

St. Peter's School Summer Reading List

for students

Entering Grade 1

Reading aloud is one of the most important gifts parents can give to their children. The more a child listens to books the greater his/her vocabulary and attention span will be. When a child is read to on a regular basis, the child's curiosity and desire to learn is stimulated. Reading aloud to your child should be a pleasurable, social, one-to-one time that both you and your child look forward to at the end of a long day. When you and your child open a book you can experience wonderful adventures together. Read slowly to your child and savor the opportunity to talk about the events, characters, drawings, etc. Books give the reader enjoyment that can last a lifetime. Enjoy the journey with your child!

This list contains a wide variety of books on different reading levels and so you should find plenty of stories that are at the right level for your child. However, there are many wonderful books that are not included, so please feel free to enjoy other stories that you discover at the library or your local bookstore. On the last page of this packet, please write down any books not on the list that you think should be added.

Revised March 2012

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AARDEMA, VERNA *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears*

Mosquito tells Iguana a tall tale that sets off a chain reaction which ends in a jungle disaster. See also *Rabbit Makes a Monkey of Lion*, *Anansi the Spider*; *Anansi Does the Impossible* and *Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain* by the same author.

AGEE, JON *Mr. Putney's Quacking Dog*

Mr. Putney has some unusual pet friends. This word play book will keep you guessing & chuckling.

AGEE, JON *Milo's Hat Trick*

Milo is a failure as a magician until he captures a bear. The bear turns out to be a huge help to Milo's career because, by thinking like a rabbit, he can get into & then jump out of the magician's top hat.

BALESTRINO, PHILIP *The Skeleton Inside You*

This nonfiction book explains how the 206 bones of the skeleton are joined together, how they grow, how they help make blood, what happens when they break and how they mend.

BANG, MOLLY *When Sophie Gets Angry - Really, Really Angry...*

Sophie uses the wide world to comfort her in this picture book about a little girl's solution for what to do when she is angry.

BEMELMANS, LUDWIG *Madeline*

Nothing frightens Madeline, not tigers, not mice, not even getting sick. To Madeline, a trip to the hospital is a grand adventure. A true classic, Madeline continues to enchant readers more than sixty years after its first publication. See other books in this series.

BURTON, VIRGINIA LEE *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*

Mike and his old steam shovel, Mary Ann, set out to prove they're still able to do good work. See also *Katy and the Big Snow*, *The Little House* and *Maybelle the Cable Car* by the same author.

CARLE, ERIC *The Secret Birthday Message*

A wonderful birthday surprise awaits a little boy if only he can unscramble the rebus-like message to find it. See also *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *The Very Quiet Cricket* by the same author.

CHACONAS, DORI *Cork & Fuzz*

A possum & a muskrat become friends despite their differences. See other books in this series.

CHILD, LAUREN *I Am Too Absolutely Small for School*

Charlie and his little sister, Lola, debate the need for her to go to school. See other books in this series.

COONEY, BARBARA *Miss Rumphius*

Miss Rumphius accepts the challenge to make the world more beautiful than she finds it. See also *Eleanor* by the same author.

COREY, SHANA *First Graders from Mars Episode 1*

Aliens go to school. The story will reassure all tentative students about first grade. See others in the series.

CLEMENTS, ANDREW *Big Al*

Because of his large size, the other fish are afraid of Big Al, but he becomes a hero and makes friends.

DASENT, GEORGE WEBBE *East O' the Sun and West O' the Moon*

This story is a fairy tale about a great white bear who offers a poor farmer riches if he gives him his youngest daughter.

DAUGHERTY, JAMES *Andy and the Lion*

Andy reads a book about lions and encounters a real one with a problem.

DEPAOLA, TOMIE *The Legend of the Bluebonnet*

This moving story of the Comanches tells how a little girl's sacrifice saved her people from famine and brought the beautiful bluebonnet flowers to the Texas hillsides. See also *Strega Nona*, *The Art Lesson*, *Cookie's Week* and other titles by the author.

