

Summer Reading Requirements/Suggestions for Students Entering GRADE TWO 2026 – 2027

Although we recognize and hope that *many* books may be read over the summer, **students are required to read a minimum of four books** to fulfill the SJA Summer Reading Program. (**Please Note: If students choose to read graphic novels as part of this requirement, only one of the four required reads may be from this genre.*) Please help strengthen reading interests by exposing your child to a variety of reading materials, listening to him/her read orally, and showing interest in his/her reading by posing questions about the characters, setting, and/or plot of the stories. We encourage families to make reading a regular part of their summer schedule; in this era of increased exposure to electronics and digital content, daily reading offers a break from screens, provides a time for parents and children to relax and bond together, and boosts students' attention span, comprehension, and language/vocabulary development – key tools for their academic achievement and success.

Students need to list book titles read, including the author's name. Parents must sign this list. The list of books read must be submitted to your classroom teacher on the first day of classes in September. These books may be used as the basis for discussion and writing during the first weeks of school.

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. 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 READING

Listed below are suggested authors well known for their outstanding contributions to children's literature. The reading level of these works varies, so it may be useful to have your child read one page in order to determine whether a title is appropriate. If more than five errors are made, the selection may be too difficult for independent reading at this time.

EASY FICTION FOR BEGINNING INDEPENDENT READERS

Adler, David A.
Brett, Jan
Brown, Marc
DiCamillo, Kate
Dr. Seuss
Elliott, Rebecca
Hale, Dean and Shannon

Lin, Grace
Osborne, Mary Pope
Parish, Peggy
Park, Barbara
Ruelle, Karen Gray
Rylant, Cynthia
Sharmat, Marjorie

FICTION

The reading level of books by these authors is more challenging than those listed above. In some cases, authors will have books in both categories.

Adler, David
Barrows, Annie (*Ivy + Bean* series)
Birney, Betty (*Humphrey* series)
Brown, Jeff (*Flat Stanley* series)
Charman, Katrina (*The Last Firehawk* series)
Christopher, Matt
Cleary, Beverly
Cronin, Doreen (*Chicken Squad* series)
Geronimo Stilton series
Howe, James (*Bunnicula* series)
Kline, Suzy (
McDonald, Megan (*Judy Moody/Stink* series)
Osborne, Mary Pope (*Magic Tree House* series)
Roy, Ron (*A to Z Mysteries/Capital Mysteries/Calendar Mysteries* series)
Rylant, Cynthia
Sachar, Louis
Smith, Brian (*Pea, Bee & Jay* series)
West, Tracey (*Dragon Masters* series)

NON-FICTION

Non-fiction titles by Gail Gibbons
National Geographic Kids Readers (Levels 2 and 3)
Who Would Win? series by Jerry Pallotta

MAGAZINES

Ranger Rick
Big Backyard
National Geographic 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

SECOND GRADE UNITS OF STUDY

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

Growth Mindset/Mindfulness

Space

Map Skills

Landforms

Water Systems and Ocean Animals

Mammals

Nutrition