

SUGGESTIONS FOR SUMMER READING FOR GRADES 3-6



Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick

Orphan, clock keeper and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. But when his world suddenly interlocks with an eccentric, bookish girl and a bitter old man who runs a toy booth in the station, Hugo's undercover life, and his most precious secret, are put in jeopardy. A cryptic drawing, a treasured notebook, a stolen key, a mechanical man, and a hidden message from Hugo's dead father form the backbone of this intricate, tender, and spellbinding mystery.

The Homework Machine by Dan Gutman

The unlikely foursome made up of a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker — Brenton, Sam "Snick", Judy and Kelsey, respectively, — are bound together by one very big secret: the homework machine. Because the machine, code named Belch, is doing their homework for them, they start spending a lot of time together, attracting a lot of attention. And attention is exactly what you don't want when you are keeping a secret.

Before long, members of the D Squad, as they are called at school are getting strange Instant Messages from a shady guy named Milner; their teacher, Miss Rasmussen, is calling private meetings with each of them and giving them pop tests that they are failing; and someone has leaked the possibility of a homework machine to the school newspaper. Just when the D Squad thinks things can't get any more out of control, Belch becomes much more powerful than they ever imagined. Soon the kids are in a race against their own creation, and the loser could end up in jail...or worse!

The New Way Things Work by David Macaulay

Ever wondered how the Internet and computers really work but assumed that you wouldn't understand? Did you know that the principle behind the zipper also governed the building of the pyramids? Did

you know that the dentist's drill is a direct descendant of the first windmill? David Macaulay has been known as a master explainer ever since the original *The Way Things Work* was published, in 1988. Now he's back with a new edition that includes tons of new material, such as "The Digital Domain," which explains how computers store, process, send, and use information. From movie cameras to virtual reality, flush toilets to photocopiers, Macaulay explains it all.

Royal Bee by Frances Park

Royal Bee; Based on a true story, *The Royal Bee* is an elegantly written tale that pays tribute to a young boy's courage and strength of character. Song-ho is a young Korean boy destined by birth to a life of poverty. Barred from going to school--only the sons of wealthy families could attend--he dreams of learning to read and write. Then one day he hears the sound of a school bell and follows it deep into the valley. There, the school master turns him away, but Song-ho's boldness and determination earn him a chance at gaining an education nevertheless. Dramatically illustrated with richly textured oil paintings, the story offers glimpses of daily life in Korea a century ago--for both the rich and the poor.

The Chocolate Touch by Patrick Skene Catling

John midas loves chocolate. He loves it so much that he'll eat it any hour of any day. He doesn't care if he ruins his appetite. He thinks chocolate is better than any other food! But one day, after wandering into a candy store and buying a piece of their best chocolate, John finds out that there might just be such a thing as too much chocolate. . . .

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart

Dozens of children respond to this peculiar ad in the newspaper and are then put through a series of mind-bending tests, which readers take along with them. Only four children--two boys and two girls--succeed. Their challenge: to go on a secret mission that only the most intelligent and inventive children could complete. To accomplish it they will have to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. But what they'll find in the hidden underground tunnels of the school is more than your average school supplies. So, if you're

gifted, creative, or happen to know Morse Code, they could probably use your help.

Three Cups of Tea... One Man's Journey to Save the World... One Child at a Time (Young Readers' Edition) by Greg Mortenson

This young readers' edition of the worldwide bestseller *Three Cups of Tea* has been specially adapted and updated by Greg Mortenson to bring his remarkable story of humanitarianism up-to-date. It includes brand-new photos, maps, and illustrations, as well as a special afterword by Greg's twelve-year-old daughter, Amira, who has traveled with her father as an advocate for the Pennies for Peace program for children

Scat by Carl Hiaasen

Mrs. Bunny Starch, the most feared biology teacher ever, was last seen during a field trip to Black Vine Swamp. The school's headmaster and the police seem to have accepted the sketchy, unsigned note explaining that her absence is due to a "family emergency." There's no real evidence of foul play. But still, Nick and Marta don't buy it. Something weird is definitely going on.

