**2nd Grade**

* **Magic Tree House** series by Mary Pope Osborne
* **Stink** or **Judy Moody** series by Megan McDonald
* **Frog and Toad** series by Arnold Lobel
* **Henry and Mudge** series by Cynthia Rylant
* **Any leveled readers** (I Can Read, PYR, Scholastic, etc.)
* **Here’s Hank** series by Henry Winkler and Lin Oliver
* **Boris** series by Andrew Joyner
* **Ivy & Bean** series by Annie Barrows
* **A to Z Mysteries** series by Ron Roy
* **Kung Pow Chicken** series by Cyndi Marko

\*Any books that your child enjoys reading or listening to!

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Incoming Third Grade Summer Reading

Dear Parents,

Over the summer, I will expect that your child will READ, READ, READ, as much as possible. The required reading for incoming third graders is as follows:

First choose one of these books. All of these books are themed around friendship. After reading their chosen book, students should build a diorama depicting their favorite scene and they should write a paragraph about how the book (characters) show the traits of a good friend.

Friend or Fiend by Judy Bloom

The Year of the Book by Andrea Cheng

Calvin Coconut by Graham Salisbury

Ellray Jakes is not a Chicken by Sally Warner

Like Bug Juice on a Burger by Julie Sternberg

Justin Case: Shells, Smells, and the Horrible Flip-Flops of Doom by Rachel Vail

# The second book your child will need to read is:  **8 Class Pets + 1 Squirrel ÷ 1 Dog = Chaos Paperback by Vivian Vande Velde OR Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Stuart Little by Peggy Gifford**

Please have your child read one of these towards the end of summer as we will be working on it when they return from summer break.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Melissa Zeman

mzeman@evergreencountryday.org

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**Rising 4th Grade Summer Reading List**

**I recommend that you read at least 2 chapter books this summer. Please choose 1 from this list of classic novels, which is in order of reading levels ranging from 3rd to 5th grade. Please this 1 book from this list to school with you in August. We will begin the school year with a summer reading share, based on this list. Your second book can be any chapter book that you’d like to read. When you finish reading your book from this list, choose 1 project to share with your peers in August.**

SUMMER READING ACTIVITIES

* Create a diorama that demonstrates the setting of one book.
* Choose your favorite character and write a story about what it would be like to have this character as your best friend.
* Turn your book into a board game! Use the characters, plot, and setting to create a game that your friends can play.
* Create a PowerPoint or iMovie to show the book, think of it as a book preview. Share enough of the book to give your friends a good idea of what the book is about, but don’t spoil the ending. Think about a movie trailer and how it shows the story without giving away the main events.
* Other: Create a visual display of the book, make sure you highlight the characters, plot, and setting in a creative way. Your project idea may be different from the list above, and that is great! You can be the creator of this presentation!

***Ramona Quimby, Age 8*
by Beverly Cleary, Alan Tiegreen (illus.)**
Ramona feels quite grown-up taking the bus by herself, helping big sister Beezus make dinner, and trying hard to be nice to pesky Willa Jean after school. Turning eight years old and entering the third grade can do that to a girl. So how can her teacher call her a nuisance?

***How to Eat Fried Worms*
by Thomas Rockwell, Emily A. McCully (illus.)**
Billy makes a bet with his friends that he can eat 15 worms in 15 days. Even with a free choice of condiments -- from peanut butter to horseradish -- Billy wonders if he can really do it.

***Fudge-a-Mania*
by Judy Blume**
Peter Hatcher's summer is not looking good. First of all, Peter's brother, Fudge -- the five-year-old human hurricane -- has a plan: to marry Peter's sworn enemy, Sheila Tubman. Disgusting! Could anything be worse? Yes. Peter's parents have decided to rent a summer house next door to the Tubmans. Which means Peter will be stuck with Fudge and Sheila the Cootie Queen for three whole weeks! Will Peter be able to survive the summer? It may not be the vacation of Peter's dreams, but as millions of Judy Blume fans know, it won't be dull. When Fudge is around, anything can happen ... and does! Also recommended: *Superfudge* and *Otherwise Known As Sheila the Great.*

***The Indian in the Cupboard*
by Lynne Reid Banks, Brock Cole (illus.)**
The first book in this bestselling series begins with young Omri receiving an old family wooden medicine cupboard as a birthday gift. Given to him by his mother in order to house his plastic toy soldiers, the cupboard has a magical power: It can bring Omri's toys to life. When his toy Indian comes alive and befriends him, Omri finds himself involved in all kinds of adventure and excitement.

