

St. Peter's School

Summer Reading List

for students

Entering Grade Two

This list contains a wide variety of stories on different reading levels. While you are free to read other books that you discover at your library or bookstore, you must read at least **six books from the list**. Our expectation is that you will read many more. They will fill your summer days with pleasurable journeys into other worlds.

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 May 2013

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ADLER, DAVID *Cam Jansen*

These are chapter books about a girl detective, Jennifer “the camera” Jansen, who has a photographic memory & solves mysteries with the help of her friend, Eric.

ADLER, DAVID *A Picture Book of Abraham Lincoln*

Brief text and simple illustrations provide an excellent first biography of Lincoln. See other titles in this series.

AHLBERG, ALAN *The Runaway Dinner*

Just as a hungry boy sits down to eat his sausage, his peas, carrots, and fries as well as his fork, knife, plate, table, and chair run off. He gives chase in this silly tale.

AVERILL, ESTHER *The Fire Cat*

Pickles the cat is a bully. When a fire company adopts him, he learns to change his ways.

BANG, MOLLY *The Paper Crane*

Based upon the Japanese belief in the supernatural powers of folded paper cranes, this story is about the good fortune that comes to a despondent restaurant owner who gives free food to a stranger. See also *Ten, Nine, Eight*

BARTON, CHRIS *Shark Versus Train*

A ferocious shark challenges a speedy locomotive to a contest. It’s hard to tell who the winner will be but fun to root for your favorite. This is a clever & imaginative picture book.

BISHOP, CLAIRE *Five Chinese Brothers*

The story of five brothers who look exactly alike but each has an extraordinary talent or characteristic. When the first brother is unjustly condemned to death, his brothers rally to save his life and elude the executioner.

BLAKE, ROBERT J. *Painter & Ugly*

Two sled dogs who are inseparable best friends are put on different teams for the Junior Iditarod but they manage to get back together for the big race

BRENNER, BARBARA *Wagon Wheels*

Shortly after the Civil War, a black family travels west to Kansas to avail themselves of free land offered through the Homestead Act.

CANNON, JANELLE *Pinduli*

In this story about self image, self-acceptance and treating others with respect, Pinduli and Mama Hyena go hunting while the other animals tease Pinduli about her looks. But she teaches the creatures of the African savannah an important lesson.

CASLEY, JUDITH *Harry and Willy and Carrothead*

As a book encouraging self-respect among children despite physical differences, this is a commendable effort. Born without a left hand, Harry is, in the words of a schoolmate, "just a regular kid." He enjoys the same games, and his matter-of-fact responses to other children's questions soon satisfy their curiosity. He makes friends with a redheaded boy named Oscar, and when another classmate calls him "Carrothead," Harry jumps to his defense.

CHERRY, LYNNE *The Great Kapok Tree*

About to cut down a kapok tree, a man falls asleep in the Amazon rain forest. As he sleeps, animals whisper to him about the significance of this tree to them and to the environment. This is a timely and beautiful introduction to the ecosystem.

CRONIN, DOREEN *Click, Clack, Moo Cows That Type*

A herd of "literate" cows turn Farmer Brown's farm upside down.

CRONIN, DOREEN *A Diary of a Fly*

Written in a diary form, this is a funny tale of "the personified" everyday life of a young fly. See also *Diary of a Worm*.

CUNNANE, KELLY *For You Are a Kenyan Child*

Sights and sounds in a day in the life of a boy growing up in a Kenyan Village.

CURTIS, GAVIN *The Bat Boy and His Violin*

The story of how a little boy who loves his violin manages to practice while he is a batboy for a baseball team.

DAHL, ROALD *Fantastic Mr. Fox*

A fox saves his family and friends from being starved by three mean farmers. See also *The Enormous Crocodile* and other titles by this author.

DANZIGER, PAULA *Get Ready for Second Grade, Amber Brown*

Amber Brown is turning seven and ready to start second grade. See also *Second Grade Rules, Amber Brown* and other titles in this series.

DE PAOLA, TOMIE *The Quicksand Book*

Jungle Boy and Jungle Girl learn about that mysterious substance quicksand. Attractive format and directions for concocting quicksand make this an irresistible book.

