



Renaissance Academy Lower School Recommended Reading and Suggested Summer Work

Dear Renaissance Academy Families,

These recommendations are being made to you in support of your student's growth academically over the summer. Below you will find the grade level in which your student will be entering for the 2023-2024 school year at Renaissance Academy as well as the teachers' recommendations for practice in various content areas and suggested reading. All of these recommendations are simply suggestions and will not be graded by the teachers upon your student's return to school. Please reference these suggestions throughout the summer.

Summer Reading: How to Track - The Scholastic Summer Reading Program - Home Base

For all our K-4 students we encourage you to join the Scholastic Summer Reading - Home Base! This is how you can keep track of the books and minutes you read over the summer. Below you will also see a suggested reading list for each grade, but there is so much more to read and keep track of! Sign up for a Scholastic Summer Reading Home Base account and keep track of your summer reading and engage with fun activities and games!

It is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Check out the [Scholastic Summer Reading Home Base](#) website and create a log-in **(you can also download the app!)**
2. How do you sign-up? Well, it's free and if you have any questions check out this page [Home Base Help](#)
3. By creating an account on Home Base, kids can join a community of readers and will be able to read books and stories; attend author events; interact with their favorite characters; play book-based games and activities; join dance parties; and more! Sign up for Home Base and visit the Summer Reading zone to start your Reading Streak™ today!

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Students Entering Kindergarten

English Language Arts

Strategies for Building Comprehension

Before Reading-take a picture walk through the book, looking at the picture.

Ask Questions about the book or reading passage:

- Who is the Main Character?
- What is the setting?
- What is the problem in the story? How was it solved?
- Which characters from the story would you want to be your friend? Why?
- What part of the story was the most exciting? Why?
- Did you like the end of the story? Why or Why not?
- Draw a picture of what happened.
- Take a piece of paper and fold it in 4s. Sequence the book by drawing pictures; what happened first, second, third.
- Draw a picture and change the ending to a story.
- Make a song up about the story.

For Building Vocabulary

- Are there any words that you do not know what they mean?
- If there are pictures, point to the objects in the pictures and ask what they are.
- If you don't know a word meaning, where could you find it? Go to the dictionary or internet and show how to find the meaning of words you do not know.
- If you see the word out in public, show your child where it is.
- For advanced readers, have the child use the new word in a sentence.

Websites for Reading

Letter Sound-Single Words

- [Star Fall](#)
- [ABCya Number and Letter](#)
- [ABCya Alphabet Bingo](#)

Letter Identification

- [ABCya](#)
- [Star Fall](#)
- [ABCya Alphabet Bingo](#)

Letter Sound-Blends

- [Star Fall](#)

Reading

- [Star Fall](#)

Sound Matching

- [ABCya](#)

Suggested Reading List

Memoirs of a Goldfish by David Scillian

Day One

I swam around my bowl.

Day Two

I swam around my bowl. Twice.

And so it goes in this tell-all tale from a goldfish.

With his bowl to himself and his simple routine, Goldfish loves his easy life. Until one day....

Interrupting Chicken by David Ezra Stein

It's time for the little red chicken's bedtime story—and a reminder from Papa to try not to interrupt. But the chicken can't help herself! Whether the tale is Hansel and Gretel or Little Red Riding Hood or even Chicken Little, she jumps into the story to save its hapless characters from doing some dangerous or silly thing.

Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature by Joyce Sidman

What makes the tiny snail shell so beautiful? Why does that shape occur in nature over and over again—in rushing rivers, in a flower bud, even inside your ear?

With simplicity and grace, Krommes and Sidman not only reveal the many spirals in nature—from fiddleheads to elephant tusks, from crashing waves to spiraling galaxies—but also celebrate the beauty and usefulness of this fascinating shape.

A Ball for Daisy by Chris Rascka

Any child who has ever had a beloved toy break will relate to Daisy's anguish when her favorite ball is destroyed by a bigger dog.

See Me Run by Paul Meisel

A dog has a fun-filled day at the dog park, in this easy-to-read story.

Stuck by Oliver Jeffers

Chaos ensues when a young boy gets his kite stuck up a tree in this laugh-out-loud new picture book from award-winning, internationally best-selling author-illustrator Oliver Jeffers! Floyd gets his kite stuck up a tree. He throws up his shoe to shift it, but that gets stuck too. So he throws up his other shoe and that got stuck, along with! a ladder, a pot of paint, the kitchen sink, an orangutan, and a whale, amongst other things! Will Floyd ever get his kite back? A hilarious book with a wonderful surprise ending.

The Incredible Book Eating Boy by Oliver Jeffers

Like many children, Henry loves books. But Henry doesn't like to read books, he likes to eat them. Big books, picture books, reference books . . . if it has pages, Henry chews them up and swallows (but red ones are his favorite). And the more he eats, the smarter he gets—he's on his way to being the smartest boy in the world! But one day he feels sick to his stomach. And the information is so jumbled up inside, he can't digest it! Can Henry find a way to enjoy books without using his teeth?

The Three Little Fish and the Big Bad Shark by Ken Geist

In this take on "The Three Little Pigs," Jim builds a house of seaweed, Tim makes a sand house, and Kim constructs a wooden ship house that saves them all.

Actual Size by Steve Jenkins

Just how big is a crocodile? What about a tiger, or the world's largest spider? Can you imagine a tongue that is two feet long or an eye that is bigger than your head? Sometimes facts and figures don't tell the whole story. In this visually stunning book, seeing is believing as Steve Jenkins illustrates animals both large and small at ACTUAL SIZE.

The Pout-Pout Fish by Deborah Diesen

Deep in the water, Mr. Fish swims about with his fish face stuck in a permanent pout. Will Pout-Pout Fish ever find happiness?

Comprehension questions to ask your child:

Who is/are the main character(s) in the story? Where did the story take place? What problem did the characters have? How was the problem solved?

