

East Orange School District



Book Lists

K-5

2014



June 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to send your children and our students off with reading suggestions for this summer. We say suggestions, because we expect our students to read throughout the summer to challenge their imaginations. We expect them to select a variety of exciting books throughout the summer at the East Orange Public Library. This letter includes our guidelines for summer reading at the elementary level throughout all of our elementary schools.

Purpose for summer reading

- ✚ To maintain reading throughout the summer in order to strengthen the habits of lifelong reading
- ✚ To maintain reading levels throughout the summer (Research shows that students lose ground in reading achievement during the summer months)
- ✚ To pursue interests and learn
- ✚ To find enjoyment in reading

Expectations for summer reading

- ✚ Maintain reading throughout the summer.
- ✚ Build greater understanding and strength as a reader.
- ✚ Develop a larger reading and writing vocabulary.
- ✚ Select books and other reading materials of personal interest.
- ✚ Keep a record of summer reading and thoughts about it.
- ✚ Get involved in the summer reading program at the East Orange Public Library.

This is what maintaining reading throughout the summer means

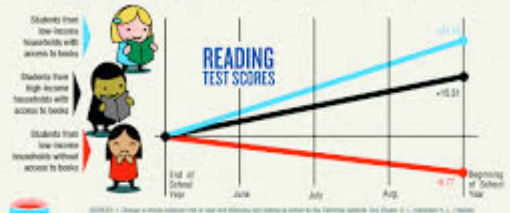
- ✚ Read most days.
- ✚ If your family is planning on a vacation, bring a comic book, a travel guide, magazines, or an adventure story.



Reading is the most important lifelong skill that we and you as the parents/or guardians can give our children to learn and practice. Along with all of the research, we believe that reading is not just a skill that one learns in elementary school, but is a developmental and continual process throughout life. During the school year, student work on building a life of reading in order to survive and develop a continual process of thinking, developing vocabulary and understanding. The primary purpose for summer reading is for students to maintain a life of reading during the summer months.

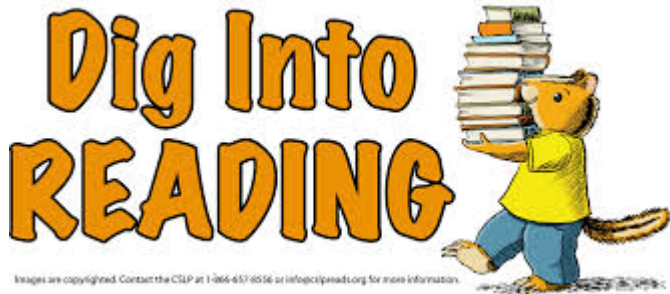
KIDS WHO READ BEAT SUMMER SLIDE

Studies show that access to books during the summer prevents a drastic loss in reading skill – especially for kids in need.



©2012. A change in reading test scores from the end of school year to the beginning of school year for three groups of students. Source: E. L. Hoxby, "The Summer Slide: A Change in Reading Test Scores from the End of School Year to the Beginning of School Year," *Journal of Human Capital*, 2012.

East Orange School District Summer Reading Book Lists 2014



Before Entering First Grade

Barrows: *Ivy and Bean* c 2007 fiction, friendships

This book is about two very different girls, sharing adventures, making friends, and learning about differences. It is the first of the series for readers transitioning from picture books to chapter books.

Henkes: *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* c1996 fiction

Lilly loves everything about school, especially her teacher, but then when he takes away her purse, she does something for which she is sorry later.

Hodgkinson: *Goldilocks and Just One Bear* c2012 fiction

Little Bear, all grown up, finds himself lost in a noisy, busy city where he happens to bump into someone with golden hair.

Lionni: *Swimmy* c1973 fiction, working together

Swimmy shows his friends how—with ingenuity and team work—they can overcome any danger.

Lemniscates: *Silence* c2012, fiction

Invites readers to listen to what they hear during quiet moments.

Prelutsky: *Me I Am* c2007 *poetry*

A book of poetry for children celebrating being an individual.

Before Entering First Grade contd.

