

South Orange Maplewood School District
**2008 Summer Reading Suggestions for
 Primary Grades:
 Grades K – 2**

This list was compiled by librarians from the South Orange and Maplewood elementary schools and public libraries. You may read books from this list, or from the Intermediate Grades List.

Reading is one of the best activities for academic success. 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.somdsd.k12.nj.us>

HERE IS A KEY TO THE STORY TYPES LISTED BELOW:



= Animal stories



= Art



= Family & Friends



= Folktales



= Humor



= Imagination



= Nonfiction



= Sports



= Words & Numbers



ALDA, ARLENE. *Here a Face, There a Face*

The author/photographer finds faces in unusual places – on buildings, trees, mailboxes, and fountains.



ASTON, DIANA. *A Seed is Sleepy*

An informative, yet beautiful, introduction to seeds.



BAKER, MARGARET. *When I was a girl . . . I dreamed*

An old lady remembers a young girl's crazy dreams; what she would become and the wonderful adventures that she would have. Are they true; or only imagination?



BANG-CAMPBELL, MONIKA. *Little rat makes music*

Little Rat loves the violin but hates to practice, until her teacher suggests she perform a duet with one of the advanced students at the holiday concert.



BENNETT, KELLY. *Not Norman: A Goldfish Story*

Norman the goldfish was not the kind of pet the boy wanted. He wanted a pet that could run and catch. But when he tries to trade Norman for a "good pet," things go wrong.



BERGMAN, MARA. *Oliver who would not sleep*

Oliver Donnington Rimington-Sneep avoids falling asleep by flying his rocket ship to Mars.



BROACH, ELISE. *When dinosaurs came with everything*

Although his mother is a little worried, a young boy is delighted to discover that every shop in town is giving away real dinosaurs to their customers.



BROWN, JEFF. *Flat Stanley*

A picture book version of the story of a boy who finds that being flat has some advantages.



BRUEL, NICK. *Poor Puppy*

When Bad Kitty won't play with him, Poor Puppy has to amuse himself with an alphabetical list of toys and dreams of playing in an alphabetical list of countries.



CALMENSON, STEPHANIE. *May I pet your dog?*

Harry the dog explains how to safely meet him and his friends.



CHILD, LAUREN. *I am not sleepy and I will not go to bed*

Charlie helps Lola get ready for bed, despite the tigers, whales, and other animals that serve as obstacles.

also: Other Charlie and Lola books by this author



CLEMENTS, ANDREW. *Dogku*

A haiku poem about a loveable dog.



COWELL, CRESSIDA. *That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown*

Emily defends her stuffed rabbit from the naughty queen who is determined to acquire it any way she can.



CUYLER, MARGERY. *That's good, that's bad in Washington, D.C.*

During a class trip to Washington, D.C., a young boy has a series of mishaps, with both good and bad results, as he and his friends visit the White House, the Lincoln Memorial, the National Zoo, and other landmarks.

also: *That's Good, That's Bad* and *That's Good That's Bad in the Grand Canyon*



DAVIS, JACKY. *Ladybug girl*

After her brother tells her she is too little to play with him, Lulu, dressed as Ladybug Girl, makes her own fun.



DEEDY, CARMEN AGRA. *Martina the beautiful cockroach*

In this humorous retelling of a Cuban folktale, a cockroach interviews her suitors in order to decide whom to marry.



FLOCA, BRIAN. *Lightship*

Lightships once served where lighthouses could not be built. They helped to guide sailors safely through the fog.



FROMENTAL, JEAN-LUC. *365 Penguins*

When a box containing a penguin arrives anonymously on New Year's Day, a family of four is puzzled, but as they continue to receive one penguin each day their problems are multiplied.



GIOVANNI, NIKKI. *Rosa*

This Caldecott Honor Book tells of Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat on a bus, and how she changed history.



GONZALEZ, MAYA CHRISTINA. *My colors, my world/Mis colores, Mi mundo*

Maya, who lives in the dusty desert, opens her eyes wide to find the colors in her world, from Papi's black hair and Mami's orange and purple flowers to Maya's red swing set and the fiery pink sunset.



GRAHAM, BOB. *Dimity Dumpty: The story of Humpty's little sister*

Humpty Dumpty's little sister is too shy to be part of her family's circus act, but she finds courage when her brother needs her help.



GRAVETT, EMILY. *Orange Pear Apple Bear*

Explores concepts of color, shape, and food using only five simple words, as a bear juggles and plays.



GRIMES, NIKKI. *When Gorilla Goes Walking*

In this collection of rhyming poems, Gorilla the cat enjoys answering the telephone, eating soul food, and sharing mischievous adventures with her young owner.



