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<http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/09/X449>

Recommended Summer Reading for Students Entering Second 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 Second Grade!



The Adventures of Taxi Dog

by Debra Barracca, Sal Barracca, Mark Buehner (illus.)

Jim, a New York City taxi driver, rescues a stray dog and dubs his new pet Maxi. Maxi accompanies Jim in his taxi and meets all sorts of people. With each new passenger, Maxi makes a new friend – and even helps Jim get tips! The text is written in a bouncing rhyme, and Buehner's paintings capture Maxi's doggy personality and Jim's geniality. Can you find the cat in every picture?



***Amelia Bedelia* (I Can Read Book Series)**

by Peggy Parish, Fritz Siebel (illus.)

Meet Amelia Bedelia, the unflappable maid who does everything literally. With her purse on her arm and hat firmly on her head, Amelia Bedelia follows instructions to a T: Change the towels? Nothing a pair of scissors can't do! Dust the furniture? That's when the perfumed dusting powder really comes in handy. Dress the chicken for dinner – well, do you want a boy chicken or a girl chicken? Amelia Bedelia's well-meaning gaffs cause readers to chuckle but her employer to fume – it's a good thing she's such a good cook!



The Case of the Spooky Sleepover, Jigsaw Jones Mystery #4

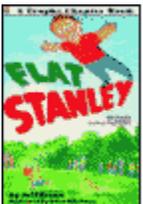
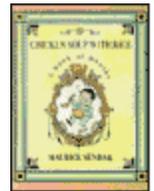
by James Preller

Ralphie Jordan can't sleep. Something is making spooky noises in his room at night. It's a perfect case for Jigsaw Jones, who pieces together all the ghostly clues.

Chicken Soup with Rice, A Book of Months

by Maurice Sendak

"Each month is gay, each season is nice, when eating chicken soup with rice." It's nice in January, April, June, and December – here's the every-month dish for everyone to remember.



Flat Stanley

by Jeff Brown, Steve Bjorkman (illus.)

Stanley Lambchop is a nice, average boy. He leads a nice, ordinary life. Then one day a bulletin board falls on him, and suddenly Stanley is flat. This turns out to be very interesting. Stanley gets rolled up, mailed, and flown like a kite. He even gets to stop crime. He's flat, but he's a hero!



The Giving Tree
by Shel Silverstein

A little boy befriends a tree. Loving and generous, the tree provides everything she can for him – fruit, shade, a place for a swing – throughout the boy's life. He, in turn, takes from the tree without noticing the sacrifices she makes. It isn't until he's old and infirm and gratefully rests on her stump that he understands all she has done. This powerful parable is fitting for

all age groups.



The Great Kapok Tree A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest
by Lynne Cherry

A man walks into a lush rain forest and starts chopping down a huge kapok tree. Lulled by the heat, he sits down and soon falls asleep. The forest dwellers approach, each whispering in his ear a reason to keep the tree standing. Suddenly, the man wakes up, and for the first time notices the beauty all around him. Will he still chop down the tree? The beauty of

Cherry's art helps to convey an important message in this environmental tale.



Is Your Mama a Llama?
by Deborah Guarino, Steven Kellogg (illus.)

A young llama is curious – are all his friends' mamas llamas? Each animal tells Lloyd facts about its mother, and Lloyd – along with young readers – guesses what kind of animal each mother is. The rhyming text and illustrations give hints, and preschoolers will enjoy yelling

out the answers, which are revealed by turning the page.

Junie B. Jones Smells Something Fishy, Junie B. Jones Series #12
by Barbara Park, Denise Brunkus (illus.)

Frustrated because the rules for her class's Pet Day will not let her take her dog to school, Junie B. Jones considers taking a raccoon, a worm, a dead fish, and other unusual replacements.



Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse
by Kevin Henkes

Lilly the mouse adores her teacher, Mr. Slinger – until he takes away the purple plastic purse she was proudly showing off to her class. Lilly is so angry she draws a nasty picture of Mr. Slinger and slips it in his bag. At the end of the day, Lilly gets her purse back and inside is a sympathetic note and a bag of treats. As in all his other books, Henkes shows an incredible sensitivity to children's feelings.



Martha Blah Blah
by Susan Meddaugh

When the current owner of the soup company breaks the founder's promise to have every letter of the alphabet in every can of soup, Martha, the talking dog, takes action.



Mrs. Katz and Tush
by Patricia Polacco

In this special Passover story, Larnel Moore, an African-American boy, and Mrs. Katz, an elderly Jewish woman, develop an unusual friendship through their mutual concern for an abandoned cat named Tush. Together they explore the common themes of suffering and triumph in each of their cultures.



Stellaluna

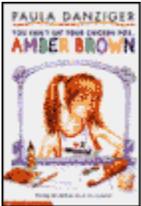
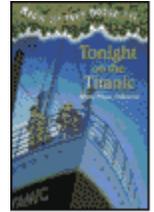
by Janell Cannon, Jewell Cannon

Stellaluna, a little brown bat, is accidentally dropped by her mother. The helpless baby falls smack into a nest of fledglings and is immediately accepted as one of the family. Stellaluna tries to fit in but keeps acting unbirdlike, hanging upside down and wanting to fly at night. By chance Stellaluna is reunited with her mother and finally learns to be a proper bat.

