



## 2018 Suggested Reading for Students Entering Grade 1

The suggested reading list provides a wide array of reading choices for students. The books on this list do not indicate reading level or achievement, but will hopefully spark discussion between you and your children and inspire an interest in stories and reading. The titles listed below are samplings of the many works produced by these authors. You can also read other titles by these authors for your suggested reading.

An asterisk (\*) indicates a S.T.E.A.M title.

The Wakefield Public Schools invites students to participate in the 2018 Summer Reading Program, *Libraries ROCK!* To participate in the library's Summer Reading Program, check out [wakefieldlibrary.org](http://wakefieldlibrary.org) to set up your online account. Earn prizes for reading, take part in activities, and learn how libraries can ROCK your world by making life easier.

For information about the Wakefield Public Schools' Summer Reading initiative and assignment updates, visit [wakefieldreads.org](http://wakefieldreads.org).

### Picture Books

Barnes, Derrick.                      **Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut**  
A fresh haircut can turn a boy from a lump of clay into a brilliant, blazing star.

Barnett, Mac.                         **The Wolf, the Duck, & the Mouse**  
A mouse gets swallowed by a wolf and finds out it's not the worst thing in the world.

Beaton, Kate.                        **The Princess and the Pony**  
Princess Pinecone wants to be a fearsome warrior, but everyone thinks she is cute. She hopes a horse will change her image. Unfortunately, her parents give her a pony that only adds to the problem.

Becker, Bonnie.                    **A Library Book for Bear**  
Bear has all the books he will ever need: three knight books, three honeybee books, and a pickle book. When his friend Mouse drags him to the library, Bear discovers that his bookshelf may have space for books on more topics.

Bell, Cece.                          **Bee-Wigged**  
All Jerry Bee wants is to make friends, but everyone he meets is terrified of him. Disguising himself with a wig he finds on the sidewalk, Jerry goes to school determined to win over the students and teachers. He gets more than he bargained for with his new wig!





Boelts, Maribeth.

**A Bike Like Sergio's**

Ruben really wants a bike, though he knows his family cannot afford one. When he sees a dollar bill fall out of someone's purse, he picks it up and puts it in his pocket. Once home, he looks more closely at his find, and he discovers that he has a hundred-dollar bill, more than enough for a new bike just like his friend Sergio has! But what about the woman who lost her money?

Brosgol, Vera.

**Leave Me Alone!**

Grandmother badly needs peace and quiet to finish knitting for her grandchildren, so she leaves her tiny home and her big family to journey to the moon and beyond.

Brown, Peter.

**My Teacher is a Monster! No, I am Not.**

Bobby has a monster for a teacher. When he runs into her outside of school, he discovers she might not be so bad after all.

Browne, Anthony.

**Little Beauty**

When a gorilla who knows sign language tells his keepers that he is lonely, they bring him a very special friend.

\*Campoy, F. Isabel.

**Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood**

Mira lives in a gray and hopeless urban community until a muralist arrives and, along with his paints and brushes, brings color, joy, and togetherness to Mira and her neighbors.

Cordell, Matthew.

**Wolf in the Snow**

This wordless picture book tells the story of a wolf and a girl, each lost in the snow, and each finding help and comfort in surprising places.

\*Davies, Nicola.

**The Pond**

After his father dies, a young boy tries to continue his dream of creating a pond in the backyard. Suffering from setbacks and grief, the boy struggles to make the pond a reality, but slowly the pond (and his grief) transform.

Daywalt, Drew.

**The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors**

You've played the game, now find out how Rock, Paper, and Scissors came to be the last remaining warriors in a never-ending battle for supremacy.

de la Peña, Matt.

**Last Stop on Market Street**

In this 2016 Newbery Medal-winner and Caldecott Honor, a young boy rides the bus across town with his grandmother and learns to appreciate the beauty in everyday things.

DiPucchio, Kelly.

**Gaston**

Raised in a poodle family, Gaston works hard to meet his mother's standards of propriety, but her lessons do not come easily to him. When his family meets a bulldog family in the park, the mothers realize that they may have made "a terrible mistake."





Docherty, Helen.

**The Snatchabook**

All the bedtime books have disappeared from Burrow Down. Eliza Brown sets a trap, and to her surprise, catches the elusive Snatchabook.

Ellis, Carson.

**Du Iz Tak?**

Du is tak? What is that? Learn to speak bug and imagine the dramatic possibilities in even the humblest back garden.

\*Fishman, Seth.

