

**HILLSDALE SCHOOLS SUMMER READING LIST
GRADES 3-4
2021**



**Compiled by
Compiled by Cindy Greenwald, Children's Librarian, Hillsdale Public Library,
Erin Wicklund, Library Media Specialist, Meadowbrook School,
Vanessa Ford, Library Media Teacher, Ann Blanche Smith School**

(revised on a yearly basis)

Please consider reading to your child. A good children's book can be a pleasant experience for an adult as well as your child. Taking the time to read to your child will let him/her know that you, too, value reading. Parents who read to their children nurture more than literary skills. Although individual titles by particular authors are listed here, any other titles by these authors are recommended.

A Note about Leveled Reading

It has come to our attention that many teachers are providing students with their guided reading level. At the Hillsdale Library, we have compiled a thorough listing of titles by level. The listing may be found on our website by going to the children's tab and then to the drop down menu of Leveled Reading Book Lists. We also maintain a binder with a complete print listing of titles for use in the children's room. As always, please feel free to ask the staff for assistance in locating any materials.

Transitional Books

The children's room has expanded our collection of transitional books. This section is a bridge between easy readers and fiction books. These books are a step up from easy readers as they include a larger page count, fewer pictures, and an expanded subject matter. Books in this section are designated with an orange sticker and located at the end of the fiction shelves. They are a great addition to students in grades 1-3 and for reluctant readers.

Graphic Novels

Graphic novels combine both traditional and visual literacies. The addition of a visual element can assist students' comprehension and grasp of plot and other story elements.

Happy Reading!

Angleberger, Tom- **Origami Yoda** (series of 6)

Sixth-grader 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. Includes instructions for making Origami Yoda.

Applegate, Katherine – **Roscoe Riley Rules: Never walk in shoes that talk** (series)

Having gotten a pair of hard-to-find Walkie Talkie shoes, Roscoe is suddenly popular and wants his best friend, Gus, to join the fun, but before Gus's parents will buy him new shoes, he must wear out his long-lasting sneakers.

Aretha, David- **Baseball Geeks Adventures** (series)

"When the owner of the New York Yankees invites Joey, Kevin, and Omar to New York to watch a game in the owner's suite, the geeks start finding ways to help the Yankees win. But when people start finding out what's going on, the geeks find themselves running for their lives through the Bronx.

Barrows, Annie- **Ivy and Bean** (series)

When seven-year-old 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.

Bean, Raymond- **Benji Franklin: Kid Zillionaire** (series)

After inventing a bestselling excuse-generating app, twelve-year-old Benjamin "Benji" Franklin became the world's youngest and, well, only ZILLIONAIRE. Unlike other fat cats, this tiny tycoon uses his wealth for the greater good instead of selfish gain -- because it's not all about the Benjamin!

Beforever American Girl (series)

Beforever: American Girl-Addy Classic-1864 is about making connections. It's About exploring the past, finding your place in the present, and thinking about the possibilities your future can bring. And it's about seeing the common thread that ties girls from all times together. The inspiring characters you will meet stand up for what they care about most. Helping others. Protecting the earth. Overcoming injustice. Through their courageous stories, discover how staying true to your own beliefs will help make your world better today--and tomorrow.

Birney, Betty G. - **The World According to Humphrey**

Humphrey, pet hamster at Longfellow School, learns that he has an important role to play in helping his classmates and teacher.

Blabey, Aaron- **The Bad Guys in the Furball Strikes Back** (series)

The Bad Guys are about to have a very BAD day! Mr. Wolf and his bad buddies have messed with the wrong guinea pig — one who is secretly an evil mad scientist. And the nasty little furball wants revenge! Will they survive? Will they be heroes? And will they ever stop trying to eat each other?!?

Blume, Judy- **Double Fudge**

His younger brother's obsession with money and the discovery of long lost cousins Flora and Fauna provide many embarrassing moments for twelve year old Peter.

