

South Orange Maplewood School District
2009 Summer Reading Suggestions for
Primary Grades:
Grades K – 2

This list was compiled by librarians from the South Orange and Maplewood elementary schools and public libraries. You may read books from this list, or from the Intermediate Grades List.

Reading is one of the best activities for academic success. We suggest you make frequent virtual and physical visits to your public libraries this summer. Their addresses and web sites are:

Maplewood Memorial Library
www.maplewoodlibrary.org
51 Baker Street, Maplewood
(973) 762-1622 ext 5005

South Orange Public Library
www.sopl.org
65 Scotland Road, South Orange
(973) 762-0230

Maplewood Library's Hilton Branch
1688 Springfield Ave., Maplewood
(973) 762-1688

This list is available online at the public library sites, as well as at
<http://www.somds.k12.nj.us>

We have served up a generous helping of wonderful works of fiction, but, don't forget, you can enjoy the wealth of information available to you in nonfiction. Nic Bishop, Seymour Simon, Gail Gibbons, and Bobbie Kalman are just a few authors who are masters in writing engaging works of nonfiction just for kids. Why not use the summer to develop a subject specialty? Just for fun, jot down that Dewey Decimal number that corresponds to your subject. You can return to school next September and ask your classmates, "Do you know what my Dewey number is?" Tell them, and let them find out what your area of expertise is!

ALLEN, DEBBIE. *Dancing in the Wings*

Sassy tries out for a summer dance festival in Washington, D.C., despite the other girls' taunts that she is much too tall.

ANHOLT, LAURENCE. *Van Gogh and the Sunflowers*

Despite the derision of their neighbors, a young French boy and his family befriend the lonely painter who comes to their town and begin to admire his unusual paintings.

also: *Picasso and the Girl with the Ponytail*

Sylvette gradually begins to gain self-confidence during the summer she models for the renowned artist Pablo Picasso in the French village of Vallauris.

ASTON, DIANA. *A Seed is Sleepy*

An informative, yet beautiful, introduction to seeds.

BANG, MOLLY. *Living Sunlight: How the Sun Gives Us Life*

Colorful illustrations and text introduces young readers to the importance of sunlight to grow plants, which humans and animals depend on to survive.

BANG-CAMPBELL, MONIKA. *Little Rat Makes Music*

Little Rat loves the violin but hates to practice, until her teacher suggests she perform a duet with one of the advanced students at the holiday concert.

BEMELMANS MARCIANO. *Madeline and the Cats of Rome*

The orphan Madeline catches a thief and makes a friend in Rome.

BENNETT, KELLY. *Not Norman: A Goldfish Story*

Norman the goldfish was not the kind of pet the boy wanted. He wanted a pet that could run and catch. But when he tries to trade Norman for a "good pet," things go wrong.

BROACH, ELISE. *When Dinosaurs Came With Everything*

Although his mother is a little worried, a young boy is delighted to discover that every shop in town is giving away real dinosaurs to their customers.

CALMENSON, STEPHANIE. *May I Pet Your Dog?*

Harry the dog explains how to safely meet him and his friends.

COTTIN, MENENA. *Black Book of Colors*

Learn Braille and see the world through your fingers.

CUMMINGS, PAT. *Harvey Moon, Museum Boy*

When Harvey and his pet lizard Zippy go on a school field trip, Zippy gets loose in the museum and they have a harrowing adventure.

DICAMILLO, KATE. *Louise, the Adventures of a Chicken*

Longing for adventure, intrepid Louise leaves her comfortable nest and goes to sea.

DOYLE, MALACHY. *Horse*

Illustrations and simple text describe the first year of a foal's life, from his birth one warm spring night, through lazy summer days, to the next spring, when he is old enough to be bridled like his mother.

GRAVETT, EMILY. *The Odd Egg.*

Duck is trying to hatch the oddest egg of all.

also: *Orange Pear Apple Bear*

GREY, MINI. *Traction Man Meets TurboDog*

Traction Man braves the evil bin things in order to save Scrubbing Brush, who had been thrown away by the little boy's father and replaced with a battery-operated dog.

GRIMES, NIKKI. *When Gorilla Goes Walking*

In this collection of rhyming poems, Gorilla the cat enjoys answering the telephone, eating soul food, and sharing mischievous adventures with her young owner.

