

Summer Reading Suggestions

Students Entering Grade 4, September 2017

April 30, 2017

Dear Parents,

During the summer holidays, we recommend that students read regularly in French and English. Below you will find some suggestions categorized by level of difficulty. Level of difficulty is determined either by literary features (vocabulary, figurative language, etc.) or maturity of themes.

While reading, please ask your daughter some of the questions (see below); this will promote inferencing skills and understanding. In addition, it will allow her to share her reactions with you and will be more likely to appreciate the novel. After the holidays we will continue the discussion in class. No summary or report is required at the beginning of the year.

For your daughter's choice of a summer reading book, she can feel free to choose among the titles listed below or any other book that she considers interesting. One of the pleasures of reading is that it can be done anywhere! Happy summer reading!

Why Read? The Benefits of Daily Reading:

Studies show that "the more students read, the better readers they become" (Mraz, 2007).

Reading over the summer allows students to maintain or further develop their reading skills.

Reading brings the world to your child on many levels, allowing students to develop their imaginations and vocabulary, learn about other people and places.

Reading as a family, on a daily basis, gives families different opportunities to discuss ideas, share opinions and enjoy quality time together.

Source: Mraz, 2007, Summer Reading Loss, *Issues and Trends in Literacy*

Suggested Questions for parents/Suggestions de questions pour les parents

1. Where is the setting of the story? Use adjectives to describe where the story took place.

Où l'histoire se déroule-t-elle? Utilise des adjectifs afin de décrire l'un des lieux principaux de l'histoire.

2. Who are the characters in the story? Name them and describe their personality traits. Use examples to support your answer.

Qui sont les principaux personnages du récit? Nomme-les et décris quelques-unes de leurs caractéristiques physiques et morales. Utilise des exemples du texte.

3. What is one of the themes or one of the lessons learned in the story? Explain how you know.

Selon toi, quel est l'un des thèmes de l'histoire ou l'une des leçons? Donne un exemple qui le démontre.

4. What is the solution to the problem in the story? Can you think of another ending to the story? What would you do differently if you were in the story?

Quelle solution vient régler ce problème dans le récit? Quelle autre solution pourrais-tu proposer? Que ferais-tu si tu te retrouvais dans l'histoire?

5. How does the main character change from the beginning to the end of the story? Be specific.

Comment le personnage principal a-t-il évolué ou changé du début à la fin de l'histoire? Nomme ces différences et explique-les. (Le personnage est devenu...)

6. Find a passage in the story and relate it to your personal experiences or to another novel.

Trouve un passage de l'histoire qui te rappelle tes propres expériences (à l'école, dans ta famille, en vacances, etc.) ou une autre histoire?

7. How did the author capture your interest (e.g. dialogue, humour, interesting vocabulary, etc.)? Be specific and give examples.

Quelles sont les qualités du travail de l'auteur qui te font apprécier l'histoire? Donne des exemples. (dialogues, vocabulaire, humour, etc.)

8. Why do you think the author wrote the book? How do you know?

Quelle était l'intention de l'auteur en écrivant ce livre? Pourquoi, selon toi, a-t-il écrit ce livre?

