

# Wesleyan School

## Summer Reading Suggestions for Rising First Grade Students

### Students must read a minimum of ten books.

*Numbers following each annotation are reading levels determined by commercial reading management programs. Creating reading levels is not an exact science. There is not a consensus among experts on the best way to determine a reading level for a book. Remember that the best books are those that are read and enjoyed by your child. These levels are guidelines only and should never be the sole consideration in determining if a book is appropriate for your child.*

**AR**=Accelerated Reader: managed by Renaissance Learning

**RC**=Reading Counts: managed by Scholastic

**Lexile** = Lexile Framework for Reading

*The ♥ symbol indicates a “highly recommended” endorsement from one or more review sources.*

*The term “Notable Book” indicates that the book is highly recommended by the American Library Association.*

*The Caldecott Medal/Honor is given for outstanding illustrations.*

### Picture Books

*May be enjoyed with an older reader*

Allard, Harry: *Miss Nelson is Missing!*

The kids in Room 207 take advantage of their teacher's good nature until she disappears and they are faced with a vile substitute. AR 2.7 RC 3.1 Lexile 340

Bang, Molly: *When Sophie Gets Angry--Really, Really Angry*

When Sophie gets angry, she goes outside and runs, cries, climbs her favorite tree--and then, calmed by the breeze, she is soon ready to go back home. AR 1.4 RC 1.9 Caldecott Honor ♥

Banks, Kate: *The Cat Who Walked Across France*

After his owner dies, a cat wanders across the countryside of France, unable to forget the home he had in the stone house by the edge of the sea. AR 3.6 Notable Book ♥

Blake, Robert J.: *Akiak: A Tale from the Iditarod*

Akiak the sled dog refuses to give up after being injured during the Iditarod sled dog race. AR 3.3 RC 2.9 ♥

Bottner, Barbara: *Bootsie Barker Bites*

Bootsie Barker only wants to play games in which she bites, until one day her friend comes up with a better game. AR 2.6 RC 2.8 ♥

Brett, Jan: *On Noah's Ark*

Noah's granddaughter helps him bring the animals onto the ark, calm them down, and get them to sleep. AR 1.8 ♥

Cherry, Lynne: *The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest*

The many different animals that live in a great kapok tree in the Brazilian rain forest try to convince a man with an ax of the importance of not cutting down their home. AR 3.8 RC 4.4

Cooney, Barbara: *Miss Rumphius*

After making her girlhood dreams of world travel and living by the sea come true, a retired librarian follows her grandfather's old advice of doing something to make the world more beautiful, and then passes that wisdom on to her grandniece. AR 3.8 RC 2.9

Cronin, Doreen: *Dooby Dooby Moo*

While Farmer Brown sleeps, his animals prepare for a talent show at the county fair. AR 3.1 ♥

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

Friends James and Eamon enjoy a wonderful week at the home of Eamon's grandparents during summer vacation. AR 3.4 RC 3.7  
Lexile 680 Caldecott Honor ♥

Friedman, Ina: *How My Parents Learned to Eat*

An American sailor courts a Japanese girl and each tries, in secret, to learn the other's way of eating. AR 2.9 RC 3.5

Hepworth, Catherine: *ANTics! An Alphabet Anthology*

Alphabet entries from A to Z all have an 'ant' somewhere in the word, such as E for Enchanter, P for Pantaloon, S for Santa Claus, and Y for Your Ant Yetta. AR 5.5 ♥

Hobbie, Holly: *Toot & Puddle*

Toot and Puddle are best friends with very different interests, so when Toot spends the year travelling around the world, Puddle enjoys receiving his postcards. AR 2.5

Hopkins, Deborah: *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt*

A young slave stitches a quilt with a map pattern which guides her to freedom in the North. AR 3.8 RC 4.5

Kirk, Daniel: *The Library Mouse*

Sam, a shy but creative mouse who lives in a library, decides to write and illustrate his own stories which he places on the shelves with the other library books but when children find the tales, they all want to meet the author. AR 4.4 ♥

Lester, Helen: *Hooway for Wodney Wat*

All his classmates make fun of Rodney because he cannot pronounce his name, but it is Rodney's speech impediment that drives away the class bully. AR 3.1 RC 2.5 Lexile 360 Notable Book ♥

LaRochelle, David: *The End*

When a princess makes some lemonade, she starts a chain of events involving a fire-breathing dragon, one hundred rabbits, a hungry giant, and a handsome knight. AR 3.5 Notable Book ♥