***The Cricket in Times Square***

***By George Selden***

Another classic, Newbery award-winning book that is still loved by kids today. Tucker, a New York City mouse, and his best friend Harry the cat welcome Chester Cricket to the big city from his home in the meadows of Connecticut. They befriend a young boy, Mario, and head out on a series of adventures. Sid recommends this book “to anybody who likes fantasy. It is a great and funny story” with “some heart-breaking moments, so be prepared.”

***The Mouse and the Motorcycle*
by Beverly Cleary, Louis Darling (illus.)**
Ralph the mouse is terrified. All he had wanted to do was ride the little motorcycle someone had left on the table. Instead, both Ralph and the motorcycle have taken a terrible fall -- right into the bottom of the wastepaper basket. He is trapped, left to wait for whatever fate has in store for him. But it turns out to be Ralph's lucky day. Along comes Keith, the owner of the toy motorcycle, who is staying with his family in the hotel room where Ralph lives. Not only does Keith save Ralph's life, but he teaches him how to ride the bike. And when everyone is asleep, he turns Ralph loose in the hotel halls to enjoy the biking adventure of his life. But adventures can be both fun and trouble...as Ralph and Keith soon find out!

***Dear Mr. Henshaw*
by Beverly Cleary, Paul O. Zelinsky (illus.)**
When fourth grader Leigh Botts asks Mr. Henshaw to write to him personally, he gets more than he bargained for. Mr. Henshaw's letters are full of questions, and Leigh is getting tired of answering them. But as he continues his correspondence with his favorite author, he not only gets plenty of tips on writing, but he also finds a wise and thoughtful friend to whom he can tell his troubles.

***Matilda*
by Roald Dahl, Quentin Blake (illus.)**
Matilda Wormwood started reading books at the age of four, but her crooked father and bingo-playing mother regard book reading as a waste of time -- and much prefer watching TV. In fact, they take no notice of their genius daughter at all! Only Miss Honey, Matilda's lovely and gentle teacher, recognizes her special gifts. Yet Miss Honey has problems of her own: Her aunt is the tyrannical Miss Trunchbull, an evil headmistress who bullies children and parents alike -- and has taken Miss Honey's house and money. Can Matilda use her extraordinary talents to seek revenge -- and make all of the wrong-doing grown-ups pay? Also recommended: *James and the Giant Peach.*

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**MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST**

Choose one book from each list OR two books from the top list. Books are leveled based on age appropriateness, likely interest, and reader maturity. It is encouraged that you choose books that challenge you, however you are free to choose any book that interests you. Books are leveled on a 5-8 scale where 5 indicates *incoming* Fifth Graders.

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**Choose at least one book from this required reading list:**

***A Long Way Home* by Saroo Brierley, Larry Buttrose (ghostwriter) (grades 7-8) NONFICTION, MEMOIR**

Saroo had become lost on a train in India at the age of five. Not knowing the name of his family or where he was from, he survived for weeks on the streets of Kolkata, before being taken into an orphanage and adopted by a couple in Australia. Saroo spends years searching for his hometown on Google Earth, and eventually, miraculously, finds it. Saroo embarks on an incredible adventure to locate his lost family after many years of separation.

