

## Summer Reading for Grades 3 – 5

Dear Students and Parents,

The Fulton County School System strongly believes in developing readers who read both for information and for pleasure. Books on the *Summer Reading List* vary in subject matter and level of difficulty. Our intent is to provide students and their parents with a wide range of authors and styles of writing in both fiction and non-fiction, and to allow students to select reading materials that match their interests.

Lexile levels are indicated for most books, and they address vocabulary and sentence structure. When vocabulary is repeated often and sentences are more simply written, a text has a lower Lexile score. Texts with less frequently-used vocabulary and with complex sentence structures have higher Lexile scores.

However, Lexile levels do not address subject matter. While a text may have a lower Lexile number, the contents could be more mature. Parents should be actively involved in assisting with their children's reading choices. The short descriptions with each book title should assist you in your selections.

Enjoy your summer reading.

Fulton County Schools English/Language Arts Department  
Fulton County Schools Media Services Department

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Adler, David A. **Cam Jansen and the Secret Service Mystery.** Viking, 2006. Lexile 520

With the help of her photographic memory, Cam and her friend Danny help to solve the mystery of a stolen pearl necklace at the dedication ceremony of their new school library.

Babbitt, Natalie. **Jack Plank Tells Tales.** Michael Di Capua Books, 2007. Lexile 860

Jack Plank is an unemployed pirate who is seeking a new job in the town of Saltwash in the Caribbean. He finds housing at a boarding house run by the widow DelFresno and her eleven year old daughter named Nina. Each night at dinner the guests try to suggest possible new occupations for Jack, who in turn entertains them with a tale to explain why he is not fit for that particular task. Will he find a job onshore or will he have to return to a career of plundering on the high seas?

Bishop, Nic. **Nic Bishop Frogs.** Scholastic, 2008. Lexile N/A

Follow nature cameraman Nic Bishop into the exciting world of frogs! Learn all about these amazing amphibians as he travels the world to capture their images on film. Learn about their eating habits, habitats and life cycle. Be sure to read Nic's notes on his frog watching expeditions. Can you believe that he once actually trained a frog to jump for crickets and caterpillars so he could get a great action shot?

Bishop, Nic. **Nic Bishop Spiders.** Scholastic, 2007. Lexile 820

Nature cameraman Nic Bishop has photographed and authored this informative book looking at the world of arachnids. Over fifteen different spider types are highlighted. The magnified photographs jump off the page and will be sure to capture the interest of all spider enthusiasts!

Cabot, Meg. **Allie Finkle's Rules for Girls: Moving Day.** Scholastic Press, 2008. Lexile N/A

Allie Finkle lives by the rules. These are the rules that she writes in her own Rules for Girls handbook after she has learned yet another lesson in life. Nine year old Allie is now faced with her toughest challenges yet for her parents have just announced that the Finkle family is moving to an old Victorian house in another town! This means adjusting to a creepy old home, a different school and new friends. Allie Finkle is sure her life is over but is it actually just beginning?

Child, Lauren. **Clarice Bean, Don't Look Now.** Candlewick Press, 2006.  
Lexile 1120

Clarice Bean is a natural worrier. As a result she constantly has her nose in her Ruby Redfort Survival Manual so she can stay clear of any disaster. But even though Clarice is prepared for most emergencies, she still has to deal with a flooded house, her best friend moving to San Francisco, and a pretty new Swedish exchange student who is capturing all the attention.

Clements, Andrew. **No Talking.** Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2007.  
Lexile 820

The teachers have nicknamed the fifth graders “The Unhushables” for they never stop making noise! Imagine their surprise when the students cease their chatter for an entire 48 hours! It is a classic case of the boys vs. the girls in a no talking contest.

Coville, Bruce. **Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher.** Harcourt, 2002, c. 1991. Lexile 710

While trying to escape Mary Lou Hutton who has a serious crush on him, Jeremy Thatcher stumbles upon Mr. Elive's Magic Shop. There Jeremy purchases a strange, shiny multicolored ball for a quarter. Following the instructions that come with this orb, Jeremy is shocked to learn it is in fact a dragon's egg ready to hatch. How can Jeremy keep a fast growing fire breathing dragon in his room and not let the rest of the world in on this magical secret?

Creech, Sharon. **Granny Torrelli Makes Soup.** Joanna Cotler Books, 2003. Lexile 810

Rosie and Bailey are the best of friends! When they have a falling out, Rosie reminisces about their friendship while she makes soup with Granny Torrelli. With the help of her wise grandmother, Rosie is able to solve her problems and make a delicious meal in the process.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. **Mr. Chickee's Funny Money.** Wendy Lamb, 2005. Lexile 1010

Imagine if you had a quadrillion-dollar bill? (That's a one followed by fifteen zeroes!) When Mr. Othello Chickee gives his young friend Steven this mysterious bill, a wild adventure begins. It isn't long before the US Treasury and Secret Government Agents get involved to reclaim this bill. Join Steven and his friends from the Future Detectives of Flint Club as they try to solve the mystery of Mr. Chickee's funny money.