Branches (series) (located in the Orange section of the Hillsdale Public Library)

This series is part of Scholastic's early chapter book line called Branches, which is aimed at newly independent readers. With easy-to-read text, high-interest content, fast-paced plots, and illustrations on every page, these books will boost reading confidence and stamina.

Butler, Dori Hillestad- **The Haunted Library**

When ghost boy Kaz's haunt is torn down and he is separated from his ghost family, he meets a real girl named Claire, who lives above the town library with her parents and her grandmother. Claire has a special ability to see ghosts when other humans cannot and she and Kaz quickly form a friendship. The two join forces to solve the mystery of the ghost that's haunting the library. Could it be one of Kaz's lost family members?

Can you Survive An Interactive History Adventure

Readers can choose different endings for the various adventures.

Christopher, Matt- **The Dog that Pitched a No- Hitter**

Mike's telepathic dog Harry is able to send him secret signals about the opposing players on the baseball field, but Mike's weak pitching arm requires them to find another plan to save the game.

Cleary, Beverly- **Ramona** (series)

Eight adventures that follow four-year-old Ramona Quimby while she grows up alongside her older sister, Beezus, through the fourth grade.

Clements, Andrew- **Frindle**

When he decides to turn his fifth-grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.

Clements, Andrew- **No Talking**

The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest.

Courtenay, L.A.- **Space Penguins: Galaxy Race!** (series)

Rocky's reputation for death-defying aerial acrobatics gains him an invitation to participate in the galaxy's notorious Superchase Space Race.

Davies, Jacqueline- **Lemonade War** (series)

Evan and his younger sister, Jesse, react very differently to the news that they will be in the same class for fourth grade and as the end of summer approaches, they battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn 100 dollars. Includes mathematical calculations and tips for running a successful lemonade stand.

DeLaurentis, Giada- **Naples!** (Recipe for Adventure series)

"When their great-aunt comes to live with Alfie and his older sister Emilia, they learn that food can not only take you places but also bring you back home. In the first book in the series, Alfie and Emilia find themselves magically transported to Naples

DiCamillo, Kate- **Because of Winn Dixie**

One summer's day, ten-year-old India Opal Buloni goes down to the local supermarket for some groceries – and comes home with a dog. But Winn-Dixie is no ordinary dog. It's because of Winn-Dixie that Opal begins to make friends. And it's because of Winn-Dixie that she finally dares to ask her father about her mother, who left when Opal was three. In fact, as Opal admits, just about everything that happens that summer is because of Winn-Dixie.

Duey, Kathleen- **Survivors: Death Valley, California 1849** (series)

If you are a fan of the I Survived series, try these newcomers.

A brother and sister struggle to survive the rigors of Death Valley after their wagon breaks an axle and they set out alone to find help for their stranded family and injured father.

Deutsch, Stacia- **Girls Who Code: The Friendship Code** (series)

A New York Times bestseller! Perfect for fans of The Babysitters Club and anyone interested in computer science, this series is published in partnership with the organization Girls Who Code. Loops, variables, input/output – Lucy can't wait to get started with the new coding club at school. Finally, an after school activity that she's really interested in. But Lucy's excitement turns to disappointment when she's put into a work group with girls she barely knows. All she wanted to do was make an app that she believes will help someone very special to her.

Florian, Douglas- **Comets, Stars, the Moon and Mars**

A collection of twenty whimsical poems about comets, the stars, moon, and the planets.

Friedman, Laurie- **Mallory** (series)

When Mallory is appointed to the Fern Falls Elementary School Environmental Committee, which is deciding on class projects for the upcoming Green Fair, she rapidly succeeds in alienating her classmates, friends, and family by her overzealous efforts to save the planet.

Gidwitz, Adam - **Unicorn Rescue Society** (series)

An exciting and hilarious new series about friendship, adventure, and mythical creatures from around the world.

