Fair Lawn Public Library
Summer Reading List for Elementary Students

**Fiction**

Please pick a fiction title that corresponds with your independent reading level. This list offers some suggestions, feel free to select from a book that is not on the list. Try other books in the series or other books by the same author. Please be aware that other books in a series or by an author may have a slightly different guided reading level. The Fair Lawn Public Library Children’s Department has an extensive list of more titles organized by guided reading level, as does the library website [www.fairlawnlibrary.org](http://www.fairlawnlibrary.org). You can check the Scholastic Book Wizard at [www.scholastic.com/bookwizard](http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard) for other guided reading suggestions.

**Level A**

*I See a Cat* by Paul Meisel (I like to Read, Holiday House)
Easy-to-read text and fun pictures follow a dog through his happy day waiting and watching out the window for his boy.

*Back and Front* by Katirgis (all about opposites series)
With great use of fun and colorful photos, this book introduces readers to the difference between back and front. New readers can get a start reading on their own!

*Wet Pet* by Ziefert (Flip-a-Word series)
Combines simple rhymes with anime-style illustrations in a series of skill-building stories that invite young readers to become familiar with word families that share similar vowel sounds.

**Level B**

*Sam and Jack* by Moran (Green Light Readers)
Three separate early reader adventures with Sam and Jack. Appealing illustration that include adorable animal friends.

*Mouse Goes Out* by Root (Candlewick Brand New Readers series)
As the seasons change, Mouse tries fishing, making a snowman, swimming, and camping.
**Have You Seen My Cat?** by Eric Carle
A little boy worries about his missing cat and travels to different places in search of his pet. Featuring simple words and plenty of repetition.

**Level C**

**First Little Comics** by Charlesworth (series)
Jumpstart your child’s reading success with comics! Kids will love these laugh-out-loud books with very easy text in speech balloons. They’ll also adore the zany cast of characters: monsters, bears, talking crayons, pirates, dinosaurs, grumpy trolls, and more!

**Clara and Clem Take a Ride** by Long (Clara and Clem series)
When Clara and Clem build a car out of blocks, they have no idea where it will take them, but with a little imagination, the two take the trip of a lifetime.

**See Otto** by Milgrim (The Adventures of Otto)
Meet Otto, an excitable robot who seeks adventure—and finds it—when he falls off his spaceship and lands on Earth, directly in front of a very cranky rhinoceros. Otto runs, but the rhino runs faster...Run, Otto, run!

**Level D**

**Bears in the Night** by Berenstain (Berenstain Bears Beginner Books series)
Seven bears sneak out of bed, through the window, and across the dark countryside to investigate the source of a noise.

**Fox is Late** by Tabor (My First I Can Read)
Fun-loving, mischievous Fox is late for lunch, so he hops on his skateboard. Go, Fox, go!

**Tiny the Snow Dog** by Meister (Tiny series)
Tiny and his owner play in the snow and Tiny becomes a snow dog.
Level E

**Brownie & Pearl Go for a Spin** by Rylant (Brownie & Pearl series)
When Brownie and her cat go for a spin in her car, neither one is ready for it to end.

**Puppy Mudge Wants to Play** by Rylant (Puppy Mudge series)
Just when Henry thinks it's safe to snuggle up with a good book, Mudge has other ideas for the afternoon. From tugging to running to jumping all around, Mudge won't stop until Henry agrees to join the fun.

**Dear Dragon Goes Camping** by Hillert (Dear Dragon series)
A boy and his pet dragon go exploring and have fun on a family camping trip.

Level F

**Digger and Daisy Go to the Zoo** by Young (Digger and Daisy series)
When Digger the dog and his big sister Daisy visit the zoo, Digger tries to imitate the animals they see and Daisy tells him that although he cannot climb a tree like a monkey, he can swim in a pond like a duck.

**What is That? Said the Cat** by Maccarone (try other easy to read books by this author, such as *My Tooth is about to Fall Out* and *Soccer Game!*)
An assortment of animals tries different ways to get a big box open, only to be VERY surprised by what is inside.

**Biscuit Goes to School** by Capucilli (Biscuit series)
Biscuit can't wait to go to school! Even though no dogs are allowed, he is determined to see and do everything that takes place at school. But what will happen when the teacher discovers a puppy in his classroom?

