, Georges starts to wonder: what is a lie, and what is a game? How far is too far to go for your only friend?

***Navigating Early* by Clare Vanderpool.**

A Michael L. Printz Honor Winner. An odyssey-like adventure of two boys' incredible quest on the Appalachian Trail where they deal with pirates, buried secrets, and extraordinary encounters.

***The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate. 2013**

Newbery Medal Winner. Inspired by the true story of a captive gorilla known as Ivan, this illustrated novel is told from the point-of-view of Ivan himself.

***One Came Home* by Amy Timberlake.**

Newbery Honor Book. Gabby is a daydreamer, and words fire her imagination. But after her parents separate, her daydreams begin to intrude on the realities of the classroom and schoolwork.

Fiction

Chapter Books, continued. . .

***Paperboy* by Vince Vawter.** 2014 Newbury Honor Winner. Words don't come easy for an 11-year-old boy coming of age in the segregated South of Vince Vawter's moving novel, *Paperboy*. Spending the summer tending his best friend's paper route leads to new discoveries, friendships, and danger as the lives behind the closed doors of neighbors, now his customers, are exposed for the first time.

***P.S. Be Eleven* by Rita Williams-Garcia.** This sequel to *One Crazy Summer* is a Coretta Scott King Award winner. After their life-changing summer in Oakland with their poet-activist mother, related in *One Crazy Summer* (HarperCollins, 2010), sisters Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern find it difficult to readjust to life in Brooklyn.

***Romeo Blue* by Phoebe Stone.** This sequel to *The Romeo and Juliet Code* (Scholastic, 2011) can stand alone as a great World War II story. It picks up about two years after Felicity has left London for Bottlebay, Maine, and although she's trying to make the best of it, suspicious activity and questions abound.

***Sugar* by Jewell Parker Rhodes.** Through the sharp eyes of a 10-year-old, readers experience the hardship of life on a Louisiana sugar plantation after Emancipation.

***Ungifted* by Gordon Korman.** A hilarious and heartfelt novel in which one middle-school troublemaker, Donovan Curtis, accidentally moves into the gifted and talented program - and changes everything.

***Waffler* by Gail Donovan.** Portland author. When one boy waffles back and forth, it's going to take a few little kids - and one pet rat - to get him to finally make a decision.

***Water Castle* by Megan Frazer Blakemore.** Kennebunk author and 2014 Lupine Honor Award! In this novel, three loners become friends while searching for a miracle.



4TH-5TH SUMMER READING GUIDE

Fiction

Series

***The Vanishing Coin* and *The Incredible Twisting Arm* by Kate Egan**, a Maine author. Deep down, fourth grader Mike Weiss is a good kid. It's not his fault that he has an aversion to sitting still; that's just the way he's wired. As the school year commences, Mike is determined to get a fresh start, but his old habits keep tripping him up. It seems like nothing can help, until he discovers The White Rabbit, a magic shop with a mysterious proprietor. Simple instructions for magic trips are included!

***Savage of Fortress* and *City of Death* by Sarwat Chadda**. Fast-paced, action-filled books that weave in aspects of Hindu mythology and Indian religion. If you liked the Percy Jackson series, you'll love these!

Graphic Novels

***Annie Sullivan and the Trials of Helen Keller* by Joseph Lambert**. This richly illustrated book examines the powerful bond between teacher and pupil, forged through the intense frustrations and revelations of Helen's early education. The result is an inspiring, emotional, and wholly original take on the story of these two great Americans.

***Bluffton* by Matt Phelan**. Historical detail with a rich sense of place, this book keeps all the plates in the air in this fictionalized recreation of the boyhood summers of Buster Keaton. In lightly sketched, gently tinted watercolor panels, Phelan conveys the excitement a troupe of summering vaudeville actors brings to sleepy Bluffton, a small resort town on Lake Michigan.

***Big Nate: Great Minds Think Alike* by Lincoln Peirce**. Two heads are better than one, except when they're crashing into each other! But that won't prevent Big Nate and his pals from hatching great ideas for fun.

***Star Wars: Jedi Academy* by Jeffrey Brown**. This incredible, original story captures all of the humor, awkwardness, fun, and frustrations of middle school--all told through one boy's comics, journal entries, letters, doodles, and newspaper clippings. The setting? A galaxy far, far away...