Math

The following activities have been selected because they are fun and easy ways for students to practice their math skills during the summer break. If your child completes any of the following activities, please keep track to turn in when we return to school in August. A great way to keep all of their activities in one place, would be to create a summer journal! Have fun!

- On your next shopping trip, do a number scavenger hunt. Tell the adult you are with what numbers you find and then see if you're right!!
- Help someone cook a meal. Measure out the different ingredients that are needed for the recipe. Make sure you have adult supervision!
- Scavenger hunt! Before you go grocery shopping next, make a list or draw your five favorite items. Find those five items and write the price. If you can't go to a grocery store, use a grocery circular to choose five items and practice saying and writing the prices.
- On the news every day, or on the computer, you can find out what the temperature is. Keep track of what the temperature is for one week and then put the temperatures in order from least to greatest.
- The next time you leave the house to go somewhere, make a note of what time you leave the house. When you get home, make a note of what time it is.
- Once a week, practice counting forward and backwards from 0 - 20.
- Ask an adult if you can borrow any spare change that they have. Say the name of the coin and how much it is worth! You can do this many times throughout the summer.
- Play a family game or a video game and keep track of your score five different times. Put your different scores into order from smallest to largest. Tell an adult once you've figured it out.
- Be a timekeeper! The next time you bake something, write down what time it is when you put it in the oven. Then write down what time it is when you take it out. See if you can figure out how long it was cooking.
- Spy Shapes~ Go on a walk and hunt for circles, ovals, triangles, rectangles, squares, cubes, pyramids, prisms, and spheres. Point out as many as you can find!

Suggested Skill Focus:

Practice number identification, patterns, shapes, or any other math activity on [ABCya](#), a great website to use during the summer!

Science and Social Studies

Websites to explore Science and Social Studies topics:

- [Scholastic](#)
- [Mystery Doug](#)
- [Elmwood Zoo](#)
- [Academy of Natural Sciences](#)
- [Valley Forge National Park Virtual Tour](#)

- [Elmwood Park Zoo - Zoo to You](#)
- [Cincinnati Zoo to You](#)
- [Franklin Institute Learning Resources](#)
- [Barnes Collection Online](#)
- [Brain Pop Jr.](#)
- [Flocabulary](#)

Students Entering First Grade

English Language Arts

- Activate background knowledge. For example, "What do you know about...?"
- Questioning. Ask your child questions before, during, and after reading. Have your child ask you questions, too!
- Analyze text structure. Was there a problem and a solution? Were there headings, captions, labels?
- Visualization. Have your child picture what is happening in their head while reading/listening and describe it.
- Summarize. Your child can draw, write, talk about what happened in the story.
- Writing: Have your child practice writing: their first and last names, address, phone number, alphabet-capital, and lowercase, focusing on forming the letters correctly and facing the right direction, as well as numbers 1-100, the date each day (Monday, July 6, 2020), complete sentences with a capital and end punctuation.
- Practice reading and writing sight words [First Grade Sight Words](#)

Websites

- [Reading Eggs](#)
- [Storyline Online](#)
- [Star Fall](#)
- [ABCya](#)

Suggested Reading List

Miss Brooks Loves Books (and I don't!)

With the help of Miss Brooks, Missy's classmates all find books they love in the library—books about fairies and dogs and trains and cowboys. But Missy dismisses them all—"Too flowery, too furry, too clickety, too yippity." Still, Miss Brooks remains undaunted. Book Week is here and Missy will find a book to love if they have to empty the entire library. What story will finally win over this beastly, er, discriminating child? William Steig's Shrek!—the tale of a repulsive green ogre in search of a revolting bride—of course!

Me...Jane by Patrick McDonnell

In his characteristic heartwarming style, Patrick McDonnell tells the story of the young Jane Goodall and her special childhood toy chimpanzee named Jubilee. As the young Jane observes the natural world around her with wonder, she dreams of "a life living with and helping all animals," until one day she finds that her dream has come true.

A Sick Day for Amos McGee Phillip C. Stead

Friends come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. In Amos McGee's case, all sorts of species, too! Every day he spends a little bit of time with each of his friends at the zoo, running races with the tortoise, keeping the shy penguin company, and even reading bedtime stories to the owl. But when Amos is too sick to make it to the zoo, his animal friends decide it's time they returned the favor.

The Snail and the Whale by Julia Donaldson

When a tiny snail meets a humpback whale, the two travel together to far-off lands. It's a dream come true for the snail, who has never left home before. But when the whale swims too close to shore, will the snail be able to save her new friend?

On Earth by G. Brian Karas

Climb aboard a giant spaceship . . . the Earth! In glorious art, G. Brian Karas illuminates our Earth and its cycles and does a brilliant job of making the concepts of rotation and revolution understandable. As you travel, watch shadows disappear into the night, and feel the sun on your face as winter turns into spring. All these amazing things happen because the Earth is constantly in motion, spinning and circling, gliding, and tilting. As passengers of the Earth, our voyage never ends!

Bink and Gollie by Kate DiCamillo

Meet Bink and Gollie, two precocious little girls — one tiny, one tall, and both utterly irrepressible. Setting out from their super-deluxe tree house and powered by plenty of peanut butter (for Bink) and pancakes (for Gollie), they share three comical adventures involving painfully bright socks, an impromptu trek to the Andes, and a most unlikely marvelous companion. No matter where their roller skates take them, at the end of the day they will always be the very best of friends. Full of quick-witted repartee, this brainchild of Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo and award-winning author Alison McGhee is a hilarious ode to exuberance and camaraderie, imagination and adventure, brought to life through the delightfully kinetic images of Tony Fucile.

