

# Wesleyan School

## Suggested Summer Reading for Rising Third Grade Students

**Students must read a minimum of four books.**

Comparable level books may be chosen by students with parent approval.

**Students should read from a variety of genre and authors.**

*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 the best books are those 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

*The ♥ symbol indicates the book received a "highly recommended" endorsement from one or more review sources. The term "Notable Book" indicates the book is highly recommended by the American Library Association.*

### Fiction

**Amato, Mary:** *The Word Eater*

Lerner Chase, a new student at Cleveland Park Middle School, finds a worm that magically makes things disappear, and she hopes it will help her fit in, or get revenge, at her hated school. AR 4.5 RC 4.8

**Anderson, M.T.:** *Whales on Stilts*

Racing against the clock, shy middle-school student Lily and her best friends, Katie and Jasper, must foil the plot of her father's conniving boss to conquer the world using an army of whales. AR 4.6 RC 4.3 Notable Book ♥

**Atwater, Richard:** *Mr. Popper's Penguins*

Mr. Popper starts out with one penguin in his house, but before he knows it there are twelve. AR 5.6 RC 4.9 Newbery Honor

**Auch, Mary Jane:** *I Was a Third Grade Spy*

When Brian's dog Arful suddenly begins talking, Brian and his two friends send the dog to find out what their classmates are planning for the school talent show. AR 3.7 RC 3.4

**Avi:** *Who Stole the Wizard of Oz?*

Becky and her brother use some ingenious clues to identify the person who stole five children's books from the town's library. AR 3.6 RC 4.8

**Byars, Betsy Cromer:** *My Dog, My Hero*

A panel of three judges has to decide which dog out of eight finalists deserves to win the title of My Hero. AR 4.1 RC 4.1

**DiCamillo, Kate:** *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*

Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories. AR 4.4 RC 4.5 ♥

**Donaldson, Julia:** *The Giants and the Joneses*

When Jumbeelia, an eight-year-old giant, climbs down a beanstalk and collects some "iggly plops," the little people of children's stories, she treats them like toys, unaware that she is endangering their lives. AR 4.7

**Dowell, Frances O'Roark:** *Phineas L. MacQuire--Erupts!*

Fourth-grade science whiz Phineas MacGuire is forced to team up with the new boy in class on a science fair project, but the boy's quirky personality causes Phineas to wonder if they have any chance of winning. AR 5.0 RC 4.8 ♥

Duffy, Betsy: *The Math Wiz*

Marty Malone is great at math, but finds out that he needs more than just math to tackle third grade problems like PE and making friends. AR 3.9 RC 3.6

Grindley, Sally: *Dear Max*

As Max--who is almost ten--and his favorite author, D.J. Lucas, exchange letters, the two writers help each other with their new books and develop a special friendship. AR 4.7 RC 4.8 ♥

Haddix, Margaret Peterson: *The Girl with 500 Middle Names*

Janie's parents move to the suburbs so she can go to a better school, but when she discovers that all the other students are richer than she is, she feels out of place--until she realizes that there are more important things than money. AR 3.8 RC 3.6

Jenkins, Emily: *Toys Go Out*

In the backpack, where it is very dark -- The serious problem of Plastic-ness -- The terrifying bigness of the washing machine - The possible shark -- How Lumphy got on the big high bed and lost something rather good-looking -- It is difficult to find the right birthday present. Six stories relate the adventures of three best friends, who happen to be toys. AR 4.0 RC 4.0 ♥

Marsden, Carolyn: *The Gold-Threaded Dress*

When Oy and her Thai American family move to a new neighborhood, her third-grade classmates tease and exclude her because she is different. AR 4.6 RC 3.7 ♥

Pinkwater, Daniel: *Looking for Bobowicz*

Upon moving to Hoboken, New Jersey, a boy convinces his two new friends to help him track down the mysterious phantom who stole his bicycle, as well as Arthur Bobowicz, owner of a giant chicken that once terrorized local citizens. AR 4.4 RC 4.3

## Folk Tales & Tall Tales

Davis, Aubrey: *Bagels from Benny*

Benny takes his grandfather's suggestion that he thank God for bagels, and he learns a valuable lesson about God and helping others. AR 2.2 RC 2.3

Deedy, Carmen: *Marina, the Beautiful Cockroach*

A humorous retelling of a Cuban folktale in which a cockroach interviews her suitors in order to decide whom to marry. AR 3.1 RC 3.7 Notable Book ♥