***Runs with Courage* by Joan M. Wolf (grades 5-8) Historical Fiction**

Ten-year-old Four Winds is a young Lakota girl caught up in the changes brought about by her people's forced move to the reservation. Four Winds is taken from her family and placed in a boarding school who’s intent it is to teach her English and assimilate her into white culture. On the Reservation, she had to fight starvation, now she must fight to maintain the core of her identity. Set in the Dakota Territory, it is the year 1880. Four Winds has been taken away from her family and brought to a boarding school run by whites. It is here she is taught English and learns how to assimilate into white culture. But soon she discovers that the teachers at this school are not interested in assimilation but rather in erasing her culture. On the reservation, Four Winds had to fight against starvation. Now she must fight to hold on to who she is.Set in the Dakota Territory, it is the year 1880. Four Winds has been taken away from her family and brought to a boarding school run by whites. It is here she is taught English and learns how to assimilate into white culture. But soon she discovers that the teachers at this school are not interested in assimilation but rather in erasing her culture. On the reservation, Four Winds had to fight against starvation. Now she must fight to hold on to who she is.On the reservation, Four Winds had to fight against starvation. Now she must fight to hold on to who she is.On the reservation, Four Winds had to fight against starvation. Now she must fight to hold on to who she is. On the reservation, Four Winds had to fight against starvation. Now she must fight to hold on to who she is.

***The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates* by Wes Moore (grades 6-8) NONFICTION, MEMOIR**

Two kids with the same name lived in the same decaying city. One went on to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated combat veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader. The other is serving a life sentence in prison. Here is the story of two boys and the journey of a generation.

***Sylvia and Aki* by Winifred Conkling (grades 5-6) HISTORICAL FICTION**

Sylvia and Aki never expected to know each other, until their lives intersected on a Southern California farm in a way that changed the country forever. Why did their family stories matter then and still matter today? This book reveals the remarkable, never-before-told story-based on true events-of Mendez vs. Westminster School District, the California court case that desegregated schools for Latino children and set the stage for Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education at the national level.

***Helen Keller: The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller *(grades 6-8)* AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

Keller provides a moving description of her struggle to move beyond the limitations of her blindness and deafness to become one of the most gifted and inspiring writers and thinkers of our time.

***The Hiding Place* by Corrie TenBoom (grades 5-8) AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

This is the true story of a Dutch family who risk everything to hide a Jewish family from the Nazis in World War II.

***Hold Fast* by Blue Baillett** **(grades 6-8) REALISTIC FICTION, MYSTERY**

When eleven-year-old Early’s father mysteriously disappears, the family is forced to live in a shelter. Early takes action to find her father and to campaign for decent housing for all the city’s homeless families.

***Home of the Brave* by Katherine Applegate** **(grades 5-8) REALISTIC FICTION**

This story celebrates the amazing resilience and gratitude of a boy who has fled the violence of his African homeland for a better life in America.

***How to Steal a Dog* by Barbara O’Connor** **(grades 5-6) REALISTIC FICTION**

A homeless child makes a desperate attempt to “earn” money for a real home.

***I Am Malala:******How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition)* by Malala Yousafzai (grades 6-8) AUTOBIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR**

This is the teenaged Nobel Peace Prize winner’s account of her attempts to stand up to the Taliban in order to defend the right of all children to pursue an education regardless of gender or culture.

***The Jacket* by Andrew Clements (grades 5-6) REALISTIC FICTION**

When a sixth-grader makes a false assumption about a classmate based on the boy’s race, he learns the danger and hurtfulness of stereotyping and prejudice.

***La Linea* by Ann Jaramillo (grades 6-8) REALISTIC FICTION**

When fifteen-year-old Miguel's time finally comes to leave his poor Mexican village, cross the border illegally, and join his parents in California, his younger sister's determination to join him soon imperils them both.

***The Language of Goldfish* by Zibby Oneal (grades 6-8) REALISTIC FICTION**

This novel probes the interior life of a talented artist/mathematician who struggles with serious mental health issues.

***Mockingbird* by Kathryn Erskine (grades 6-8) REALISTIC FICTION**

A National Book Award winner, this novel explores the interior world of a girl with Asperger’s Syndrome as she struggles to make sense of the shooting death of her older brother.

***Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse (grades 5-7) HISTORICAL FICTION, POETRY**

This dramatic free-verse presentation of the hardships of a Depression-era teen speaks to the current financial and emotional crises faced by many families in poverty.

***Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper (grades 5-6) REALISTIC FICTION**

Because Melody can’t walk or speak, many dismiss her as both mentally and physically disabled. The author takes us inside the mind of this brilliant, sensitive, and courageous girl who eventually wins the admiration of her peers and the heart of any reader.

