

SUMMER READING IDEAS FOR FAMILIES OF STUDENTS ENTERING FIRST GRADE AT CONCORD HILL SCHOOL

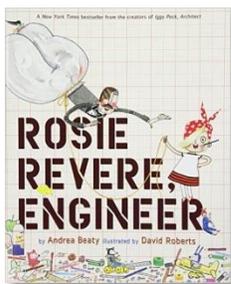
Our most important recommendation: **read to your child daily!** These books have been selected **for you to read to your child.** For more read-aloud ideas, see *The Read-Aloud Handbook*, 7th ed., by Jim Trelease, or *What to Read When: the Books and Stories to Read with your Child – and All the Best Times to Read Them*, by Pam Allyn.

PICTURE BOOKS

Alborough, Jez. *Fix-it Duck*. Duck's attempts to deal with various minor disasters only lead to more problems.

Barnett, Mac. *Extra Yarn*. With a supply of yarn that never runs out, Annabelle knits for everyone and everything in town until an evil archduke decides he wants the yarn for himself.

------. *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole*. Sam and Dave are on a mission. A mission to find something spectacular. So they dig a hole. And they keep digging. And they find . . . nothing. Yet the day turns out to be pretty spectacular after all. Attentive readers will be rewarded with a rare treasure in this witty story of looking for the extraordinary — and finding it in a manner you'd never expect.



Beaty, Andrea. *Rosie Revere, Engineer*. When her great-great-aunt Rose (Rosie the Riveter) comes for a visit and mentions her one unfinished goal--to fly--Rosie sets to work building a contraption to make her aunt's dream come true. But when her contraption doesn't fly but rather hovers for a moment and then crashes, Rosie deems the invention a failure. On the contrary, Aunt Rose insists that Rosie's contraption was a raging success.

Castillo, Lauren. *Nana in the City*. a young child spends an overnight visit with his/her nana and is frightened to find that the city where she lives is filled with noise and crowds and scary things. But then Nana makes the child a special cape for bravery, and soon the everyday sights, sounds, and smells of the city are not scary—but wonderful.

Choi, Yangsook. *The Name Jar*. On the way to her first day of school, Unhei is teased by the children on the bus for her Korean name. When she reaches her classroom and is asked her name, she tells her classmates that she has not yet decided on one. To be helpful the children put their suggestions into a "name jar."

Cornwall, Gaia. *Jabari Jumps*. The big moment has come for Jabari to jump off the diving board, but is he ready?

Crews, Donald. *Shortcut*. The train tracks ran right by Bigmama's house in Cottdonale, and the children were warned to stay off the tracks. But one night they were late, and the tracks were a shortcut, so they started off. And when there was no turning back, they heard the train coming.

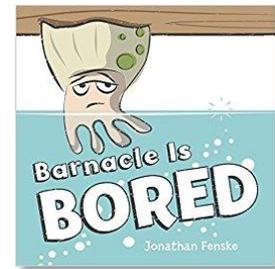
Daywalt, Drew. *The Day the Crayons Quit*. When Duncan arrives at school one morning, he finds a stack of letters, one from each of his crayons, complaining about how he uses them.

De la Pena, Matt. *Last Stop on Market Street*. Every Sunday after church, CJ and his grandma ride the bus across town. But today, CJ wonders why they don't own a car like his friend Colby. Why doesn't he have an iPod like the boys on the bus? How come they always have to get off in the dirty part of town? Each question is met with an encouraging answer from grandma, who helps him see the beauty—and fun—in their routine and the world around them.

Dorros, Arthur. *Abuela*. While riding on a bus with her grandmother, a little girl imagines that they are carried up into the sky and fly over the sights of New York City.

Dyckman, Ame. *Wolfie the Bunny*. When her parents find a baby wolf on their doorstep and decide to raise him as their own, Dot is certain he will eat them all up until a surprising encounter with a bear brings them closer together.

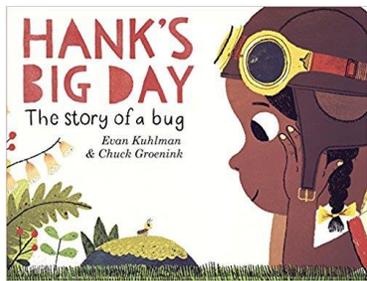
Fenske, Jonathan. *Barnacle is Bored*. Barnacle is stuck on the underside of a pier. Every day is exactly the same. The tide comes in and Barnacle gets wet. The tide goes out and Barnacle dries off. Boring! Barnacle wants something exciting to happen. Then a colorful fish swims by and Barnacle bets the fish doesn't have a boring life. In the end, it turns out exciting isn't always better! Follow up with the author's *Plankton is Pushy*.



