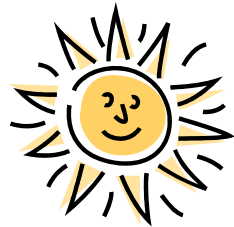


Canton Elementary Schools
Summer Reading Guide
2009



In order to keep track of the books you read this summer, please fill in the Summer Reading Log that went home with this guide. Complete the log and return to next year's teacher.



Summer Reading Guide
Developed in part by Canton Literacy Specialists
2009

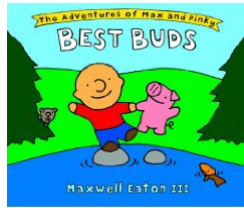
Dear Families,
Did you know...

- many students experience a drop in their reading ability over the summer?
- the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recommends certain authors for students to read?
- 50% of the passages appearing on ELA MCAS exams are written by these recommended authors?

Over the summer, families can support students' reading development by...

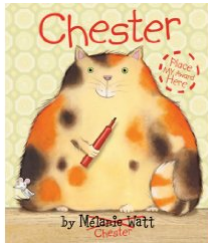
- reading aloud to children for at least 20 minutes a day (from a magazine, cookbook, even reading directions count).
- requiring children read at least 4-5 books.
- helping children selecting books at their level.
- making the public library a regular part of the summertime schedule.
- Starting a book club that meets weekly with friends.

For Students Entering Grades 1-2



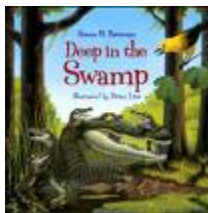
The Adventures of Max and Pinky, Best Buds

Max, a young boy, and Pinky, a pig, capture the imagination of young readers. This book is very easily read by children, but teachers and parents will also enjoy reading this story in class or at home. The book has the engaging universal theme of friendship. Check out the Max and Pinky website, <http://www.maxandpinky.com/>, for all kinds of fun stuff!



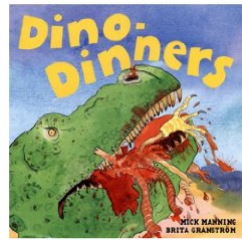
Chester

“Once upon a time,” a huge cat named Chester took a red marker and rewrote Watt’s story about a “boring” mouse. Chester’s editing delights young readers as his humorous revisions make him the star of the book.



Deep in the Swamp

Young readers engage with poetry, information, and counting practice as they learn combined facts about swamps and the animals that live there. Illustrations are bright and entertaining.



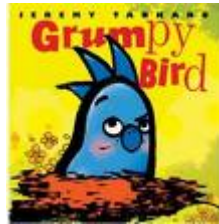
Dino Dinners

In this colorful informational picture book about dinosaurs, sidebars provide interesting facts about each dinosaur, what it ate, and how it ate. Also included is information on how scientists have drawn conclusions about each dinosaur’s diet.



Frankie Stein

Frankie Stein is a cute baby, but his parents fear he will never be as scary as they are until they learn to see him for the unique Stein that he is in this humorous story.



Grumpy Bird

This story is about a bird that wakes up grumpy. It takes some animal friends to help brighten his day by joining him on a walk. Children will easily make a text to self connection to the bird and his grumpy feelings.



How to Be a Baby, by Me the Big Sister

Big sister explains things that you CAN’T do as a baby and things you CAN do as an older child. The humorous story and illustrations help other children appreciate their accomplishments while gaining a better understanding of younger siblings.



The Perfect Nest

This is a story about Jack, a cat who builds the perfect nest to attract the perfect egg for his omelet. However, Jack winds up with more than he bargained for. Students will enjoy making predictions about what they think will happen next.



Big Bug Surprise

Prunella’s unending knowledge of insects saves her class from disaster. As her class celebrates, Prunella presents her show-and-tell surprise, much to the delight of her classmates.



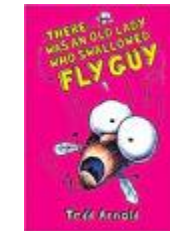
The Three Little Fish and the Big Bad Shark

In this take on the Three Little Pigs, Jim builds a house of seaweed, Tim builds a sand house, and Kim’s wooden ship house saves them all. Easy, patterned language makes this very accessible for early readers.



Tyson the Terrible

Dinosaur children hear the “Boom! Boom!” of the so-called fiercest dinosaur. They hide and hear a tiny tyrannosaurus sobbing and wondering why everyone runs from him. AS they invite him to play, his little brother pops up, surprising everyone.



There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed Fly Guy

Here’s a creative spin on the classic tale of the old woman who swallowed a fly. It’s highly recommended by first graders; the pictures help students decode words that they otherwise may not know, thereby building their reading confidence.