Tonight on the Titanic, Magic Tree House Series #17

by Mary Pope Osborne, Sal Murdocca (illus.)

The Magic Tree House whisks Jack and Annie away to the decks of that ill-fated ship, the Titanic. There they must help two children find their way to a lifeboat – while they are in danger of becoming victims of that tragic night themselves.



You Can't Eat Your Chicken Pox, Amber Brown

by Paula Danziger, Tony Ross (illus.)

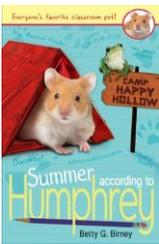
Amber Brown has survived third grade – even though her best friend, Justin, moved away. Now she's heading to London with her Aunt Pam – and then to Paris. Before she gets there, Amber finds out she has chicken pox. Amber Brown is a kid with problems. Now that she can't go to Paris, how will she convince her dad to move back in with her mom?



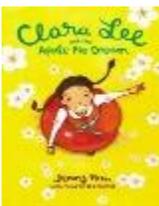
Zelda and Ivy

by Laura McGee Kvasnosky

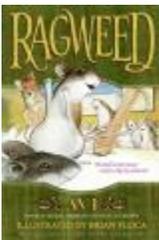
Zelda and Ivy are sisters with a flair for the dramatic. Whether they're performing a circus act, fashioning their tails in the latest style, or working wonders with "fairy dust," their exploits are described with wit and charm in a very special trio of stories exploring the intimate dynamic between an older and younger sister.



Summer According to Humphrey by Betty G. Birney. Summer might be exciting for most, but for Humphrey, the classroom hamster, it's a scary proposition: all the kids leave. But fate has something in store for this feisty and high-strung hamster... camp! This irresistible narrative, told from a hamster's point-of-view is a slam dunk for summer. Funny, silly, and just the right tone and pace for carefree days, the text is rich enough for fluent readers, but sweet as a summer smoothie.



Clara Lee and the Apple Pie Dream, by Jenny Han with pictures by Julia Kuo. Call her Clara Lee instead of just Clara, everybody does. "It just sounds better that way. Like peanut butter and jelly, like trick-or-treat... those words just go together." Clara Lee is a big sister, a granddaughter, she's full of imaginative and bright similes, and she has a dream. She'll tell you about it. Along the way of trying to turn her dream into reality, Clara Lee learns lessons that help her be a better friend and person. With a charming heroine and cheerful pencil illustrations, this book makes the jump from picture books to chapter books short and sweet.

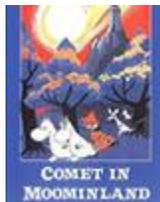


Ragweed by Avi, illustrated by Brian Floca. This prequel to *The Poppy Stories* is jam-packed with adventure, and a pure delight for advanced second grade readers. Our hero, a country mouse who sets off for life in the city, finds himself leading a mouse-rising against two very scary cats. Full of excitement, as well as a liberal usage of the word "dude", this book manages to sneak in some pretty advanced vocabulary, while feeding kids plenty of words in their comfort zone. A great start to a crackerjack series that's perfect for summer.



Magical Ms. Plum by Bonnie Becker. When a new crop of students enters Ms. Plum's classroom in September, they're not quite prepared for her unconventional way of teaching, or the fact that when students agree to fetch an eraser or a pen from her supply closet, they

invariably come back with a miniature animal perfectly tailored to their personalities. Whether it's a cat to purr a worrier's cares away, or a parrot to show a know-it-all what it feels like to be constantly interrupted, the creatures from the closet nudge Ms. Plum's students to play nice, be patient, look closely, and learn more of life's other lessons. So is it Ms. Plum who's magic, or the closet itself? Readers not quite ready for novels, or those who love listening to a tale read aloud, will love ambling through this chapter book to find out.

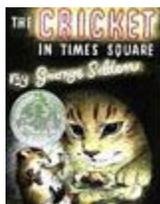


Comet in Moominland by Tove Jansson. Images of stars with tails keep showing up in the most unlikely places: in the sand, in the sky, even in a pattern of shells. Moomintroll and his friend Sniff decide they need to figure out what's going on., and so begins an unpredictable adventure brimming with muskrat philosophers, trouser-munching crocodiles, silk monkeys, and Snufkins. Few Americans have heard of author Tove Jansson, but in Finland, she's a national hero and her books are as beloved as *Winnie the Pooh* or *Alice in Wonderland*. This

grand adventure, full of unexpected twists, brings her work stateside, and not a moment too soon. Full of whimsical illustrations, delightful characters, and just plain wonderful writing, this is a book for every child's library.



Lunch Lady by Jarrett J. Krosoczka. Whether she's fighting off swamp monsters with the help of underwater blender breathing apparatus, or using sonic-boom juice boxes to fend off a league of librarians attempting world domination, Lunch Lady is the perfect mix of spunk and sweetness to get the job done right. The unlikely heroine of this hilarious series of graphic novels flips burgers by day, but fights crime by night! Filled with fun, comic-style illustrations, and especially well-suited for reluctant readers, these books are presented in no particular order, so kids can start with whichever title strikes their fancy.

