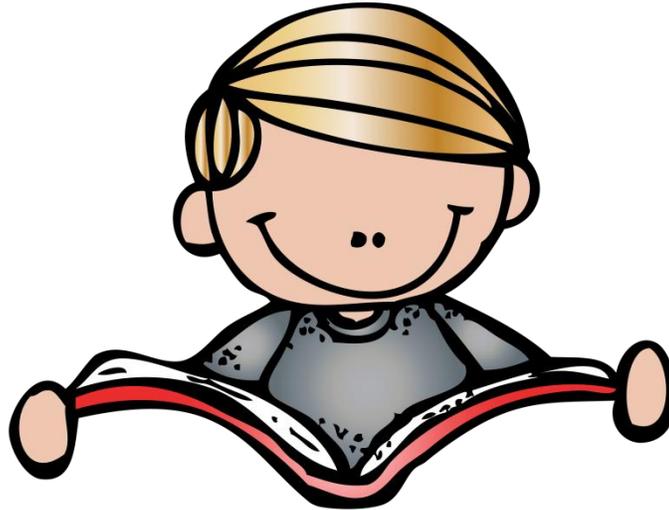


Summer Reading

For Students Entering Third Grade

"The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more you learn, the more places you'll go."

-Dr. Seuss



Summer vacation is a wonderful time to be a child. The days are filled with friends, vacations, camps, pools, sun, and of course BOOKS! The third grade teachers greatly value the importance of every student reading independently, and we hope you will use the summer months to establish and solidify a reading routine in your homes. Please note that, as a third grader, your child will be required to read at least 30 minutes each night; therefore, this summer would be a wonderful time to begin to reinforce this habit. To do this, the third grade teachers recommend the following summer reading requirements:

- ❖ All incoming third grade students should read a **minimum** of two chapter books and two non-fiction books.
- ❖ Students should choose books at an appropriate reading level that they enjoy.
- ❖ Suggested titles are attached to this letter. Look at Accelerated Reader levels and length (point value is a good indication) to determine good titles for your child.
- ❖ Students may read titles that are not on this list.
- ❖ The Tuscaloosa Public Library and the Tuscaloosa City Schools' online digital library (<http://tcs.lib.overdrive.com>) are good sources of books for your child. When accessing the online library, use the student's 10-digit state id number as the library card number and the last name (all lowercase letters) as the password/PIN.
- ❖ Students are encouraged to read above and beyond these minimal requirements.

Have a great summer, and we look forward
to seeing you in August!

Verner Elementary School

Suggested Summer Reading List

For Students Entering 3rd Grade

(*) - First book in a series

(!!) - Many excellent titles by this author

Accelerated Reader level and point value are given after each title. (Reading Level/Point Value)

Fiction Chapter Books

❖ ***The Hidden Stairs and the Magic Carpet** by Tony Abbott

Julie, Neal, and Eric discover a tiny room under the basement stairs; a rainbow-colored staircase appears and carries them to the world of Droon. (2.9/1.0) (Series: The Secrets of Droon)

❖ ***Meet Samantha: An American Girl** by Susan Adler (!!)

In 1904, nine-year-old Samantha, an orphan living with her wealthy grandmother, and her servant friend Nellie have a midnight adventure when they try to find out what has happened to the seamstress who suddenly left her job. (3.8/1.0) (Series: The American Girls Collection)

❖ **The One and Only Ivan** by Katherine Applegate

When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life. (3.6/4.0)

❖ ***Ivy + Bean** by Annie Barrows

When seven-year-old Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support from Ivy, the new neighbor, who is less boring than Bean first suspected. (3.2/1.0) (Series: Ivy + Bean Series)

❖ ***Ellie McDoodle: Have Pen, Will Travel** by Ruth Barshaw

Eleven-year-old Ellie McDoodle illustrates her sketchbook with chronicles of her adventures and mishaps while camping with her cousins, aunt, and uncle. (3.3/1.0) (Series: Ellie McDoodle)

❖ ***Sophie the Awesome** by Lara Bergen

Sophie Miller's life is boring. Average. Blah. She's not the oldest or the youngest, the tallest or the shortest. She's not even the only Sophie in her third-grade class! Sophie knows she's special, and she's come up with the perfect name to show it. (3.1/2.0)

❖ ***The World According to Humphrey** by Betty G. Birney

Humphrey, a pet hamster at Longfellow School, learns that he has an important role to play in helping his classmates and teacher. (4.2/4.0) (Series: Humphrey Adventures)

❖ **Freckle Juice** by Judy Blume (!!)