Keeker and the Sneaky Pony by Hadley Higginson

Meet Catherine Corey Keegan Dana (everyone calls her Keeker). What she wants most of all is a pony. Meet Plum. Plum is a Shetland pony (who's known to be a teeny bit sneaky). She rarely, if ever, thinks about little girls. She certainly doesn't want one. When Plum moves to Keeker's farm, Keeker faces the challenge of winning a pony's trust and friendship. And when Plum and Keeker find themselves lost in the woods, they learn that working together is the best way to get out of a fix. This fast-paced story of adventure and friendship will have new readers galloping back for more.

Lulu and the Brontosaurus by Judith Viorst

It's Lulu's birthday and she's decided she'd like a pet brontosaurus as a present. When Lulu's parents tell her that's not possible, Lulu gets very upset. She does not like it when things don't go her way. So she takes matters into her own hands and storms off into the forest to find herself a new pet, all the way singing: I'm gonna, I'm gonna, I'm gonna, gonna, get a bronto-bronto-bronto-bronto-saurus for a pet! In the forest Lulu encounters a number of animals; a snake, a tiger, a bear, all of whom don't particularly impress her. And then she finds him...a beautiful, long-necked, gentle, graceful brontosaurus. And he completely agrees with Lulu that having a pet would be a wonderful thing, indeed! Lulu thinks she's gotten her birthday wish at last. Until she realizes that Mr. Brontosaurus thinks that she would make an ideal pet for him!

Smash! Mash! Crash! There Goes the Trash! By Barbara Odanaka

Rhythmic, rhyming language abounds as two piglets welcome the early-morning arrival of a pair of Rumbling, roaring garbage trucks. All of the offal details are here as the green behemoths gobble up everything from apple cores and dirty diapers to broken furniture. Smiling porcine workers, with Greasy gloves...sticky boots.../stains a-plenty on their suits, feed the beasts while Flies a-buzzin'/by the dozen enjoy a feast at the rolling bug buffet. After completing all of the Crushing, cramming, screeching, slamming, the vehicles thunder away, leaving the youngsters to re-create the action with their toy replicas. Done in ink and egg tempera on canvas, the vivacious two-page paintings convey the text's enthusiasm and energy. The trucks, shown from the rear and personified with mouth-like hoppers and red brake light eyes, gleefully munch their way through an array of vividly colored refuse.

Sally and the Something by George O' Connor

Stuck at home with her mom and her new sibling, Sally heads for the swamp with her fishing pole and bike. What she discovers, in the form of a slimy, slithery Some-Thing, is a new best friend. Mud pies, burping contests, snail racing--and sensational, eerily beautiful artwork deliver plenty of kid appeal.

George Washington's Cows by David Small

"George Washington's cows were kept upstairs, and given their own special room. They never were seen by the light of day. No matter for what or by whom."

These cows are just the beginning of George's problems. To be sure, his hogs are helpful around the house, but it irks Martha when their parties are better than hers. And then there are the sheep--all of them smarter than Tom Jefferson, with degrees (no to say "sheepskins") to prove it. What's a Father of his country to do?

Other Books for First Grade:

Look for any other books by the authors above or books about the grade level subject area topics below:

- Social Studies-- government, citizens of the United States, occupations, geography
- Science-- the moon, the five senses, aquarium, states of matter
- Math-- addition, telling time, measuring using a ruler, identifying coins

Comprehension questions to ask your child:

Who is/are the main character(s) in the story? What is the setting of the story (where did the story take place)? What problem did the characters have? How was the problem solved?

Math

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- Ask an adult if you can borrow any spare change that they have. Say the name of the coin and how much it is worth! You can do this many times throughout the summer.
- Play a video game and keep track of your score five different times. Put your different scores into order from least to greatest. Tell an adult once you've figured it out.
- Be a timekeeper! The next time you bake something, write down what time it is when you put it in the oven. Then write down what time it is when you take it out. See if you can figure out how long it was cooking.

- Spy Shapes~ Go on a walk and hunt for circles, ovals, triangles, rectangles, squares, cubes, pyramids, prisms, and spheres. Point out as many as you can find!
- Complete any unfinished Savvas enVision math workbook pages.
- [IXL Summer Boost skill plan - Math 1st grade](#) - Practice 10 questions per day

Science and Social Studies

Social Studies:

- Read any of your leftover magazines from Kindergarten
- The next time you take a road trip with your family, think of things you need and want to **take**. Draw a picture of two things you need to take and two things you want to take.
- On a blank map of the United States, color in all of the states that you visit or drive through this summer.
- Find out about your culture! Interview a family member to learn about where your family heritage comes from, some traditions you have, and also learn a food dish that comes from your culture.

Science:

- Complete any unfinished lessons in your Science book
- Draw a picture of your backyard. Circle the nonliving things that you see. Color the living things that you see.
- During a hike or walk, make a list of different things you see in nature.
- Go outside on a starry night and see if you can find stars and/or constellations. Draw a picture of what you see.

Websites to explore Science and Social Studies topics:

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- [Mystery Doug](#)
- [Elmwood Zoo](#)
- [Academy of Natural Sciences](#)
- [Valley Forge National Park Virtual Tour](#)
- [Elmwood Park Zoo - Zoo to You](#)
- [Cincinnati Zoo to You](#)
- [Franklin Institute Learning Resources](#)
- [Barnes Collection Online](#)
- [Brain Pop Jr.](#)
- [Flocabulary](#)

Students Entering Second Grade

English Language Arts

Writing:

Have your child practice their writing by answering these short questions.

- What is your favorite thing to do at the park? Give three reasons why it is your favorite.
- What did you do today? Use transitional words like first, next, then, and last.
- If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be and why?

- What would you do if you were invisible for a day?
- If you could have a superpower what would it be? Write a story about your power.