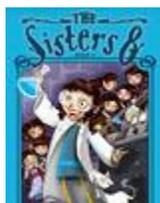


The Cricket in Times Square by George Selden. Full of excitement, but never scary, this tale of a virtuoso cricket and his cat and mouse companions is like an unexpected hug: warm, comforting, and the stuff of childhood memories. This grand adventure won a Newbery Honor, but that was way back in the 1960's, so we'll forgive you if you've never heard of it. That said, if this book is new to you, run (don't walk) to snag a copy. A fantastic read-aloud for kids up and down the age spectrum, this story of a street-smart city mouse and the country bumpkin cricket who arrives accidentally in the Times Square subway station is pure magic.



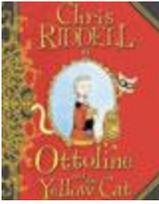
Scream Street: Fang of the Vampire by Tommy Donbavand. You can't always judge a book by its cover...or its title: this may look too scary for your second grader, but it is decidedly more exciting than scary. Luke has developed a bad habit of turning into a werewolf, that's why his family was sent by the government to live on Scream Street, a housing project for vampires, witches, zombies, and ghosts. He's making some cool friends, but his parents are terrified.

Trying to get them home turns about to be a heap of trouble; to find the exit he must collect six powerful relics while being hunted down by an evil landlord. It's a good thing his ghoulish friends come out to help his cause. With colorful characters and a strong message about the power of friendship, this is a great book for summer reading. Stay tuned for other books in this fantastic new series.



The Sisters 8: Marcia's Madness by Lauren Baratz-Logsted. Featuring talking cats, special powers, and a healthy dose of humor that's even witty enough for parents to enjoy, this suspenseful mystery is sure to get a thumbs-up from fans of Lemony Snickett. The heroes? Eight sisters whose parents have gone missing, and who are bound and determined to get them back. This book is the fifth in the series, so kids may wish to start from the beginning, but there's enough of a re-cap to catch readers up. And because this series is written by a

family of authors, including an eight year-old, expect super kid-friendly dialogue. Bizarre and intriguing, yet still lighthearted, this book will leave your thrill-seeking reader begging for the next adventure!



Ottoline and the Yellow Cat by Chris Riddell. All kids sometimes wish that their parents would leave them alone. In Ottoline's case, her parents have done just that. While they traverse the world, collecting interesting things, Ottoline and her best friend, Mr. Munroe (a small hairy creature from a bog in Norway), look after her parent's collection of emperor's hats, portable fishbowls, and leaking cups. When a series of lapdog burglaries sweeps across the city, Ottoline decides she's just the girl to crack the case... This book's breezy style, wonderful sense of humor, and quirky illustrations are spot on for this age group. Plus, with the next chapter book in this new series, *Ottoline Goes to School*, set to hit stores in late June, there's a second installment almost ready to devour!



The Adventures of Sir Lancelot the Great by Gerald Morris. For the kid in your life who can't get enough of swords and such, comes a humorous take on one of the most famous knights of all time...Sir Lancelot. This silly romp has its share of adventure and escapades, but also explores the downside of being King Arthur's most trusted knight, for example, having a trail of swooning marriage prospects and never being able to fit in a much-needed nap. Full of heart, humor, and plenty to keep the giggles going, this slim book is sure to please.



The Crane Wife by Odds Bodkin. If you've got a second grader who seems wiser than her years, this book might be just the ticket. A gracefully paced Japanese fable about a lonely sail maker and the mysterious woman who becomes his wife, the book does not move with the wham bam of today's typical stories for kids. Yet it is full of atmosphere, secrets, and intrigue. Spun as tight and light as the sail of wind woven by his magical wife, the plot billows to its inevitable conclusion. Your child will likely hold her breath as the moral comes into sight.



The Dragon in the Sock Drawer by Kate Klimo. Ten-year-old cousins Daisy and Jesse have checked their houses for Narnia-like wardrobes and collected every magical-looking object they could get their hands on, but so far, they've remained boringly adventure-less. That is, until the rock Jesse finds on High Peak hatches and a helpless green baby pops out of it. A little research reveals that they are newly minted Dragon Keepers, but it also reveals that it's up to them to keep their new friend safe from Saint George, an ancient dragon slayer who'd love to get his hands on this new specimen.



The Adventures of Captain Underpants by Dav Pilkey. This book may be a mom's worst nightmare, but it's a second grader's dream. Full of the potty humor that typically gets kids sent to their room, it's a truly silly story of two trouble-making boys who turn their grumpy principal into a jockey-clad superhero. Pilkey's illustrations add much to the humor and the kid-appeal can't be underestimated. While parents may wish their child wasn't quite so keen to follow the adventures of an underwear-clad hero and a villain stopped in his tracks by rubber doggy doo, we say any series that has kids begging to read more is a great way to entice new readers to pick up a book. And if your kid likes this one, there's a whole series waiting to fill his summer...