

## **Thacher Montessori School 2010 Summer Reading List Lower Elementary**

Please read at least 5 books this summer. Below is a list of suggested titles at the Lower Elementary reading level (for independent readers or for read-alouds). Feel free to choose other age appropriate books as well.

Meet Mr. & Mrs. Green by Keith Baker

This three chapter easy-to-read book is full of adventure and surprises. Mr. and Mrs. Green are an alligator couple whose escapades are funny, and whose misunderstandings will tickle your funny bone.

Follow the Drinking Gourd by Jeanette Winter

A peg-legged sailor and a group of slaves follow the stars and escape bondage in a story about the Underground Railroad.

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale by John Steptoe

Set in Zimbabwe, this story revolves around two sisters and a wise king who is searching for the perfect wife.

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

by E. L. Konigsburg

Running away from home, Claudia and her brother choose as their refuge the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art where they become involved in a surprising mystery.

Clementine by Sara Pennypacker

Clementine says, "Spectacularful ideas are always sproinging up in my brain." Clementine is fun-loving third-grader with a talent for trouble and a good heart. She can't understand why her teachers say she isn't paying attention when she's so aware of what is going on around her and outside the windows!

Library Lion by Michelle Knudsen

A perennial favorite tale of a story hour-loving lion who finds that rules sometimes need to be broken in an emergency.

Great Estimations

by Bruce Goldstone

How many jellybeans are in the candy jar? Through vibrant, interesting photographs, this book explains how to estimate numbers of items. Maybe you'll win the contest next time!

Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt by Deborah Hopkinson

A courageous slave girl plays an unusual part in the Underground Railroad.

Gooney Bird Greene

by Lois Lowry

Gooney Bird is a feisty, friendly character with a love of storytelling. She delights her classmates and teacher at her new school with fanciful tales that are "always absolutely true," just not in the way we expect!

Martin Bridge: Ready for Takeoff by Jessica Kerrin

This easier-to-read chapter book contains three stories about Martin's life at home and school, including his trouble with his cranky school bus driver, a problem when pet-sitting, and working out a rivalry with his friend. Martin's escapades are just the thing for beginning chapter book readers!

Younguncle Comes to Town by Vandana Singh

Set in contemporary India, three siblings are excited by the arrival of their eccentric uncle, "Younguncle," who has come to stay with them. His adventures range from foiling thieves at the local tailor shop to taming tigers!

Mr. Maxwell's Mouse

by Frank Asch

Mr. Maxwell (a cat) arrives at a fancy restaurant to splurge on a meal of fresh mouse. The mouse arrives alive and talking up a storm. Will Mr. Maxwell get to finish his meal in peace? An entertaining illustrated book, in which, of course, we all root for the mouse!

Flotsam

by David Wiesner

This wordless illustrated book was awarded the 2007 Caldecott Award for Wiesner's fanciful tale of a child who finds a camera on the beach. When the film is developed, the history of its journey through the sea is revealed.

Highway Robbery

by Kate Thompson

For those leaving early readers behind, this is a short chapter book with action, humor, and a surprising ending that leaves room for discussion.

Love That Dog

by Sharon Creech

This is a beautiful book in free verse about a boy who finds that his poetry assignments help him deal with the loss of his beloved yellow dog. If you love this book, try the sequel, Hate That Cat.

Where the Sidewalk Ends

by Shel Silverstein

The poems and drawings of Shel Silverstein.

*Oh, if you're a bird, be an early bird  
And catch the worm for your breakfast plate.  
If you're a bird, be an early early bird-  
But if you're a worm, sleep late.*

**Other recommended authors:** Avi, Allan Say, Patricia McKissack, James Marshall, Jan Brett, Vera Williams, Leo Lionni, Eric Carle, Mary Pope Osborne, Virginia Lee Burton, Maurice Sendak, Tomie DePaola.

**Popular simple chapter book series:**

*Magic Tree House*

by Mary Pope Osborne

Jack and his sister Annie travel to other places and times in a magic tree house. Ms. Osborne has just published book #38!

*A to Z Mysteries*

by Ron Roy

Three friends, Dink, Josh and Ruby Rose, solve one mystery for each letter of the alphabet, from The Absent Author to The Zombie Zone.

*The Secrets of Droon*

by Tony Abbott

Eric, Julie and Neil enter the land of Droon through a secret door that appears in Eric's basement. There they meet many fantastic creatures and help save Princess Keeah.

## **For emerging readers:**

Frog and Toad are Friends by Arnold Lobel

Arnold Lobel's comfortable brown and green illustrations invite and delight every reader, setting the tone for warm, funny stories about friendship. If you need even more of Frog and Toad, don't miss Frog and Toad Together, Frog and Toad All Year, and Days with Frog and Toad.

Little Bear by Else Homelund Minarik

Minarik and Maurice Sendak teamed up to create these simple stories that are deeply comforting and lovingly playful. Follow up with A Kiss For Little Bear, Father Bear Comes Home, and Little Bear's Visit.

Henry and Mudge The First Book by Cynthia Rylant

This is the first book in the acclaimed easy-to-read series featuring Henry and his lovable 180-pound dog, Mudge. The deep friendship between Henry and his dog is evident throughout their amusing adventures. Many other titles are also available in this series.

Mr. Putter and Tabby by Cynthia Rylant

This series about the lovable Mr. Putter and his skittish cat, Tabby, is a terrific boon for early readers. Howard's detail-rich illustrations of these utterly charming characters perfectly complement Rylant's humorous, entertaining, and very readable stories.