Reading:

- Have your child practice previewing and predicting with an unfamiliar story.
- Mix in some expository texts. Have your child identify facts and details to understand important information.
- Have your child identify the author's purpose. For example, inform, entertain, or persuade.
- Discuss different genres. Have your child tell you what genre category their selected reading falls under. Is it drama, poetry, fiction, non-fiction, folklore, or fantasy?
- Practice reading and writing sight words [Second Grade Sight Words](#)

Websites:

- [Reading Eggs](#)
- [Study Island](#)- Start with Diagnostic Test
- [ABCya](#)
- [Pearson Realize](#)- Explore Tab

Suggested Reading List

Winter's Tale: How One Little Dolphin learned how to swim again (true story)

When Winter was a baby, she was rescued from a crab trap, her tail seriously damaged, and rushed to Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Winter survived, but eventually, her tail fell off. Then Winter received a prosthetic tail. It was very challenging but now Winter is thriving and using her new tail with great command.

Balloons over Broadway: The True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy's Parade Melissa Sweet

Everyone's a New Yorker on Thanksgiving Day when young and old rise early to see what giant new balloons will fill the skies for Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Who first invented these "upside-down puppets"? Meet Tony Sarg, puppeteer extraordinaire! In brilliant collage illustrations, the award-winning artist Melissa Sweet tells the story of the puppeteer Tony Sarg, capturing his genius, his dedication, his zest for play, and his long-lasting gift to America—the inspired helium balloons that would become the trademark of Macy's Parade.

Tales for Very Picky Eaters

James is a very picky eater. His dad has to get creative—very creative—in order to get James to eat foods he thinks he doesn't like. He presents James with a series of outlandish scenarios packed with fanciful and gross kid-friendly details—like pre-chewed gum as an alternative to broccoli and lumpy oatmeal that grows so big it eats the dog—in an effort to get James to eat. But it is eventually James himself who discovers that some foods are not so bad, after all, if you're willing to give them a try.

Won Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku

Visiting hours!

Yawn. I pretend not to care.

Yet -- I sneak a peek.

So begins this beguiling tale of a wary shelter cat and the boy who takes him home. Sometimes funny, sometimes touching, this adoption story, told entirely in haiku, is unforgettable.

The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales by John Scieszka

If geese had graves, Mother Goose would be rolling in hers. The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales retells—and wreaks havoc on—the allegories we all thought we knew by heart. In these irreverent variations on well-known themes, the ugly duckling grows up to be an ugly duck, and the

princess who kisses the frog wins only a mouthful of amphibian slime. The Stinky Cheese Man deconstructs not only the tradition of the fairy tale but also the entire notion of a book. Our naughty narrator, Jack, makes a mockery of the title page, the table of contents, and even the endpaper by shuffling, scoffing, and generally paying no mind to structure. Characters slide in and out of tales; Cinderella rebuffs Rumpelstiltskin and the Giant at the top of the beanstalk snacks on the Little Red Hen. There are no lessons to be learned or morals to take to heart—just good, sarcastic fun that smart-alecks of all ages will love.

Aliens are Coming by Meghan McCarthy

In an average American living room of 1938, folks gather around the radio for a night's entertainment, when there's a news bulletin: "Aliens are coming!" Orson Welles' infamous Halloween trick, his October 30 broadcast of H. G. Wells' War of the Worlds, is greatly excerpted and put together with quirky, imaginative artwork that reinforces the fantasy. McCarthy sets the scene in a preface, ostensibly delivered by a radio commentator, and clearly identifies the speakers in colored type before each quote. Using a 1930's art style, and a palette comprising mostly muted grays and reds, McCarthy evokes an era gone by, at the same time creating a cozy nostalgia. Even somewhat older, media-savvy kids, who may view the gullibility of the characters with a disdainful eye, will be disarmed by the depictions of panicked faces and slimy Martians, eyes on stalks, that appear amid eerie red light. An abrupt ending notwithstanding, this is packed with age-appropriate thrills and scares.

Stay by Michaela Muntean

An irresistible family of dogs and the man who believed in them.

Meet Luciano Anastasini, a man who calls the circus home.

Meet ten dogs that have no home.

When fate brings man and dogs together, a remarkable story of belief and second chances unfolds. So step right up, and prepare to be amazed!

Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown

Stanley Lambchop is a nice, average boy. He leads a nice, ordinary life. Then one day a bulletin board falls on him, and suddenly Stanley is flat. This turns out to be very interesting. Stanley gets rolled up, mailed, and flown like a kite. He even gets to stop crime. He's flat, but he's a hero!

Junie B. Jones Smells Something Fishy

Junie B. Jones Series #12 by Barbara Park, Denise Brunkus (illus.)

Frustrated because the rules for her class's Pet Day will not let her take her dog to school, Junie B. Jones considers taking a raccoon, a worm, a dead fish, and other unusual replacements.

The Trouble with Chickens by Doreen Cronin

J.J. Tully is a former search-and-rescue dog who is trying to enjoy his retirement after years of performing daring missions saving lives. So he's not terribly impressed when two chicks named Dirt and Sugar (who look like popcorn on legs) and their chicken mom show up demanding his help to track down their missing siblings. Driven by the promise of a cheeseburger, J.J. begins to track down clues. Is Vince the Funnel hiding something? Are there dark forces at work—or is J.J. not smelling the evidence that's right in front of him?

Bestselling author Doreen Cronin uses her deadpan humor to pitch-perfect effect in her first novel for young readers. Heavily illustrated with black-and-white artwork from Kevin Cornell, this new series is destined to become a classic.

Squish! Super Amoeba! By Jenifer Holm

Introducing SQUISH—a new graphic novel series about a comic book-loving, Twinkie-eating grade school AMOEBA trying to find his place in the world (or at least trying to make it through a school day). Inspired by his favorite comic book hero, SUPER AMOEBA!, Squish has to navigate school (bullies! detention! Principal Planaria!), family (dad: Hates to wear a tie. Secretly listens to heavy metal in the car), and friends (Peggy-rainbows! happy all the time! and Pod . . . who's . . . well, you just have to meet him). Can

Squish save the world—and his friends—from the forces of evil lurking in the hallways? Find out in Squish: Super Amoeba—saving the world, one cell at a time!

