

Summer Reading

2010

Methuen Public Schools Students Entering Grades 1 - 3

June 2010

Dear Parents,

This year we are inviting all students to take a journey to new and different places by using their imaginations through the summer reading program. There is no more important activity to support learning than through reading fun and interesting stories. By enjoying a variety of books this summer, students will be able to maintain and expand the reading skills developed this school year.

It is important to set aside some time each day for reading. Books may be read to, with, or by your child. The suggested minimum number of books for students entering grades one and two is ten books. The suggested minimum for students entering grade three is five books. Help your child to set a realistic summer reading goal. We encourage parents to help their child find a "just right book" (explanation included in packet) so reading will be a pleasurable experience, not a frustrating experience. The Nevins Memorial Library, Barnes & Noble, and Borders will have a variety of titles written by the recommended authors. Students are encouraged to share books.

Included in this packet, you will find a summer reading log. Please record the books your child reads, with you or independently, on this log. During the first two weeks of school, your child will be asked to bring the completed log to school. Students who do so will receive a Certificate of Completion. Children will have the opportunity to talk with their classmates about one of the books read during the summer in order to share what they learned through summer reading.

Make reading a part of your summer and enjoy all the places and adventures you will find in stories.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Smith, Ed.D.

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

2010
Suggested Authors

For students entering grade one

Aiki
Margaret Wise Brown
Eric Carle
Lois Ehlert
Theodore Geisel (Dr. Seuss)
Ezra Jack Keats
Jonathan London
James Marshall
Bill Martin
Robert Munsch
Robert McCloskey
Rosemary Wells

For students entering grade two

Paulette Bourgeois
Eve Bunting
Tomie dePaola
Mem Fox
Gail Gibbons
Kevin Henkes
Leo Lionni
Arnold Lobel
Peggy Parish
Cynthia Rylant
Marjorie Sharmat
William Steig
Mark Teague
Bernard Waber

For students entering grade three

David A. Adler
Jeff Brown
Ann Cameron
Joanna Cole
Paul Goble
Steven Kellogg
Suzy Kline
Mary Pope Osborne
Patricia Polacco
James Preller
Jack Prelutsky
Ron Roy
Jon Scieszka
Patricia Reilly-Giff
Alan Say
Jane Yolen



Choosing Just Right Books Tips for Parents

Part I

Selecting a just right book is important for improving the reading ability of students.

Children need books that are good for their learning. We call these books *Just Right Books*. The following is a description of books that would be too easy, just right, and too hard for children. It is okay to sometimes read a book that you know is too easy; adults do this all the time, but children are developing as readers and need to be challenged a bit in order to become better readers. Books that are too hard just cause frustration and may even help develop a poor attitude towards reading.

Too Easy

- Can read all the words
- Can understand and retell the story
- Reads with complete fluency - reads like talking and with expression

Just Right

- Can read most of the words - students do not struggle with more than three words on one page
- Should be able to use strategies to figure out most of the tricky words
- Can understand and retell the story
- Reads mostly with fluency except when attempting to figure out a tricky word

Too Hard (This may be a good book for a parent to read to a child.)

- Cannot read many words
- Does not have fluency
- Cannot retell much of the story
- Note - Even if a book is read with fluency, if a child cannot retell the story, the text is probably too difficult.

Part II

Children should be selecting books that are interesting to them. Before selecting a book, become familiar with the content.

- Talk to someone who has read the book.
- Look at the cover and ask: "What do you think this book is about?"
- Read the back cover to get an idea of the story's content.
- Read the first page to see if it is a "just right book."
- Look at the table of contents or chapter titles.
- Flip through and look at the pictures.

Name: _____

Grade in September 2010: _____

School: _____

Title of Book

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

Author

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____



HAVE FUN READING!