

Doane Academy

Summer
for students



Reading List
entering Third Grade

Dear Parents:

There is no pursuit more valuable or rewarding for children than reading. As children read, they develop vital verbal skills. Equally important, they encounter new experiences, new ideas and issues, new people, new emotions. Reading expands options, feeds the imagination and teaches thinking. Through reading, children come to know their world and themselves a little better.

The suggested reading lists we have developed for the Lower School are designed both for summer and for supplementary reading during the year. We have sought to make the selections appropriate for each grade. You will find, however, that the books do range in level of challenge and subject matter, and we strongly encourage you to help your children select those books best suited to their interests and reading skills.

Our goal in providing these suggested readings is to encourage the habit of reading for pleasure, not to generate book reports or graded exercises. What children read is less important than the act of reading and the enjoyment that reading brings. The more children read for pleasure, the more they will want to read, and growth in reading speed, comprehension, and confidence will surely follow.

Reading can be a marvelous sharing experience. Encourage your children to talk about what they have read. Your interest will feed their excitement. You may even wish to read some of the selections yourselves!

Happy Reading!

The Lower School Faculty



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This summer, the most important thing you can do for your child's future academic success is encourage him/her to read every day. Reading is like any other skill. The more you practice, the better you get at it. Most children this age continue to benefit from reading aloud to a more experienced reader. The reading partner can help them decode unfamiliar words, provide background information, and explain things that they don't understand (particularly the use of idioms and other literary devices). The child should also retell the chapter or story to their partner at the end of the session, as a comprehension check.

In order to determine if a book is at the correct reading level for your child, have him/her read a page out loud to you. If the child will be reading alone silently, then choose a book where he/she makes no more than one mistake in 50 words. If you are going to be sitting with the child while they read aloud to you, they can make one mistake in 20-25 words. If they make more than one mistake in 20 words, the book is too hard for them even if you are going to sit with them while they read. Names do not count as mistakes. Speed also matters. Don't choose a book that they read very slowly, no matter how perfectly they read the words. One of the main goals at this age is fluency. Thus, reading lots of somewhat easy books is preferable to slowly making your way through one hard book. With easier books, they get lots of practice in quickly recognizing those "sight words" which make up most of every sentence. You want sight word recognition to become automatic and instantaneous.

"Series" books, especially those written more recently, are generally not very literary. They are usually written to a formula. However, there is nothing wrong with them, especially for the reluctant reader. Since another primary goal at this age is to foster the enjoyment of reading, it is better for them to be reading books they love, even if their choices are not particularly noteworthy. Be aware that there can be great variation in reading level among books in a series. Just because your child can read one book easily, don't assume that every book in the series will be suitable. Always preview a book as described above to make sure that it is not too difficult.

Second through fourth grade is a very difficult time for a precocious reader. It can be a challenge finding appropriate material for them to read. The child may be capable of pronouncing and understanding the individual words in a book, but that does not mean that he or she has the maturity, background, or life experience to really understand what the book is about. They also do not understand humor aimed at older children, and do not pick up on what is intended to be read ironically. It is far better for a child to read an easier book and understand it than to read more difficult material that she/he does not fully comprehend. If they read too many books that they aren't ready for, they will get in the habit of thinking that they aren't really supposed to think about or understand their reading material. This is a hard habit to break! Generally, fantasy books, books about animals, and nonfiction books are safe. Stay away from realistic fiction that involves children older than they are, in particular books by Judy Blume.



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Recommended Novels and Short Stories (Roughly in order of difficulty)

FAVORITE SERIES

Black Lagoon (Thaler)
Cam Jansen (Adler)
Marvin Redpost (Sachar)
Pobbleton (Rylant)
Song Lee (Kline)
Horrible Harry (Kline)
Jigsaw Jones (Preller)
Junie B. Jones (Park)
Ready, Freddy (Klein)
Swamp Monster (Dadey)
It's Robert! (Seuling)
Horrible Henry (Simon)
Adventures of the Bailey School Kids (Dadey/Jones)
Arthur Chapter Books (Brown)
The Littles (Peterson)
Stanley (Brown)
Magic Tree House (Osborne)
Rainbow Magic (Meadows)
Jake Drake (Clements)
Herbie Jones (Kline)
A to Z Mysteries (Roy)
Cobble Street Cousins (Rylant)
Judy Moody (McDonald)
Disney Fairies (various)
Ivy & Bean (Barrows)
The Puppy Place (Miles)
The Secrets of Droon (Abbott)
The Time Warp Trio (Scieszka)
The Boxcar Children (Warner)

INDIVIDUAL TITLES

The Chalk Box Kid (Bulla)
The Paint Brush Kid (Bulla)
Harry's Pony (Porte)
Josefina Story Quilt (Coerr)
Kate Shelley and the Midnight Express (Wetterer)
Cora Frear (Goodman)
Tippy Lemmey (McKissack)
Stuart's Cape (Pennypacker)
Tornado (Byars)
Sideways Stories from Wayside School (Sachar)
Wayside School is Falling Down (Sachar)
More Stories Julian Tells (Cameron)
Julian, Secret Agent (Cameron)
Julian's Glorious Summer (Cameron)
Julian, Dream Doctor (Cameron)
The Stories Huey Tells (Cameron)
Five True Dog Stories (Davidson)
Weird Wolf (Cuyler)
The Elevator Family (Evans)
The Stories Julian Tells (Cameron)
The Best Older Sister (Choi)
The Summer of Riley (Bunting)
The Gadget War (Duffey)
Summer with Elisa (Hurwitz)
More Stories Huey Tells (Cameron)
The Doll People (Martin)
Gooney Bird Greene (Lowry)

Poetry - authors Shel Silverstein, Jack Prelutsky

Science - nonfiction: authors Franklin M. Branley, Seymour Simon
fiction: Andrew Lost (series) by J. C. Greenberg

History - nonfiction series: "If You Lived in the Time of ..." - various authors
historical fiction series : My America - various authors (both of these series will probably require adult assistance to explain historical references, etc.)

Sports - Matt Christopher writes sports-themed novels for all reading levels and all sports. Two easier ones are *The Lucky Baseball Bat* and *Baseball Flyhawk*.



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Other easy chapter books: The Backyard Sports Series by Michael Teitelbaum