



Suggested Summer Reading for Rising Grade 2

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 and Branches books from Scholastic (various authors)

Scholastic's early reader line, Acorn, is aimed at children who are learning to read. 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.



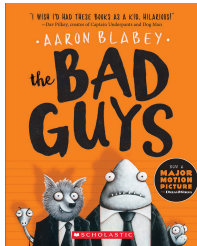
Scholastic's Branches line of early chapter books is designed for those ready to read independently and helps growing readers transition from leveled readers to chapter books. These are just a few of the series in the line. *Press Start!*, *The Last Firehawk*, and *Owl Diaries* are especially popular at Green Hedges.





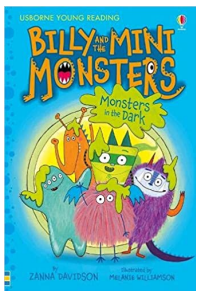
***The Questioners* (series) by Andrea Beatty**

This is a unique and exciting series of children's chapter books that integrate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) into spirited stories full of adventure, friendship, and science!



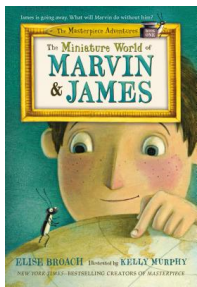
***The Bad Guys* (series) by Aaron Blabey**

They sound like bad guys, they look like bad guys, they even smell like bad guys! But Mr. Wolf, Mr. Piranha, Mr. Snake, and Mr. Shark are about to change all of that... With 16 books in the series, and more coming, these hilarious books will keep children reading all summer. The first book has also been made into a movie that the whole family can enjoy.



***Billy and the Mini-Monsters* (series) by Zanna Davidson**

Billy has a pretty normal life until one night when he hears a squeaky little voice and notices tiny purple footprints on his desk. Not only that, SOMETHING has ATTACKED his cheese sandwich. What could it be? Does Billy dare find out? Spoiler alert... there just might be five tiny monsters living in his sock drawer.



***The Miniature World of Marvin & James* (series) by Elsie Broach**

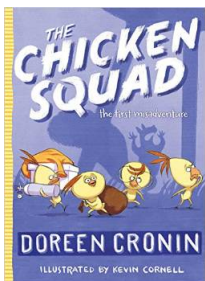
James is a human, his best friend Marvin is a beetle. Join this unusual pair in The Masterpiece Adventures. In the first book, James is going on vacation; Marvin has to stay home. While James is gone, Marvin has to play with his annoying cousin, Elaine. Marvin and Elaine quickly find themselves getting into all sorts of trouble—even getting trapped inside a pencil sharpener! Marvin misses James and starts to worry about their friendship. Will James still be Marvin's friend when he gets home?



***Bird and Squirrel* (series) by James Burk**

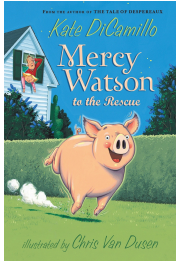
Enthusiastically recommended by rising Grade 3!

Bird and Squirrel outwit Cat and become best friends in this zany adventure. Squirrel is afraid of his own shadow. Bird doesn't have a care in the world. And Cat wants to eat Bird and Squirrel. Of course, he'll have to catch them first, and that's not going to be easy. Join this trio as they head south for the winter in a hilarious road trip. But watch out! Cat is waiting around every bend, and he's one pesky feline.



***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?!?!? Our lovers of silliness will enjoy this one. Also great as a read-aloud.



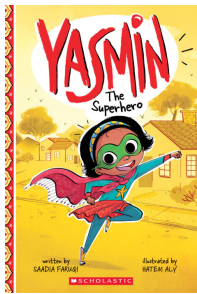
***Mercy Watson* (series) by Kate DiCamillo**

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.



