2019 Summer Reading List for Students Entering 2nd Grade

The St. Paul’s 2019 Summer Reading List for students entering Grade 2 contains new and popular book suggestions. The books were chosen to reflect student and family interest, upcoming curriculum and to highlight interesting new titles and releases by popular authors. I encourage families to support daily reading throughout the summer whenever possible. All of the titles in the list can be found through new and used booksellers and some are in e-book format. Many of these books can be checked-out from your local public library. Public libraries are fantastic resources for summer reading and most public libraries sponsor generous summer reading programs. I hope you enjoy summer and that you come back with 2-3 book recommendations for the library and your classmates! Happy Reading! -- Ms. Cosgrove

Nonfiction Information Books

Davis, Robin. *The Star Wars Cookbook: Wookiee Pies, Clone Scones and Fun Experiments in the Kitchen*. This is the 3rd Star Wars cookbook by Davis and the puns and recipes for Star wars-themed treats. Illustrations feature Star wars figurines never get old. This time, the cookbook includes cookie cutters of some favorite characters.


Older, Jules. *Telling Time: How to Tell Time on Digital and Analog Clocks!* Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2000. Humorous text explains the concept of time, from seconds to hours on both analog and digital clocks, from years to millennia on the calendar.

Overdeck, Laura. *Bedtime Math: The Truth Comes Out.* New York: Feiwel and Friends, 2015. Contains more than one hundred math problems with three different levels of challenge and enough silly illustrations and goofy elements to have your whole family working out these fun word problems.

Reid, Margarette S. *Lots and Lots of Coins.* New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2011. A coin-collecting father and son learn about the history of coins and about the money that is used around the world today as they build their collection.


Waters, Kate. *Curious About Fossils (Smithsonian Series).* New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 2016. Explains what fossils are and how they form, and highlights important fossil discoveries.

Williams, Lily. *If Sharks Disappeared.* New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2017. A nonfiction picture book tracing the devastating impact if sharks were extinct from our planet.

Real People and Events
Andrews, Troy. *Trombone Shorty.* New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2015. New Orleans jazz musician Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews tells the story of how he got his nickname and his start in jazz music when he was very small and young. Look carefully at the amazing collage illustrations that won Caldecott Honor and Coretta Scott King Awards by Bryan Collier and see if your child can identify which ones are photos.


Engle, Margarita. *Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl’s Courage Changed Music.* Boston: HMH, 2015. Follows a young Cuban girl in the 1920s as she strives to become a drummer, despite being continually reminded that only boys play the drums, and that there has never been a female drummer in Cuba. Includes note about Millo Castro Zaldarriaga, who inspired the story, and Anacaona, the all-girl dance band she formed with her sisters.


Higginson, Sheila Sweeney. *Kids Who Are Changing the World (You Should Meet Series).* New York: Simon Spotlight, 2019. Have you ever wondered what you could do to change the world? Find out how kids are helping the environment, inventing . . . medical devices, aiding the homeless, designing apps so other kids won't ever have to eat alone in the cafeteria, and more! Learn all about what they've come up with and how their ideas are changing lives in this story of four . . . kids everyone should meet!


Martin, Jacqueline Briggs. *Chef Roy Choi and the Street Food Mix.* Bellevue, WA: Readers to Eaters, 2017. A biography of Chef Roy Choi’s popular street cooking life, including working in his family’s restaurant as a child, figuring out what he wanted to do with his life, and his success with his food truck and restaurant.

Martin, Jacqueline Briggs. *Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table.* Bellevue, WA: Readers to Eaters, 2013. Follows the life of urban farmer Will Allen, who grew up on a dairy farm, had a career in professional basketball, but decided to return to growing food in Milwaukee.


**Fiction Titles and Series**


Adler, David. *Don't Throw It To Mo! (Mo Jackson Series)* New York: Penguin Young Readers, 2015. Mo is the youngest and smallest kid on the Robins football team. But Mo's coach has a plan up his sleeve to turn Mo's little size into a big win for the Robins. This series has several titles about Mo that are Level I books and they are all terrific!

