Suggested Summer Reading for Rising Grade 1

*Read with a grown-up or read-to-self books*

**National Geographic Readers** from National Geographic (various authors)

Children are fascinated by the world around them and National Geographic has a huge array of books to feed that curiosity. The *Little Kid's First Big Book* series is another excellent non-fiction choice.

**Acorn books** from Scholastic (various authors)

Scholastic's early reader line, Acorn, is aimed at early readers. With easy-to-read text, a short-story format, plenty of humor, and full-color artwork on every page, these books will boost reading confidence and fluency. These are just a few of the series in the line.

**Mo Jackson** (series) by David Adler

Mo may not be the biggest, the strongest, or the fastest, but he won't let that stop him from playing! In Mo's first book, he is the youngest kid on the Robins football team. The kids on the rival team tease him for being a "butterfingers" who's too tiny to catch the ball. But Mo's coach has a plan up his sleeve to turn Mo's little size into a big win for the Robins.

**Fly Guy** (series) by Tedd Arnold

Boy and fly meet and so begins a beautiful friendship. Er, and so begins a very funny friendship. Using hyperbole, puns, slapstick, and silly drawings, bestselling author/illustrator Tedd Arnold creates an easy reader that is full of fun. This book is a Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor book!
Pete the Cat (series) by James Dean from the “I Can Read!” collection

The “I Can Read” books are leveled readers that use basic language, word repetition, sight words, and illustrations—perfect for emerging readers. Other “I Can Read” collections include Little Critter, Biscuit the Puppy, Duck, Duck, Dinosaur, Splat the Cat, Fancy Nancy, Pinkalicious, Amelia Bedelia and many more.

Go, Dog, Go! (and others) by P.D. Eastman

Written for beginning readers using only 75 different words, this beloved Beginner Book by P.D. Eastman features all kinds of wonderful dogs riding bicycles, scooters, skis, roller skates, and driving all sorts of vehicles on their way to a party held on top of a tree!

P.D. Eastman’s other books include Sam & the Firefly, The Best Nest, and Are You My Mother?

A Pig, a Fox, and a... (series) by Jonathan Fenske

In the style of Mo Willems, Jonathan Fenske tells three humorous stories of two friends, Pig and Fox, and their shenanigans with a cardboard box (all of which involved Pig accidentally crushing Fox in the box). With comic art and simple language, this Level 2 reader is sure to have kids rolling with laughter.

Cat Has a Plan by Laura Gehl; from the Ready-to-Go! Read-to-Read early readers

Cat has a plan. Dog has a plan. May the best plan win in this Ready-to-Go! Ready-to-Read book by Laura Gehl. Each Ready-to-Go! Ready-to-Read book contains about 100 words and features sight words, rhyming words, and repetition to help children reinforce burgeoning reading skills. Each book also includes a note to parents explaining what their child can expect and a guide at the beginning for readers to become familiar with the words they will encounter in the story.

Princess in Black (series) by Shannon Hale & Dean Hale, illustrated by LeUyen Pham

Who says princesses don’t wear black? When trouble raises its (monster) head, Princess Magnolia ditches her flouncy dresses and becomes the Princess in Black! She’s a master at multi-tasking, but can she keep her secret?

The Penny Books (and others) by Kevin Henkes

Meet Penny, the sweet and curious mouse, in Caldecott Medalist and bestselling author Kevin Henkes’s instant classic story for young readers, perfect for fans Lily’s Purple Plastic Purse, Owen, and Chrysanthemum. Penny’s adventures continue in Penny and her Marble, Penny and her Sled, and Penny and her Doll. Wemberly Worried is a fantastically relatable book for the worriers out there.
**Cat Kid Comic Club** by Dav Pilkey

Grownups scratch their heads sometimes but the K-5 set LOVES Dav Pilkey. *Cat Kid Comic Club* is a gentler spin-off of the famous (or infamous) *Dog Man* books, aimed at a younger audience.

**Baloney and Friends** by Greg Pizzoli

Meet Baloney! He’s the star of this book, along with his best buddies: empathetic Peanut the horse, sensible Bizz the bumblebee, and grumpy Krabbit—he’d rather not be here, but what can you do? In this graphic novel for newly independent readers, Baloney and friends step into the spotlight in three short tales and three mini-comics that invite readers to join the fun!

**My Friends Make Me Happy** (from the Giggle Gang series) by Jan Thomas

Can you guess what makes Sheep really happy? Here’s a clue... it starts with the letter F. It is NOT fish or fans. And it is especially not turnips! That doesn’t even start with the letter F!