Higgins, Ryan T. *Mother Bruce*. Bruce the bear likes to keep to himself. That, and eat eggs. But when his hard-boiled goose eggs turn out to be real, live goslings, he starts to lose his appetite. And even worse, the goslings are convinced he's their mother. Bruce tries to get the geese to go south, but he can't seem to rid himself of his new companions. What's a bear to do?

Jonas, Ann. *Round Trip*. Black and white illustrations and text record the sights on a day trip to the city and back home again to the country. The trip to the city is read from front to back and the return trip, from back to front, upside down.

Kahn, Ruksahna. *Big Red Lollipop*. Rubina has been invited to her first birthday party, and her mother, Ami, insists that she bring her little sister along. Rubina is mortified, but she can't convince Ami that you just don't bring your younger sister to your friend's party. So both girls go, and not only does Sana demand to win every game, but after the party she steals Rubina's prized party favor, a red lollipop. What's a fed-up big sister to do?



Kuhlman, Evan and Chuck Groenink. *Hank's Big Day: the Story of a Bug*. Pill bug Hank and his human pal Amelia spend a marvelous day exploring the outdoors in a sweet story of friendship and imagination.

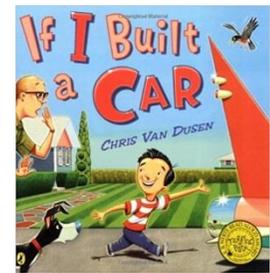
LaMarche, Jim. *The Raft*. Reluctant Nicky spends a wonderful summer with Grandma who introduces him to

the joy of rafting down the river near her home and watching the animals along the banks.

- Lin, Grace. *The Ugly Vegetables*. It's easy to appreciate a garden exploding with colorful flowers and fragrances, but what do you do with a patch of ugly vegetables?
- Marshall. *George and Martha*. Relates several episodes in the friendship of two hippos.
- Munsch, Robert. *Andrew's Loose Tooth*. Andrew's tooth is loose and no one can help him remove it, not even the Tooth Fairy.
- Naberhaus, Sarvinder and Kadir Nelson. *Blue Sky, White Stars*. This poetic, patriotic tribute will help readers appreciate America's splendor.
- Novak, B. J. *The Book With No Pictures*. In this book with no pictures, the reader has to say every silly word, no matter what.
- Spires, Ashley. *The Most Magnificent Thing*. A little girl decides to make the most magnificent thing -- but making it is anything but easy, and the girl tries and fails, repeatedly. Eventually, the girl gets really, really mad. She is so mad, in fact, that she quits. But after her dog convinces her to take a walk, she comes back to her project with renewed enthusiasm and manages to get it just right.
- Stanton, Brandon. *Little Humans*. This vivid collection of photographs underscores both the diversity and commonality among children, and may well inspire readers to imagine the lives of and stories behind each child.
- Steig, William. *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*. In a moment of fright, Sylvester the donkey asks his magic pebble to turn him into a rock but then cannot hold the pebble to wish himself back to normal again.

Van Dusen, Chris. *If I Built a Car*. Jack describes the kind of car he would build--one with amazing accessories and with the capability of traveling on land, in the air, and on and under the sea.

----- *If I Built a House*. Imaginative Jack describes the kind of house he would build--one with a racetrack, a flying room, and a gigantic slide.



Williams, Karen. *A Beach Tail*. How will Gregory find his way back to Dad? Swish-swoosh, Gregory draws a lion in the sand. "Don't go in the water, and don't leave Sandy," warns Dad. But the sandy lion grows a tail that gets longer and longer—and soon Gregory is lost on the beach. This wonderful read-aloud book brings to life a summer experience that is all too familiar for young children.

----- *Four Feet, Two Sandals*. Two young Afghani girls living in a refugee camp in Pakistan share a precious pair of sandals brought by relief workers.