GUTMAN, DAN. *Casey Back at Bat*

Where does a baseball go when it is hit out of the park?

HOBBERMAN, MARY ANN. *You Read To Me, I'll Read To You: Very Short Scary Stories to Read Together*

Contains poems presented in two voices for young children and adults to read together.

HOFFMAN, MARY. *Princess Grace*

Grace wants to participate in her community festival's princess float, but first she must decide what sort of a princess she wants to be -- from an African princess in kente cloth robes to a floaty pink fairy tale princess.

HUTCHINS, H. J. *A Second is a Hiccup: A Child's Book of Time*

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.

JEFFERS, OLIVER. *The Great Paper Caper*

When tree branches begin to disappear and paper airplanes are left in their place, the forest creatures carry out an investigation to find the culprit who has been stealing their homes.

JENKINS, EMILY. *Sugar Would Not Eat It*

When Leo adopts a cat, he names her Sugar and tries to feed her a piece of his birthday cake; but no matter what Leo does to try to make her eat it, the cat simply refuses.

JENKINS, STEVE. *Dogs and Cats*

When you have finished reading about dogs, you can flip the book over and read about cats!

also: *Living Color*

JOHNSON, ANGELA. *Lily Brown's Painting*

When Lily Brown paints, she imagines all sorts of fantastic things in the scenes that she sees every day.

KELLY, IRENE. *Even an Ostrich Needs a Nest: Where Birds Begin*

Illustrations and simple text introduce young readers to the different ways that birds build their nests. The author lives in Maplewood!

KIMMEL, ELIZABETH CODY. *Top Job*

On Career Day, a young girl entertains the class with a description of her father's exciting job as light bulb changer at the top of the Empire State Building.

KUDLINSKI, KATHLEEN. *Boy Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs!*

Examines what is known about dinosaurs and how different the facts often are from what scientists believed to be true.

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 knight.

LARSON, KIRBY. *Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival*

Tells the true story of Bobbie the dog and Bob Cat, two pets who bonded together and were able to survive the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

LOW, WILLIAM. *Old Penn Station*

An illustrated account of the construction, history, and demolition of one of the most famous railroad stations in America -- New York City's Penn Station.

MCCALL, BRUCE. *Marveltown*

Marveltown's adults are outstanding inventors, but when their best engineers create giant but stupid robots that threaten the town, it is the children's outrageous creations that save the day.

MCCLEMENTS, GEORGE. *Baron von Baddie and the Ice Ray Incident*

Baron von Baddie, having defeated his nemesis, Captain Kapow, discovers that it is not as much fun to create chaos and engage in bad behavior if no one tries to stop him.

MCPHAIL, DAVID. *Water Boy*

Fascinated by the fact that humans are made mostly of water, a boy develops an unusual relationship with it once he stops being afraid.

MICKELTHWAIT, LUCY. *I Spy Colors in Art*

See if you can find some famous paintings in this art book on color.

MORTENSON, GREG. *Listen to the Wind*

A children's book that tells the story of Dr. Greg Mortenson's promise to build a school in a remote Himalayan village after the villagers saved his life.

MYERS, CHRISTOPHER. *Jabberwocky*

The classic Lewis Carroll nonsense poem, with new illustrations.

NIVOLA, Clare A. *Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai*

A true story about how this Nobel peace prize winner changed the world one seed at a time.

OLDER, JULES. *Telling Time*

Humorous text explains the concept of time, from seconds to hours, on both analog and digital clocks, from years to millennia on the calendar.

O'MALLEY, KEVIN. *Captain Raptor and the Space Pirates*

Captain Raptor and the crew of the Megatooth are called back into action to save the planet Jurassica from rogue space pirates.

PALATINI, MARGIE. *Gorgonzola: A Very Stinkysaurus*

When Gorgonzola the dinosaur learns that everyone runs from him to avoid his smell, rather than out of fear, he is grateful to the little bird who shows him how to brush his teeth and wash.

also: *The Cheese*

PINTO, SARA. *Apples and Oranges: Going Bananas With Pairs*

Why is a bicycle like a motorcycle? The answers may surprise you.

PORTIS, ANTOINETTE. *Not a Stick*

An imaginative young pig shows some of the many things that a stick can be.

also: *Not a Box*

RACZKA, BOB. *Artful Reading*

An art adventures book.