Non-Fiction/Informational

***The Animal Book* by Steve Jenkins**. Animals smooth and spiky, fast and slow, hop and waddle through the two hundred plus pages of the Caldecott Honor artist Steve Jenkins's most impressive nonfiction offering yet.

***Dolphins of Shark Bay* by Pamela S. Turner**. Ride alongside the author Pamela S. Turner and her scientific team and meet a cast of dolphin characters large enough (and charismatic enough) to rival a Shakespearean play. You will fall in love with this crew, both human and finned, as they seek to answer the question: just why are dolphins so smart?

***Elephant Talk: The Surprising Science of Elephant Communication* by Ann Downer**. Since the 1990s, scientists have gathered significant data on elephant "talk" and researchers are now asking: what do these sounds mean, and will understanding elephant talk be the key to saving the species?

***Eruption! Volcanoes and the Science of Saving Lives* by Elizabeth Rusch**. What does another book about volcanoes or natural disasters matter to a nonfiction section these days? In the case of this addition to the series, it matters a lot. This book gives tragic and terrifying volcanoes a sense of story that other books lack by talking about real-life crises and how individuals came together to keep millions of people safe.

***Get Into Art: Animals* by Susie Brooks**. *Get into Art!* introduces children to the world of art while encouraging budding artists to develop their own artistic abilities. Accomplished artists, along with some of their famous pieces and techniques are presented, then followed up with an art project reminiscent of each artist's work or genre.



4TH-5TH SUMMER READING GUIDE

Non-Fiction/Informational, continued . . .

***Ick! Yuck! Eww!: Our Gross American History* by Lois Miner Huey.** Those who like gross stuff will get a kick out of reading about the stinky living conditions, bug-infested and rotting food that people ate, the lack of dental and other personal hygiene, and other icky bits of eighteenth-century American history.

***Mighty Mars Rover* by Elizabeth Rusch.** The Mighty Mars Rovers tells the greatest space robot adventure of all time through the eyes and heart of Steven Squyres, professor of astronomy at Cornell University and lead scientist on the mission.

***World War II Pilots: An Interactive History Adventure* by Michael Burgan.** Action-packed, true-history tales put you in the cockpit. Experience World War II as it happened - the thrills of blasting the enemy in a dogfight, the terror of being trapped in a burning plane, and the indecision of being a hero or saving your life.

***World War II Spies: An Interactive History Adventure* by Michael Burgan.** Dramatic, nail-biting, true-history tales of living or dying as a World War II spy. Experience the war under cover as a Danish resistance fighter shuttling weapons, as a German double-cross agent keeping a complex web of secrets, and an OSS officer using high-tech gear, weapons, and poison to complete your mission.

Non-Fiction/Informational, continued . . .

Biography

***Electric Ben: The Amazing Life and Times of Ben Franklin* by Robert Byrd.** This appealingly designed book spotlights Benjamin Franklin and his times. Each double-page spread presents an aspect of Franklin's life, moving chronologically from Ben's Beginnings and School Days through The Scientific Amusements and The Natural Philosopher to The American in Paris and Liberty and Justice for All.

***Mad Potter: George E. Ohr, Eccentric Potter* by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan.** Exuberant and wildly creative, George Ohr, born in 1857 was a potter that was appreciated in his lifetime but never became wealthy or famous. However, his prediction that future generations would recognize his genius came true. Wonderful photographs.

***Wild Child: The Real Life of the Savage of Aveyron* by Mary Losure.** Who was the boy found naked in the forest by French villagers in the late 1700s? While he appeared to be about 10 years old, he could not tell his own story, because he could not talk. A poignant tale of finding humanity inside of savagery.



New and Notable Reads the Entire Family will Enjoy!

***The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt.**

***National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry* by J. Patrick Lewis**

***Bedtime Math* by Laura Decker**

***Look Up! Bird Watching in Your Backyard* by Annette LeBlanc Cate**

***GO: A Kidd's Guide to Graphic Design* by Chip Kidd**

***Treasury of Egyptian Mythology* by Donna Jo Napoli**

4TH-5TH SUMMER READING GUIDE

BOOKS I HAVE READ...

From this guide:	Books I found:	My Favorites:

We wish you all a wonderful and safe summer filled with adventures, both outdoors and within the covers of a good book!

Many thanks to the following people who have contributed both their time and expertise to create this guide:

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