



Dear First Grade Parents, (Doesn't that sound exciting?)

I am thrilled to have your children in my class this fall! I have been looking forward to their move-up all year.

I know you all have a lot planned this summer between camps, family vacations, trips to the beach, and hanging out by the pool. In between all of your adventures, I encourage you to take a few minutes for some down time with your child. And in case you are stumped for quiet activities, I have some suggestions. ☺ It would give your child a great foundation for the fall if you gave them opportunities to explore coins, recall their names and values, and perhaps even help you make change when you go to the store. A lemonade stand is a great place for this! You could also look for math in the places you go, creating word problems for them to solve, or finding numbers when you are in the car. I also encourage you to read with your children. Enclosed is a proposed summer reading list. The books are at a variety of levels, some appropriate for you to read aloud or read together, and some for them to read to you, and perhaps some you could work together to read. Mrs. Wolfe has made a recommendation in the end-of-year report card as to which leveled list your child should focus their attention. Please continue to read aloud to them as much as possible! And lastly, to continue all their progress made in writing, they could keep a journal or even dictate a story to you that they might illustrate. I would love for them to share them with me in the fall. Enjoy your summer and your time together. I will send out a letter to your child before school starts in the fall.

With great fondness and anticipation,

Nancy Cherin

First Grade



Hello Firstie Parents,

Here is a list of high frequency words and a list of books for your child’s summer reading. They should read *at least* 5 of the books from this list. After reading, be sure to discuss your story. Choose a point or two on which to focus. Below are some suggestions to guide your story chat with your child. For the first day of first grade, your child should make a poster or a video about their favorite book. They should include the main character, they should rate the story and share why they gave it that rating, and they should draw or show the cover of the book.

*Main character* – Describe the main character. Put yourself in the story, what would you do the same or differently? What kind of values does this character uphold? (honesty, adaptability, responsibility, respect, kindness)

*Setting* – Where does the story take place? Use descriptive words to describe it. How does the setting play a part in the story? How would the story change if you put it in a different place?

*Rate the story* – Did you like it? Was it funny? Explain why you would give it that rating. How many stars would you give it?

Another fun activity is to act out or record your child reading their favorite book after they have practiced several times!

I also suggest continuing to explore other academic areas. For math practice patterning, counting by 1’s, 5’s and 10’s, sorting, and acting out addition and subtraction problems.

For science make a weather observation chart, observe the plants around you, follow recipes to practice measurement and observe what happens to the ingredients individually and what happens as you mix them.

For social studies look for maps of the places you go. What do you notice all of the maps contain? Draw a map of your own. We will be studying the ocean when we come back, so be sure to explore the ocean!

In order to work on STEAM/Engineering try to build something out of blocks or recyclables, like a house for one of the characters you read about, or an environment for a wild creature.

Keep a journal of your summer adventures by drawing and labeling pictures or writing a sentence or two (or more) about some of the things you do.

And most importantly, have a fun, memorable and safe summer. I cannot wait to begin the first grade adventure with you and your family in the fall!

Fondly, Ms. Cherin

## High Frequency Words

*These words are the ones that are most commonly found in text. Some are decodable or easily able to sound out. Some are tougher to sound out and need to be memorized. These high frequency words are just one piece to the building of reading skills. Paired with decoding and comprehension skills, they help students to become confident, fluent readers. When mastering these words, we look for students to read them “in a snap,” meaning they don’t have to sound them out any longer. Please practice these word lists over the summer. Choose about 10 words at a time and have your child practice mastering these words. You can make two word cards of each and play a memory game with them, put them around the house for a scavenger hunt, or have them draw the words in shaving cream while they take a bath. Have fun with it!*

### First 25

no	so	go	is	on	it
can	in	do	me	up	an
you	am	the	and	we	my
he	like	to	at	see	a
i					

*Once they have mastered the first 25, move on to the next set of 53*

### Next 53

all	girl	not	she	are	got
now	sit	as	had	of	then
ball	has	or	they	be	her
out	this	boy	by	come	day
did	eat	for	get	her	him
his	how	if	jump	look	man
mom	out	play	put	ran	read
run	sat	saw	say	this	too
us	was	went	will	yes	



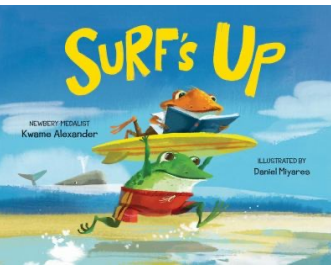
# First Grade Summer Reading List



*Here is a list of books your first grader may enjoy this summer. Please read at least 5 before the first day of school.. Choose one book to bring and share on the first day of first grade!*