Danziger, Paula. **Amber Bown Wants Extra Credit.** Penguin Group, 2008, c 1996. Lexile 710

Amber Brown's fourth grade career is off to a rocky start. She is behind on her schoolwork and is having problems coping with her parent's divorce. To top it all off, her mom wants her to meet her new boyfriend named Max. How can Amber ever bounce back from these problems? All she wants is a little extra credit.

Demi. **One Grain of Rice: A Mathematical Folktale.** Scholastic Press, 1997. Lexile 830

A selfish raja is outsmarted by a clever girl when he rewards her one grain of rice that will double in quantity for an entire month. This story adds up to a fun filled mathematical adventure!

Dowell, Frances O'Roark. **Phineas L. MacGuire - - Gets Slimed!** Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2007. Lexile 870

Mac is back in another scientific adventure. His focus has now turned from volcanoes to mold! He is so fascinated by mold that he wants to open a museum to display these moldy specimens. Join Mac as he continues to aspire to be the star science student in Mrs. Tuttle's room.

Fleischman, Paul. **Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal: A Worldwide Cinderella.** Holt, 2007. Lexile 700

This retelling of the classic Cinderella fairytale incorporates the traditions and cultures of many countries throughout the world.

Fleischman, Paul. **Weslandia.** Candlewick Press, 1999. Lexile 820

Summer vacation has begun and Wesley has decided to prepare a piece of land to make a garden. A strange, large crop soon begins to grow. Wesley realizes that this new plant he names "Swist" has many uses. He is able to use different parts of the plant to produce food, clothing, shelter, suntan lotion, and mosquito repellent. In a matter of time Wesley is able to establish his own independent civilization named Weslandia!

Giovanni, Nikki. **Rosa.** Henry Holt and Company, 2005. Lexile 900

On December 1, 1955 a tired seamstress named Rosa Parks paid her bus fare and sat down on a public bus for a ride home from work. Little did Mrs. Parks know that this fateful trip would impact the course of history and set in motion significant events in the civil rights movement. The powerful illustrations and text of this book celebrate the courage and integrity of this great African American heroine.

Gutman, Dan. **The Homework Machine.** Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2006. Lexile 680

Imagine having a machine that can complete your homework within a few minutes? This was a dream come true for four fifth graders at Grand Canyon School until their secret got out! Now the foursome must try to cover up their unethical activities. Will honesty and friendship prevail in the end?

Haven, Paul. **Two Hotdogs with Everything.** Random House, 2006. Lexile N/A

Danny Gurkin is a die hard Slugger's fan even though they haven't won a championship in 108 seasons. He is convinced that he can help his team win if he follows superstitious rituals such as sitting on one end of a couch or eating two hotdogs with all the extras. When visiting the mansion of Manchester Boddlebrooks, the bubblegum tycoon who was the original owner of the Sluggers, Danny discovers a new flavor of gum that he is convinced will lead his team to victory.

Howe, James. **Bunnica Meets Edgar Allan Crow.** Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2006. Lexile 750

In this seventh Bunnica adventure, the Monroe family is hosting famed author M.T. Graves who has penned the popular Fleshcrawlers series. When Mr. Graves arrives with his mysterious bird, Edgar Allan Crow, the Monroe pets go undercover to expose the secrets of this spooky guest. Join Chester, Howie, and Harold as they try to protect the beloved Bunnica from being turned into a steel-plated robot or worse!

Jenkins, Steve. **Living Color.** Houghton Mifflin, 2007. Lexile 950

Animals can be so colorful! How do they use the colors red, blue, yellow, green, orange, purple, and pink to survive in the wild?

Kline, Suzy. **Horrible Harry and the Goog.** Viking, 2005. Lexile 510

Are there any rooms in your school that you would love to explore but are off limits? Horrible Harry and his friend Doug do just that after Harry's cat "The Goog" gets lost in school! They also learn why all the teachers are mysteriously gathering in the Media Center after school.

Korman, Gordon. **Swindle**. Scholastic Press, 2008. Lexile 710

Sixth grader Griffin Bing has been swindled! After finding a million dollar Babe Ruth trading card, a dishonest collector tricks Griffin into believing that the card is only worth \$120. After realizing that he has been tricked, Griffin joins forces with his friends to right this injustice. Can a high-tech security system and a ferocious guard dog named Luthor stop Griffin and his gang from reclaiming the priceless collectible?

