

West Springfield Elementary Summer Reading List  
June 2009  
Rising 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Students

Listed below is a suggested reading list taken from the American Library Association's Notable Children's Books. This list contains all kinds of books and is only a guide. Please feel free to read any books that you and your child will enjoy.

Following the list of books, there is a list of Websites where you can find more recommended reading lists. We encourage all children to read at least 30 minutes a day over the summer. One way to actively encourage reading in the summertime is to register for the Summer Reading Program at any Fairfax County Public Library. Those students who have read at least 15 books before September may participate in an Ice Cream Sundae Party celebrating our summer readers. Just bring back your reading log from the public library program or our website. Have a wonderful vacation, and enjoy your summer of reading!

--Miss Pantel and Mrs. Bunce

Armstrong, Jennifer. **Once Upon a Banana**. Illus.

In a wordless picture book a monkey runs away from a juggler to find a banana. He drops the peel and sets off a chain of hilarious actions. (2009-2010 Virginia Reader's Choice)

Becker, Bonny. **A Visitor for Bear**. Illus. by Kady MacDonald Denton.

The simple backdrop of bear's forest home sets the stage for a visit from the persistent and irritating mouse who insists the two will become friends.

Bee, William. **Beware of the Frog**. Illus.

Living alone in the forest, Old Mrs. Collywobbles needs protection from the Greedy Goblin, the Smelly Troll, and the Giant Hungry Ogre. Her pet frog jumps out of folklore to come to her rescue and give Mrs. Collywobbles more than she anticipated.

Campbell, Sarah C. **Wolfsnail: A Backyard Predator**. Photos by Sarah C. and Richard P. Campbell.

Magnified photographs and informative text provide a nonfiction look at the carnivorous wolfsnail trapping and devouring its victim. This science book will amaze and attract readers. (2009 Geisel Honor Book)

Coffelt, Nancy. **Fred Stays with Me!**

As a result of divorce, a child finds she must split her time with each of her parents. Her one constant is her dog, Fred, until the parents get tired of the dog's antics. (2009-2010 Virginia Reader's Choice)

Davis, Eleanor. **Stinky**. Illus.

Stinky, the swamp monster, is at first determined to rid his beloved "muddy, slimy, smelly swamp" of Nick, only to realize that this dreaded "kid" is not the appallingly clean intruder he supposes him to be. (2009 Geisel Honor Book)

Dorros, Arthur. **Papá and Me**. Illus. by Rudy Gutierrez.

Lively artwork tells the story of a father and son who spend a special day together in the city—singing, cooking, going to the park and the beach, riding the bus, and telling stories, culminated by a visit with Papá's parents. (2009 *Belpré Illustrator Honor Book*)

Fleming, Denise. **Buster Goes to Cowboy Camp**. Illus.

After a week at Cowboy Camp for Dogs, Buster's homesickness evaporates as he joyfully joins the controlled canine chaos of camp activities. Fleming's richly colored multimedia art details the camp's layout and the animals' constant motion. (2009-2010 *Virginia Reader's Choice*)

Fraee, Marla. **A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever**. Illus.

With lively, detailed, subtly retro cartoons, Fraee gently pokes fun at adult expectations and captures the unbounded joy of two friends experiencing a parent-free summer adventure. (2009 *Caldecott Honor Book*)

George, Jean Craighead. **Goose and Duck**. Illus. by Priscilla Lamont.

Goose imprints on the boy who finds his egg, Duck imprints on goose, and both follow the boy around until fall when they figure out who they are and join their fellows flying south.

Graham, Bob. **How to Heal a Broken Wing**. Illus.

On a busy city street, young Will stops for an injured pigeon. Soft watercolor panels depict the family's care of the bird and its subsequent release into the sky over the city.

Grant, Judyann Ackerman. **Chicken Said, "Cluck!"** Illus. by Sue Truesdell.

Earl and Pearl shoo Chicken away as they work on their pumpkin patch, but as the story comes full circle, it's Chicken who does the shooing and saves the day. (2009 *Geisel Honor Book*)

Gravett, Emily. **Meerkat Mail**. Illus.

When Sunny decides too much family togetherness calls for a trip, he embarks on a trip to visit distant relatives. His postcards (included as attachments to pages) tell of his adventures until he realizes "there's no place like home". (2009-2010 *Virginia Reader's Choice*)

Harrington, Janice N. **The Chicken Chasing Queen of Lamar County**.

A young farm girl proclaims herself Chicken-Chasing Queen. Even though Big Mama warns her to leave the chickens alone, she spends her days running around the barnyard in search of Miss Hen her favorite chicken. (2009-2010 *Virginia Reader's Choice*)

Harris, Robie H. **Maybe a Bear Ate It!** Illus by Michael Emberley.

When a favorite book goes missing, our frantic narrator conducts a frenzied search, imagining the worst. Cartoonish art illustrates the emotions of losing and finding a cherished object.

