

South Orange Maplewood School District
**2008 Summer Reading Suggestions for
 Intermediate Grades:
 Grades 3 – 5**

The South Orange and Maplewood elementary school librarians and public librarians worked together in creating this listing of suggested summer reading. Feel free to choose books from any of our lists – Primary, Intermediate, or the Middle School "Choices" list.

We suggest you make frequent virtual and physical visits to your public libraries this summer. Their addresses and web sites are:

Maplewood Memorial Library
www.maplewoodlibrary.org
 51 Baker Street, Maplewood
 (973) 762-1622 ext 5005


South Orange Public Library
www.sopl.org
 65 Scotland Road, South Orange
 (973) 762-0230


Maplewood Library's Hilton Branch
 1688 Springfield Ave., Maplewood
 (973) 762-1688


This list is available online at the public library sites, as well as at
<http://www.somds.k12.nj.us>


HERE IS A KEY TO THE STORY TYPES LISTED BELOW:

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|  = Animal stories |  = Arts & Crafts |  = Family & Friends |
|  = Folktales |  = Graphic Novel |  = Historical fiction |
|  = Humor |  = Imagination |  = Mystery |
|  = Nonfiction |  = Sports | |

 ARONSON, MARC. *Ain't Nothing But a Man: My Quest to Find the Real John Henry*
 also: *The World Made New*
 If you like history mysteries, you'll love these books.

 AVI. *Best Shorts: favorite stories for sharing*

 BERLIN, ERIC. *Puzzling world of Winston Breen*
 Puzzle-crazy, twelve-year-old Winston and his ten-year-old sister Katie find themselves involved in a dangerous mystery involving a hidden ring. Puzzles for the reader to solve are included throughout the text.

 BERTHOLF, BRET. *Long gone lonesome history of country music*
 A journey through the history of country music.



BIRDSALL, JEANNE. *The Penderwicks of Gardam Street* + book on CD
also: *The Penderwicks*
Four siblings have more adventures together.



BISHOP, NIC. *Spiders*



BUCHANAN, ANDREA J. *Daring book for girls*
Jam-packed with information on how to do almost anything.



CARBONE, ELISA LYNN. *Night Running: How James Escaped with the Help of his Faithful Dog*
A runaway slave makes a daring escape to freedom. Based on the true story of James Smith's journey from Virginia to Ohio in the mid-1800s.



CHILD, LAUREN. *Clarice Bean, don't look now*
Clarice Bean has a list of things to worry about. How does she handle them?
also: the other Clarice Bean stories



CLEMENTS, ANDREW. *No talking*
The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest.



COLFER, EOIN. *Legend of the worst boy in the world*
Every Saturday, while helping polish the lens of the lighthouse his grandfather tends, nine-year-old Will tells a tale he hopes will top Grandad's, but Grandad always wins until Dad reminds Will of a long-forgotten escapade with his brother.



COLLARD, SNEED B. *Pocket babies and other amazing marsupials*



COLLINS, ROSS. *Medusa Jones*
In ancient Greece, Medusa Jones, a gorgon, and her friends, a minotaur and a centaur, are mocked and sneered at by the other Acropolis Academy children whose parents are kings and gods, but when they go on a school camping trip together, the "freaks" become true heroes.



COOK, SALLY. *Hey Batta Batta Swing: The Wild Old Days of Baseball*
A look at baseball from its beginnings to today.



CURTIS, CHRISTOPHER PAUL. *Elijah of Buxton*
In 1859, eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.



DAVIES, JACQUELINE. *Lemonade war*
Evan and his younger sister, Jesse, react very differently to the news that they will be in the same class for fourth grade. As the end of summer approaches, they battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn 100 dollars.





ELLIOTT, DAVID. *Transmogrification of Roscoe Wizzle*
After eating constantly at the fast food restaurant known as Gussy's, ten-year-old Roscoe finds himself turning into a giant bug.





ENGLISH, KAREN. *Nikki and Deja*
When an arrogant new girl comes to school, third-graders and best friends Nikki and Deja decide to form a club that would exclude her but find the results not what they expected.