DONA, KELLY *Super Simple Things to Do With Bubbles:
Fun & Easy Science For Kids*

Simple instructions & photographs show how to perform six amazing experiments with bubbles.

EGAN, TIM *Dodsworth in New York*

A chapter book about Dodsworth's traveling adventure to New York City. His traveling companion is a misbehaving duck. See others in this series.

FEELINGS, MURIEL *Jambo Means Hello*

Children will take pride in learning several Swahili words and will also enjoy the exquisite illustrations.

FOX, MEM *Whoever You Are*

The illustrations are rich and detailed. They spur conversations about the various cultures they capture. The verse is simple & conveys the powerful message that we are all humans.

FRAZEE, MARLA *A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever*

The illustrations tell one story & the words another in this story of James & Eamon's visit to Eamon's grandparent's house where they will stay while going to nature camp. But nature camp just isn't that interesting. This is a fun summer read.

GANNETT, RUTH *My Father's Dragon*

When Elmer Elevator hears about a baby dragon forced to ferry the lazy animals across a river, he sets out to Wild Island to see if he can help. See also *Elmer and the Dragon* and *The Dragons of Blueland* in the same series.

GIFF, PATRICIA *Fish Face*

Emily hopes that Dawn, a new girl at Polk Street School, will be her friend. Her feelings change when she suspects that Dawn has stolen her lucky unicorn. See other titles in this series.

HARTMAN, BOB *Grumblebunny*

Bad Wolf Peter catches three sweet, little rabbits & their grumpy cousin & threatens to eat them. Grumblebunny must save them.

HENKES, KEVIN *Chester's Way*

The virtues of variety, experimentation, and friendship are deftly handled in the amusing, believable story. See other titles by this author.

HILL, SUSANNA LEONARD *No Sword Fighting in the House*

Brothers take their sword fighting outside, only to get into bigger trouble when they ruin their mother's garden, just before it is to be judged by the garden club. The story is told in several chapters.

HISSEY, JANE *Hoot*

In a nighttime adventure, toys fly, have a midnight feast, and meet a special friend in this beautifully illustrated story.

JOOSSE, BARBARA *Mama, Do You Love me?*

A little girl tests the limits of her independence and the strength of her mother's love, and finds that a parent's love is unconditional and boundless. Brilliant color patterns of an Arctic setting, replete with animals and depictions of the warm, ineradicable bonds between parent and child, make this an enjoyable book.

KASZA, KEIKO *Badger's Fancy Meal*

Badger is tired of the same old, boring meals so to spiff them up, he takes to chasing his animal neighbors. It's a modern fable featuring humor & cooperation.

KEATS, EZRA JACK *Whistle for Willie*

Peter longs to whistle for his dog. Beautiful illustrations boldly, colorfully capture the child, his city world and the shimmering heat of a summer's day. See also *Goggles*, *Hi, Cat! Regards to the Man in the Moon*, and *The Snowy Day* by this author.

KELLER, HOLLY *Grandfather's Dream*

Nam shares his grandfather's dream of restoring the cranes' natural habitats, which were destroyed during the Vietnam War; the village council has decided that if the cranes do not return, their homes will become rice fields. Suspense builds as Nam and his father hope for the cranes' return.

KELLER, LAURIE *Do Unto Others: A Book About Manners*

Mr. Rabbit and his new neighbors, the Otters, teach each other some important lessons.

KHAN, RUKHSANA *Big Red Lollipop*

The author, a Pakistani native, writes of the time her little sister wanted to go to her friend's birthday party with her. Because they were new to the United States, she took her sister at her mother's insistence. This story combines sibling rivalry with adjustment to new customs.

KLINE, SUZY *Horrible Harry in Room 2B*

Harry, a second grader, has several misadventures with his friends. See also *Horrible Harry & the Green Slime* & other titles in this series.

LESTER, HELEN *Tacky the Penguin*

Tacky tries hard to fit in but he is very different from his fellow "perfect" penguins. But one day, his being different, saves them all from three penguin hunters. See others in this series.