Arnold, Tedd. *Fly Guy and the Alienzz (Fly Guy Series).* New York: Scholastic, 2018. Buzz is filming a movie about aliens from Outer Space, who capture Fly Guy and Buzz Boy--and our two heroes must outsmart the aliens, with some help from Dragon Dude and Fly Girl.

Barrows, Annie. *Ivy + Bean Take the Case (Series Book 10).* San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2013. After watching a movie about a detective on the television, Bean decides to set up shop as a private investigator--and she and Ivy start looking for mysteries to solve.

Birney, Betty. *Summer According to Humphrey (The World According to Humphrey Series).* New York: Puffin, 2010. When summer arrives, Humphrey, the pet hamster of Longfellow School's Room twenty-six, is surprised and pleased to learn that he will be going to Camp Happy Hollow.

Blade, Adam. *Ferno the Fire Dragon (Beast Quest Series Book 1).* New York: Scholastic, 2007. Young Tom, on a mission to tell the king about the disasters befalling his small town, is recognized as the son of Taladon, a swordsman who went missing years earlier, and sent on a quest to free the fire dragon Ferno, once a protector of the kingdom, from the grip of evil magic.

Blume, Judy. *Going, Going, Gone! With the Pain & the Great One.* New York: Delacorte Press, 2008. The Pain and the Great One are on the move as they go to the mall and get separated, ride the super slide at the county fair, and boogie board at the beach.

Brown, Jeffrey. *Star Wars: Jedi Academy.* New York: Scholastic, 2013. Roan Novachez has always dreamed of going to Pilot Academy Middle School and becoming the greatest pilot in the galaxy, but the school rejected him. So, when a green guy named Yoda invites him to attend the Jedi Academy, he goes for it, but he soon discovers that going to school with aliens and robots and trying to learn how to use the Force is not as easy as it sounds. There’s plenty to read for this series’ Book 6, will be released this summer.
Brown, Monica. *Lola Levine is Not Mean!* New York: Little Brown, 2016. Second-grader Lola has a wonderful family, a great teacher, and the best friend ever, Josh, and they all help her feel better after she is teased and forbidden to play team sports at recess for having accidentally hurt classmate Juan during a soccer game.

Bruel, Nick. *Bad Kitty Takes the Test (Bad Kitty Series)* New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2017. Because of a recent string of embarrassing behavior, Kitty's cat license has been revoked and she must take a test to get it back.


Christopher, Matt. *The Captain Contest (Soccer ‘Cats Series Book1).* Boston: Little Brown, 1999. Dewey loves to draw and wants to enter the soccer team logo contest, but he does not want to win the grand prize—being team captain.

Coates, Lucy. *Beast Keeper (Beasts of Olympus Series Book 1).* New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 2015. Eleven-year-old Demon had never met his father, the god Pan, until the day he was whisked away to the stables of Olympus and charged with looking after all of the mythical creatures there, a task which is complicated by the tempestuous gods and goddesses and Heracles, who keeps killing the immortal beasts.

Cooper, Ilene. *Absolutely Lucy (Series Book 1).* New York: Random House, 2000. Bobby is too shy to make friends until he gets a beagle puppy named Lucy and she helps him feel brave to meet others.

Cummings, Troy. *Battle of the Boss Monster (Notebook of Doom #13 Series).* New York: Scholastic, 2017. This early chapter book series is short, funny and lightly illustrated. It keeps it’s fans happy when the Super Secret Monster Patrol must take on an army of monsters.

Cummings, Troy. *Brute-Cake. (The Binder of Doom Series Book 1).* New York: Scholastic, 2019. "It has been several months since monsters last plagued the town of Stermont in the Quest for Doom Series. So, when Alexander’s father signs him up for a summer maker program at the library he is happy to go—but soon he starts finding weird old-timey objects, and monster trading cards, and it starts to look like maybe monsters are back in town.


