

**Recommended Summer Reading Books
for Upcoming 3rd Graders
(or students reading between levels K-Q)**

Category	Title	Author
Fiction	<i>Bigmama's</i>	Donald Crews
	While visiting Bigmama's house in the country, young Donald Crews finds his relatives full of news and the old place and its surroundings just the same as the year before. Reading Level: K	
Fiction	<i>Andy Shane, Hero At Last</i>	Jennifer Jacobson
	A bicycle-decorating contest provides Andy with a humorous and highly appreciated opportunity to save the hometown parade. There are two things Andy Shane wants more than anything - to win the contest for best-decorated bike in the parade, and . . . to be a hero. He has a great idea for the bike part, although high-strung Dolores is upping the ante with her paper-daisy-covered helmets for her and her cat. But the second goal has Andy stumped, until the parade is in motion and his eagle eyes catch the reason why the drum corps has suddenly thrown the marchers out of whack. Pass the baton to a lovably low-key hero as he saves the day in a new adventure for early chapter-book readers. Reading Level: K	
Fiction	<i>Mrs. Noodlekugel</i>	Daniel Pinkwater
	When Nick and Maxine look out their apartment building window and see a little house that they never noticed before, they decide to pay a visit, only to discover a secret backyard with talking cats, vision-impaired mice and magical adventures accented by the warm smell of gingerbread. Reading Level: L	
Fiction (series)	<i>The Princess in Black (Series)</i>	Shannon and Dean Hale
	Who says princesses don't wear black? When trouble raises its blue monster head, Princess Magnolia ditches her flouncy dresses and becomes the Princess in Black! Reading Level: L	
Fiction	<i>How Oliver Olson Changed the World</i>	Claudia Mills
	Afraid he will always be an outsider like ex-planet Pluto, nine-year-old Oliver finally shows his extremely overprotective parents that he is capable of doing great things without their help while his class is studying the solar system. Reading Level: L	
Fiction	<i>The Journey</i>	Sarah Stewart
	A young Amish girl tells her "silent friend," her diary, about all the wondrous experiences she has on her first trip to a city, Chicago. Reading Level: L	
Fiction	<i>Wolfpack Gang is Outta Sight!</i>	Reese Everett
	Deano was a star soccer player at her old school in Jamaica but she's in a new school now, and things are so different. What's this No Girls Allowed rule during recess? Jay is different from the other kids in her class. He reads with his fingers and has a cool dog he gets to bring to school! As Deano gets to know Jay, they realize they have a common interest: soccer. But how can Jay play soccer if he is blind? Will Deano ever be accepted by the soccer players even though she's a girl? Reading Level: L	

Fiction (series)	<i>Zig and Wikki in Something Ate My Homework (series: Toon Books Level 3)</i>	Nadja Spiegelman and Trade Loeffler
	Zig and Wikki arrive on earth to search for a pet for Zig's class assignment. Reading Level: M	
Fiction (series)	<i>Bink and Gollie (series)</i>	Kate DiCamillo
	The Newbery Medal-winning author of <i>The Tale of Despereaux</i> and the award-winning author of the #1 New York Times best-seller, <i>Someday</i> , present the adventures of two precocious girls. Reading Level: M	
Fiction (series)	<i>Judy Moody (series)</i>	Megan McDonald
	Judy is a third-grade girl but she is very much the tomboy, and boys love this series as much as girls. Judy comes up with the most intriguing solutions. Reading Levels L/M/N	
Fiction (series)	<i>Cam Jansen (series)</i>	David Adler
	No wrongdoer is a match for Cam Jansen, the girl with the amazing photographic memory. With Cam Jansen on the case, the mystery is always solved. Lexile Level 420-540 Reading Levels L/M	
Fiction	<i>Third Grade is Terrible</i>	Barbara Baker
	Eight-year old Liza is really looking forward to third grade, but the first day of school is ruined when she is transferred to Mrs. Rumford's class. Will Liza be able to survive the school year without her best friend, Heather, in her new class? Lexile 230 Reading Level M	
Fiction	<i>Slam Dunk Saturday</i>	Jean Marzollo
	Nine-year-old Billy wants to do well in his school's basketball fund-raiser, but he is intimidated by a loud-mouthed schoolmate. Lexile-370 Reading Level-M	
Fiction (series)	<i>Stink (series)</i>	Megan McDonald
	Stink's sister Judy measures him every morning and it's always the same: 3 feet, 8 inches tall. Even the class newt is growing faster than he is. Then one day, the ruler reads: 3 feet, 7 and three-quarter inches! Can it be? Is Stink shrinking? Lexile-480 Reading Levels LMN	
Fiction (series)	<i>My Father's Dragon (series)</i>	Gannett
	<i>My Father's Dragon</i> is a children's novel by Ruth Stiles Gannett about a young boy, Elmer Elevator, who runs away to Wild Island to rescue a baby Dragon. Reading Level M	
Fiction (series)	<i>Katie Kazoo books (series)</i>	Krulik
	Katie is an ordinary third-grader--except for one very extraordinary problem! She accidentally wished on a shooting star to be anyone but herself and what Katie soon learns is that wishes really do come true--and in the strangest ways.... Reading Level M	