Suggested Titles

Level of Difficulty: Easy

Author	Title	Genre
Celeste Davidson Mannis	Who Was William Shakespeare? Or any other of the "Who Was" series.	Non- Fiction/History
<p>The beloved plays of Shakespeare are still produced everywhere, yet the life of the world's most famous playwright remains largely a mystery. Young Will left the town of Stratford to pursue theater in London, where his work eventually thrived and made him a famous and wealthy man. With black-and-white illustrations that include a diagram of the famous Globe theater, Celeste Davidson Mannis puts together the pieces of Shakespeare's life and work for young readers.</p>		
Sara Pennypacker	The Talented Clementine (or any other of the Clementine series)	Realistic Fiction/Humour
<p>Winner or washout? When it comes to tackling third grade, Clementine is at the top of her game — okay, so maybe not all the time. After her teacher announces that the third and fourth graders will be putting on a talent show, Clementine panics. She doesn't sing or dance or play an instrument. She can't even hop with finesse. And as if she didn't feel bad enough, her perfect best friend, Margaret, has so many talents, she has to alphabetize them to keep them straight. As the night of the big "Talent-palooza" draws closer, Clementine is desperate for an act, any act. But the unexpected talent she demonstrates at the show surprises everyone — most of all herself. Clementine is a favourite character who makes me smile!</p>		
Betty G. Birney	The World According to Humphrey	Comedy/Humour
<p>You can learn a lot about life by observing another species. That's what Humphrey was told when he was first brought to Room 26. And boy is it true! There are always adventures in the classroom and each weekend he gets to sleep over with different students. Humphrey learns to read, write, shoot rubber bands (only in self-defense, of course), turn off TVs, teach English as a second language, and more. With a lock-that-doesn't-lock and an adventurous spirit, what more could a mischievous hamster want? With a fresh voice and an engaging, hamster's-eye view of school, families, and treats to hide in a cheek pouch, Betty G. Birney's Humphrey will elicit laughter and demands for hamsters in every elementary classroom.</p>		
Wendy Orr	Nim's Island	Adventure
<p>A girl. An iguana. An island. And e-mail. Meet Nim—a modern-day Robinson Crusoe! She can chop down bananas with a machete, climb tall palm trees, and start a fire with a piece of glass. So she's not afraid when her scientist dad sails off to study plankton for three days, leaving her alone on their island. Besides, it's not as if no one's looking after her—she's got a mother her and an iguana for comic relief. She also has an interesting new e-mail pal. But when her father's cell-phone calls stop coming and disaster seems near, Nim has to be stronger and braver than she's ever been before. And she'll need all her friends to help her. This is a fun adventure story. Another example of a book that is much better than the movie!</p>		

Level of Difficulty: Average

Author	Title	Genre
Andrew Clements	Frindle	Realistic Fiction
<p>He really just likes to liven things up at school -- and he's always had plenty of great ideas. When Nick learns some interesting information about how words are created, suddenly he's got the inspiration for his best plan ever...the frindle. Who says a pen has to be called a pen? Why not call it a frindle? Things begin innocently enough as Nick gets his friends to use the new word. Then other people in town start saying frindle. Soon the school is in an uproar, and Nick has become a local hero. His teacher wants Nick to put an end to all this nonsense, but the funny thing is frindle doesn't belong to Nick anymore. The new word is spreading across the country, and there's nothing Nick can do to stop it. This is a short, engaging and heart-warming story.</p>		
Betty MacDonald	Mrs. Piggle Wiggle or Mrs. Piggle Wiggle's Magic	Short Stories/ Humour
<p>Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle loves everyone, and everyone loves her right back. Her upside-down house is always filled with the smell of freshly baked cookies, and her backyard with buried treasure. The children love her because she is lots of fun. Their parents love her because she can cure children of absolutely any bad habit. The treatments are unusual, but they work! Who better than a pig, for instance, to teach a piggy little boy table manners? And what better way to cure the rainy-day "waddle-I-do's" than hunt for pirate treasure in Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle's upside-down house? These short stories make the book easy to pick up and put down on a hot summer day. Mrs. Piggle Wiggle is a magical character, and we all wish we knew someone like her!</p>		
Jane Birdsall	The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy	Realistic Fiction
<p>This summer the Penderwick sisters have a wonderful surprise: a holiday on the grounds of a beautiful estate called Arundel. Soon they are busy discovering the summertime magic of Arundel's sprawling gardens, treasure-filled attic, tame rabbits, and the cook who makes the best gingerbread in Massachusetts. But the best discovery of all is Jeffrey Tifton, son of Arundel's owner, who quickly proves to be the perfect companion for their adventures. The icy-hearted Mrs. Tifton is not as pleased with the Penderwicks as Jeffrey is, though, and warns the new friends to stay out of trouble. Which, of course, they will — won't they? One thing's for sure: it will be a summer the Penderwicks will never forget. This story is longer, but it has delightful characters. It makes for a great family read as well!</p>		
Kate DiCamillo	The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane	Adventure/Fantasy
<p>Once, in a house on Egypt Street, there lived a china rabbit named Edward Tulane. The rabbit was very pleased with himself, and for good reason: he was owned by a girl named Abilene, who treated him with the utmost care and adored him completely. And then, one day, he was lost. Kate DiCamillo takes us on an extraordinary journey, from the depths of the ocean to the net of a fisherman, from the top of a garbage heap to the fireside of a hoboes' camp, from the bedside of an ailing child to the bustling streets of Memphis. And along the way, we are shown a true miracle: even a heart of the most unbreakable kind can learn to love, to lose, and to love again. This is a touching story with sad moments, but it is beautifully written.</p>		