Andrew wants freckles so badly that he buys Sharon's freckle recipe for fifty cents. (3.1/0.5)

❖ **Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing** by Judy Blume (!!)

Peter finds his demanding two-year-old brother an ever-increasing problem. (3.3/3.0)

❖ **A Bear Called Paddington** by Michael Bond

A very small bear found by Mr. and Mrs. Brown at Paddington station becomes one of the family. (4.7/4.0)

❖ **The Chalk Box Kid** by Clyde Robert Bulla

Nine-year-old Gregory's house does not have room for a garden, but he creates a surprising and very different garden in an unusual place. (2.7/1.0)

❖ **The Stories Julian Tells** by Ann Cameron

Relates episodes in seven-year-old Julian's life which include getting into trouble with his younger brother Huey, planting a garden, what he did to try to grow taller, losing a tooth, and finding a new friend. (3.4/1.0)

❖ ***The Counterfeit Tackle** by Matt Christopher (!!)

Identical twins Buzz and Corky switch places one day so that Corky can see a professional game. Buzz discovers he likes football, too, but can the boys keep their secret? (3.9/2.0)

❖ ***Beezus and Ramona** by Beverly Cleary (!!)

Four-year-old Ramona has an imagination that makes her a menace to everyone around her, particularly her older sister, Beezus. (4.8/3.0) (Series: Ramona Series)

❖ ***Jake Drake: Know-It-All** by Andrew Clements (!!)

Jake is determined to win the third grade science fair not only for the grand prize, but to beat the annoying class know-it-alls, as well. (4.1/2.0) (Series: Jake Drake)

❖ **The Legend of Spud Murphy** by Eoin Colfer

When their mother starts dropping them off at the library several afternoons a week, nine-year-old William and his brother dread boredom and the overbearing librarian, but they are surprised at how things turn out. (3.8/1.0)

❖ **The Magic Finger** by Roald Dahl (!!)

When the Greggs try to hunt everything in sight, the little girl next door puts her magic finger on them. (3.1/0.5)

❖ **The Courage of Sarah Noble** by Alice Dalgliesh

Remembering her mother's words, an eight-year-old girl finds courage to go alone with her father to build a new home in the Connecticut wilderness and to stay with the Indians when her father goes back to bring the rest of the family. (3.9/1.0)

❖ **Because of Winn Dixie** by Kate DiCamillo (!!)

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big, ugly dog Winn-Dixie. (3.9/3.0)

❖ ***The Spiderwick Chronicles: The Field Guide** by Tony DiTerlizzi (!!)

The Grace children discover a field guide to fairies in their Great Aunt Lucinda's old Victorian house that sends them on a fantastic journey into a world of elves, dwarves, and trolls. (4.2/1.0) (Series: The Spiderwick Chronicles)

❖ **The Whipping Boy** by Sid Fleischman

A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws. (3.9/2.0)

❖ **Stone Fox** by John Reynolds Gardiner

Little Willy hopes to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm with the purse from a dog sled race he enters. (4.0/1.0)

❖ ***Farewell, My Lunchbag: From the Tattered Casebook of Chet Gecko, Private Eye** by Bruce Hale

When fourth-grade private eye Chet Gecko is called to catch someone who is stealing food from the school cafeteria, he finds himself framed for the crime. (3.9/2.0) (Series: Chet Gecko Series)

❖ ***B is for Betsy** by Carolyn Haywood

Betsy experiences an interesting first year in school and looks forward to summer vacation at her grandfather's farm. (4.3/2.0) (Series: Betsy Books)

❖ **The Year of Billy Miller** by Kevin Henkes (!!)

Seven-year-old Billy Miller starts second grade with a bump on his head and a lot of worries, but by the end of the year he has developed good relationships with his teacher, his little sister, and his parents and learned many important lessons. (4.2/3.0)

❖ **Toys Go Out** by Emily Jenkins (!!)

The Adventures of a stingray, buffalo, and someone called plastic. Together is best for these three best friends. Together they look things up in the dictionary, explore the basement, and argue about the meaning of life. (4.0/2.0)

❖ ***Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things** by Lenore Look

A young boy in Concord, Massachusetts, who loves superheroes and comes from a long line of brave Chinese farmer-warriors, wants to make friends, but first he must overcome his fear of everything. (3.8/3.0) (Series: Alvin Ho)

❖ **Gooney Bird Greene** by Lois Lowry (!!)

