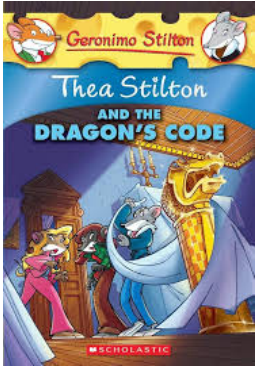


Rising Third Grade Summer Reading Suggestions 2026



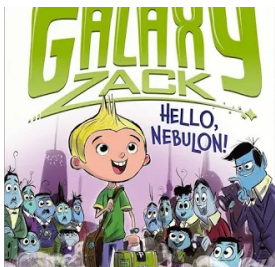
Geronimo and Thea Stilton

The Thea and Geronimo Stilton book series chronicles the adventures of two mouse siblings who are journalists. Geronimo Stilton, a timid newspaper editor, is often reluctantly pulled into global escapades, solving mysteries and learning about different cultures. His sister, Thea Stilton, a daring special correspondent, leads a group of five talented students, the Thea Sisters, on thrilling quests around the world. These books are known for their vibrant illustrations and unique fonts, making them engaging for young readers. Both series emphasize positive themes like friendship, courage, and teamwork, often incorporating educational facts into their exciting plots.



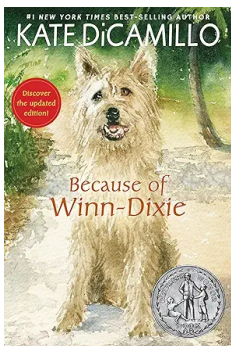
Star Friends

Four friends (Mia, Lexi, Sita, and Violet) who discover they are "Star Friends" with the ability to communicate with magical animals from another world, using their unique powers to solve problems and fight dark magic in their town



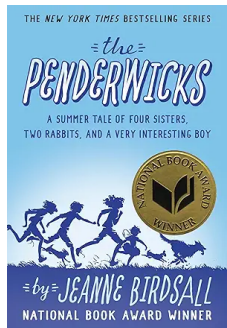
Galaxy Zack

a boy named Zack Nelson who moves from Earth to the planet Nebulon, following his family's relocation in the year 2120.



Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo (realistic fiction)

One summer's day, ten-year-old India Opal Buloni goes down to the local supermarket for some groceries—and comes home with a dog. But Winn-Dixie is no ordinary dog. It's because of Winn-Dixie that Opal begins to make friends. And it's because of Winn-Dixie that she finally dares to ask her father about her mother, who left when Opal was three. In fact, as Opal admits, just about *everything* that happens that summer is because of Winn-Dixie. "This book is (I hope) a hymn of praise to dogs, friendship, and the South," Kate DiCamillo said of her best-selling debut novel, which has been awarded a Newbery Honor, translated into nearly thirty languages, and turned into a major motion picture. The story of a preacher's daughter named Opal whose life is transformed by a scruffy dog named Winn-Dixie continues to touch the hearts of readers of all ages.



***Penderwicks* by Jeanne Birdsall (realistic fiction)**

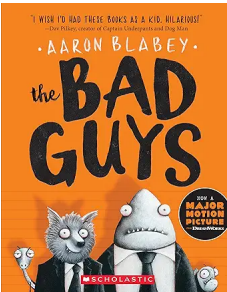
This summer the Penderwick sisters have a wonderful surprise: a holiday on the grounds of a beautiful estate called Arundel. Soon they are busy discovering the summertime magic of Arundel's sprawling gardens, treasure-filled attic, tame rabbits, and the cook who makes the best gingerbread in Massachusetts. But the best discovery of all is Jeffrey Tifton, son of Arundel's owner, who quickly proves to be the perfect companion for their adventures. The icy-hearted Mrs. Tifton is not as pleased with the Penderwicks as Jeffrey is, though, and warns the new friends to stay out of trouble. Which, of course, they will—won't they? One thing's for sure: it will be a summer the Penderwicks will never forget.