**A Hundred Billion Trillion Stars**

Did you know there are (approximately) a hundred, billion, trillion stars? Can you even conceive of such a number?

French, Jackie.

**Diary of a Wombat**

A wombat chronicles his life as he eats, sleeps, and trains his new human neighbors to meet his many needs.

Henkes, Kevin.

**Chrysanthemum**

Chrysanthemum loves her unusual name until she starts school and the other kids make fun of her for it.

Idle, Molly.

**Flora and the Penguin**

In this wordless story, a girl and her penguin friend skate gracefully together. When Flora gives the penguin the cold shoulder, the pair must figure out how to work together for uplifting results.

Isadora, Rachel.

**Say Hello!**

A little girl greets people in her neighborhood in many different languages.

Jeffers, Oliver.

**This Moose Belongs to Me**

A young boy learns that moose do not always follow the rules of proper pet behavior.

\*Lehrhaupt, Adam.

**This is a Good Story**

A young writer tries to tell a story, but the characters soon take on a life of their own! Can she turn it into a *good* story? We'll find out!

\*McCarty, Peter.

**Jeremy Draws a Monster**

Jeremy, a shy kid and excellent artist, draws a monster that comes to life. Quickly, the monster becomes too demanding, and Jeremy has to figure out how to get rid of it.

McCloskey, Robert.

**Blueberries for Sal**

In this classic tale, little Sal and Little Bear are both separated from their mothers while eating blueberries and almost end up with each other's mother.

Miller, Pat Zietlow.

**Sophie's Squash**

On a trip to the farmers' market with her parents, Sophie chooses a squash and names it Bernice. From then on, Sophie brings Bernice everywhere. As winter nears, Sophie starts to notice changes in her friend. What is a girl to do when the squash she loves is in trouble?





\*Monroe, Chris.

**Monkey with a Tool Belt series**

Clever monkey Chico Bon Bon builds many things with his abundant tool collection. Captured by an organ grinder, Chico Bon Bon uses his gadgets to help him escape and get back home.

Morales, Yuyi.

**Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book**

Señor Calavera, aka Mr. Skull, has stopped by to pick up Grandma Beetle, but she is not ready to come with him. Instead, he sticks around as she prepares her birthday party.

Muth, Jon.

**Hi, Koo! A Year in Seasons**

A panda bear experiences the four seasons in a series of twenty-six haikus, with each haiku highlighting a different letter of the alphabet.

O'Connor, Jane.

**Fancy Nancy series**

This popular series features a young girl who loves fancy things and has an even fancier vocabulary.

O'Leary, Sara.

**A Family is a Family is a Family**

When a teacher asks the children in her class to think about what makes their families special, they have very different answers—but those answers share a common, important theme.

\*Olien, Jessica.

**The Blobfish Book**

Did you know that the deepest parts of the ocean stretch over one mile deep, too far down for any sunlight to reach? Blobfish lives in those dark depths. But this book isn't about Blobfish...or is it?

Palacio, R. J.

**We're All Wonders**

Augie is an ordinary kid: he likes to bike, play with his dog, eat ice cream, and play ball. But he doesn't look ordinary. When people see him, they stare, point and laugh, or talk about him behind his back. Can Augie show the other kids that he is just like them – a wonder?

Park, Linda Sue.

**Yaks Yak: Animal Word Pairs**

Animals act out the verbs made from their names, such as hogs hogging and slugs slugging. The creatures cleverly demonstrate homographs, words with the same spelling and pronunciation but with different meanings.

\*Perkins, Lynne Rae.

**Frank and Lucky Get Schooled**

A boy and his dog learn about each other, go to school to learn more, then explore the world around them as they study science, geography and even foreign languages together.

Phi, Bao.

**A Different Pond**

A boy and his father spend their early mornings fishing on a small pond in Minneapolis so they will have something to eat. As they fish, the father tells the boy a story about fishing on a different pond when he was a boy in Vietnam.





Pinkney, Jerry.

### **The Lion and the Mouse**

In this wordless retelling of the Aesop fable, an adventuresome mouse rescues the King of the Jungle, proving that even small creatures are capable of great deeds.

Preller, James.

### **A Pirate's Guide to First Grade**

A young pirate and his crew embark on a grand adventure when they board the bus for the first day of first grade.

Santat, Dan.

### **After the Fall: How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again**

It turns out that all the king's men and horses were able to put *most* of Humpty together again after he fell. Unfortunately, they couldn't put his broken spirit back together. Faced with a crippling fear of heights, Humpty doesn't think he'll ever enjoy birdwatching again. Or will he?

