



BALMORAL HALL SCHOOL

SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 2 - 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

CANNON, JANELL. **VERDI**

A tale by the author of *Stellaluna*, introduces young Verdi, a tiny spotted snake who is sent out into the jungle to grow up big and strong and who finds grown-up snakes so unpleasant that he simply refuses to turn green.

FENNER, CAROL. **SNOWED IN WITH GRANDMOTHER SILK**

Ruddy is disappointed when his parents go on a cruise and he must stay with his fussy grandmother for a whole week, but an unexpected snowstorm reveals a surprising side of Grandmother Silk.

FRENCH, JACKIE. **DIARY OF A WOMBAT**

Through simple sentences and hilarious yet realistic acrylic illustrations, readers are treated to a week of observations made by a young female wombat who becomes friends with a human family.

GEISERT, ARTHUR. **THE GIANT BALL OF STRING**

Rumpus Ridge, Wisconsin, is proud to have the biggest ball of string in the world, so when they lose their treasure to a nearby town they devise a clever plan to get it back.

KELLER, HOLLY. **FARFALLINA & MARCEL**

A caterpillar and a young goose become great friends, but as they grow up they undergo changes that separate them for awhile.

KING SMITH, DICK. **SOPHIE HITS SIX**

Sophie is a strong central character in a humorous story with plenty to please animal lovers. This is a good choice for readers moving from picture books to longer fiction.

LAWSON, JULIE. **DRAGON'S PEARL**

During a terrible drought, a cheerful, dutiful son finds a magic pearl which forever changes his life and the lives of his mother and neighbors.

LITTLE, JEAN. **EMMA'S YUCKY BROTHER**

Emma finds out how hard it is to be a big sister when her family adopts a four-year-old boy named Max.

MARTIN, RAFF. **FOOLISH RABBIT'S BIG MISTAKE**

As all the animals panic and flee at little rabbit's announcement that the earth is breaking up, a brave lion steps in and brings sense to the situation.

MULLER, ROBIN. **OSCAR WILDE'S THE HAPPY PRINCE**

The classic fairytale of a beautiful, golden, jewel-studded statue and a little swallow who give all they have to help the poor.

MOLLEL, TOLOLWA. **ORPHAN BOY: A MAASAI STORY**

In this legend from the Maasai, a star takes the shape of a young orphan boy, bringing comfort, companionship, and wealth to an old man. Though delighted that an orphan boy has come into his life, the old man becomes curious about the boy's mysterious powers.

PALATINI, MARGIE. **THE WEB FILES**

Ducktective Web and his partner try to quack the case of the pilfered peck of perfectly picked pickled peppers.

PILKEY, DAV. **THE PAPERBOY**

A paperboy and his dog enjoy the quiet of the early morning as they go about their errands.

O'NEILL, CAT HARINE. **MRS. DUNPHY'S DOG**

Mrs. Dunphy's dog discovers that he can read, and develops a taste for tabloid newspapers.

SILVERSTEIN, SHEL. **THE GIVING TREE**

A young boy grows to manhood and old age experiencing the love and generosity of a tree that gives to him without thought of return.

SIMONT, MARC. **THE STRAY DOG (CALDECOTT HONOR BOOK)**

When a little dog appears at a family picnic, the girl and boy play with him all afternoon, and they name him Willy. At day's end they say good-bye, but the dog has won their hearts and stays on their mind. Will they decide to adopt the dog?

TEAGUE, MARK. **DEAR MRS. LARUE: LETTERS FROM OBEDIENCE SCHOOL**

Gertrude LaRue receives typewritten and paw-written letters from her dog Ike, begging her to let him leave the Igor Brotweiler Canine Academy and come back home.

VIORST, JUDITH. **ALEXANDER AND THE TERRIBLE HORRIBLE NO GOOD VERY BAD DAY**

On a day when everything goes wrong for him, Alexander is consoled by the thought that other people have bad days too.

WALLACE, IAN. **MORGAN THE MAGNIFICENT**

Morgan, who delights in walking and standing on her hands in very high places around her family's farm, seizes her opportunity for glory when the circus arrives, featuring a tightrope walking act.

WILLEY, MARGARET. **CLEVER BEATRICE**

Can a very little girl beat a very large giant in feats of strength? That's what clever Beatrice bets on when she marches through the north woods to the home of the giant, hoping to win some of his gold to help her mother buy porridge. The giant quickly agrees to a contest, but what he hasn't counted on is how clever Beatrice is.

WIESNER, DAVID. **THREE PIGS (CALDECOTT AWARD)**

The three pigs escape the wolf by going into another world where they meet the cat and the fiddle, the cow that jumped over the moon, and a dragon.

WOOD, AUDREY. **HECKEDY PEG**

A mother saves her seven children from Heckedy Peg, a witch who has changed them into different kinds of food.

YOLEN, JANE. **PIGGINS**

During a dinner party, the lights go out and Mrs. Reynard's beautiful diamond necklace is stolen, but Piggins the butler quickly discovers the real thief.

NON-FICTION

BRENNER, BARB. **ONE SMALL PLACE IN A TREE**

A child visitor observes as one tiny scratch in a tree develops into a home for a variety of woodland animals over many years, even after the tree has fallen.

JENKINS, STEVE. **WHAT DO YOU DO WITH A TAIL LIKE THIS?**

Explore the many amazing things animals can do with their ears, eyes, mouths, noses, feet, and tails in this interactive guessing book.

SAYRE, A.P. **STARS BENEATH YOUR BED**

Dust is everywhere- "A flower drops pollen" and it is timeless-"That dusty film on your computer might have muddied a dinosaur." This book is poetic and informative.

POETRY

HARLEY, AVIS. **LEAP INTO POETRY: MORE ABCS OF POETRY**

The author celebrates the world of tiny creatures in this collection of original poetry. Each letter of the alphabet introduces an insect or a spider along with its corresponding poetic form – from ants to zebra butterflies.

LEE, DENNIS. ALLIGATOR PIE

Dennis Lee's wonderfully playful rhymes, along with Frank Newfield's memorable illustrations, have enchanted two generations of young readers. What better way could there be to discover the magic of books?

AUTHORS / SERIES

- GAIL GIBBONS BOOKS
- BILL PEET BOOKS
- JAN THORNHILL BOOKS
- DANZIGER, PAULA. AMBER BROWN SERIES
- LOBEL, ARNOLD. FROG & TOAD SERIES
- PARISH, PEGGY. AMELIA BEDELIA BOOKS
- PARK, BARBARA. JUNIE B. JONES SERIES
- OSBORNE, MARY POPE. MAGIC TREEHOUSE SERIES
- SHARMAT, MARJORIE WEINMAN. NATE THE GREAT SERIES

