



BILL E. RICA, SUMMER READING MASCOT

June 2022

Dear Billerica Families,

Thanks for all your support this year! While summer break is an important time for children to rest, relax, and re-energize, it is equally important that they continue to read. Here's why. Students who read over the summer may *gain* a month of reading proficiency. Those who don't may *lose* two to three months of reading proficiency. Over the course of a child's elementary schooling, those months--win or lose--really add up. You can help us prevent the summer reading slide by making sure your child reads or is read to 30 minutes a day during the vacation months.

This summer Bill E. Rica, the elementary reading mascot, has returned to keep students reading through the summer. Each grade has a custom bingo board filled with different opportunities for students to practice reading. Students are expected to complete at least one row in any direction marking completed squares with an X. They may complete additional squares or, if they wish, they may fill the entire card. The choice is theirs. In addition to the bingo card, students are also expected to complete a book log documenting books read during the summer. Feel free to make additional copies of the online book log if your child completes the one provided. If you need book suggestions, please check out grade level reading lists on the district home page or visit the Billerica Public Library. The librarians there are always happy to help.

In September, completed book logs and bingo boards will be passed in to your child's new classroom teacher during the first week of school. Students who participated in the summer reading program will be recognized with a certificate of participation. On behalf of the Summer Reading Committee, I hope students and families have a wonderful summer and enjoy playing *Summer Reading BINGO!* together. Thanks again for your ongoing support.

Dr. Jill Geiser, Assistant Superintendent

BILLERICA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



ENTERING GRADE 1 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

READ A BOOK WITH A GREEN COVER	READ A MAGAZINE	HAVE SOMEONE READ TWO BOOKS TO YOU	READ IN YOUR FAVORITE SPOT	READ AN ALPHABET BOOK
READ SOME NURSERY RHYMES	READ A BOOK ABOUT WEATHER	READ A BOOK OUTSIDE	READ A BOOK WITH A NUMBER IN THE TITLE	READ A BOOK OF POETRY
READ TO A PET OR STUFFED ANIMAL	READ A CALDECOTT AWARD BOOK	 FREE CHOICE	READ A BOOK BY YOUR FAVORITE AUTHOR	READ TWO BOOKS ON THE SAME TOPIC
LISTEN TO AN ONLINE STORY http://www.storylineonline.net/	READ A BOOK UNDER A TREE	READ A BOOK ABOUT SHAPES OR NUMBERS	READ A BOOK WITH ANIMAL CHARACTERS	READ THE DIRECTIONS TO MAKE SOMETHING AND MAKE IT
READ A BOOK FROM THE PUBLIC LIBRARY	READ A BOOK BY ERIC CARLE	ACT OUT YOUR FAVORITE STORY	READ A FAIRY TALE	Read more books online! Raz-Plus free-resources-free-online- books-first-grade

BILL E. RICA SAYS, "MAKE SURE TO MARK ALL COMPLETED SQUARES WITH AN X."

BILL E. RICA SAYS, "FEEL FREE TO COPY THIS FORM OR PRINT MORE; IT'S AVAILABLE ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE."

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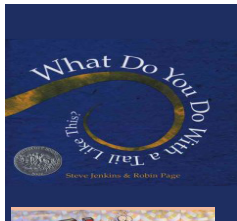
Suggested Book Titles Summer 2022

Entering Grade 1



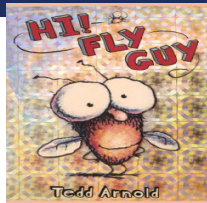
Boxitects By Kim Smith

A STEM-centered, adorably illustrated picture book about Meg, a brilliant and creative boxitect who creates extraordinary things out of ordinary cardboard boxes. But there's a new kid at Maker School: Simone. Simone is good at everything, and worst of all, she's a boxitect too.



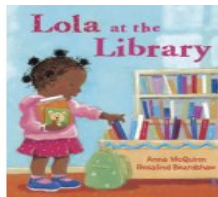
What Do You Do With a Tail Like This? By Steve Jenkins

A nose for digging? Ears for seeing? Eyes that squirt blood? Explore the many amazing things animals can do with their ears, eyes, mouths, noses, feet, and tails in this interactive guessing book, beautifully illustrated in cut-paper collage, which was awarded a Caldecott Honor.