Levine, Ellen. **Henry's Freedom Box**. Scholastic Press, 2007. Lexile 380

Come aboard the Underground Railroad as Henry Brown ships himself to freedom. Follow his journey in a wooden crate as he travels from Richmond, Virginia to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the city of brotherly love.

Lewin, Ted. **At Gleason's Gym**. Roaring Book Press, 2007. Lexile 740

Come inside and visit the world famous Gleason's gym located in Brooklyn, New York. Meet Sugar Boy, a nine year old boy who is following in the footsteps of former Gleason Gym trainee Muhammad Ali. Experience the sights, sounds and excitement that abound in the world of boxing.

Lombard, Jenny. **Drita My Homegirl**. E. P. Putnam's Sons, 2006.  
Lexile 690

Drita has just arrived in America and anxiously hopes to make new friends in this promising new world. Her family has come to this country to escape from the violence of Kosovo. Maxie is a native of New York City who lives with her dad and grandmother since her mother passed away. Each girl struggles for acceptance and personal happiness. Even though these two girls come from worlds apart, they find in the end a friendship and respect for each other's culture.

Lowry, Lois. **Gooney, the Fabulous**. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. Lexile 690

After Mrs. Pidgeon reads aloud fables to her second graders, Gooney Bird Greene suggests that each student write a new fable featuring an animal that begins with the first letter of his or her first name.

MacLachlan, Patricia. **Edward's Eyes**. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2007.  
Lexile 470

From the moment Edward was born, his family knew he was someone special. His beautiful blue eyes were able to see things that others often overlooked. He was an avid reader, baseball enthusiast and also the favorite sibling of his brother Jake. When he unexpectedly dies and his parents donate his organs, his incredible eyes go to the perfect recipient.

Martin, Ann M. **The Meanest Doll in the World.** Hyperion Books, 2003.  
Lexile 690

If you enjoyed reading The Doll People then you will love this sequel! Dolls Annabelle and Tiffany just love living in the Palmer's house. One night they hide out in Kate Palmer's backpack and are accidentally carried to school. To make matters worse, they then crawl into the wrong backpack at school and are taken to another student's house where they encounter Princess Mimi, the meanest doll in the world!

McDonald, Megan. **Judy Moody: Around the World in 8 1/2 Days.** Candlewick Press, 2006. Lexile 540

Judy Moody has a brand new friend named Amey Namey. Not only do they both have names that rhyme but their personalities are uniquely alike as well. Unfortunately Judy doesn't quite have enough time to spend with her old friends, Rocky and Frank. The result is a disastrous school project and a lesson learned about friendship.

McKissack, Patricia C. **A Song for Harlem.** Viking, 2007. Lexile N/A

While poking around in the trunk in Grandma Gee's attic, her three grandchildren stumble across a journal and poem written by her Aunt Lilly Belle. Gee takes her grandchildren back in time when her Aunt Lilly Belle traveled to Harlem at the age of twelve to study writing under the famed writer Zora Neale Hurston. The book concludes with notes on the Harlem Renaissance.

Osborne, Mary Pope. **Monday with a Mad Genius.** Random House, 2007.  
Lexile 590

Jack and Annie are back in another adventure in the Magic Tree House series. The siblings travel back 500 years to Florence, Italy to search for the true meaning of happiness. They become the apprentices of Leonardo da Vinci for the day. Jack and Annie help Leonardo perfect his great flying machine and sit in on a portrait session with the famous Mona Lisa.

Pennypacker, Sara. **The Talented Clementine.** Hyperion Books for Children, 2007.  
Lexile 660

Clementine is worried. The third grade talent show is fast approaching and she has yet to discover her true talent. Clementine is sure to be an unexpected hit no matter what in this newest addition to the Clementine series.

Polacco, Patricia. **The Lemonade Club**. Philomel Books, 2007.  
Lexile N/A

Miss Wichelman always said, “If life hands you a lemon or two then just add water and sugar to make lemonade.” After a student named Marilyn is diagnosed with leukemia, Miss Wichelman and her class rally around her and see her through her treatments. Then when Miss Wichelman faces a life threatening illness, it’s Marilyn’s turn to support her beloved teacher. The Lemonade Club is an inspiring story of hope as these two amazing women beat the odds and go on to fulfill their dreams.

St. George, Judith. **Make Your Mark , Franklin Roosevelt**. Philomel Books, 2007.  
Lexile 690

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was our nation’s 32<sup>nd</sup> president. He was born into a family of wealth and privilege. His parents wanted him to become a country gentleman but Franklin had other plans. Inspired by his headmaster, Endicott Peabody, and fifth cousin, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin dedicated himself to a lifetime of public service. It only takes one or two special people to change your life forever!