Williams: *A Chair for my Mother* c2007, *fiction*, A family tells of a young girl, who along with her waitress mother, saves coins in a big jar in hopes that they can someday buy a big, new, comfortable chair for their apartment — the kind of chair her mother deserves after being on her feet all day in the Blue Tile Diner. Focus is on teamwork. This Caldecott goal is to help a family recover from a disastrous fire. Honor book relates the efforts of three generations of African American women.

Lobel: *Frog and Toad Are Friends* c 1970 *fiction*, friendships, Lovable Frog and Toad teach us what friendship is all about. Five stories about these amphibious favorites and the lessons they learn about friendship.

Holmes, Margaret: *A Terrible Thing Happened*, *Fiction*

A story for children who have witnessed violence or trauma. Adds a welcome touch of humor to a very serious subject.

McKissack: *Messy Bessey's School Desk* c.1998 *fiction*

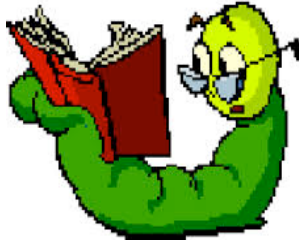
When Messy Bessey starts to clean up her desk at school, she inspires the rest of the class to clean up the entire room.

Willems: *A Big Guy Took My Ball* c.2013 *fiction*

Piggie is upset because Whale took a ball that she found, but Elephant finds a solution that pleases them all.

Williams: *A Chair for my Mother* c. 2007 *fiction*, *family*

This Caldecott Honor book relates the efforts of three generations of African American women who define a goal to help them recover from a disastrous fire.



Before Entering Second Grade

Bunting: *Nasty, Stinky Sneakers* c 2004 *fiction, juvenile*

Who will win the contest for world's stinkiest sneakers? Collin is a ten year old boy working hard for the title and the great prize

Buzzeo: *One Cool Friend* c. 2012 *fiction*

Eliot, a very proper young man, feels a kinship with the penguins at the aquarium and wants to take one home with him.

Chaconas: *Cork & Fuzz, The Babysitters* c. 2010 *fiction*

Cork the Muskrat tries to persuade his best friend Fuzz to babysit for Porcupine.

Henkes: *The Year of Billy Miller* c2013 *fiction*

Seven-year-old Billy Miller starts second grade with a bump on his head and a lot of worries, but by the end of the year he has developed relationships with his teacher and friends

Hoffman: *Amazing Grace* c1991 *diversity, fiction*

Although a classmate says that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school play because she is black, Grace discovers that she can do anything she sets her mind to do.

McKissack: *The Honest-to-Goodness Truth* c2000 *character, ethnic diversity*

A young girl promises not to ever lie but then discovers that there are times that one actually should not tell the entire truth.

Maier, Inger: *Ben's Flying Flowers, Realistic-Fiction*

Ben's Flying Flowers follows Emily as she tries to overcome her grief following her brother's death. As time passes, Emily finds a way to remember her brother and grows to understand that although Ben has died, her happy memories of him

can continue to live on.

Polacco: *Chicken Sunday* c 1998 *fiction, friendship, racial diversity, working together* Set in Oakland in a racially diverse neighborhood we watch eagerly as Stewart, Winston, and Trisha try to find a way to thank the boys' grandma, Miss Eula, for those scrumptious Sunday dinners.

Poulin, Andree: *The Magic Clothesline*, Realistic-Fiction

When Robin's father leaves for a long business trip, Robin is overcome by sadness.... until gifts start showing up on the clothesline outside his house that only his father would know to give! A touching story about sibling friendship and family bonds.

Before Entering Second Grade contd.

Talbot: *United Tweets of America* c 2008 non-fiction, birds, United States
An interesting way for young readers to learn about each state bird. It is presented as a kind of contest for our feathered friends.

Wyeth: *Something Beautiful* c2002 fiction, When she goes looking for "something beautiful" in her city neighborhood, a young girl finds beauty in many different forms.



Before Entering Third Grade

Barrows: *Ivy + Bean* c2006 series

When seven-year-old Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy.

Bunting: *One Green Apple* c2006 *historical fiction, ethnic diversity*

Farah is new to the U.S. and her class. She feels alone until she goes on a field trip and realizes things are alike everywhere.

