



*Growing Together,  
Learning for Life*

## Rockwood School District K-5 Reading Intervention



### Recommended Summer Reading List 2009

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)

### Dog Breath by Dav Pilkey

This book is about a dog named Hally Tosis who is about to be removed from her home due to her bad breath. Hally solves her problem and becomes the most famous crime fighting dog in the country.

### I Saw an Ant on the Railroad Track by Joshua Prince

If an eastbound ant walks tickety-tack toward a westbound train going clickety-clack, is this story going to end with a smack? Think quick before that train and ant go whack!

### Fancy Nancy and the Posh Puppy by Jane O'Connor

Fancy Nancy's trademark is based on everything fancy. In this book Fancy Nancy's family decides to get a dog. Fancy Nancy has it in her head that a papillon (a small white fluffy dog) would be the fanciest dog for her family but her family wants a large, plain dog. How unglamorous!

### Maybe a Bear Ate It! By Robie H. Harris

What happens when you can't find your favorite book? When the book you love is missing? Climb into the imagination of a young child in this hilarious picture book romp!

### Read Somebody and the Three Blairs by Marilyn Tolhurst

This is a fun version of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. After reading the book compare and contrast the two stories either orally or written.

### Wemberly Worried by Kevin Henkes

A mouse named Wemberly, who worries about everything, finds that she has a whole list of things to worry about when she faces the first day of nursery school.

### Goldie Socks and the Three Libearians by Jackie Hopkins

Goldie Socks, late for school, takes a shortcut through the woods which leads her to the home of the Libearians, and she just cannot resist going inside and finding a cozy place to read. This is also a great book to teach kids how to pick out appropriate books for independent reading.

### Grumpy Bird by Jeremy Tankard

This is a story about a bird who has his grumpy mood lifted by taking a walk with some animal friends. The theme of friendship can lead to some thoughtful discussion.

Dino-Hockey by Lisa Wheeler

Readers see dinosaurs playing hockey like humans. With the Meat-Eaters vs. Veggiesaurs, children learn about dinosaurs and hockey.

Big Bug Surprise by Julia Gran

Prunella is a class insect expert whose knowledge saves the day for her class. The resulting celebration includes a surprising, entertaining show-and-tell event.

Some Dog by Mary Casanova

George was once a bouncy pup; now his pace is steady and slow. Still, he feels special. Then a stray dog bristling with energy lands on George's doorstep and wiggles himself right into George's family. Full of tricks, this new dog, Zippity, is a wonder! But when Zippity disappears, it's George who proves that an old dog with a few tricks of his own can still be . . . SOME DOG!

The Cheese by Margie Palatini

After they all agree to ignore the story of "The Farmer in the Dell," the rat, cat, dog, child, farmer, and his wife have a party featuring the tempting hunk of cheese.

Sticky Burr: The Adventures in Burrwood Forest by John Lechner

Sticky Burr is on the verge of being kicked out of his village in Burrwood Forest because he is not prickly enough to suit some of the other burrs, but when the village is attacked by wild dogs, Sticky Burr and his friends come to the rescue.

BoomTown by Sonia Levitin

This historical fiction story is about a family that moves west during the Gold Rush and Amanda saves the family by making and selling pies.

Hero Cat by Eileen Spinelli

A true story about a homeless cat who rescued her kittens from a burning building.

Lilly's Big Day by Kevin Henkes

When her teacher announces that he is getting married, Lilly the mouse sets her heart on being the flower girl at his wedding.

## Intermediate Titles (Grades 3-5)

### Soupy Saturdays with the Pain and the Great One by Judy Blume

In this hilarious book, two siblings drive each other crazy as they experience the small dramas of everyday life such as the difficulties of bike-riding, a sleepover disaster, and “babysit” a funny old dog that comes to stay.

### The Backward Bird Dog by Bill Wallace

This is a story told from the dogs’ point of view. The thoughts that run through this dog’s mind are hysterical.