Grabenstein, Chris - **Welcome to Wonderland** (series)

Dive into summer fun with this hilarious illustrated middle-grade series by Chris Grabenstein, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* and coauthor with James Patterson of the *I Funny* and *House of Robots* series!

Gutman, Dan - **The Babe and Me** (Baseball Card Adventure Series)

With their ability to travel through time using vintage baseball cards, Joe and his father have the opportunity to find out whether Babe Ruth really did call his shot when he hit that home run in the third game of the 1932 World Series against the Chicago Cubs.

Gutman, Dan- **My Weird School Daze** (series)

Mr. Granite is assigned a new student teacher but A.J. and his friends become convinced that she is actually a vampire who lives in a cave and plays in a heavy metal band with her zombie boyfriend.

Harper, Charise- **Just Grace** (series)

Misnamed by her teacher, seven-year-old Just Grace prides herself on being empathetic, but when she tries to help a neighbor feel better, her good intentions backfire.

Harper, Charise - **Next Best Junior Chef** (series)

A zesty series for fans of kids' cooking competitions!

Hopper, Ada- **The Data Set: The Sky Is Falling** (series)

In the third action-packed adventure of The DATA Set series, Dr. Bunsen uses his newest invention—the Bunsenmunicator 3000—to communicate with aliens.

Jeter, Derek- **Fast Break**

Young Derek bites off more than he can chew when he decides to enter the school talent show and try out for the basketball team.

Kelly, David- **Ballpark Mysteries**

An All-American combination--baseball and mysteries! Now leading off the line-up, an early-chapter-book mystery series where each book is set in a different American ballpark!

Kinney, Jeff- **Diary of a Wimpy Kid** (series)

It's a new school year, and Greg Heffley finds himself thrust into middle school, where undersized weaklings share the hallways with kids who are taller, meaner, and already shaving. The hazards of growing up before you're ready are uniquely revealed through words and drawings as Greg records them in his diary.

Kirby-**Captain Awesome** (series)

Second grader Eugene McGillicuddy loves comic books and superheroes so much that he invents his very own superhero alter ego, Captain Awesome! MI TEE! Along with his best friend Charlie (aka Nacho Cheese Man) and sidekick Turbo the hamster, this superpowered squad protects Sunnyview and the universe from evil through the defeat of one comical bad guy after the other.

Krulik, Nancy- **George Brown, Class Clown** (series)

Ten stories about George Brown, class clown, and his magic burps that seem to erupt at exactly the wrong time and foil his plans.

Look, Lenore - **Alvin Ho, Allergic to Girls, School and Other Scary Things**

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.

Maddox, Jake- **Quarterback Sneak** (series)

Anton loves playing football until Malik, the talented quarterback, starts acting strange. Instead of working with the team, Malik is just showing off. Anton has to fix the problem fast, before the quarterback ruins everything!

Maddox, Jake- **Cheer Captain** (series)

Julia wants to join her best friend Ava on the cheerleading squad in her new school--but if she is a better cheerleader than Ava, will it damage their friendship?

McDonald, Megan- **Judy Moody** (series)

Third grader Judy Moody is in a first day of school bad mood until she gets an assignment to create a collage all about herself and begins creating her masterpiece, the Me collage.

McDonald, Megan- **Judy Moody and Friends**

From Megan McDonald, the creator of the popular and award-winning "Judy Moody" series and "Stink" series, comes an all-new "Judy Moody and Friends" series, just right for newly independent readers.

McDonald, Megan - **Stink** (series)

The shortest kid in the second grade, James Moody, also known as Stink, learns all about the shortest president of the United States, James Madison, when they celebrate Presidents' Day at school.

Metz, Melinda- **S.M.A.R.T.S.: and the Poison Plates** (series)

Kids are getting sick after lunch...and it's not because of questionable cafeteria food. It's poison! But there are only two groups tossing their cookies: the super-cool girls and the comic book buffs. Who would hold a grudge and why would they want to poison them?

