Recommended

Independent

Reading Titles

There is no greater indicator of student academic success than reading ability and good reading habits. The books contained in these lists have been chosen with the belief that good books belong in students’ hands.

When your child is selecting a book, help him with the process by previewing the title yourself. Take into consideration the difficulty of the text, including the vocabulary. Assist your child in selecting a book with which he or she will be comfortable. While the books are arranged by grade level for easier identification of age appropriate reading level and content, you are familiar with your child’s skills, maturity, and interests, and can better assist your child in selecting appropriate titles.

Multilingual/multicultural titles in Spanish have been included in these recommendations. Their intent is to provide students with a sampling of literature in their native language and about their native culture. These multilingual selections, beginning on page 8, will provide an opportunity for students who are struggling in English, but are fluent in their native language, to participate in the enjoyment of reading.

If you have any questions on the books listed here or your child’s reading level, please contact Donna Dewar, Fischer Librarian, at [ddewar@elmhurst205.org](mailto:ddewar@elmhurst205.org) or call 630-832-8601.

**RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011**

**Kindergarten**

.

Andrews, Julie, and Emma Walton Hamilton. **The Very Fairy Princess**. Little,

Brown, 2010. Despite her scabby knees and dirty fingernails, Geraldine knows

that she is a princess inside and shows it through her behavior at home and in

school.

Aylesworth, Jim. **The Mitten**. Scholastic Press, 2009. A retelling of the traditional tale of how a boy's lost mitten becomes a refuge from the cold for an increasing number of animals.

Baker, Keith. **LMNO Peas**. Beach Lane Books, 2010. Busy little peas introduce their favorite occupations, from astronaut to zoologist.

Barton, Chris. **Shark vs. Train.** Little Brown, 2010. A shark and a train compete in a series of contests on a seesaw, in hot air balloons, bowling, shooting baskets,

playing hide-and-seek, and more.

Beard, Alex. **The Jungle Grapevine**. Abrams Books, 2009. When Turtle makes an

off-hand remark to Bird at the watering hole one day, Bird's misunderstanding

starts rumors that stir up the other animals.

Berne, Jennifer. **Calvin Can't Fly: The Story of a Bookworm Birdie**. Sterling, 2010. A young starling chooses to read books when his cousins are learning to fly, and the knowledge he acquires comes in handy when a hurricane threatens

the flock’s migration.

Birdsall, Jeanne. **Flora's Very Windy Day**. Clarion, 2010. When a big wind blows

her annoying little brother away, Flora decides to save him despite the many

tempting offers she gets for him from, among others, a cloud, an eagle, the man

in the moon, and the wind itself.

Botner, Barbara. **Miss Brooks Loves Books! (And I Don't)**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. A first-grade girl -- who does not like to read -- stubbornly resists her school

librarian's efforts to convince her to love books until she finds one that might

change her mind.

Brown, Peter. **Children Make Terrible Pets**. Little, Brown, 2010. When Lucy, a

young bear, discovers a boy lost in the woods, she asks her mother if she can

have him as a pet, only to find him impossible to train.

Brun-Cosme, Nadine. **Big Wolf & Little Wolf**. Enchanted Lion Books, 2009. Alone but happy, Big Wolf gets a new perspective on life when Little Wolf arrives.

Carroll, James Christopher. **The Boy and the Moon.** Sleeping Bear Press, 2010. A

boy and his animal friends go out at night to play, but when Moon gets stuck in

a tree, the boy undertakes a daring rescue.

Casanova, Mary. **Some Dog!** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. A stray dog moves

into George's formerly peaceful home, dazzling the man and woman of the

house with lively tricks and antics that just leave George exhausted.

Cotten, Cynthia. **At the Edge of the Woods: A Counting Book**. Holt, 2002. A

variety of animals, birds, and insects enjoy the flowers and trees of the forest

early one morning.

Craig, Lindsey. **Dancing Feet!** Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. Easy-to-read, rhyming text

depicts different animals having fun dancing.

Donaldson, Julia. **What the Ladybug Heard.** Holt, 2009. Although much quieter

than the farm animals that moo, cluck, or oink, a gentle ladybug is instrumental in foiling a plan to steal the farm's prize-winning cow.