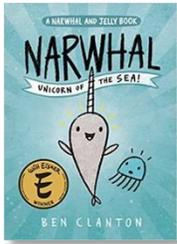
Williams, Vera. *A Chair for My Mother*. A child, her waitress mother, and her grandmother save dimes to buy a comfortable armchair after all their furniture is lost in a fire.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Each Kindness*. Woodson & illustrator E. B. Lewis team up to deal a blow to the pervasive practice-among students of all economic backgrounds-of excluding those less fortunate. When a new student arrives midterm, head down, with broken sandals, the teacher introduces the pigtailed new student as Maya, but hardly anyone says hello.

Yaccarino, Dan. *Doug Unplugged*. Doug the robot discovers that cities are much more than downloaded facts when he unplugs from the computer feed and explores one first-hand, without the aid of technology.

WORDLESS BOOKS AND EMERGENT READERS

Becker, Aaron. *Journey*. Becker's balance of color and immaculately detailed illustrations capture the eye and effortlessly tell the story of a lonely girl who uses a red crayon to draw her way into a magical adventure. As the journey comes full circle, a purple bird--the work of another imagination--leads the way to the best adventure of all: friendship. This is the first book of Becker's trilogy; follow with *Quest*, then *Return*.



Clanton, Ben. *Narwhal: the Unicorn of the Sea*. Narwhal is a happy-go-lucky narwhal. Jelly is a no-nonsense jellyfish. The two might not have a lot in common, but they do they love waffles, parties and adventures. Join Narwhal and Jelly as they discover the whole wide ocean together.

Cooper, Elisha. *Big Cat, Little Cat*. This endearing story of the friendship between an older cat and a younger cat is a celebration of love and loss.

Fraze, Marla. *The Farmer and the Clown*. A baby clown is separated from his family when he accidentally bounces off their circus train and lands in a lonely farmer's vast, empty field. The farmer reluctantly rescues the little clown, and over the course of one day together, the two of them make some surprising discoveries about themselves—and about life.

Keller, Laurie. *We Are Growing!* Walt is not the tallest or the curliest or the pointiest or even the crunchiest. A confounded blade of grass searches for his 'est' in this hilarious story about growing up. Winner of the Geisel Medal.

Lawson, JonArno and Sydney Smith. *Sidewalk Flowers*. A girl collects wildflowers while on a walk with her distracted father. Each flower becomes a gift, and whether the gift is noticed or ignored, both giver and recipient are transformed by their encounter.

Miyares, Daniel. *Float*. A little boy takes a boat made of newspaper out for a rainy-day adventure. The boy and his boat dance in the downpour and play in the puddles, but when the boy sends his boat floating down a gutter stream, it quickly gets away from him.

Shea, Bob. *Ballet Cat: the Totally Secret Secret*. 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. (series)



Wiesner, David. *Tuesday*. In this delightful Caldecott medal winner, frogs rise on their lily pads, float through the air, and explore the nearby houses while their inhabitants sleep.

Willems, Mo. *Elephant and Piggie* series. This 25-volume series recently ended with *The Thank You Book*. The tales of best friends Gerald and Piggie have won many awards and are perennial favorites among the students at CHS.

SHORT CHAPTER BOOKS AND NOVELS –We especially recommend the titles by Babbitt, Cameron and Gannett as family read-alouds. Certain popular series, such as the Magic Tree House and Junie B. Jones, are geared for independent discovery and enjoyment by young readers; **we encourage you to save your read-aloud time for more sophisticated, higher listening level materials, such as these.**

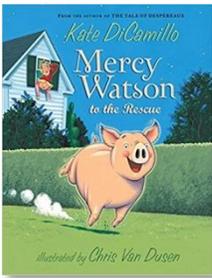
Babbitt, Natalie. *The Search for Delicious*. The Prime Minister is compiling a dictionary and when no one at court can agree on the meaning of delicious, the King sends his twelve-year-old messenger to poll the country.

Cameron, Ann. *The Stories Julian Tells*. 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.

Cleary, Beverly. *Ramona the Pest*. Begin this hilarious series with *Ramona the Pest*, during which our intrepid, sometimes pesky heroine enters Kindergarten, then follow her through first and second grades.

Cronin, Doreen. *The Chicken Squad: the First Misadventure*. They're darling. They're daring. They know their shapes! They're chicks on a mission—and on this, their first (mis)adventure, the Chicken Squad launches a galactic backyard expedition.