***Upside Down Magic* by Sarah Mlynowski (fantasy)**

It's never easy when your magic goes wonky. For Nory, this means that instead of being able to turn into a dragon or a kitten, she turns into both of them at the same time -- a dritten. For Elliott, the simple act of conjuring fire from his fingertips turns into a fully frozen failure. For Andres, wonky magic means he's always floating in the air, bouncing off the walls, or sitting on the ceiling. For Bax, a bad moment of magic will turn him into a . . . actually, he'd rather not talk about that. Nory, Elliott, Andres, and Bax are just four of the students in Dunwiddle

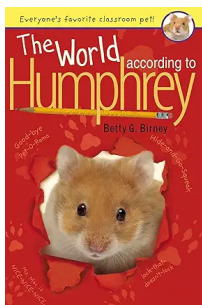
Magic School's Upside-Down Magic class. In their classroom, lessons are unconventional, students are unpredictable, and magic has a tendency to turn wonky at the worst possible moments. Because it's always amazing, the trouble a little wonky magic can cause . . .



***The Bad Guys* by Aaron Blabey (animal fiction)**

hey sound like bad guys, they look like bad guys . . . and they even smell like bad guys. But Mr. Wolf, Mr. Piranha, Mr. Snake, and Mr. Shark are about to change all of that...

Mr. Wolf has a daring plan for the Bad Guys' first good mission. They are going to break two hundred dogs out of the Maximum Security City Dog Pound. Will Operation Dog Pound go smoothly? Will the Bad Guys become the Good Guys? And will Mr. Snake please stop swallowing Mr. Piranha?!

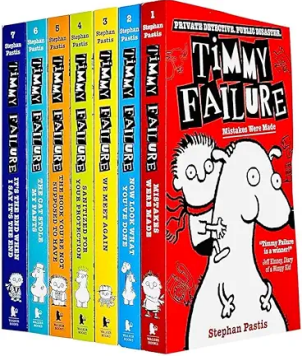


***The World According to Humphrey* by Betty G. Birney (animal fiction)**

You can learn a lot about life by observing another species. That's what Humphrey was told when he was first brought to Room 26. And boy, is it true! In addition to having FUN-FUN-FUN in class, each weekend this amazing hamster gets to sleep over with a different student, like Lower-Your-Voice-A.J. and Speak-Up-Sayeh. Soon Humphrey learns to read, write, and even shoot rubber bands (only in self-defense, of course). With lots of friends to help, adventures to enjoy, and a cage with a lock-that-doesn't- lock, Humphrey's life is almost perfect. If only the teacher, Mrs. Brisbane, wasn't out to get him!

Timmy Failure by Stephan Pastis (realistic fiction)

Take Timmy Failure—the clueless, comically self-confident CEO of the best detective agency in town, perhaps even the nation. Add his impressively lazy business partner, a very large polar bear named Total, and what you have is Total Failure, Inc. From the offbeat creator of *Pearls Before Swine* comes an endearingly bumbling hero in a hilarious caper accompanied by a whodunit twist. With perfectly paced visual humor, Stephan Pastis gets readers snorting with laughter, then slyly carries the joke a beat further—or sweetens it with an unexpected poignant moment—making this a comics-inspired story that truly stands apart from the pack.



Notebook of Doom by Troy Cummings (fiction)

This series is part of Scholastic's early chapter book line called Branches, which is aimed at newly independent readers. With easy-to-read text, high-interest content, fast-paced plots, and illustrations on every page, these books will boost reading confidence and stamina. Branches books help readers grow! Alexander has just moved to a new town where he uncovers all sorts of monsters! He finds an old notebook with the word "DOOM" inscribed on the front cover. The Notebook of Doom, which Alexander now holds, contains top-secret information about the monsters! In this first book,

Alexander goes up against spooky balloon goons--unique and twisted arm-waving balloon guys!

This book is full of humor, engaging black-and-white illustrations, and of course...monsters!



Who Was...? and What was...? (biography/informational)

A popular collection of illustrated biographies for young readers, profiling significant historical figures, places, and events, from artists and scientists to world leaders and major historical moments like the Civil Rights Movement or the Titanic.



Bad Kitty by Nick Bruel

Bad Kitty is a popular children's book series by author and illustrator Nick Bruel, featuring a mischievous, bad-tempered housecat named Kitty and her owner's other pets, especially Puppy. The books, which range from picture books to chapter books and graphic novels, use a unique format with a mix of text and illustrations to tell humorous stories about Kitty's antics, often incorporating alphabet-based humor and cat care tips. Key titles include Bad Kitty, Poor Puppy, Bad Kitty Gets a Bath, and Bad Kitty for President.