Miles, Eileen- **Puppy Place**

The Puppy Place--where every puppy finds the perfect home!

Mullarkey, Lisa- **Katharine the Almost Great** (series)

Third grader Katherine turns to her idol Penelope Parks for advice on overcoming her stage fright and ends up developing a major attitude.

Mlynowski, Sarah- **Whatever After: Dream On** (series)

In this third adventure, Abby, her brother Jonah, and her friend Robin get sucked into the magic mirror and end up in the story of Sleeping Beauty, but when Robin pricks her finger and uses up the sleeping spell, Abby has to come up with a clever solution and a new happily-ever-after.

O'Connor, Jane- **Nancy Clancy , Secret Admirer-** (series)

When Nancy Clancy finds out that both her guitar teacher, Andy, and her favorite babysitter, Annie, have broken up with the people they were dating, she decides to make them fall in love on Valentine's Day.

O'Ryan Ray- **Galaxy Zack: Space Camp** (series)

Zack and his friends are off to space camp on a new planet in the fourteenth Galaxy Zack adventure.

Osborne, Mary Pope- **Magic Tree House** (series)

Two children travel through time in a magic tree house and learn about various periods in history.

Parish, Herman- **Amelia Bedelia Chapter Books**

Amelia Bedelia for beginning chapter-book readers! Meet the young Amelia Bedelia and enjoy her literal take on the world around her. With short, fast-paced chapters, tons of friends and funny situations, anything can happen and it usually does! Black and white illustrations by Lynne Avril on every page draw in even reluctant readers with visual cues.

Pastis, Stephen - **Timmy Failure** (series)

"My name is Failure. Timmy Failure. I am the founder, President and CEO of the best detective agency in town, probably in the world. Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made is a historical record of my life as a detective. It has been rigorously fact-checked. All the drawings in here are by me. I tried to get my business partner to do the illustrations, but they were not good."

Percival, Tom- **Little Legends: The Genie's Curse** (series)

Meet Jack and his talking chicken Betsy, Red, Rapunzel, Hansel and Gretel, and a host of other Little Legends as they have fantastic new adventures! Get to know your favorite fairytale characters like never before in this magical new book series. For Rapunzel, being a princess has been nothing but fun. But everything goes wrong when she breaks a magical urn and blames it on her new friend, Ella. It turns out that the urn was home to a very cross (and now very homeless) genie, who casts a spell making everyone blame Rapunzel for everything that goes wrong in Tale Town!

Pennypacker, Sara- **Clementine** (series)

While sorting through difficulties in her friendship with her neighbor Margaret, eight-year-old Clementine gains several unique hairstyles while also helping her father in his efforts to banish pigeons from the front of their apartment building.

Peschke, M- **Kylie Jean** (series)

A small town girl who believes in dreaming big! From blueberries to beauty pageants, second-grader Kylie Jean wants to be the queen of everything! But in her quest to be the best,

this young southern belle learns a few lessons of her own. Although mischievous, delightful, and fun, family values and hard work shine through in every adventure.

Pilkey, Dav - **Dog Man** (series)

Dog Man, “a brand-new crime-fighting sensation” created by surgically attaching the head of a police dog to the body of a policeman, gets his own full-color adventure in this terrifically funny spin-off comic from Pilkey (the character’s origins were previously revealed in *Captain Underpants and the Terrifying Return of Tippy Tinkletrousers*).

Riordan, Rick- **The Lost Hero** (Heroes of Olympus series)

Jason, Piper, and Leo, three students from a school for "bad kids," find themselves at Camp Half-Blood, where they learn that they are demigods and begin a quest to free Hera, who has been imprisoned by Mother Earth herself.

Ripken, Cal Jr. – **Hothead**

Connor Sullivan, All-Star third baseman on his Babe Ruth League team, has a terrible temper and problems at home, but when the sports editor of the school paper threatens to publish an embarrassing story about his tantrums, Connor must make a change.

