

Reading Aloud

According to the Commission on Reading, "The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children." Children need to hear rich language and enjoy the varied illustrations of books by **Robert McCloskey, William Steig, Dr. Seuss, Bill Peet, Chris Van Allsburg, Kevin Henkes** and **Patricia Polacco**. Make sure they are familiar with characters in children's books such as Madeline, Arthur, Olivia, George and Martha, Lyle the Crocodile, Corduroy, etc. Introduce your child to the wealth of traditional folk and fairy tales and share the rhythm and rhymes of poetry with your child. Help them find answers to their questions by reading some of the wonderful nonfiction books for children. Visit your local library or bookstore and ask for more recommendations.

PICTURE BOOKS (XXF)

Bingham, Kelly. **Z Is for Moose**

Moose is overly eager to be in the alphabet book Zebra is putting together.

Fleming, Candace. **Oh, No!**

A series of animals falls into a deep hole, only to be rescued at last by a very large rescuer.

Frazee, Marla. **Boot and Shoe**

Two dogs live in the same house but spend their days on different porches until a squirrel mixes things up.

Henkes, Kevin. **Kitten's First Full Moon**

Kitten thinks the moon is a bowl of milk, and tries to reach it.

Hills, Tad. **How Rocket Learned to Read**

A bird teaches Rocket the dog how to read by introducing him to the alphabet. (Also *Rocket Writes a Story*)

Lester, Helen. **Hooway for Wodney Wat**

Rodney's classmates make fun of him because he can't pronounce his name, until he drives away the class bully.

Litwin, Eric. **Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes**

Pete sings about his new shoes as they change from white to red, blue, brown and wet. (Also other Pete the Cat books)

McKissack, Pat. **Goin' Someplace Special**

A young African-American girl braves obstacles to get to one of the few integrated places in town: the public library.

Portis, Antoinette. **Not a Stick**

An imaginative pig shows what a stick can be. (Also **Not a Box**)

Sendak, Maurice. **Where the Wild Things Are**

After being sent to bed without supper for behaving badly, Max dreams he sails to the land of the wild things.

Slobodkina, Esphyr. **Caps for Sale**

A band of monkeys steals every one of the peddler's caps while he takes a nap under a tree.

Wells, Rosemary. **Yoko Learns to Read**

Despite her Japanese mother's inability to read English, Yoko finds the key to reading. (Also other Yoko books)

Wilson, Karma. **Hilda Must Be Dancing**

Hilda Hippo tries other, quieter, activities when her jungle friends are disturbed by her dancing.

EASY READERS (XXE)

Capucilli, Alyssa Satin. **Biscuit Goes to School**

Biscuit the puppy follows a bus to school where he takes part in the activities of the class. One of a series.

Hood, Susan. **Pup and Hound**

Hound tries to find something to eat for his new friend, Pup. One of a series.

Meister, Cari. **When Tiny Was Tiny**

A dog's owner describes how Tiny grew from a very small puppy to a very big dog. One of a series.

O'Connor, Jane. **Fancy Nancy at the Museum**

Nancy's class is going on a trip to the museum, and Nancy wants to be extra fancy for the occasion. One of a series.

Schaefer, Lola M. **Follow Me, Mittens**

Mittens goes for a walk, but he is distracted by a butterfly and becomes lost. One of a series.

Scieszka, Jon. **Smash! Crash!**

Best friends Jack Truck and Dump Truck Dan sometimes get into trouble. One of a series.

Willems, Mo. **My Friend Is Sad**

When Gerald the Elephant is sad, Piggie is determined to cheer him up. One of a series.

NONFICTION

Jenkins, Steve. **Actual Size** (X591.4 Jenkins)

This book gives examples of the size and weight of various animals and parts of animals.

Mara, Wil. **Tyrannosaurus Rex** (X567.9 Mara)

Describes the way of life of the tyrannosaurus rex. Part of the Rookie Readers About Dinosaurs series.

Shannon, George. **Busy in the Garden** (X811 Shannon)

Short poems and riddles about gardening.

Thomson, Sarah L. **Amazing Sharks** (X597.3 Thomson)

Presents lots of facts about sharks. An "I Can Read" book.

Ziefert, Harriet. **One Red Apple** (X634.11 Ziefert)

Follow the life cycle of an apple: from fruit growing on the tree to market, to seed, to tree, and finally to a new apple.



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Incoming First Grade

Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District
Suggested Summer Reading 2015



Dear Parents,

Summer reading should be fun. These reading lists have been prepared by the librarians of the Santa Monica Public Library in collaboration with the Elementary Library Coordinators and Librarians of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. The lists provide a selection of good books that kids enjoy. Reading levels are suggestions only, as every student learns to read at his or her own speed. You can help by reading with your child and encouraging his or her own interests. Reading takes lots of practice and encouragement. Set aside 15 to 30 minutes every day for your child to read with you. Have fun with the books and help instill the joy of reading in your child. Some titles are also available as audio books so families can enjoy a good book together.

For extra summer fun, visit your local public library for reading programs, many of which offer activities and prizes. Santa Monica Public Library's theme for 2015 is "**Read to the Rhythm!**" Have a wonderful summer vacation and read, read, read!