Emberley, Ed. **Go Away, Big Green Monster!** Little, Brown, 1992. Die-cut pages

through which bits of a monster are revealed are designed to help a child

control nighttime fears of monsters.

Ernst, Lisa Campbell. **The Turn-around, Upside-down Alphabet Book**. Simon & Schuster, 2004. In this alphabet book each letter becomes three different

objects when the book is turned in different directions, as when A becomes a

bird's beak, a drippy ice cream cone, and the point of a star.

Everitt, Betsy. **Mean Soup**. Harcourt, 1992. Horace feels really mean at the end of a bad day until he helps his mother make Mean Soup.

Fischer, Scott M. **Jump!** Simon & Schuster, 2010. From bugs and frogs to alligators and whales, frightened animals always move out of the way of a larger

opponent.

Fleming, Candace. **Seven Hungry Babies**. Atheneum, 2010. A mother bird

frantically tries to keep her seven baby birds fed.

Fleming, Denise. **The Cow Who Clucked**. Holt, 2006. When a cow loses her moo,

she searches to see if another animal in the barn has it.

French, Jackie. **Diary of a Baby Wombat**. Clarion, 2010. Through a week of diary

entries, a wombat describes his life of sleeping, playing, and helping his mother

look for a bigger hole in which to make their home.

Fucile, Tony **Let's Do Nothing!** Candlewick Press, 2009. Young friends Frankie and Sal, believing they have "done it all," decide to do nothing for a while, but Frankie has a little trouble with the concept and it is not long before the boys realize there is no way to do nothing.

Hall, Michael. **My Heart Is Like a Zoo**. Greenwillow, 2010. Rhyming text describes how love can be many different things, such as eager as a beaver, steady as a yak, or silly as a seal.

Harper, Charise Mericle. **Cupcake: A Journey to Specia**l. Disney-Hyperion, 2010. Cupcake, feeling drab because he is only vanilla, and his friend, Candle, come up with a plan to make themselves stand out in the crowd.

Henkes, Kevin. **My Garden**. Greenwillow, 2010. After helping her mother weed,

water, and chase the rabbits from their garden, a young girl imagines her

dream garden complete with jellybean bushes, chocolate rabbits, and tomatoes

the size of beach balls.

Howe, James. **Brontorina**. Candlewick, 2010. Despite her size and not having the

proper footwear, a determined dinosaur pursues her dream of becoming a

ballerina.

Hutchins, Pat. **The Doorbell Rang**. Greenwillow, 1986. Each time the doorbell

rings, there are more people who have come to share Ma's wonderful cookies.

Isadora, Rachel. **Say Hello!** Putnam's, 2010. A little girl greets people in her

neighborhood in many different languages.

Lester, Helen. **Tacky Goes to Camp**. Houghton Mifflin, 2009. Tacky the penguin

and his friends go to Camp Whoopihaha where they scare each other by telling

ghost stories around the campfire, never expecting that one of the frightening

stories will come true.

Martin, Bill, Jr. and John Archambault. **Chicka Chicka Boom Boom**. Simon &

Schuster, 1989. This alphabet rhyme/chant relates what happens when the

whole alphabet tries to climb a coconut tree.

McCarty, Peter. **Fabian Escapes**. Holt, 2007. While Hondo the dog stays home and enjoys his usual pursuits, Fabian the cat escapes out the window and has

many adventures.

McKee, David. **Elmer's Special Day**. Andersen Press, 2009. Once a year on Elmer's Day, all the elephants decorate themselves and have a parade, and this year

Elmer comes up with a plan to include the other animals as well as the

elephants.

McNaughton, Colin. **Not Last Night But the Night Before**. Candlewick, 2009. A

child's quiet night is transformed into a rowdy party as different fairy tale

creatures come knocking.

Melling, David. Hugless Douglas. **Tiger Tales**, 2010. Poor Douglas, a young bear,

goes from place to place looking for someone to give him a hug.

Mora, Pat. **Gracias = Thanks**. Lee & Low, 2009. With English and Spanish text, a

young multiracial boy celebrates family, friendship, and fun by telling about

some of the everyday things for which he is thankful.

Munro, Roxie. **Go! Go! GO!** With More Than 70 Flaps to Uncover & Discover.

Sterling, 2009. Colorful illustrations with flaps to lift depict people in action,

from flying in a hot air balloon to exploring the sea.