Level of Difficulty: Advanced

Author	Title	Genre
M.M. Kaye	The Ordinary Princess	Fantasy
<p>Along with Wit, Charm, Health, and Courage, Princess Amy of Phantasmorania receives a special fairy christening gift: Ordinariness. Unlike her six beautiful sisters, she has brown hair and freckles, and would rather have adventures than play the harp, embroider tapestries . . . or become a Queen. When her royal parents try to marry her off, Amy runs away and, because she's so ordinary, easily becomes the fourteenth assistant kitchen maid at a neighboring palace. And there she meets someone just as ordinary (and special) as she is! A lovely story with rich vocabulary, this book is short but sweet.</p>		
Gordon Korman	The Zucchini Warriors (or any other of the MacDonald Hall series)	Humour
<p>Bruno and Boots are disappointed when they return to their all-boys school, Macdonald Hall, at the start of a new year; they were supposed to get a new recreation hall at their school, but instead a football stadium has been built. Former student/football player and zucchini entrepreneur Hank Carson makes them a deal, a winning football team will get them a rec hall, but unfortunately, Macdonald Hall's team is horrible. But soon Bruno and Boots have a secret weapon that will ensure their wins: a girl! And for some crazy reason, they also need the help of a boatload of hamsters! It is amazing to believe that Gordon Korman's first book, <u>This Can't Be Happening at Macdonald Hall</u>, was written when he was only 13. This book is part of that same series. This book will make you giggle, and it makes for a great family read as well.</p>		
Willo Davis Roberts	The Girl with the Silver Eyes	Fantasy/ Mystery
<p>Most people shy away from Katie Welker. With her silver eyes and her cold, blank stare, the ten-year-old makes others feel uncomfortable. And life without friends has convinced Katie that she's different from everyone else...and destined to be alone forever. In some ways, Katie is different. She has a gift that allows her to move objects with her mind. And when Katie overhears her mom talking about three others who share the same gift, the young girl sets off to find them. Maybe these strangers will help Katie feel less alone? This compelling classic is an ideal pick for readers who enjoy a mix of mystery, fantasy, and reality.</p>		
E. L. Konigsburg	From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler	Mystery
<p>Bored with her life, twelve-year-old Claudia Kincaid is ready for a big change. In fact, she wants to run away from home. But she doesn't like discomfort. She doesn't even like picnics. So instead of running from somewhere, she decides to run <i>to</i> somewhere — some place comfortable, and preferably beautiful. Where else, but the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City? Fare on the train from the suburbs takes three weeks of skipping hot fudge sundaes. Taking Jamie, the second youngest of her three brothers — the quiet one with the largest cache of money — with her, Claudia's life is immediately changed in a big way. Nights she and Jamie take baths in one of the museum's fountains and they sleep in royal beds in the museum's collection, despite the "Please do not step on the platform" sign. But she and Jamie's vacation from their "real" life turns into an adventure when Angel, a sculpture rumored to have been carved by Michelangelo, arrives. Will they solve a mystery that even the experts can't solve? After reading this book, I dreamed about hiding out in a museum for the next few years.</p>		