LEWIS, THOMAS *Hill of Fire*

A Mexican farmer witnesses the birth of a volcano when the cornfield he is plowing suddenly begins to change, historical fiction for beginning readers.

LIONNI, LEO *Alexander and the Wind Up Mouse*

The friendship of Alexander, a real mouse, and Willy, a wind-up mouse, is again brought to life by the blending of the simple story and beautiful, imaginative collage in the reissue of this Caldecott Honor Book.

LOBEL, ARNOLD *Frog and Toad are Friends*

The adventures of two very good friends are told with warmth and humor.

MARSHALL, JAMES *George and Martha Rise and Shine*

These short stories about two lovable hippo friends are sure to make you smile. See others in this series.

MCDONALD, MEGAN *Judy Moody*

Beginning third grade puts Judy Moody in a bad mood, it just won't be the same or as much fun as last year. But when her new teacher assigns a special project, Judy's mood improves. See others in this series.

McDONNELL, PATRICK *Me.....Jane*

Little Jane Goodall loves her stuffed toy chimpanzee & Tarzan books. She dreams of living in Africa & helping animals.

MCDERMOTT, GERALD *Anansi the Spider*

When Anansi's sons save him from an awful fate, Nyane, God of All Things, helps him to decide which one of his sons to reward. See also *Coyote: A Tricksters Tale From The Southwest* by this author.

MCELLIGOT, MATTHEW *The Lion's Share*

When an ant is invited to the lion's dinner party, she is surprised by the other guests' terrible manners. The story introduces some fractions & multiplication. See also *Bean Thirteen* & other titles by this author.

MCKISSACK, PATRICIA *The Honest To Goodness Truth*

A little girl resolves to always tell the truth after being caught in a lie but learns that this rule can also cause problems. See also *Ma Dear's Aprons*, *Loved Best*, *Messy Bessie's Closet*, *Flossie and the Fox* and other titles by the same author.

MEDDAUGH, SUSAN *Martha Blah Blah*

Something is wrong with Martha, the talking dog. She can't seem to speak clearly and discovers that her daily bowl of alphabet soup is missing some letters. See also *Martha Speaks*, *Perfectly Martha* and other titles by the same author.

MOSEL, ARLENE *Tikki Tikki Tembo*

The name of the first-born Chinese son was always to be spoken completely and reverently. This story tells what happens when a boy named Tikki Tikki Tembo-no Sa Rembo-chari Bari Ruchi-pip Pembo falls into a well and his younger brother Chang tries to get help for him.

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MYERS, CHRISTOPHER *Black Cat*

An intrepid black cat takes a tour of the urban landscape.

OSBORNE, MARY POPE *Magic Tree House Books*

Jack & Annie travel back in time by way of a magic tree house & the help of Morgan Le Fay & Merlin the Magician. They always have a mission & a great educational adventure along the way.

PARK, BARBARA *Junie B. Jones and The Mushy Gushy Valentine*

Junie is an irrepressible kindergartener that always seems to have a dilemma that she solves in a comical way. See other titles by this author including *Junie B. Jones Has a Peep in Her Pocket*, *Junie B. Jones Has a Monster Under Her Bed*, *Junie B. Jones and Some Sneaky Peeky Spying* and many others in this series.

PENNYPACKER, SARA *Clementine*

An intriguing heroine has her troubles at school. See others in this series.

POLACCO, PATRICIA *Babushka's Doll*

Spoiled Natasha gets a taste of her own medicine when her grandmother's doll comes to life and orders her about. See also *Rechenka's Eggs*.

QUATTLEBAUM, MARY *Pirate vs. Pirate: The Terrific Tale of a Big, Blustery Maritime Match*

Bad Bart, the biggest, bully boy pirate in the Atlantic & Mean Mo, the meanest, mightiest girl pirate in the Pacific test each other in a contest to determine top pirate but their respective crews always call it a tie. Full of pirate lingo, this rip roaring tale has adventure & a little romance thrown in too.

REED, LYNNE ROWE *Roscoe & the Pelican Rescue*

Tony is visiting family on the Louisiana Gulf Coast during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The family dog, Roscoe, finds an oil drenched pelican on the beach. Tony's aunt is trained in rescue & Tony & his cousin learn all about treating oil covered animals. Included is information on the oil spill.