Other Books for Second Grade:

Look for any other books by the authors above or books about the grade level subject area topics below:

- Social Studies – rules and laws, community services, transportation, Native Americans
- Science– weather, sound, states of matter, force and motion, butterflies, moths
- Math – addition, subtraction, telling time, measuring using a ruler, liquid measurements, counting money

Comprehension questions to ask your child:

Who is/are the main character(s) in the story? What is the setting of the story? What problem did the characters have? How was the problem solved? Did you learn anything from the story? Describe a connection you had while reading. What were some new words you learned?

Math

The following activities have been selected because they are fun and easy ways for students to practice their math skills during the summer break. If your child completes any of the following activities, please keep track to turn in when we return to school in August. A great way to keep all of their activities in one place, would be to create a summer journal! Have fun!

- On your next shopping trip, do a number scavenger hunt. Tell the adult you are with what numbers you find and then see if you're right
- Help someone cook a meal. Measure out the different ingredients that are needed for the recipe. Make sure you have adult supervision!
- Scavenger hunt! Before you go grocery shopping next, make a list or draw your five favorite items. Find those five items and write the price. If you can't go to a grocery store, use a grocery circular to choose five items and practice saying and writing the prices.
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- Ask an adult if you can borrow any spare change that they have. Say the name of the coin and how much it is worth! You can do this many times throughout the summer.
- Play a video game and keep track of your score five different times. Put your different scores into order from least to greatest. Tell an adult once you've figured it out.
- Be a banker! Pay for your items the next time you go to the store.
- Be a timekeeper! The next time you bake something, write down what time it is when you put it in the oven. Then write down what time it is when you take it out. See if you can figure out how long it was cooking.
- Spy Shapes~ Go on a walk and hunt for circles, ovals, triangles, rectangles, squares, cubes, pyramids, prisms, and spheres. Point out as many as you can find!
- Practice math fact flashcards up to 12 for both addition and subtraction.
- Complete any unfinished Savvas enVision math workbook pages.
- [IXL Summer Boost skill plan - Math 2nd grade](#) - Practice 10 problems per day

Science and Social Studies

Social Studies:

- Read any of your leftover magazines from First Grade
- The next time you take a road trip with your family, think of things you need and want to **take**. Draw a picture of two things you need to take and two things you want to take.
- On a blank map of the United States, color in all of the states that you visit or drive through this summer.
- Find out about your culture! Interview a family member to learn about where your family heritage comes from, some traditions you have, and also learn a food dish that comes from your culture.

Science:

- Complete any unfinished lessons in your Science book
- Draw a picture of your backyard. Circle the nonliving things that you see. Color the living things that you see.
- During a hike or walk, make a list of different things you see in nature.
- Go outside on a starry night and see if you can find stars and/or constellations. Draw a picture of what you see.

Websites to explore Science and Social Studies topics:

- [Scholastic](#)
- [Mystery Doug](#)
- [Elmwood Zoo](#)
- [Academy of Natural Sciences](#)
- [Valley Forge National Park Virtual Tour](#)
- [Elmwood Park Zoo - Zoo to You](#)
- [Cincinnati Zoo to You](#)
- [Franklin Institute Learning Resources](#)
- [Barnes Collection Online](#)
- [Brain Pop Jr.](#)
- [Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum](#)
- [Flocabulary](#)

Students Entering Third Grade

English Language Arts

Skills:

- Retelling a story, story elements
 - Describe a character, setting, or event in a story
- Sequencing
 - Putting events in a text in order: beginning, middle, end
- Decoding unknown words
 - Free reading
- Writing
 - Appropriate capitalization in words

- Journaling
- Practice name writing

Websites:

- [Study Island](#)
 - Click on “My Classes”
 - Click “My NWEA Learning Path”
 - Click “View Assignments”
 - Choose any assignment
- [Starfall](#)
- [RazKids](#)
- [ABCya](#)
 - Click on Grade 3
 - Click Letters
 - Choose any letter activity
- [ABCmouse, Adventure Academy](#)

Suggested Reading List

Frankie Pickle and the Closet of Doom by Eric Wight

Like most kids, Frankie Pickle hates cleaning his room. But what happens when his Mom says he never has to clean it again! Frankie and his unstoppable imagination mean fun. He and his side-kick Argyle become explorers swinging on vines, forging paths through piles of clothes, and scooting past lava pits! They perform flawless surgery on a broken action figure! They spend time in the big house. They even become superheroes. But will all this imagining be enough to conquer... the closet of DOOM?

EllRay Jakes is Not a Chicken! By Sally Warner

EllRay Jakes is tired of being bullied by fellow classmate Jared Matthews. But when EllRay tries to defend himself, he winds up in trouble. Then his dad offers him a deal: If he stays out of trouble for one week, they'll go to Disneyland! EllRay says he can do it. But saying it and doing it are two very different things.

Spunky Tells All by Ann Cameron

Spunky the dog would be happy to share all of his secrets if only his human family spoke his language. But no matter how hard he tries to talk, it's all "yerf!" to them. Through a series of unfortunate miscommunications, his family decides that Spunky wants a friend--specifically, a cat. Spunky can't imagine anything worse than having to share his family, especially Huey and Julian, with the snobby Balinese Fiona. But when headstrong Fiona keeps getting into trouble and it's up to Spunky to save her, he is astonished to find that being her protector has given his life new purpose and meaning.