Featuring Jan Thomas's wonderfully wacky humor, rowdy repetitions, and hilarious characters, this book is sure to have young readers laughing out loud!

**What this Story Needs...** (series) by Emma J. Virjan

Perfect for fans of Dr. Seuss and Mo Willems!

What this story needs is a pig in a wig, on a boat in a moat with a frog, a dog, and a goat on a log... As more and more hop on board, it becomes clear that what this story really needs is a bigger boat! Join Pig on an exciting boat ride as she discovers that life is more fun with friends in this fantastic, funny read-aloud about friendship.

**Unlimited Squirrels** (series) or anything else by Mo Willems (*Elephant and Piggie, Knuffle Bunny, The Pigeon Books*, etc.)

Mo Willems has stopped writing the Elephant & Piggie books and has moved on to the equally hilarious *Unlimited Squirrels*. This nutty series combines fact and fiction with silliness and “a-corny” jokes. It is written at a slightly higher reading level than Elephant & Piggie.

**Duck, Duck, Porcupine** (series) by Salina Yoon

Meet Big Duck, Little Duck, and Porcupine, stars of this Geisel Honor-winning early reader series perfect for fans of Elephant & Piggie. Big Duck likes to boss around her younger brother, Little Duck, and she fancies herself the leader of their trio—when joined by their gentle friend Porcupine. Little Duck doesn’t speak yet, but through his expressions and his actions, he shows that he has a better grasp on any situation than his older sister.
Family read-alouds

As children begin to read by themselves, reading together remains an important part of reading development. Reading aloud to your child supports phonemic awareness (the ability to hear, identify, and play with individual sounds in spoken words), phonics (the ability to connect letters with sounds), vocabulary, reading comprehension, and reading fluency (the ability to read with speed, accuracy, and proper expression.)

Reading together also supports children's emotional development, providing conversation starters for their joys, fears, and anxieties.

**How to Care for your T-Rex** by Ken Baker (text) & illus. by Dave Coverly

The author uses the responsibility of pet care to deliver fun dino facts ("A T-Rex can cover fifteen feet in a single step") in this super silly story. Brushing and flossing nine-inch teeth is particularly challenging; a boy teaches him not to eat the floor, and when the dinosaur rolls over, the fence breaks. *Billy Twitters and his Blue Whale Problem* by Mac Barnett is another fun problem-with-a-pet story.

**The Questioneers** (chapter books and picture books) by Andrea Beatty

This is a unique and exciting series that integrates STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) into spirited stories full of adventure, friendship, and science! The Netflix show "Ada Twist, Scientist" is based on The Questioneers.

**Children Make Terrible Pets** (and others) by Peter Brown

When Lucy, a young bear, discovers a boy lost in the woods, she asks her mother if she can have him as a pet, only to find him impossible to train. *Lulu and the Brontosaurus* by Judith Viorst, is a slightly longer book with a similar premise.

**The Name Jar** by Yangsook Choi

Unhei, the new Korean-from-Korea kid in class, is so shy about people pronouncing her names that she claims she doesn't yet have one. As her fellow classmates fill a name jar with ideas, Unhei comes to embrace what's uniquely hers.

**The Chicken Squad: The First Misadventure** by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Kevin Cornell

Four chick siblings try to solve the mystery of the squirrel’s HUGE, TERRIFYING, ENORMOUS, FRIGHTENING thing in the yard. But how are they supposed to do that when the squirrel can't even tell me what shape it is?!?!? Children who love silly read-aloud books will enjoy this one.
**Bubbles... UP!** by Jacqueline Davies (text) & illus. by Sonia Sánchez

A community pool is a place of wonder as bubbles rise through water, filled with light. A small girl gives readers the tour - follow the bubbles up until you break the surface, then dive back in. And how about under-sitting, under-talking, or doing an under-handstand?

**Mercy Watson** (series) by Kate DiCamillo

Mercy Watson is a young pig with an inordinate fondness for hot buttered toast and her loving “parents”, the incredibly ordinary Mr. and Mrs. Watson. Kate DiCamillo is a much-celebrated author who writes for all ages - Mercy Watson is not only a wonderful series on its own, it is also a way to introduce children to her other books to read in the future.

**Boot & Shoe** by Marla Frazee

Boot and Shoe were born into the same litter, and now they live in the same house. They eat out of the same bowl and sleep in the same bed. But they spend their days apart—Boot on the back porch because he’s a back porch kind of dog, and Shoe on the front porch because he’s a front porch kind of dog. This is exactly perfect for them. But then a crazy neighborhood squirrel arrives . . . and everything goes topsy-turvy!

