

Summer Reading Suggestions for Students Entering GRADE ONE 2026 – 2027

The best advice that can be offered to parents is that they take the time daily to read to and with their child. In this era of increased exposure to electronics and digital content, daily reading offers a break from screens, provides a time for parent/child bonding, and boosts attention span, comprehension, and language development. Reading can include storybooks, fables, fairy tales, poetry books, age-appropriate non-fiction, children’s cookbooks, and craft books. Please help strengthen reading interests by exposing your child to a variety of different types of reading material and genres.

Baltimore County Public Library (www.bcpl.info), Harford County Public Library (www.hcplonline.org), and the York County Public Library (www.yorklibraries.org) offer a wide variety of resources and programs to support and encourage children’s love of reading. Their websites provide suggested reading lists by age, information on youth reading programs and events, including this year’s Maryland State Library Summer Reading Program, “*Unearth a Story*,” and a large selection of e-books and audio books available for direct download. The Children’s Section of every library contains endless possibilities of stories to share with your child. In addition, we encourage you to link to the Baltimore County or Harford County Public Libraries’ Research Databases to access NoveList K-8 Plus. This database is an excellent source for book recommendations based on age, fiction/non-fiction, interest, and genre.

We suggest that every SJA student have a current public library card for the upcoming school year. Library cards may be obtained in person or online from your local library branch.

SUGGESTED AUTHORS

The following is a small sampling of authors who are well known for their contributions to children’s literature.

Brown, Marc
Carle, Eric
Cole, Joanna
Dean, James
dePaola, Tomie
Dr. Seuss
Eastman, P.D.
Freeman, Don
Henkes, Kevin
Hoff, Sid
Lionni, Leo
Lobel, Arnold
Lin, Grace
Marshall, James

Martin Jr., Bill
Nolan, Jerdine
Numeroff, Laura
O’Connor, Jane
Parish, Peggy
Pinkney, Jerry
Polacco, Patricia
Rey, H.A.
Rylant, Cynthia
Silverstein, Shel
Watts, Melanie
Wells, Rosemary
Willems, Mo

I CAN READ BOOKS

Biscuit Series by Alyssa Capucilli

Dr. Seuss titles

Owl Diaries and *Unicorn Diaries Series* by Rebecca Elliott

Good Dog and *Ratnip Series* by Cam Higgins

Danny and the Dinosaur by Syd Hoff

Diary of a Pug Series by Kyla May

Magic Tree House Series by Mary Pope Osborne

Henry and Mudge, Puppy Mudge, and Annie and Snowball Series by Cynthia Rylant

Nate the Great Series by Marjorie Sharmat

Fly Guy Series by Trevor Van Meter

Elephant and Piggie Series by Mo Willems

WORDLESS BOOKS

We recommend this genre to stimulate the imagination and sense of observation. While viewing a book, encourage your child to tell their version of the “story” and to predict what will happen next. Examples include:

Good Dog, Carl series by Alexandra Day

Spot, the Cat and One Paper Bag: An Amazing Journey by Henry Cole

The Lion and the Mouse by Jerry Pinkney

Journey by Aaron Becker

Mr. Wuffles and Flotsam by David Wiesner

A Ball for Daisy by Chris Raschka

The Red Book by Barbara Lehman

Have You Seen My Duckling? by Nancy Tafuri

A Boy, A Dog, and A Frog by Mercer Mayer

Pancakes for Breakfast by Tomie dePaola

NON-FICTION

New True Books/True Books (Children Press)

Eyewitness Juniors Series

Non-fiction titles by Gail Gibbons

National Geographic Kids Readers (Levels 1, 2, and 3)

MAGAZINES

Ranger Rick/Ranger Rick Jr.

Big Backyard

National Geographic Kids/National Geographic Little Kids

Ranger Rick Zoobooks

Highlights for Children

AWARD BOOKS

A complete list of Award Books may be found online at www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia

FIRST GRADE UNITS OF STUDY

Reading fiction and non-fiction titles related to the First Grade curriculum will help prepare your child for the coming year. First Grade units will include:

Where Our Food Comes From

Spiders

Owls

Egg Unit

Australia

Japan

Kenya