Seuss, Dr.

### **Horton Hears a Who**

To save The Whos' city on a speck of dust, the mayor of Whoville works with Horton the Elephant to convince Horton's friends that Whos really exist.

\*Sidman, Joyce.

### **Song of the Water Boatman & Other Pond Poems**

This collection of poems invites readers to observe the animals, insects, and plants found in ponds, with accompanying information about each.

Stein, David Ezra.

### **Because Amelia Smiled**

A little girl's smile as she skips down the street in New York inspires a neighbor to send cookies to her grandson in Mexico, and the good will soon spreads around the world.

Turk, Evan.

### **The Storyteller**

In a time of drought in the Kingdom of Morocco, a storyteller and a boy weave a tale to thwart a Djinn and his sandstorm from destroying their city.

\*Warnes, Tim.

### **Dangerous**

Mole loves to stick labels on objects. One day, he finds something unusual in the woods. He dubs the beast lumpy, bumpy, and gigantic. Then the thing frightens Mole, so Mole adds the label "dangerous." But is the Lumpy-Bumpy Thing really all that dangerous?

Wenzel, Brendan.

### **They All Saw a Cat**

In simple, rhythmic prose and stylized pictures, a cat walks through the world, and all the other creatures see and acknowledge the cat.

Willems, Mo.

### **Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed**

Wilbur, a naked mole rat with a flair for the dramatic, teaches his fellow naked mole rats a bit about self-expression.

Woodson, Jacqueline.

### **The Other Side**

Two girls, one white and one black, gradually get to know each other as they sit on the fence that divides their town.





## Nonfiction

\*Bang, Molly. **Ocean Sunlight: How Tiny Plants Feed the Seas**  
Life on Earth, including all ocean life, directly or indirectly depends on light. Everything, from the tiniest plankton to great whales, forms a web that uses sunshine.

\*Blastoff. **Blastoff! Readers** series  
These leveled nonfiction books cover a variety of awesome topics, from baby animals to monster trucks. They guide readers as they transition from learning to read to reading to learn.

\*Bullfrog. **Bullfrog Books** series  
The publisher, Jump, dubs these books, “Beautiful nonfiction for beginning and struggling readers.” They are! These high-interest, low-level titles help young readers learn to read and, more specifically, learn to decode nonfiction.

\*Chin, Jason. **Gravity**  
Gravity makes objects fall to Earth – but what would happen if gravity did not exist?

\*Eggers, Dave. **This Bridge Will Not Be Gray**  
In this picture book from publisher McSweeney’s, Dave Eggers and illustrator Tucker Nichols tell the story of how the Golden Gate Bridge achieved its distinctive color.

\*Florian, Douglas. **UnBEElievables**  
Interesting facts about honeybees accompany fun poems.

Keller, Laurie. **Do unto Otters: A Book about Manners**  
Mr. Rabbit wonders if he will be able to get along with his new neighbors, who are otters, until he is reminded of the golden rule.

\*Lawlor, Laurie. **Rachel Carson and her Book that Changed the World**  
This picture book biography tells the story of Rachel Carson and how she combined her knowledge as a biologist with her talent as a writer to write a book that went on to change government policy and influence the way we humans treat the natural world.

\*Schaefer, Lola M. **Lifetime: The Amazing Numbers in Animal Lives**  
A counting primer, this book combines contrasting illustrations with animal facts, inviting young children to count a woodpecker's 30 roosting holes, a giraffe's 200 spots, and 1000 baby seahorses.

\*Winter, Jeanette. **The World is Not a Rectangle**  
A picture book biography about the first woman to win the Pritzker Prize – the most prestigious architecture award in the world. Zaha Hadid’s daring designs and unique perspective can be found in buildings all over the world.





## First Readers

(Perfect for the child who is just beginning to read on their own)

Arnold, Tedd.

### **Fly Guy** series

When Buzz captures a fly to enter in “The Amazing Pet Show,” his parents and the judges tell him that a fly cannot be a pet. Fly Guy proves everyone wrong.

Flip.

### **Flip-a-Word** series

Humorous illustrations and die-cut pages introduce short vowel sounds, consonant blends, and word families in these Flip-a-Word books.

I Like.

### **I Like to Read** series

This unique series combines a larger picture book size with the characteristics of first readers (controlled vocabulary, repetition, helpful illustrations). Created by award-winning, popular authors, these books make learning to read enjoyable.

Joyner, Andrew.