-  ENRIGHT, ELIZABETH. *Gone-Away Lake* also: *Return to Gone-Away*
A brother and sister spend the summer in the country where they discover an old, forgotten community.
-  FINNEY, PATRICIA. *I, Jack [by Jack the dog]*
Jack, a Labrador Retriever, tells about his daily life of food, walks, and the "apedogs" and "funny-looking dogs" (cats) in his pack, as well as how everything changes when a pretty girl dog moves into the neighborhood.
-  FLEMING, CANDACE. *Fabled fourth graders of Aesop elementary school*
An unlikely teacher takes over the disorderly fourth-grade class of Aesop Elementary School with surprising results.
-  FLORIAN, DOUGLAS. *Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars*
Space poems and paintings.
-  FREYMAN, SAXTON. *Knock, knock!*
Knock-knock jokes by fourteen artists.
-  FUNKE, CORNELIA. *Igraine the brave*
The daughter of two magicians, twelve-year-old Igraine wants nothing more than to be a knight, and when their castle is attacked by a treacherous neighbor bent on stealing their singing magic books, Igraine has an opportunity to demonstrate her bravery.
-  GIBLIN, JAMES. *Many rides of Paul Revere*
-  GONYEA, MARK. *Another Book About Design: Complicated Doesn't Make it Bad*
also: *A Book About Design* Fun and interesting!
-  GUTMAN, DAN. *The Homework Machine*
also: *Satch and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure* 
Fifth-grade students have some fun with a computer that is programmed to do homework.
-  HARPER, CHARISE. *Fashion Kitty*
After a stack of fashion magazines falls on her head, Kiki turns into Fashion Kitty, a feline superhero who saves other kitties from fashion disaster. Graphic Novel.
-  HARPER, CHARISE. *Just Grace*
When 7-year-old Grace tries to help a neighbor feel better, her good intentions backfire
-  HATKOFF, ISABELLA. *Owen & Mzee: the true story of a remarkable friendship*
The true story of an unusual friendship between a tortoise and a hippo.
-  HUNTER, ERIN. *The Warriors graphic novel*
also: *The Warriors* series
An adventure series about a housecat who yearns for an exciting life and joins a clan of wild cats. There is a lot of danger and fighting, so this is for older readers.
-  IGGULDEN, CONN. *Dangerous book for boys*
An adventure guide for boys.
-  JONELL, LYNNE. *Emmy and the incredible shrinking rat*
When Emmy discovers that she and her parents are being drugged by their evil nanny with rodent potions that can change people in frightening ways, she and some new friends must try to return things to normal.


 KELLER, LAURIE. *Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners*
Mr. Rabbit wonders if he will be able to get along with his new neighbors, who are otters, until he is reminded of the golden rule.


 KIMMEL, ERIC. *A. Horn for Louis*
A biography of the great jazz musician – Louis Armstrong. A Stepping Stones chapter book.


 KINNEY, JEFF. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*
also: *Rodrick Rules*
Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings, hope to survive. But when Rowley grows more popular, things start to change.


 LECHNER, JOHN. *Sticky Burr: Adventures in Burrwood Forest*
Sticky Burr is on the verge of being kicked out of his village in Burrwood Forest because he is not prickly enough to suit some of the other burrs, but when the village is attacked by wild dogs, Sticky Burr and his friends come to the rescue.


 LEVINE, ELLEN. *Henry's freedom box*
A fictionalized account of how in 1849 a Virginia slave, Henry "Box" Brown, escapes to freedom by shipping himself in a wooden crate from Richmond to Philadelphia.


 LEWIN, TED. *At Gleason's Gym*
Step inside Gleason's, the world's most famous boxing gym – home to legendary champions like Muhammad Ali and Jake La Motta. And meet Sugar Boy – a nine year who hopes to become a great boxer.


 LORD, CYNTHIA. *Rules*
Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic.


 LOWRY, LOIS. *The Willoughbys*
In this tongue-in-cheek take on classic themes in children's literature, the four Willoughby children set about to become "deserving orphans" after their neglectful parents embark on a treacherous around-the-world adventure, leaving them in the care of an odious nanny.

 LUCKE, DEB. *The Book of Time Outs: a mostly true history of the world's biggest troublemakers*
Tells about some interesting characters through history. Sometimes it's good to be bad...










 MCCARTHY, MEGHAN. *Strong Man: the story of Charlie Atlas*
You've seen him in the back of comic books. Now meet the original 90 pound weakling.

 MCKISSACK, PAT. *Song for Harlem*
In the summer of 1928, Lilly Belle Turner participates in a young author's writing program, taught by Zora Neale Hurston and hosted by A'Lelia Walker in her Harlem teahouse at the height of the Harlem Renaissance.

 MOSS, MARISSA. *Vote 4 Amelia*
also: *Max's Logbook*
America's favorite middle schooler is back. Amelia records her thoughts and feelings about running for school secretary.

 NAGDA, ANN. *Meow means mischief*
A stray kitten turns out to be the perfect way to help Rana make friends in her new school and to feel more comfortable with her grandparents, who are visiting from India while her parents are away.