For more titles, please visit:
<http://www.reading.org/resources/booklists/childrenschoices>

For Students Entering 3rd:

- * Turtles in the Summer: A Journal for my Daughter by Mary Alice Monroe
- * Animals in the House: A History of Pets and People by Sheila Keenan
- * Crazy Cars by Matt Doeden
- * Spike the Rebel! By Carl Sommer and Illustrated by Enrique Vignolo
- * Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein
- * Gooney Bird Greene by Lois Lowry
- * Nate the Great Series by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat and Rosalind Weinman
- * Cam Janson Series by David Adler
- * Henry and Mudge by Cynthia Ryland

For Students Entering 4th:

- * Could You? Would You? By Trudy White
- * The Richest Poor Kid by Carl Sommer and Illustrated by Jorge Martinez
- * Sideways Stories from Wayside School by Louis Sachar
- * Help I'm Trapped.... Series by Todd Strasser
- * Dare to Dream! By Carl Sommer. Illustrated by Jorge Martinez, Greg Budwine and Kennon James.
- * Explorer: A Daring Guide for Young Adventurers by Dugald A. Steer Illustrated by Milivoj Ceran and Alastair Graham.



For Students Entering 5th:

- * A Friendship for Today by Patricia McKissack
- * The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick
- * Mythology by Dugald A. Steer
- * Old Penn Station by William Low
- * Real-Life Monsters by Judith Jango-Cohen. Illustrated by Ryan Durney.
- * A Thousand Tracings by Lita Judge
- * When is a Planet Not a Planet? The Story of Pluto by Elaine Scott.

*For more suggestions for summer reading, please visit <http://www.reading.org/Resources/Booklists/ChildrensChoices>

Recommended Magazines:

Ranger Rick
Highlights
Sports Illustrated for Kids
National Geographic Kids
American Girl Doll
Lady Bug
Kids Discover
Time for Kids
Zoobooks

For more information about public libraries in Massachusetts, visit:

Boston Public Library:
<http://www.bpl.org>

Canton Public Library
<http://www.cantonpublic.org>

In addition to suggested summer reading, the following list consists of recommended authors for students in grades PreK-2 and 3-5, by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The list includes classic authors as well as recent authors. *For a complete list of suggested authors for students going into grades 1-5, please visit <http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/ela/0601.pdf>

Suggested Authors for Students in PreK-2	
(Classic Authors)	
* Margaret Brown	* Robert McCloskey
* Theodore Geisel	* Beatrix Potter
* Robert Lawson	* H.A. and Margaret Rey
(Recent Authors)	
* Joanna Cole	* Ezra Jack Keats
* Marc Brown	* Patricia McKissack
* Eve Bunting	* James Marshall
* Tomie dePaola	* Patricia Polacco
* Leo and Diane Dillon	* Jack Prelutsky
* Mem Fox	* Vera Williams
* Gail Gibbons	* Tan Hoban

Suggested Authors for Students Entering Grades 3-5	
(Classic Authors)	
* Beverly Cleary	* Jean George
* Laura Ingalls Wilder	* E.B. White
(Recent Authors)	
* Lynne Reid Banks	* Paul Fleischman
* Joseph Bruchac	* Patricia Reilly Giff
* Andrew Clements	* Kathryn Lasky
* Daniel Pinkwater	* Seymour Simon

Prevent Summer Slide!

If kids get out of the reading habit during the summer months, they may fall behind when school resumes in the fall. Try these three suggestions for preventing the dreaded summer slide! Your child's teacher will thank you in the fall!

1. Six Books to Summer Success: Research shows that reading just six to eight books during the summer may keep a reader from regressing. When choosing the books, be sure that they are just right — not too hard and not too easy. Take advantage of your local library and ask for help selecting books that match your child's age, interest and abilities. Join the summer reading program at the Canton Public Library to motivate your child to read.

2. Read Something Every Day: Try to take advantage of every opportunity to read.

Morning: Newspaper — even if it is just the comics.

Daytime: Schedules, TV guides, magazines, etc. For example, if your child watches the food channel, help them look for a recipe online.

Evening: End the day by having your child read to you from the book they are currently reading. Have them rehearse a paragraph, page or chapter before reading to you. Rereading will help them be more fluent — more able to read at an appropriate speed, correctly and with nice expression.

3. Keep Reading Aloud: Reading aloud benefits all children and teens, especially those who struggle. One benefit is that you can read books your child can't, so your child will be building listening comprehension skills with grade-level and above books. This will increase their knowledge and expand their experience with text, so that they will do better when they read on their own.

It's hard to keep up a reading routine with many summer distractions. These suggestions are meant to fit into a busy schedule and to make reading fun!

Article written by Francie Alexander, "Three Ways to Prevent Summer Slide" Scholastic.com