*Books on this list are organized by reading level.*

## Picture Books for Sharing

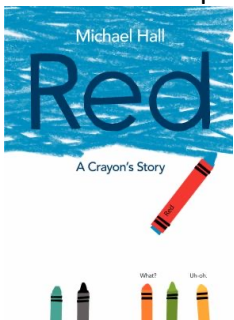
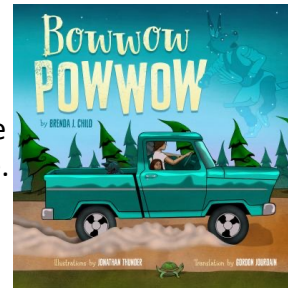


### **Surf's Up by Kwame Alexander; Daniel Miyares (Illustrator)**

Surf's up! Not yet, Dude! Books are boring! Not this one! Bro and Dude have very different ideas about how to spend the day at the beach. But as Bro continues to gasp and cheer as he reads his book (Moby Dick), Dude can't help but get curious. Before you can shout 'Surf's up!' both frogs are sharing the same adventure, that is, until they get to the beach.

### **Bowwow Powwow by Brenda J. Child; Jonathan Thunder (Illustrator); Gordon Jourdain (Translator)**

When Uncle and Windy Girl and Itchy Boy attend a powwow, Windy watches the dancers in their jingle dresses and listens to the singers. She eats tasty food and joins family and friends around the campfire. Later, Windy falls asleep under the stars. Now Uncle's stories inspire other visions in her head: a bowwow powwow, where all the dancers are dogs. In these magical scenes, Windy sees veterans in a Grand Entry, and a visiting drum group, and traditional dancers, grass dancers, and jingle-dress dancers—all with telltale ears and paws and tails. All celebrating in song and dance. All attesting to the wonder of the powwow.

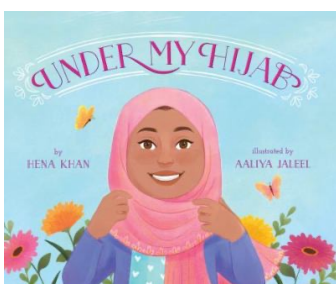
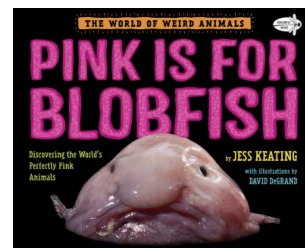


### **Red by Michael Hall (Illustrator)**

Red has a bright red label, but he is, in fact, blue. His teacher tries to help him be red (let's draw strawberries!), his mother tries to help him be red by sending him out on a playdate with a yellow classmate (go draw a nice orange!), and the scissors try to help him be red by snipping his label so that he has room to breathe. But Red is miserable. He just can't be red, no matter how hard he tries! Finally, a brand-new friend offers a brand-new perspective, and Red discovers what readers have known all along. He's blue! This funny, heartwarming, colorful picture book about finding the courage to be true to your inner self can be read on multiple levels, and it offers something for everyone.

### **Pink Is for Blobfish by Jess Keating**

Some people think pink is a pretty color. A fluffy, sparkly, princess-y color. But it's so much more. Sure, pink is the color of princesses and bubblegum, but it's also the color of monster slugs and poisonous insects. Not to mention ultra-intelligent dolphins, naked mole rats and bizarre, bloated blobfish. Isn't it about time to rethink pink?



### **Under My Hijab by Hena Khan; Aaliya Jaleel (Illustrator)**

Grandma wears it clasped under her chin. Auntie pins hers up with a beautiful brooch. Jenna puts it under a sun hat when she hikes. Zara styles hers to match her outfit. As a young girl observes six very different women in her life who each wear the hijab in a unique way, she also dreams of the rich possibilities of her own future, and how she will express her own personality through her hijab. Written in sprightly rhyme and illustrated by a talented newcomer, Under My Hijab honors the diverse lives of contemporary Muslim women and girls, their love for each other, and their pride in their culture and faith.

### **The Adventures of Honey and Leon, by Alan Cumming**

Actor and New York Times bestselling author Alan Cumming and artist Grant Shaffer imagine what their dogs do when they're not around—and it's no surprise that the dogs aspire to lead lives as action-packed and glamorous as their dads'! Honey and Leon are rescue mutts who love their dads very much. ...