-  PENNYPACKER, SARA. *Clementine's Letter*
also: *Clementine* and *The Talented Clementine*
Third grader Clementine is allergic to sitting still. So it is no surprise that she is always getting into trouble.
-  PRELUTSKY, JACK. *My dog may be a genius*
New poems by the master of funny.
-  QUATTLEBAUM, MARY. *Jackson Jones and the curse of the outlaw rose*
When Jackson and Reuben take a rose cutting from a graveyard for Mr. Kerring, events make them believe it is cursed and will continue to threaten anyone in its vicinity until it is returned.
-  REISMAN, MICHAEL. *Simon Bloom: The Gravity Keeper*
Nerdy sixth-grader Simon Bloom finds a book that enables him to control the laws of physics, but when two thugs come after him, he needs the formulas in the book to save himself.
-  REX, ADAM. *True Meaning of Smekday*
When her mother is abducted by aliens on Christmas Eve (or "Smekday" Eve since the Boov invasion), 11 year-old Tip hops in the family car and heads south to find her and meets an alien Boov mechanic who agrees to help her and save the planet from disaster.
-  RICHARDSON, CHARRISE K. *Real Lucky Charm*
Thinking that luck -- rather than hard work -- has helped her succeed, ten-year-old Mia panics and turns to her twin brother for help when her lucky gold basketball goes missing from her charm bracelet.
-  ROBERTS, DAVID & JEREMY LESLIE. *Pick me up: stuff you need to know...*
Jam-packed with lots of information about everything!
-  RODRIQUEZ, ALEX. *Out of the Ballpark*
Although Alex is nervous about his role in the approaching baseball playoffs and championship game, he soon figures out how to fix his mistakes and become a better player.
-  ROMPELLA, NATALE. *Don't Squash that Bug: The Curious Kid's Guide to Insects*
There is lots of information in this well-illustrated book about bugs.
-  RUBIN, SUSAN GOLDMAN. *Delicious: The life and art of Wayne Theibaud*
An enticing biography of the 20th century painter, famed for ordinary objects like cakes and ice cream.
also: *Edward Hopper: painter of light and shadow*
-  SCHADE, SUSAN. *The Fog Mound. Books 1- 3.*
The adventures of Thelonius, a young chipmunk who escapes danger and finds the Fog Mound, where all creatures live in peace and harmony. There are 3 books in this series.
-  SCHULMAN, JANET. *Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City*
Meet one of New York City's most famous residents – the red-tailed hawk that made his nest on an apartment building across from Central Park.
-  SELZNICK, BRIAN. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret: A novel in words and pictures*
When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.
-  SIS, PETER. *The Wall: Growing up behind the Iron Curtain*
Artist and author Peter Sis literally draws you into his life story.

-  SMALLCOMB, PAM. *The Last Burp of Mac McGerp*
Mac McGerp, winner of the Best Burper first prize at the Tri-county Fair, and his good friend, Lido, try to figure out how to deal with the new repressive school principal.
-  SNYDER, ZILPHA KEATLEY. *Treasures of Weatherby*
also: *The Bronze Pen*
Determined to be as strong and powerful as his ancestors, twelve-year-old Harleigh Fourth try to foil the plans of a distant relative who is seeking the long-lost Weatherby fortune
-  STADLER, ALEXANDER. *Julian Rodriguez. Episode One: Trash Crisis on Earth*
Julian Rodriguez escapes from the crisis of the moment (being sent to his room for not taking out the trash) by imagining he is a space warrior.
-  STEWART, TRENTON LEE. *The Mysterious Benedict Society*
also: *The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey*
After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.
-  STIER, CATHERINE. *If I Ran for President*
Six children take turns explaining the election process – as if they were running for president. Interesting and fun.
-  URBAN, LINDA. *Crooked Kind of Perfect*
Ten-year-old Zoe Elias, who longs to play the piano but must resign herself to learning the organ, instead, finds that her musicianship has a positive impact on her workaholic mother, her jittery father, and her school social life.
-  VARON, SARA. *Robot dreams*
The enduring friendship between a dog and a robot is portrayed in this wordless graphic novel
-  WEATHERFORD, CAROLE. *A Negro League Scrapbook*
Imagine that you are an outstanding baseball player, but banned from the major leagues. Imagine having a dream, but no chance to make that dream come true. Meet all the great ball players in the Negro Leagues.
-  WEEKS, SARAH. *Oggie Cooder*
Quirky fourth-grader Oggie Cooder goes from being shunned to everyone's best friend when his uncanny ability to chew slices of cheese into the shapes of states wins him a slot on a popular television talent show, but he soon learns the perils of being a celebrity--and having a neighbor girl as his manager.

Books in a Series:

Here are some more books you may like:

Buckley, Michael *Sisters Grimm*
Charles, Veronika Martenova. *Easy-to-read spooky tales series*
Clements, Andrew. *Jake Drake series*
Danko, Dan. *Sidekicks series*
Deutsch, Stacia *Blast from the past series*
Draper, Sharon. *Ziggy and the black dinosaurs series*
Gutman, Dan. *My Weird School series*
Holm, Jennifer. *Babymouse series*
Hunter, Erin. *The Warriors series*
also: *The Warriors Graphic Novel series*

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Books in a Series (continued):

Jacques, Brian. *Redwall Graphic Novel series*
Klein, Abby. *Ready Freddy series*
Leonard, Elise. *Al's World series*
Martin, Ann. *Main Street series*
Mazer, Anne *Sister magic series*
McDonald, Megan. *Stink series*
Moore, Ulysses *Ulysses Moore series*
New Naturebooks series
Small, Charlie *Charlie Small series*
Sports For Fun series
Stanley, George Edward. *Third-Grade Detectives series*
Geronimo Stilton series
Van Draanen, Wendelin. *Shredderman series*
Wesley, Valerie. *Willimina series*
Woodward, John *Close-up series (Ocean Life / Our Homes //Food)*
You wouldn't want to be a . . . series