

2009 Summer Reading List

3rd Grade Titles:

The Junie B. Jones Series by Barbara Park- Outrageously sassy Junie B. Jones will make young kids crave their daily dose of reading. Readers will laugh out loud at Junie B.'s hilarious mishaps

Judy Moody Series by Megan McDonald- Meet Judy Moody, a third grader with plenty of attitude. She has moods to fit every occasion and special faces she makes to go with them. But Judy is also very creative, too, and when something catches her interest she gives it her all.

The Magic School Bus Chapter Books by Joanna Cole- Join Ms. Frizzle and her class as they explore the world onboard a magical school bus which takes them on field trips into the solar system, under the [Earth](#), into the [human body](#), or to other such impossible locations

***Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo-** With her newly adopted, goofy pooch at her side, Opal explores her bittersweet world and learns to listen to other people's lives. This warm and winning book hosts an unforgettable cast of characters.

***Catwings* by Ursula Leguin-** Down an alley in a dumpster, Mrs. Jane Tabby gives birth to four kittens. But these are no ordinary offspring each has a pair of wings. Because both winged and four-footed creatures mistrust them, the kittens have trouble finding a place to live.

***The Original Adventures of Hank the Cowdog* by John R. Erikson -** Hank is a scruffy, smart-alecky super sleuth with a nose for danger and an eye for the ladies. And as Head of Ranch Security on a West Texas ranch, he's usually up to his ears in all kinds of amusing trouble.

4th Grade Titles:

Harriet the Spy series by Fitzhugh, Louise. - Harriet is determined to become a famous author. In the meantime, she practices by following a regular spy route each day and writing down everything she sees in her secret notebook

Encyclopedia Brown Series by Donald Sobol- Right up there with The Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew as one of the all-time greatest kid sleuths is Leroy Brown --- better known as Encyclopedia Brown --- who has been solving neighborhood mysteries for almost forty years!

Strawberry Girl, by Lois Lenski- Strawberries — big, ripe, and juicy. Ten-year-old Birdie Boyer can hardly wait to start picking them. But her family has just moved to the Florida backwoods, and they haven't even begun their planting. Making the new farm prosper is not easy. There is heat to suffer through, and droughts, and cold snaps. And, perhaps most worrisome of all there are rowdy neighbors, just itching to start a feud.

Hank the Cowdog: Let Sleeping Dogs Lie by John Erickson- Hank the Cowdog, Head of Ranch Security, pursues an elusive chicken murderer.

Summer Reading is Killing Me by Jon Scieszka - Sam, Fred, and Joe find themselves face-to-beak with a giant, 266-pound chicken ... who, unfortunately, looks hungry. How did they get there? Fred accidentally stuck the school's summer reading list between the pages of "The Book"--a time-warping, green-mist-expelling book that triggers time travel.

The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins: An Illuminating History of Mr. Waterhouse Hawkins, Artist and Lecturer by Barbara Kerley- "Can you imagine a time when almost no one in the world knew what a dinosaur looked like?" It was about 150 years ago. This book looks deeply into the life of artist Waterhouse Hawkins, the first person to ever summon up, sketch, mold, and fabricate these ancient giants into full-size models.

The Witches by Roald Dahl-This classic tells the scary, funny and imaginative tale of a seven-year-old boy who has a run-in with some real-life witches! "REAL WITCHES dress in ordinary clothes and look very much like ordinary women. They live in ordinary houses and they work in ordinary jobs. That is why they are so hard to catch." Witches, as our hero learns, hate children. With the help of a friend and his somewhat-magical grandmother, our hero tries to expose the witches before they dispose of him

5th Grade Titles:

***From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg** - When Claudia Kincaid decides to run away, she wants to run *to* somewhere--to a place that is comfortable, beautiful, and preferably elegant. She chooses the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Knowing that her younger brother, Jamie, has money she invites him along. Once settled into the museum, Claudia and Jamie, find themselves caught up in the mystery of an angel statue that the museum purchased at an auction for a bargain price of \$250. The statue is possibly worth millions. Is it? Or isn't it? Claudia is determined to find out. This quest leads Claudia to Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, the remarkable old woman who sold the statue and to some equally remarkable discoveries about herself.

***Half Magic* by Edward Eager** - the most popular of his tales about four children, who encounter magical coins, time-travel herb gardens, and other unlikely devices, is a warm, funny, original adventure. The title refers to a half magic coin that the children find. Imagine the possible results: half invisible, half rescued half everything! Never too cute, with just enough emotion to complement the magic, this classic is sure to hold a special place in any child's library

***Down the Colorado John Wesley Powell, the One-Armed Explorer* by Deborah Kogan Ray**- Although John Wesley Powell's minister father always wanted his son to follow in his footsteps, young Wes had different plans for his future. Enraptured by the wonders of the natural world, he was determined to take the path of science. Even after losing his right arm below the elbow in battle during the Civil War, Wes would not be deterred from his dream of leading the first scientific expedition down the Colorado River and through the Grand Canyon. Braving treacherous rapids and perilous waterfalls, Major Powell would surpass all expectations and return home a national hero.

***The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman-Bod**- is an unusual boy who inhabits an unusual place — he's the only living resident of a graveyard. Raised from infancy by the ghosts, werewolves, and other cemetery denizens, Bod has learned the antiquated customs of his guardians' time — as well as their timely ghostly teachings — like the ability to Fade. Can a boy raised by ghosts face the wonders and terrors of the worlds of both the living and the dead? And then there are things like ghouls that aren't really one thing or the other

5th Grade Titles Continued:

***The Way Things Work*, by David MacAulay-** From levers to lasers, from cameras to computers, this 384-page volume is a remarkable overview of the machines and inventions that shape our lives, amusingly presented with a large dose of wit and personality

***Castaways of the Flying Dutchman* by Brian Jacques-** Ben, the mute hero of the story, survives the destruction of the Flying Dutchman, a sailing ship. Now he wanders the Earth with his talking dog (interesting switch), living forever thanks to an angel. They're supposed to "bring confidence and sympathy, help others to change their fate." Ben and Ned (the dog) are a delightful duo, well-balanced and sympathetic.

***Johnny Tremain*, by Esther Forbes-** Johnny Tremain is an exciting historical fiction novel that takes place in Boston during Revolutionary war times. It is about a young silversmith apprentice, Johnny, who meets up with people we now call heroes (John Hancock, Sam Adams, and John Adams).

***My Side of the Mountain*, by Jean Gorge-** Every kid thinks about running away at one point or another; few get farther than the end of the block. Young Sam Gibley gets to the end of the block and keeps going--all the way to the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York. There he sets up house in a huge hollowed-out tree, with a falcon and a weasel for companions and his wits as his tool for survival. In a spellbinding, touching, funny account, Sam learns to live off the land, and grows up a little in the process. Blizzards, hunters, loneliness, and fear all battle to drive Sam back to city life. But his desire for freedom, independence, and adventure is stronger. No reader will be immune to the compulsion to go right out and start whittling fishhooks and befriending raccoons.