### **Boris** series

Boris, a young boar accustomed to travel and adventure, now lives at home with his mom and dad, yet excitement always seems to be right around the corner.

Lin, Grace.

### **Ling and Ting** series

Ling and Ting are identical twins that people think are exactly the same, but time and again they prove to be different.

Passport.

### **Passport to Reading** series

Read stories from your favorite shows, including Rescue Bots, Super Hero Squad, and My Little Pony, or try out books by popular authors, including Todd Parr and Marc Brown.

Penguin.

### **Penguin Young Readers, Levels 1 & 2** series

Penguin Young Readers feature award-winning books and authors, critically acclaimed classics, and new titles from established authors. Level One, Emergent Reader, and Level Two, Progressing Reader, are well suited to new readers.

Willems, Mo.

### **Cat the Cat and Elephant and Piggie** series

Cat the Cat has fun with friends, and Gerald the elephant and Piggie have very silly adventures in these two early reader series told completely in dialogue.

World.

### **World of Reading** series

These early readers feature Disney characters, Marvel superheroes, and Star Wars characters among other popular topics.





## Chapter Books & Graphic Novels

Greene, Stephanie.

### **Princess Posey series**

Posey worries about starting first grade, but the prospect brightens when her teacher invites the students to wear their most comfortable clothes to school on the first day.

Clanton, Ben.

### **Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea**

In this new graphic novel series, a happy-go-lucky, waffle-loving narwhal and a cynical, no-nonsense jellyfish forge an unlikely friendship and share adventures in the ocean.

Jump.

### **Jump into Chapters series**

Join Andy, Mr. Ball, and others on their silly adventures in these early reader comics.

Kochalka, James.

### **Johnny Boo series**

In this graphic novel series, Johnny Boo, the best little ghost in the whole world, and his pet ghost named Squiggle have the world's greatest ghost adventures.

## Books to Read to Your First Grader

Bond, Michael.

### **A Bear Called Paddington**

The Browns discover Paddington, a bear from “Darkest Peru” at the Paddington train station and decide to take him in. As Paddington tries to adjust to life in London, mishaps and misunderstandings occur, but Paddington always seems to be able to right things in the end.

Dahl, Roald.

### **George’s Marvelous Medicine**

Poor George! His grandmother bullies him constantly, and there’s nothing he can do about it – or is there? Can George make a Marvelous Medicine to cure his grandmother’s ill behavior? And what will he tell his parents when they come home and see what he’s done?

Gannett, Ruth.

### **My Father’s Dragon**

Elmer Elevator runs away to Wild Island in hopes of finding adventure. He gets more than he bargained for when he ends up trying to rescue a flying baby dragon.

Lindgren, Astrid.

### **Pippi Longstocking**

This is the tale of the spunky, red-headed, nine year old girl who lives with her horse and her monkey, but no parents. Pippi Longstocking’s adventures are fun for the whole family!

Milne, A. A.

### **Winnie-the-Pooh**

Join Winnie-the-Pooh and his friends from the Hundred Acre Wood as they get in and out of scrapes (and in and out of “hunny” pots!)

Potter, Beatrix.

### **The Tale of Peter Rabbit**

The story of a very mischievous rabbit and the trouble he faces getting into Mr. MacGregor’s garden.





Rylant, Cynthia.

### **Gooseberry Park**

Kona, a black lab, and his best friend Stumpy the squirrel hang out in Gooseberry Park every day – until disaster strikes. With Stumpy lost and her newborn babies left behind, Kona sets out on an adventure to save the day!

Selden, George.

### **A Cricket in Times Square**

When Chester, a cricket from the country, finds himself in the middle of Times Square, NYC, he does what any good tourist would do – takes in the sights! Guided by the streetwise mouse Tucker, and his friend Harry Cat, Chester discovers that sometimes a country boy can make waves in the big city.

Steig, William.

### **Abel's Island**

When Abel, a mouse, finds himself swept away in a flood to an uninhabited island, he has to put aside his nice manners and good breeding to survive in the wild. As his predicament becomes more and more hopeless, Abel learns what is truly valuable in life.

White, E. B.

### **Stuart Little**

Stuart Little is a mouse with a loving family, a big heart, and a thirst for adventure. When his most beloved friend Margalo, a bird, disappears from her nest, Stuart Little sets out to find her. He finds adventure, all right! But will he ever find his friend?

*The Suggested Reading List was compiled by the Wakefield Public Schools' Reading Specialists and the Beebe Library's Children's Librarians.*