EHRLICH, AMY *The Wild Swans*

A Hans Christian Anderson tale retold about a sister with 11 brothers whose father marries a wicked stepmother. She turns the brothers into swans and it is up to their sister to break the spell.

FALCONER, IAN *Olivia Forms a Band*

A delightful series about a creative young childlike pig and her family, Olivia gets into everything with her vivid imagination and precocious tendencies.

FLACK, MARJORIE *Angus and the Ducks*

Angus's curiosity brings on a real adventure. See also *Angus and the Cat*, *The Story About Ping* and *Ask Mr. Bear* by the same author.

FLEISCHMAN, PAUL *Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal: A Worldwide Cinderella*

The story of Cinderella told from many different cultures' points of view.

FLEMMING, DENISE *In the Small, Small Pond*

This story is about an exploration of nature around a pond as the seasons change. It is told in simple verse with bright colorful illustrations. See also, *In the Tall, Tall Grass*.

GAG, WANDA *Millions of Cats*

A soft-hearted old couple adopts millions of cats but have a problem when they have to feed them. One unassuming little cat emerges as the one for them.

GREEN, STEPHANIE *Princess Posey & the First Grade Parade*

An easy to read chapter book, Posey is really nervous about going into first grade & wants to wear her pink tutu that will make her feel brave & comfortable on her first day. See other titles in this series.

GRIFFITHS, ANDY *The Big Fat Cow That Goes Kapow*

Ten silly short stories make up this book. They are easy to read with minimal wording.

GUARINO, DEBORAH *Is Your Mama a Llama?*

Rhyming riddles and six sweet baby animals help Lloyd, the llama, discover just what kind of animal he has for a mama.

HALL, DONALD *The Ox-Cart Man*

This is a gentle story about the life of one New Englander and his family in the early nineteenth century.

HENKES, KEVIN *Chrysanthemum*

Chrysanthemum thinks her name is perfect until she is teased about it at school. See also *Chester's Way* and *Lily's Purple Plastic Purse* by the same author.

HENKES, KEVIN *Wemberly Worried*

Poor Wemberly worries about everything. When she realizes that she has to go to school, her worries turn specific. What if the teacher is mean? What if she can't find the bathroom? Luckily, she makes a friend who helps her to forget.

HOBAN, RUSSELL *Best Friends for Frances*

Frances convinces her friend, Albert, of the value of her little sister's friendship. See other titles in this series.

HOFFMAN, MARY *Amazing Grace*

Spunky Grace longs to play the part of Peter Pan in the class play but encounters some objections from her classmates. See also *Boundless Grace* by the same author.

HOWARD, ELIZABETH FITZGERALD *Aunt Flossie's Hats (and Crab Cakes Later)*

Two little girls visit their Aunt Flossie and, while trying on some of her many hats, listen to the memories that each hat brings.

HUTCHINS, PAT *Rosie's Walk*

The Fox is after Rosie, but Rosie doesn't know it. Unwittingly, she leads him into one disaster after the other, each funnier than the last.

KALAN, ROBERT *Jump Frog Jump*

“First the turtle ate the snake that fell from the tree and swallowed the fish that swam after the frog...” But frog escapes being eaten by jumping just in time. This is a first look at the food chain.

KEATS, EZRA JACK *Louie*

Louie goes to a puppet show and loses his heart to a puppet named Gussie. Keats's pictures illustrate beautifully a story of love and generosity. See other titles by this author including *Whistle for Willie*, *The Snowy Day*, & *Peter's Chair*.

KELLOGG, STEPHEN *Jack and the Beanstalk*

Young Jack climbs a magic beanstalk to an enormous castle in the clouds, where he encounters a hen that lays golden eggs, a harp that sings by itself, and a scary ogre who roars, ""Fee-fi-fo-fum!" See also *Pecos Bill*, *Johnny Appleseed* and *Paul Bunyan* by the same author.

KRAUS, ROBERT *Leo the Late Bloomer*

When everyone starts blooming, poor Leo is left behind. He can't read, he can't write, he can't even eat neatly. But with the encouragement of his mother and the patience of his father, Leo proves that eventually everyone blooms. See also *Herman the Helper* by the same author.