Fiction	<i>A Bike Like Sergio's</i>	Maribeth Boelts
	Finders keepers, right? When Ruben picks up someone's lost money, he finds out how hard it can be to do the right thing. Ruben feels like he is the only kid without a bike. His friend Sergio reminds him that his birthday is coming, but Ruben knows that the kinds of birthday gifts he and Sergio receive are not the same. After all, when Ruben's mom sends him to Sonny's corner store for groceries, sometimes she doesn't have enough money for everything on the list. So when Ruben sees a dollar bill fall out of someone's purse, he picks it up and puts it in his pocket. But when he gets home, he discovers it's not one dollar or even five or ten-it's a hundred-dollar bill, more than enough for a new bike just like Sergio's! But what about the crossed-off groceries? And what about the woman who lost her money? Presenting a relatable story told with subtlety and heart, the creative team behind <i>Those Shoes</i> pairs up again for a satisfying new picture book. Reading Level: M	
Fiction	<i>Freckle Juice</i>	Judy Blume
	Andrew Marcus wants freckles more than anything. Unfortunately "know it all" Sharon is the only one who knows the secret recipe for Freckle Juice that will give Andrew all the freckles he could ever want. The catch is, it will cost him five weeks of allowance! Lexile-370 Reading Level-M	
Fiction (series)	<i>The Secrets of Droon (series)</i>	Tony Abbott
	If you want to read Harry Potter but aren't quite ready, get the magic with the first book in The Secrets of Droon series. Full of spells, enchantments, and mystical creatures, this adventure welcomes you to chapter books with simple language and characters. When three kids chase a ball through the basement, they enter a whole new world. Lexile-380 Reading Level-M	
Fiction (series)	<i>Magic Treehouse- (series)</i>	Mary Pope Osbourne
	The Magic Tree House takes Jack and Annie to different places in time. Reading Level M	
Fiction (series)	<i>Give Yourself Goosebumps (series)</i>	R.L. Stine
	There are 42 books in this series! Visit http://rlstine.com/bookshelf?category=goosebumps to check out what each book is about and to see other books by this author. Reading Levels K-Q	
Fiction (series)	<i>Ballpark Mysteries (Series)</i>	David A. Kelly
	Books can be read in any order. Visit http://davidakellybooks.com/ to read blurbs on all 13 books in this series. The latest books, <u>The Capital Catch</u> and <u>The Basketball Blowout</u> came out March 2017! Reading Level N	

Fiction (series)	<i>Wayside School Gets a Little Stranger (series)</i>	Louis Sachar
	Surely, Wayside School was already strange enough. The builders built a 30-story school sideways with the rooms piled one on top of another - except for the 19th floor where Miss Zarves teaches class. There is no 19th floor, and there is no Miss Zarves. Nevertheless, there is a 13th floor. Mrs. Jewls, however, takes a maternity leave. Before she returns with her little stranger, Wayside School gets a little stranger. L-440 Reading Level-N	
Fiction (series)	<i>The Bailey School Kids (series)</i>	Debbie Dadey & Marcia Thornton Jones
	There are some pretty weird grown-ups living in Bailey City. But could the town's mad scientist really turn his snow sculpture into a living, breathing dragon? The Bailey School Kids are going to find out? Lexile-550-690 Reading Levels: M-N	
Fiction	<i>The Invisible Boy</i>	Trudy Ludwig
	Feeling invisible in a class of students who exclude him from groups, games and birthday parties, little Brian welcomes a class newcomer with whom he works on a school project in ways that help him to stand out. By the author of My Secret Bully. Reading Level: N	
Fiction	<i>Sidewalk Story</i>	Sharon Mathis
	Young Lilly Etta is determined to find a way to help a family that has just been evicted from their apartment. Reading Level: N	
Fiction	<i>Your Move</i>	Eve Bunting
	When ten-year-old James' gang initiation endangers his six-year-old brother Isaac, they find the courage to say "Thanks, but no thanks" Reading Level: N	
Fiction	<i>Knock, Knock: My Dad's Dream For Me</i>	Daniel Beaty
	This powerful and inspiring book shows the love that an absent parent can leave behind, and the strength that children find in themselves as they grow up and follow their dreams. Reading Level: N	
Fiction	<i>The House on Dirty-Third Street</i>	Jo S. Kittinger
	A mother and daughter work to turn a hopeless, rundown, and dirty old house into a loving family home with hard work, faith, and the support of their new friends and neighbors. Reading Level: N	
Fiction	<i>A Thirst for Home: A Story of Water Across the World</i>	Christine Ieronimo
	Alemitu lives with her mother in a poor village in Ethiopia, where she must walk miles for water and hunger roars in her belly. Even though life is difficult, she dreams of someday knowing more about the world. When her mother has no choice but to leave her at an orphanage to give her a chance at a better life, an American family adopts Alemitu. She becomes Eva in her new home in America, and although her life there is better in so many ways, she'll never forget her homeland and the mother who gave up so much for her. Told through the lens that water connects all people everywhere, this eye-opening, emotional story will get readers thinking about the world beyond their own. Reading Level: O	

