



June 2009

Cambridge Friends School Library

Summer Reading Suggestions for Beginning Readers

Please note that there is a wide variety in interests and abilities among readers; you may also be interested in our other reading lists, which you can find on our website www.cfsmass.org/Library.htm. "Summer Reading Suggestions for Younger Readers" includes many chapter books for family read-alouds.

There is a wide range of books for beginning readers. Many publishers have series that target specific levels of reading ability. This list includes new and noteworthy books*, a list of series and publishers, and books in graphic format

**This summer, use your public library and reserve your books online!
Please see the next page for further instructions.**

Happy Reading!

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* Some annotations have been adapted from publishers' information and book reviews.

Use your public library and reserve your books online:



To get access to all these great books, use your public library. Communities in Massachusetts belong to large library networks - this means that they share their resources. Materials can be borrowed from any of the member libraries. You can go online, request books, and have them delivered to your own neighborhood branch.

Most of the communities around Cambridge belong to the Minuteman Library Network:

Go to: www.mln.lib.ma.us

To request books, you must have a library card and a PIN. You can go to your public library to get both. If you already have a card, but not a PIN, you can create a PIN online. You can request books from any of the member libraries, and they will be delivered to any library you choose.

- To search the catalog and request books, first click on *My Account*.
- Put in your library card # and PIN. Click *Submit*.
- On the next screen, there is information about your account, such as which books you have signed out and requested. You can renew your books here. You also can begin to search the catalog.
- Under *My Account*, go to *Modify Personal Information* to see if the library has your e-mail address and to designate where you would like to pick up your books. You will get an e-mail message when your books are ready to be picked up.

To search the public library catalog:

The default method of searching the catalog is by **KEYWORD**. You can also choose other search methods, such as **AUTHOR**, **TITLE**, or **SUBJECT**.

Click on a title that interests you. You will see more information about the book, including whether it is currently available. If you want the book, click on *Request Item*.

Use the *HELP* feature if you have any questions.

For the Boston Public Library System go to: www.bpl.org

If your local library is not a member of either of these systems, go to your library's web page on the Internet and find out how to reserve books.

New and Noteworthy:

Ada, Alma Flor. Extra! Extra!: Fairy-Tale News from Hidden Forest

When the residents of Hidden Forest wake up and open their morning papers, they are in for a surprise. An enormous beanstalk has mysteriously sprouted outside of Jack Blake's house, and Jack is nowhere to be found. Meanwhile, Pinocchio and Half-Chicken have set out on adventures of their own, and Tortoise and Hare are off to the races. Will they all find their happy endings?

Adler, David. Bones (series)

Young Detective Jeffrey Bones solves mysteries in this delightful series.

Ahlberg, Allan. The Pencil

A lonely pencil draws Banjo, and also a dog, a cat, and other people, but when the characters start complaining about their appearance, the writing instrument draws an eraser, which starts to create chaos.

Arnold, Tedd. Hi! Fly Guy (series)

Boy and fly meet and so begins a beautiful and funny friendship.

Baker, Keith. Meet Mr. and Mrs. Green

In a three-chapter format, this book includes Mrs. Green's less-than-lucky day fishing, her latest portrait of Mr. Green, and an eventful day at the park.

Beaumont, Karen. Move Over, Rover!

The cumulative text in "Move Over, Rover!" is expanded by illustrations containing context clues to tell the story of creatures from Squirrel to Skunk seeking shelter by squeezing into Rover's doghouse.

Bishop, Nic. Nic Bishop Frogs

Frogs are an endless source of fascination. Amazing images show the beauty and diversity of frogs from around the world, and simple text conveys basic information about these amphibians.

Brannen, Sarah S. Uncle Bobby's Wedding

Chloe's Uncle Bobby is marrying his boyfriend, Jamie. Chloe is worried that she won't be his favorite person anymore. Will Uncle Bobby still think she is special?

Campbell, Sarah C. Wolfsnail: A Backyard Predator

An exciting nonfiction look at the carnivorous wolfsnail, this science book uses bold block type against a white background to enhance the ease of reading. The magnified, detailed photographs and playful, informative text will amaze and attract readers.

Cazet, Denys. Will You Read to Me?

Hamlet enjoys books and poetry, not playing in the mud and fighting over supper like the other pigs, but he finally finds someone who appreciates him just as he is.