Level G

**Pete the Cat: Play Ball** by Dean (Pete the Cat I Can Read series)
Pete the Cat is ready to play baseball! Pete's team, the Rocks, is playing the Rolls. But when the game doesn't go Pete's way, what will Pete do?
Dixie by Gilman (Dixie series)
Dixie’s at home missing her owner. Emma is busy at school, working on the school play.

We Are in a Book by Willems (Elephant and Piggie series)
Gerald and Piggie discover the joy of being read. But what will happen when the book ends?

Level H

Mr. Brown Can Moo! Can You? by Seuss (Dr. Seuss Bright and Early Books)
Mr. Brown is an expert at imitating all sorts of noises.

Playground Problem by McNamara (Robin Hill School series)
When first-graders Nick, Jamie, and Reza refuse to let Emma join their soccer game just because she is a girl, Emma and her father devise a plan to teach the boys a lesson.

Super Fly Guy by Arnold (Fly Guy series)
Fly Guy visits the school cafeteria and gets the lunch lady fired.

Level I

Are You My Mother? by Eastman (try other beginning titles by Eastman such as Go, Dog, Go! and Sam and the Firefly)
A baby bird falls from the nest and tries to find his mother.

Penny and Her Song by Henkes (Penny series)
Penny comes home from school eager to share her very own song, but must wait until the time is right to teach it to her parents and the babies.
Good Night, Sleep Tight by Scotton (Splat the Cat I can Read! series)
Splat is excited about camping out until his mother surprises him with the news that Spike and Plank will be there, too.

Level J

Henry and Mudge: The First Book of Their Adventures by Rylant (Henry and Mudge series)
Henry, feeling lonely on a street without any other children, finds companionship and love in a big dog named Mudge.

Little Bear by Minarik (Little Bear series)
Little Bear's four adventures include taking a trip to the moon and having a birthday party.

Pedro the Great by Manushkin (Pedro series, try also Katie Woo series by the same author)
Join Pedro for his latest adventures with his pal Katie Woo. One day, he's pretending he's a pirate, sailing the high seas. The next day, he's practicing his karate, being as fierce as a ninja star. But no matter what adventure Pedro's having, he's always Pedro the Great!

Level K

Frog and Toad Are Friends by Lobel (Frog and Toad series)
Five tales recounting the adventures of two best friends - Frog and Toad.

Mercy Watson to the Rescue by Dicamilo (Mercy Watson series)
After Mercy the pig snuggles to sleep with the Watsons, all three awaken with the bed teetering on the edge of a big hole in the floor.

Nate the Great by Sharmat (Nate the Great series)
Nate the Great solves the mystery of the missing picture in this first title from this classic series.
**Level L**

*Princess in Black* by Shannon Hale (Princess in Black series)
Who says princesses don't wear black? When trouble raises its blue monster head, Princess Magnolia ditches her flouncy dresses and becomes the Princess in Black!

*Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Stolen Diamonds* by Adler (Cam Jansen series)
Can Cam help catch the diamond thief? Cam and her friend Eric are sitting at the mall when the jewelry store is robbed. Cam sees the thief, but the police arrest the wrong person. Now it's up to Cam to catch the real criminal!

*Pinky & Rex Go to Camp* by Howe (Pinky & Rex series by Howe)
Pinky and Rex are going to camp for the first time. Rex keeps telling Pinky how much fun they're going to have, but Pinky just wants to stay home where he belongs.

**Level M**

*Dinosaurs before Dark* by Osborn (Magic Tree House series)
A tree house that travels through time? Not possible, says Jack. But he has to admit — when he and his younger sister, Annie, start running into dinosaurs — that they're not in Frog Creek, Pennsylvania, anymore.

*Flat Stanley* by Brown (Flat Stanley chapter book series)
After a bulletin board falls on Stanley while he is sleeping, he finds that being flat has its advantages.

*Ivy and Bean* by Barrows (Ivy + Bean series)
When Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy, the new neighbor, who is less boring than Bean first suspected.