Dahl, Roald. *James and the Giant Peach*. After the untimely death of his parents, little James finds life with aunts Sponge and Spiker miserable until a magic potion produces an enormous peach which becomes his new and exciting home.



DiCamillo, Kate, and Chris Van Dusen. *Mercy Watson to the Rescue*. To Mr. and Mrs. Watson, Mercy is not just a pig – she's a porcine wonder. And to the portly and good-natured Mercy, the Watsons are an excellent source of buttered toast, not to mention that buttery-toasty feeling she gets when she snuggles into bed with them. This is not, however, so good for the Watsons' bed! (series).

Gannett, Ruth. *My Father's Dragon*. A young boy works to rescue a poor baby dragon who is being used by a group of lazy wild animals to ferry them across the river on Wild Island. (trilogy).

King-Smith, Dick. *Babe, the Gallant Pig*. A piglet destined for eventual butchering arrives at the farmyard, is adopted by an old sheep dog, and discovers a special secret to success.

LeGuin, Ursula. *Catwings*. Four young cats with wings leave the city dangers in search of a safe place to live, finally meeting two children with kind hands.

Look, Lenore. *Ruby Lu, Brave and True*. Most days, it's great to be Ruby Lu, like when she's the star of her own backyard magic show, or when she rides the No. 3 bus all the way to Chinatown to visit GungGung and PohPoh. And then there are the days when it's very hard to be Ruby -- like when her mom suggests Chinese school on Saturdays. (series)

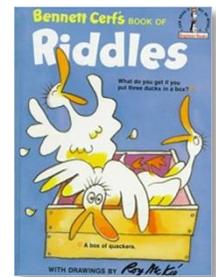
Peterson, John. *The Littles*. An introduction to the Littles, a family of tiny people. (series)

Warner, Sally. *EllRay Jakes is a Rock Star!* In Ms. Sanchez's third-grade class some kids are tall, some are popular, and some have dads with cool cars and fast ATVs. EllRay, who wants something to brag about, decides to take his father's rare and valuable crystals to school to impress his friends. When his plan for popularity goes haywire, he finds himself involved in a glittery blackmail scheme. (series)

White, E. B. *Charlotte's Web*. Wilbur the pig is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be the farmer's Christmas dinner until his spider friend Charlotte decides to help him.

POETRY / HUMOR

Cerf, Bennett. *Bennett Cerf's Book of Riddles*. Here's an oldie but goodie containing funny, simple riddles that a beginning reader can read and remember.



Heard, Georgia. *Creatures of Earth, Sea and Sky: Animal Poems*.

Creatures of land, water, and sky are featured here in short poems for early readers.

Janezko, Paul B. *Firefly July: A Year of Very Short Poems*. It only takes a few words, if they're the right words, to create a strong image. Whether listened to in the comfort of a cozy lap or read independently, the thirty-six very short poems in this collection remind readers young and old that a few perfect words and pictures can make the world glow.

Katz, Alan. *Take Me Out of the Bathtub*. Well-known songs, including "Oh Susannah" and "Row Row Row Your Boat," are presented with new words and titles, such as "I'm So Carsick" and "Go Go Go to Bed."

Milne, A. A. *Now We Are Six*. Thirty-five poems, including illustrations by E. H. Shepard and frequently featuring Winnie-the-Pooh.

O'Neill, Mary. *Hailstones and Halibut Bones*. Charming collection of poems about the sights, sounds, smells and feelings associated with different colors.

Prelutsky, Jack. *Something Big Has Been Here*. Compilation of rhyming poems by a master of humorous poetry for children.

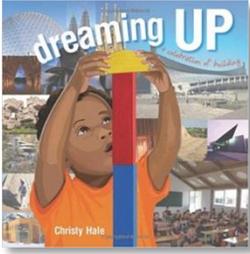
NONFICTION

DK *Eye Wonder* Series. This "younger sibling" to the Eyewitness series provides simple text and visually appealing introductions to subjects including rocks and minerals, birds, weather, human body, and pirates.

Engle, Margarita. *Drum Dream Girl*. Girls cannot be drummers: long ago in Cuba, no one questioned that rule—until the drum dream girl. In her city of drumbeats, she

dreamed of pounding tall congas and tapping small bongós. She had to keep quiet. She had to practice in secret. But when at last her dream-bright music was heard, everyone sang and danced and decided that both girls and boys should be free to drum and dream.