Chaconas, Dori J. Cork and Fuzz (series)

From their first meeting in a hollow log to playing pin-the-tail-on-the-turtle, Cork the muskrat and Fuzz the possum are always up to something unusual. The gentle humor and simple story are just right for beginning readers.

Cole, Joanna. Monster Manners

Distressed over their daughter's lack of bad manners, Mother and Father Monster insist that she misbehave.

Deedy, Carmen Agra. Martina, the Beautiful Cockroach: a Cuban folktale

Martina is a young cockroach who doesn't know coffee beans about love and marriage. That's where her Cuban family comes in.

DiPucchio, Kelly. Grace for President

When dreadlocked Grace runs for school office, the result is a microcosm of the good, bad and realistic aspects of the political process in this inviting electoral picture book.

Egan, Tim. Dodsworth in New York

When Dodsworth sets out for adventure, including a stop in NYC before going to London, Paris and beyond, he does not expect a crazy duck to stowaway in his suitcase.

Ellis, Andy. Scaredy Dog

Dudley the dog has quite an imagination, and when it runs wild, he turns into Scaredy Dog. When he and Daphne come face-to-face with Attila, the mean, crazy dog from next door, what will happen?

Frazer, Marla. A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever!

Two friends have a Nature Camp week to remember!

Friend, Catherine. The Perfect Nest

A flustered cat is on the verge of crying fowl in a farmyard story that's rich in detail with a sweet final twist that will crack young readers up.

Giovanni, Nikki and Johnson, Cathy Ann. The Girls in the Circle

Three girls have fun playing dress-up at their grandmother's house in this high-spirited, rhyming story.

Goto, Scott. The Perfect Sword

During the Tokugawa period in ancient Japan, Michio works with his master, Sensei Masa, to create the perfect samurai sword, but after it is complete they must find the right warrior to own such a sword.

Graham, Bob. How To Heal A Broken Wing

In a city full of hurried people, only young Will notices an injured bird lying on the ground. In this spare urban fable, Graham presents one small boy, one loving family, and one lovely story of hope and healing.

Grant, Judyann Ackerman. Chicken Said "Cluck!"

Earl and Pearl are planting pumpkins. Chicken wants to help. But it seems like the only thing Chicken is good at is getting in the way. Then grasshoppers invade the pumpkin patch, and Earl and Pearl can do nothing to stop them. Suddenly it's up to Chicken to save the day!

Harrington, Janice N. The Chicken-Chasing Queen of Lamar County

Meet one smart chicken chaser. She can catch any chicken on her grandmother's farm except one - the elusive Miss Hen. In a hilarious battle of wits, the spirited narrator regales readers with her campaign to catch Miss Hen, but this chicken is "fast as a mosquito buzzing and quick as a fleabite."

Hay, Samantha. Creepy Customers

Much to his surprise, Steve finds that helping out at his dad's pharmacy is anything but boring. Odd characters keep coming into the store - a witch, a vampire, a werewolf, and finally a man carrying his head in his arms. He decides that working in a drugstore is not so boring after all.

Holt, Kimberly Willis. Skinny Brown Dog

A charming story about an unlikely friendship between a baker and a dog that hangs around his bakery.

Howe, James. Houndsley and Catina and the Quiet Time (series)

The first snow of winter has fallen, and Houndsley is very happy, as he loves the quiet time. Catina does not like the quiet time, however, and she does not enjoy being snowed in. Houndsley helps Catina let go of her worries and enjoy the snowy day, wherever it might take them.

Keller, Holly. Help!: A Story of Friendship

Mouse and Snake are friends, but when Mouse hears a rumor that snakes are dangerous to mice, he runs away from Snake and falls down a hole. Mouse soon learns that friendships are forever and rumors are just that.

Kimmel, Eric A. The Three Cabritos

Once upon a time three cabritos (little goats) decide to go to a Mexican fiesta. But their mother is worried. She warns them about Chupacabra, the goat-sucker who lives beneath the bridge. And sure enough, as the goats cross the bridge, he jumps out!

Kvasnosky, Laura McGee. Zelda and Ivy: The Runaways (series)

The fabulous fox sisters return! Whether Zelda and Ivy are combating the injustice of cucumber sandwiches for lunch, deciding what to leave the children of the future in their time capsule, or solving Zelda's writer's block, they are sure to amuse.

