



*Growing Together,
Learning for Life*

Rockwood School District K-5 Reading Intervention



Recommended Summer Reading List 2008

Summer is a great time to read books for pleasure and personal interest. The more your child reads affects his or her level of vocabulary and level of thinking skills. Make time this summer to share the wonder of books. Set aside at least 15 minutes a day for reading.

Remember that books can be read TO your child, WITH your child, or BY your child.

Children of all ages enjoy hearing a good story. If you are looking for a book that your child can read independently – use the five-finger rule.

Have your child read the first page of a selected book (several pages if there are not many words on a page) and hold up one finger for each word missed during reading. If at the end of the page(s) the child has five fingers in the air, then the book is too difficult to read independently and you should consider reading the book to your child. Sometimes children like to take turns reading longer text. This is a great way to model good reading and provides an opportunity to stop and talk about what you have read together.

The following books have been compiled as a recommended list that your child might find too good to miss. The books are divided into two groups – Primary (kindergarten through second grade) and Intermediate (third through fifth grade). The selection represents a variety of types of books, picture books, chapter books, fiction and non-fiction – but they all offer exciting reading adventures.

Primary Titles (Grades K-2)

Tops and Bottoms by Janet Stevens – A very funny picture book which is easily recognizable as a trickster tale.

Hooway for Wodney Wat by Helen Lester – Rodney Rat pronounces his name incorrectly because of a speech impediment.

Once Upon A Banana by Jennifer Armstrong and David Smalls – A wordless story with lots of “a-peel”.

Not Norman: A Goldfish Story by Kelly Bennett and Noah Jones – A child wanted a pet that will run and catch but a goldfish was given instead.

But Excuse Me, That is My Book by Lauren Child – Lola discovered that someone else has borrowed her book from the library.

365 Penguins by Jean-Luc Fromental – A family’s problem grows as more penguins arrive anonymously on New Year’s Day.

The Incredible Book – Eating Boy by Oliver Jeffers – Henry likes to eat books and the more he eats the smarter he gets.

Clementine by Sara Pennypacker – Clementine, a third grader, is allergic to sitting still.

John, Paul, George, and Ben by Lane Smith – A history picture book introduces kids to a freedom loving quartet who loved to stretch the rules.

Corduroy at the Zoo by Don Freeman – Corduroy and his friends are taking a trip to the zoo.

Everything to Spend the Night: From A to Z by Ann Whitford Paul – What’s in the overnight bag? Find out in this lively alphabet book that captures all the delights of spending the night away from home – nonstop fun from A to Z!

How many? How Much? By Rosemary Wells – Timothy and his kindergarten classmates learn about counting, measuring, money, and other math concepts.

It’s Justin Time, Amber Brown by Paula Danziger – Amber wants a watch for her 7th birthday more than anything so she can feel more grown-up and she will know exactly how late Justin Daniels, her best friend, is all the time.

Minnie and Moo Go to Paris by Denys Cazet – Getting to Paris is half the fun with this pair, and along the way Minnie and Moo pick up a bus load of equally adventurous friends.

George Washington's Teeth by Deborah Chandra – The first president's teeth are tracked as he gallops to war, crosses the Delaware and more.

A Tree is Nice by Janice May Udry – This book is about many wonderful things a tree is used for such as shade, tree house, and holds off wind.

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein – A tree gives much of herself to a boy as they grow older.

The Jolly Postman by Janet & Allan Ahlberg - The Jolly Postman goes from house to house delivering letters to familiar fairy tale characters such as Mr. and Mrs. Bear; every other page is an actual envelope with a letter tucked inside. It is lots of fun following the postman and helping him deliver the mail.

Easy Chapter Book Series:

- Magic Tree House Chapter Series – Jack and Annie take magical adventures to various places looking for clues to bring Morgan home
- A to Z Mysteries
- Cam Jansen – Cam has a photographic memory that she used to solve mysteries
- Junie B. Jones
- Nate the Great
- Bailey School Kids
- Captain Underpants
- Henry and Mudge
- Frog and Toad
- Knufflebunny Books
- Little Bill by Bill Cosby

Intermediate Titles (Grades 3-5)

Dog Diaries: Secret Writings of the WOOF Society by Betsy Byars – At the first annual meeting of WOOF – Words of Our Friends – assorted dogs share tales of dogs throughout history.

Poppy's Return by Avi and Brian Floca – In this ongoing Dimwood Forest adventure, Poppy travels to her childhood home to save the other mice from destruction by a bulldozer.

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo – India Opal Buloni, age 10, describes her first summer in Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog, Winn-Dixie.

Ruby Lu: Empress of Everything by Lenore Look – Ruby Lu's life becomes challenging after her deaf cousin arrives from China.

The Winner's Walk – by Nancy Ruth Patterson – Surrounded by a multitalented family, nine-year-old Case Callahan feels driven to succeed, but his failed attempts at various competitions discourage him until he finds a stray dog with a surprising past.

Something About Hensley's – Patricia Polacco – Old John, the manager of Hensley's General Store, sells just about anything a person could want, but also freely supplies kindness and a helping hand to the town folk.

Good Sports – Jack Prelutsky – Rhymes and verses about various sports activities are included in this illustrated collection of poems for children.

A Pair of Polar Bears: Twin Cubs Find a Home at the San Diego Zoo – Joanne Ryder - In a factual, yet entertaining account, two orphaned polar bear cubs are rescued and flown to the San Diego Zoo where they find both safety and care in their new home.

Three Good Deeds – Vivian Vande Velde – Caught stealing some goose eggs from a witch, Howard is cursed and turned into a goose himself; he can only become human again by performing three good deeds.

Shredderman: Meet the Gecko – Wendelin Van Draanen – Nolan a true hero, helps his favorite TV hero outsmart a reporter who has been stalking him.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney - It's a new school year, and Greg Heffley finds himself thrust into middle school, where undersized weaklings share the hallways with kids who are taller, meaner, and already shaving. The hazards of growing up before you're ready are uniquely revealed through words and drawings as Greg records them in his diary.

Chapter Books:

Berenstain Bears Chapter books by Stan and Jan Berenstain

Chet Gecko Mysteries by Bruce Hale

Geronimo Stilton by Geronimo Stilton

Magic Tree House by Mary Pope Osborne

Jigsaw Jones by James Preller

A to Z Mysteries by Ron Roy

The Boxcar Children by Gertrude Chandler Warner

The Eddie Dickens Trilogy by Philip Ardagh

The Princess Tales by Gail Carson Levine

The Spiderwick Chronicles by Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black

Freddy by Walter R. Brooks

Judy Moody and Stink by Megan McDonald

Dear America by various authors

Katie Kazoo by Nancy Krulik

Popular Authors:

Judy Blume

Beverly Cleary

Lois Lowery

Garth Nix

Louis Sachar

Andrew Clements

Ellen Conford

Tomie dePaola

Gail Gibbons

Patricia Riley Giff

Mary Hoffman

Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard

Dick King-Smith

Robert Newton Peck

Daniel Manus Pinkwater

E.B. White

Roald Dahl

Paula Danziger

Marguerite Henry

E. W. Hildick

Kathryn Lasky

Alice Mead

Patricia Polacco

Lynne Reid Banks

Jerry Spinelli