Na, Il Sung. **The Thingamabob**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. An elephant finds a

"thingamabob" and experiments until he discovers its real purpose.

Numeroff, Laura Joffe. **If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**. Harper & Row, 1985. A

young boy, having given a cookie to a bossy mouse, is run ragged by the

energetic rodent's subsequent requests.

Oppel, Kenneth. **The King's Taster**. HarperCollins, 2009. The royal chef takes Max the dog, who is the royal taster, on several international journeys to find a dish for the land’s pickiest king.

Pelé. **For the Love of Soccer!** Disney-Hyperion, 2010. Pelé, the three-time World

Cup soccer champion, shares his enthusiastic love of the sport and his rise to fame.

Perry, Andrea. **The Bicklebys' Birdbath**. Atheneum, 2010. This cumulative rhyme, in the style of "The House That Jack Built," describes the antics that occur

when a girl with a long leaky hose squirts a flock of curious crows.

Prelutsky, Jack. **Me I Am!** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. This illustrated poem

celebrates the individuality of three very different children, with a concluding

scene that shows a gaggle of other ME I AMs.

Rathmann, Peggy. **Officer Buckle and Gloria**. Putnam's, 1995. The children at

Napville Elementary School always ignore Officer Buckle's safety tips until a

police dog named Gloria accompanies him when he gives his safety speeches.

Rickards, Lynne. **Jacob O'Reilly Wants a Pet**. Barron's, 2010. Jacob, desperately

wanting a pet, takes his parents' advice to start a pet-sitting business and

realizes what type of animal is perfect for him to keep.

Ritz, Karen. **Windows with Birds**. Boyds Mills, 2010. A cat adjusts to its new home in an apartment, high above the ground, after living in a house.

Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. **Bedtime for Mommy**. Bloomsbury, 2010. In a reversal of the classic bedtime story, a child helps her mommy get ready for bed, enduring

pleas for one more book, five more minutes of play time, and a glass of water

before the lights go out.

Scillian, Devin. **Memoirs of a Goldfish.** Sleeping Bear Press, 2010. A goldfish gives a personal account of his experiences while swimming around his bowl as it slowly fills with fish and other accessories, only to realize when he is relocated for a cleaning how much he misses them.

Schaefer, Lola. **Just One Bite: 11 Animals and Their Bites at Life Size!** Chronicle Books, 2010. The diets of eleven creatures are examined, focusing on the amount of food each one consumes in a single bite, and covering the sandgrain-

sized bite of dirt eaten by an earthworm to the giant squid swallowed by a

sperm whale.

Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. **What If?** Roaring Brook, 2010. The concept of sharing is

explored using three different scenarios of what could happen after a boy

throws a beach ball into the ocean.

Spinelli, Jerry**. I Can Be Anything!** Little, Brown, 2010. A little boy ponders the

many possible jobs in his future, from paper-plane folder and puppy-dog holder

to mixing-bowl licker and tin-can kicker.

Stein, David Ezra. **Interrupting Chicken**. Candlewick Press, 2010. Little Red Chicken wants Papa to read her a bedtime story, but interrupts him almost as soon as he begins each tale.

Stein, David Ezra. **Pouch!** Putnam's, 2009. A baby kangaroo takes his first tentative hops outside of his mama's pouch, meeting other creatures and growing bolder each time.

Swinburne, Stephen R. **Whose Shoes?** A Shoe for Every Job. Boyds Mills, 2010.

Different occupations are explored through simple text and colorful

photographs of shoes and the people who wear them.

Teague, Mark. **Funny Farm**. Orchard Books, 2009. Cousin Edward visits Aunt Judy and Uncle Earl on their farm and tries to help with all the chores.

Ufer, David A. **The Giraffe Who Was Afraid of Heights**. Sylvan Dell, 2006. A

young giraffe's fear of heights prevents him from having fun until two new

animal friends with their own fears help the giraffe become less afraid.

Urbanovic, Jackie. **Sitting Duck**. Harper, 2010. Max the duck volunteers to babysit for puppy Anabel, unaware of all the mischief a puppy can get into.

Van Camp, Katie. **Harry and Horsie**. Balzer & Bray, 2009. Harry has an out-of this-world adventure when he goes in search of his favorite stuffed animal,

Horsie, after it is carried away by a bubble.