Look, Lenore. Uncle Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding

Jenny's favorite uncle, Peter, is getting married, and everyone is happy, except Jenny. While her family runs about getting ready for the traditional Chinese wedding - Jenny is crying on the inside. Maybe if she can stop the day's events from happening, he won't get married at all...

Lunde, Darrin. Hello, Bumblee Bat

Meet the inch-long bumblebee bat, the smallest bat species in the world.

McKissack, Robert L and Cepeda, Joe. Try Your Best

When Ann worries that she is not good enough to participate in Sports Day, her teacher encourages her to try her best.

Madison, Alan. Velma Gratch & the Way Cool Butterfly

It's hard to be Velma entering first grade. That's because everyone has marvelous memories of her two older sisters, who were practically perfect first graders, and no one even notices Velma. But all that changes on a class trip to the butterfly conservatory, a place neither of her sisters has been.

McMullan, Kate. Fluffy Goes to School

His name may be Fluffy, but the guinea pig in Ms. Day's class is determined to prove how mighty and brave he is by captaining a stormy boat, driving a police car, and flying a spaceship.

Moon, Nicola. Alligator Tales and Crocodile Cakes

Alligator and Crocodile star in two short stories. First, Alligator's long tail makes him easy to find during a game of hide-and-seek, and Crocodile has the same problem. In the second story, Alligator tries to help Crocodile bake a cake but ends up making a mess.

Nishimura, Kae. Bunny Lune

A big-city rabbit named Bunny Lune wants more than anything to go to the Moon. His friend Pyonko has told him about the Japanese tradition that rabbits live there. How can Bunny Lune manage this incredible trip?

Ormerod, Jan. Ballet Sisters: The Duckling and the Swan

Two sisters like to put on dress-up clothes and dance. The older girl (the swan) is a slightly bossy school-age child who takes ballet lessons. Sylvie (the duckling) admires and often imitates her, but clearly has a mind of her own.

Portis, Antoinette. Not a Box

Spare line drawings and minimal text show a bunny playing with, in and on a cardboard box. Beginning readers will delight in discovering the rabbit's unlimited imaginative play in this square brown book.

Ries, Lori and Dormer, Frank W. Aggie and Ben: Three Stories

After choosing a new dog, Ben describes what the pet Aggie can do and should not do around the house.

Rylant, Cynthia. Mr. Putter & Tabby Bake the Cake (series)

Mr. Putter and his fine cat, Tabby, decide to bake a fine, airy Christmas cake for their neighbors. It will be a cinch. Or will it?

Rylant, Cynthia. Poppleton Forever (series)

Poppleton the pig makes a friend, reads a library book about adventure, and helps a sick friend get better.

Schwarz, Viviane. Timothy and the Strong Pajamas

After Timothy's mother fixes his favorite pajamas with Patches of Power and Buttons of Bravery, he acquires amazing super strength. But when the pajamas rip and his strength disappears, Timothy finds his true power in his friends.

Storage, Patricia. Sugar Cane: A Caribbean Rapunzel.

This fluidly retold version of Rapunzel set in the Caribbean islands offers an elegant regional revisioning of the classic tale.

Taylor, Sean and Lewis, Jan. Small Bad Wolf

Small Bad Wolf wants to be bad to the bone like his father, Big Bad Wolf, but when the lazy older wolf gives lessons involving chickens, little piggies, and children, the training does not turn out as planned.

Weinstein, Muriel Harris. When Louis Armstrong Taught Me Scat

In a CRACKITY-SNAPPITY-POPPITY-POP bubblegum dream a young girl learns to scat from the master himself Louis Armstrong!

Wells, Rosemary and Wheeler, Jody. Bubble-Gum Radar (series)

Mrs. Jenkins' class has two Franks who hurt, bother, tease, trick, act up, bully, and joke their way through the day. One in the Yoko & Friends School Days series.

Willems, Mo. Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed

Wilbur is different from the other naked mole rats in his colony, because he wears clothes. But what happens when Grandpah, the oldest, wisest, and most naked naked mole rat ever, discovers Wilbur's secret?

Winter, Jeannette Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa

This true story of Wangari Maathai, environmentalist and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, is a shining example of how one woman's passion, vision, and determination inspired great change.