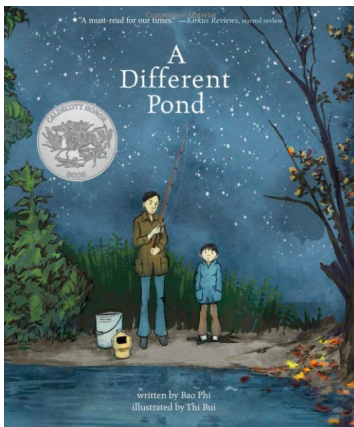
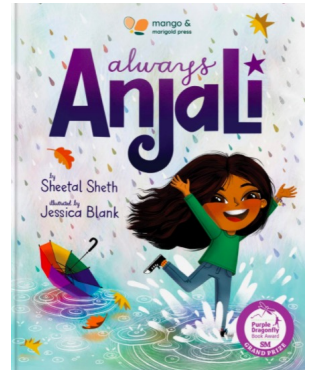


## Grandpa Grumps by Katrina Moore and Xindi Yan

Yeh-Yeh is visiting for the first time from China, and Daisy is so excited to meet him! She has big plans for all the fun they'll have together, like tea parties and snow angels, but when Yeh-Yeh arrives, Daisy finds him less jolly than she imagined. Throughout the week, she tries all sorts of things to get him past his grumpiness. Will she be able to make him smile before he goes home?

## Always Anjali by Sheetal Sheth and Jessica Blank

Anjali and her friends are excited to get matching personalized license plates for their bikes. But Anjali can't find her name. To make matters worse, she gets bullied for her "different" name, and is so upset she demands to change it. When her parents refuse and she is forced to take matters into her own hands, she winds up learning to celebrate who she is and carry her name with pride and power. A timeless story about appreciating what makes us special and honoring our differences.



## A Different Pond by Bao Phi and Thi Bui

A Different Pond is an unforgettable story about a simple event - a long-ago fishing trip. As a young boy, Bao and his father awoke early, hours before his father's long workday began, to fish on the shores of a small pond in Minneapolis. Unlike many other anglers, Bao and his father fished for food, not recreation. A successful catch meant a fed family. Between hope-filled casts, Bao's father told him about a different pond in their homeland of Vietnam.

## When Lola Visits by Michelle Sterling and Aaron Asis

For one young girl, summer is the season of no school, of days spent at the pool, and of picking golden limes off the trees. But summer doesn't start until her lola— her grandmother from the Philippines— comes for her annual visit. When Lola visits, the whole family gathers to cook and eat and share in their happiness of another season spent together. Yet as summer transitions to fall, her lola must return home—but not without a surprise for her granddaughter to preserve their special summer a bit longer.



## Thank You, Omu! by Oge Mora

Everyone in the neighborhood dreams of a taste of Omu's delicious stew! One by one, they follow their noses toward the scrumptious scent. And one by one, Omu offers a portion of her meal. Soon the pot is empty. Has she been so generous that she has nothing left for herself?

**Early Readers for independent reading** This list of beginning readers are books with only a few words per page, perfect for kids who are entering first grade and just beginning to read.



If your 1st grader is looking for **silly books**, read:

- [My Toothbrush is Missing](#) by Jan Thomas
- [What is Chasing Duck?](#) by Jan Thomas
- [We Are in a Book](#) by Mo Willems (all Elephant and Piggie books are fantastic!)
- [The Big Fat Cow That Goes Kapow](#) by Andy Griffiths

If your 1st grade child likes stories about **real life and friendship**, try:

- [Who Is That, Cat the Cat?](#) by Mo Willems
- [We Are Growing](#) by Laurie Keller
- [Don't Worry, BEE Happy](#) by Ross Burach
- [Big Cat](#) by Ethan Long
- [The Cookie Fiasco](#) by Dan Santat
- [Baby Monkey, Private Eye](#) by Brian Selznick & David Serlin
- [Lazy Bear, Crazy Bear](#) by Kevin Bolger
- [Trucktown](#) by Jon Scieszka

If your 1st grader likes **animal stories**, try reading:

- [Slow, Slow Sloths](#) by Bonnie Bader
- [Little Big Horse](#) by Dave Horowitz
- [We Dig Worms](#) by Kevin McCloskey



**Emergent Readers** – These are for more independent readers and have several sentences per page.

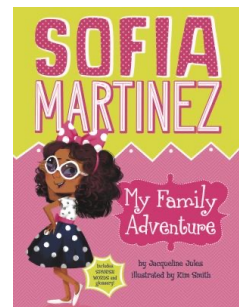
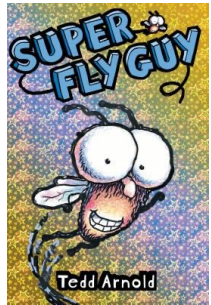


