

## **Thacher Montessori 2011 Summer Reading List Lower Elementary**

Please read a least five books this summer. Below is a list of titles at the Lower Elementary reading level that you might enjoy. Feel free to choose other age appropriate books as well.

### Nine Animals and the Well by James Rumford

Nine animals are on their way to the raja-king's birthday party and each guest wants to bring the perfect gift. The rich, jewel-toned illustrations are framed by European North African, Arabic, and Indian numerals on the side and are placed on handmade Indian paper decorated with flowers.

### Rikki Tikki Tavi by Rudyard Kipling

A courageous mongoose thwarts the evil plans of Nag and Nagaina, two big black cobras who live in the garden of an English family living in India.

### Hachiko: The True Story of a Loyal Dog by Pamela Turner

This small, square picture book pays tribute to one of the world's lesser-known animal heroes: Hachiko, a dog who kept vigil for nearly 10 years at a Tokyo train station waiting for his deceased master to return from work.

### The Blind Hunter by Kristina Rodanas

Inspired by a Shona folktale from southern Africa, this picture book uses a wild setting to teach a universal lesson. Although Chirobo is blind, he shows a young stranger, Muteye, that he can "see" with his ears his nose, and his skin and that learning comes from the heart.

### If Not for the Cat by Jack Prelutsky

Each of the 17 haiku in this collection explores the essence of an animal, the words forming a sort of riddle answered in Ted Rand's accompanying double-page illustrations.

### By the Dawn's Early Light by Steven Kroll

A handsomely illustrated account of the writing of our national anthem, in its historical context.

A Crazy Day With Cobras by Mary Pope Osborne

This is the newest adventure of Jack and Annie, in which the children set off to India on a mission to reverse a spell that turned their dear friend Penny into a stone statue.

Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia Maclachlan

This is the story of Sarah, who came to the prairie from Maine to answer Jacob's advertisement for a wife and mother. This lovely little tale closes on a scene of love and harmony made more complicated, but not diminished, by past sorrows. (Newbery Award)

Six Stories Julian Tells by Ann Cameron

Six short stories about Julian's family and childhood mischief.

Ruby Lu, Brave and True by Lenore Look

Ruby Lu makes her debut in this funny and charming chapter book. Full of joie de vivre, the eight-year-old loves her family (particularly her baby brother, Oscar), wearing reflective tape, and performing in her own backyard magic show.

Half Magic by Edward Eager

The absorbing tale of four children who discover a magic coin that grants wishes by halves.

Freckle Juice by Judy Blume

The story of Andrew Marcus and his quest to have freckles. Its spontaneous humor is sure to appeal to young readers.

Charlotte's Web by E. B. White

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

My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett

A young boy determines to rescue a poor baby dragon who is being used by a group of lazy animals to ferry them across the river on Wild Island. (Newbery Honor)

The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes

Friendship, peer pressure, regret, and courage are all issues that are integral to this story. Wanda Petronski tells classmates she has a hundred dresses of all varieties in her closet at home. So why does she always wear the same old worn dress to school? (Newbery Honor)

The Boxcar Children by Gertrude Chandler Warner

Four orphans take shelter in an old, red boxcar during a storm. Determined to make it on their own they turn it into a safe, cozy home. An entertaining mystery that children will love to solve.

Poppy by Avi

A young mouse embarks on a dangerous and eye-opening quest to bring justice and truth to Dimwood Forest. Other enjoyable titles in the Dimwood Forest Series: Poppy and Rye, Ragweed, Ereth's Birthday, and Poppy's Return

Red Sings From Treetops by Joyce Sidman

Lively poetry about the colors of the seasons with creative illustrations painted by Pamela Zagarenski.

**Popular simple chapter book series:**

*Magic Tree House* by Mary Pope Osborne

Jack and his sister Annie travel to other places and times in a magic tree house. Ms. Osborne has just published book #39.

*A to Z Mysteries* by Ron Roy

Three friends, Dink, Josh and Ruby Rose, solve one mystery for each letter of the alphabet, from The Absent Author to The Zombie Zone.

*The Secrets of Droon* by Tony Abbott

Eric, Julie and Neil enter the land of Droon through a secret door that appears in Eric's basement. There they meet many fantastic creatures and help save Princess Keeah.

## **For emerging readers**

There is a Bird on Your Head (2008 Theodore Seuss Geisel Award)  
by Mo Willems

An elephant and pig help each other through troubling situations, with hilarious results. The simple illustrations evoke humor and emotions masterfully. Great for reluctant early readers. Other titles in the Elephant and Piggie series include My Friend is Sad, I'm Invited to a Party, and Today I Will Fly.

Frog and Toad are Friends by Arnold Lobel

Arnold Lobel's comfortable brown and green illustrations invite and delight every reader, setting the tone for warm, funny stories about friendship. If you need even more of Frog and Toad, don't miss Frog and Toad Together, Frog and Toad All Year, and Days with Frog and Toad.

Little Bear by Else Homelund Minarik

Minarik and Maurice Sendak teamed up to create these simple stories that are deeply comforting and lovingly playful. Follow up with A Kiss For Little Bear, Father Bear Comes Home, and Little Bear's Visit.

Henry and Mudge The First Book by Cynthia Rylant

This is the first book in the acclaimed easy-to-read series featuring Henry and his lovable 180-pound dog, Mudge. The deep friendship between Henry and his dog is evident throughout their amusing adventures. Many other titles are also available in this series.

### **Other recommended authors:**

Eva Ibbotson, Patricia Polacco, Paula Danziger, Beverly Cleary, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Roald Dahl, Patricia Reilly Giff, and Patricia McKissack.