Lithgow, John: *Marsupial Sue*

Marsupial Sue, a young kangaroo, finds happiness in doing what kangaroos do. Includes the lyrics and musical notation of a song about Sue. AR 3.0 RC 2.9

Lumry, Amanda: *Adventures of Riley (series)*

Offers an entertaining and educational look at issues such as wildlife conservation, the preservation of global cultures, and habitat restoration. AR 3.5-5.5

Mayer, Mercer: *There's a Nightmare in My Closet*

A little boy decides to get rid of the nightmare in his closet. RC 3.4

McCloskey, Robert: *Make Way for Ducklings*

Mr. and Mrs. Mallard proudly return to their home in the Boston Public Garden with their eight offspring.  
RC 3.1 Caldecott Medal

Meddaugh, Susan: *Martha Blah Blah*

When the current owner of the soup company breaks the founder's promise to have every letter of the alphabet in every can of soup, Martha, the talking dog, takes action. AR 3.8 RC 4.2 ♥

Munsch, Robert N.: *Munschworks (series)*

Illustrated collection of quirky children's stories by Robert Munsch.

Norton, Juster: *The Hello, Goodbye Window*

A little girl tells about the special kitchen window at her beloved Nanny and Poppy's house from which a person can see anyone or anything coming and going. AR 3.4 RC 3.3 Caldecott Medal ♥

O'Connor, Jane: *Fancy Nancy*

A young girl who loves fancy things helps her family to be fancy for one special night. AR 2.1 RC 2.4 Lexile 420

Peet, Bill: *The Wump World*

The Wump World is an unspoiled place until huge monsters bring hordes of tiny creatures from the planet Pollutus. AR 5.3 RC 3.9

Pilkey, Dav: *The Paperboy*

A paperboy and his dog enjoy the quiet of the early morning as they go about their rounds. AR 2.9 RC 3.5 Caldecott Honor ♥

Polacco, Patricia: *Thunder Cake*

Grandma finds a way to dispel her grandchild's fear of thunderstorms. AR 3.5 RC 3.5 ♥

Rathmann, Peggy: *10 Minutes Till Bedtime*

A boy's hamster leads an increasingly large group of hamsters on a tour of the boy's house, while his father counts down the minutes to bedtime. AR 1.5 Notable Book ♥

Say, Allen: *Grandfather's Journey*

A Japanese-American man recounts his grandfather's journey to America, which he later also undertakes, and the feelings of being torn by a love for two different countries. AR 3.6 RC 4.2 Caldecott Medal ♥

Shannon, David: *Good Boy, Fergus!*

Except for his bath, Fergus experiences the perfect doggy day, from chasing cats and motorcycles to being scratched on his favorite tickle spot. AR 1.3 ♥

Slobodkina, Esphyr: *Caps for Sale*

A band of mischievous monkeys steals every one of a peddler's caps while he takes a nap under a tree. AR 3.1 RC 2.9 Lexile 480

Spier, Peter: *Noah's Ark*

Tells the biblical rainy-day tale with practically no text and Peter Spier's signature delicate, detail-packed illustrations. RC 2.2 Caldecott Medal

Steig, William: *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*

Sylvester the donkey finds a magic pebble that grants his every wish, but in a moment of fright he wishes he were a rock, and then cannot hold the pebble to wish himself back to normal again. AR 4.0 RC 3.8 Lexile 700 Caldecott Medal

Stevens, Janet: *Tops and Bottoms*

Hare turns his bad luck around by striking a clever deal with the rich and lazy bear down the road. AR 3.2 RC 3.8 Lexile 580 Notable Book Caldecott Honor ♥

Stevenson, James: *"Could Be Worse!"*

Everything is always the same at Grandpa's house, even the things he says-until one unusual morning. AR 2.7 RC 3.1

Van Allsburg, Chris: *Jumanji*

Left on their own for an afternoon, two bored and restless children find more excitement than they bargained for in a mysterious and mystical jungle adventure board game. AR 3.9 RC 4.4 Caldecott Medal ♥

Viorst, Judith: *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*

On a day when everything goes wrong for him, Alexander is consoled by the thought that other people have bad days too. AR 3.7 RC 3.9

Waber, Bernard: *Ira Sleeps Over*

A little boy is excited at the prospect of spending the night at his friend's house but worries how he'll get along without his teddy bear. AR 2.2 RC 3.5

Whitcomb, Mary: *Odd Velvet*

Although she dresses differently from the other girls and does things which are unusual, Velvet eventually teaches her classmates that even an outsider has something to offer. AR 4.1 RC 4.8

Wood, Audrey: *The Napping House*

In this cumulative tale, a wakeful flea atop a number of sleeping creatures causes a commotion, with just one bite. AR 2.8 RC 3.2

### Beginner Readers Series

Arnold, Tedd: *Fly Guy!*

Hilarious, easy-to-read stories about a fly.