RINGGOLD, FAITH *Tar Beach*

The dream adventures of eight-year-old Cassie, as she flies above her apartment building over the roofs of Harlem, are beautifully illustrated.

RYLANT, CYNTHIA *Henry and Mudge and the Happy Cat*

Henry's family adopts a scruffy cat with fur that looks like "mashed prunes", in this easy chapter book. Everyone including big Mudge, the dog, is won over by this happy cat. See other titles in this series.

SAY, ALLEN *Grandfather's Journey*

A grandson, who makes the same trip, tells of his grandfather's youthful journey to America, where he settles for a while, but finally returns with his family to his Japanese homeland.

SCHRAM, PENINNAH *The Magic Pomegranate: A Jewish Folktale*

Three brothers travel to different lands & bring back gifts. Upon their return they learn of a princess who is ill & they must use their gifts to cure her.

SCIESZKA, JON *The Time Warp Trio Series*

This series of chapter books are about Fred, Sam & Joe who travel through time by way of a magic book that was a birthday present from Joe's magician uncle. The book is full of historical information & funny escapades. See *Viking It & Liking It*, *Knights of the Kitchen Table*, *Summer Reading Is Killing Me!* and others in the series.

SIERRA, JUDY *The Gift of the Crocodile: A Cinderella Story*

This Indonesian version of the traditional tale is set in the Spice Islands. A few departures from the standard Cinderella story will keep readers on their toes.

SLACK, MICHAEL H. *Monkey Truck*

A truck shaped like a monkey drives through the jungle to help out animals in trouble. When a tsunami threatens, it saves everyone.

SOTO, GARY *Too Many Tamales*

Jubilant about being grown up enough to assist in making tamales for her family's Christmas dinner, Maria tries on the diamond ring, which her mother has left on the kitchen counter. Hours later convinced that the ring fell off while she was kneading the masa; she and her three cousins eat all twenty-four of the increasingly less delicious tamales. See also *Chato's Kitchen*, *Chato Goes Cruisin'* and *Chato and the Party Animals* by the same author.

SPECK, KATIE *Maybelle Goes to Tea*

Mrs. Peabody has the perfect house but when she hosts the Ladies' Spring Tea, Maybelle, a cockroach, make a guest appearance with hilarious results. See other titles in this series.

STEIG, WILLIAM *Brave Irene*

Irene braves the elements so that she can deliver a gown to the duchess for her ailing mother. See other titles by this author.

STILTON, GERONIMO *Lost Treasures of the Emerald Eye*

A series about a mouse who runs a newspaper but his true passion is writing tales of adventure and telling stories to his nephew, Benjamin. See others in this series.

SURAT, MICHELE MARIA *Angel Child, Dragon Child*

A little girl from Viet Nam learns to adjust to a new life in America.

WARNER, SALLY *Ellray Jakes Is Not A Chicken*

Ellray tries to defend himself from the class bully but gets himself in trouble. His dad comes up with a plan to take him to Disneyland if he can stay out of trouble for a week. This is an easy chapter book. See others in this series.

WHEELER, LISA *Dino - Hockey*

It is the Man-Eaters vs. the Veggiesaurs. Readers will be delighted as T. Rex faces off against Triceratops. See also Dino-Baseball & Dino-Soccer by this author.

WILES, DEBORAH *Freedom Summer*

This stirring account of the "Freedom Summer" that followed the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, powerfully and poignantly captures two boys' experience with racism and their friendship that defies it.

WOODSON, JAQUELINE *The Other Side*

Set in the segregated south prior to the civil rights era, this book tells the story of two little girls who learn how to work around "the fence" that adults have constructed and find a new friendship.

YEP, LAURENCE *The Dragon Prince: A Chinese Beauty and the Beast Tale*

In an old Chinese version of the classic fairy tale, a daughter who is as dutiful as she is talented in embroidery agrees to marry a terrifying dragon.

Suggested Additions

Title: _____

Author: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

Name: _____

Grade: _____