St. George, Judith. **So You Want to be President?** . Philomel Books, 2000.  
Lexile 730

In the spirit of the upcoming 2008 presidential election, learn some amazing facts about the past leaders of our great country. Even though this book was published prior to the presidency of our current president, this Caldecott winner provides a wonderful overview of the qualifications needed to be our nation’s leader.

Scieszka, Jon. **Marco? Polo!** . Viking, 2006. Lexile 550

It’s time for another exciting outing with the Time Warp Trio. Joe, Sam and Fred are following the Silk Road to thirteenth century China. On the way they encounter the infamous Marco Polo who is on his way to meet the great Kublai Khan. Join them as they survive desert bandits, sandstorms, and smelly camels!

Selznick, Brian. **The Invention of Hugo Cabret**. Scholastic Press, 2007.  
Lexile 820

This 2008 Caldecott Medal winner is the adventure of a twelve year old orphan named Hugo who lives within the walls in a Paris train station in the 1930’s. Hugo tends to all the station clocks and spends his spare time repairing a robot like creation his late father had been restoring before his untimely death. Needing gears and other parts for his machine he steals from a toymaker’s booth in the station. The old toymaker has a mysterious connection to this automated robot and adds to the mystery of the invention of Hugo Cabret.

Siebert, Diane. **Tour America: A Journey Through Poems and Art.** Chronicle Books, 2006. Lexile N/A

Get a close up view of twenty-six amazing American sight seeing destinations. Poems, photos, and beautiful artwork combine to bring the subjects of geography and history alive!

Sobol, Donald J. **Encyclopedia Brown Cracks the Case.** Dutton Children's Books, 2007. Lexile 750

Calling all detectives! Put your crime solving skills to the test as ten year old Encyclopedia Brown takes on ten new cases. Look for the clues as you read each case carefully. The solutions for each case are included in the back of the book.

Stilton, G. **Geronimo and the Gold Medal Mystery.** Scholastic, 2007. Lexile N/A

Geronimo Stilton, publisher and editor of the Rodent's Gazette, is back in a new adventure. He has been assigned to report on the Olympic Games in Greece! His keen investigative skills uncover a mystery at the games! Why are all the gold medals being won only by the athletes from Mousylvania? Join Geronimo as he joins forces with his friend Hercule Poirat to solve this sporting mystery. Be sure to check out the appendix highlighting facts of the modern Olympics.

Teague, Mark. **LaRue for Mayor: Letters from the Campaign Trail.** The Blue Sky Press, 2008. Lexile N/A

In this third book in this series, Ike LaRue is running for the mayor of Snort City! He vows to make the city a safe and clean place for all. With his owner, Mrs. Larue, laid up in the hospital, Ike reports life on the campaign trail in his famous letters. Can Ike make the town a more dog friendly place?

Van Allsburg, Chris. **Probuditi.** Houghton Mifflin, 2006. Lexile N/A

For a birthday treat Calvin is given tickets to see Lomax the Magnificent's magic show. At the show he sees a woman hypnotized and made to act like a chicken. Back at home he tries the same trick on his bothersome sister but the trick yields much different results!

Weatherford, Carole Boston. **Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom.** Hyperion Books for Children, 2006. Lexile 660

This award winning book features the spiritual journey of Harriet Tubman as she escapes the bonds of slavery. This powerful fictional portrayal of Tubman follows her life from her early days as a slave, her daring escape, and her journey back south to free fellow slaves traveling on the Underground Railroad.

Weeks, Sarah. **Oggie Cooder.** Scholastic Press, 2008. Lexile 880

Oggie Cooder definitely is a kid who marches to the beat of his own drum. He is described by teachers as “quirky” and “one of a kind”. His fellow classmates are not as kind as they comment about his crocheted shoelaces and mismatched wardrobe. Oggie although has a really unique talent named charving ( a cross between carving and chewing). Oggie is able to carve any state out of a slice of cheese. The television program “ Hidden Talents” comes to town and changes Oggie’s life forever!

Winkler, Henry. **Holy Enchilada!** Grosset & Dunlap, 2004. Lexile 750

Hank Zipzer is back in another hilarious tale. Hank has been chosen to host the visiting Japanese exchange student at his house. Besides trying to impress his guest, he also attempts to make a batch of enchiladas for the school’s Multicultural Day. Because he has difficulties understanding fractions, Hank guesses when measuring the chili powder for the recipe. Fearing the worst, Hank hopes that none of the guests will yell out “Holy Enchilada!” after sampling his cuisine.