Cleary: *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* c. 1965 fiction

The story of a friendship between Keith, a boy and Ralph, a mouse and the motorcycle that Ralph rides.

Elliott: *Bird* c 2008 *fiction*

Young Mekhai, better known as Bird, loves to draw. With drawing you can erase the things that don't turn out right. In real life, problems aren't so easily fixed.

Fleming: *Gator Gumbo*: A Spicy-Hot Tale c2004 fiction

Tired of being tormented by bullies, a hungry old alligator conjures up a way to add some special ingredients to his gumbo.

Fradin: *Tsunamis* c2008 *non-fiction*, tsunamis, weather

Very interesting account by eyewitnesses and general information about tsunamis. Includes photographs, science, and explanations of the giant wave.

Grimes: *Almost Zero, A Dyamonde Daniel Book*, c2010 fiction

Dyamonde is angry at her mother for not buying her the shoes that she wants, but when she finds a classmate has it much worse, she is determined to help.

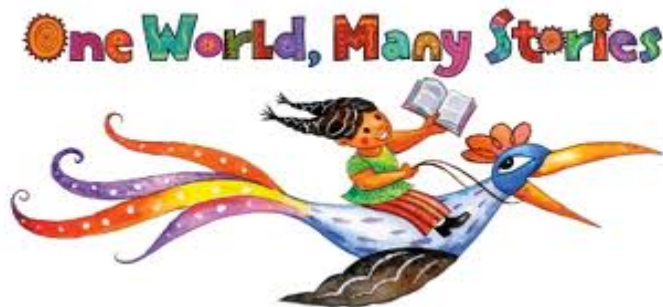
Before Entering Third Grade contd.

Helman: *Hide and Seek*: Nature's Best Vanishing Acts c2008

This image driven book takes the reader to ecosystems around the world to show how animals camouflage themselves for protection in each unique habitat.

Hoffman: *Amazing Grace* c1991 *diversity, fiction*

Although a classmate says that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school play because she is black, Grace discovers that she can do anything she sets her mind to do.



Hopkinson: *Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek: A Tall, Thin Tale (Introducing His Forgotten Frontier Friend)* c2008 *historical fiction*

In Knob Creek, Kentucky, in 1816, seven-year-old Abe Lincoln falls into a creek and is rescued by his best friend.

Look: *Alvin Ho: Allergic to Babies, Burglars, and Other Bumps in the Night*

c 2013 *fiction*, family, schools, relationships, fear

Alvin is worried about his mom having a baby, his own sympathetic symptoms and the burglar running around his neighborhood!

McKissack: *The Honest-to-Goodness Truth* c2000 *character, ethnic diversity*
A young girl promises not to ever lie but then discovers that there are times that one actually should not tell the entire truth.

Nelson: *Mandela* c 2013 *biography*

Kadir Nelson tells the story of Mandela, a global icon, in poignant verse and glorious illustrations. It is the story of a young boy's determination to change South Africa.

Polacco: *Chicken Sunday* c 1998 *fiction, friendship, racial diversity, working together*
Set in Oakland in a racially diverse neighborhood we watch eagerly as Stewart, Winston, and Trisha try to find a way to thank the boys' grandma, Miss Eula, for those scrumptious Sunday dinners.

Before Entering Third Grade contd.

Sileo, Frank: *Sally Sore Loser*, *Realistic-Fiction*

With the help of her teacher and her mom, Sally learns that the rules for being a good winner and a good loser, and that the most important things is having fun.

Before Entering Third Grade contd.

Snicket, Lemoney: *"Who Could That Be at This Hour?"* *Fiction/Mystery*

In a fading town, far from anyone he knew or trusted, a young Lemony Snicket began his apprenticeship in an organization nobody knows about. He started by asking questions that shouldn't have been on his mind.



Before Entering Fourth Grade

Applegate: *The One and Only Ivan* c 2012 *fiction, elephants, gorillas, animal treatment*
Ivan, a gorilla in a broken down circus, meets Ruby, a young elephant that no one cares about. Ivan tries to make a better life for Ruby. Caldecott Winner.

Avi: *Poppy* c. 1995 *fiction*

The tale of Poppy, a courageous mouse and her defiance of Mr. Ocax a menacing owl.

