Suggested Summer Reading List 2016
Students Entering Third and Fourth Grades

Fiction

**Detective Gordon: The First Case** by Ulf Nilsson

Someone’s stealing nuts from the forest, and it’s up to Detective Gordon to catch the thief! Unfortunately, solving this crime means standing in the snow and waiting for a long time.... If only he had an assistant--someone small, fast, and clever to help solve this terrible case.

**Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library** by Chris Grabenstein

Kyle Keeley is the class clown, popular with most kids, and an fan of all games: board games, word games, and particularly video games. His hero, Luigi Lemoncello, the most notorious and creative game maker in the world, just happens to be the genius behind the building of the new town library. Kyle wins a coveted spot to be one of the first 12 kids in the library for an overnight of fun, food, and lots and lots of games. But when morning comes, the doors remain locked. Kyle and the other winners must solve every clue and every secret puzzle to find the hidden escape route. And the stakes are very high.

**Lemonade War** by Jacqueline Davies

Fourth-grader Evan Treski is people-smart. He’s good at talking with people, even grownups. His younger sister, Jessie, on the other hand, is math-smart, but not especially good with people. So when the siblings lemonade stand war begins, there really is no telling who will win or even if their fight will ever end. Brimming with savvy marketing tips for making money at any business, definitions of business terms, charts, diagrams, and even math problems, this fresh, funny, emotionally charged novel subtly explores how arguments can escalate beyond anyone’s intent.

**The Long Road to Freedom** by Kate Messner

Murphy escapes a grueling life as part of a dogsled team, mercilessly driven by a cruel owner. When word spreads that gold has been discovered in Nome, Murphy is taken in by two recent arrivals: Sally and her mother, who hope to provide secretarial labor so that they can buy their own stake. They live in a canvas tent on the beach with thousands of other fortune-seekers. Murphy wants to help Sally and Mama build a new life, but life in the mining town is not easy. Can the three of them find a home--and maybe a fortune?
The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate

Ivan, a silverback gorilla, tells of his life in the Big Top Mall and Video Arcade. He seems content until his eyes are finally opened to his terrible living conditions when he loses a friend due to neglect. The last straw is when he witnesses the attraction’s owner abusing Ruby, a newly acquired baby elephant. Ivan decides to take action. With some help from his human friends, his dream of a better life for all the Big Top’s animals just might come true.

Pugs of the Frozen North by Phillip Reeve

*2017 Great Stone Face Book Award Nominee* With a little luck and a pack of pugs, anything is paws-ible! When True Winter comes, it’s time for the Great Northern Race! The best sled teams in the world must reach a mysterious man called the Snowfather. He will grant one wish to the winners. Young racers Sika and Shen want to win more than anything. But they don’t have big sled dogs—all they have is sixty-six yappy, yippy puppy pugs. Can this unlikely team make their dreams come true?

Teddy Mars by Molly Burnham

*2017 Great Stone Face Book Award Nominee* Teddy Mars is determined to stand out in a world full of wonders and a house bursting with siblings. With the help of his best friends, Teddy tries to build the biggest snow mound, stuff the most grapes in his mouth, and lift a chair with his teeth. He’ll do anything to succeed; even if it means sleeping in a tent and cleaning up pigeon poop for Grumpy Pigeon Man. Too bad his pesky little brother, also known as The Destructor, always wrecks Teddy’s record-breaking plans!

The Terrible Two by Mac Barnett and Jory John

Miles Murphy is not happy to be moving to Yawnee Valley, a sleepy town that’s famous for one thing and one thing only: cows. In his old school, everyone knew him as the town’s best prankster, but Miles quickly discovers that Yawnee Valley already has a prankster, and a great one. If Miles is going to take the title from this mystery kid, he is going to have to raise his game. It’s prankster against prankster in an epic war of trickery, until the two finally decide to join forces and pull off the biggest prank ever seen: a prank so huge that it would make the members of the International Order of Disorder proud.

The Vanishing Coin by Kate Egon

Fourth grade was supposed to be a fresh start, but Mike’s already back in the principal’s office. He’s not a bad kid. He just can’t sit still. And now, his parents won’t let him play soccer anymore; instead he has to hang out with his new neighbor Nora, who is good at everything! Then, Mike and Nora discover the White Rabbit. It’s an odd shop—with a special secret inside. Its owner, Mr. Zerlin, is a magician, and, amazingly, he believes Mike could be a magician, too. Has Mike finally found something he’s good at?
The Year of Billy Miller by Kevin Henkes

When Billy Miller has a mishap at the statue of the Jolly Green Giant at the end of summer vacation, he ends up with a big lump on his head. What a way to start second grade, with a lump on your head! As the year goes by, though, Billy figures out how to navigate elementary school, how to appreciate his little sister, and how to be a more grown up and responsible member of the family and a help to his busy working mom and stay-at-home dad.

Fiction – Series

According to Humphrey by Betty Birney

You can learn a lot about life by observing another species. That’s what Humphrey was told when he was first brought to Room 26. And boy is it true! There are always adventures in the classroom and each weekend he gets to sleep over with different students. Humphrey learns to read, write, shoot rubber bands (only in self-defense, of course), turn off TVs, teach English as a second language, and more.

Adventures of the Bailey School Kids by Debbie Dadey

There are some pretty odd grown-ups living in Bailey City. In each story, the Bailey School kids encounter a character (such as a school teacher, custodian, etc.) who may or may not be a mythical creature (e.g. vampires, ghosts, dragons, etc.). The reader is left guessing whether the innocuous character is the said mythical being or not.

