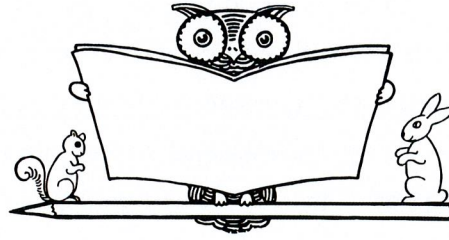


Summer Reading for Third Graders



Dear Rising Third Graders,

Please make sure you are reading all summer long. There are many opportunities to read, places to read, and books to read. You can learn so much from your reading adventures!

Your summer reading assignment is to read at least four books. Two should be fiction (made-up stories) and two should be nonfiction (true or informational stories/books). Please look at the different genre examples and book titles on the next pages and make it your goal to read a *variety* of books. Choose **2** of the books (one fiction and one nonfiction) to complete a "book review" about (please see the template included in this packet). You will turn these in during the first week of school.

What is a Genre?

When you go to the movie theater, how do you decide which movie you want to see? It might depend on what kind of mood you are in. If you're in the mood to be scared, you might want to see a scary movie. If you're in the mood to laugh, you might want to see a comedy. Scary movies and comedies are just a couple examples of the many different **genres** of film. There are genres of literature, too. This means that there are many different kinds or categories of literature, each with their own unique tone and style.

Fiction

Many books and stories are **fiction**, meaning they are not factual. Fiction books are made-up stories that are often produced by the author's imagination. There are many different genres that fall within the genre of fiction, including (but not limited to):

- **Fairy tales:** Who doesn't love a good fairy tale? These stories are written for children and include magical characters, like fairies, elves, and dragons. *Cinderella* and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* are examples of fairy tales.
- **Mysteries:** If you enjoy reading books about detectives or unsolved crimes, then you are a fan of the mystery genre. These books deal with solving a crime or a secret, like the *Encyclopedia Brown* series.
- **Tall tales:** These stories first began in America by the settlers who lived in the wilderness. They are told as if they are true, but they are fiction. Some tall tales are exaggerations of events that actually happened, like the story of Johnny Appleseed.
- **Folklore:** Has a grandparent ever told you a story that has been passed down through different generations? Folklore typically has cultural

relevance, like the folktales of Paul Bunyan and Native American folktales.

- Realistic fiction: These books and stories may seem true, but they are actually fiction and have not occurred in real life. Examples include *The Magic Tree House (series)* and *The Fault in Our Stars*
- Science fiction: Do you like stories about aliens or outer space? Then you will enjoy science fiction books because they typically take place in outer space or even in the future, like *Star Wars* or *Animorphs* books.
- Fable: You can normally learn a lesson from the moral of the story in a fable. Often time, the animals speak as humans, like "The Lion and the Mouse" or "The Boy Who Cried Wolf."
- Fantasy: These stories are 'off-the-wall,' with strange and unusual characters or settings. The *Harry Potter* series is an example of fantasy.

Non-Fiction

*Here are some examples of titles (organized by topic) you can check out, but please feel free to explore other books as well:

ANIMALS

Bugs and Bugsicles: Insects in the Winter

by Amy S. Hansen

Bubble Homes and Fish Farts

by Fiona Bayrock

Can an Old Dog Learn New Tricks? And Other Questions About Animals

by Buffy Silverman

Ready, Set . . . Wait!

by Patti R. Zelch

SCIENCE

Magic Up Your Sleeve: Amazing Illusions, Tricks, and Science Facts You'll

Never Believe

by Helaine Becker

The Hive Detectives: Chronicle of a Honey Bee Catastrophe

by Loree Griffin Burns

CIVIL RIGHTS

Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down

by Andrea Davis Pinkney

Child of the Civil Rights Movement

by Paula Young Shelton

SPACE

Cars on Mars: Roving the Red Planet

by Alexandra Siy

Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11

by Brian Floca

Older Than the Stars

by Karen C. Fox

WOMEN IN HISTORY

Phillis Sings Out Freedom: The Story of Phillis Wheatley and George Washington

by Ann Malaspina

She Loved Baseball: The Effa Manley Story

by Audrey Vernik

Soar, Elinor!

by Tami Lewis Brown

INVENTORS

The Boy Who Invented TV: The Story of Philo Farnsworth

by Kathleen Krull

The Day-Glo Brothers

by Chris Barton

Neo Leo: The Ageless Ideas of Leonardo da Vinci

by Gene Barretta

MATH

Pythagoras and the Ratios

by Julie Ellis

Growing Patterns: Fibonacci Numbers in Nature

by Sarah C. Campbell

Name: _____

Book Review

Title: _____

Author: _____

Star Rating:



Summary: _____

My favorite character and why: _____

What genre(s) is this book? _____

The best part of the book was: _____

The book would have been better if: _____

Would you recommend this book to a friend? YES NO