Dadey, Debbie. *Bailey School Kids Series.* New York: Scholastic, 1996+. This became the most popular series in first grade this year. There are 50+ Bailey School Kids books to choose from and your local public library will have some the your child hasn’t read. The plot revolves around third-graders from Bailey School interpreting monsters and magical creatures all around their town. A newer title to try would be Werewolves Don’t Run for President (Bailey School Kids #49).

Dahl, Roald. *The BFG.* New York: Scholastic, 1982. Kidnapped from her orphanage by a BFG (Big Friendly Giant) who spends his life blowing happy dreams to children, Sophie concocts a plan with him to save the world from nine other man-gobbling cannybull giants.

DeGross, Monalisa. *Donavan’s Word Jar.* New York: HarperTrophy, 1994. When the jar that Donavan keeps his word collection in fills up, he finds a special way to give his words away and get something wonderful in return.
DiCamillo, Kate. *Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures*. New York: Candlewick Press, 2013. A girl named Flora and a squirrel named Ulysses, whose life was saved by Flora after he was involved in an incident with a vacuum cleaner, team up to use Ulysses' superpowers to conquer villains and protect the weak. Many of DiCamillo characters are loved by students across the grades (Mercy Watson and Winn Dixie and Despereux other) and Flora & Ulysses will be too. This is the winner of the 2014 Newbery Medal for distinguished children's literature.

DiCamillo, Kate. *Francine Poulet Meets the Ghost Raccoon*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2015. "When she confronts a screaming raccoon that may or may not be a ghost, animal control officer Francine Poulet questions her abilities"--OCLC.

Draper, Sharon. *The Buried Bones Mystery (Clubhouse Mysteries Series)*. New York: Aladdin, 2006. After the neighborhood basketball court is vandalized, Ziggy and his friends decide to form a club called the Black Dinosaurs and build their clubhouse in Ziggy's backyard where they find a mysterious cache of buried bones.

Draper, Sharon M. *The Birthday Storm (Sassy Series)*. New York: Scholastic, 2009. Sassy and her family go to Florida during summer vacation to visit Grammy for her birthday, and when the weather takes a turn for the worse, Sassy learns that love is more important than decorations and caterers.

Draper, Sharon M. *The Space Mission Adventure (The Clubhouse Mysteries series)*. New York: Aladdin, 2006. Ziggy and the other members of the Black Dinosaurs go to Space Camp where they learn about the space program and speculate about the existence of extraterrestrial beings.

Earhart, Kristen. *Rain Forest Relay (Race the Wild Course Series Book 1)*. New York: Scholastic, 2015. When Russell entered the race, he knew it was going to be a wild ride. Especially the first race course! He'd been studying up on the Amazon's animals and culture forever. But nothing could prepare him or his teammates for what they'd find in the rain forest: raging rapids, poisonous venom, and sneaky competitors who'd do anything to win.

English, Karen. *Nikki & Deja (Series Book 1)*. Boston: Sandpiper, 2007. When an arrogant new girl comes to school, third-graders and best friends Nikki and Deja decide to form a club that would exclude her but find the results not what they expected.

English, Karen. *Skateboard Party (The Carver Chronicles Book 2)*. Boston: Clarion Books, 2014. Richard can't wait to show off his skills at a friend's skateboard birthday party, but a note home from his teacher threatens to ruin his plans"--Provided by publisher.

Fienberg, Anna. *Tashi (Series Book 1)*. Crows Nest NSW: Allen & Unwin, 1995. Tashi is the Tibetan word for "good fortune" and that is also the name of the main character from this Australian series. Whether he is facing danger, adventure or making new friends as he travels around the world, his courage and curiosity help him find good fortune.

Finch, Kate. *Calling All Pets! (Pet Hotel Series Book 1)*. New York: Scholastic, 2013. Book One: Twins Meg and Charlie move to their great-great-aunt's run-down hotel and plan to transform their new home into a hotel for pets.

