

SUMMER READING LISTS

AWARD-WINNING BOOKS

(3rd Grade reading level)

Always room for one more by Leodhas – c1965 - Caldecott winner in 1966 - In this Scottish folk song, a generous family always has room for another person & invites in everyone who passes by.

Bats at the beach by Lies – 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - On a night when the moon can grow no fatter, bats pack their moon-tan lotion and baskets of treats and fly off for some fun on the beach.

Beach by Cooper – 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - Women, men, boys, and girls spend a day at the beach enjoying a variety of activities on the sand and in the water.

Best winds, The by Williams – 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - Young Jinho is bored with the childhood stories that his grandfather tells; but as the two build a kite together, Jinho begins to see and understand his grandfather's customs and his own Korean heritage.

Biggest bear, The by Ward – 1988, c1952 - Caldecott winner in 1953 - Johnny goes hunting for a bearskin to hang on his family's barn and returns with a small bundle of trouble.

Big snow, The by Hader – 1976, c1948 - Caldecott winner in 1949 - The animals of the meadows and forest prepare themselves for winter by storing food, digging tunnels, and growing thick furry coats to protect themselves from the snow and cold.

Black and white by Macaulay – 1990 - Caldecott winner in 1991 - Four brief "stories" about parents, trains, and cows, or is it really all one story? The author recommends careful inspection of words and pictures to both minimize and enhance confusion.

Chanticleer and the fox by Cooney – 1989, c1957 - Caldecott winner in 1958 - A sly fox tries to outwit a proud rooster through the use of flattery.

Epossumondas saves the day by Salley – 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - In this variation on the folktale, Sody Salyraytus, each of Epossumondas's birthday guests disappears until it is finally up to him to rescue them all and bring home the "sody" for his birthday

Funny little woman, The by Mosel – 1986, c1972 - Caldecott winner in 1973 - While chasing a dumpling, a little lady is captured by wicked creatures from whom she escapes with the means of becoming the richest woman in Japan.

Hello, goodbye window, The by Juster – 2005 - Caldecott winner in 2006 - A little girl tells about the special kitchen window at her beloved Nanny and Poppy's house from which a person can see anyone or anything coming and going.

How the moon regained her shape by Heller – 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - Presents an illustrated story based upon Native American folktales that explains the phases of the moon.

Ivy + Bean by Barrows – 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - When seven-year-old Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy, the new neighbor, who is less boring than Bean first suspected.

Jake's 100th day of school by Laminack - Jake is so excited about his 100th Day of School, he runs to catch the school bus without his project, but fortunately, with the help of his principal, Jake is able to find a perfect substitute for his project.

Just kidding by Ludwig – 2006 - With help from his father, older brother, and teacher, D.J. learns how to handle a classmate who claims that his mean-spirited "teasing" is just a joke.

Josias, hold the book by Elvgren – 2006 - America's Award for Children's literature winner in 2007; On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - Each day Chrislove asks his friend Josias when he will "hold the book," or join them at school, but Josias can only think of tending the bean garden so that his family will have enough food.

Last day of school, The by Borden – 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 – Matthew Perez, the official timekeeper of Mrs. Mallory's third-grade class, has a special good-bye gift for her on the last day of school.

Lemon sisters, The by Cheng – 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007- On her 80th birthday, a woman watches three young sisters play outside in the snow, remembers good times with her own sisters, and receives several birthday surprises.

Lilly's big day by Henkes – 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - When her teacher announces that he is getting married, Lilly the mouse sets her heart on being the flower girl at his wedding.

Little bat lost by Markle – 2006 – On Best Science Books list for 2007 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - Chronicles the early life of an orphaned Mexican free-tailed bat, from its birth to its adoption by a new mother. Includes facts about bats.

Little island, The by Brown – 1991, c1963 - Caldecott winner in 1964 - A little kitten comes ashore on a beautiful island.

Luck by George – 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - Luck, a young sandhill crane, finds his place in the ancient crane migration from northern Canada to the Platte River. Maps on endpages.

Maggie's Amerikay by Russell – 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - In New Orleans in 1898, while her mother talks of saving to buy land and her father insists on the importance of an education, young Irish immigrant Maggie McCrary is determined to find her own way in the new place they call home

Magic horse of Han Gan, The by Chen – 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 Master artist Han Gan's painted horse comes alive to help an ancient Chinese warrior.

Max's words by Banks – 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - When Max cuts out words from magazines and newspapers, collecting them the way his brothers collect stamps and coins, they all learn about words, sentences, and storytelling.

Melissa Parkington's beautiful, beautiful hair by Brisson - 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - Known for her lovely hair, Melissa wants to be seen as beautiful for something other than her appearance.

Mia's story : a sketchbook of hopes and dreams by Foreman - - 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - While looking for her beloved puppy one winter day, young Mia discovers how beautiful the world can be, as well as a way to make her own village of Campamento San Francisco more lovely and her family's life easier.

Night boat to freedom by Raven – 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - At the request of his fellow slave Granny Judith, Christmas John risks his life to take runaways across a river from Kentucky to Ohio. Based on slave narratives recorded in the 1930s.

One fine day by Hogrogian – 1998, c1971 - Caldecott winner in 1972 - After the old woman cuts off his tail when he steals her milk, the fox must go through a long series of transactions before she will sew it back on again.

Phantom mudder, The by Odgers - 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - Dog detective Jack Russell tries to find out who is covering the contestants at the Doggeroo Dog Show in mud.

Place called Kindergarten, A by Harper - 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - Wondering why their friend Tommy has not come to the barn at his usual time, the animals become alarmed when the dog tells them that he has gone to a place called "Kindergarten."

Probuditi! by Van Allsburg - 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - On his birthday, Calvin and his friend Rodney see a magician perform, then copy him by hypnotizing Calvin's little sister, but the joke is on them when they are unable to snap her out of it.

