



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 3 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

READ A MYSTERY	READ A BOOK RECOMMENDED TO YOU	READ 3 POEMS ABOUT YOUR FAVORITE SEASON	READ A BOOK WITH AN UNUSUAL MAIN CHARACTER	READ ABOUT A HABITAT
READ THE DIRECTIONS TO MAKE A CRAFT	READ A MYTH	READ AN ARTICLE OR BOOK ABOUT WEATHER	READ A BIOGRAPHY	READ A RECIPE AND MAKE IT WITH SOMEONE
READ A BOOK BY EVE BUNTING	READ A FABLE http://read.gov/aesop/015.html	FREE CHOICE 	READ A BOOK BY PATRICIA POLACCO	READ A BOOK ABOUT A PLACE YOU WANT TO VISIT
READ AN AWARD-WINNING BOOK	READ FOR 30 MINUTES IN YOUR FAVORITE SPOT	READ A BOOK FROM THE PUBLIC LIBRARY	READ A BOOK OF POETRY	READ A FOLKTALE
READ REALISTIC FICTION	READ A BOOK IN A SERIES	READ A GRAPHIC NOVEL	READ A BOOK THAT MAKES YOU LAUGH/ 	READ A BOOK THAT WAS MADE INTO A MOVIE

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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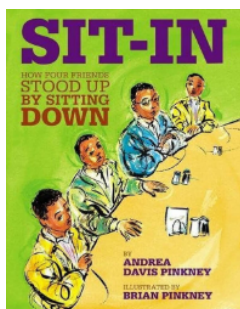
Suggested Book Titles 2022

Entering Grade 3



Leroy Nicker Saddles Up by Kate DeCamillo

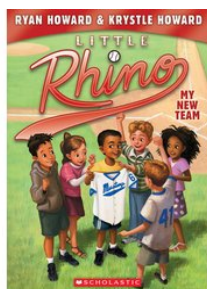
Yippie-i-oh! Saddle up for the first in a spin-off series starring favorite characters from Kate DiCamillo's New York Times best-selling Mercy Watson books. Leroy Nicker has a hat, a lasso, and boots. What he doesn't have is a horse — until he meets Maybelline, that is, and then it's love at first sight. Maybelline loves spaghetti and sweet nothings, and she loves Leroy, too. But when Leroy forgets the third and final rule of caring for Maybelline, disaster ensues.



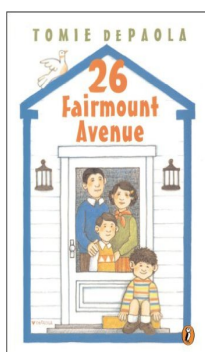
Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down by Andrea Davis Pinkney

This picture book is a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the momentous Woolworth's lunch counter sit-in, when four college students staged a peaceful protest that became a defining moment in the struggle for racial equality and the growing civil rights movement. Andrea Davis Pinkney uses poetic, powerful prose to tell the story of these four young men, who followed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s words of peaceful protest and dared to sit at the "whites only" Woolworth's lunch counter.

My New Team by Ryan and Krystle Howard



A new chapter book series from Major League Baseball's 2006 National League MVP, Ryan Howard! Every day when Little Rhino comes home from school, he finishes his homework, grabs his bat, his glove, and runs outside to meet Grandpa James. They always practice catching and hitting in the backyard. Playing baseball with grandfather is Little Rhino's favorite thing to do, especially when he pretends to be a real Major League homerun hitter.

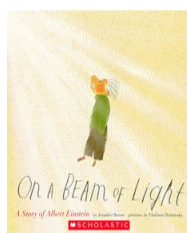


26 Fairmount Avenue by Tomie DePaola

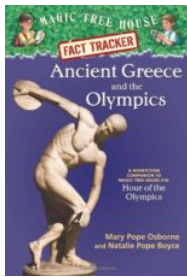
Tomie's family starts building their new house at 26 Fairmount Avenue in 1938, just as a hurricane hits town, starting off a busy, crazy year. Tomie has many adventures all his own, including eating chocolate with his Nana Upstairs, only to find out — the hard way — that they have eaten chocolate laxative. He tries to skip kindergarten when he finds out he won't learn to read until first grade. "I'll be back next year," he says. When Tomie goes to see Snow White, he creates another sensation. Tomie dePaola's childhood memories are hilarious, and his charming illustrations are sure to please.

On a Beam of Light by Jennifer Berne

A boy rides his bicycle down a dusty road. But in his mind, he envisions himself traveling on a beam of light at a speed beyond imagining. This brilliant mind will one day offer up some of the most revolutionary ideas ever conceived. From a boy endlessly fascinated by the wonders around him,

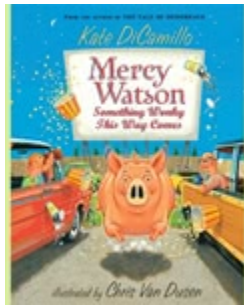


Albert Einstein ultimately grows into a man of genius recognized the world over for profoundly illuminating our understanding of the universe.



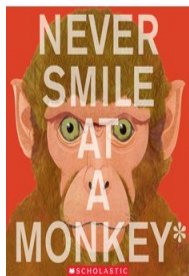
Ancient Greece and the Olympics by Mary Pope Osborne and Natalie Pope Boyce

What was it like to live in ancient Greece? What gods and goddesses did Greeks believe in? How did the Olympics start? What was the winner's prize? Find out the answers to these questions and many more in this Magic Tree House Research Guide. Includes fun facts from Jack and Annie, fantastic photos and illustrations, and a guide to doing further research!



Mercy Watson: Something Wonky This Way Comes (NEW!)

Some may find it wonky to take a pig to the drive-in. But not the Watsons, who think the movie's title, *When Pigs Fly*, is inspirational. And not their beloved Mercy, who is inspired by the scent of real butter from the theater's Bottomless Buckets of popcorn. As they pull up in their convertible, Mercy lifts up her snout and becomes a pig on a mission, leading a delirious chase that's trailed by hapless rescuers reunited from Mercy's earlier adventures. ALSO AVAILABLE AS E-BOOK FOR FREE ON TUMBLEBOOKS



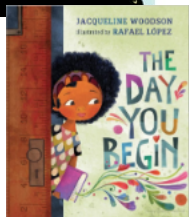
Never Smile at a Monkey by Steve Jenkins

When it comes to wild animals, everyone knows that there are certain things you just don't do. It's clearly a bad idea to tease a tiger, pull a python's tail, or bother a black widow spider. But how dangerous is it to pet a platypus (don't!), collect a cone shell (never on your life!), or touch a tang fish (ouch...ouch...ouch!)? Some creatures have developed unusual ways of protecting themselves or catching prey, which can make them unexpectedly unpleasant, dangerous, or even deadly.



Bird and Squirrel on Ice by James Burks

After Bird and Squirrel crash land in the South Pole during a raging blizzard, a penguin named Sakari thinks Bird has come to rid her village of a hungry Killer Whale. But when Squirrel finds out that Bird will actually be fed to the Killer Whale as a sacrifice, they hatch a crazy plan to escape. With a good timing, a little luck, and help from Sakari, they just might make it out alive. Or they might end up as whale food!



The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson

There will be times when you walk into a room and no one there is quite like you. There are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look or talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat, or something just as random. It's not easy to take those first steps into a place where nobody really knows you yet, but somehow you do it.