Gassman, Julie. *Nobody Wants to Play with a Ball Hog (Sports Illustrated Victory School Kids Series)*. Mankato, MN: Stone Arch Books, 2011. Ten-year-old Tyler Trofee, a basketball player at Victory School for Super Athletes, learns that even though he has super shooting skills, it is better to be a team player.

Goldberg, Whoopi. *Dancing Diva* (Sugar Plum Ballerinas Series, book 6). New York: Disney/Jump at the Sun Books, 2012. When Epatha tries to spice up the choreography of the new ballet in Harlem with her free-spirited style, the rest of the Sugar Plum Ballerinas encourage her to keep her toes in line.

Greenburg, Dan. *I’m Out of My Body-- Please Leave a Message* (Zack Files Series). New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1997. When his friend Spencer, the class genius, spends the night, he and Zack discover how to leave their bodies and travel around New York City, but they have one problem--how to get back inside themselves.

Grimes, Nikki. *Rich: A Dyamonde Daniel Book*. New York: G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 2009. Grimes is a great poet, but also writes this awesome chapter book series. Free is excited about a local poetry contest because of its cash prize, but when he and Dyamonde befriend a classmate who is homeless and living in a shelter, they rethink what it means to be rich or poor.

Gutman, Dan. *Mr. Will Needs to Chill* (My Weirdest School Series). New York: Scholastic, 2018. The ice cream truck comes to Ella Mentry School, but there are no desserts allowed on campus. Will Mr. Will find a way to keep the students happy with their favorite icy treats?


Harrison, Paula. *The Enchanted Ruby* (Rescue Princesses Series). London: Nosy Crow, 2018. Princess Scarleett and her friends go to a secret island to meet a special otter family that needs their help. This series began in England and Scholastic publishing is reissuing many of the titles (not this one yet, but it is still available to purchase).

Henkes, Kevin. *The Year of Billy Miller*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2013. Students can continue their Kevin Henkes author study by exploring this latest title, a 2014 Newbery Honor book. Seven-year-old Billy Miller starts second grade with a bump on his head and a lot of worries, but by the end of the year he has developed good relationships with his teacher, his little sister, and his parents and learned many important lessons.

Holub, Joan. *Freya and the Magic Jewel* (Thunder Girls Series Book 1). New York: Aladdin, 2018. Unlike her twin brother Frey, twelve-year-old girlgoddess Freya is not excited about their invitation to Asgard Academy, especially after she loses her magical jewel, leaving her powerless and worried about making friends. Book 2 will be released in October.

Holub, Joan. *Zeus and the Thunderbolt of Doom* (Heroes in Training Series Book 1). New York: Aladdin, 2012. Ten-year-old Zeus, irritated that he keeps getting struck by lightning, discovers a magical thunderbolt embedded in a stone and embarks on the adventure of a lifetime when he is attacked by the Titans, who have been kidnapping other Olympian children with powers comparable to Zeus's.

Hooks, Gwendolyn. *Three’s a Crowd* (Just for You Series). New York: Scholastic, 2004. Keisha is very unhappy when Val spoils their Saturday fun by bringing along Mya, a new girl in her
neighborhood, but soon realizes that three is not such a bad number after all. Includes activity ideas for parents and children. Reading level J.


Jones, Marcia Thornton. Caveman Do Drive School Buses (Bailey School Kids Jr. Series). New York: Scholastic, 2008. This a part of the popular series, but these books have larger print which helps emerging readers. The Bailey School Kids Soccer team finds cave drawings on the bus -- could their bus driver be a caveman?

Jules, Jacqueline. My Family Adventure (Sofia Martinez Series). North Mankato, MN: 2015. In this compilation of three separately published books, Sofia Martinez, her sisters, and her cousins cope with the everyday problems of a happy Hispanic American family.