Capucilli, Alyssa Satin: *Biscuit*

Read about Biscuit the puppy and his puppy friend, Puddles. AR 1.5 RC 1.5

Carle, Eric: *Stories for All Seasons*

Contains three stories written and illustrated by Eric Carle which provide young readers with lessons about numbers, the seasons, and the days of the week. AR 2.0-4.0

Cazet, Denis: *Minnie and Moo*

Contains brief chapters, colorful artwork, and humorous stories about two comical cows and their farm friends. AR 2.0-3.0

Clements, Andrew: *Pets to the Rescue*

Pet lovers will enjoy these simple, but satisfying tales of heroic and loyal pets.

DiCamillo, Kate: *Mercy Watson*

Have Mercy! She's not just the Watson's pet pig--she's a porcine wonder and loads of fun. AR 2.5 – 3.5

Falconer, Ian: *Olivia*

Whether at home getting ready for the day, enjoying the beach, or at bedtime, Olivia is a feisty pig who has too much energy for her own good. AR 1.2 Caldecott Honor ♥

Gackenbach, Dick: *Hattie Rabbit*

Stories about Hattie Rabbit, who has a tendency to overlook possible consequences of her actions. AR 2.5

Guest, Elissa Haden: *Iris and Walter*

Together, Iris and Walter discover that anything--from adjusting to a new home, to facing the first day of school--is easier when you have a best friend to help you. AR 2.5-3.5

Hoff, Syd: *Danny and the Dinosaur*

A little boy is surprised and pleased when one of the dinosaurs from the museum agrees to play with him. AR 2.3 RC 2.7

Holabird, Katharine: *Angelina*

A little mouse named Angelina wants to become a ballerina and loves to dance more than anything else in the world—including tidying her room, helping her mother, and getting to school on time. AR 3.5-4.5

Johnson, Crockett: *Harold and the Purple Crayon*

Harold uses his fantastic purple crayon to draw himself some wonderful adventures. AR 3.0 RC 2.4

London, Jonathan: *Froggy*

Rambunctious Froggy has many plans for fun but is called back by friends and family members, who help keep things in order. AR 1.8 RC 1.5

Marshall, James: *Fox Outfoxed*

Fox competes in a big race, gives away his comic books, and goes trick-or-treating on Halloween with his friends.  
AR 2.2 RC 1.8

Marshall, James: *George and Martha*

Relates several episodes in the friendship of two hippopotamuses. AR 2.7 RC 2.8

Milgrim, David: *Swing Otto Swing*

Easy-to-read stories about the robot Otto and his friends. AR 1.0 ♥

Miller, Sara Swan: *Three Stories to Read to Your Dog/ Cat*

Presents three stories addressed to dogs or cats and written from the animal's point of view. AR 1.5-2.1

Mills, Claudia: *Gus and Grandpa*

Gus and his grandfather share a special bond and many adventures. AR 2.0-3.5 Lexile 400-500

Minarik, Else Holmelund: *Little Bear*

Little Bear's four adventures include taking a trip to the moon and having a birthday party. AR 2.4 RC 1.8

Rylant, Cynthia: *Henry and Mudge*

Henry and his dog Mudge enjoy adventures together. AR 2.0-3.0 RC 2.0-3.0

Rylant, Cynthia: *Mr. Putter and Tabby*

Warmhearted stories of elderly Mr. Putter and his favorite companion, Tabby, the cat. AR 2.0-3.0 Lexile 350-600

Rylant, Cynthia: *Poppleton*

Poppleton the pig makes friends and has many humorous experiences. AR 2.5-3.0

Seeger, Laura Vaccaro: *Dog and Bear*

Easy-to-read stories reveal the close friendship between a dachshund named Dog and a stuffed bear. AR 1.5-2.0

Seuss, Dr.: *The Cat in the Hat*

A fantastic cat entertains two children in a most unusual way. AR 2.1 RC 1.2

Silverman, Erica: *Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa*

Saddle Up! Two pals have arrived on the scene--Cowgirl Kate and her stubborn but devoted cowhorse, Cocoa. They're partners through thick and thin. AR 1.5-2.5

Thomas, Shelley Moore: *Good Night, Good Knight*

A Good Knight helps three little dragons. AR 2.0-2.5 ♥

Van Leeuwen, Jean: *Tales of Oliver Pig*

Meet the Pig family with Oliver, his sister Amanda and their parents. Everyday events are special with this loving family. AR 2.3 RC 2.4