KRAUSS, RUTH *The Carrot Seed*

A little boy plants a carrot seed and waits patiently, tending to it carefully, while everyone around him insists that "it won't come up. See also *Bears* and *A Hole is to Dig* by the same author.

KREBS, LAURIE *We All Went on Safari*

This story is full of information about a safari through Tanzania.

LESTER, HELEN *Hooway for Wodney Wat*

Poor Rodney Rat can't pronounce his R's & his classmates love to tease him. That is until big, mean Camilla Capybera joins the class & Rodney becomes a hero when he outwits her.

LIONNI, LEO *Little Blue and Little Yellow*

Two families of dots are very distressed when their children disappear. The blue dot and the yellow dot have turned to green. All ends well in this story about blending colors and family concern. See also *Frederick*, *Swimmy* and many other titles by this author.

MAYER, MERCER *There's A Nightmare in My Closet*

Childhood fear of the dark and the resulting exercise in imaginative exaggeration are given that special Mercer Mayer treatment in this humorous fantasy. See also *What a Bad Dream*, *The New Baby*, *Just a Mess*, *I Was So Mad* and other titles by the same author.

MCDERMOTT, GERALD *Arrow to the Sun*

An expression of the universal myth of the hero-quest, this beautiful story also portrays the Indian reverence for the source of life: the Solar Fire. See also *Zomo the Rabbit* and other titles by the same author.

MCGINTY, ALICE B. *Thank You, World*

Although the world seems large, this book reminds us that we are connected by daily experiences. Children from eight different countries are portrayed. They include Bolivia, India, Mali, China, France, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, and the U.S.A.

MELMED, LAURA KRAUSS *Moishe's Miracle*

This warm-hearted, appealing folktale tells of a latter-day Hanukkah miracle that befalls a poor milkman, Moishe, and his short-tempered wife, Baila.

MINARIK, ELSE HOLMELUND *Little Bear's Friend*

Little Bear has a special friendship with a little girl. See other titles in this series.

MORA, PAT *A Birthday Basket for Tia*

A little girl wants to give Tia Rosa a special present to show how much she loves her. See also *The Rainbow Tulip* by the same author.

NAKAGAWA, CHIHIRO *Who Made This Cake?*

Little construction people build a birthday cake just like they would a building using miniature tractor trailers, cranes & helicopters.

NESS, EVALINE *Sam, Bangs and Moonshine*

Sam dreams rich and lovely dreams “moonshine”. When faced with a disaster, she repentantly draws a permanent line between moonshine and reality.

ONYEFULU, IFEOMA *A Triangle for Adaora*

Full-color photographs and text tell the story of Ugo and his cousin Adaora, who set out to find a triangle in their small African village. Along the way, they also encounter squares, circles, ovals, diamonds, and more. As each shape is discussed, readers will also learn about life in this village.

PATERSON, KATHERINE *The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks*

Two servants risk their lives to help a captive duck grieving for his mate. This beautiful story is illustrated in the style of 18th century Japanese woodcuts.

POLACCO, PATRICIA *Oh Look!*

Three goats escape but are scared back home by a troll. A variation of “Going On A Bear Hunt.” See other titles by this author.

PORTIS, ANTOINETTE *A Penguin’s Story*

All her life Edna, a Penguin, has seen only three colors; black, white, and the blue of the sea. She wonders about other colors then finds an orange, domed, research station that she must show to her friends.

RATHMAN, PEGGY *Officer Buckle & Gloria*

Officer Buckle’s talks to children about safety are dull until his police dog, Gloria, adds a lively dimension.

RYLANT, CYNTHIA *Mr. Putter & Tabby Pour the Tea*

This is a series of easy chapter books about the friendship between an older man & his cat & their wonderful adventures together. See others in this series.

SCHACHNER, JUDY *Skippyjon Jones*

This book is about a hyperactive kitten with a wild imagination & is full of rhyming chants & Spanish expressions. See others in this series.

SCIESZKA, JON *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*

For a new twist to an old tale, listen to the wolf's side of the story.