A most unusual new student who loves to be the center of attention entertains her teacher and fellow second graders by telling absolutely true stories about herself, including how she got her name. (3.9/2.0)

❖ **Sarah, Plain and Tall** by Patricia MacLachlan (!!)

When their father invites a mail-order bride to come to live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by her and hope that she will stay. (3.4/1.0)

❖ **Batter Up** by Jake Maddox (!!)

Caleb is forced to use an aluminum bat instead of his favorite wood bat when another team accuses him of cheating. (4.0/1.0) (Series: Jake Maddox Sports Story)

❖ ***Abby Hayes: Every Cloud Has a Silver Lining** by Anne Mazer

Abby Hayes hopes to prove that she is as great as her siblings. Stuck in the middle of her super-accomplished family, Abby keeps searching for her own moment to shine. (4.4/2.0) (Series: Amazing Days of Abby Hayes)

❖ ***Judy Moody** by Megan McDonald (!!)

Third grader Judy Moody is in a first day of school bad mood until she gets an assignment to create a collage all about herself and begins creating her masterpiece, the Me collage. (3.5/1.0) (Series: Judy Moody)

❖ ***Stink, The Incredible Shrinking Kid** by Megan McDonald(!!)

Judy Moody's younger brother stars in this funny, out-of-this-world adventure to reinstate his favorite celestial orb, Pluto, which has flunked out of the Milky Way for being too shrimpy.

(3.0/1.0) (Series: Stink)

❖ ***Clementine** by Sara Pennypacker

While sorting through difficulties in her friendship with her neighbor Margaret, eight-year-old Clementine gains several unique hairstyles while also helping her father in his efforts to banish pigeons from the front of their apartment building. (4.5/2.0)

(Series: Clementine)

❖ ***How to Eat Fried Worms** by Thomas Rockwell

Two boys set out to prove that worms can make a delicious meal. (3.5/2.0)

❖ ***Sideways Stories From Wayside School** by Louis Sachar (!!)

Humorous episodes from the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School, which was accidentally built sideways with one classroom on each story. (3.3/3.0)

❖ ***The Knights of the Kitchen Table** by Jon Scieszka(!!)

Narrator Joe is given a magic book ("The Book") that transports him and two friends to King Arthur's Britain, where they find themselves confronted by a fearsome Black Knight. (3.8/1.0) (Series: Time Warp Trio)

❖ ***Horrid Henry** by Francesca Simon

Horrid Henry causes his brother Perfect Peter all sorts of problems when he behaves properly for a change, upstages Peter at a dance recital, plays pirates, and goes on a camping trip. (3.3/1.0) (Series: Horrid Henry)

❖ ***Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie** by Julia Sternberg

When Eleanor's babysitter moves away to care for her sick father, Eleanor spends the summer adjusting to a new babysitter while mourning the loss of her old one. (3.2/1.0)

❖ ***Shredderman Book 1: Secret Identity** by Wendelin Van Draanen

Fifth-grader Nolan Byrd, tired of being called names by the class bully, has a secret identity: Shredderman! (3.3/2.0) (Series: Shredderman)

❖ ***The Boxcar Children** by Gertrude Chandler Warner

Four orphaned children, afraid to go live with their grandfather, set up housekeeping in an abandoned boxcar and are doing fine until one of them becomes ill. (3.9/2.0) (Series: The Boxcar Children Mysteries)

❖ ***EllRay Jakes is Not a Chicken** by Sally Warner

EllRay's father promises a family trip to Disneyland if EllRay can avoid trouble for a week, but dealing with the class bully is a real challenge. (4.8/2.0) (Series: EllRay Jakes)

Other Chapter Book Series You Will Enjoy:

- ❖ Cam Jansen Series by David Adler
- ❖ Bad Kitty Series by Nick Bruel
- ❖ Jenny Archer Series by Ellen Conford
- ❖ Heidi Heckelbeck Series by Wanda Coven
- ❖ Pee Wee Scouts Series by Judy Delton
- ❖ Polk Street Kids Series by Patricia Reilly Giff
- ❖ Zigzag Kids Series by Patricia Reilly Giff
- ❖ My Weird School Series by Dan Gutman
- ❖ Nancy Drew and the Clue Crew Series by Carolyn Keene
- ❖ Ready Freddy Series by Abby Klein
- ❖ Horrible Harry Series by Suzy Kline
- ❖ Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo Series by Nancy Krulik
- ❖ Magic Tree House Series by Mary Pope Osborne
- ❖ Junie B. Jones Series by Barbara Park
- ❖ Ricky Ricotta Series by Dav Pilkey
- ❖ A to Z Mysteries, Calendar Mysteries, and Capitol Mysteries by Ron Roy
- ❖ Marvin Redpost Series by Louis Sachar
- ❖ Geronimo Stilton Series by Geronimo Stilton
- ❖ Sports Books by Jake Maddox

Nonfiction Books:

- ❖ **A Picture Book of Abraham Lincoln** by David A. Adler (!!)