***Probably Still Nick Swanson* by Virginia Euwer Wolff (grades 6-8) REALISTIC FICTION**

Nick tries to navigate the world of adolescence as a sensitive special education student who is not only seeking peer acceptance but also still coming to grips with the death of his sister.

***Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman (grades 5-7) REALISTIC FICTION**

Neighbors of all ages and ethnicities come together to transform a garbage-strewn empty lot into a productive community garden.

***Sounder* by William H. Armstrong (grades 5-7) REALISTIC FICTION, ANIMAL FICTION**

A perennial favorite, the story is not only a classic story of the bond between a boy and his dog but a window into the challenges of poverty and racism faced by an African American family in the nineteenth century South.

***The Star Fisher* by Laurence Yep (grades 5-7) REALISTIC FICTION**

Based on the childhood experience of the author’s mother, the book shows how a Chinese American family taps their family love, resilience, and humor to manage the tough transition to a new life in a prejudiced West Virginia town.

***Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World* by Sy Montgomery (grades 5-8) BIOGRAPHY**

Temple’s close relationship with animals helps the autistic young woman to understand herself and relate to other people.

***The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis (grades 6-8) HISTORICAL FICTION**

An African American family’s trip to Alabama in 1963 proves to be a heart-breaking and eye-opening experience.

***Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World* by Rachel Ignotofsky (grades 5-8) BIOGRAPHY**

Read about the work of fifty amazing women scientists including Katherine Johnson of *Hidden Figures*  and Jane Goodall, the world’s foremost expert on chimpanzees.

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**Choose one book (unless you chose two from the list above) from this recommended reading list:**

***Faith, Hope, and Ivy June* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (grades 5-6)—REALISTIC FICTION**

Ivy June lives in an impoverished small town in the mountains of Kentucky. Just an hour’s drive away, Catherine is living a well-to-do lifestyle in suburban Lexington. When the girls are chosen for a unique school exchange program, both girls wonder if they will be able to adjust to a radically different way of life. Will the girls be able to see past their differences and become friends?

***The Acorn People* by Ron Jones (grades 5-7) REALISTIC FICTION**

As a counselor at a summer camp for children with disabilities, Jones comes to learn the meaning of resilience, courage, and empathy.

***Refugee* by Alan Grantz (grades 5-8) HISTORICAL FICTION**

One mission in common: ESCAPE. *Refugee* tells the story of three young people, in three different settings and time periods embarking on harrowing journeys in search of safety.

***Red Berries, White Clouds, Blue Sky* by Sandra Dallas (grades 5-8) HISTORICAL FICTION**

It's 1942: Tomi Itano, 12, is a second-generation Japanese American who lives in California with her family on their strawberry farm. Although her parents came from Japan and her grandparents still live there, Tomi considers herself an American. She doesn't speak Japanese and has never been to Japan. But after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, things change.

***The Only Road* by Alexandra Diaz (grades 6-7) REALISTIC FICTION**

Twelve-year-old Jaime is sitting on his bed drawing when he hears a scream. Instantly, he knows: Miguel, his cousin and best friend, is dead. Everyone in Jaime’s small town in Guatemala knows someone who has been killed by the Alphas, a powerful gang that’s known for violence and drug trafficking. Anyone who refuses to work for them is hurt or killed—like Miguel. With Miguel gone, Jaime fears that he is next. There’s only one choice: accompanied by his cousin Ángela, Jaime must flee his home to live with his older brother in New Mexico.

***One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia (grades 5-6) HISTORICAL/REALISTIC FICTION**

In the summer of 1968, after travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

***The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis (grades 5-7) REALISTIC FICTION**

Young Parvana lives with her family under Taliban rule in one room of a bombed-out apartment building in Kabul, Afghanistan. When her father is arrested, her family searches for a new way to survive in dire conditions.