Yee, Wong Herbert. Abracadabra! Magic with Mouse and Mole (series)

After Mole is disappointed to learn that magic tricks are more trick than magic, Mouse tries to show him the "real" magic that takes place all around them in nature.

Ziefert, Harriet. I'm Going to Boston to Visit the Ducks

A young boy and girl discuss visiting Public Gardens in Boston, petting the ducks and viewing the swan boats. Also, I'm Going to New York to Visit the Lions: it's a trip to New York City, and Nate and Kate are going to see the lions.

Favorites and Classics:

Bang-Campbell. Little Rat (series)
Byars, Betsy. My Brother, Ant (series)
Cosby, Bill. Little Bill (series)
Howe, James. Pinky and Rex (series)
Johnston, Tony. Sparky and Eddie (series)
Lobel, Arnold. Frog and Toad (series)
Minarik, Elsa. Little Bear (series)
Parish, Herman. Amelia Bedelia (series)
Rylant, Cynthia. Henry and Mudge (series)
Seuss, Dr. Cat in the Hat (and many others)
Sharmat, Marjorie. Nate the Great (series)
Tripp, Valerie. Hopscotch Hill School (series)
Van Leeuwen. Oliver the Pig (series)
Willems, Elephant & Piggie (series)

Series and Publishers:

- All Aboard Reading Series – Grosset & Dunlap
- Brand New Readers – Candlewick Press
- Dorling Kindersley Readers
- Hello Reader Series - Cartwheel Books
- I Am Reading – Kingfisher
- I Can Read – Harper Trophy
- I Can Read It All By Myself Books - Scholastic
- I'm Going to Read! – Sterling Publishing
- My First Reader - Scholastic
- Puffin Easy-To-Read Series – Simon & Schuster
- Ready-To-Read – Aladdin Books
- Step Into Reading - Random House
- Usborne Beginners (non-fiction) – Usborne Publishing Ltd.

This year, many *GRAPHIC FORMAT* stories for younger readers have been published. Here are some favorites:

Bullock, Mike. Lions, Tigers and Bears: Volume 1 Fear and Pride

Follow Joey Price on the adventure of a lifetime through the Stuffed Animal Kingdom in this epic odyssey. When Joey's worst fears, The Beasties, come crawling out of his closet in the middle of the night, he finds out his new stuffed animals, the Night Pride, are more real and more needed than he ever could have imagined.

Cammuso, Frank & Lynch, Jay. Otto's Orange Day

After a genie fulfills Otto the cat's wish by turning the whole world orange, Otto realizes that his favorite color is not the best color for everything.

Faller, Régis. Polo: The Runaway Book

While trying to retrieve his new book from a thieving alien, Polo has a series of adventures and eventually helps the alien and his people.

Grahame, Kenneth. The Wind in the Willows

A graphic format version of the story of the four animal friends who live along a river in the English countryside - Toad, Mole, Rat and Badger.

Grey, Mimi. Traction Man is Here!

Traction Man, a boy's courageous action figure, has a variety of adventures with Scrubbing Brush and other objects in the house.

Holm, Jennifer. Baby Mouse (series)

Meet Babymouse, a sassy young mouse who dreams of glamour, excitement, adventure, straight whiskers, being queen of the world, and of course, being invited to Felicia Furrypaws's oh-so-exclusive party.

Lechner, John. Sticky Burr: Adventures in Burrwood Forest

Sticky Burr is on the verge of getting kicked out of his village in Burrwood Forest because he isn't 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.

Morse, Scott. Magic Pickle (series)

Magic Pickle is a secret weapon developed in a secret military lab under little JoJo Wigwam's bedroom floor. The fearless, flying kosher dill superhero meets his match in this feisty eight-year-old.

Proimos, James. Johnny Mutton, He's So Him!

A kind-hearted sheep in human clothing enjoys entering a cooking contest, planning a birthday party, and participating in a staring contest—but each event has an unexpected result.

Runton, Andy. Owly (series)

Owly is an owl, but he's the quintessential gentle soul, the rare altruistic good guy who looks out for the little guy and overcomes any obstacle to win.

Yeh, Phil. Dinosaurs Across America

Patrick Rabbit makes a bet with the literacy dinosaurs that he knows more geography than they do. Using comic-book magic, they walk into a map of the U.S.