

**THE FABULOUS SUMMER READING  
LIST!!!!**  
**SOME FAVORITE BOOKS FROM THE LOWER SCHOOL  
LIBRARY**  
**Summer 2004**

Listed below are a few well-loved books that may interest you for summer reading. These are just a sample of some of the titles and authors available, and we have tried to avoid suggesting books with which everyone is already completely familiar. (Dr. Seuss and Beverly Cleary, for example, are not on our list.) There are, of course, many, many more choices at the Public Library and in bookstores. Start your own list! Happy reading!

Love, Amy, Rebecca, and Stephanie

Note to parents:

These books are primarily books we think your children will enjoy reading themselves. But reading aloud is a great summer family activity, and many of these books would be perfect as read-alouds. In addition, we recommend **The Read-Aloud Handbook** by Jim Trelease as a wonderful resource for parents. It is a fascinating book about the importance of reading aloud, and it contains a fantastic list of recommended books.

## Some Stupendous Picture Books

**Possum Magic** by Mem Fox

**The Rainbow Goblins** by Ul de Rico

**Papa Gatto** by Ruth Sanderson

**Many Moons** by James Thurber

**Noodle Man: The Pasta Superhero** by April Pulley Sayre

**Mr. Rabbit and the Lovely Present** by Charlotte Zolotow

**Click, Clack, Moo, Cows that Type** by Doreen Cronin

**Duck for President** is also wonderful, especially in election season!

**Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs** by Judi Barrett

**Diary of a Wombat** by Jackie French

(This was the hit of the year in the first grade!)

**Gus and Button** by Saxton Freymann and Joost Elffers

**When Pigasso met Mootisse** by Nina Laden

**Onions and Garlic** by Eric A.Kimmel

**The Magic School Bus** books by Joanna Cole

Did you know there are Magic School Bus chapter books too?

## Some Amazing Picture Book Authors

(They wrote many great books. We've listed a sample for each.)

Tomie dePaola (**Little Grunt and the Big Egg**)

Don Freeman (**Corduroy**)

Bill Peet (**Randy's Dandy Lions, Copyboppy**)

Faith Ringgold (**Tar Beach**)

Patricia Polacco (**Aunt Chip and the Great Triple Creek Dam Affair**)

Julius Lester (**John Henry**)

Cynthia Rylant (**When I Was Young in the Mountains**)

Chris van Allsburg (**The Sweetest Fig**)

Verna Aardema (**Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears**)

## Some Excellent I-Can-Read Books

\***Biscuit series** by Alyssa Satin Capucilli

\***Cookie's Week** by Cindy Ward

\***Get Ready, Get Set, Read! series** by Foster & Erickson

**Wacky Wednesday** by Theo LeSieg

**Grandmas at the Lake** by Emily McCully

**Robert the Rose Horse** by Joan Heilbroner

This had David and Elizabeth's class in stitches!

**Scruffy** by Peggy Parish

Bebe thinks kids who are interested in and love cats should read it.

**The Teacher of the Black Lagoon and sequels** by Mike Thaler.

**Poppleton series** by Cynthia Rylant

Liza likes these books because "Poppleton is nice and he has lots of friends."

**Henry and Mudge series** by Cynthia Rylant

**Mr. Putter and Tabby series** by Cynthia Rylant

**Amelia Bedelia series** by Peggy Parish

**Nate the Great mystery series** by Marjorie Sharmat

**Little Black series** by Walter Farley

These books are much loved by Danya in 1<sup>st</sup> grade and Rachel in 3<sup>rd</sup>, who reminds us that even "really good readers" like to re-read old favorites.

**High Rise Private Eyes mystery series** by Cynthia Rylant

This new addition to our library has been a huge hit this year.

**See More Readers non-fiction series** by Seymour Simon

Kai D. recommends these "science-y reader books that have both hard and easy words."

\* indicates great books for beginning readers

## Some Much-Loved Shorter Chapter Books

**The Secrets of Droon** *series* by Tony Abbott

**A to Z Mysteries** *mystery series* by Ron Roy

Noah T., Susanna D., and Moses R. are among the many children who have devoured these this year!

**Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle** *series* by Betty MacDonald

**Time Warp Trio** *series* by Jon Scieszka

**Something Queer...** *series* by Elizabeth Levy

**Catwings Returns** by Ursula K. LeGuin

**The Hoboken Chicken Emergency** by Daniel Pinkwater

**The Terrible Topsy-Turvy Tissy-Tossy Tangle** *and others* by Margaret Mahy

Maisie loved this book because it's scary and has a spy in it!

**Bunnicula** *and sequels* by James Howe

**Barkley's School for Dogs** *series* by Marcia T. Jones

Connor H. praises these because "they're plenty suspenseful but are also good stories" and Patrick M. concurs. "They're funny!" he adds.

**Secrets of Ms. Snickle's Class** by Laurie Hornik

## Some Wonderful Longer Chapter Books

**Homer Price** by Robert McCloskey

**No Flying in the House** by Betty Brock

**Dancing Shoes** by Noel Streatfeild

**The Tale of Despereaux** by Kate DiCamillo

\*\*This year's Newbery Award winner!\*\*

**The Twenty-One Balloons** by William Pene du Bois

**The Giggler Treatment** by Roddy Doyle

**Sideways Stories of Wayside School** *series* by Louis Sachar

**The Dragon of Lonely Island** by Rebecca Rupp

Frankie especially likes this book because "you can find out interesting things about the past."

