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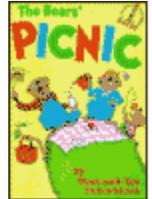
Recommended Summer Reading for Students Entering First Grade:

Bring this list to the local library to check out these titles that will keep your child reading all summer long and ready for success in First Grade!

The Bears' Picnic

by Stan Berenstain, Jan Berenstain

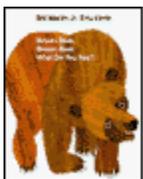
The Berenstain Bears endure countless trials before finding a suitable picnic spot.



Bedtime for Frances

by Russell Hoban, Garth Williams (illus.)

It may be bedtime for Frances, but that doesn't mean Frances is ready to go to bed – not by a long shot. First she must have a glass of milk and make certain Mother and Father have each kissed her good night (twice). Then she is ready to imagine there is a tiger in her room, and a giant, and ... each time Frances thinks up something new, off she goes to tell her ever-patient, if increasingly weary, parents. The familiar delaying tactics of Frances the song-singing badger have delighted fans young and old for more than three decades. Combining sympathetic understanding with gentle humor, Russell Hoban created in Frances a character at once immediately recognizable and eminently likable. In this new edition, the warmth of full color enriches Garth Williams's original artwork, bringing a fresh look to an enduring favorite.



Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?

by Bill Martin, Eric Carle (illus.)

Eric Carle's double-page tissue collages and Bill Martin's friendly chant unite to create this vibrant introduction to colors. The first line of the book is the title, to which a big brown bear responds, "I see a redbird looking at me." The redbird responds with another animal and so on, until a mother (or a teacher, depending on the edition) asks a group of children what they see. A wonderful read-aloud for either a group or individuals, this book is a favorite of teachers.



Franklin Rides a Bike

by Paulette Bourgeois, Brenda Clark (illus.)

At the beginning of spring, Franklin and all his friends have training wheels on their bikes. But soon Franklin is the only one who can't ride without them. Every time he tries he falls down, and he's beginning to get discouraged. His mom finally convinces him to keep with it, and Franklin finally rides on his own.



Freckle Juice

by Judy Blume, Sonia O. Lisker (illus.)

Nicky has freckles – they cover his face, his ears, and the whole back of his neck. Once, sitting behind him in class, Andrew counted 86 of them, and that was just a start! If Andrew had freckles like Nicky, his mother would never know if his neck was dirty. One day after school, Andrew works up enough courage to ask Nicky where he got his freckles. And, as luck would have it, who should overhear him but giggling, teasing Sharon. She offers Andrew her secret freckle juice recipe – for 50 cents. That's a lot of money, but Andrew is desperate. At home he carefully mixes the strange combination of ingredients. Then the unexpected happens. ...



If You Give a Mouse a Cookie
 by Laura Joffe Numeroff, Felicia Bond (illus.)

What happens if you give a mouse a cookie? Why, he'll need a glass of milk to go with it! He'll also need a straw, a napkin, a mirror – each item prompts the need for another. When the mouse is hanging a picture from a refrigerator (how did he get there?), he's reminded that he's thirsty and needs a glass of milk (uh-oh). With this milk, it's absolutely necessary to have a cookie, of course! Bond's wonderful illustrations enliven this modern-day classic.



The Listening Walk
 by Paul Showers

We're going on a Listening Walk. Shhhhh. Do not talk. Do not hurry. Get ready to fill your ears with a world of wonderful, surprising sounds. In this colorfully illustrated book a little girl and her father take a quiet walk and identify the sounds around them. This beautiful lesson in appreciating the extraordinary qualities found in the rhythm of everyday life entices readers to pay more attention to the world surrounding them.

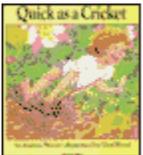


Make Way for Ducklings
 by Robert McCloskey

This Caldecott Award-winning classic about Mr. and Mrs. Mallard and their brood of ducklings has been a favorite since 1941. When Mrs. Mallard and her eight ducklings are stuck at a busy street in downtown Boston, their policeman friend Michael rushes in to stop traffic and make way for them. McCloskey's sepia illustrations are priceless, and a statue of Mrs. Mallard and her ducklings can be found in the Boston Common today.

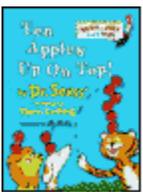
Play Ball, Amelia Bedelia
 by Peggy Parish, Wallace Tripp (illus.)

Amelia Bedelia, who knows very little about baseball, stands in for a sick player during a game. The result, as usual with literal-minded Amelia Bedelia, is hilarious.



Quick as a Cricket
 by Audrey Wood, Don Wood (illus.)

A joyful celebration of a child's growing self-awareness. This classic children's book is a teacher's favorite, with outstanding illustrations by Don Wood.



Ten Apples Up on Top!
 by Theodore LeSieg (Dr. Seuss), Roy McKie (illus.)

A lion, a dog, and a tiger are having a contest – can they get ten apples piled up on top of their heads? You better believe it! This first counting book works as a teaching tool as well as a funny story.



The True Story of the Three Little Pigs
 by Jon Scieszka, Lane Smith (illus.)

In this highly acclaimed version, Alexander T. Wolf tells his never-before-heard version of the story. Is he the bad guy history has portrayed him as, or was the big, bad wolf framed? This outrageously funny version of a familiar nursery tale will leave readers grinning all the way to their chinny chin chin.



[*The Giants and the Joneses*](#) by Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Greg Swearingen (Henry Holt and Co. , 2005)

Both Jumbeelia and Colette are avid collectors, and they both tire of their collections fairly quickly. The big difference between them is just that: Jumbeelia is a giant, and she has finally found a magic bimplestock to climb down and collect some adorable igglyplops, or human beings namely, Colette and her siblings! With the help of a glossary, children will soon be bilingual in Giantese, and read-aloud has never felt so fresh and funny.