Landon, Lucinda. Meg Mackintosh and the Mystery at Camp Creepy. North Scituate, R.I.: Secret Passage Press, 1990. While attending summer camp for the first time, Meg tries to solve the mystery of the camp's legendary ghost. The reader is challenged to interpret each clue before Meg finds the solution.


Malcolm, Jahnna. The Ruby Princess Runs Away (Jewel Kingdom Series Book 1). New York: Scholastic, 1997. Roxanne does not feel she is ready to be crowned the Ruby Princess and
assume the throne of the Red Mountains, but when she runs away she meets some friends who help her change her mind.


Manushkin, Fran. *Pedro’s Big Goal (Series).* North Mankato MN: Picture Window Books, 2017. Pedro would love to be the goalie in the team’s first game, but another boy is bigger—so all his friends come over to help him practice before the tryout. This title is a Level J reader.

Marko, Cyndi. *Let's Get Cracking (Kung Pow Chicken Series Book 1).* New York: Scholastic, 2014. Gordon Blue and his brother Benny, unlike superheroes, must save Fowladelphia from Granny Goosebumps, who has filled the city with cookies that cause innocent chickens’ feathers to fall off.


McDonald, Megan. *Judy Moody and the Bucket List. (Series Book 13).* Cambridge, Mass: Candlewick Press, 2018. Judy is visiting her Grandmother one day when she finds a mysterious list of activities—a bucket list! What should Judy put on her own bucket list?

McDonald, Megan. *Hamlet and Cheese (Stink Series Book 11).* Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2018. "It's spring break, and Stink is faced with a difficult choice: hang out at home with his sister, Judy, or become a Shakespeare Sprite with his friend Sophie of the Elves. Hanged be! When Sophie tells Stink that there will be swordplay and cursing at Shakespeare camp, his choice is made. But wait! How now? The eager young thespian hadn't counted on Riley Rottenberger being a Sprite, too. And he positively had not counted on being the only boy! Fie upon't!"—Provided by publisher.

McKay, Hilary. *Lulu and the Hamster in the Night (Lulu Series).* Chicago, IL: Albert Whitman & Co., 2015. This is a sweet series—each book is about Lulu and an animal friend. In this latest, Lulu is spending the night at Nan’s and wants to bring her birthday present—a hamster!


Miles, Ellen. *Stella (Puppy Place Series).* New York: Scholastic, 2014. During a camping trip, Charlie helps a family learn how to communicate and train their Maltese-Poodle puppy.

Montes, Marisa. *Who's That Girl? (Get Ready for Gabi! Series Book 2).* New York: Scholastic, 2003. Gabí is delighted when a girl her age moves into her northern California neighborhood, but Lizzie’s secretiveness, as well as her bullying twin brothers, threaten their new friendship.

Montgomery, R. A. *Return to Haunted House (Choose Your Own Adventure series).* Waitsfield, VT: Chooseco, 2010. Choose Your Own Adventures is now for younger readers! A plot-your-own story exploring haunted places with your dog (and best friend), Homer. Other titles in this series include *Lost Dog and Dragon Day.*
Mull, Brandon. *Wild Born (Spirit Animals Series Book 1)*. New York: Scholastic, 2013. This is the first of a popular series written by multiple authors – 7 books in the series have been published. Four young strangers who each have forged a rare bond with their spirit beasts who try to stop a dark force from taking over their land.

Muncaster, Harriet. *Isadora Moon Gets In Trouble (Series)*. Oxford Engl: Oxford University Press, 2017. Half vampire, half fairy Isadora Moon is excited about a visit from her older cousin, Mirabelle, a witch, but when Mirabelle persuades Isadora to take a dragon to school, big trouble is in store.


Nickel, Scott. *It’s a Wrestling Mat, Not a Dance Floor (Sports Illustrated Kids victory School Superstars Series)*. Mankato, MN: Stone Arch Books, 2011. Danny decides to try wrestling, but his super speed makes it look like he is dancing instead of wrestling.