Follows the life of the popular president, from his childhood on the frontier to his assassination after the end of the Civil War. (3.8/0.5) (There are many other excellent biographies in Adler's "A Picture Book Of..." series.)

- ❖ **Dinosaurs are Different** by Aliki (!!)

Explains how the various orders and suborders of dinosaurs were similar and different in structure and appearance. (3.0/0.5)

- ❖ **Fly Guy Presents: Space** by Tedd Arnold

During a visit to the space museum, Fly Guy and Buzz learn all about planets, space-crafts, space suits, and even dirty snowballs (a.k.a. comets)! (3.3/0.5) (Look for other "Fly Guy Presents" books)

- ❖ **Nic Bishop Spiders** by Nic Bishop (!!)

Up close photographs and text reveal spiders molting, weaving webs, hunting, eating, dancing and more. (4.8/0.5)

- ❖ **Odd Boy Out: Young Albert Einstein** by Don Brown

Presents a picture-book biography of Albert Einstein, focusing on his oddness as a baby and child, and his disinterest in school, and discussing the significance of his discoveries in physics. (4.6/0.5)

- ❖ **Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal: A Worldwide Cinderella** by Paul Fleischman (!!)

A retelling of the "Cinderella" story based on a variety of folk traditions, including elements from Mexico, Iran, Korea, Russia, Appalachia, and other countries and regions. (4.4/0.5)

- ❖ ***Who Was Ben Franklin?** by Dennis Brindell Fradin

A biography of Ben Franklin, the eighteenth century printer, publisher, inventor, scientist, and statesman who played an influential role in the early history of the United States. (4.4/1.0) (Series: Who Is/Who Was... biographies with various authors)

- ❖ **From Seed to Plant** by Gail Gibbons (!!)

Explores the intricate relationship between seeds and the plants which they produce. (3.4/0.5)

- ❖ **What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?** by Steve Jenkins (!!)

Looks at the ways in which different animals use their ears, eyes, mouths, noses, feet, and tails. (3.0/0.5)

- ❖ **Look at My Book: How Kids Can Write & Illustrate Terrific Books** by Loreen Leedy (!!)

Provides ideas and simple directions for writing, illustrating, designing, and binding books. (3.9/0.5)

- ❖ **Daredevil: The Daring Life of Betty Skelton** by Meghan McCarthy (!!)

An illustrated biography of Betty Skelton, who was an airplane pilot, racecar driver, and trained to be an astronaut.

- ❖ **If You Decide to Go to the Moon** by Faith McNulty

Presents a children's book for early readers that describes what a trip to the moon would be like for a would-be astronaut. (4.1/0.5)

- ❖ **Magic Tree House Research Guides** (Any Title) by Mary Pope Osborne (!!)

What was the purpose of the Revolutionary War? How were mummies made? What was it like to live in Ancient Greece? These guides provide answers to these questions and many more. (Reading levels range from 4.2-5.3) (Series: Magic Tree House Research Guides)

- ❖ **Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** by Doreen Rappaport

Looks at the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, explaining his work to bring about a peaceful end to segregation. (3.4/0.5)

- ❖ **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 1820s. (3.6/0.5)

- ❖ **Falling Up: Poems and Drawings** by Shel Silverstein (!!)
- A collection of poems by American poet and humorist, Shel Silverstein including the poems My Nose Garden, Little Hoarse, Strange Restaurant, and many others.

- ❖ **So You Want to Be President** by Judith St. George (!!)

Presents an assortment of facts about the qualifications and characteristics of U.S. presidents, from George Washington to Bill Clinton. (4.8/0.5)

- ❖ **Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom** by Carole Weatherford

A story about Harriet Tubman, known as "the Moses of her people" due to her work on the Underground Railroad. (4.0/0.5)

- ❖ **Helen Keller: From Tragedy to Triumph** by Katharine Wilkie

A biography, focusing on the childhood years, of the blind and deaf woman who overcame her handicaps with the help of her teacher, Annie Sullivan. (4.5/4.0) (Series: Childhood of Famous Americans)