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Recommended Summer Reading for Students Entering Third 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 Third Grade!



***The Best School Year Ever* by Barbara Robinson**

The Herdmans are the most famous kids at Woodrow Wilson School. In fact, they are the most famous kids in the whole town – and they are the worst kids in the history of the world. They are dirty, rotten, lazy, and ornery. They tell lies and smoke cigars and set fire to things. They stay away from school whenever they want to and won't learn anything when they are there. Every September the students and teachers gear up for another year of dealing with the Herdmans. But no matter what precautions are taken, these modern-day outlaws still manage to cause hilarious mayhem year-round. Their wild behavior always leads to disaster for someone, but somehow all six of them continually escape blame. Could there be something good about this horrible clan after all?



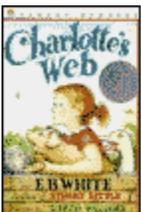
***The BFG* by Roald Dahl, Quentin Blake (illus.)**

Kidsnatched from her orphanage by a BFG (Big Friendly Giant) who spends his life blowing happy dreams to children, Sophie concocts with him a plan to save the world from nine other man-gobbling cannybull giants. Also recommended: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Fantastic Mr. Fox*.



***Brother Eagle, Sister Sky, A Message from Chief Seattle* by Susan Jeffers**

During the 1850s, the white man negotiated to buy some land from the Northwest nations. Chief Seattle, head of the Suquamish and Duwamish Indians, spoke to the white man in his native tongue about the importance of preserving the earth. His speech, translated and lushly illustrated by Susan Jeffers, eloquently conveys the message that we must respect the Earth and all it has on it. This speech has been the inspiration for many environmental movements.



***Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White**

This is the story of a little girl named Fern who loves a little pig named Wilbur – and of Wilbur's dear friend, Charlotte A. Cavatica, a beautiful, large, gray spider who lives with Wilbur in the barn. With the help of Templeton, the rat who never does anything for anybody unless there is something in it for him, and by a wonderfully clever plan of their own, Charlotte saves the life of Wilbur, who by this time has grown up to be quite a pig.



Encyclopedia Brown, Boy Detective (Encyclopedia Brown Series #1)

by Donald J. Sobol

A Civil War sword ... a watermelon stabbing ... missing roller skates ... a trapeze artist's inheritance ... and an eyewitness who's legally blind! These are just some of the ten brain-twisting mysteries that Encyclopedia Brown must solve by using his famous computerlike brain. Try to crack the cases along with him – answers to all the mysteries are found in the back of the book!

Go Free or Die, A Story About Harriet Tubman

by Jeri Ferris, Karen Ritz (illus.)

A biography of Harriet Tubman, the black woman whose cruel experiences as a slave in the South led her to seek freedom in the North for herself and for others through the



Underground Railroad.

How to Eat Fried Worms

by Thomas Rockwell, Emily A. McCully (illus.)

Billy makes a bet with his friends that he can eat 15 worms in 15 days. Even with a free choice of condiments – from peanut butter to horseradish – Billy wonders if he can really do it.

The Keeping Quilt

by Patricia Polacco

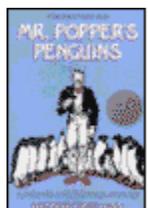
When Patricia Polacco's great-great-grandmother came to America from Russia, she made a quilt out of the family's old clothes. This quilt became a cherished symbol of love passed down from mother to daughter for almost a century – and was used for a variety of purposes. Heartwarming pictures of the quilt welcoming new babies and celebrating weddings – even being used as a Sabbath tablecloth – tie together the lives of four generations of an immigrant Jewish family and chronicle their enduring love and faith. In this tenth-anniversary edition, Polacco has expanded her beloved story with new pages of text and paintings to include her own two children using the quilt in the same ways that their ancestors did.



Miss Nelson Is Missing!

by Harry Allard, James Marshall (illus.)

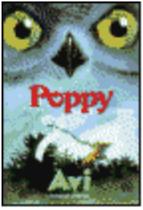
The children in Miss Nelson's class go beyond misbehaving; they are downright terrible! Near her wits' end, Miss Nelson thinks up a brilliant plan. The next day the kids have a substitute – the nasty Viola Swamp – who loads the boys and girls with homework and never gives them a story hour. By the time Miss Nelson finally returns, the children are so grateful they behave well. But now Viola Swamp is missing!



Mr. Popper's Penguins

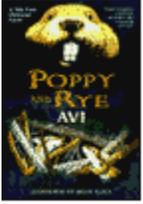
by Richard Atwater, Florence Atwater, Robert Lawson (illus.)