Voake, Steve**. Insect Detective**. Candlewick, 2010. This illustrated story tells the

reader where to look for different insects, including wasps, ants, bees, beetles,

and others, and provides facts about each six-legged creature.

Willems, Mo. **City Dog, Country Frog**. Hyperion, 2010. When City Dog comes to the country he meets Country Frog for the first time, and every season afterward

the two have a fun time playing together.

Willis, Jeanne. **Cottonball Colin**. Eerdmans Books, 2008. Afraid that her smallest

child, Colin, will be hurt if he goes outside or plays, a mother mouse insists

that he sit quietly indoors until his grandmother suggests wrapping him in

cotton wool, which proves to be effective but in a most unexpected way.

Wood, Audrey. **Silly Sally**. Harcourt, 1992. With humorous illustrations and

rhyming text, this is the story of Silly Sally who makes many friends as she

travels to town -- backward and upside down.

**RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2011 **

**Kindergarten Spanish Titles**

**La araña muy ocupada**, Eric Carle

The farm animals try to divert a busy little spider from spinning her web, but she

persists and produces a thing of both beauty and usefulness. The pictures may

be felt as well as seen.

**Crayola: Libro de los colores del arco iris**, Angela C. Santomero

Designed to resemble a Crayola box, this book teaches colors and invites children

to associate objects with colors.

**Un día de nieve**, Ezra Jack Keats

A little boy enjoys a snowy winter day.

**Donde viven los monstruos**, Maurice Sendak

Caldecott Medal, 1964. After he is sent to bed without supper for behaving like a

wild thing, Max dreams of a voyage to the island where the wild things are.

**La familia de Clifford**, Norman Bridwell

Clifford goes to see his family, who all live in different places and have different

jobs.

**Froggy se viste**, Jonathan London

Although it's winter and frogs are supposed to hibernate, Froggy insists on going

out to play in the snow. But getting dressed for the cold is not that easy, and

Froggy keeps forgetting one thing or another.

**El gato con sombrero viene de nuevo**, Dr. Seuss (Translated by Yanitzia Canetti)

Sally and her brother are shoveling snow when they are surprised by a visit from

the Cat in the Hat. This time the cat brings with him tiny cats, A through Z.

**La hamaca de la vaca o un amigo mas**, Alma Flor Ada

Many animals gather on the hammock in the cow’s backyard. The arrival of the

elephant poses a problem.

**Jorge el curioso**, H.A. Rey

A monkey’s curiosity leads him into hilarious adventures.

**Mamá Gansa**, Michael Hague

A collection traditional Mother Goose rhymes.

**Me encantan los Saturdays y los domingos**, Alma Flor Ada

A little girl enjoys weekends spent with her Hispanic and her American grandparents.

**El mejor es mi papá**, Georgina Lázaro León

Various animals explain in humorous, rhyming text why their father is the best.

**Mis letras favoritas**, Margarita Robleda

Children are encouraged to discover and play with the letters of the alphabet.

**La mochila de Dora**, Sara Wilson & Robert Roper

Dora has to get to the library before it closes to return some books. Luckily,

Backpack as always, lends a helping hand. Will she make it to the library on

time? Read and find out!

**La oruga muy hambrienta**, Eric Carle

Follows the progress of a hungry little caterpillar as he eats his way through a

varied and very large quantity of food until, full at last, he forms a cocoon around

himself and goes to sleep.

**Oso polar, oso polar, ¿Qué es ese ruido?,** Bill Martin Jr. & Eric Carle

Children discover the sound of different animals as they ask the question: What

do you hear?

**¡Papá!,** Philippe Corentin

A little boy complains about a monster in his bed and a little green creature complains about a monster in his bed. They are each other’s nightmare!

**La pequeña locomotora que sí pudo**, Watty Piper

Although she is not very big, the Little Blue Engine agrees to try to pull a

stranded train full of toys over the mountain.

**¡Pío Peep!,** Alma Flor Ada/Alice Schecter (Bilingual book)

A collection of traditional Hispanic nursery rhymes.

**¿Quién es la bestia?**, Keith Baker

All of the animals are hiding because they have spotted the beast. But the tiger

wants to know who the beast is--could it really be him?

**Los tres cerditos**, David Wisener

Tells the story of two foolish pigs and how a third pig managed to avoid the same

fate.