Fleming, Candace and Eric Rohmann. *Giant Squid*. The giant squid is one of the most elusive creatures in the world. As large as whales, they hide beyond reach deep within the sea, forcing scientists to piece together their story from those clues they leave behind. This beautiful and clever nonfiction picture book explores, both visually and poetically, this hidden creature's mysterious life.



Hale, Christy. *Dreaming Up: a Celebration of Building*. A collection of illustrations, concrete poetry, and photographs that shows how young children's constructions, created as they play, are reflected in notable works of architecture from around the world.

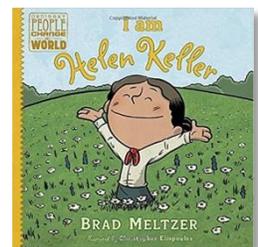
Jenkins, Steve. *Living Color*. Depicts how animals use color to warn predators, signal friends, attract a mate, or hide from their enemies.

Keating, Jess. *Pink is for Blobfish: Discovering the World's Perfectly Pink Animals*. Think you know pink? Think again. Among the fascinating animals described and depicted are the naked mole rat, the pinktoe tarantula, and the roseate spoonbill.

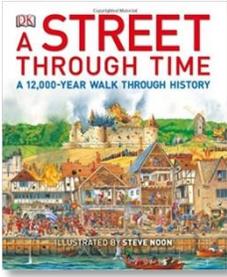
Lipkowitz, Daniel. *The LEGO Ideas Book*. Did you ever wonder what you can do with all of those LEGO® bricks after you have created the project they came with? This book shows how you can take what you already have and make something new. The book is divided into six themed chapters — transportation, buildings, space, kingdoms, adventure, and useful makes — each with basic templates of key models and spreads to inspire you to create your own.

McDonnell, Patrick. *Me...Jane*. Describes and depicts the inspiring story of the young girl who would grow up to be primatologist and humanitarian Dr. Jane Goodall.

Meltzer, Brad, and Christopher Eliopoulos. *I Am Helen Keller* and other early biographies in the *Ordinary People Change the World* series. Other subjects of the series include Jane Goodall, Abraham Lincoln, Rosa Parks, and Jackie Robinson.



Messner, Kate. *Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt*. (Informational picture book, illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal) This yearlong adventure begins early in spring, with a young girl learning from her grandmother that the soil is still too cold and wet to begin planting. The pair make plans while earthworms and insects work in the dirt. As the year goes by, they tend to the garden, weeding, watering, and keeping away pests, and later harvesting vegetables. Also see Messner's and Neal's other collaborations, *Over and Under the Snow* and *Over and Under the Pond*.



Millard, Anne. *A Street Through Time*. Watch the landscape and daily lives of a street's inhabitants change over thousands of years, as the small settlement grows into a city, is struck by war and plague, and gains trade and industry. Throughout, children are asked to study the photos in order to find a time traveler in each scene, as well as to pick out interesting details, encouraging them to pore over the unique illustrations and more easily learn about the historical background. Also available: *A City Through Time*.

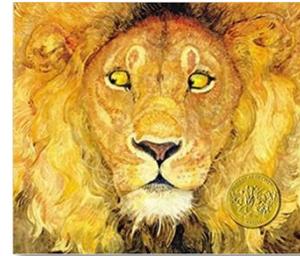
FOLKLORE AND MYTHOLOGY

Brown, Marcia. *Stone Soup*. When three hungry soldiers come to a town where all the food has been hidden, they set out to make soup of water and stones, and all the townspeople enjoy a feast.

DePaola, Tomie. *Strega Nona*. When Strega Nona leaves him alone with her magic pasta pot, Big Anthony is determined to show the townspeople how it works.

Pinkney, Jerry. *Aesop's Fables*. A collection of nearly sixty fables from Aesop, including such familiar ones as "The Grasshopper and the Ants," "The North Wind and the Sun," "Androcles and the Lion," and "The Fox and the Stork."

Pinkney, Jerry. *The Lion & The Mouse* (Caldecott Medal winner); *The Tortoise & The Hare*; *The Grasshopper & The Ants*. These fables are given special treatment by Pinkney. The almost-wordless format allows the beautiful illustrations to tell the stories.



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER AND ENJOY LOTS OF BOOKS!