It is hard enough for Mr. Popper to support himself, Mrs. Popper, Bill, and Janie Popper. The addition of 12 penguins to the family makes it impossible to make both ends meet. Then Mr. Popper has a splendid idea – the talented penguins will be a sensation on the stage. And so they are.... A classic of American humor, this Newbery Honor-winning story of a gentle housepainter and his high-stepping penguins has delighted children for generations.



Poppy
by Avi, Brian Floca (illus.)

As ruler of Dimwood Forest, Ocax the hoot owl has promised to protect the mice occupying an abandoned farmhouse as long as they ask permission before "moving about." Poppy, a timid deer mouse, is a loyal, obedient subject – until she sees Ocax devour her fiancé. To prove that the intimidating ruler is a phony, Poppy embarks on a dangerous and eye-opening quest, which ends with her one-on-one battle with Ocax.



Poppy and Rye
by Avi, Brian Floca (illus.)

Heartbroken over the death of her fiancé Ragweed, Poppy, a deer mouse, journeys west through the vast Dimwood Forest to bring the sad news to Ragweed's family. But Poppy and her prickly porcupine pal, Ereth, arrive only to discover that beavers have flooded the serene valley where Ragweed lived. Together Poppy and Ragweed's brother, Rye, brave kidnapping, imprisonment, and a daring rescue to fight the beavers. At the same time, Rye – who has lived in Ragweed's shadow – fights to prove himself worthy of Poppy's love.



Ramona Quimby, Age 8
by Beverly Cleary, Alan Tiegreen (illus.)

Ramona feels quite grown-up taking the bus by herself, helping big sister Beezus make dinner, and trying hard to be nice to pesky Willa Jean after school. Turning eight years old and entering the third grade can do that to a girl. So how can her teacher call her a nuisance?

Sarah, Plain and Tall
by Patricia MacLachlan

When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay. This tender, reassuring story is a Newbery Medal winner and a timeless classic.



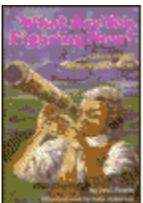
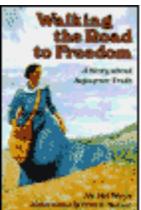
Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing
by Judy Blume, Roy Doty (illus.)

Living with his little brother, Fudge, makes Peter feel like a fourth-grade nothing. Fudge is never far from trouble. He's a two-year-old terror who gets away with everything – and Peter's had enough. When Fudge walks off with Dribble, Peter's pet turtle, it's the last straw.

Walking the Road to Freedom

by Jeri Ferris

This is the important and inspiring story of a woman who called herself Sojourner Truth. Using only the power of her voice, she spoke out against slavery throughout New England and the Midwest.



What Are You Figuring Now?, A Story About Benjamin Banneker
by Jeri Ferris, Amy Johnson (illus.)

A biography of the African-American farmer and self-taught mathematician, astronomer, and surveyor for the new capital city of the United States in 1791, who also calculated a successful almanac notable for its preciseness.



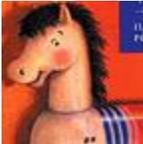
[Ramona the Pest](#) by Beverly Cleary (*Harpercollins, 1992*)

Ramona tries to be good, but the prospect of pulling Susan's boing-boing curls proves a little too hard to resist. Introduce kids to the series star Ramona, and you'll be introducing them to a friend for life! (Readers who want a more contemporary protagonist will fall in love with Clementine by Sara Pennypacker).



[Frindle](#) by Andrew Clements (*Aladdin, 1998*)

A boy invents a new word and makes an adversary of his dictionary-devout teacher. Could it be that teachers are real people, too? This author is a master of stories set at school, with conflicts that kids will readily recognize.



[The Adventures of the Little Wooden Horse](#) by Ursula Moray Williams (*Kingfisher, 2005*)

A toy ventures out into the wide world to seek his fortune and to help the man who made him. This book is a sleeper that keeps listeners wide awake; I have shared it out loud with over a hundred children, and it never failed to delight.



[Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez](#) by Kathleen Krull, illustrated by Yuyi Morales (*Harcourt Trade Publishers, 2003*)

Though their crops may have withered, a seed was germinating in young Cesar Chavez, a child of migrants who would grow up to lead a 300-mile march for worker's rights. This is an extremely powerful book that underscores the bravery and resolve it takes to engage in non-violent protest, and rightly puts Chavez on the same scaffolding as Martin Luther King as a champion of peace. Picture-book biographies like this one are a great way to get kids to find mentors outside of their own communities and experiences!



[Molly Moons Incredible Book of Hypnotism](#) by Georgia Byng (*Harper Collins Canada, 2004*)

Every page flows over with absolutely fascinating fecal facts, from the double-dose of digesting power that pellets afford to rabbits or the tell-tale dumps of sloths, otters and hippos that speak (or stink) louder than words. Overall, a remarkably engaging and informative science book that rises far above its genre's foul beginnings, and will make a novice scientist out of your favorite fart-joke-teller (you know you have one). I love this book so much, I keep a copy in my own bathroom.

