



**STRATFORD
SCHOOL**

Summer Reading Suggestions by Grade Level 2019

Elementary School

Entering Kindergarten

***Rhyme Crime* by: Jon Burgerman**

Children are often read stories about the good guy coming out on top. Here is a story that gives even “bad guys” their day in the spotlight. Meet the sneaky thief that can’t seem to keep his hands off other people’s things. Every time he snatches something, he replaces it with a rhyme. As long as the thief continues to rhyme, he escapes capture! This will be a sure hit with young children and a fun way to practice different ending sounds.

***Mixed: A Colorful Story* Written and Illustrated by Arree Chung**

This masterfully written children’s book is illustrated with powerful metaphors for social justice that are easily relatable to our youngest readers. With a very simple plot, the author makes it fun, accessible, and easy to understand. The bravery of two main characters to defy their community’s segregation by color (red, blue, and yellow), results not only in the creation of a new color, green, but transforms their town into something amazing. A great way for children to learn about colors while getting an introduction to inclusion and diversity.

***Juno Valentine and the Magical Shoes* written by Eva Chen, Illustrated by Derek Desierto**

A beautifully illustrated picture book about Juno’s epic journey through time and space, stepping into the shoes of women role models from Cleopatra to Frida Kahlo to Serena Williams. Each pair of shoes Juno tries on brings a new adventure and a step towards knowing that her very own shoes are the best ones for her. Readers will be introduced to fourteen groundbreaking women just enough to peak their interests, inspiring them to visit a library with their parents and do more research on their favorite heroines in the story.

***What do You do With a Problem* by Kobi Yamada**

Want to teach your kids life-long lessons? Then this is the book. All too often we get bogged down with problems to the point that we fail to see opportunities right in front of us. This book tackles that attitude in fun way that kids will love and can understand. The premise of the book is simple yet powerful: instead of seeing problems as thorns in your side see them as opportunities - opportunities to learn and grow. And be happy.

Entering First Grade

***Meet Yasmin!* Written by Saadiya Faruqi and Illustrated by Hatem Aly**

Yasmin Ahmad is a spirited second-grader who's always on the lookout for those "aha" moments to help her solve life's little problems. Taking inspiration from her surroundings and her big imagination, she boldly faces any situation, assuming her imagination doesn't get too big, of course! A creative thinker and curious explorer, Yasmin and her multi-generational Pakistani American family will delight and inspire readers.

***Key Hunters (series)* by: Eric Luper**

Two secret agents must embark on thrilling adventures in seek of a special key. In doing so, they must enter an enchanted library and travel through a collection of dangerous books in order to complete their mission. The mysteries that unfold will keep eager readers glued to the pages of this book!

***Stick Dog / Stick Cat (series)* by: Tom Watson**

This series is sure to please any animal lover with a sense of humor. Follow Stick Dog and Stick Cat along with a bunch of their rowdy friends on hilarious adventures that will surely involve food! Don't forget to pack a snack along for this jovial ride!

***The Kingdom of Wrenly series* by Jordan Quinn**

The Kingdom of Wrenly series is a wonderful story kids will enjoy. Embodying a wonderful storyline and packed full of adventure kids will be hooked from the start wanting to read on and on until they have devoured the entire series. Kids can follow Lucas and Clara, the young, main characters, as they explore the Kingdom of Wrenly.

Entering Second Grade

***I Survived (series)* by: Lauren Tarshis**

Famous historical events and popular topics come to life in this inspiring series! Young people in the midst of incredible disasters must demonstrate resilience and strength in order to defy all odds of surviving. These sensational tales will be a sure hit with young survivalist or aspiring historian!

***Bad Kitty* by Nick Bruel**

School is out and summer begins! Time do some fun reading with Nick Bruel's Bad Kitty. Your children will absolutely love the imaginative pictures of this book. In this story a good kitty turns

bad then back to good again. Cats can get grumpy when they don't get the food they want. After running out of cat food the family tries to feed their cat healthy foods such as vegetables. Well this cat is having none of that.

I am Jane Goodal - Ordinary People Change the World (series) written by Brad Meltzer

This series was written for the author's own children so that they could understand that the power to change the world is within them. The heroes are depicted as children throughout, telling their life stories in first-person present tense, which keeps the books playful and understandable to young children. This book has more than just the story of how Jane met the chimpanzees and changed the way scientists think about animals. It starts with her love of wildlife as a very young child. It will inspire any reader to believe that they too can overcome their fears and make a difference. This book has a beautiful message to children about accomplishing your dreams by being patient, working hard and knowing that each of us has an impact on the world.