Rissell, Rachel Renee- **Tales From a Not So Fabulous Life**

Fourteen-year-old Nikki Maxwell writes and sketches in her diary about her struggle to be popular at her exclusive new private school, and about giving up on being part of the elite group, before figuring out a way to simply be herself.

Roy, Ron - **Fireworks at the FBI** (Capital mystery series)

KC and her friend Marshall help the FBI solve the mystery of who hacked into the witness protection program.

Roy, Ron- **A to Z Mysteries** (series)

With strong stories, short chapters, large type, and a dash of illustrations, this series offers a smooth transition between full-color beginning readers and middle-grade chapter books. The unique genre identifications that group books thematically—including mystery, fantasy, fiction, true stories, humor, history, and classic—make it easy for readers to select their favorite subjects.

Roy, Ron- **Calendar Mysteries** (series)

Features Bradley Pinto, his twin, Brian, and friends Lucy and Nate, the younger siblings of the A to Z Mysteries kids.

Sateren, Shelley Swanson- **Adventures at Hound Hotel**

Welcome to Hound Hotel, the perfect place to board your canine family members. Readers will enjoy meeting all sorts of dogs through the eyes of eight-year-old Alfie Wolfe, the good-hearted, funny narrator. Every dog that visits the kennel has different needs, and Alfie and his twin sister Alfreeda are ready to serve them. The problem is the twins usually disagree about what those needs are! There is one thing they always agree on, though: there's nothing better than a dog!

Sheinmel, Courtney- **Stella Batts** (series)

In this early-chapter book series, the ups and downs of Stella's life are charmingly chronicled. She's in third grade, she wants to be a writer, and her parents own a candy shop. Life should be sweet, right?

Simon, Coco - **Sprinkle Sundays** (series)

This fun tween series from Coco Simon (author of the Cupcake Diaries series) features three best friends who work in an ice cream shop every Sunday. Can three BFFs keep their cool even when

things occasionally get heated as they work together, or will middle grade angst melt their friendship?

Simon, Francesca- **Horrid Henry** (series)

Horrid Henry causes his brother Perfect Peter all sorts of problems when he behaves properly for a change, upstages Peter at a dance recital, plays pirates, and goes on a camping trip.

Smith, Roland- **Storm Runners**

Twelve-year-old Chase Masters travels the country with his father, a "storm runner," but he is tested in ways he never could have imagined when he and a new friend are caught in a hurricane near St. Petersburg, Florida.

"I Survived" (series)

History's most exciting and terrifying events are brought to life in this fictional series. Readers will be transported by stories of amazing children and how they survived!

Tashjian, Janet - **My Life as a Book** (The My Life series)

Summer's finally here, and Derek Fallon is looking forward to pelting the UPS truck with water balloons, climbing onto the garage roof, and conducting silly investigations. But when his parents decide to send him to Learning Camp, Derek's dreams of fun come to an end. Ever since he's been labeled a "reluctant reader," his mom has pushed him to read "real" books-something other than his beloved Calvin & Hobbes. As Derek forges unexpected friendships and uncovers a family secret involving himself (in diapers! no less), he realizes that adventures and surprises are around the corner, complete with curve balls.

Travers P.L.- **Mary Poppins**

It all starts when Mary Poppins is blown by the east wind onto the doorstep of the Banks house. She becomes a *most* unusual nanny to Jane, Michael, and the twins. Who else but Mary Poppins can slide *up* banisters, pull an entire armchair out of an empty carpetbag, and make a dose of medicine taste like delicious lime-juice cordial? A day with Mary Poppins is a day of magic and make-believe come to life!

West, Tracey - **Thundershock in Pummelo Stadium** (Pokemon series)

Does Ash have what it takes to be an Orange League champion?

White, E.B.- **Charlotte's Web**

Wilbur the pig is desolate when he discovers he is destined to be the farmer's Christmas dinner until his spider friend, Charlotte decides to help him.