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen

Unfortunately, Roy's first acquaintance in Florida is Dana Matherson, a well-known bully. Then again, if Dana hadn't been sinking his thumbs into Roy's temples and mashing his face against the school-bus window, Roy might never have spotted the running boy.

BFG by Roald Dahl

Well, first of all, " said the BFG, "human beans is not really believing in giants, is they? Human beans is not thinking we exist."

Sophie discovers that giants not only exist, but that there are a great many of them who like to guzzle and swallow up nice little "chiddlers." But not the Big Friendly Giant. He and Sophie cook up an ingenious plot to free the world of troggle-humping — forever.

Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator by Roald Dahl

Last seen flying through the sky in a giant elevator in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Charlie Bucket is back for another adventure. When the giant elevator picks

up speed, Charlie, Willy Wonka, and the gang are sent hurtling through space and time. Visiting the world's first space hotel, battling the dreaded Vermicious Knids, and saving the world are only a few stops along this remarkable, intergalactic joyride.

Sadoko and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr

For twenty-five years, middle-grade readers have been moved by this telling of Sadako Sasaki's spirited battle with leukemia. She was two-years-old when the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima at the end of World War II, and dizzy spells began when she was twelve. She faced the disease with an irrepressible spirit and focused her energy (and that of everyone who knew her) on folding 1000 paper cranes, which Japanese legend held would prompt the gods to make her well again. Eleanor Coerr crafted this story of Sadako's twelfth year after reading the book of her letters her classmates compiled after her death.

The Doll People by Ann M. M. Martin (Series of 3 books)

Annabelle Doll lives in a dollhouse with the rest of her family -- they've lived there for over 100 years. Nothing very exciting happens, and just when Annabelle thinks she will die of boredom, the Funcrafts move in.

Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes

A story filled with danger and excitement, *Johnny Tremain* tells of the turbulent, passionate times in Boston just before the Revolutionary War. Johnny, a young apprentice silversmith, is caught up in a dramatic involvement with Otis, Hancock, and John and Samuel Adams in the exciting currents and undercurrents that were to lead to the Boston Tea Party and the Battle of Lexington--and finally, a touching resolution of Johnny's personal life. *Johnny Tremain* is historical fiction at its best, portraying Revolutionary Boston as a living drama, through the shrewd eyes of an observant boy.

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster

For Milo, everything's a bore. When a mysterious tollbooth appears in his room, he drives through only because he's got nothing better to do. But on the other side, things seem different. Milo visits the island of Conclusions (you get there by jumping), learns about time from a ticking watchdog named Tock, and goes up against the dastardly Discord and Dynne. By the time Milo and Tock set off toward the Mountains of Ignorance to rescue the twin Princesses-- Rhyme and Reason, Milo realizes something astonishing. Life is far from dull. In fact, it's exciting beyond his wildest dreams...

The Heroic Adventures of Hercules Amsterdam by Melissa Glenn Haber

Hercules Amsterdam is only three inches tall--the perfect height for exploring the hollow spaces behind his bedroom wall. Deep within the walls, little Hercules discovers a fanciful city full of mice and falls in love with their friendly, carefree ways (imagine mice cream every day!). But when Hercules stumbles across abandoned mice cities that look like war zones, he realizes that the happy mice face a frightening and grotesque hidden enemy--rats! Hercules is determined to protect his sweet, gentle friends. Join him on his journey to foil the evil rats for good--and save mousekind as he knows it.

Star in the Storm by Joan Hiatt Harlow 1912. Twelve-year-old Maggie Wells lives in the port village of Bonnie Bay in Newfoundland, where a statute has been passed outlawing all non-shepherding dogs. Maggie swears she'll protect her beloved Newfoundland dog, Sirius, by hiding him if she must.

Sirius is named after the brightest star in the sky, which is in the constellation of *Canis Major*, the Great Dog -- and he more than lives up to his name. He hauls firewood across the frozen bay to keep Maggie's family warm in the winter. He helps Pa fish in the cold Atlantic Ocean. And he saves Maggie when she's stranded near an iceberg. Sirius is an invaluable member of the Wells family, worth protecting at all costs. So when a terrific gale strikes the Newfoundland coast, forcing a steamer with one hundred people on board to founder, Maggie must make the hardest decision of her young life. She knows that her strong, brave dog

can help the people on that steamer, but will bringing him out of hiding risk his life?