GUTMAN, DAN. *Casey Back at Bat*

Where does a baseball go when it is hit out of the park?



HARRINGTON, JANICE N. *Chicken-chasing Queen of Lamar County*

A young farm girl tries to catch her favorite chicken, until she learns something about the hen that makes her change her ways.



HARRIS, ROBIE H. *Maybe a Bear Ate It!*

At bedtime, a young boy who cannot find his favorite book imagines the various creatures that might have taken it from him.



HOBERMAN, MARY ANN. *You read to me, I'll read to you: very short scary stories to read together*



HOFFMAN, MARY. *Princess Grace*

Grace wants to participate in her community festival's princess float, but first she must decide what sort of a princess she wants to be -- from an African princess in kente cloth robes to a floaty pink fairy tale princess.



HUTCHINS, H. J. *A Second is a Hiccup: A Child's Book of Time*



JARRETT, CLARE. *Arabella Miller's tiny caterpillar*

Arabella feeds a tiny caterpillar and watches him grow into a butterfly.



JENKINS, STEVE. *Dogs and Cats*

When you have finished reading about dogs, you can flip the book over and read about cats!

also: *Living Color*



JENKINS, Emily. *What happens on Wednesdays*

A child describes every event that occurs on a Wednesday, from waking up, through a half-day of school, to snuggling into bed at night.



JOHNSON, ANGELA. *Lily Brown's Painting*

When Lily Brown paints, she imagines all sorts of fantastic things in the scenes that she sees every day.



KELLY, IRENE. *It's a Butterfly's Life*

Local author and illustrator, Irene Kelly, brings the magical world of butterflies to life in this beautiful companion to "It's a Hummingbird's Life."



KIMMEL, ELIZABETH CODY. *Top Job*

On Career Day, a young girl entertains the class with a description of her father's exciting job as light bulb changer at the top of the Empire State Building.



KUDLINSKI, KATHLEEN. *Boy Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs!*

Examines what is known about dinosaurs and how different the facts often are from what scientists believed to be true.



LAROCHELLE, DAVID. *The End*

When a princess makes some lemonade, she starts a chain of events involving a fire-breathing dragon, one hundred rabbits, a hungry giant, and a knight.



LEHMAN, BARBARA. *Rainstorm*

In this wordless picture book, a boy finds a mysterious key which leads him on an adventure one rainy day.



LOW, WILLIAM. *Old Penn Station*

An illustrated account of the construction, history, and demolition of one of the most famous railroad stations in America -- New York City's Penn Station.



LUNDE, DARRIN P. *Hello Bumblebee Bat*

Meet the endangered bumblebee bat of Thailand.



McLIMANS, DAVID. *Gone Wild: An Endangered Animal Alphabet*

A wild animal alphabet book, winner of the Caldecott honor medal this year.



MCPHAIL, DAVID. *Water boy*

Fascinated by the fact that humans are made mostly of water, a boy develops an unusual relationship with it once he stops being afraid.



MICKELTHWAIT, LUCY. *I spy colors in art*

See if you can find some famous paintings in this art book on color.



MUTH, JOHN. *Zen Ties*

When Stillwater the panda encourages Koo, Addy, Michael, and Karl to help a grouchy neighbor, their efforts are rewarded in unexpected ways.

also: *Zen Shorts*



MYERS, CHRISTOPHER. *Jabberwocky*

The classic Lewis Carroll nonsense poem, with new illustrations.



NIVOLA, Clare A. *Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai*

A true story about how this Nobel peace prize winner changed the world one seed at a time.



O'MALLEY, KEVIN. *Captain Raptor and the Space Pirates*

Captain Raptor and the crew of the Megatooth are called back into action to save the planet Jurassica from rogue space pirates.



PALANTINI, MARGIE. *The Cheese*

After they all agree to ignore the story of "The Farmer in the Dell," the rat, cat, dog, child, farmer, and his wife have a party featuring the tempting hunk of cheese.



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.



PINKNEY, JERRY. *Little Red Riding Hood*

A new version of this classic tale – retold and illustrated by this award-winning artist.



PINTO, SARA. *Apples and Oranges: Going Bananas with Pairs*

Why is a bicycle like a motorcycle? The answers may surprise you.



PORTIS, ANTOINETTE. *Not a Stick*

An imaginative young pig shows some of the many things that a stick can be.

also: *Not a Box*



PREVERT, JACQUES. *How to paint the portrait of a bird*

Is this an art book, a poem about creativity, or a story? You decide.



RACZKA, BOB. *Artful Reading*

An art adventures book.



RODMAN, MARY ANN. *My Best Friend*

What happens when a first grader tries to be friends with a second grader?