Ruby Lu, empress of everything by Look - 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - After Ruby Lu's deaf cousin, Flying Duck, and her parents come from China to live with her, Ruby finds life challenging as she adjusts to her new family, tries to mend her rocky relationship with her friend Emma, and faces various adventures in summer school.

Sally Jean, the Bicycle Queen by Best - 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - When Sally Jean outgrows her beloved bicycle, Flash, she experiments with various ideas for acquiring a new, bigger one.

Sam, Bangs & moonshine by Ness – c1966 - Caldecott winner in 1967 - A fantasy involving a fisherman's daughter, a dog, and a little boy.

Season for mangoes, A by Hanson – c2005 – America's Award for Children's literature – Sareen is concerned about participating in her first sit-up, a Jamaican celebration of the life of her recently deceased grandmother, but discovers that sharing her stories of Nana's passion for mangoes helps lift the sadness.

Singing shijimi clams by Kojima - 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 – An old witch buys some shijimi clams at the market, but doesn't have the heart to cook them when she discovers that they are sleeping peacefully.

Sly the sleuth and the sports mysteries by Napoli - 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - Sly uses her detective skills to help her friends solve the case of the soccer switch, the kick craze and the basketball blues.

Sofie and the city by Grant - 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - When Sofie calls her grandmother in Senegal on Sundays, she complains about the ugliness of the city she now lives in, but her life changes when she makes a new friend.

Teacher's pets by Dodds - 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - A teacher invites her students to bring their pets to class each week but they forget to take them home.

Thelonius Monster's sky-high fly pie : a revolting rhyme by Sierra - 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - A good-natured monster thinks a pie made out of flies would be a good dessert, and invites all his friends and relatives over to try it.

Three names of me by Cummings - 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - A girl adopted from China describes how her three names--one from her birth mother, one from the orphanage, and one her American parents gave her--are each an important part of who she is.

Tightrope Poppy the high-wire pig by Bardhan-Quallen - 2006 - On Book of the Year list for ages 5 – 9 in 2007 - Poppy the pig has a special dream of performing in the circus as tightrope walker; however, she soon learns that it sometimes takes a lot of practice to fulfill one's dreams.

Uptown by Collier – 2003, c2000 – Coretta S. King winner in 2001 - A tour of the sights of Harlem, including the Metro-North Train, brownstones, shopping on 125th Street, a barber shop, summer basketball, the Boy's Choir, and sunset over the Harlem River.

Where the wild things are by Sendak – 1991, c1963 - Caldecott winner in 1964 - After he is sent to bed without supper for behaving like a wild thing, Max dreams of a voyage to the island where the wild things are.

OTHER GREAT BOOKS TO READ (3rd Grade reading level)

Arthur, for the very first time by MacLachlan – 1989, c1980 - Arthur spends a summer with his unconventional aunt and uncle and begins to look at life, his family, and himself differently.

Dakota Spring by Love – c1995 - Caroline and Jess struggle to get along with their prim grandmother, who has come to their prairie home to help take care of them while their father recovers from an accident.

Danger canyon by Sorenson – c1996 - When Calvin and Rob are trapped by a waterfall in a narrow gorge, they must find a way to outwit two prison escapees and a hungry mountain lion.

Flat Stanley by Brown – 2003, c1964 - After a bulletin board falls on Stanley while he is sleeping, he finds that being flat has its advantages.

Harriet Tubman by Rau – 2001 - An introduction to the life of Harriet Tubman, who helped hundreds of slaves escape to freedom via the Underground Railroad.

Hidden dagger by Sorenson – 1996 - When a young boy in seventeenth-century England witnesses a lord's murder, he must find a way to reveal the killer before he becomes the next victim.

How to eat fried worms by Rockwell – 2006, c1973 - Tells a story about a boy who sets out to eat fifteen worms in fifteen days in order to win a bet.

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson by Lord – 2003, 1984 - In 1947, a Chinese child comes to Brooklyn where she becomes Americanized at school, in her apartment building, and by her love for baseball.

Magic finger, The by Dahl – 1998, c1964 - Angered by a neighboring family's sport hunting, an eight-year-old girl turns her magic finger on them.

Secret life of the underwear champ, The by Miles – 1997, c1981 - Ten-year-old Larry is “discovered” on the street in a television commercial. Only later does he find out what he is advertising.

Skylark by MacLachlan – (sequel to Sarah, plain & tall) – 1997, c1994 - When a drought tests the commitment of a mail-order bride from Maine to her new home on the prairie, her stepchildren hope they will be able to remain a family.

Superfudge by Blume – 2007, c1980 - Peter describes the highs and lows of life with his younger brother, Fudge.

Susanna of the Alamo by Jakes – 1986 - Relates the experiences of the Texas woman who, along with her baby, survived the 1836 massacre at the Alamo.

Sword in the tree by Bulla – 2000, c1956 - a young boy goes to King Arthur for help in winning back his castle from his wicked uncle, and discovers his father is still alive.

Tales of a fourth grade nothing by Blume – 2007, c1972 - Fourth-grader Peter Hatcher finds his demanding two-year-old brother an ever-increasing problem.

Time trap by Sorenson – c1996 - (historical fiction) - Kenneth and Aleesa try to stop Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination when they wake up in the year 1968 while working on a research project.

Wayside school is falling down by Sachar – 2005, c1989 - Sequel to: Sideways Stories from Wayside School. More humorous episodes from the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School, where students learn to tango, face the cafeteria's dreaded Mushroom Surprise, and study a hobo during Show and Tell.

Who stole the Wizard of Oz? by Avi – 2000, c1981 - Becky and her brother use some ingenious clues to identify the person who stole five children's books from the town's library.