DR. SEUSS *Fox in Socks*

"I can't blab such blibber blabber! My tongue isn't made of rubber," best describes this silly, tongue twisting book of rhymes.

SHANNON, DAVID *A Bad Case of Stripes*

This is a story about the importance of being true to yourself & not caring what others may think. See also *Alice the Fairy* by the same author.

SHANNON, DAVID *Good Boy, Fergus!*

Fergus, the dog, doesn't come when he is called, he chases cats and makes a mess but he is always a good boy.

SHIHAB NYE, NAOMI and CARPENTER, NANCY *Sitti's Secrets*

Sitti means *grandmother* in Arabic, and in this lyrical picture book an American child misses her grandmother who lives in a Palestinian village "on the other side of the earth." The child remembers when she visited Sitti. They didn't speak the same language: at first they talked through her father, who spoke both English and Arabic, and then they invented their own language with signs and hums and claps. She remembers the house and the countryside, the culture and the clothes, and the intimacy of brushing Sitti's hair. She also remembers the painful leave-taking. Every child who longs for a distant grandparent will recognize the feeling.

SIERRA, JUDY *Monster Goose*

Twisted nursery rhymes turn silly & feature vampires, ghosts & mummies.

SILL, CATHRYN *About Rodents*

There are marvelous illustrations in this nonfiction explanation of the basic characteristics of the rodent population.

STEIG, WILLIAM *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*

On a rainy day, Sylvester finds a magic pebble that can make wishes come true. But when a lion frightens him on his way home, Sylvester makes a wish that brings unexpected results. See also *Dr. DeSoto* by the same author.

STOLL WALSH, ELLEN *Hop Jump*

It's always the same," complains Betsy, a green-speckled blue frog. She is tired of watching the others of her ilk engaging in their monotonous, "Hop jump, hop jump." Instead, she imitates leaves, leaping, turning, and twisting, as they float to the ground. "It's called dancing," she says. The frogs at first reject the idea and then all but one join her. Betsy declares, "There's room for dancing and for hopping."

VAN ALLSBURG, CHRIS *Two Bad Ants*

The kitchen is a very dangerous place for two ants with a taste for sweets. See also *Jumanji*.

VIORST, JUDITH *The Tenth Good Thing About Barney*

In simple phrases narrated by a child whose cat, Barney, has just died, the author succinctly and honestly handles both the emotions stemming from the loss of a beloved pet and the questions about the finality of death which naturally arise in such a situation.

WADDELL, MARTIN *Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?*

Big Bear has to solve a problem for Little Bear who can't sleep because of the dark.

WATT, MELANIE *Scaredy Squirrel at the Beach*

Crowds at the beach terrify Scaredy Squirrel so he makes a fake beach at home but then decides he needs a real shell so he can hear the soothing sea. Off to the beach he goes! Funny and entertaining – see other books in this series.

WELLS, ROSEMARY *Yoko*

The first graders make fun of the different foods in Yoko's lunchbox until the always hungry Timothy tries a sample. See also *Bunny Cakes*, *Max & Ruby in Pandora's Box* and other books by this author.

WHEELER, LISA *Mammoths on the Move*

A nonfiction book about the mammoth's trek south for the winter and the dangers they encounter on the way.

WILLIEMS, MO *Hooray for Amanda & Her Alligator*

Amanda & her stuffed alligator are friends & in this little chapter book they spend time surprising each other.

WILLIEMS, MO *Don't Let the Pigeons Stay Up Late!*

A sleepy pigeon makes multiple excuses for not going to bed. See other titles in this series.

WILLIEMS, MO *I Am Invited To a Party*

Piggie is invited to a party. But what shall she wear? Her friend Gerald, the party expert, decides to help.

WOOD, AUDREY *The Napping House*

A tiny, wakeful flea wreaks havoc upon the sleepy occupants of the napping house.

YOUNG, ED *Lon Po Po*

While mother is out visiting their sick grandmother, three sisters try to outwit the wolf who is at the door. This is a Chinese version of Little Red Riding Hood.

Suggested Additions

Title: _____

Author: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

Name: _____

Grade: _____