ROMPELLA, NATALE. *Don't squash that bug: the curious kids guide to insects*

There is lots of information in this well-illustrated book about bugs.



ROSENTHAL, AMY. *It's Not Fair!*

Do you always get the smaller half? Brother and sisters aren't the only ones who have trouble sharing.



SAYRE, APRIL PULLEY. *Vulture view*

Turkey vultures soar on the balmy air, looking for their next stinky feast. They are nature's cleanup crew.



SCHNEIDER, JOSH. *You'll Be Sorry*

Samantha does not believe her parents when they tell her to stop hitting her brother or she will be sorry, but she soon learns just how right they are when his tears flood their entire town.



SEDER, RUFUS BUTLER. *Gallop! A Scanimation Picture Book*

A first book of motion for kids, using Scanimation technology. The images really move!



SHELDON, DAVID. *Barnum Brown, Dinosaur Hunter*

Find out how a boy who loves to explore, grows up to discover the first nearly complete T-Rex specimen.



SIY, ALEXANDRA. *Sneeze!*

Partly gross, partly interesting – it's all about a sneeze!



SMITH, LANE. *John, Paul, George, and Ben*

Pay tribute to the Fab Four Founding Fathers: John Hancock, Paul Revere, George Washington, and Ben Franklin. This cute history picture book introduces kids to a freedom-loving quartet who stretched the rules.



STAUFFACHER, SUE. *Nothing but Trouble: The Story of Althea Gibson*

A picture book biography – gutsy and realistic – of the first great African American tennis player.



TAN, SHAUN. *The Lost Thing*

When a humungous "lost thing" at the beach catches the eye of a boy, no one else seems to notice – not even his parents.



TAUSS, MARC. *Superhero*

Maleek may be a small boy in a big city, but he's no ordinary kid. He's a scientist and a superhero! So when his beloved city's parks and playground mysteriously disappear, it's up to Maleek and his robot to save the day.



TAVARES, MATT. *Mudball (a baseball story)*

During a rainy Minneapolis Millers baseball game in 1903, little Andy Oyler has the chance to become a hero by hitting the shortest and muddiest home run in history.



THOMPSON, LAUREN. *Ballerina Dreams*

The true story of five little girls with physical disabilities who are determined to become ballerinas.



WESTON, CARRIE. *If a chicken stayed for supper*

Even though they promise not to leave the den when their mother goes out hunting for a chicken for supper, five little foxes are unable to resist going outside to play in the dark.



WHEELER, LISA. *Jazz baby*

Baby and his family make some jazzy music



Why Did the Chicken Cross The Road?

Fourteen artists present their answers to this age-old question. This funny collection is by Mo Willems, Jerry Pinkney, Chris Raschka, David Shannon, and others.



WILLEMS, MO. *Knuffle Bunny Too*

also: *Knuffle Bunny*

After Trixie and daddy leave the laundromat, something very important turns up missing



WILLEMS, MO. *Pigeon wants a puppy* and other books in the series

The pigeon really, really wants a puppy, but when a puppy arrives, the pigeon changes its mind.



ZEMACH, KAETHE. *Ms. McCaw learns to draw*

Dudley Ellington struggles to learn anything at school, but when his very patient teacher, Mrs. McGraw, is unable to draw a face on the board, he helps her figure out how to do it.

BOOKS IN A SERIES:

Here are some suggestions for **series books** for young readers:

Ivy and Bean series by Annie Barrows

Words Are Categorical series by Brian Cleary

Mercy Watson series by Kate DiCamillo

Flip A Word series for beginning readers

Life size series (Life Size Reptiles / Life size killer creatures/ Live size Dragons)

My Father's Dragon series by Ruth Gannett

Andrew Lost series by J. C. Greenburg

Riddle books by Katy Hall

Just for You easy readers.

Under the Sea series by Carol Lindeen

Math Gear First Facts series

Miami series by P. & F. McKissack

Capital Mysteries series by Ron Roy

Dog and Bear series by Laura Seeger

Black Lagoon Adventures series by Mike Thaler

Willimena Rules series by Valerie Wilson Wesley

Elephant and Piggie series by Mo Willems.

ADDITIONAL AUTHORS:

Here are some great authors & illustrators to explore for primary readers:

Marc Brown, Eric Carle, Beverly Cleary, Lauren Child, Andrew Clements, Joanna Cole, Floyd Cooper, Doreen Cronin, Tomie DePaola, Ezra Jack Keats, Steven Kellogg, E.B. Lewis, Leo Lionni, Pat McKissack, Susan Meddaugh, Margie Palatini, Dav Pilkey, Jerry Pinkney, James Ransome, Cynthia Rylant, John Scieszca, Mark Teague, George Shannon, Rosemary Wells, Mo Willems