Wells, Rosemarie: *Max and Ruby*

Funny things happen every day in the life of Max and his big sister, Ruby. AR 2.0-3.0

Willems, Mo: *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*

A pigeon that longs to drive a bus sees a chance to make its dream come true when the bus driver takes a short break. AR 1.0 RC 2.1

Willems, Mo: *Elephant and Piggie*

These sweet and surprising stories are a much needed breath of fresh air in the early reader arena. They feature the interaction between two lovable and funny characters, an optimistic and sometimes reckless pig and a cautious, pessimistic elephant. Each book has been vetted by an early learning specialist.

Wilson, Karma: *Bear and His Friends*

This lovable bear and his delightful animal friends have a great deal of fun sharing new experiences. Features endearing illustrations and descriptive rhyming text. AR 2.0-2.5

Wiseman, Bernard: *Morris Goes to School*

Morris the moose has an exciting day in school learning the alphabet, counting, singing, spelling, and doing other things that make him a unique moose. AR 2 RC 2.1 Lexile 190

Yolan, Jane: *How Do Dinosaurs . . . ?*

Mother and child ponder the different ways a dinosaur perform various tasks, from saying good night to eating their food. AR 1.6 RC 2.2 Notable Book ♥

Zion, Gene: *Harry the Dog*

Follow Harry and his adventures. AR 2.9-3.2 Lexile 430-700

### **Fun Books to Share**

Hoberman, Mary Ann: *You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Stories to Read Together* series

A book of children's poetry which encourages young children to read with an adult. AR 2.9 RC 1.8

Schulman, Janet: *You Read to Me & I'll Read to You: 20th-Century Stories to Share*

The unabridged texts of twenty-six stories for children with original illustrations, featuring selections from a variety of twentieth-century authors including William Steig, Roald Dahl, Dr. Seuss, Judy Blume, Jon Scieszka, and others. ♥

### **Nonfiction Books**

Anno, Mitsumasa: *Anno's Magic Seeds*

The reader is asked to perform a series of mathematical operations integrated into the story of a lazy man who plants magic seeds and reaps an increasingly abundant harvest. AR 3.5

Cole, Joanna: *Magic School Bus* series

Special field trips on the Magic School Bus allows Ms. Frizzle's class to experience many educational experiences.

Crane, Carol: *P is for Peach*

A rhyming alphabet that names people, places, and things from Georgia's history, culture, and natural world and provides background information on each one. AR 6.0

DePaola, Tomie: *The Cloud Book*

Introduces the ten most common types of clouds, the myths that have been inspired by their shapes, and what they indicate about the weather. AR 3.7 RC 3.5

Florian, Douglas: *In the Swim: Poems and Paintings*

A collection of humorous poems about such underwater creatures as the starfish, piranha, and clam. AR 3.2 RC 3.2

Harris, Trudy: *Jenny Found a Penny*

The reader can help Jenny count her pennies--and nickels and dimes and quarters--as she saves the money to buy herself a very special present. AR

Hatkoff, Isabella: *Owen & Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship*

Illustrated text and full-color photographs tell the true story of the unusual relationship between Owen, a baby hippopotamus orphaned by the tsunami, and Mzee, a 130-year-old giant tortoise. AR 5.4 RC 4.7 ♥

Jenkins, Steve: *Biggest, Strongest, Fastest*

Presents 14 animals that are record holders in such areas as size, strength, speed, and age. AR 2.3 RC 4.8 ♥

Krull, Kathleen: *The Boy On Fairfield Street: How Ted Geisel Grew Up to Become Dr. Seuss*

Introduces the life of renowned children's author and illustrator Ted Geisel, popularly known as Dr. Seuss, focusing on his childhood and youth in Springfield, Massachusetts. AR 5.7 RC 4.2 Notable Book ♥

Priceman, Marjorie: *Hot Air: The (Mostly) True Story of the First Hot-Air Balloon Ride*

Presents a colorful children's story about the first passengers on the very first hot air balloon ride. AR 2.9 RC 2.5 Caldecott Honor ♥

Sayer, April Pulley: *Stars Beneath Your Bed: The Surprising Story of Dust*

Presents full-color illustrated drawings that describes what dust is, the different kinds of dust such as pollen, house dust, dirt from the farmer's plow, dust storms, fires, and ash from volcanoes. AR 4.6 RC 2.2 Notable Book ♥

Sattgast, Linda: *The Rhyme Bible Storybook*

A collection of Bible stories told in rhyme.