Henkes, Kevin. **Old Bear**. Illus. by the author.

During his annual hibernation, Old Bear dreams of the seasons of his youth. Seasonal changes and Old Bear's sense of wonder are gently evoked in Henkes' ink and watercolor pictures. *(2009-2010 Virginia Reader's Choice)*

Hills, Tad. **What's Up, Duck? A Book of Opposites**. Illus.

Adapting Duck and Goose for the board book crowd, Hills whimsically presents concepts such as loud and quiet, far and near, and heavy and light in clear, child-appealing watercolors.

Hole, Stian. **Garmann's Summer**. Illus. Tr. by Don Bartlett.

Humorous and poetic text, combined with surreal and multi-layered artwork, creates a truly unique and complex look at the universality of fear and uncertainty in this tale of a six-year-old's last summer before starting school. *(2009 Batchelder Honor Book)*

Jeffers, Susan. **My Chincoteague Pony**.

Julie, a young farm girl, saves her money to buy a pony at the auction on Pony Penning Day on Chincoteague Island, Virginia. Based on several true stories, this book shows how generosity and kindness can make a child's dream come true. *(2009-2010 Virginia Reader's Choice)*

Kirk, Daniel. **Library Mouse**. Illus.

A little mouse becomes an author and mysteriously leaves his books in the library for visitors to find and read. When the children want to meet the mysterious author, he finds a way to show them that they, too, can be authors. *(2009-2010 Virginia Reader's Choice)*

Kohara, Kazuno. **Ghosts in the House!** Illus.

Faced with a houseful of ghosts, a little girl and her cat come up with a creative solution for repurposing them. Orange and black linocuts, collaged with rice paper "ghosts," complete this appealing package for very young children.

Madison, Alan. **Velma Gratch and the Way Cool Butterfly**. Illus. by Kevin Hawkes.

Velma enters first grade following two nearly perfect older sisters. She feels ignored until a class trip to a butterfly conservatory where she experiences something that neither of her older sisters accomplished. *(2009-2010 Virginia Reader's Choice)*

McDonald, Megan. **The Hinky Pink**. Illus. by Brian Floca.

Until the young seamstress Anabel finds the perfect bed for the Hobbledy-gob Hinky-Pink, she will get no sleep and the Princess's dress will never be ready in time for the ball.

Morales, Yuyi. **Just in Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book**. Illus.

Vibrant jewel-tone colors masterfully capture the story of Señor Calavera's quest to find the perfect birthday gift for Grandma Beetle. Part ghost story, part trickster tale, the book features motifs from Mexican culture that represent each letter of the Spanish alphabet. (2009 Belpré Illustrator Award Book and Author Honor Book)

Pinckney, Jerry. **Little Red Riding Hood**. Illus.

A winter setting and African characters make this a fresh retelling of the classic folktale. (2009-2010 Virginia Reader's Choice)

Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. **One Boy**. Illus.

Seeger's eye-catching picture book leads readers to discover words within words through a distinctive die-cut design and clean, bold illustrations. (2009 Geisel Honor Book)

Swanson, Susan Marie. **The House in the Night**. Illus. by Beth Krommes.

This timeless bedtime verse offers reassurance to young children that there is always light in the darkness. Elegant line, with touches of golden watercolor, evoke the warmth and comfort of home, as well as the joys of exploring the wider world. (2009 Caldecott Medal Book)

Tafolla, Carmen. **What Can You Do with a Rebozo?** Illus. by Amy Cordova.

Rich, vibrant colors swirl and swoosh across full-page spreads, depicting the family home of an imaginative, young Mexican American girl who playfully invents modern-day uses for the traditional Mexican rebozo, or long scarf. (2009 Belpré Honor Book)

Weatherford, Carole Boston. **Before John Was a Jazz Giant: A Song of John Coltrane**. Illus. by Sean Qualls.

John Coltrane's childhood echoed with sounds. The formative experiences of the legendary musician and composer are portrayed in rhythmic language and stylized, mixed media illustrations in blues, browns and white. (2009 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book)

Willems, Mo. **Are You Ready to Play Outside?** Illus.

Easily approachable text and expressive drawings tell the story of Piggie and Gerald who experience the ups and downs of a rainy day. (2009 Geisel Award Book)

## Suggested Websites with Recommended Reading Lists

- Fairfax County Public Library  
Booklists for Children:  
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/reading/elem/>  
Suggested Websites for Readers:  
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/internet/readers.htm>
- Virginia Reader's Choice (including past year's nominees)  
<http://www.vsra.org/VRCindex.html>
- The Horn Book  
Children's Classics:  
<http://www.hbook.com/pdf/childrensclassics.pdf>  
Summer Reading:  
<http://www.hbook.com/booklists/summer.asp>
- Read-Write-Think  
<http://www.readwritethink.org/beyondtheclassroom/summer/>