

Summer Reading Ideas from the MTPS Libraries: 3-6th Grade

These books are **SUGGESTED** by the Moorestown Township Public School librarians.

MTPS does not have required summer reading lists; these are just some suggestions to get you started. Please feel free to help your student select titles that catch his or her interest.

Here are some tips for parents to help your elementary school reader:

- *Let your children see you reading. They will do as you do. Have books all over the house, including the bathrooms. :)*
- *Limit summer TV viewing and "screen time" in general.*
- *Have rainy day read-ins.*
- *Help your child create a library in his/her room.*
- *Join the summer reading program at the public library.*
- *A magazine subscription is an excellent gift. Your child will be excited to get mail.*
- *Read a chapter book together. Finish each evening at a cliff-hanging spot in the book.*
- *Get books on CD to listen to on long car trips.*
- *Read books to plan a vacation or summer excursion.*
- *Don't forget to read non-fiction. Pick books to satisfy your and your child's interests.*



MTPS Summer Reading List for Rising 3-4

NON-FICTION

The Case of the Vanishing Honeybees-Sandra Markle- Examines why the honeybee population is decreasing and discusses how scientists and beekeepers are working to answer this question.

A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin-Jennifer Bryant-A self-taught painter from humble beginnings was, despite many obstacles, ultimately able to do what he loved, and be recognized for who he was as an artist.

Locomotive-Brian Floca- This Caldecott Medal winner details what the first passengers experienced as they traveled West on the transcontinental railroad in the summer of 1869.

Never Smile at a Monkey-Steve Jenkins- Presents an illustrated discussion of what not to do around various dangerous animals, with warnings about petting a platypus, touching a tang fish, or pulling a python's tail.

Miss Paul and the President-Dean Robbins-Cheerfully illustrated story tells of [local girl!] Alice Paul's struggle to win the support of President Woodrow Wilson and gain women the right to vote. Grit, perseverance, and triumph!

The Music of Life-Elizabeth Rusch-All around the world, people can play the most intricate music of their lives, thanks to Bartolomeo Cristofori's marvelous creation: the piano.

CHAPTER BOOKS

The Year of Billy Miller-Kevin Henkes- Seven-year-old Billy Miller starts second grade with a bump on his head and a lot of worries, but by the end of the year he has developed good relationships with his teacher, his little sister, and his parents and learned many important lessons.

Sadie & Ratz-Sonya Hartnett- Hannah and her hands, named Sadie and Ratz, regularly get into trouble, especially when younger brother Baby Boy is around.

Frindle-Andrew Clements- When he decides to turn his fifth-grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control. (slightly more challenging)

Tua and the Elephant-R.P. Harris- In Chiang Mai, Thailand, nine-year-old Tua releases an abused elephant from its chains--can she complete the rescue by getting it to an elephant refuge without being caught herself?

Alvin Ho: allergic to girls, school and other scary things-Lenore Look- A young boy in Concord, Massachusetts, who loves superheroes and comes from a long line of brave Chinese farmer-warriors, wants to make friends, but first he must overcome his fear of everything.

The Gold-Threaded Dress-Carolyn Marsden- When Oy and her Thai American family move to a new neighborhood, her third-grade classmates tease and exclude her because she is different.

Earwig and the Witch-Diana Wynne Jones- Earwig enjoys life at St. Morwald's, where she manages to make everyone do her bidding, until she is taken in by foster parents--who are actually a witch and a demon--and struggles to turn the situation to her advantage.

