

Prince William County Public Schools
Summer Reading Suggested Reading List

Elementary - Fourth Grade

The purpose of the Prince William County Public Schools Summer Reading Suggested Reading List is for students to enjoy quality literature and to continue developing their independent reading skills to support critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, collaboration, and citizenship. Student participation in the challenge is voluntary. Students who choose to participate will read books they self-select. Students that read during the summer can grow and explore new experiences to support life-long reading habits.

The following titles are suggestions to help foster a love of reading for pleasure. Other books selected by the student with guidance from a parent, guardian, or librarian, are also acceptable.

Author	Title	Publication Date	Annotation
Applegate, Katherine	<i>One and Only Ivan</i>	2012	When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.
Bowen, Carl	<i>Quarterback Rush</i> or any Sports Illustrated Kids Graphic Novel book	2015	The Otters keep leaving their game on the practice field and losing their football games. Wide receiver Steve Michaels must overcome his own frustrations and help Aaron Corbin, his quarterback, get past his fears and play like the champion he can be.
Brallier, Max	<i>The Last Kids on Earth</i> or any book in the Last Kids on Earth Series	2015	After a monster apocalypse hits town, average thirteen-year-old Jack Sullivan builds a team of friends to help slay the eerily intelligent monster known as Blarg.
Castaldo, Nancy	<i>Mission: Polar Bear Rescue</i> , or <i>The Story of Seeds</i> , or <i>Sniffer Dogs: How Dogs Save the World</i>	2014	Mission: Polar Bear Rescue shares stories and facts that reveal the real-life survival challenges that have caused polar bears to become endangered and provides information about what kids can do to support conservation efforts.
Colfer, Chris	<i>Land of Stories</i>	2012	"Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, twins Alex and Conner leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with the fairy tale characters they grew up reading about"--Provided by publisher.

Dahl, Roald	<i>James and the Giant Peach</i>	1961	When James accidentally drops some magic crystals by the old peach tree, strange things start to happen. The peach at the top of the tree begins to grow, and before long it's as big as a house. When James discovers a secret entranceway into the fruit and crawls inside, he meets wonderful new friends--the Old-Green-Grasshopper, the dainty Ladybug, and the Centipede of the multiple boots. After years of feeling like an outsider in his aunts' house, James finally found a place where he belongs. With a snip of the stem, the peach household starts rolling away--and the adventure begins! Roald Dahl's first and most widely celebrated book for young people continues to thrill readers around the world.
DiCamillo, Kate	<i>Because of Winn-Dixie</i>	2002	Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn Dixie.
Draper, Sharon	<i>Ziggy and the Black Dinosaurs: The Buried Bones Mystery</i> or any book in the Ziggy and the Black Dinosaurs Series	2006	After the neighborhood basketball court is vandalized, Ziggy and his friends decide to form a club called the Black Dinosaurs and build their clubhouse in Ziggy's backyard.
Fleming, Candace	<i>Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera</i>	2020	Describes the life cycle of the hard-working honeybee.
Hiaasen, Carl	<i>Hoot</i>	2002	Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.
Holm, Jennifer	<i>Babymouse: Queen of the World!</i> or any book in the Babymouse Series	2005	An imaginative mouse dreams of being queen of the world, but will settle for an invitation to the most popular girl's slumber party. (Graphic Novel)
Kibuishi, Kazu	<i>Amulet Book 1: The Stonekeeper</i> or any book in the Amulet Series	2008	Emily and Navin follow their mother into an underground world inhabited by demons, robots, and talking animals.(Graphic Novel)
Law, Ingrid	<i>Savvy</i> or any other book in the Savvy Series	2008	Savvy recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy" – a magical power unique to each member of her family.