Fiction	<i>Summer Reading is Killing Me</i>	Jon Scieszka
	This installment of the popular Time Warp Trio series is homage to some of the best-ever summer reading lists. Sam, Fred and Joe happen to have in their possession a bona fide time traveling book. When one of the boys absentmindedly puts their summer reading list in the book, they find themselves in the midst of a literary battle of evil against good! Reading Level: P	
Fiction (series)	<i>Dude Where's My Spaceship? (Weird Planet Series)</i>	Dan Greenburg
	Klatu is such a varna! He crashed the spaceship into planet Earth with his brother Lek and sister Ploo onboard. Stuck in the middle of the Nevada desert with nowhere to run, Ploo is captured by army Earthlings who think that she is an enemy of humankind. Can Klatu and Lek rescue Ploo from the terrifying Major Paine? Or will Ploo be held prisoner in Area 51 forever? Reading Level P	
Fiction	<i>The Can Man</i>	Laura Williams
	After watching a homeless man collect empty soft drink cans for the redemption money, a young boy decides to collect cans himself to earn money for a skateboard until he has a change of heart. Reading Level: P	
Fiction	<i>Mr. Lincoln's Way</i>	Patricia Polacco
	When Mr. Lincoln, "the coolest principal in the whole world," discovers that Eugene, the school bully, knows a lot about birds, he uses this interest to help Eugene overcome his intolerance. Reading Level: P	
Fiction	<i>Calling the Water Drum</i>	LaTisha Redding
	Henri and his parents leave their homeland, Haiti, after they receive an invitation from an uncle to come to New York City. Only able to afford a small, rickety boat, the family sets out in the middle of the night in search of a better life. Out at sea Henri dreams of what life will be like "across the great waters." Then the small boat overturns, and Henri is placed on top of the boat as his parents drift further out at sea. Overcome with grief, Henri retreats into himself and is no longer able to speak once he reaches land. Encouraged by his uncle and neighbor, Henri takes a bucket and plays on it like a drum. The drumming becomes a link to his past and a conduit for his emotions. Slowly, through his drumming and the kindness of his uncle and friend, Henri learns to navigate this new and foreign world without his parents. Calling The Water Drum is a tender and timely tribute to the bravery of immigrants and refugees, and the resiliency of the human spirit. Reading Level: P	
Fiction	<i>After Peaches</i>	Michelle Mulder
	Ten-year-old Rosario Ramirez and her family are political refugees from Mexico, trying to make a new life in Canada. After being teased at school, Rosario vows not to speak English again until she can speak with an accent that's one hundred percent Canadian. Since she and her parents plan to spend the whole summer working on BC fruit farms, she will be surrounded by Spanish speakers again. But when her family's closest friend Jose gets terribly sick, Rosario's plans start to unravel. Neither Jose nor Rosario's parents speak English well enough to get him the help he needs. Like it or not, Rosario must face her fears about letting her voice be heard. Reading Level: Q	