### **Mo Jackson series by David A. Adler; Sam Ricks (Illustrator)**

A diverse cast of helpful and encouraging adults and teammates are all on hand as Mo makes the most of his limited time on the court and shines when his team needs him the most: all his practice passing “higher” pays off. The ending is unlikely to surprise fans of this always-funny and often-endearing series, but that won’t stop them from reading and rereading this welcome addition to the easy reader shelves. Repetitive sentences, ample whitespace, and a large typeface help make Adler’s humorous text comprehensible for new readers, while the inclusion of picture clues within Ricks’s engaging illustrations aids readers in deciphering difficult-to-decode words.

### **Fly Guy series by Tedd Arnold (Illustrator)**

Fly Guy loves the school lunchroom. He loves the dirty dishes, the smelly mop, and the garbage cans. But when the lunch ladies discover there's a fly in the cafeteria, chaos ensues! Though Fly Guy makes a mess of things, he also shows his powers as a Super Fly Guy! Using hyperbole, puns, slapstick, and silly drawings, bestselling author/illustrator Tedd Arnold creates an easy reader that is full of fun.

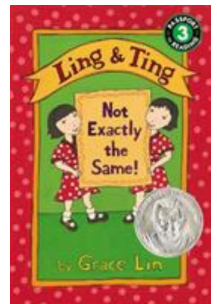


### **Sofia Martinez series by Jacqueline Jules; Kim Smith (Illustrator)**

Red has Sofia Martinez has a big personality and big plans, which makes every day memorable. Between her sisters and cousins, her family is the focus of her many adventures. From taking school pictures to doing chores, this 7-year-old knows how to make every moment count. Sofia loves her family and loves her life. What could be better?

### **Ling & Ting series by Grace Lin**

Ling and Ting are two adorable identical twins, and they stick together, whether they are making dumplings, getting their hair cut, or practicing magic tricks. But looks are deceiving--people can be very different, even if they look exactly the same.

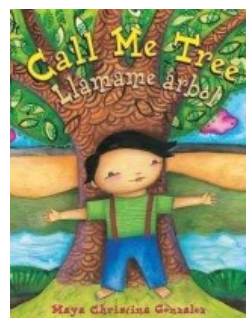


### **What This Story Needs Is a Pig in a Wig series by Emma J. Virján (Illustrator)**

What this story needs is a pig in a wig, on a boat in a moat with a frog, a dog, and a goat on a log. . . . As a panda in a blouse, a skunk on a trunk, and more hop on board, it becomes clear that what this story really needs is a bigger boat! Join Pig on an exciting boat ride as she discovers that life is more fun with friends in this fantastic funny read-aloud with cumulative text from author-illustrator Emma J. Virján.

### **Call Me Tree by: Maya Christina Gonzalez - (Children's Book Press, 2014) 24 pages.**

This lyrical ode to the tree creatively depicts the parallel journeys of a seed sprouting into a tree and a child growing up. We see a tyke who grows, dreams, and experiences the world around us both as a tree and as a child. Bright watercolor and colored pencil drawings connect the ideas of kids growing into strong — and different — trees with roots and independence to be part of a diverse environment. Trees, often represented by multicultural children in yoga-based tree poses, or *vrksasana*, inspire young readers to be unique, respectful dreamers.



**Beginner Chapter Books** - Easy chapter books have pictures with words. The easiest chapter books have just a few sentences per page.



- [Fly Guy](#) by Tedd Arnold – FUNNY
- [See the Cat: Three Stories About a Dog](#) by David LaRochelle – FUNNY
- [Hi, Jack!](#) (A Jack Book) by Mac Barnett & Greg Pizzoli – FRIENDSHIP
- [Do You Like My Bike?](#) (Hello, Hedgehog!) by Norm Feuti – FRIENDSHIP
- [An Elephant & Piggie Biggie!](#) by Mo Willems – FUNNY
- [Aggie the Brave](#) by Lori Ries – FRIENDSHIP
- [Caterpillar to Butterfly](#) by Laura Marsh – NONFICTION
- [Mr. Putter and Tabby Walk the Dog](#) by Cynthia Rylant – FRIENDSHIP
- [Frog and Toad Are Friends](#) by Arnold Lobel – FRIENDSHIP