



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST



PHASE 1: START UP

***We Came to America* by Faith Ringgold**

Written by Faith Ringgold and illustrated in her signature style, this timely book reminds us that unless we are Native American, all of our family lines began elsewhere. We are grafted into the dream of this country. Each of us yearns for the fruits of education, opportunity, upward mobility, and religious freedom.

***Blizzard* by John Rocco**

When a huge blizzard traps the neighbors in their homes for a week, one brave boy uses his knowledge of survival to embark on a memorable adventure to help them all.

***Finding Winnie* by Lindsay Mattick**

Join Cole and his mom for a cozy bedtime story within a story about Captain Harry Coleburn and his adopted bear cub in 1914. Just who is this special bear?

***A Dance Like Starlight* by Kristy Dempsey & Floyd Cooper**

Follow this inspirational story of one young girl's dream as she watches Janet Collins, the first African American prima ballerina, perform in the spotlight on center stage at the Met in the 1950s.

***Hippopotamister* by John Patrick Green**

Poor Hippo. His zoo is falling apart and no one comes to visit. Will venturing out into the world to get a job find him happiness?

***Mango, Abuela, and Me* by Meg Medina**

When Mia's Abuela comes to live with her, they are unable to communicate. A trip to a pet store introduces them to a feathery friend who will soon change their lives.

***My Pet Human* by Yasmine Surovec**

Stray cat Oliver loves his nomadic life and doesn't need a "forever home" – or so he thinks! When he meets a little human and begins to trust her, he may not be able to return to his cat-about-town lifestyle.

***Tales of Bunjitsu Bunny* by John Himmelman**

The inspiring Isabel is the best bunjitsu artist in her school. She's not only skilled in punching and kicking, but also outsmarting and out-manuevering even the toughest foes.

Byron Barton books

From trucks and buses to dinosaurs and astronauts, Barton has been creating engaging stories for the youngest learners for 45 years.

***Penny Series* by Kevin Henkes**

Penny is an energetic young mouse with a song she just can't wait to sing.

Sofia Martinez Series by Jacqueline Jules

Growing up in a big family, 7-year-old Sofia Martinez is used to fighting for attention. Her outgoing personality mixed with her confidence and fiery passion for everything she does gets her that attention – even if it's sometimes mixed with trouble.

Zapato Power Series by Jacqueline Jules

One day Freddie Ramos comes home from school and finds a strange box just for him. What's inside? ZAPATO POWER – shoes that change Freddie's life by giving him super speed!

I Am... Series by Brad Meltzer

We can all be heroes. That's the inspiring message of *Ordinary People Change the World*, a lively, collectible picture book biography series from *New York Times* bestselling author Brad Meltzer.

Grandma in Blue with Red Hat by Scott Menchin

After his teacher says that anything can be in an art exhibition and his fellow students give myriad reasons why something might belong in a museum, a child offers his special grandmother as an exhibit. But when the curator cites a rule against accepting grandmas, the child has a better idea.

Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos by Stephanie Roth Sisson

A biography of Carl Sagan focusing on his childhood and culminating in the Voyager mission and the Golden Record.

Tony Baloney Series by Pam Munoz Ryan

Tony Baloney is a macaroni penguin. He loves fish tacos, Little Green Walrus Guys, his stuffed animal, Dandelion, and anything with wheels. He does not love trouble...but trouble loves him.

Ballet Cat Series by Bob Shea

Ballet Cat and Sparkles the Pony are trying to decide what to play today. Nothing that Sparkles suggests--making crafts, playing checkers, and selling lemonade-- goes well with the leaping, spinning, and twirling that Ballet Cat likes to do. When Sparkles's leaps, spins, and twirls seem halfhearted, Ballet Cat asks him what's wrong. Sparkles doesn't want to say. He has a secret that Ballet Cat won't want to hear. What Sparkles doesn't know is that Ballet Cat has a secret of her own, a totally secret secret. Once their secrets are shared, will their friendship end or be stronger than ever?

Dinosaur vs. Series by Bob Shea

This little red dinosaur squares off against everything! He's headstrong, determined, and fiercely independent!

Unicorn Thinks He's Pretty Great by Bob Shea

Ever since Unicorn moved into the neighborhood, Goat has been feeling out of sorts. When Goat and Unicorn share a piece of pizza, Goat learns that being a unicorn might not be all it's cracked up to be. And when Unicorn shows his admiration for Goat, it looks like the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin by Chieri Uegaki

Hana Hashimoto has signed up to play her violin at her school's talent show. The trouble is, she's only a beginner and she's had only three lessons, but she is determined to play her best.

In a Village by the Sea by Muon Van

In a Village by the Sea tells the story of longing for the comforts of home. A perfect book about diverse cultures and lifestyles through rich pictures and words, moving from the wide world to the snugness of home and back out again.

Elephant & Piggie Series by Mo Willems

Elephant & Piggie are sort of hilarious, and charming, and they speak directly to kids. Piggie is an optimistic pig, and Elephant (otherwise known as Gerald) is a cautious, pessimistic elephant. Sure, go ahead. Like them. Love them! But whatever you do, please – don't let them drive the bus!