



BALMORAL HALL SCHOOL

SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 1 - SEPTEMBER, 2010

Books suggested on this list are meant for individual student reading AND shared reading. Parents should continue to read aloud to their children long after the children have mastered independent reading. Hearing a book read aloud that would be too difficult for the child to read alone develops increased vocabulary as well as greater understanding of the language through contextual cues. Above all, it is a wonderful opportunity for special time with your child.

PICTURE BOOKS

ANDREAE, GILES. **GIRAFFES CAN'T DANCE**

Gerald the giraffe is too clumsy to dance with all the other animals at the Jungle Dance, until he finds the right music.

BASE, GRAHAME. **ANIMALIA** (HIDDEN PICTURES)

An alphabet book with fantastic and detailed pictures, bearing such labels as “Lazy lions lounging in the local library.”

BROWNE, ANTHONY. **SHAPE GAME**

The author describes how his mother’s wish to spend her birthday visiting an art museum with her family changed the course of his life forever.

COHEN, MIRIAM. **FIRST GRADE TAKES A TEST**

Who’s the smartest person in the first grade? When the teacher hands out a test, everybody can’t wait to find out. Only lucky Anna Maria does well enough to move to a special class. Is getting the best grade all that matters?

CRONIN, DOREEN. **CLICK, CLACK, MOO**

When Farmer Brown’s cows find a typewriter in the barn they start making demands and go on strike when the farmer refuses to give them what they want.

--- **GIGGLE, GIGGLE, QUACK**

When Farmer Brown goes on vacation, leaving his brother Bob in charge, Duck makes trouble by changing all his instructions to notes the animals like much better.

EHLERT, LOIS. **WAITING FOR WINGS**

Every spring, butterflies emerge and dazzle the world with their vibrant beauty. But where do butterflies come from? How are they born? What do they eat – and how? With a simply, rhyming

text the author provides clear answers to these and other questions as she follows the life cycle of four common butterflies.

GAY, MARIE LOUISE. **CARAMBA**

Caramba is ashamed that he cannot fly like the other cats. Confiding in his flightless friend Portia the pig, he practices flying in secret. He lands in some comical predicaments but remains frustrated and grounded. Once kids accept the flying cats, they will enjoy this subtle fantasy with its themes of self-esteem and individuality.

GEORGE, LINDSAY BARRETT. **IN THE SNOW: WHO'S BEEN HERE?**

Two children on their way to go sledding see evidence of a variety of animal life.

--- **IN THE WOODS: WHO'S BEEN HERE?**

Walking through the forest on an autumn afternoon, two children begin a journey of discovery during which they find several clues that tell them about the creatures that have been there.

GILMAN, PHOEBE. **JILLIAN JIGGS AND THE GREAT BIG SNOW**

Jillian and her friends have a great time in the snow, but as they play Jillian's hat, scarf and mittens disappear. How will Jillian get out of this snowy mess?

HENKES, KEVIN. **SHEILA RAE THE BRAVE**

When brave Sheila Rae, who usually looks out for her sister Louise, becomes lost and scared one day, Louise comes to the rescue.

KELLY, MIJ. **ONE MORE SHEEP.**

One stormy night, Sam leads his 10 sheep home to bed and starts counting them, but he falls asleep at "four". A wolf in sheep's clothing arrives, and Sam wants to welcome him as one of his own. Children will laugh and count in this entertaining book.

LONG, MELINDA. **HOW I BECAME A PIRATE**

Jeremy Jacob joins Braid Beard and his pirate crew and finds out about pirate language, pirate manners, and other aspects of their life.

MULLER, ROBIN. **BADGER'S NEW HOUSE**

Badger lives in an old house that he loves, but it has a leaky old roof and noise banging shutters. After a big storm, when the shutters blow off and rain pours in, Badger is fed up and decides he wants a new house – one that doesn't need to be fixed up. So he moves into a fancy new home, but it is just too BIG – what will he do?

