

Summer Reading Suggestions for Incoming Second Grade

<p>When Grandma Gives You a Lemon Tree by Jamie L. B. Deenihan</p> <p><i>When Grandma Gives You a Lemon Tree's</i> riff on "When life gives you lemons..." has a child-like perspective on everything. Just like Grandma's lemon tree, it's a gift that keeps on giving.</p> 	<p>The Mo Jackson Series by David A. Adler</p> <p>What Mo lacks in size and athleticism he makes up for in determination and love of the game. Young sports enthusiasts will be eager to read the play-by-play accounts of his experiences in every sports season.</p> 
<p>When Grandpa Gives You a Toolbox by Jamie L. B. Deenihan</p> <p><i>When Grandpa Gives You a Toolbox</i> stars a child who wishes for a dollhouse but receives a toolbox. (After the initial disappointment, it actually turns out to be perfect for building a dream doll castle.)</p> 	<p>The Confetti Kids Series by Paula Yoo and Gwendolyn Hooks</p> <p>With their diverse cast and portrayals of varied childhood experiences, the Confetti Kids allow children to see themselves in books.</p> 
<p>The Camping Trip by Jennifer K. Mann</p> <p>Add this first-time camping story to your collection of books portraying kids having joyful, everyday experiences. Use it to launch a discussion of ideas like overcoming fears and having new experiences.</p> 	<p>The Charlie & Mouse books by Laurel Snyder</p> <p>Books about sibling conflicts make for great discussion, but these vignettes about two brothers together are so refreshingly sweet.</p> 
<p>The Princess and the Pit Stop by Tom Angleberger</p> <p>Rev your engine for this fast-paced title that's as fun to read aloud as it is to hear. A spunky princess beats myriad fairy-tale and nursery rhyme characters in a thrilling car race.</p> 	<p>Zoey and Sassafras books by Asia Citro</p> <p>With sick magical animals in need of help and an inspiring, relatable girl-scientist hero, this is a series to collect for your classroom.</p> 
<p>The Field by Baptiste Paul</p> <p>Caribbean children yell in English and Creole as they race towards the field for a pickup soccer game. Not even a deluge of rain can thwart their joy. The text is sparse but impactful, making this a great narrative writing mentor text for first grade.</p> 	<p>Rabbit and Bear series by Julian Gough</p> <p>This illustrated chapter book series hits the sweet spot, working as an appealing read aloud or independent reading choice for your more advanced readers. Bear and Rabbit are forest neighbors, but their friendship includes plenty of hilarious twists and turns. (FYI: there's some bathroom content in the first installment)</p> 
<p>You Hold Me Up by Monique Gray Smith</p> <p>Encourage connection and empathy with this brief but meaningful text. We love that the illustrations feature indigenous people in the present day, examples of which can be difficult to find in children's books.</p> 	<p>Khalil and Mr. Hagerty and the Backyard Treasures by Tricia Springstubb</p> <p>This sweet intergenerational story celebrates how simple shared experiences can bring people together. As Khalil digs for buried treasure and Mr. Hagerty digs for vegetables, the pair finds a new friendship.</p> 

Dear Dragon: A Pen Pal Tale by Josh Funk

After an uncertain start, George and Blaise both come to enjoy being each other's pen pal. There's a big surprise when they meet, though! It's a fun way to tackle differences in the classroom.



Unicorn Diaries by Rebecca Elliott

Bo Tinseltail loves going to Sparklegrove School with the other unicorns. Every unicorn has a magical power. Bo is a Wish Unicorn with the power to grant wishes. Bo has lots of friends, but one thing Bo wants more than anything is a best friend. When a new unicorn named Sunny Huckleberry pops into the forest, will Bo's big wish finally come true? And what will Sunny's Unicorn Power be? Discover this TWINKLE-TASTIC, full-color series from Rebecca Elliott, creator of the USA Today bestselling Owl Diaries series!



Julián Is a Mermaid by Jessica Love

When Julián sees a group of women dressed as mermaids on the subway in *Julián and the Mermaid*, he's transfixed. He wonders if Abuela will be angry when he dresses up as a mermaid, but her response is perfect. Not only is this book stunning, but it also opens important discussions about acceptance.



