

RSU 21 SUMMER READING GUIDE

Incoming Kindergarten
and
First Grade Students

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 it is 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 Kindergarten and First Grade are expected to read, or have read to them, at least three “just right” books this summer - one Fiction, one Non-Fiction, and one free choice. In addition to reading 20 minutes each day, students and their parents should record some of their favorite books on the attached 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.



K-1 SUMMER READING GUIDE

Fiction

Picture Books

Ant in Her Pants by Paul Orshoski. What if an ant got in your pants? Would it drive you crazy? An odd little ant causes lots of craziness in this very funny book that will leave beginning readers smiling.

Crankee Doodle by Tom Angleberger. Many know the song “Yankee Doodle Dandy,” but few understand it. This unapologetically silly picture book reveals that the legendary ride to town (and the whole macaroni thing) was all suggested by Mr. Doodle’s overeager pony. This just makes Mr. Doodle cranky!

DragonQuest by Allan Baillie. A mission to find the last dragon winds through a perilous landscape, but the knight sees no trace of the creature. Can the eagle-eyed reader spot it?

Exclamation Mark by Amy Krouse Rosenthal. With the celebrating-your-strengths angle, fun grammar lesson, and many classroom tie-in possibilities, this picture book deserves a !!!.

Ferdinand Fox’s First Summer by Mary Holland. Follow this photographic journal of a red fox as he explores the world around him during the first few months of his life.

Fish Had a Wish by Michael Garland. Fish has a wish. He wishes he were a bird so he could fly. He wishes he were a skunk and made a big stink... or a snake that says HISSSSSSSS! But after enjoying a delicious mayfly snack, Fish realizes he's happy exactly as he is.

Hank Finds an Egg by Rebecca Dudley. This wordless picture book is set in Dudley's fanciful Storywoods forest. With photographs of dioramas, she tells the story of Hank, a bearlike stuffed animal who finds an egg that has fallen from its nest.

How to Be a Cat by Nikki McClure. Beginning with the paw-print endpapers, youngsters will know that they are in for an adventure. The simplicity and flow of page design are beautifully done as viewers follow a kitten and his mother.

Fiction

Picture Books, continued . . .

I Am So Handsome by Mario Ramos. This “incorrigible wolf” heads off into the forest—wearing nothing but a teal tie and confidence so that all may reaffirm his handsomeness.

Mary Wrightly, So Politely by Shirin Yim Bridges. Mary Wrightly is the best-behaved little girl around. She always politely says please and thank you and even “I’m sorry” when something isn’t her fault. But when a shopper comes between Mary and the blue elephant toy she wants to buy for her beloved baby brother, will Mary just let the woman walk away with it?

Mr. Tiger Goes Wild by Peter Brown. This “it’s okay to be different” story stands out from other picture books on the topic thanks to Brown’s delightfully clever illustrations and masterful compositions.

Pete the Cat and His Groovy Buttons by Eric Litwin. Pete the Cat is wearing his favorite shirt—the one with the four totally groovy buttons. But when one falls off, does Pete cry? Goodness, no! He just keeps on singing his song—after all, what could be groovier than three groovy buttons?

Rain! by Linda Ashman. One rainy day in the city, an eager little boy exclaims, “Rain!” Across town a grumpy man grumbles, “Rain.” Can the boy’s natural exuberance (and perhaps a cookie) cheer up the grouchy gentleman and turn the day around?

That’s Not a Daffodil by Elizabeth Honey. A playful story that children will enjoy again and again about an inventive boy, a kindly gardener, a growing friendship, and the promise of a bulb.

A Year With Marmalade by Allison Reynolds. Ella and Maddy are best friends, and when Maddy’s family has to go away for a year, she asks Ella to care for her cat until they return. A lovely story about friendship.



K-1 SUMMER READING GUIDE

Fiction

Early Readers

The Adventures of Harry the Rescue Cat by Martha M. Cooper.

This is the story of how Harry was found under a house all tangled in webbing and couldn't get free. He is a very happy, funny, silly, curious cat and all of the antics about him in this story really are true.

The Big Guy Took My Ball by Mo Willems. Piggie's recently acquired ball has been snatched by some unknown creature, one so big that Piggie begs Gerald to intervene.

The Big Something by Patricia Reilly Giff. When Jill and Jim observe a neighbor wearing a pointy hat and a "Big Red Something" being built on the other side of the fence, their imaginations take over.

The Big Wet Balloon by Liniers. In this story an older sister initiates her younger sister into the joys of a rainy Saturday. An uncommonly family-friendly tale, great for parents to share with their kids.

Dig, Scoop, Ka-boom! by Joan Holub. This book is a natural for young readers who love to build and are fans of vehicles that dig, scoop, and sometimes go ka-boom!

Have You Seen My New Blue Socks by Eve Bunting. A little green duck is as blue as the favorite pair of socks he is missing. Where could they have gone?

