

# Take Time To Read Together

There is nothing more important than taking the time to enjoy a book with your child. Through reading with parents, siblings, and friends, children learn to love literature. It doesn't matter whether you are reading your child's old favorite that you have read a million times together or exploring a new book or magazine. The most important thing is the act of spending quality time together learning. Choose a cozy spot and time that the two of you can look forward to each day.

We have a wonderful public library system that is free of charge and has great reading programs. Please make sure your child has a card and that you use it frequently☺. Assist your child in choosing books for a variety of purposes:

**INDEPENDENT READING** - These are books that your child can read without having to ask for help. It is okay for these books to be "easy" to read. The goal here is to practice decoding unfamiliar text and illustrations in order to understand the story, using their imagination and predicting what might happen next. Children should not experience difficulty with more than 5 words on a page. If they do, the book is too hard to read independently. While your child is reading, YOU should be reading, too!

**READ ALOUDS** - Be sure to set aside time to read aloud to your child. Hearing you read text that is above their personal reading level allows them to interpret language, experience intonation, and build vocabulary. A great way to read together and build confidence is to alternate reading pages with your child. Sharpen your child's comprehension and prediction skills by asking questions about the book before, during, and after you read...What do you think is happening? What is going to happen next? How does that make the character feel?...etc.

**FICTION AND NONFICTION** - Encourage your child to choose a variety of books - fiction and nonfiction, fairytales, fables, poetry, etc.

The following books are suggestions for parents to read with their children. First Grade has no required reading, but we encourage all parents to help their children become life-long readers by taking the time to read each day.

If you would like to search for some new titles of books that would be age appropriate, please look on the Virginia Reader's website for primary and/or elementary nominees and winners [www.vsra.org/VRCindex.html](http://www.vsra.org/VRCindex.html) or the American Library Association <http://www.ala.org/>

## **FICTION (reading level in ( ) )**

Amelia Bedelia Series by Peggy Parish (3.5)

Are you my mother? By P.D. Eastman (1.5)

Crickwing by Janell Cannon (3.4)  
Diary of a Worm by Doreen Cronin (3.4)  
Elbert's Bad Word by Audrey Wood (3.5)  
George and Martha series by James Marshall (2.5)  
Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown (1.5)  
Hooway for Wodney Wat by Helen Lester (2.5)  
How do dinosaurs...? Books by Jane Yolen (3.0)  
Joseph Had a Little Overcoat by Simms Tabak (2.0)  
Little Polar Bear by Hans De Beer (1.3)  
Mr. Putter and Tabby Series by Cynthia Rylant (1.2)  
My Friend Rabbit by Eric Rohmann (2.5)  
Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert (2.5)  
Recess Queen by Alexis O'Neill (3.1)  
The Doorbell Rang by Pat Hutchins (2.5)  
The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle (2.6)  
The Waterhole by Graeme Base (2.1)  
There's a Nightmare in my Closet by Mercer Mayer (3.4)  
Any books by Jamie Lee Curtis (2.6)  
Any books by Janell Cannon (3.4)  
Any books by Mark Teague

#### **FICTION CHAPTER BOOKS:**

Charlotte's Web by EB White \*\*\* (4.4)  
Henry and Mudge series by Cynthia Rylant (1.7)  
Horrible Harry series by Suzy Kline (3.5)  
Junie B. Jones series by Barbara Park (1.9)  
Poppleton series by Cynthia Rylant (2.8)

#### **MYSTERY CHAPTER BOOKS**

Nate the Great Series by Marjorie Sharmat (1.5)  
Cam Jansen Series (3.0)

#### **POETRY**

The following authors produce some wonderful poetry books

Jack Prelutsky  
Tomie DePaola  
Douglas Florian  
Jim Aylesworth  
Cynthia Rylant  
Shel Silverstein

#### **FAIRY TALES**

Children love to read and listen to fairy tales. Many of these stories come from different countries. Some start in one country and they change over

time. There are MANY different versions of each story. We encourage you to explore the multicultural nature and the adaptations of these stories. We will be comparing and contrasting many of these over the course of the year. These stories can be found in the 398.2 section of any library.

**NONFICTION BOOKS:** ( Please check the Norfolk Public Library website for more suggestions and availability)

You can find many wonderful non-fiction books in the public library. The earth science books (planets, seasons, insects, animals...) can be found in the 500's section of any public library. A few suggestions of nonfiction books are:

The Man Who Walked Between the Towers by Gerstein, Mordicai

Chickens Aren't the Only Ones by Ruth Heller

And So They Build by Bert Kitchen

Letting Swift River Go by Jane Yolen

Any Gail Gibbons books

The Magic School Book series by Joanna Cole