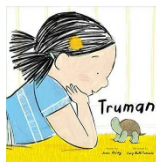
Dragon Masters #1: Rise of the Earth Dragon by Tracey West

Dragon Masters has it all! Dragons, a Dragon Stone, a king, a wizard, and magic! In the first book in this fully illustrated series, eight-year-old Drake is snatched up by King Roland's soldier and taken to the castle. He is to be trained as a Dragon Master. At the castle, he is joined by three other young Dragon Masters-in-training: Ana, Rori, and Bo. The Dragon Masters must learn how to connect with and train their dragons--and they must also uncover their dragons' special powers. Does Drake have what it takes to be a Dragon Master? What is his dragon's special power?



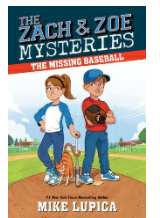
Truman by Jean Reidy

When a tortoise's beloved owner unexpectedly disappears on the bus, he's determined to see her again. For back-to-school or any time of year, big ideas of devotion, perseverance, bravery, and friendship come perfectly packaged for first graders' consideration in this sweet story.



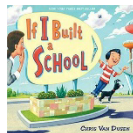
The Zach and Zoe Mysteries Series by Mike Lupica

Sports AND mysteries? Yes, please! Sports journalist Mike Lupica has created two charming characters in 8-year-old twins Zach and Zoe. Full of action, friendships, and important life lessons, this approachable series covers all its bases.



If I Built a School by Chris Van Dusen

First graders are old pros at the whole school thing, making them perfect candidates for appreciating Chris Van Dusen's utopian imaginary upgrade.



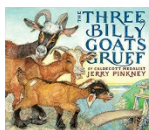
Arnold and Louise Series by Erica S. Perl

Best friends Arnold and Louise have a couple minor differences — Arnold is a big black bear, and Louise is a teeny chipmunk. Together, they make one lovable duo. Fun-filled and easy-to-read, these stories are a delightful portrayal of a unique friendship.



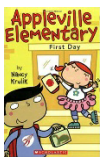
The Three Billy Goats Gruff by Jerry Pinkney

This classic tale is reimagined by a Caldecott medalist. The updated ending conveys an anti-bullying message.



Appleville Elementary series, by Nancy Krulik

This is a simple series about adventures in first grade. The stories and large font and make these a great transition to chapter books. They're also a good choice for advanced young readers. (4 books in the series)



Big Friends by Linda Sarah and Benji Davies

Is it possible to enjoy someone new when you already have a best friend? This book addresses a common first-grade conundrum.



Bink & Gollie books, by Kate DiCamillo and Alison McGhee

This is a fun series about two best friends - one tiny, one tall. These will be welcomed by kids who are new to chapter books because the pages are mostly full color illustrations (indeed, the pictures tell much of the story).



Strictly No Elephants by Lisa Mantchev

How many conversations have you had with students about the trials and tribulations of playground "clubs"? This title is a perfectly sweet testimony to friendship.



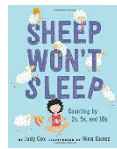
Ada Lace books, by Emily Calandrelli

Ada Lace is an 8-year-old girl who loves science and technology. The series is written by a female who loves science (and happens to have both aerospace and aeronautics degrees). It's a series aimed at girls which isn't about fairies and unicorns. Ada is both intelligent and relatable, and the author integrates science concepts in a natural way. (Currently 5 books in the series)



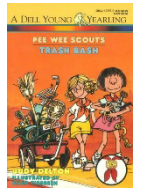
Sheep Won't Sleep: Counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s by Judy Cox

A classic sleep-inducing trick goes awry when the originally-counted ewes invite an array of other furry creatures in groups of two, five, and ten.



Pee Wee Scouts series, by Judy Delton

The books are about a group of boys and girls in a scouting group. Each book's plot typically focuses on earning a particular badge, and the stories are engaging and interesting.



A Hundred Billion Trillion Stars by Seth Fishman

This story tackles the mind-boggling concept of huge numbers. A wonderful book for science, math, or read-aloud.



Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea by Ben Clanton

You can't help but smile at Narwhal's enthusiasm in this graphic novel series opener about new friendship—he's just so darn cheerful all the time. Plenty of quirky details will make kids chuckle, like Narwhal's invitations to a mishmash of sea creatures to join his "pod of awesomeness" (and the cute horns he awards to each new member), or his and Jelly's unlikely shared love of waffles.