SAYRE, APRIL AND SAYRE, JEFF. **ONE IS A SNAIL**

A counting book featuring animals with different numbers of feet. The book begins with a snail's one foot, and then moves on to 2 for humans, 4 for dogs, 6 for insects, 8 for spiders, and 10 for crabs. Each odd number is represented by the even-numbered animal plus one snail.

SCHACHNER, JUDY. **SKIPPYJON JONES.**

This fun-loving little kitten has an imagination that won't quit-first thinking he is a bird, then a masked Chihuahua hero Skippito Friskito. At times the story reads like a tongue twister but is definitely the right recipient of the **E.B. White Read Aloud Award**.

SEEGER, LAURA VACCARD. **THE HIDDEN ALPHABET**

Uses an exciting approach to A through Z that matches each letter with a word that begins with that letter, then adds a lift-the-flap format and a striking graphic design to transform the book into something new. By lifting the flap, children will be surprised to discover that the object actually forms part of a letter.

SENDAK, MAURICE. **WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE**
(CALDECOTT HONOR BOOK)

After he is sent to bed without supper for behaving like a wild thing, Max dreams of a voyage to the island where the wild things are.

THOMPSON, KAY WITH MART CROWLEY. **ELOISE TAKES A BAWTH**

Six-year-old Eloise loves to take a bath, which is bad news for Mr. Salomone and the elegant people gathering below in the Plaza's Grand Ball Room for the charity event of the season, a Masked Ball.

STEIG, WILLIAM. **SYLVESTER AND THE MAGIC PEBBLE**

In a moment of fright, Sylvester the donkey asks his magic pebble to turn him into a rock, but then cannot hold the pebble to wish himself back to normal again.

YOUNG, ED. **SEVEN BLIND MICE**

In this retelling of an Indian fable, seven blind mice discover different parts of an elephant and argue about its appearance.

ULMER, MIKE. **M IS FOR MAPLE: A CANADIAN ALPHABET**

Clever rhymes and informative text explore the uniqueness of Canada – from British Columbia to Newfoundland – including out nation's symbols, history, people, and culture.

WELLS, ROSEMARY. **TIMOTHY GOES TO SCHOOL**

Timothy is very excited about starting school – until he meets Claude. Claude sits next to him, and he wears all the right clothes, says all the right things, and garners all the praise from his teacher and classmates. Timothy is feeling down, until he meets a girl who's having the same problem with her seatmate.

NON-FICTION

COBB, VICKI. **I FACE THE WIND**

Introduces the characteristics and actions of the wind through simple hands-on activities.

DAVIES, NICOLA. **SURPRISING SHARKS**

Introduces many different species of sharks, pointing out such characteristics as the small size of the dwarf lantern shark and the physical characteristics and behaviors that make them so dangerous.

POETRY

BENNETT, JOHN ROY. **ANIMAL SNEEZES**

This book will keep kids entertained with poems and illustrations that cover the pages with both sneezing and sneezed-on animals.

FITCH, SHEREE. **MABEL MURPLE**

Imagine for a minute another kind of world...a purple world, with purple people and places. In this collection of poems a young girl dreams of just that – with some wonderfully wacky results.

MCGREGOR, JEANNIE. **THE NEW TOE: POEMS TO TICKLE YOUR FUNNYBONE**

Introduces eighteen poems that humorously deal with a variety of everyday situations. These include “Clancy Dugan,” the disruptive classroom influence who is making Grade 4 fly by and “The Word,” in which the family parrot repeats a nasty word learned from an unlikely source.

SUGGESTED AUTHORS/SERIES

- GAY, MARIE LOUISE BOOKS
- LEO LIONNI BOOKS
- PAT HUTCHINS BOOKS
- BEMELMANS, LUDWIG – **MADELINE SERIES**
- FALCONER, IAN – **OLIVIA SERIES**
- MILNE, A.A. – **WINNIE-THE-POOH SERIES**
- SCHWARTZ, ROSLYN. **MOLE SISTERS SERIES**