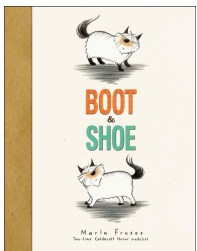
***Jaden Toussaint, the Greatest* (series) by Marti Dumas**

In this short chapter book, five-year old Jaden Toussaint knows it all. I mean, really knows it all. Animal Scientist. Great Debater. Master of the art of ninja dancing. There is nothing Jaden Toussaint can't do. The only problem is that grown-ups keep trying to convince him that, even though he's really smart, he doesn't know EVERYTHING.



***Yasmin* (series) by Saadia Farqui**

Meet Yasmin! Yasmin is a spirited second-grader who's always on the lookout for those "aha" moments to help her solve life's little problems. Taking inspiration from her surroundings and her big imagination, she boldly faces any situation, assuming her imagination doesn't get too big, of course! A creative thinker and curious explorer, Yasmin and her multi-generational Pakistani American family will delight and inspire readers.



***Boot & Shoe* by Marla Frazee**

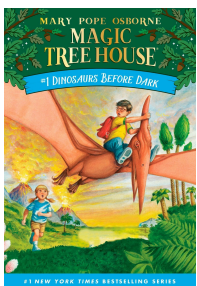
Boot and Shoe were born into the same litter, and now they live in the same house. They eat out of the same bowl and sleep in the same bed. But they spend their days apart—Boot on the back porch because he's a back porch kind of dog, and Shoe on the front porch because he's a front porch kind of dog.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



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

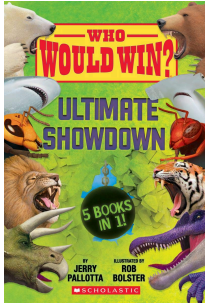
Who says princesses don't wear black? When trouble raises its (monster) head, Princess Magnolia ditches her flouncy dresses and becomes the Princess in Black! She's a master at multi-tasking, but can she keep her secret?

Some of the boys think that princess books are “for girls” but Magnolia's superhero alter-ego may change their minds about that!



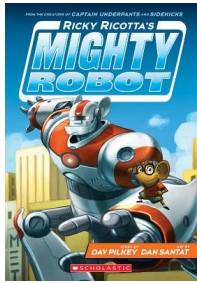
***Magic Treehouse* (series) by Mary Pope Osborne**

The Magic Treehouse series was extremely popular with our Grade 1 students this year. Even if your child brought home new Magic Treehouse books every week, there are probably still books they haven't read! The spin-off non-fiction Fact Tracker books supplement the main series with factual background on Jack and Annie's adventures.



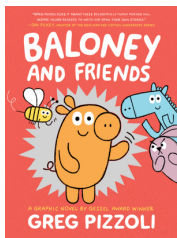
***Who Would Win?* (series) by Jerry Pallotta**

The non-fiction *Who Would Win?* series presents scenarios in which one ferocious (or not so ferocious) animal is pitted against another. Readers learn facts about the animals to guess... Who. Would. Win?



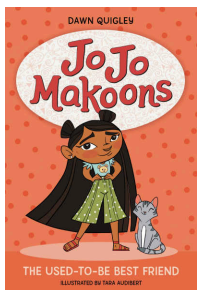
***Ricky Ricotta's Mighty Robot* (series) by Dav Pilkey, illustrated by Dan Santat**

Meet Ricky Ricotta, a little mouse with a big problem! Ricky Ricotta lives in Squeakyville with his mom and dad. Ricky has a hard time making friends at school, and the neighborhood bullies are always picking on him. If only Ricky could find someone to be his best buddy and keep those creepy bullies away!



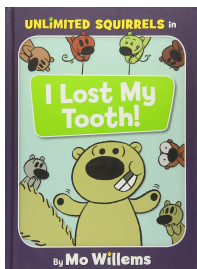
***Baloney and Friends* by Greg Pizzoli**

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!



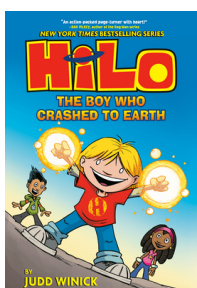
***JoJo Makoons* (series) by Dawn Quigley**

JoJo is a clever, spunky heroine and she makes lots of mistakes—but she's learning! JoJo's narrative voice is irresistible, and Quigley includes wonderful word play and sly humor throughout.