Demi: *The Hungry Coat: A Tale from Turkey*

After being forced to change to a fancy new coat to attend a party, Nasrettin Hoca tries to feed his dinner to the coat, reasoning that it was the coat that was the invited guest. AR 4.1 ♥

Fleischman, Paul: *Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal: A Worldwide Cinderella*

A retelling of the "Cinderella" story based on a variety of folk traditions, including elements from Mexico, Iran, Korea, Russia, Appalachia, and other countries and regions. AR 4.4 RC 3.6 ♥ Notable Book

Haley, Gail: *A Story, A Story: An African Tale*

The Caldecott Medal-winning African folktale of how Ananse took all the stories in the world from Nyame, the Sky God. AR 4.2 RC 4.2 Caldecott Medal

Hunt, Angela Elwell: *The Tale of the Three Trees*

The story about three trees whose dreams for the future are realized in very special ways. AR 4.0

Knutsen, Barbara: *Love and Roast Chicken*

In this folktale from the Andes, a clever guinea pig repeatedly outsmarts the fox that wants to eat him for dinner. AR 3.2 RC 2.9 ♥ Notable Book

Lester, Julius: *The Tales of Uncle Remus: The Adventures of Brer Rabbit*

A retelling of the African-American tales about the adventures and misadventures of Brer Rabbit and his friends and enemies. RC 4.2 Notable Book

Osborne, Mary Pope: *American Tall Tales*

A collection of tall tales about such American folk heroes as Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind, Pecos Bill, John Henry, and Paul Bunyan. AR 6.1 RC 5.5 ♥

San Souci, Robert: *Brave Margaret: An Irish Adventure*

In this retelling of an Irish folktale, a brave young woman battles a sea serpent and rescues her true love from a giant. AR 4.6 RC 4.2

Stauffacher, Sue: *The Angel and Other Stories*

Retellings of folktales which reflect Christian oral traditions from fifteenth and sixteenth century Europe. AR 5.9

## Fiction Series

Abbott, Tony: *Secrets of Droon*

Eric and his friends find entry into the mysterious world of Droon by using a staircase in Eric's basement. What fate awaits them there? AR 3.5-5.5

*American Girl*: various authors

Read about the lives of Addy, Felicity, Josefina, Kaya, Kirsten, Kit, Molly, and Samantha, and others in these historical fiction books. The heroines were strong and independent girls and some things in their lives were very different from today, but others--like families, friendships, and feelings--haven't changed at all. AR 4.0-5.5

Barrows, Annie: *Ivy + Bean*

When seven-year-old Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy, the new neighbor, who is less boring than Bean first suspected. AR 3.2 RC 2.7 Notable Book ♥

Christopher, Matt: *various sport titles*

Read stories revolving around young athletes who participate in baseball, basketball, football, lacrosse, and other sports.

Clements, Andrew: *Jake Drake*

Jake and his friends face challenges at school and at home. AR: 3.0-4.0 RC 2.5-3.0

Conford, Ellen: *Jenny Archer*

Follow Jenny as she solves mysteries, writes an autobiography, & learns to cook. AR 3.0-4.0 RC 4.0-5.0

Danziger, Paula: *Amber Brown*

Follow Amber as she faces the challenges of growing up. AR 3.0-4.0 RC 3.0-4.0

Dixon, Franklin: *The Hardy Boys*

Adventure stories in which young detectives Frank and Joe Hardy investigate suspicious happenings.

Friedman, Laurie: *Mallory*

Eight-year-old Mallory has had quite a year...moving, starting a new school, making new friends, sibling rivalry. Will her ninth year be less difficult? AR 2.5-3.5

Gannett, Ruth Stiles: *My Father's Dragon*

A young boy determines to rescue a poor baby dragon that is being used by a group of lazy wild animals to ferry them across the river on Wild Island. AR 5.6 RC 4.8 Newbery Honor

*Great Illustrated Classics*: various authors

These abridged stories have high interest with easy readability and over 100 illustrations in each book.