2030: A Day in the Life of Tomorrow's Kids by Amy Zuckerman and Jim Daly

A talking dog, a housecleaning robot, and a three-dimensional "data orb" are among the many cool features that kids might enjoy in the future, according to this lighthearted look at 2030. The breezy narrative follows one boy through a typical day, highlighting many interesting aspects of his world. Fanciful cartoon drawings show a lively and appealing world full of new and intriguing activities that correspond neatly to modern equivalents. Schools are now made from plasticized blocks that snap together, for example, while recess features virtual batting practice and a "smart trampoline." Recreational activities include magnetized hovering skateboards and a virtual-reality "Fanta-trek Center."

Judy Moody by Megan McDonald

Yes, Judy is a third-grade girl but she is very much the tomboy, and boys love this series as much as girls. The series does a great job of captivating unmotivated readers who are making the transition into chapter books. Children will relate to Judy's constant dilemmas and will laugh their way through the book as Judy comes up with the most intriguing solutions to problems such as having to sit next to a kid who eats paste and a toad that pees on her!

The “Who was.../Who is...” collection of biographies by various authors

There are many books to choose from in this series of illustrated biographies for young readers featuring significant historical figures, including artists, scientists, and world leaders.

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo

Welcome to the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of a rat called Roscuro, who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl who harbors a simple, impossible wish. These three characters are about to embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and, ultimately, into each other's lives.

Justin Case: School, Drool, and Other Daily Disasters by Rachel Vail

It's the start of the school year, and nothing feels right to Justin. He didn't get the teacher he wanted, he's not in the same class as his best friend, and his little sister, Elizabeth, is starting kindergarten at his school. Elizabeth doesn't seem nervous at all. Justin is very nervous about the third grade. And to top it off, he's lost his favorite stuffed animal, but he can't tell anyone, because technically he's too old to still have stuffed animals. Right? Here is third grade in all its complicated glory—the friendships, the fears, and the advanced math. Acclaimed author Rachel Vail captures third grade with a perfect pitch, and Matthew Cordell's line art is both humorous and touching. As Justin bravely tries to step out of his shell, he will step into readers' hearts.

Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things by Lenore Look

Alvin Ho is an Asian American second grader afraid of everything—elevators, tunnels, bridges, planes, thunder, kimchi, wasabi, dark, shots, girls, and most of all, school. At school, he never, ever, says a word. But at home he's a very loud superhero named Firecracker Man who loves explosions, a brother to Calvin and Anibelly, and a gentleman-in-training, so he can be just like his dad. With his fully packed PDK Personal Disaster Kit, he can be ready for anything.

Molly Moon's Incredible Book of Hypnotism by Georgia Byng

Molly Moon is no ordinary orphan. When she finds a mysterious old book on hypnotism, she discovers she can make people do whatever she wants. But a sinister stranger is watching her every move and he'll do anything to steal her hypnotic secret...

Brave Harriet by Marissa Moss

On a clear morning in 1912, Harriet Quimby had a vision--she would become the first woman to fly solo across the English Channel. If she were to veer off course by even five miles, she could end up in the North Sea, never to be heard from again. But she took the risk, anyway. Bestselling author Marissa Moss and award-winning artist C. F. Payne team up to tell this little-known historic story of a spirited woman who dared to take flight.

The Name of this Book is Secret by Pseudonym Bosch

When adventurous detectives, Cass, an ever-vigilant survivalist, and Max-Ernest, a boy driven by logic, discover the Symphony of Smells, a box filled with smelly vials of colorful ingredients, they accidentally stumble upon a mystery surrounding a dead magician's diary and the hunt for immortality.

Other authors/series you may like:

Graphic Novels:

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- Dog Man
- Bone
- Squish

Fiction Series:

- According to Humphrey
- I Survived
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid
- Dork Diaries
- Flat Stanley
- Geronimo/Thea Stilton
- Magic Tree House
- My Weird School
- Stink
- Fly Guy
- Nancy Drew & the Crew Clue

Non-Fiction Series:

- Eyewitness Readers
- Magic School Bus
- National Geographic Kids
- True Books
- You Choose
- Magic Treehouse Fact Trackers

Math

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- On your next shopping trip, if the adult you are with pays with cash, ask the clerk if you can figure out the change before they tell you. Tell the clerk and the adult you are with what you think the change should be and then see if you're right.
- Help someone cook a meal. Measure out the different ingredients that are needed for the recipe. Make sure you have adult supervision!
- Scavenger hunt! Before you go grocery shopping next, make a list of your five favorite items. While you are at the store, find those five items and estimate how much those five items would cost. (You don't actually have to buy these items.) If you can't go to a grocery store, use a grocery circular to choose five items and estimate the total.
- On the news everyday, or on the computer, you can find out what the temperature is. Keep track of what the temperature is for one week and then put the temperatures in order from least to greatest. After that, see if you can figure out the maximum, minimum, range, and median of the temperatures.
- The next time you leave the house to go somewhere, make a note of what time you leave the house. When you get home, make a note of what time it is. Then see how much time has

elapsed between when you left and when you got back home.

- Once a week, practice your addition and subtraction facts by telling them to your parents. 0-20!! For a challenge, try double digit addition and subtraction.
- Ask an adult if you can borrow any spare change that they have. Count the change. Tell them how much you think they have and see if you are right! You can do this many times throughout the summer.
- Play a video game and keep track of your score five different times. Put your different scores into order from least to greatest. Find the maximum, minimum, range, median, and mean of your scores. Tell an adult once you've figured it out.
- Be a timekeeper! The next time you bake something, figure out what time it will be done cooking. (The cookies take 10 minutes to bake. It's 5:55. What time will they be done?)
- Spy Shapes~ Go on a walk and hunt for circles, ovals, triangles, rectangles, squares, cubes, pyramids, prisms, and spheres. Point out as many as you can find.
- If you have a [Prodigy](#) account, log in and play!
- Practice Multiplication and/or Division Flash cards.
- Complete any unfinished Savvas enVision math workbook pages.
- [IXL Summer Boost skill plan - Math 3rd grade](#) - Practice 10 questions per day
- [Khan Academy Get ready for 3rd grade Math](#) - This website is a great combination of lessons and assessment.