Turner, Pamela S. *Hachiko*

Relates the true story of a dog who accompanied his master to and from a Tokyo train station for a year and, after his master died, continued to wait for him there every day for many years. AR 4.2 RC 3.9 Lexile 830 ♥

### **Folk Tales & Fairy Tales** *May be enjoyed with an older reader*

Bang, Molly: *Wiley and the Hairy Man: Adapted From an American Folktale*

With his mother's help, Wiley outwits the conjuring Hairy Man that lives in the swamp near their home. AR 3.1 Notable Book

Brett, Jan: *Town Mouse, Country Mouse*

After trading houses, the country mice and the town mice discover there's no place like home. AR 4.4 Lexile 530

Brown, Marcia: *Stone Soup*

When three hungry soldiers come to a town where all the food has been hidden, they set out to make soup of water and stones, and all the town enjoys a feast. AR 3.3 RC 3.2 Lexile 480

Demi: *The Empty Pot*

When Ping admits that he is the only child in China unable to grow a flower from the seeds distributed by the Emperor, he is rewarded for his honesty. AR 3.8 RC 3.5

Goble, Paul: *The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses*

Though she is fond of her people, a girl prefers to live among the wild horses where she is truly happy and free. AR 4.7 Caldecott Medal

Kellogg, Steven: *Paul Bunyan, A Tall Tale*

Recounts the life of the extraordinary lumberjack whose unusual size and strength brought him many fantastic adventures. AR 5.7 RC 4.2

McDermott, Gerald: *Anansi the Spider*

In trying to determine which of his six sons to reward for saving his life, Anansi the Spider is responsible for placing the moon in the sky. AR 2.8 RC 3.2 Caldecott Honor

Osborne, Mary Pope: *Kate and the Beanstalk*

In this version of the classic tale, a girl climbs to the top of a giant beanstalk, where she uses her quick wits to outsmart a giant and make her and her mother's fortune. AR 3.6 RC 3.5 Notable Book ♥

Pinkney, Jerry: *Aesop's Fables*

A collection of nearly sixty fables from Aesop, including such familiar ones as "The Grasshopper and the Ants," "The North Wind and the Sun," "Androcles and the Lion," "The Troublesome Dog," and "The Fox and the Stork."

RC 4.4 Notable Book ♥

San Souci, Robert: *The Talking Eggs*

A Southern folktale in which kind Blanche, following the instructions of an old witch, gains riches, while her greedy sister makes fun of the old woman and is duly rewarded. AR 4.4 RC 3.5 Caldecott Honor ♥

Zelinsky, Paul: *Rumpelstiltskin*

A strange little man helps the miller's daughter spin straw into gold for the king on the condition that she will give him her first-born child. AR 4.0 RC 4.1 Caldecott Honor

## Math

Aker, Suzanne: *What Comes in 2's, 3's, and 4's?*

Introduces the numbers two, three, and four by enumerating the ways in which they occur in everyday life, from your two eyes and two arms to the four seasons of the year. RC 1.7 Lexile 750

Banyai, Istvan: *Zoom!*

A wordless picture book presents a series of scenes, each one from farther away, showing, for example, a girl playing with toys which is actually a picture on a magazine cover, which is part of a sign on a bus, and so on.

Burns, Marilyn: *Spaghetti and Meatballs for All!*

The seating for a family reunion gets complicated as people rearrange the tables and chairs to seat additional guests. AR 3.2 RC 3.5 Lexile 420

Fisher, Valorie: *A Second is a Hiccup*

Playful rhyming text helps children comprehend units of time, presenting lively examples of what can happen in the span of a second, a minute, an hour, a day, a week, a month, a year, and a whole childhood. AR 2.4 ♥

Jonas, Ann: *Splash!*

A little girl's turtle, fish, frogs, dog, and cat jump in and out of a backyard pond, constantly changing the answer to the question "How many are in my pond?" RC 1.4

Merriam, Eve: *12 Ways to Get to 11*

Uses ordinary experiences to present twelve combinations of numbers that add up to eleven. AR .9 Lexile 60

Pallotta, Jerry: *Underwater Counting: Even Numbers*

Text and pictures of marine animals teach young readers to count the even numbers up to fifty. AR 3.7

Sayer, April: *One is a Snail, Ten is a Crab*

Introduces the numbers one through ten by looking at creatures with different numbers of feet, and explains counting by tens to one hundred.

Ziefert, Harriet: *You Can't Buy a Dinosaur With a Dime*

Pete uses the money he has saved to buy a toy dinosaur, then must earn and save more before making his next purchase. AR 2.3