**You Are (Not) Small** (series) by Anna Kang

Two fuzzy creatures can’t agree on who is small and who is big, until a couple of surprise guests show up, settling it once and for all! The simple text of Anna Kang and bold illustrations of The New Yorker cartoonist Christopher Weyant tell an original and very funny story about size; it all depends on who’s standing next to you!

**Babe, the Gallant Pig** and others by Dick King-Smith

When Babe arrives at Hogget Farm, Mrs. Hogget's thoughts turn to sizzling bacon and juicy pork chops. But Babe soon reveals an unexpected talent: he can handle Farmer Hogget’s stubborn sheep better than any dog ever could! When Farmer Hogget enters Babe in the Grand Challenge Sheepdog Trials, everyone thinks he is a fool. But he believes in Babe. Now it's up to Babe to convince everyone else to believe in a sheep-pig!

**Everything Awesome About Dinosaurs; Everything Awesome About Sharks and Other Underwater Creatures; Everything Awesome About Space** by Mike Lowery

The “Everything Awesome” books are, well, awesome. With little known facts, fun and wacky illustrations, and a drawing section at the end, these appeal to our most discerning dinosaur, shark, and space aficionados.
Inky's Amazing Escape by Sy Montgomery

Inky was a real octopus who famously escaped from an aquarium in New Zealand without leaving a trace. Inky the Octopus: The Official Story of One Brave Octopus' Daring Escape by Erin Guendelsberger, which tells the same story from Inky's point of view.

The Book With No Pictures by B. J. Novak

This book might possibly exceed the (grown-up's) reasonable limit for sheer silliness. A book with no pictures might sound boring but the thing is, the person reading it has to say the words. Even if it means singing about blueberry pizza. This is a perennial favorite among GHS students… even the fifth graders, who have been hearing it since they were in Kindergarten, still ask me to read it!

¡Vamos! Let's Go To The Market (series) by Raúl the Third

Bilingual in a new way, this colorful adventure teaches readers simple words in Spanish as they experience the bustling life of a border town. Follow Little Lobo and his dog Bernabe as they deliver supplies to their friends in the market. And maybe Little Lobo will get to meet his hero - El Toro the Luchador. Follow with other books from the World of ¡Vamos! - Let's Go Eat, Let's Cross the Bridge, as well as independent early readers.

I Got the Rhythm by Connie Schofield-Morrison and Frank Morrison

On a simple trip to the park, the joy of music overtakes a mother and daughter. The little girl hears a rhythm coming from the world around her— suddenly everything is musical! She sniffs, snaps, and shakes her way into the heart of the beat, finally busting out in an impromptu dance, which all the kids join in on!

Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein

Shel Silverstein's funny, sometimes sweet, poems and amusing illustrations, which may hold the key to the accompanying poem, can be read in tiny bits or big chunks.

There are plenty more books by Shel Silverstein for fans of Where the Sidewalk Ends.

Interrupting Chicken (series) by Ezra Stein

It's time for the little red chicken's bedtime story — and a reminder from Papa to try not to interrupt. But the chicken can't help herself! The characters don't know what to do! Now it's the little red chicken's turn to tell a story, but will her yawning papa make it to the end without his own kind of interrupting?

The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Rafael López

The first day of school can be scary. Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical text and Rafael López's dazzling art reminds us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes — and it's brave that we go forth anyway. Sometimes, when we reach out and begin to share our stories, others will be happy to meet us halfway.
Magazines

Reading magazines is an opportunity for children to read in small sections and explore new interests. Magazines aren't forever, so they can also be a resource for practicing fine motor skills through cutting out pictures and the mazes and other activities that are included.

**Highlights for Children**

*Highlights Magazine* started in 1946 and has become a classic in children's magazines. From the original *Highlights* publication, the publisher has expanded to include separate magazines for ages 0-2 and 2-5, as well as the original magazine geared towards ages 6-12. They also have a line of books that expand on popular parts of the magazine, such as the Search-and-Find.

**Ranger Rick**

Published by the National Wildlife Federation, the Ranger Rick magazines focus on animals and the natural world. They are written at multiple reading levels, from *Cub* and *Zootles* for pre-readers and early readers, progressing through *Zoobooks*, *Ranger Rick Jr.*, and *Ranger Rick. ZooDinos* is a special interest publication for dinosaur fans!

**National Geographic Kids**

From National Geographic, the National Geographic Kids magazines focus mainly on information about animals. *National Geographic Little Kids* is published in an excellent format for little hands with easily accessible content for pre-readers and early readers. *National Geographic Kids* is a great choice for slightly more advanced readers.