Me Too! by Valeri Gorbachev. This simple, sweet story of Bear and his affable little friend, Chipmunk, follows the pair through a day of wintertime activities.

Fiction

Early Readers, continued . . .

The Pigeon Needs a Bath! by Mo Willems. The Pigeon really needs a bath! Except, the Pigeon's not so sure about that. Besides, he took a bath last month! Maybe. It's going to take some serious convincing to try and get the Pigeon to take the plunge.

Rabbit and Robot: The Sleepover by Cece Bell. 2013 Geisel Honor Book. Rabbit's carefully planned visit with Robot doesn't work out exactly as he imagined in this offbeat tale about two comically mismatched friends.

See Me Dig by Paul Meisel. Led by a golden retriever, the canines eagerly dig up a forest, only to be forcibly ejected by irate woodland inhabitants. They then commence to wreak havoc on a nearby beach where they unearth a treasure chest.

Squirrels on Skis by J. Hamilton Ray. In this hilarious book, squirrels racing on skis invade a quiet snow-laden town, causing havoc among the townsfolk.

Tony Baloney: School Rules by Pam Munoz Ryan. Tony Baloney, a little penguin, hopes for the best as he starts school, but it's hard to follow all the new rules and, besides, accidents happen. Still, at the end of the day, he is proud to be crowned his classroom's "Friendship Ambassador".



Check out these fun and educational websites!

PBS Kids: <http://pbskids.org/lions/> and <http://pbskids.org/>

National Geographic Kids: <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/>

Starfall: <http://www.starfall.com/>

Funbrain: <http://www.funbrain.com/brain/ReadingBrain/ReadingBrain.html>

K-1 SUMMER READING GUIDE

Interactive

Press Here by Herve Tullet. Press the yellow dot on the cover of this book, follow the instructions within, and embark upon a magical journey! Each page of this surprising book instructs the reader to press the dots, shake the pages, tilt the book, and who knows what will happen next!

Tap the Magic Tree by Christie Matheson. Every book needs you to turn the pages. But not every book needs you to tap it, shake it, jiggle it, or even blow it a kiss. Innovative and timeless, *Tap the Magic Tree* asks you to help one lonely tree change with the seasons.

Non-Fiction/Informational

Beavers by Gail Gibbons. Gibbons uses narrative text, generous and accurate watercolor illustrations, and informative inset boxes to show and tell readers about the habits, environments, family structure, and anatomy of the beaver, a mammal well known for its industrious dam building and playful social life.

How Big Were Dinosaurs by Lita Judge. From a cowering Microraptor, who "would barely be able to look a chicken in the eye," to an Argentinosaurus towering over a squirming pile of surprised-looking elephants (17, all told), Judge poses 12 prehistoric creatures with modern people or animals in compelling support of the observation that dinos came in a great range of sizes.

It's Our Garden: From Seeds to Harvest in a School

Garden by George Ancona. Want to grow what you eat and eat what you grow? Visit this lively, flourishing school and community garden and be inspired to cultivate your own.

Miss Moore Thought Otherwise: How Anne Carroll Moore Created Libraries for Children by Jan Pinborough.

Meet Anne Carroll Moore, the strong-willed woman whose vision of library services for children shaped the standards and practices of the New York Public Library (and the world) for more than a generation.

Non-Fiction/Informational, continued . . .

On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein by Jennifer Berne. It's not easy to explain the work of Albert Einstein to a young audience, but this marvelous book pulls it off. It does so by providing an overview of Einstein's life: the way he thought and how his remarkable ideas changed the way scientists think.

Things That Float and Things That Don't by David A. Adler.

This concise and engaging text answers questions about density and flotation. Activities that demonstrate the properties of flotation are included.

Toilet: How It Works by David Macaulay. Toilets—our most fascinating home device? Probably—it's rather magical how everything just disappears, isn't it? In his signature squiggly style, Macaulay pulls back the curtain to show just how it all goes down (so to speak).

Too Hot, Too Cold by Caroline Arnold. This well-organized title uses a picture-book format to take a relatively boring concept - temperature regulation in people and animals - and make it downright interesting.

Which is Round? Which is Bigger? by Mineko Mamada.

This deceptively simple concept book prompts the reader to compare pairs of objects and then choose which one has a particular attribute. At first the answer seems obvious until the page is turned to reveal a delightful twist!



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

K-1 SUMMER READING GUIDE

MY FAVORITE BOOKS

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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:

Bernie Alie, Terri Bauld, Mary Cavagnaro, Jan Dixon, Julie Hoyle, Jamie Jenson, Ann Kennedy, Allison LaFlamme, Marty McGovern, Heather McLaughlin, Susan Mirisola, Kate Moxham, Suzanne O'Hara, Joy Russo, and Sheila Wells