***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.

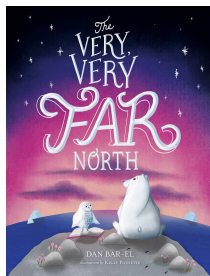


***Hilo, the Boy Who Crashed to Earth* (series) by Judd Winick**

D.J. and Gina are totally ordinary kids. But Hilo just fell out of the sky, doesn't know where he came from, or what he's doing on Earth. (Or why going to school in just underwear is a BAD idea.) And what if Hilo wasn't the only thing to fall to our planet? Can the trio unlock the secrets of Hilo's past? Can Hilo survive a day at school? And what do you do about the occasional mutant space robot?

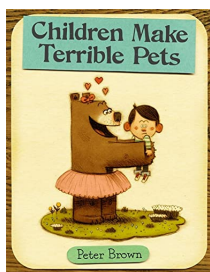
Books to Read Aloud or Read Together

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 the letters of written language with the sounds of spoken language), 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.



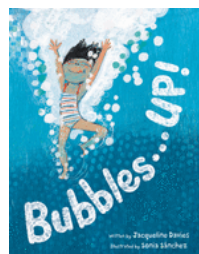
The Very, Very Far North by Daniel Bar-el

An inquisitive polar bear named Duane befriends an array of animals as he discovers where he belongs in this charming classic-in-the-making that's reminiscent of Winnie the Pooh.



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.



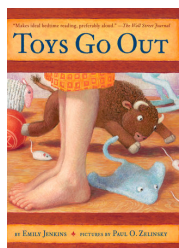
Bubbles... UP! by Jacqueline Davies (text) & illus. by Sonia Sánchez

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?



The Creature of the Pines (Unicorn Rescue Society, book 1) by Adam Gidwitz

Our friends who enjoyed the Zoey and Sassafras books this year might enjoy the Unicorn Rescue Society books as well. As the founder of URS says... "Unicorns are real. At least I'm pretty sure they are. This is why I, Professor Mito Fauna, founded The Unicorn Rescue Society! Our mission is to save mythical creatures from danger--creatures like dragons, sasquatches, the Loch Ness monster, chupacabras, sea serpents, and more.



Toys Go Out: Being the Adventures of a Knowledgeable Stingray, a Toughy Little Buffalo, and Someone Called Plastic by Emily Jenkins, illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky

This delightful trilogy follows three friends (a stuffed stingray, a stuffed buffalo, and a rubber ball) who live in the bedroom of a little girl and have plenty of adventures when she's out.



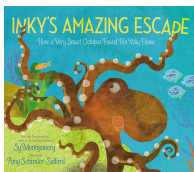
***Babe, the Gallant Pig* and others by Dick King-Smith**

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**

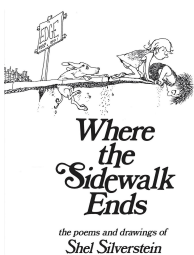
Inky was a real octopus who famously escaped from an aquarium in New Zealand without leaving a trace. *Inky the Octopus: The Official Story of One Brave Octopus' Daring Escape* by Erin Guendelsberger, which tells the same story from Inky's point of view.

The Book With No Pictures

B.J. Novak

***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!



***Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein**

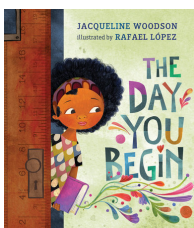
This isn't a chapter book but it is VERY fun to read aloud. Shel Silverstein's funny, sometimes sweet, poems and amusing illustrations, which sometimes hold the key to the accompanying poem, can be read in tiny bits or big chunks.

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.



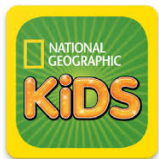
Highlights for Children

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.