***Lily and Dunkin* by Donna Gephart (grades 6-8) REALISTIC FICTION**

Lily Jo McGrother, born Timothy McGrother, is a girl. But being a girl is not so easy when you look like a boy. Especially when you’re in the eighth grade. Dunkin Dorfman, birth name Norbert Dorfman, is dealing with bipolar disorder and has just moved from the New Jersey town he’s called home for the past thirteen years. This would be hard enough, but the fact that he is also hiding from a painful secret makes it even worse. One summer morning, Lily Jo McGrother meets Dunkin Dorfman, and their lives forever change.

***Dodger* by Terry Pratchett(grades 5-7)** –**HISTORICAL FICTION, MYSTERY**

In an alternative version of Dickens’ Victorian London, Dodger, a bold street kid, unexpectedly rises in life when he saves a mysterious girl, meets the famous author, and unintentionally puts a stop to a famous murder. Printz Honor Award 2013.

***Absolutely Almost* by Lisa Graff** **(grades 5-7) REALISTIC FICTION**

Albie may have academic challenges, but he is, as his mother says, the kindest, most thoughtful boy ever. See how Albie discovers the meaning of real friendship and develops an appreciation of his own self-worth.

***Almost Home* by Joan Bauer** **(grades 5-6) REALISTIC FICTION**

When her parents can no longer provide for her, Sugar ends up in a foster home. She pulls through with the love of her mother, a kindly foster parent, and a rescue puppy.

***Buddha Boy* by Kathe Koja (grades 6-8) REALISTIC FICTION**

When they work together on a school project, Justin discovers that the unusual new student, whom the school bullies cruelly call “Buddha Boy,” is really a sensitive and talented artist. But when peer pressure rises, whose side will Justin take?

***The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman*** **(grades 6-7)** **FANTASY**

Toddler Bod, short for Nobody, crawls into a graveyard after his family is brutally murdered. He is then raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen by the graveyard’s ghosts and otherworldly creatures. Newbery Award 2009.

***I Want to Grow Hair, I Want to Grow Up, I Want to Go to Boise: Children Surviving Cancer* by Erma Bombeck (grades 5-7) HUMOR, AUTOBIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR**

With wit, wisdom, joy, and empathy, Bombeck presents the hopes, wishes, and dreams of young cancer patients.

***The Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O’Dell (grades 5-7) ADVENTURE**

A young girl who has been abandoned on a deserted island must depend on her resourcefulness and courage for her very survival.

***A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness (grades 5-7)** **FICTION, FANTASY**

Troubled by the recurring nightmare that started with his mother’s cancer treatments, twelve-year-old Conor is shocked by a monster in the form of a giant yew tree that appears at his window-- a monster who has three stories to tell and who wants “the truth” from Conor. Andrew Carnegie Medal.

***My Life with the Chimpanzees* by Jane Goodall (grades 5-7) AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

Goodall recounts her many years studying and befriending the chimps of Africa.

***The Odyssey: A Graphic Novel* by Gareth Hinds (grades 6-8)** **GRAPHIC NOVEL, MYTHOLOGY**

Homer's epic tale of Odysseus, the ancient Greek hero who encounters witches and other obstacles on his journey home after fighting in the Trojan War, is retold in graphic novel format.

***A Summer to Die* by Lois Lowry (grades 6-8) REALISTIC FICTION**

What begins as a story of sibling rivalry is transformed into a story of empathy and understanding when one sister becomes seriously ill.

***Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson (grades 6-8) ADVENTURE, CLASSIC**

A resourceful band of young friends, a one-legged pirate, a story of gold and greed: this classic tale of adventure has it all.

***20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*** **by Jules Verne** **(grades 7-8) SCIENCE FICTION, CLASSIC**

This is anineteenth-century science fiction tale of an electric submarine, its eccentric

captain, and an undersea world.

***Where the Red Ferns Grows* by Wilson Rawls (grades 6-8) ANIMAL FICTION, CLASSIC**

This novel about a boy and his two hunting dogs has been called one of the most powerful (and certainly one of the most popular) stories of the empathic bond between humans and animals.

***A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L’Engle (grades 5-7) FANTASY, ADVENTURE**

Meg's father had been experimenting with this fifth dimension of time travel when he mysteriously disappeared. Can Meg and her friends rescue him? Can they use their resourcefulness and courage to make the long journey into space?