\***Molly Moon's Incredible Book of Hypnotism** by Georgia Byng

Max A. recommends this as a "very weird book where you never know what's going to happen next."

\***The Boggart** by Susan Cooper

\***Island of the Aunts** by Eva Ibbotson

Bebe B. enjoyed this book's "good descriptions about magical creatures."

\***Chasing Redbird** by Sharon Creech

\***Twenty and Ten** by Claire Bishop

\***Shiloh** by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

\*indicates books better suited to rising 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

## Some Fabulous Chapter Book Series

**Encyclopedia Brown** *detective series* by Donald J. Sobol

**The Witch's Sister** *series* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

**All-of-a-Kind Family** *series* by Sydney Taylor

Amy and Rebecca both loved these books when they were young (and still do!)

**Which Witch** *series* by Eva Ibbotson

**The Unicorn Chronicles** by Bruce Coville

**Myth-o-mania** *series* by Kate McMullan

Bairn comments, "This is funny because it's a spoof, and usually Greek mythology is so serious and sad."

**The Malted Falcon** and **This Gum for Hire** by Bruce Hale

Chris D. recommends the Chet Gecko mysteries because he likes how they let you be the detective.

\***The Great Brain** *series* by John D. Fitzgerald

This is one of Amy's favorites.

\***Chronicles of Prydain** by Lloyd Alexander

These books are very challenging, but well worth it. The last book in the series, **The High King** (a Newbery award winner), is an especially amazing book.

\***The Ghost in the Mirror** (and other mysteries) by John Bellairs

Henry B. describes these mysteries as "scary and a bit funny and mysterious, and it's the writing I like!"

\***The Redwall** *series* by Brian Jacques

The books in these series are long and challenging, and have been much enjoyed by Matthew D., who described them as "a complicated fantasy."

\***The Enchanted Forest Chronicles** by Patricia Wrede

Sophie F-P. strongly recommends these books about a headstrong princess who runs away to live with a dragon.

## Some Marvelous Chapter Book Authors

(They wrote many great books. We've listed a sample for each.)

Dick King-Smith (**Lady Lollipop**)

Patricia Reilly Giff

Her **Polk Street School** series is very popular among 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade readers; **Lily's Crossing** and other challenging chapter books would be excellent for rising 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

Sharon Creech (**Ruby Holler**)

Ivy O. recommends Creech's adventurous (but often sad) stories.

Jean Craighead George (**The Missing 'Gator of Gumbo Limbo**)

E.L. Konigsburg

**A Proud Taste for Scarlet and Miniver** is still one of Rebecca's favorite books; she rereads it at least once a year.

Eleanor Estes (**Ginger Pye**)

E. Nesbit (**The Phoenix and the Carpet**)

Classic fantasy.

Sid Fleischman (**The Whipping Boy**)

Frances Hodgson Burnett

Marcia the art teacher still loves **The Secret Garden** after all these years!

Marguerite Henry (**Misty of Chincoteague**)

Walter R. Brooks (**Freddy the Detective**)

Margot D. loves this series because "it's so funny, especially Charles the rooster!"

Henry Winterfeld (**Castaways in Lilliput**)

## Some Super Sports Books and Authors

**Baseball Fever** by Johanna Hurwitz

**Summerland** by Michael Chabon

Max L. recommends this challenging and excellent baseball mystery.

**World Series** by John Tunis

Matt Christopher (**Double Play at Short, Crackerjack Halfback**)

S.A. Kramer (**Hoop Heroes**)

Dan Gutman (**Baseball Card Adventures**)

Ruby especially enjoyed **Jackie and Me** because "you get to see how the baseball player's childhood was."

**Two amazing chapter books about sports...and other things.**

**In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson** by Bette Bao Lord

An excellent book about playing and watching baseball, this is also a fascinating piece of historical fiction about emigration, life in a new place, and race relations, as well as about Brooklyn's love for its Dodgers.

**The Great Brain at the Academy** by John D. Fitzgerald

Part of a fabulous and funny series about life in 1890s Utah, this book describes the invention and spread of basketball.

## You've Seen the Movie, Now Read the Book!

(Often the book is even better!)

### Picture Books:

**Madeline** by Ludwig Bemelmans

**Shrek** by William Steig

**How The Grinch Stole Christmas** by Dr. Seuss

**Fairy Tales** (*various*) by Hans Christian Andersen

### Chapter Books:

**Freaky Friday** by Mary Rodgers

**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** by Roald Dahl

**James and the Giant Peach** by Roald Dahl

**Matilda** by Roald Dahl

**Harriet the Spy** by Louise Fitzhugh

**The Black Stallion** by Walter Farley

**Stuart Little** and **Charlotte's Web** by E.B. White

**The Secret Garden** by Frances Hodgson Burnett

**The Wizard of Oz** by L. Frank Baum

**Babe** by David King-Smith

**Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street** by Valentine Davies

\***Ella Enchanted** by Gail Carson Levine

\***National Velvet** by Enid Bagnold

\***Cheaper by the Dozen** by Frank and Ernestine Gilbreth

Warning: This book is VERY different from the recent movie, but Rebecca and Isabel P. agree that the book is much better!

\***Around the World in 80 Days** by Jules Verne

The original book is wonderful but very challenging; there are also a variety of adaptations for children.