

## Thacher Montessori 2009 Summer Reading List Lower Elementary

Please read a least five books this summer. Below is a list of titles at the Lower Elementary reading level that you might enjoy. Feel free to choose other age appropriate books as well.

One Grain of Rice: A Mathematical Folktale by Demi

This is the story of Rani, a clever girl who outsmarts a very selfish raja and saves her village because of her understanding of math.

Listen to the Wind: The Story of Dr. Greg & Three Cups of Tea

By Greg Mortenson and Susan L. Roth

This is the story of Greg Mortenson's first project in Pakistan, building a school for the children of the village of Korphe. Beautifully illustrated with colorful collage art.

Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman by Alan Schroeder

Young Harriet Tubman, whose childhood name was Minty, dreams of escaping slavery on the Brodas plantation in the late 1820's.

The Mary Celeste by Jane Yolen

An unsolved mystery from history. A young girl relates the facts that are known about the unexplained disappearance of the crew on the ship *Mary Celeste* in 1872, and challenges the reader to solve the mystery.

Snow Treasure by Marie McSwigan

An exciting, suspenseful tale of a group of Norwegian children and their contributions to protecting their town's gold during the German occupation in 1940.

Babe and Me by Dan Gutman

Part of the Baseball Card Adventure Series. A boy and his father zip back in time to discover whether Babe Ruth actually predicted his home run in Game Three of the 1932 World Series.

Mercy Watson to the Rescue by Kate DiCamillo

Simple to read, hilarious story about Mercy, a pet pig who is accidentally heroic on her way to get her favorite hot buttered toast.

The Magic Gourd by Baba Wague Diakite

When a hungry Rabbit rescues Brother Chameleon from a thorny bush, Chameleon repays him tenfold with a magical gourd that always stays filled with food and water. But soon a greedy king steals the gourd to make gold and food for himself. Clever Rabbit is able to teach the king the importance of generosity and friendship. Exciting illustrations in bright colors practically dance off of the pages.

Little House in the Big Woods by Laura Ingalls Wilder

This first book of a classic series is full of the thrills, chills, and spills typically associated with “boy” books. Any child who has fantasized about running off to live in the woods will find ample information in these pages to manage a Wisconsin snowstorm, a panther attack, or a wild sled ride with a pig as an uninvited guest. Not for girls only!!

Tippy Lemmy by Patricia McKissack

Tippy Lemmy is no ordinary dog; he’s a living breathing monster! When three friends ride their bikes, Tippy chases them, snapping at their heels. There’s no getting away from him, and even their best plans fail. Then Tippy does something totally unexpected, and the children realize that maybe he’s not their enemy after all.

Song of the Waterboatman and Other Pond Poems by Joyce Sidman

From spring’s first thaw to autumn’s chill, the world of the pond is a dramatic place. A unique blend of whimsy, science, poetry, and hand-colored woodcuts, this collection invites us to take a closer look at our hidden ponds and wetlands. Here is a celebration of their beauty and their mystery. (Caldecott Honor)

When Marian Sang by Pam Munoz Ryan

An introduction to the life of Marian Anderson, extraordinary singer and civil rights activist, who was the first African American to perform at the Metropolitan Opera, and whose life and career encouraged social change. A moving story with engaging illustrations.

The White Elephant by Sid Fleischman

When young elephant keeper Run-Run accidentally angers a prince, his punishment is to care for a rare white elephant—who is not allowed to work at all. Set in ancient Siam.

Ramona Quimby, Age 8 by Beverly Cleary

Ramona feels quite grown up taking the bus by herself, helping her sister Beezus make dinner, and trying hard to be nice to pesky Wilma Jean after school. Turning eight years old and entering third grade can do that to a child. So how can her teacher call her a nuisance? (Newbery Honor)

Judy Moody Was in A Mood by Megan McDonald

First book in a popular series about Judy Moody and her younger brother, Stink. Everyday challenges are met with humor and appeal by these children.

Frindle by Andrew Clements

A much enjoyed tale of about the power of words. Trying to annoy his language arts teacher, a boy invents a new word for pen—"frindle." How far will this new word spread?

Mr. Popper's Penguins by Richard and Florence Atwater

Originally published in 1938. The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortune of Mr. Popper, a house painter obsessed by dreams of the Polar regions. (Newbery Honor)

### **Popular series for early independent readers:**

*Magic Tree House* by Mary Pope Osborne

Jack and his sister Annie travel to other places and times in a magic tree house. Ms. Osborne has just published book #40, Eve of the Emperor Penguin.

*A to Z Mysteries* by Ron Roy

Three friends, Dink, Josh and Ruby Rose, solve one mystery for each letter of the alphabet, from The Absent Author to The Zombie Zone.

*The Secrets of Droon* by Tony Abbott

Eric, Julie and Neil enter the land of Droon through a secret door that appears in Eric's basement. There they meet many fantastic creatures and help save Princess Keeah.

## **For emerging readers**

There is a Bird on Your Head (2008 Theodore Seuss Geisel Award)  
by Mo Willems

An elephant and pig help each other through troubling situations, with hilarious results. The simple illustrations evoke humor and emotions masterfully. Great for reluctant early readers. Other titles in the Elephant and Piggie series include My Friend is Sad, I'm Invited to a Party, and Today I Will Fly.

Frog and Toad are Friends by Arnold Lobel

Arnold Lobel's comfortable brown and green illustrations invite and delight every reader, setting the tone for warm, funny stories about friendship. If you need even more of Frog and Toad, don't miss Frog and Toad Together, Frog and Toad All Year, and Days with Frog and Toad.

Little Bear by Else Homelund Minarik

Minarik and Maurice Sendak teamed up to create these simple stories that are deeply comforting and lovingly playful. Follow up with A Kiss For Little Bear, Father Bear Comes Home, and Little Bear's Visit.

Henry and Mudge The First Book by Cynthia Rylant

This is the first book in the acclaimed easy-to-read series featuring Henry and his lovable 180-pound dog, Mudge. The deep friendship between Henry and his dog is evident throughout their amusing adventures. Many other titles are also available in this series.

### **Other recommended authors:**

Avi, Eva Ibbotson, Patricia Polacco, Paula Danziger, Roald Dahl, Patricia Reilly Giff, Gertrude Chandler Warner, Edward Eager, E. B. White, Mary Pope Osborne, and Judy Blume.