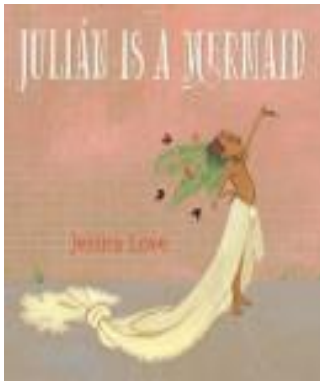
Hi! Fly Guy by Tedd Arnold

Some kids have dogs and some kids have cats, but Buzz has a pet fly! In this first book of the hilarious series, Buzz enters his winged buddy in the Amazing Pet Competition. The judges scoff until they see all the extraordinary tricks the little fly can do.



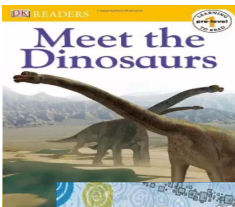
Lola at the Library by Anna McQuinn

Lola has a big smile on her face. Why? Because it's Tuesday—and on Tuesdays, Lola and her mommy go to the library. Join Lola in this cozy celebration of books and the people who love them.



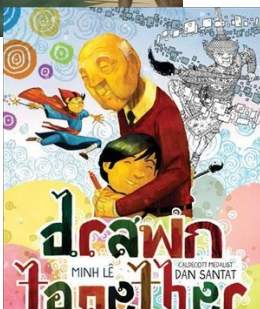
Julián is a Mermaid by Jessica Love

While riding the subway home from the pool with his abuela one day, Julián notices three women spectacularly dressed up. Their hair billows in brilliant hues, their dresses end in fishtails, and their joy fills the train car. When Julián gets home, daydreaming of the magic he's seen, all he can think about is dressing up just like the ladies in his own fabulous mermaid costume: a butter-yellow curtain for his tail, the fronds of a potted fern for his headdress. But what will Abuela think about the mess he makes — and even more importantly, what will she think about how Julián sees himself? Mesmerizing and full of heart, this story is a jubilant picture of self-love and a radiant celebration of individuality.



Meet the Dinosaurs by DK Publishing

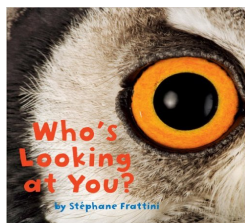
Discover the world of dangerous dinosaurs and begin a wonderful reading adventure. Large text, simple sentences and lots of photographs make it easy and fun to help your child start reading confidently.



Drawn Together by Minh Lê

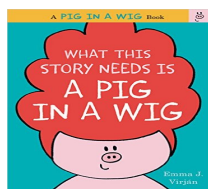
A young boy visiting his grandfather speaks English; his grandfather speaks Thai. They struggle to communicate across language, age, and cultural divides, leading to confusion and uncomfortable silence, but when the boy takes out his sketchbook and markers and begins to draw,

his grandfather gets out his brush and ink and they discover a mutual love of drawing. Double-page spreads with Santat's dynamic illustrations depict how drawing fantastic heroic adventures together creates a bond between them that goes beyond language and—by the end of the book and their adventure in drawing—the marker and paint brush have changed hands.



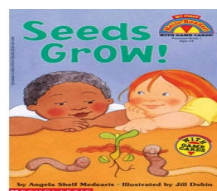
Who's Looking at You? By Stéphane Frattini

Open each page and a gigantic eyeball stares out at you. Can you guess who it is? Lift the flap and see if you're right plus tantalizing tidbits about each animal. For example, we learn that sea turtles cry when they leave the water. "Crying helps them get rid of extra salt in their bodies. Tears also help to keep sand out of a mother turtle's eyes . .



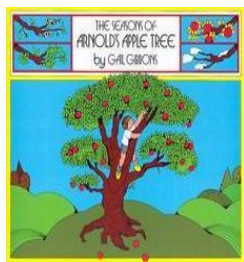
What This Story Needs is a Pig in a Wig by Emma J. V

Look at all the animals that join the pig in a wig on a boat! But it's getting crowded. What will they do? I love both the story and illustrations in this first of a new easy reader series for silly readers.



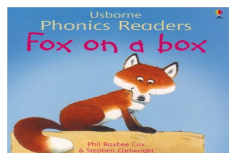
Seeds Grow! By Angela Shelf Medearis

Young children learn step-by-step how a seed grows into a plant. Through simple rhymes and delightfully colorful art, this book describes how seeds turn into sunflowers.



The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree by Gail Gibbons

This book about nature and the changing seasons focuses on a young boy and a very special apple tree. In Gail Gibbons's bright illustrations, Arnold collects apple blossoms in spring, builds a treehouse in summer, makes apple pie and cider in the fall, and hangs strings of popcorn and berries for the birds in winter, among other seasonal activities.



Fox on a Box by Phil Roxbee Cox

For beginner readers - phonic-based text is cleverly blended with a funny story Includes phonics guide for parents... and some pages have fold-out flaps!