[*The Dot*](#) by Peter H. Reynolds (Walker Books Ltd, 2004)

"Just make a mark and see where it takes you," Vashti's art teacher advises. When a simple dot gets kudos in class, Vashti ups her own ante and makes quite a splash at the art show.



[*The Sneetches and Other Stories*](#) by Dr. Seuss (Dr. Seuss Green Back Books, 2003)

A collection of subtle stories about tolerance and the value of being different. Do we love others even when they don't have stars upon thars? What are the drawbacks of naming twenty three sons "Dave"? And the pale green pants with nobody inside them...friend or foe?



[*Heckedy Peg*](#) by Audrey and Don Wood (Voyager Books, 1992)

In this introduction to the dark, moody, dreamlike world of fairy tales, a loving mother rescues seven children named for the days of the week from the clutches of a truly wicked witch.



[*Henry and the Buccaneer Bunnies*](#) by Carolyn Crimi (Candlewick, 1995)

More interested in books than timber-shivering or plank-walking, Henry is the laughingstock of the swarthy pirate crew. But when no one heeds his red-sky-at-morning warning and the ship is lost, it is Henry's book-smarts that save the day. This book demonstrates that readers are leaders! *The Giants and the Joneses* by Julia Donaldson.

Other recommended titles:

- ***There's an Alligator Under My Bed*** by Mercer Mayer
This sequel to *There's a Nightmare in My Closet* brings back that story's imaginative young hero for an even funnier nighttime adventure. All kids will identify with the realistic alligator who just happens to live you know where.
- ***Mr. Putter and Tabby*** (series) by Cynthia Rylant

Mr. Putter and his old cat Tabby have wonderful, funny, warm-hearted adventures in this early reader series. Readers young and old will love them.
- ***Ivy and Bean*** by Annie Barrows

A humorous chapter book about two girls who become great friends in spite of their misgivings, and their entertaining adventures.

- ***The Chicken of the Family*** by Mary Amato

Sibling problems lead to species confusion for Henrietta and the results are hilarious.

- ***Apples & Oranges: Going Bananas with Pairs*** by Sara Pinto

This is a perfect mix of delightful illustrations, art, philosophy and silliness found only in books for children.

- ***Zen Ties*** by Jon J. Muth

A giant panda named Stillwater teaches young children - through haiku - the importance of being kind to others.

- ***The Wind in the Willows*** by Kenneth Grahame.

Illustrated by Robert Ingpen This reissue of the beloved classic takes one's breath away. Robert Ingpen's full color illustrations of the Tale of Ratty, Mole, Toad and Badger are simply stunning. Truly reflecting the richness of the text, this is a beautiful read for the entire family to enjoy. Nothing short of a treasure.

- ***Three Tales of My Father's Dragon*** by Ruth Stiles Gannett

Written more than 50 years ago, *My Father's Dragon* still seems as fresh as a daisy. A very unusual daisy. It's the story of a resourceful young man named Elmer Elevator who runs away with an old alley cat, in order to rescue a baby dragon. Armed only with the random collection of things he managed to stuff into his pockets— a magnifying glass, a brush, and a few sticks of chewing gum— he must outsmart a progression of savage beasts who'd love to have him for lunch. The short chapters and simple vocabulary make this a perfect first chapter book.

- ***The Little House*** by Virginia Lee Burton

A timeless exploration of the idea of urbanization from the perspective of a little country house. The lonely house witness many changes in its environment. Will she ever find a place that's right for her?

- ***When Rain Falls*** by Melissa Stewart and Constance Bergum

Award-winning science writer and veteran children's book author Melissa Stewart answers one of the most interesting questions that kids have about nature: where do animals go when it rains?

- ***Follow That Bear If You Dare*** by Claire Freedmann

Hare has an insatiable desire to find himself a bear. He loves them! Armed with a book all about how to catch these big furry creatures, he and his friend Rumbly Rabbit launch their own bear hunt. These two characters refer to their book at every turn. This is essentially a book within a book, providing kids with insight into exactly what books do: teach new things! This is especially important for kids in the younger elementary grades, because they'll soon be transitioning from learning to read, to reading to learn. To top it all off, the text rhymes, which not only helps with fluency, but it's also more fun for a child to read out loud. Does Hare ever find his bear?

- ***Harris Finds His Feet*** by Catherine Raynor

Beautiful water color illustrations spread out on every page, bringing to life the story of Harris, the wild hare, who learns to find his feet with the help of his Grandad. He shows Harris how to use his enormous feet to hop into the sky, climb to the tops of mountains, and run very fast. Grandad finally decides it's time for Harris to discover the world on his own—leaving readers with a bittersweet and thoughtful end to this story. Children will connect with Harris' journey of independence, and parents will appreciate the lesson of self-discovery.

- ***Frankie Stein*** by Lola M. Schaefer, illustrated by Kevan Atteberry

Nothing like his scary parents, Frankie tries to be a creepy monster, but to no avail. How can he show his parents that he's just as scary as them? A fun book that's sure to be a Halloween hit.

- ***How to Be a Baby by Me, The Big Sister*** by Sally Lloyd-Jones. Illustrated by Sue Heap

Reading from a book she's written, a big sister tells her baby what she can and cannot do, as well as detailing the good things about babies ("they're good at hugging").

- ***Three Little Fish and the Big Bad Shark*** by Ken Geist and Julia Gorton

The story of the three little pigs is reinvented for under the sea, with three fishies building their homes, and a nasty shark that tries to get the better of them. The familiar yet new story will have kids reading with gusto!

Source: EducationWorld and www.education.com