Akimbo and the Snakes-Alexander McCall Smith- Akimbo goes to the snake park with his Uncle Peter and has an adventure with a deadly green mamba snake. (Series)

My Haunted House-Araminta Spookie-Angie Sage- Araminta Spookie lives in a wonderful old haunted house, but her crabby aunt Tabby wants to move. Aunt Tabby is determined to sell their house—Araminta has to stop her! (*slightly more challenging*)

SERIES

Who Is --?/What Was --?/Where Is --? “Exciting, illustrated series perfect for children who are beyond easy-to-read books, but not quite ready for thick, long” nonfiction. (Follett)

MTPS Summer Reading List for Rising 4-6

the UES

Summer Scoop



served to you by Mrs. Herb

Happy Summer! Continuing to read over the summer is important to keep up your reading skills, and it's just plain fun.

My best advice to you is to read what you are interested in! But, if you would like some ideas, here are a few of my favorites to get you started. (Remember, they are just suggestions, they are NOT required reading!)

***Fred Korematsu Speaks Up* by Laura Atkins**

When the U.S. government was requiring people of Japanese ancestry to move to internment camps during WWII, one boy refused to go. "This story of Fred Korematsu's fight against discrimination takes us through the life of one courageous person who made the United States a fairer place for all Americans." (back cover)

***Revolution* by Deborah Wiles**

Sunny and her brother sneak into the local pool, and their lives are forever changed when they are caught. With actual song lyrics, newspaper clippings, and photos, Sunny's fictional story comes to life.

***Star Wars: Jedi Academy* by Jeffrey Brown**

Did you think that Jedi Knights are always selected at birth and are completely devoted to their training? Well, you might be wrong. A great book for fans of Graphic Novels or Star Wars.

***Zane and the Hurricane: A Story of Katrina* by Rodman Philbrick**

Zane and his dog, Bandy, are stranded in the attic, with floodwaters from Hurricane Katrina closing in on them. Salvation comes in the form of Mr. Tru and Malvine, who float by in a canoe. Will they make it to safety?

***Wonder (the 2013 UES Read-It-Forward book)* by R. J. Palacio**

What's a kid to do when he feels and acts just like any other kid, but looks nothing like them? Auggie finds true friends and realizes that standing out isn't always as bad as he thought it would be.

***The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate**

Ivan, a great gorilla, has lived in a circus-themed mall for years, and he has grown accustomed to his life there. All that changes when Ruby, a baby elephant, joins their sad little zoo and show.

***Granny Torelli Makes Soup* by Sharon Creech**

Rosie is mad at Bailey, but Granny Torelli, her wisdom, and her soup seem to work wonders in mending hurt feelings.

***A Long Way from Chicago* by Richard Peck**

One thing is certain...Joey and Mary Alice will never, ever, forget the summers they spend with their grandmother. From corpses that move to finding the sheriff in his underwear, Grandma Dowdel keeps life interesting all summer long.

***Saving Zasha* by Randi Barrow**

In post-WWII Russia, owning a German Shepherd could cost you dearly, but that didn't stop Mikhail from taking in Zasha.

***The Seer of Shadows* by Avi**

Ghosts seeking revenge, and a photography apprentice determined to find out the truth, will keep you in suspense - and maybe hiding under your covers!

***Fablehaven (series)* by Brandon Mull**

After learning that their grandparents' house is actually a sanctuary for magical creatures, Seth and Kendra find themselves deep in the middle of a struggle between good and evil.

***Swindle (series)* by Gordon Korman**

Griffin Bing and his band of middle-school friends refuse to let the bad guy win. Showing no fear (or at least not much), and using their wits, they manage to solve case after case.

***Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream (non-fiction)* by Tanya Lee Stone**

Long before Sally Ride became the first American female in space, thirteen amazing women trained for the honor of becoming a U.S. astronaut.

Need more ideas? Try these:

***Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* by Wendy Mass**

***Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli**

***Because of Mr. Terupt* by Rob Buyea**

***Running Out of Time* by Margaret Peterson Haddix**

***Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt**

***Go! A Kidd's Guide to Graphic Design (non-fiction)* by Chip Kidd**

***Courage Has No Color: The True Story of Triple Nickles, America's First Black Paratroopers (non-fiction)* by Tanya Lee Stone**