**Level N**

*Absent Author* by Roy (A-Z Mysteries series)
Dink Duncan and his two friends investigate the apparent kidnapping of famous mystery author Wallis Wallace.
**Kung Pow Chicken: Let’s Get Crackin** by Marko (Try other Branches series such as Owl Diaries or Dragon Masters)
Kung Pow Chicken is the superhero everyone has been waiting for!

**Ready Freddy: King of Show N Tell** by Klein (Ready Freddy series)
Freddy Thresher has a problem: a really, really, big problem. He never has anything cool to bring for show-and-tell.

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**Level O**

**Beezus and Ramona** by Cleary (Try other books in the Ramona series or ones featuring Ralph S. Mouse by the same author)
Beezus' biggest problem is her 4 year old sister Ramona. Even though Beezus knows sisters are supposed to love each other, with a sister like Ramona, it seems impossible.

**Dragonbreath** by Vernon (Series; try also the Hamster Princess series by the same author)
Danny Dragonbreath and his friend Wendell get an up-close underwater tour of the Sargasso Sea from Danny's sea-serpent cousin, encountering giant squid and mako sharks--and learn about standing up to bullies in the process.

**Miss Daisy is Crazy** by Gutman (My Weird School series)
Miss Daisy's unusual teaching methods surprise her second grade students, especially reluctant learner A.J.

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**Level P**

**The Lost Stone** by Quinn (The Kingdom of Wrenly series)
Meet Lucas, the eight year-old prince, and Clara, the daughter of the queen’s seamstress. Lucas is an only child who longs to make friends and go on adventures. Clara knows the kingdom well, so she and Lucas team up and explore the lands of Wrenly!

**Riding Freedom** by Ryan (for other great historical fiction titles try The Hero Two Doors Down by Robinson or George Washington’s Socks by Woodruff)
A fictionalized account of Charley (Charlotte) Parkhurst who ran away from an orphanage, posed as a boy, moved to California, and fooled everyone by her appearance.
Sideways Stories from Wayside School by Sachar (Sideways School series)
Humorous episodes from the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School, which was accidentally built sideways with one classroom on each story.

Level Q

Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things by Look (Alvin Ho series)
A young boy in Concord, Massachusetts, who loves superheroes and comes from a long line of brave Chinese farmer-warriors, wants to make friends, but first he must overcome his fear of everything.

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Blume (Fudge series)
Two is a crowd when Peter and his four-year-old brother, Fudge, are in the same room. Grown-ups think Fudge is absolutely adorable, but Peter and his pet turtle, Dribble, know the truth. Fudge is actually a tiny terror in disguise, causing mischief everywhere he goes.

The World According to Humphrey by Birney (Humphrey series)
Humphrey, pet hamster at Longfellow School, learns that he has an important role to play in helping his classmates and teacher.

Level R

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Dahl (try other Books by Roald Dahl including Matilda and The BFG)
Five children are lucky enough to discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory, who then takes advantage of the situation in his own way.

I Survived the Sinking of the Titanic, 1912 by Tarshis (I Survived series)
George Calder can't believe his luck -- he and his little sister, Phoebe, are on the famous Titanic. The ship is full of exciting places to explore, but a terrible boom shakes the entire boat. Suddenly, water is everywhere and George's life changes forever.

Honus and Me by Gutman (Baseball Card Adventures series)
Joey, who loves baseball but is not very good at it, finds a valuable 1909 Honus Wagner card and travels back in time to meet the player himself.
**Level S**

*Galactic Hotdogs* by Brailer (Series; try also *The Last Kid on Earth*, by the same author, for more sci-fi fun)

Meet Cosmoe, the Earth-Boy. He’s captain of the Neon Weiner, the finest flying food truck in the galaxy. Along with his bud, Big Humphree, he spends his days cruising the cosmos and finding adventure.

*Room One: a Mystery or Two* by Clements (try other titles by Clements such as *Frindle* or *Lunch Money*)

Ted attends a one-room school in his small town of Plattsford, Nebraska. He loves mysteries and when he sees a face in the window of an abandoned house, Ted knows that he has to investigate.

*Out of My Mind* by Draper (try also *Wonder* by Palacio and *Counting by Sevens* by Sloan for stories with similar themes)

Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

**Level T**

*Chasing Vermeer* by Balliett (try other mysteries by the same author such as *The Wright 3* or *The Danger Box*)

When strange and seemingly unrelated events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

*The Strange Case for Origami Yoda* by Angleberger (Origami Yoda series)

Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future.