Other Recommended Texts:

- ***The Willoughbys*** by Lois Lowry

A group of children decide they should be orphans, as in so many classic tales, while the parents have ideas of their own based on Hansel and Gretel. This is a hilarious homage to so many classic tales.

- ***Barnstormers Game 3: Three Kids, a Villain, and Great Balls of Fire*** by Phil Bildner and Loren Long

Griffith, Ruby and their mother continue to travel with the Travelin' Nine baseball team. Chicago is the setting for game three and for a confrontation with the evil Chancellor who seeks possession of the siblings' magic baseball.

- ***Polkabats & Octopus Slacks*** by Calef Brown

These 14 poems may just be the funniest you've ever read. If it's off-the-wall slapstick and silly pictures that get you giggling, then try these!

- ***The Ordinary Princess*** by M. M. Kaye

An ordinary princess runs away from home to experience everyday life, and learns a lot about herself in the process.

- ***The Dragon Slayers Academy*** (series) by Kate McMullen

Laugh out loud funny, these books are perfect for boys who like to laugh. Every dragon has its weakness; the dragon hunter just needs to discover the secret. Wiglaf and Eric (Erica in disguise) discover that their dragon's Achilles Heel is Knock-knock jokes. Very silly, funny, and adventurous, this series is a great find.

- ***A Pizza the Size of the Sun*** by Jack Prelutsky

Got a kid who claims to hate poetry? Sic this collection on her, and try to suppress your smile as she devours the thing. From Improbable Emporiums stocked with fur umbrellas and hippo dental floss, to pizzas that take a year and a half to bake, this book is chock-full of fun-loving absurdity. A wonderful choice for reading aloud, or for reading alone, Prelutsky will remind you of an old friend, Shel Silverstein. James Stevenson's playful illustrations make this book even more winning.

- ***Half Magic*** by Edward Eager

In this charming and classic story, four siblings are set to spend a hot, boring summer in the care of a babysitter, when they come upon a coin on the sidewalk. They soon realize that the coin has special powers, but in the classic tradition of wish fulfillment gone awry, it only does half the magic the children wish for. As can be expected, a series of strange and hilarious adventures ensues, and the children learn about thinking ahead to envision the consequences of their wayward wishes. What sets this book apart, however, is its pitch-perfect storytelling which draws readers in and keeps them guessing until the very last page.

- ***Knights of the Kitchen Table*** by Jon Scieszka

When Joe gets a magic book from his uncle, he and his friends find themselves transported to King Arthur's court. This book combines short chapters, simple language, and illustrations to make it a great pick for reluctant readers

- ***Big Cats*** by Elaine Landau

This absorbing books tells readers all about panthers, ocelots, cheetahs, and more, and what they do when they sun goes down. A must-have for lovers of cats and of nature.

- ***Monday with a Mad Genius*** by Mary Pope Osborne.

Illustrated by Sal Murdocca A pick from the popular Magic Treehouse series, this books has Jack and Annie going back in time to consult Leonardo da Vinci. Will he be able to help them save Merlin?

- ***The Richest Poor Kid*** by Carl Sommer and Jorge Martinez

When Randy is granted the Midas touch after wishing his old possessions were shiny like his neighbor's, he learns that a touch of gold is too good to be true. When he turns his dog into a lifeless gold statue, Randy realizes that there are a lot of things more important than money.

- ***Tom's Midnight Garden*** by Philippa Pearce.

The British critic John Rowe Townsend considers this the greatest British novel written since World War II. But of the 100 Best Books for Children, this is the one book that the most people are unfamiliar with. This is a great read-aloud family book. And for adults, it remains one of those rare children's books that can be read in every decade of life with a deeper understanding and appreciation.

- ***One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference*** by Katie Smith Milway. Illustrated by Eugenie Fernandes

The simple plot line, which shows how one small event can have big results, is given a visual boost by colorful and vivacious full page illustrations which blend West African scenes and patterns with whimsical additions. Based on the true story of Kwabena Darko, the story follows Kojo a small boy with a small idea who makes a huge difference for not only himself, but an entire community. An added plus is the introduction of the concept of micro loans.

- ***Judy Moody*** (series) by Megan McDonald and Peter H. Reynolds

Judy Moody is a third-grader with a state of mind for every occasion. And whether she's feeling mad or medical, famous or independent, clairvoyant or environmentally conscious, she always finds a way to make her moods work for the better. The best part? Judy's playful take on language, friends, family, and school subjects always has something to teach.