Entering Third Grade

The Code Busters Club (series) by: Penny Warner

Four code-loving fanatics join forces to crack mind-boggling mysteries involving spies, rare Egyptian artifacts, haunted lighthouses, and much more! Finding the missing key isn't the only thing solving these puzzles. The code busters discover that friends are the most valuable key and can be as different as the symbols they solve. These exciting interactive adventures will bring out the true code buster in any young reader eager to learn and decipher more than fifteen codes.

Twintuition (series) by: Tia & Tamara Mowry

These twins have the power to see the future! Cassie and Caitlyn both have a special gift but it doesn't always make life easier. When the girls start seeing trouble ahead, they realize their powers may not be enough to save the day. The twins will have to put their heads together and work as a team. This series illustrates the special bond shared between sisters even if they don't always see things alike!

Vet Volunteers (series) by : Laurie Halse Anderson

Animal lovers and mystery fanatics are in for a real treat with this animal-themed mystery series jammed packed with adventure and excitement! There is never a dull moment at the vet clinic for volunteers busy at work with cats, dogs, birds, and even horses. Every story involves a plot riddled with humor and suspense as our vet volunteers work to save animals in need.

Shark Wars (series) by: EJ Altbacker

Imagine an underwater world ruled by a prehistoric shark clan since the beginning of time. Existence has always been peaceful until rising sea temperatures and overfishing threatens the order of the clan. A young reef shark, Gray, is driven out to the Open Water to restore the

peace and uncover the legend of his family heritage. This fun series will keep your child reading all summer!

Spirit Animals (series) by various authors

This series has gained a following among young readers. The story is set in the fantasy world of Erdas, and during a time when skill with a sword and hand to hand combat were valued. Horses are once again important as the cavalry is the powerhouse of the battlefield. Four kids go through a ritual and learn they can each call forth a spirit animal. Each book is written by a different author one you'll probably recognize: Brandon Mull anyone? Besides that, each book contains a code which can be used to play the online game.

Entering Fourth Grade

The One and Only Ivan written by Katherine Applegate

This book won the 2013 Newberry Award. Ivan is an easygoing gorilla. Living at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade, he has grown accustomed to humans watching him through the glass walls of his domain. He rarely misses his life in the jungle. In fact, he hardly ever thinks about it at all. Instead, Ivan thinks about TV shows he's seen and about his friends Stella, an elderly elephant, and Bob, a stray dog. But mostly Ivan thinks about art and how to capture the taste of a mango or the sound of leaves with color and a well-placed line. Then he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from her family, and she makes Ivan see their home--and his own art--through new eyes. When Ruby arrives, change comes with her, and it's up to Ivan to make it a change for the better. Katherine Applegate blends humor and poignancy to create Ivan's unforgettable first-person narration in a story of friendship, art, and hope.

Zita The Spacegirl (series) by Ben Hatke

A headstrong, imperfect heroine finds herself in a galaxy far, far away. Zita requires the help of new friends that she meets along the way to save her best friend from home. While Zita always wants to do the right thing, she can sometimes be afraid. Her true heart and courage come out at the end. This whimsical graphic novel is brilliantly illustrated and fast-paced. Children will be inspired to read the whole series.

The Last Kids on Earth (series) by: Max Brallier

This is the series for any reader looking for humor, illustrations, and zombie apocalyptic! Jack Sullivan, thirteen year old monster apocalypse survivor, has been living on his own in his treehouse ever since that fateful event. Armed with all the necessities to survive; video games and junk food, Jack must round up a team of friends to battle the monster and prove once and for all that they are average no longer!

The Bad Beginning: A Series of Unfortunate Events Book One (series) by Lemony Snicket

Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire are intelligent children. They are charming, and resourceful, and have pleasant facial features. Unfortunately, they are exceptionally unlucky. In the first two books alone, the three youngsters encounter a greedy and repulsive villain, itchy clothing, a disastrous fire, a plot to steal their fortune, a lumpy bed, a deadly serpent, a large brass reading lamp, a long knife, and a terrible

odor. In the tradition of great storytellers, from Dickens to Dahl, comes an exquisitely dark comedy that is both literary and irreverent, hilarious and deftly crafted. Never before has a tale of three likeable and unfortunate children been quite so enchanting, or quite so uproariously unhappy. Once your children have read the books you can watch the series on Netflix together.