Science and Social Studies

- Draw a treasure map. Be sure to include a map key and compass rose.
- Learn all 50 states.
- Learn all 50 state capitals.
- Finish reading any magazines
- Complete unfinished pages in your Science book
- [Study Island](#)
- [Mystery Doug](#)
- [SciShow Kids](#)
- [Flocabulary](#)
- [Brainpop](#)

Students Entering Fourth Grade

English Language Arts

Skills:

- Compare and Contrast (Fiction & Non-Fiction)
 - Fiction: Compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots of stories written by the same author about the same or similar characters (e.g., in books from a series).
 - Non-Fiction: Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic.
- Point of View in Literature

- Explain the point of view from which a story is narrated, including the difference between first- and third-person narrations.
 - 1st Person - A character within the story tells their own thoughts or experiences (Uses pronouns like I, me and we)
 - 3rd Person - The story is told from the view of someone watching from the outside. (Uses pronouns like he, she or they)
- Central Message, Lesson, or Moral
 - Recount poems, dramas, or stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.
 - Example: What is the author trying to teach you? Is it a life lesson, such as what is right or wrong, how to make decisions, or how to treat other people?
- Ask and Answer Literary Questions (Fiction & Non-Fiction)
 - Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
 - Example: Ask Who, What, Where, When, Why and How questions while reading.
- Main Idea and Key Details / Recount Informational Texts
 - Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.
 - Example: Main Idea is what is most important thought about the topic. Details are specific pieces of information that support, or relate to, the main idea.

Websites:

- [Study Island](#)
 - Click on “My Classes”
 - Click “My NWEA Learning Path”
 - Click “View Assignments”
 - Choose any assignment
- [Starfall](#)
- [RazKids](#)
- [ABCya](#)
 - Click on Grade 4
 - Click Letters
 - Choose any letter activity
- [ABCmouse. Adventure Academy](#)

Suggested Reading List

Aliens on Vacation (Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast) by Clete Smith

David isn't happy about leaving Florida and his friends to summer with his crazy grandmother in “Middle-of-Nowhere,” Washington. Arriving at her Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast, he isn't surprised by its the-60's-meets-Star-Wars décor, but he is surprised by the weird-looking guests. It turns out that each room in the inn is an off-earth portal and his grandma the gate-keeper, allowing aliens to vacation on Earth. Grandma desperately needs David's help monitoring the visitors, shopping for cartloads of aluminum-foil for dinner, and taking rambunctious alien kids, that glow-in-the-dark and look like trees, camping. The problem is, the town sheriff, already suspicious about Granny, is a scout leader camping in the same spot. Will David blow Granny's cover, forcing the B&B to shut down for good, or will the intergalactic police have to intervene?

Titanic Sinks! By Barry Denenburg

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, Barry Denenberg has created a one-of-a-kind, high-concept book that's a unique combination of fiction and nonfiction. He uses a fictional framework to present the true story of the building and launching of the Titanic and to give a "you are there" feeling as the ship goes down. Lavishly designed with authentic period photographs and illustrations throughout, *Titanic Sinks!* immerses you in the era of the Titanic and reminds you why it's still a cultural touchstone a hundred years after its demise.

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer

Twelve-year-old Artemis Fowl is a millionaire, a genius—and, above all, a criminal mastermind. But even Artemis doesn't know what he's taken on when he kidnaps a fairy, Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon Unit. These aren't the fairies of bedtime stories; these fairies are armed and dangerous. Artemis thinks he has them right where he wants them...but then they stop playing by the rules.

Extreme Animals: The Toughest Creatures on Earth by Nicola Davies

From the persevering emperor penguins of the South Pole to the brave bacteria inside bubbling volcanoes, from the hardy reptiles of the driest deserts to the squash-proof creatures of the deepest sea beds, animals have adapted to survive in conditions that would kill a human faster than you can say "coffin." Discover how they do it in this amazing natural history book from a celebrated team — and find out who wins the title of the toughest animal of them all.

The Storm in the Barn by Matt Phelan

In Kansas in the year 1937, eleven-year-old Jack Clark faces his share of ordinary challenges: local bullies, his father's failed expectations, a little sister with an eye for trouble. But he also has to deal with the effects of the Dust Bowl, including rising tensions in his small town and the spread of a shadowy illness. Certainly a case of "dust dementia" would explain who (or what) Jack has glimpsed in the Talbot's abandoned barn — a sinister figure with a face like rain. In a land where it never rains, it's hard to trust what you see with your own eyes — and harder still to take heart and be a hero when the time comes. With phenomenal pacing, sensitivity, and a sure command of suspense, Matt Phelan ushers us into a world where desperation is transformed by unexpected courage.

Two-Minute Drill by Mike Lupica

Chris Conlan is the coolest kid in the sixth grade—the golden-armed quarterback of the football team and the boy all the others look up to. Scott Parry is the new kid, the boy with the huge brain, but with feet that trip over themselves. These two boys may seem like an odd couple, but each has a secret that draws them together and proves that the will to succeed is even more important than raw talent.

Dogs on Duty: Soldiers Best Friends on the Battlefield & Beyond by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent

When the news of the raid on Osama Bin Laden's compound broke, the SEAL team member that stole the show was a highly trained canine companion. Throughout history, dogs have been key contributors to military units. Dorothy Hinshaw Patent follows man's best friend onto the battlefield, showing readers why dogs are uniquely qualified for the job at hand, how they are trained, how they contribute to missions, and what happens when they retire. With full-color photographs throughout and sidebars featuring heroic canines throughout history, *Dogs on Duty* provides a fascinating look at these exceptional soldiers and companions.