Based on true stories about Newfoundland dogs, *Star in the Storm* is filled with drama, tension, and exciting rescues that will keep readers engrossed from start to finish. This heartwarming story of a lovable dog and his feisty mistress will find fans everywhere.

The Enormous Egg by Oliver Butterworth

When Oliver sees that one of this family's hens has laid the biggest egg he has ever seen, he is determined to see it hatch.

The Big Wave by Pearl S. Buck

Kino lives on a farm on the side of a mountain in Japan. His friend, Jiya, lives in a fishing village below. Everyone, including Kino and Jiya, has heard of the big wave. No one suspects it will wipe out the whole village and Jiya's family, too. As Jiya struggles to overcome his sorrow, he understands it is in the presence of danger that one learns to be brave, and to appreciate how wonderful life can be. The famous story of a Japanese boy who must face life after escaping the tidal wave destruction of his family and village.

The Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davies

As the final days of summer heat up, so does a sibling showdown over a high-stakes lemonade stand business. Jessie and Evan Treski compete to see who will make \$100 first off of their respective lemonade stands. Full of surprisingly accessible and savvy marketing tips for running a stand (or making money at any business) and with clever mathematical visuals woven in, this sensitively characterized novel subtly explores how war can escalate beyond anyone's intent.

Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh

Harriet M. Welsch is a spy. In her notebook, she writes down everything she knows about everyone, even her classmates and her best friends. Then Harriet loses track of her notebook, and it ends up in the wrong hands. Before she can stop them, her friends have read the always truthful, sometimes awful things she's written about each of them. Will Harriet find a way to put her life and her friendships back together?

The Cay by Theodore Taylor

Phillip is excited when the Germans invade the small island of Curacao. War has always been a game to him, and he's eager to glimpse it firsthand, until the freighter he and his mother are traveling to the United States on is torpedoed.

When Phillip comes to, he is on a small raft in the middle of the sea. Besides Stew Cat, his only companion is an old West Indian, Timothy. Phillip remembers his mother's warning about black people: "They are different, and they live differently."

Esperanza Rising by Pam Muniz Ryan

Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico—she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, & servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances—Mama's life and her own depend on it.

A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park

Tree-ear is an orphan boy in a 12th-century Korean potters' village. When he accidentally breaks a pot, he must work for the master to pay for the damage by setting off on a difficult and dangerous journey that will change his life forever.

Castle in the Attic by Elizabeth Wintrop

William has just received the best present of his life—an old, real-looking stone and wooden model of a castle, with a drawbridge, a moat, and a fingerhigh knight to guard the gates. It's the mysterious castle his housekeeper has told him about, and even though William is sad she's leaving, now the castle is his! William can't wait to play with the castle—he's certain there's something magical about it. And sure enough, when he picks up the tiny silver knight, it comes alive in his hand! Sir Simon tells William a mighty story of wild sorcery, wizards, and magic. And suddenly William is off on a fantastic quest to another land and another time—where a fiery dragon and an evil wizard are waiting to do battle. . . .

SERIES:

- **Percy Jackson and the Olympians Series** by Rick Riordan
- **Pendragon Series** by D.J. MacHale
- **The 39 Clues Series** by a variety of authors (Scholastic)
- **Beacon Street Girls** by Annie Bryant
- **The Seekers Series** by Erin Hunter and Gary Chalk
- **Fablehaven Series** by Brandon Mull
- **Inkheart Trilogy** by Cornelia Funke
- **Brian's Saga** by Gary Paulsen (Begins with Hatchet)
- **Going To... Series**
- **Dolphin Diaries** by Ben Baglio
- **The Animal Ark** by Ben Baglio
- **A Series of Unfortunate Events** by Lemony Snicket

EASIER READ SERIES (Grades 3-5):

- **Magic Tree House** by M. Osborne
- **Horrible Harry** by S. Kline
- **Bailey School Kids** by D. Dadley
- **Judy Moody** by M. McDonald
- **Diary of a Wimpy Kid** by Jeff Kinney