Gutman, Dan: *My Weird School*

Eccentric teachers and students humorously enjoy school life. AR 3.0-4.0

Hale, Bruce: *Chet Gecko*

The star of these hilarious mysteries is a green-scaled, smart-aleck fourth grader, Chet Gecko, an intrepid, private-eye lizard. AR 3.5-5.0

Howe, Deborah: *Bunnacula*

Though scoffed at by Harold the dog, Chester the cat tries to warn his human family that their foundling baby bunny must be a vampire. AR 4.0-5.0 RC 4.0-5.0 Notable Book

Keene, Carolyn: *Nancy Drew Mystery Stories*

Ten sleuth Nancy Drew, and her friends George and Bess, solve mysteries. Try to choose the older titles, as the new titles feature Nancy as a Generation-X hip teen with situations which may not be appropriate for younger readers.

Lovelace, Maud Hart: *Betsy and Tacy*

After Betsy Ray moves into the house across the street from Tacy Kelly, girls become inseparable friends and grow up together. AR 4.0-5.0 RC 4.0-5.0

Lowry, Lois: *Gooney Bird Greene*

Gooney Bird Greene is an entertaining second grade student who loves to be the center of attention and who introduces challenging vocabulary words and tells "absolutely true" stories. AR 3.9 RC 3.8-4.2 ♥

McDonald, Barbara: *Judy Moody*

Third grader Judy Moody deals with problems in a humorous way. AR 3.0-4.0 RC 3.0-4.0 Notable Book ♥

Pennypacker, Sara: *Clementine*

While sorting through difficulties in her friendship with her neighbor Margaret, eight-year-old Clementine gains several unique hairstyles while also helping her father. . AR 4.5 RC 4.5 ♥ Notable Book

Roy, Ron: *A to Z Mysteries*

Following the letters of the alphabet, Dink and his friends undercover real mysteries and practice detective skills. AR 3.0-4.0 RC 3.0-4.0

Scieszka, Jon.: *The Time Warp Trio*

Joe, Sam, and Fred travel in time and solve mysteries and problems. AR 3.0-4.0

Sobol, Donald: *Encyclopedia Brown*

America's Sherlock Holmes in sneakers continues his war on crime in ten more cases, the solutions to which are found in the back of the book. AR 4.0-5.0 RC 4.0-5.0

Warner, Gertrude Chandler: *The Boxcar Children*

Four orphans, two boys and two girls, set up housekeeping in an old boxcar. AR 3.0-4.0 RC 3.0-4.0

Wilder, Laura Ingalls: *Little House*

This series of nine books recounts the adventures of Laura Ingalls Wilder and her family.

## Nonfiction

Aliki: *How A Book Is Made*

Describes the stages in making a book, starting with the writing of the manuscript and the drawing of the pictures, and explaining all the technical processes leading to printed and bound copies. AR 3.3 RC 3.3

Ballard, Robert D.: *Finding the Titanic*

Describes the voyage of the Titanic, the accident that caused it to sink, the rescue of those who survived, and the 1986 expedition to find the sunken ship. AR 4.0 RC 2.8

Bishop, Nic: *Backyard Detective: Critters Up Close*

Describes a variety of animals and insects that can be found close to home and tips on how to observe them. AR 5.2 RC 4.5

Chandra, Deborah: *George Washington's Teeth*

A rollicking rhyme portrays George Washington's lifelong struggle with bad teeth. A timeline taken from diary entries and other nonfiction sources follows. AR 3.6 RC 3.5 ♥

Cole, Joanna: *Ms. Frizzle's Adventures: Imperial China*

Wacky and wonderful Ms. Frizzle is invited to celebrate Chinese New Year with her student Wanda's family, and manages to find time before dinner to travel back in time one thousand years to ancient China where she and her young friends embark on a journey to speak to the governor and learn a lot about Chinese culture. AR 3.6 RC 3.5

Cole, Joanna: *Ms. Frizzle's Adventures: Medieval Castle*

When Ms. Frizzle and her student Arnold follow an underground passage beneath Craig's Castle Shop and find themselves in the middle of a siege of a 12th century English castle, they learn a great deal about both castles and the Middle Ages. AR 3.6 RC 3.1

Elya, Susan Middleton: *Say Hola to Spanish*

Text in English and Spanish. Simple text and pictures help young readers build their Spanish vocabularies. RC 2.6

Fritz, Jean: *Shh! We're Writing the Constitution!*

Describes how the Constitution came to be written and ratified. Also includes the full text of the document produced by the Constitutional Convention of 1787. AR 7.1 RC 4.7