Touch Blue by Cynthia Lord

Touch Blue and your wish will come true. "Why take chances?" says eleven-year-old Tess Brooks. "Especially when it's so easy to let the universe know what you want by touching blue or turning around three times or crossing your fingers." But Tess is coming to know that it's not always that simple. The state of Maine plans to shut down her island's schoolhouse, which would force Tess's family to move to

the mainland--and Tess to leave the only home she has ever known. Fortunately, the islanders have a plan too: increase the numbers of students by having several families take in foster children. So now Tess and her family are taking a chance on Aaron, a thirteen-year-old trumpet player who has been bounced from home to home. And Tess needs a plan of her own--and all the luck she can muster. Will Tess's wish come true or will her luck run out?

Women Daredevils: Thrills, Chills, and Frills by Julia Cummins

Annie Edson Taylor went over Niagara Falls in a barrel. Mabel Stark wrestled with tigers. Sonora Webster Carver plummeted forty feet on horseback into a tank of water. These and the eleven other women profiled in this book performed between 1880 and 1929, when females were expected to stay home and raise families, not entertain crowds with acts of derring-do. Their bravado, equal to that of any male thrill-seeker, made them inspiring at a time when women were testing the waters of equality and freedom.

The Best School Year Ever by Barbara Robinson

The Worst Kids in the History of the World!

When anything goes wrong at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School, from the hexing of Bus Six to the mysterious disappearance of the kindergarten gerbil, it's sure to have a Herdman behind it. The Herdmans are more than famous -- they're outlaws. They smoke cigars, lie, and set fire to things, and that's only when they bother to come to school!

Then a school project forces the students to think of compliments for all their classmates -- including the Herdmans. Is it possible that behind their outrageous pranks there may be something good about this crazy clan after all?

Wait Till Helen Comes: A Ghost Story by Mary Downing Hahn

Since its publication in 1986, the deliciously frightening novel *Wait Till Helen Comes: A Ghost Story* has not only haunted countless readers but has also won eleven state book awards. The spine-chilling tale begins when twelve-year-old Molly and her ten-year-old brother, Michael, learn that they'll be moving to a refurbished old church in rural Maryland with their mother's new husband, Dave, and their younger stepsister, Heather. Heather is an insufferable brat, but that turns out to be the least of the family's worries. When she strikes up a friendship with Helen, the malevolent ghost of a seven-year-old girl who died in a mysterious fire more than a hundred years ago, things really heat up . . . and Heather's unsettling threat, "Wait till Helen comes," becomes a grim reality.

Life on Earth----and Beyond by Pamela S. Turner

Is there life beyond Earth?

NASA astrobiologist Dr. Chris McKay has searched the earth's most extreme environments on his quest to understand what factors are necessary to sustain life.

Pamela S. Turner offers readers an inside look at Dr. McKay's research, explaining his findings and his hopes for future exploration both on Earth and beyond. Behind-the-scenes photos capture Dr. McKay, his expeditions, and the amazing microbes that survive against all odds.

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

After learning that he is the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea, twelve-year-old Percy is sent to a summer camp for demigods like him and joins his new friends on a quest to prevent a war between the gods.

When Zachary Beaver Came to Town by Kimberly Willis Holt

With understated elegance, Kimberly Willis Holt tells a compelling coming-of-age story about a thirteen-year-old boy struggling to find himself in an imperfect world. At turns passionate and humorous, this extraordinary novel deals sensitively and candidly with obesity, war, and the true power of friendship.

When Zachary Beaver Came to Town is the winner of the 1999 National Book Award for Young People's Literature.

The Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davies

Fourth-grader Evan Treski is people-smart. He's good at talking with people, even grownups. His younger sister, Jessie, on the other hand, is math-smart, but not especially good with people. So when the siblings' lemonade stand war begins, there really is no telling who will win—or even if their fight will ever end. Brimming with savvy marketing tips for making money at any business, definitions of business terms, charts, diagrams, and even math problems, this fresh, funny, emotionally charged novel subtly explores how arguments can escalate beyond anyone's intent.

Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane

Kate DiCamillo takes us on an extraordinary journey, from the depths of the ocean to the net of a fisherman, from the bedside of an ailing child to the bustling streets of Memphis. Along the way, we are shown a miracle -- that even a heart of the most breakable kind can learn to love, to lose, and to love again.

The Right Word- Roget and his Thesaurus

For shy young Peter Mark Roget, books were the best companions -- and it wasn't long before Peter began writing his own book. But he didn't write stories; he wrote lists. Peter took his love for words and turned it to organizing ideas and finding exactly the right word to express just what he thought. His lists grew and grew, eventually turning into one of the most important reference books of all time. Readers of all ages will marvel at Roget's life, depicted through lyrical text and brilliantly detailed illustrations. This elegant book celebrates the joy of learning and the power of words.

Flawed Dogs by Berkeley Breathed

Sam the Lion is actually a priceless dachshund, bred to be a show dog. More importantly, he is Heidi's best friend—and she needs one like never before. Living with her reclusive uncle is hard, but Sam has a way of making her feel soft and whole. Until the day Sam is framed by the jealous poodle Cassius and is cast out by Heidi's uncle, alone on the wild streets, where he is roughed up by a world he was not bred for. Sporting a soup ladle for a leg, Sam befriends other abandoned dogs and journeys all the way to the Westminster Dog Show, where his plan for revenge on Cassius takes an unexpected turn when he and Heidi spot each other after years of being apart.

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- Bone
- Squish

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- Geronimo/Thea Stilton
- Magic Tree House
- My Weird School
- Stink

- Fly Guy
- Nancy Drew & the Crew Clue

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- [Flocabulary](#)
- [Brainpop](#)
- [Legends of Learning](#)