RAYNER, CATHERINE. *Harris Finds His Feet*

Harris, a very small hare with very big feet, has an elderly Grandad who teaches him the many uses of big, strong feet and other important life lessons.

REIBSTEIN, MARK. *Wabi Sabi*

Text mainly in English, with some Japanese characters. Wabi Sabi, a cat living in the city of Kyoto, learns about the Japanese concept of beauty through simplicity as she asks various animals she meets about the meaning of her name.

ROCKWELL, ANNE. *Clouds*

Colorful illustrations and simple text introduce early readers to the different types of clouds--which includes cirrostratus, altocumulus, nimbostratus, and others--and describes how to recognize the different types of clouds and how to predict weather based on the clouds.

RODMAN, MARY ANN. *My Best Friend*

What happens when a first grader tries to be friends with a second grader?

ROOT, PHYLLIS. *Toot, Toot, Zoom*

Pierre, who lives alone at the foot of a mountain, hops in his car one day in search of a friend, and meets Goat, Sheep, and Bear along the way.

ROSENTHAL, AMY. *Spoon*

A small spoon, feeling rather envious of fork, knife, and chopsticks, gets a lot to think about when his mother reminds him of all the things he can do that they cannot.

also: *It's Not Fair! Duck! Rabbit! Yes Day Little Hoot*

SCOTTON, ROB. *Splat the Cat*

Splat the Cat is nervous about his first day at cat school, but once he arrives he realizes he had nothing to worry about.

SEDER, RUFUS BUTLER. *Gallop! A Scanimation Picture Book*

A first book of motion for kids, using Scanimation technology. The images really move!

SHELDON, DAVID. *Barnum Brown, Dinosaur Hunter*

Find out how a boy, who loves to explore, grows up to discover the first nearly complete T-Rex specimen.

TAVARES, MATT. *Mudball (a baseball story)*

During a rainy Minneapolis Millers baseball game in 1903, little Andy Oyler has the chance to become a hero by hitting the shortest and muddiest home run in history.

THOMPSON, LAUREN. *Ballerina Dreams*

The true story of five little girls with physical disabilities who are determined to become ballerinas.

THOMSON, SARAH L. *What Lincoln Said*

An illustrated biography of Abraham Lincoln that provides quotes from the president and examines his childhood, the Civil War, achievements, and more.

Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road?

Fourteen artists present their answers to this age-old question. This funny collection is by Mo Willems, Jerry Pinkney, Chris Raschka, David Shannon, and others.

ZEMACH, KAETHE. *Ms. McCaw Learns to Draw*

Dudley Ellington struggles to learn anything at school, but when his very patient teacher, Mrs. McGraw, is unable to draw a face on the board, he helps her figure out how to do it.

BOOKS IN A SERIES:

Here are some suggestions for series books for young readers:

Ivy and Bean series by Annie Barrows

Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures series by Jeff Brown

Mercy Watson series by Kate DiCamillo

Life size series (Life Size Reptiles / Life size killer creatures/ Live size Dragons)

My Father's Dragon series by Ruth Gannett

Andrew Lost series by J. C. Greenburg

Riddle books by Katy Hall

Just for You easy readers.

Miami series by P. & F. McKissack

Capital Mysteries series by Ron Roy

Dog and Bear series by Laura Seeger

Black Lagoon Adventures series by Mike Thaler

Willimena Rules series by Valerie Wilson Wesley

Elephant and Piggie series by Mo Willems.

Series about life in an African village by Ifeoma Onyefulu

Nibbles, bites, and chomps series

ADDITIONAL AUTHORS:

Here are some great authors & illustrators to explore for primary readers:

Marc Brown, Eric Carle, Beverly Cleary, Lauren Child, Andrew Clements, Joanna Cole, Floyd Cooper, Doreen Cronin, Tomie DePaola, Ezra Jack Keats, Steven Kellogg, E.B. Lewis, Leo Lionni, Pat McKissack, Susan Meddaugh, Robert Munsch, Margie Palatini, Dav Pilkey, Jerry Pinkney, Patricia Polacco, James Ransome, Cynthia Rylant, John Scieszka, Mark Teague, George Shannon, Rosemary Wells, Mo Willems, Harriet Ziefert