De Alcantara: *Befuddled* c. 2005 fiction

The story of Becky, a young violinist and the encouragement she receives from a handyman to be a great musician.

DiCamillio, Kate: *The Tale of Despereaux, Fiction*

Welcome to the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of a rat called Roscuro, who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl who harbors a simple, impossible wish. These three characters are about to embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and, ultimately, into each other's lives.

Before Entering Fourth Grade contd.

Elliott: *Bird* c 2008 fiction

Young Mekhai, better known as Bird, loves to draw. With drawing you can erase the things that don't turn out right. In real life, problems aren't so easily fixed.

Fleming: *The Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary* c2007 fiction

Fourth grade teacher extraordinaire, Mr. Jupiter, takes his energetic students on a wild ride through the school year.

Gutman: *Mission Unstoppable* c2011 series

On a cross-country vacation with their parents, twins Coke and Pepsi, soon to be thirteen, fend off assassins as they try to come to terms with their being part of a secret government organization.

Gutman: *My Weird School fiction series* all titles

Grimes: *Talkin' About Bessie* c2002 biography, ethnic diversity

How Bessie Coleman became the first African-American woman to become a licensed pilot as told by her family and friends.

Myers: *Blues Journey* c2003 poetry, ethnic diversity

Presents blues lyrics that chronicle the history of the African-American experience, and includes information about the development of blues music.

Smith, Jeff : *Bone #1, Graphic Novel*

The first book of this humorous full-color graphic novel series describes the misadventures of the three Bone cousins as they explore a forested valley

populated with frightening creatures. As the plot unfolds, the Bones meet strange characters and forces of evil.

Winkler: *Help! Somebody Get Me Out of the Fourth Grade* c 2004 *fiction, children* Uh oh! The school year is just about over and Hank is afraid that the end of the year school conference will reveal that he may have to repeat the fourth grade. How can he keep his parents away?



Before Entering Fifth Grade

Butler: *The Truth About Truman School* c 2008 *fiction, friendship*
Two young students start a school newspaper on the internet hoping to give an honest perspective about school issues. They never imagine the pain they will cause.

Curtis: *Bud, not Buddy* c 2004 *historical fiction, family, racial diversity*
In *Bud, Not Buddy*, Curtis weaves elements of his family history into the tale, providing an after word about his two grandfathers...a big-band leader, and a baseball player in the Negro Leagues who are models for characters in the story.

DiCamillo, Kate *Flora and Ulysess*, Fiction

It begins, as the best superhero stories do, with a tragic accident that has unexpected consequences. The squirrel never saw the vacuum cleaner coming, but self-described cynic Flora Belle Buckman, who has read every issue of the comic book *Terrible Things Can Happen to You!*, is the just the right person to step in and save him. A surprise ending.

Feldman: *The Gollywopper Games* c2008 fiction

When the Golly Toy & Game Company announces the Gollywopper Games, Gil Goodson wants to be the lucky winner; this could be the perfect opportunity for his family to move away from Orchard Heights.

Hale: *Rapunzel's Revenge* c2008 graphic novel

Rapunzel, having grown up in a castle with the woman she thought was her mother, is placed in a very tall tree as punishment for her curiosity.

Before Entering Fifth Grade contd.

Nelson: *Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, US Marshal* c2009 biography, ethnic diversity

An illustrated biography of Bass Reeves, a former slave who was recruited as a deputy United States marshal, based on his ability to communicate with the Native Americans in the area that was to become Oklahoma.

Before Entering Fifth Grade contd.

Palacio, R.J.: Wonder, Fiction

August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face.

Thomas: *The Kids Guide to Money Cent\$* c2004, personal finance, nonfiction

Text and cartoon illustrations introduce kids to the concept of money.

Williams-Garcia: *One Crazy Summer* c. 2010 fiction

In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland California, Delphine and her sisters visit their mother whom they barely know. Mother resents the intrusion and wants them to participate in a Black Panthers summer camp.

Ying: *109 Forgotten American Heroes* c 2009

Amazing stories of little known contributors to American society. For example, who knew that Charles Brannock was the man to invent the tool to measure foot sizes.



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