Transitional Books **(orange sticker section at Hillsdale Public Library)**

Maker, Martha - **Craftily Ever After-** (series)

Emily, Maddie, Bella, and Sam are four friends with one major thing in common: they love to craft and create! Whether it's making art with balloons or racecars with recycled materials, they're always coming up with fresh new ideas. Join them on their crafty adventures as they form new friendships, prepare for the school talent show, deal with a total tie-dye disaster, and create a robot!

Quinn, Jordan - **Kingdom of Wrenly-** (series)

Journey to the magical Kingdom of Wrenly and join Prince Lucas and his best friend Clara on plenty of adventures with this fantastical illustrated chapter book series!

Elliott, Rebecca- **Unicorn Diaries-** (series)

Meet Rainbow Tinseltail and the unicorns of Sparklegrove Forest, in this magical series from the creator of the bestselling Owl Diaries series.

Graphic Novels

Telgemeier, Raina - **Babysitter's Club-** (series)

Kristy, Mary Anne, Claudia, and Stacey are best friends and founding members of The Baby-sitters Club. Whatever comes up -- cranky toddlers, huge dogs, scary neighbors, prank calls -- you can count on them to save the day. Baby-sitting isn't always easy, and neither is dealing with strict parents, new families, fashion emergencies, and mysterious secrets. But no matter what, the BSC have what they need most: friendship.

Maddox, Jake - **Jake Maddox Sports Stories-** (series)

The boys and girls in these graphic novels face obstacles on the gridiron, the court, the ice, or the half-pipe, and meet mental and social challenges as well. Readers discover that an athlete's inner game, persistence, and courage are just as important as a steady hand or a chance for a goal.

Steinke, Aaron Nels - **Mr. Wolf's Class-** (series)

Graphic novel series that is vibrant, funny, and captures the everyday antics of a fourth-grade classroom.

Simpson, Dana- **Phoebe and her Unicorn** (series)

A collection of stories featuring ***Phoebe and her unicorn*** best friend Marigold.

Telgemeier, Raina - **Sisters** - (others by author)

Companion to: Smile. In graphic novel format, Raina Telgemeier shares the story of her relationship with her younger sister.

Non-Fiction Selected Titles and Series

A True Book: Triceratops, and others in series-

A True Book: The Titanic Disaster, and others in series-

Amazing Animals: Dolphins, and others in series by Kate Riggs

Basher Series- a variety of nonfiction subject matters written in an appealing and easy to understand manner.

Florian, Douglas- **Comets, stars, the Moon, and Mars: space poems and paintings**
(other poetry books by this author as well)

This book teaches facts about the moon, planets, and other astronomical subjects with a humorous twist. Beautiful artwork accompanies each poem.

Brands We Know -IL 3-7, books in this series combine high-interest subject matter with narrative text. Brands covered in this series include: Apple, Lego, Coca-Cola, Disney, Target, and others.

DK Adventures: In The Shadow Of The Volcano, and others in series

DK Level 3 & 4, Various Titles

Gibbons, Gail- various titles

National Geographic Animal chapter books- IL K-3, RL 4.2
Easy to read books about a wide variety of animals.

National Geographic Kids: Everything Pets, and others in series

National Geographic: Remember Valley Forge, and others in series

Ready to Read: You Should Meet series

Where is....? (series, various authors) (also **What was..?** and **What Is...?**)

Where Is . . . aims to broaden young readers' interests about places of note. These titles offer exciting and accessible nonfiction to readers who are now ready to tackle first chapter books. One hundred and twelve pages long, they are written on a very easy reading level, feature 80 black-and-white illustrations, include extra sidebar information and timelines, and--as a special extra--a double-sided, full-color, fold-out map. Primary graders are taught to think globally; Where Is . . .? books are their passport to the most exciting places in the world.

Who Was....? (series, various authors)

Series of easy to read, high interest biographies on various important people, including Babe Ruth, Rosa Parks, the Beatles, etc.