Greenstein, Elaine: *Ice Cream Cones for Sale!*

Reveals who really invented the ice cream cone, even before the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair where five people claim they did so. AR 3.8 RC 3.5 ♥

Lauber, Patricia: *What You Never Knew About Fingers, Forks, & Chopsticks*

Describes changes in eating customs throughout the centuries and the origins of table manners. AR 4.4 RC 4.2 H

Leedy, Loreen: *Mapping Penny's World*

After learning about maps in school, Lisa maps all the favorite places of her dog Penny. AR 3.5 RC 3.3

Leedy, Loreen: *Measuring Penny*

Lisa learns about the mathematics of measuring by measuring her dog Penny with all sorts of units, including pounds, inches, dog biscuits, and cotton swabs. AR 3.2 RC 4.2 ♥

Leedy, Loreen: *There's A Frog in My Throat*

Presents the meanings of over four hundred common phrases with references to animals, along with vivid illustrations. AR 5.2 Notable Book ♥

St. George, Judith: *So You Want to be President?*

Presents an assortment of facts about the qualifications and characteristics of U.S. presidents, from George Washington to George W. Bush. AR 4.8

Schwartz, David: *If You Hopped Like a Frog*

Introduces the concept of ratio by comparing what humans would be able to do if they had bodies like different animals. AR 3.4 RC 2.5

Slaymaker, Melissa Eskridge: *Bottle Houses: The Creative World of Grandma Prisbrey*

An introduction to the world of folk artist Grandma Prisbrey. AR 4.4 RC 4.7 ♥

Tang, Greg: *The Grapes of Math: Mind-Stretching Math Riddles*

Illustrated riddles introduce strategies for solving a variety of math problems by using visual clues. AR 3.3 RC 21 ♥

Truss, Lynn: *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: Why, Commas Really Do Make a Difference!*  
Humorous comparative illustrations show that the meaning of a sentence can depend upon the placement of a comma. AR 1.6 ♥

## Poetry

Fleischman, Paul: *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices*  
A collection of poems describing the characteristics and activities of a variety of insects. RC 5.2 Newbery Honor

Florian, Douglas: *Bing Bang Boing: Poems and Drawings*  
An illustrated collection of more than 150 nonsense verses. RC 3.7

George, Kristine O'Connell: *Hummingbird Nest: A Journal of Poems*  
When a mother hummingbird builds a nest on a family's porch, they watch and record her actions and the birth and development of her fledglings. AR 3.7 RC 3.8 ♥

Prelutsky, Jack: *The Random House Book of Poetry for Children*  
A collection of poems and lyrics from several songs provides a look at our country, from colonial times to the present. RC 3.9

Scieszka, Jon: *Science Verse*  
Presents a story about a teacher who tells his class that they can hear the poetry of science in everything and a student is struck with a curse where he hears nothing but science verses that sound very much like some well-known poems. RC 3.8 Notable Book ♥

Thayer, Ernest: *Casey at the Bat: A Ballad of the Republic Sung in the Year 1888*  
Illustrated by Christopher Bing. An illustrated version of the famous poem. AR 5.3 Caldecott Honor ♥

Viorst, Judith: *If I Were in Charge of the World and Other Worries: Poems for Children and Their Parents*  
Forty-one poems reveal a variety of secret thoughts, worries, and wishes. RC 5.2

## Biography

Adler, David A.: "*A Picture Book of*" biography series by this author  
Example: *A Picture Book of Jackie Robinson*: A biography of the first African-American player in the major leagues, who was elected to baseball's Hall of Fame in 1962.

*Childhood of Famous Americans* series: various titles and authors  
A look at America's heroes and heroines of yesterday when they were children. All children know who Abraham Lincoln grew up to be - but what was he like as a child? What kind of girl grew up to marry George Washington? AR 3.5-5.0

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 ♥

McCully, Emily Arnold: *Marvelous Mattie: How Margaret E. Knight Became an Inventor*  
Describes inventor Margaret E. Knight's childhood, explaining how her interest in mechanical innovations began, and tells the story of her invention of a paper bag maker and her legal battle for the patent after someone stole her idea. AR 4.2 RC 4.2 Notable Book ♥

## Time for Kids: Biographies

Makes a connection between the lives of past heroes and events of today. Features include interviews with experts, lively writing, historic and contemporary photos, prints, full-color illustrations, and Fast-Facts. AR 4.0-6.0