Fiction	<i>The Other Side</i>	Jacqueline Woodson
	A lyrical narrative told in the hopeful voice of a child confused about the fence someone else has built in her yard and the racial tension that divides her world. Reading Level: Q	
Nonfiction	<i>Tarra & Bella: The Elephant and Dog Who Became Best Friends</i>	Carol Buckley
	Presents the story of the unusual friendship between Tarra, a retired circus elephant, and Bella, a stray dog, who are both cared for at the Elephant Sanctuary in Hohenwald, Tennessee. Reading Level: L	
Biography	<i>A Picture Book of Paul Revere</i>	David Adler
	Adler briefly traces his subject's life, covering the major points and important dates. The famous midnight ride is described, but not allowed to overwhelm the rest of the man's accomplishments. Lexile-860 Reading Level: M	
Biography (series)	<i>Jackie Robinson (Series: Rookie Biographies)</i>	Wil Mara
	This Hall of Fame baseball player started playing for the Negro League in 1945. His talent led to him breaking racial barriers and becoming the first African American to play in the Major League. Includes index and "Words You Know" section that highlights Reading Level: O	
Biography	<i>Roald Dahl</i>	Charlotte Guillain
	Provides an overview of the life and career of the author best known for his children's books, including "Matilda," "James and The Giant Peach," and "Charlie and The Chocolate Factory." Reading Level: L	
Biography	<i>Dr. Seuss</i>	Charlotte Guillain
	Presents the life and career of Dr. Seuss, born Theodor Seuss Geisel in 1904, from his childhood to his success as a creator of children's books. Reading Level: L	
Nonfiction	<i>The Biography of Cotton</i>	Carrie Gleason
	Provides a history of the most widely used natural fiber, explaining how it is grown, harvested, ginned, and made into yarn. Reading Level: Q	
Nonfiction (series)	<i>Longhouses (Series: American Indian Homes)</i>	Jack Manning
	American Indians used wood, bark, and other materials to build longhouses. Learn all about longhouses, including the tools used to build them and the people who called them home. Reading Level: M	
Nonfiction (series)	<i>A Kid's Life in Colonial America (Series: How Kids Lived)</i>	Sarah Machajewski
	In the early 17th century, all the world knew of North America came from reports of the earliest European explorers. By the end of the 18th century, the world knew America as the United States--a country whose earliest years were shaped by colonialism. This historical, non-fiction text examines life in Colonial America through the eyes of the kids who lived there. Age-appropriate language takes readers inside the clothes, toys, schools, and ways of life in the 17th and 18th centuries. Fact boxes provide opportunities for additional learning. A glossary and index round out the text, completing a comprehensive learning experience.	

	Reading Level: M	
Nonfiction	<i>Basketball Bellies: How Two Teams and One Scrappy Player Put Women's Hoops on the Map</i>	Sue Macy
	Recounts the first women's basketball game between Stanford University and University of California Berkeley on April 4, 1896, from Stanford guard Agnes Morley's perspective. Reading Level: M	
Nonfiction	<i>The Cod's Tale</i>	Mark Kurlansky
	Based on Mark Kurlansky's critically-acclaimed bestseller for adults, this story, combined with S.D. Schindler's watercolors, offers a cod's-eye view of 1,000 years of human civilization. Reading Level: N	
Nonfiction	<i>Birds: Nature's Magnificent Flying Machines</i>	Caroline Arnold
	Young nature enthusiasts will learn the mechanics of bird flight. Discover how various wing types meet the survival needs of different species. Reading Level: P	
Nonfiction	<i>Black Jack: The Ballad of Jack Johnson</i>	Charles Smith
	Tells the story of the first black heavyweight champion of the world, Jack Johnson, who rose through the ranks in the early twentieth century Reading Level: Q	
Nonfiction (series)	<i>Face to Face with Frogs (Series: Face to Face with Animals)</i>	Mark Moffett
	This series of titles goes behind the scenes with the people who research and photograph wild animals to put the reader right in the action, and each title includes a scientific experiment, a glossary, facts at a glance section, and more. Reading Level: P	
Nonfiction (series)	<i>Pueblos (Series: American Indian Homes)</i>	Jack Manning
	American Indians used adobe, sandstone, and other materials to build pueblos. Learn all about pueblos, including the tools used to build them and the people who called them home. Reading Level: M	
Nonfiction (series)	<i>Early Explorers and Fur Traders in Colorado (Series: Spotlight on Colorado)</i>	Herman Cado
	This book considers the impact of early European explorers, including the Spanish conquistadors and French explorers of the 18th century, on what would one day become the state of Colorado. The book provides students with engaging text, full color photos, and supporting primary source documents to outline important explorers, as well as the natural resources like animal furs that made Colorado an attractive place for exploration and settlement. Reading Level: M	