### Peak by Roland Smith

Dare-devil mountain climber, Peak Marcello (14), decides to scale the Woolworth Building and lands in jail. To save him, his long lost Everest trekking dad appears with a plan for the duo to make a life in Katmandu – a smoke-screen to make Peak the youngest person in history to climb Mount Everest.

### The Wright Three by Blue Balliet

Three sixth grade friends try to save a Hyde Park (Chicago) landmark from demolition. While saving the Robbie House designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, they learn a lot of interesting facts about Mr. Wright and are involved in an exciting mystery!

### The Talented Clementine by Sara Pennypacker

The story is about a young girl who is worried about a talent show at school. She does not consider herself talented at all. She finally discovers that she has a tremendous talent for leadership. It’s a funny, heartwarming story.

### Rules by Cynthia Lord

Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?

### No Talking by Andrew Clements

The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a “no talking” contest.

Small White Scar by K. A. Nuzum

The story is about a boy and his twin brother during the 1930's and 1940's. Denny is mentally challenged and Will always has to take care of Denny. Will decides to run away, but Denny follows him.

The Shakespeare Stealer by Gary Blackwood

An orphaned boy was sent to steal a play from Shakespeare himself by his fearsome master and is torn about the right thing to do and the pressure he feels.

The Young Man and the Sea by Rodman Philbrick

A sea adventure, 12 year old boy's mom died and dad can't get out of bed in the morning so Skiff has to take care of everything himself and has an idea for solving their money problems...catching a monster fish.

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Cholenko

Written in diary form, a boy moves to Alcatraz because his dad works at the prison. It is a funny story of friendship and adventure.

Heaven by Angela Johnson

During the time of Martin Luther King, a girl who's African American tells about life through letters from others and notes from herself as she's trying to make sense of everything happening around her.

Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco

Polacco tells the true story of a remarkable wartime friendship between a young white Union soldier and a young black Union soldier who are captured by Confederate soldiers and sent to Andersonville Prison.

A Long Way from Chicago by Richard Peck

A brother and sister who live in Chicago have to spend summers with Grandma who lives on a farm in the middle of nowhere, but there's more excitement than the kids bargained for with Grandma and her neighbors.

Replay by Sharon Creech

His family calls Leo "fog boy." He's always dreaming, always replaying things in his brain, and fantasizing about who he is in order to discover who he will become. In the play that is his life, Leo is eager to discover what part will be his in this latest work from a Newbery Medalist.

Shh! We're Writing the Constitution by Jean Fritz

An easier-than-a-history-book read, explains how our government began.

Welcome to Camden Falls by Ann Martin

Flora and Ruby do not want to move to Camden Falls. But they don't really have a choice - their parents are dead and their grandmother, Min, is taking them in. Min runs a sewing store at the heart of Main Street in Camden Falls. There, Flora and Ruby become friends with Olivia, who likes to organize things, and Nikki, who lives on the wrong side of the tracks. Even if Flora and Ruby never expected it to, Camden Falls becomes their home . . . and its stories become a part of their stories.

Dish: Stirring It Up by Diane Muldrow

Sick of eating takeout food every night, twins Molly and Amanda Moore sign up for a cooking class. When they find out how cool cooking can be, they start a cooking business with their friends. But mixing friendship with business isn't always an easy recipe.

Tales from the Dimwood Forest series by Avi

There are 5 books in the series. Ragweed (the first book in the series) is about a young country mouse that leaves his family and travels to the big city where he finds excitement and danger and sees cats for the first time. All of the books are about mice that go on incredible adventures. There's always a villain in each story. They are very humorous and enjoyable to read.

Franny K. Stein series by Jim Benton

There are 7 books in the series. Franny K. Stein Lunch Walks Among Us (the first book in the series) introduces you to Franny. Franny is a mad scientist who prefers all things spooky and creepy, but when she has trouble making friends at her new school she experiments with fitting in—which works until a monster erupts from the trashcan.