Entering Fifth Grade

Aruh Shah and the End of Time (series) written by Roshani Chokshi

Best-selling author Rick Riordan introduces this adventure by Roshani Chokshi about twelve-year-old Aru Shah, who has a tendency to stretch the truth in order to fit in at school. While her classmates are jetting off to family vacations in exotic locales, she'll be spending her autumn break at home, in the Museum of Ancient Indian Art and Culture, waiting for her mom to return from her latest archeological trip. Is it any wonder that Aru makes up stories about being royalty, traveling to Paris, and having a chauffeur? Witty humor and fast paced fun keep readers content through the Kingdom of Death in this fantasy rooted in Hindu mythology.

Ms Bixby's Last Day by John David Andersen

This heart-warming book will have you in tears in the end. You'll learn lessons that will stick with you for the rest of your life. You see there are teachers then there are those special ones that you never forget. You take their lessons with you buried deep in your heart, and you never forget. Follow a group of kids as they go through school and learn from one of the greats: Ms Bixby. You know who she is.

Entering Any Middle School Grade

What if? : Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions by Randall Munroe

From the creator of the wildly popular webcomic xkcd, hilarious and informative answers to important questions you probably never thought to ask. His responses are masterpieces of clarity and wit, gleefully and accurately explaining everything from the relativistic effects of a baseball pitched at near the speed of light to the many horrible ways you could die while building a periodic table out of all the actual elements. The book features new and never-before-answered questions, along with the most popular answers from the xkcd website. What If? is an informative feast for xkcd fans and anyone who loves to ponder the hypothetical.

The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Newberry Honor Winner. An exceptionally moving story of triumph against all odds set during World War 2, from the acclaimed author of Jefferson's Sons and for fans of Number the Stars. Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute--she sneaks out to join him. So begins a new adventure of Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan--and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie. But in the end, will their bond be enough

to hold them together through wartime? Or will Ada and her brother fall back into the cruel hands of their mother?

Ghost - Track, Book 1 (series) by Jason Reynolds

A National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature. Ghost wants to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school track team, but his past is slowing him down in this first electrifying novel of a brand-new series from Coretta Scott King/John Award-winning author Jason Reynolds. Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team—a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves.

The Wild Robot written by Peter Brown

Wall-E meets *Hatchet* in this new middle-grade novel from New York Times bestselling author Peter Brown. When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island. Why is she there? Where did she come from? And, most important, how will she survive in her harsh surroundings? Roz's only hope is to learn from the island's hostile animal inhabitants. When she tries to care for an orphaned gosling, the other animals finally decide to help, and the island starts to feel like home. Until one day, the robot's mysterious past comes back to haunt her. Heartwarming and full of action, Peter Brown's middle-grade debut raises thought-provoking questions about the environment, the role technology plays in our world, and what it means to be alive.

The Wishing Spell - Land of Stories Book One (series) written by Chris Colfer

The first book in Chris Colfer's #1 New York Times bestselling series *The Land of Stories* about two siblings who fall into a fairy-tale world! Alex and Conner Bailey's world is about to change, in this fast-paced adventure that uniquely combines our modern day world with the enchanting realm of classic fairy tales. *The Land of Stories* tells the tale of twins Alex and Conner. Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, they leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with fairy tale characters they grew up reading about. After a series of encounters with witches, wolves, goblins, and trolls alike, getting back home is going to be harder than they thought.

Misfits - Royal Academy Rebels, Book 1 (series) written by Jen Calonita

In Enchantasia, becoming a legendary prince or princess doesn't happen overnight. Enter Royal Academy, the training ground for the fairy tale leaders of tomorrow! But Devin has major reservations about her new school and her royal future. How can she be a princess and the best creature caretaker Enchantasia has ever seen? It doesn't help that there's something seriously weird about RA's headmistress. Olivina seems obsessed with preparing students for possible attacks from villains ("A royal can't rule when they're stuck in a tower!") Devin gets that being

Snow White and Rapunzel's fairy godmother has probably made Olivina pretty paranoid, but anytime someone steps a toe out of line, Olivina becomes more of a fairy nightmare than a fairy godmother. Something isn't right with this lady, and Devin is determined to find out what. But what Devin discovers could change the fairy tale world forever...

Shadow and Bone (series) by Leigh Bardugo

Surrounded by enemies, the once-great nation of Ravka has been torn in two by the Shadow Fold, a swath of near impenetrable darkness crawling with monsters who feast on human flesh. Now its fate may rest on the shoulders of one lonely refugee. Alina Starkov has never been good at anything. But when her regiment is attacked on the Fold and her best friend is brutally injured, Alina reveals a dormant power that saves his life--a power that could be the key to setting her war-ravaged country free. Wrenched from everything she knows, Alina is whisked away to the royal court to be trained as a member of the Grisha, the magical elite led by the mysterious Darkling. This series is set to become a Netflix show soon. Read the books, then watch the show together.