

# District Summer Reading List

Incoming Fourth Graders for the 2022 – 2023 School Year

Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of summer reading is to encourage students to read (or have read aloud) an approved novel that appeals to their own personal interests, instilling a love of reading as well as increasing literacy across the district. The following books were chosen based on many criteria, including reading level, connections to future ELA content, student interest, and more.

Students can choose one book to read over the summer from the grade-level list below.

**Happy reading!**



Title	Author	Genre	Synopsis
<i>The Tale of Despereaux</i>	Kate Di Camillo	Fantasy	Welcome to the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of a rat called Roscuro, who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl who harbors a simple, impossible wish? These three characters are about to embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and, ultimately, into each other's lives. And what happens then?
<i>Stealing Home: The Story of Jackie Robinson</i>	Barry Denenberg	Nonfiction Biography	Stealing Home is a moving and poignant account of a man who was determined to play baseball regardless of the color of his skin. This biography tells the story of Jackie Robinson, the first black man to play in baseball major leagues in the United States. In his willingness to fight for his rights and the rights of others both on and off the baseball field, Jackie Robinson was not only a great ball player, but also a true American hero. He once said, "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives." Robinson truly lived an important life, which still influences people today.

\*Teachers may request to add a book to this list by submitting it through the school's novel selection process.

Images: <https://slidesmania.com/>

<b><i>What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?</i></b>	Jean Fritz	Nonfiction Biography	No matter how busy he was, Ben Franklin always found time to try out new ideas: a remote-control lock (so he could lock his door without getting out of bed), a rocking chair with a fan over it (to keep flies away), and a windmill (to turn his roast meat on its spit). Aside from being a mad of ideas, he was an ambassador to England, a printer, an almanac maker, a politician, and even a vegetarian (for a time, anyway).
<b><i>My Louisiana Sky</i></b>	Kimberly Willis Holt	Realistic Fiction	Tiger Ann Parker is smart in school and good at baseball, but she's forever teased about her family by the girls in class. Tiger Ann knows her folks are different from others in their small town of Saitter, Louisiana. They are mentally slow, and Tiger Ann keeps her pain and embarrassment hidden as long as her strong and smart Granny runs the household. Then Granny dies suddenly and Aunt Dorie Kay arrives, offering Tiger Ann a way out. Now Tiger Ann must make the most important decision of her life.
<b><i>Dear Benjamin Banneker</i></b>	Brian Pinkney	Biography	Throughout his life Banneker was troubled that all blacks were not free. And so, in 1791, he wrote to Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, who had signed the Declaration of Independence. Banneker attacked the institution of slavery and dared to call Jefferson a hypocrite for owning slaves. Jefferson responded. This is the story of Benjamin Banneker--his science, his politics, his morals, and his extraordinary correspondence with Thomas Jefferson. Illustrated in full-page scratchboard and oil paintings by Caldecott Honor artist Brian Pinkney.
<b><i>Tales of the Odyssey Part 1)</i></b>	Mary Pope Osborne	Mythology	Brave Odysseus is far from home, tossed by stormy seas, and cursed by an angry one-eyed giant. If he ever wants to see his family again, he will have to face hungry cannibals, outwit a beautiful witch, and sail past a six-headed serpent. His journey is the ultimate test of endurance and courage.

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***I Survived  
the Joplin  
Tornado  
2011***

Tarshis

Informational  
Text

A destructive force is about to hit the city of Joplin...

Eleven-year-old Dexter has always wanted to see a tornado. So when he gets the incredible opportunity to go storm chasing with the famous Dr. Norman Rays, he has to say yes! Dr. Rays is the host of Tornado Mysteries, the show that Dex and his older brother, Jeremy, watched every night until Jeremy joined the U.S. Navy SEALs and left Joplin. Dex certainly knows how deadly tornadoes can be, but this one isn't heading toward Joplin, and wouldn't it be great to have a brave and exciting story of his own to tell Jeremy when he comes home? But when the tornado shifts direction, Dexter's bravery is about to get seriously tested...

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***The Cricket  
in Times  
Square***

George  
Seldon

Fantasy

Tucker is a streetwise city mouse. He thought he'd seen it all. But he's never met a cricket before, which really isn't surprising, because, along with his friend Harry Cat, Tucker lives in the very heart of New York City—the Times Square subway station. Chester Cricket never intended to leave his Connecticut meadow. He'd be there still if he hadn't followed the entrancing aroma of liverwurst right into someone's picnic basket. Now, like any tourist in the city, he wants to look around. And he could not have found two better guides—and friends—than Tucker and Harry. The trio have many adventures—from taking in the sights and sounds of Broadway to escaping a smoky fire.

Chester makes a third friend, too. It is a boy, Mario, who rescues Chester from a dusty corner of the subway station and brings him to live in the safety of his parents' newsstand. He hopes at first to keep Chester as a pet, but Mario soon understands that the cricket is more than that. Because Chester has a hidden talent and no one—not even Chester himself—realizes that the little country cricket may just be able to teach even the toughest New Yorkers a thing or two.

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