My Weirder School by Dan Gutman

These stories are told by AJ, a third grader at Ella Mentery School. Along with his classmates, AJ experiences some very unusual, but always hilarious, events.

Judy Moody by Megan McDonald

Meet Judy Moody, a third grader with plenty of attitude. She has moods to fit every occasion and special faces she makes to go with them. But Judy is also very creative, too, and when something catches her interest she gives it her all.
Clementine by Sara Pennypacker

Eight-year-old Clementine has good intentions but things don’t always work out the way she wants them to. Misunderstandings at school often lead to visits with the principal. Her friends’ parents are sometimes mad at her. But, with a supportive family and a good friend, everything seems to work out OK.

Magic Tree House by Mary Pope Osborne

Jack and his sister Annie are just two regular kids. That is, until they discover a mysterious tree house packed with all sorts of books. As Jack and Annie soon find out, this is a magical tree house and the books have the power to transport them to any place in history or the future.

Geronimo Stilton

On an average day, Geronimo Stilton edits The Rodent’s Gazette, the newspaper of New Mouse City, capital of Mouse Island. But his true passion is writing exciting, fun-filled tales of adventure. Join Geronimo on some of his many adventures.

I Survived by Lauren Tarshis

History’s most exciting and terrifying events are brought to life in this fiction series. Readers will be transported by stories of amazing children and how they survived such events as the shark attack of 1916, the sinking of the Titanic in 1912, and 2005’s Hurricane Katrina.

Graphic Novels

El Deafo by Cece Bell

*2015 Newbery Honor Book* The author chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful—and very awkward—hearing aid. The Phonic Ear gives Cece the ability to hear but also isolates her from her classmates. She really just wants to fit in and find a true friend. After some trouble, she is finally able to harness the power of the Phonic Ear and become “El Deafo, Listener for All.” And more importantly, declare a place for herself in the world and find the friend she’s longed for.

Comics Squad: Recess

Wowza! Calling all kidz! Do you like comics? Do you like laughing till milk comes out of your nose?! Look no further--do we have the book for you! All your favorite comic creators are right here in this handy-dandy hilarious book! This all-star tribute to classic Sunday comics includes eight sidesplitting, action-packed stories about every kid’s favorite subject—RECESS!
**Babymouse** by Jennifer Holm and Matthew Holm

A nine-year-old, fun-loving, and smart mouse is the heroine of these graphic novels. Babymouse faces the day-to-day problems of life with daydreams and real-life solutions. A funny and fast-paced series.

**Squish: Super Amoeba** (series) by Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm

For a single-celled organism, Squish the amoeba leads an awfully complicated life. His two best friends - Pod, a bowtie-wearing amoeba nerd, and Peggy, an overly cheerful paramecium - are a constant thorn in his side and Lynwood, the school bully, wants to swallow him whole.

**Lunch Lady** (series) by Jarrett Krosoczka

When not serving up French fries and gravy to students, Lunch Lady escapes to her secret kitchen lair to lead the life of a crime fighter. Using an assortment of lunch-themed gadgets created by her sidekick Betty, she is definitely a superhero.

**Nonfiction**

**America the Beautiful: Together We Stand** by Katherine Lee Bates

A moving celebration of "America the Beautiful" featuring artwork from ten distinguished artists and inspiring presidential quotes! Through moving illustrations, AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL integrates the lyrics of the familiar patriotic tune with inspiring presidential quotations. AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL will help teach children about our country’s great leaders while highlighting American values such as diversity, unity, and freedom.

**Could We Survive on Other Planets?** by Alix Wood

What do humans need to survive? Are these things available on any other planet? Readers explore our solar system and help search for new planets we could inhabit in this high-interest, informative book. Readers will learn about space exploration and what we need to survive in space, and discover if there are any other types of life on faraway planets. Simple diagrams help explain the text, while hands-on science projects let readers create their own exciting experiments for an insightful yet fun reading experience.
**Million, Billions and Trillions** by David A. Adler

What does a million look like? A billion? A trillion? These huge numbers are hard to visualize. This book explains quantities in terms children can understand. For example, one million dollars could buy two full pizzas a day for more than sixty-eight years, it would take the heads of ten thousand people together to have one billion hairs. This dynamic math duo explains the concepts of millions, billions, and trillions in a lighthearted way.

**National Geographic Kids Almanac 2016**

This New York Times bestseller is packed with incredible photos, tons of fun facts, crafts, activities, and fascinating articles about animals, science, nature, technology, and more. New features include a special section on animal friends; an updated "Fun and Games" chapter filled with all-new games, jokes, and comics; all new weird-but-true facts, crafts, and activities; a new special "16 Facts" feature in every chapter; updated reference material, and much more! And, this is the only kids’ almanac with mobile media features that allow kids to access National Geographic videos, photo galleries, and games.

**What Are You Glad About? What Are You Mad About?** By Judith Viorst

Have you ever read a book with everything on it? Well, here it is, an amazing collection of never-before-published poems and drawings from the creator of Where the Sidewalk Ends, A Light in the Attic, and Falling Up. You will say Hi-ho for the toilet troll, get tongue-tied with Stick-a-Tongue-Out-Sid, play a highly unusual horn, and experience the joys of growing down. What’s that? You have a case of the Lovetobutcants? Impossible! Just come on in and let the magic of Shel Silverstein bend your brain and open your heart.