

Hello incoming 3rd graders,

In the article "It's Summer, Let's Read" in *Instructor Magazine*, it states "by reading four or more books over the summer, kids can avoid the "summer slide," or gap in academic skills, when they return to school in the fall."

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3756152>

So, our homework assignment for this summer is to read 4 books! You can choose if they are picture books or chapter books. Please record which books you read, so that I can be proud of you when you join my class in the fall. I will record all the books I read this summer also, so we can talk about what we read together. Here are some of my favorites (I love to read), in case you would like some ideas!

Happy Reading and Happy Summer,
Mrs. Higgins

Picture Books

Best Friends for Frances (series) by Russell Hoban

Frances can't imagine being friends with her little sister Gloria until she is excluded from the all-boys baseball game. To her surprise, Gloria makes a good friend, but can she ever be a best friend? If your child enjoys this book, introduce her to other stories in this series including *A Birthday for Frances*. 32 pages

George and Martha (series) by James Marshall

George and Martha are two hilarious hippo friends who invariably get themselves into sticky situations. Your child will love finding out what happens when George does not like the split pea soup that Martha has made for him in "Split Pea Soup," just one of the five humorous stories in this collection. 48 pages

I and You and Don't Forget Who: What Is a Pronoun? (series) by Brian P. Cleary

This book tells a story in rhyme, using different types of pronouns, leading children to become more apt to remember what pronouns are. The colorful illustrations feature funny monster-like creatures taking part in everyday activities. 32 pages

Are We There Yet? by Alison Lester

Alison Lester, an Australian-born author and illustrator, has written a lovely introduction to Australia for young readers. Through the eyes of 8-year-old Grace, we tag along for a six-month journey around Australia with her family. 32 pages

Chapter Books

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

Because of a hysterical encounter with Winn-Dixie, a stray but lovable dog, India Opal's life changes forever. Opal is forced to deal with the absence of her mother and a father who is absorbed in his work. One day she stumbles upon a stray dog in the Winn-Dixie grocery and it's love at first sight. Opal adopts the dog and he helps her

make friends with people that the town-folks have labeled as strange and different. This is a beautiful story about friendship, forgiveness, and tolerance. 151 pages

Thunder Rose by Jerdine Nolen

Nolen and Nelson give us a spunky cowgirl heroine of the West who names herself Thunder Rose. Rose is resourceful and fearless, and no challenge defeats her, not stampeding cattle, drought, tornadoes, hooligans nor desperadoes. With a sweet disposition, sassy pigtailed and a 'can do' attitude, Rose's story stretches both the imagination and the vocabulary. 32 pages

How to Train Your Dragon by Cressida Cowell

This story of Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III, son of a Viking chief, is filled with slightly rude humor that often appeals to preadolescent boys. Clever wordsmithing engages readers in the plight of a scrawny boy and his extraordinarily small dragon. 224 pages

Freddy the Detective (series) by Walter Brooks

Originally published in 1932, *Freddy the Detective* is an overlooked classic. Freddy is a pig who finds his true calling when he finds a copy of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* in the barn one day. The witty and still very fresh vocabulary in which Freddy expresses himself is just delightful! 272 pages

Mr. Popper's Penguins by Richard Atwater

The adventures of a house painter and his brood of high-stepping penguins is silly and a lot of fun! 160 pages

Fudge-a-Mania (series) by Judy Blume

Peter Hatcher can't get a break. His little brother, Fudge-the five-year-old human hurricane-has big plans to marry Peter's sworn enemy, Sheila Tubman. That alone would be enough to ruin his whole summer, but now Peter's parents have decided to rent a summer home next door to Sheila the Cootie Queen's house for three whole weeks! 160 pages

My Father's Dragon (3 part series) by Ruth Gannett,

This book is the first of a trilogy featuring Elmer Elevator and his adventures. In *My Father's Dragon*, Elmer rescues a baby dragon from the cruel animals on Wild Island and in the process takes you on a fantastic journey. 112 pages

The Just Desserts Club by Joanna Huritz

Sixth grader Cricket finds just the right dessert to bake for school events during the year. Each chapter is about a dessert, and the recipe is at the end. Includes recipes for Zucchini "Apple" Crisp, No Bake Orange Balls, and Mystery Ingredient Chocolate Cake. 95 pages

Bicycle to Treachery (Mrs. Mallard Series) by Robert M. Quackenbush