Luper, Eric	<i>Key Hunters: The Mysterious Moonstone</i> or any book in the Key Hunters Series	2016	Cleo and Evan are curious about where the librarian disappears to at the back of the library, so they follow her into a magical library full of locked books and find a letter which tells them that the previous librarian is trapped between the covers of one of the enchanted books, and that they must find her.
McDonough, Yona Zeldis	<i>Who Was Harriet Tubman?</i> or any book in the Who Was...? Series	2002	A biography of the nineteenth-century woman who escaped slavery and went back many times to take other slaves north to freedom on the Underground Railroad.
Park, Linda Sue	<i>Wing & Claw: Forest of Wonders</i> or any book in the <i>Wing & Claw</i> Series	2016	When Raffa makes a cure from a rare crimson vine he finds deep in the forbidden forest, the bat he saves transforms into something much more.
Patterson, James & Alexander, Kwame	<i>Becoming Muhammad Ali</i>	2020	A biographical novel tells the story of Cassius Clay, the determined boy who would one day become Muhammad Ali, one of the greatest boxers of all time.
Paulson, Gary	<i>Hatchet</i>	1987	After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.
Peirce, Lincoln	<i>Big Nate Blasts Off</i> or any book in the Big Nate Series	2016	After his fight with Randy Betancourt makes headlines in the school paper, Big Nate has a problem worse than detention on his hands.
Riley, James	<i>Story Thieves</i> or any book in the Story Thieves Series	2015	Except for reading the Kiel Gnomesfoot magic adventure series, Owen's life is boring until he sees his classmate Bethany climb out of a book in the school library and he learns that Bethany is half-fictional and has been searching every book for her missing father, a fictional character.
Riordan, Rick	<i>Percy Jackson, and the Olympians</i>	2005	After learning that he is the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea, twelve-year-old Percy is sent to a summer camp for demigods like himself, and joins his new friends on a quest to prevent a war between the gods.
Sachar, Louis	<i>Fuzzy Mud</i> or any children's book by this author	2015	Fuzzy Mud is the story of two middle-grade kids who take a shortcut home from school and discover what looks like fuzzy mud but is actually a substance with the potential to wreak havoc on the entire world.

Sachar, Louis	<i>Holes</i>	1998	As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.
Spinelli, Jerry	<i>Crash</i>	1996	Seventh-grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family.
Spyri, Johanna	<i>Heidi</i>	1880	After Heidi, an orphan, builds a strong bond with her grandfather in the Swiss Alps, she is sent into town to attend school and be a friend to a wealthy man's daughter, who is restricted to a wheelchair, but Heidi's health begins to fail as her desire to return to her home in the mountains increases.
Stilton, Geronimo	<i>Bollywood Burglary</i> or any book in the Geronimo Stilton Series	2017	Asked by a Bollywood star for help protecting a valuable ruby, Geronimo Stilton and Hercule Poirat are inadvertently cast in the actress's film in spite of limited acting skills and are horrified when an anonymous thief makes off with the ruby.
Tarshis, Lauren	<i>Tornado Terror</i> or any book in the <i>I Survived: True Stories Series</i>	2017	Tells the stories of two young people who survived terrifying tornadoes in Joplin, Missouri and includes tornado facts and profiles of the well-respected scientists and storm chasers who study them.
Watson, Jude	<i>Mission Titanic</i> or any book in the 39 Clues series	2015	Seventeen-year-old Ian Kabra, the head of the powerful Cahill family, hopes he can find Amy and Dan to decipher clues that will help him prevent four of history's greatest disasters.

Williams-Garcia, Rita	<i>One Crazy Summer</i>	2010	Delphine, 11, and her two younger sisters don't know what to expect when their dad puts them on a plane to visit their mother, who abandoned the family years ago. It is 1968 and their mother is active in Oakland's Black Power movement. The girls hope to visit Disneyland, but instead, their mother sends them to a camp run by the Black Panthers. As the summer wears on, the sisters learn about themselves, their mother, and their country during a pivotal moment in African American history. Delphine both blames and longs for her mother, and in the end these two strong characters find a measure of reconciliation. If this is your child's first exposure to historical fiction, she may be hooked.
<p>You can find many titles at the Prince William Public Library (PWPL). The PWPL Digital library "provides free access to thousands of online and digital resources including eBooks, audiobooks, newspapers, and Premium Websites." Options for the digital content include: Read, Listen, Watch, and Learn. If you do not have a PWPL card, you can contact the public library to register for a Digital Library card.</p>			<p>Prince William County Library Link</p>