*Smile* by Telgemeier (Try other realistic graphic novels by the same author or *El Deafo* by Bell, *Sunny Side Up* by Holm, *Real Friends* by Hale or *Roller Girl* by Jamieson)

Raina just wants to be a normal kid. One night after Girl Scouts she trips and falls, severely injuring her two front teeth and what follows is a long and frustrating journey with on-again, off-again braces, surgery, embarrassing headgear, and even a retainer with fake teeth attached.

**Level U**

*Inside Out and Back Again* by Lai (for other historical fiction titles written in verse try *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Woodson or *Turtle in Paradise* by Holm)

Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama.
Awkward by Chmakova (Berrybrook Middle School series)
On her first day at her new school, Peppi reminds herself of these basics. But when she trips into a quiet boy in the hall, she's already broken the first rule, and the mean kids start calling her the "nerder girlfriend." How does she handle this crisis?

Tale of Despereaux by DiCamilo (try other titles by the same author such as Because of Winn Dixie and Newbery winner Flora and Ulysses)
The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

Level V

Eleven Birthdays by Wendy Mass (try also Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life or Every Soul a Star by the same author)
After celebrating their first nine same-day birthdays together, Amanda and Leo, having fallen out on their tenth prepare to celebrate their eleventh birthday separately, but peculiar things begin to happen to change the situation.

Game Changers by Lupica (Game Changers series)
When the coach's son, Shawn O'Brien, is chosen to play quarterback, eleven-year-old Ben McBain is not surprised--but when he tries to be a good teammate and help the inconsistent Shawn, he is startled to learn that his new friend does not really want the position.

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library by Grabenstein (Series; try other scavenger hunt fun such as The Book Scavenger by Bertman and The Westing Game by Raskin)
Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by the famous game-maker Luigi Lemoncello and finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape.

Level W

Hoot by Hiaasen (try other Hiaasen titles such as Chomp, Flush, or Scat)
Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

Inkheart by Funke (Inkheart series)
Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can "read" fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force him into service.
**Wonderstruck** by Selznick (try also *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* and *The Marvels* by the same author)
Having lost his mother and his hearing in a short time, twelve-year-old Ben leaves his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he never knew in New York City, and meets there Rose, who is also longing for something missing from her life. Ben’s story is told in words; Rose’s in pictures.

**Level X**

**Found** by Haddix (The Missing series; try also the Shadow Children series by the same author)
When Jonah and Chip learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.

**The Dragonet Prophecy** by Sutherland (*Wings of Fire* series; try also *The Girl who could Fly* by Forester and *Savvy* by Law for more magical fun)
Five "chosen" dragonets were stolen from their homes, while they were still in their eggs, and hidden away for years, all to fulfill the prophecy, but not every dragonet wants a destiny.

**The Wishing Spell** by Colfer (Land of Stories series)
Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, Alex and Conner leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic, where they come face-to-face with the fairy tale characters they grew up reading about.

**Level Y**

**Dead End in Norvelt** by Gantos (try also the sequel *From Norvelt to Nowhere* and the Joey Pigza series by the same author)
Jack spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, typewriting, and countless bloody noses.

**Ghost** by Reynolds (Track series)
Ghost wants to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school track team, but his past is slowing him down.

**The Giver** by Lowry (Try other companion novels by the same author or the H.I.V.E series by Waldon or The Unwanteds series by McMann for more sci-fi adventures)
Living in a "perfect" world without social ills, a boy approaches the time when he will receive a life assignment from the Elders, but his selection leads him to a mysterious man known as the Giver, who reveals the dark secrets behind the utopian facade.
Level Z

*Fever, 1793* by Anderson (try *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing* or *Chains* for more excellent historical fiction by this author)

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

*The Hobbit* by Tolkien (Want a challenge? Crack into Tolkien’s classic trilogy *The Lord of the Rings*)

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.

*The Screaming Staircase* by Stroud (Lockwood & Co. series. Try also the Bartimaeus Trilogy by the same author)

Meet the team behind Lockwood & Co., three young operatives of a Psychic Detection Agency, as they battle an epidemic of ghosts in London.