O’Connor, Jane. *Nancy Clancy, Star of Screen and Stage (Nancy Clancy Series Book 5)*. New York: Harper, 2015. Nancy Clancy has practiced long and hard for the school play and when she gets a callback she is thrilled, but after her performance in the play is recorded and posted on the internet, Nancy needs to find a way to embrace her newfound fame.

O’Neal, Shaquille. *Little Shaq (Series Book 1)*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2015. Seven-year-old Shaquille O’Neal, a talented basketball and video game player, learns to share the spotlight with his cousin Barry when the youngsters work together to earn money by watering plants.


Osborne, Mary Pope. *Soccer on Sunday (Magic Tree House Series Book 52)*. New York: Random House, 2014. Jack and Annie search for the fourth secret of greatness for Merlin the Magician in Mexico City at the 1970 World Cup Games. They hope to learn something new from the great Brazilian soccer player great, Pelé. The FIFA World Cup begins play in Russia on June 14th.

Peirce, Lincoln. *Max and the Midnighiters (Series Book 1)*. New York: Crown Books, 2019. New fiction from the author of *Big Nate*. During the Middle Ages, Max is often mistaken for a boy because of her short hair. This doesn’t get in her way when Max and her group of friends dubbed the Midknights go on a quest to rescue the Kingdom of Byjovia.

Pennypacker, Sara. *Clementine*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2006. While sorting through difficulties in her friendship with her neighbor Margaret, eight-year-old Clementine gains several unique hairstyles while also helping her father in his efforts to banish pigeons from the front of their apartment building. The end of this funny and sweet series was released in May 2015.

Priebe, Val. *It’s Hard to Dribble With Your Feet (Sports Illustrated Kids Victory School Superstars Series)*. Mankato, MN: 2011. Ten-year-old Carmen Skore, a basketball player at Victory School for Super Athletes with super dribbling ability, doubts her ability to be a good soccer player, but learns that practice helps, even without a super skill.

Rodda, Emily. *The Charm Bracelet (The Fairy Realm Series Book 1).* New York: HarperCollins, 2000. When Jessie searches for her ill grandmother's missing charm bracelet, she is led to a magical world and finds she has a reason and right to be there. This chapter book series is like a wonderful fairy tale.

Rylant, Cynthia. *Gooseberry Park.* San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1995. When a storm separates Stumpy the squirrel from her newborn babies, her animal friends Kona the dog, Murray the bat, and Gwendolyn the hermit crab come to the rescue.


Selznick, Brian. *Baby Monkey, Private Eye.* New York: Scholastic, 2018. This large illustrated chapter book is the best book to keep around the house for an endearing chuckle. It is a very funny story about Baby Monkey, private eye, who will investigate stolen jewels, missing pizzas, and other mysteries--if he can manage to figure out how to put his pants on. Plus, it contains features found in nonfiction books giving children their first experience with a table of contents, a key, index and bibliography. Notice how Baby Monkey's office changes in each story.

Shealy, Dennis. *I Am Captain Snowball! (The Secret Life of Pets 2).* New York: Random House, 2019. One of several early readers featuring Max, Gidget and gang from this very popular movie.

Stilton, Geronimo. *The Test of Time (Geronimo Stilton Series Book 6).* New York: Scholastic, 2016. Geronimo Stilton tries to return historical friends (including a triceratops) to their rightful place in time, but can the new machine work out its bugs and succeed?

Stilton, Thea. *Thea Stilton and the Secret of the Treasure Seekers (Book 1).* New York: Scholastic, 2019. A new Thea Stilton series released February 2019 - On summer vacation in Scotland, the Thea sisters are intrigued by a tapestry that is really a treasure map supposedly leading to where an ancient treasure is buried. They set out to find the treasure using the explorer's diary as a guide.

Teitelbaum, Michael. *Home Field Advantage (Backyard Sports Series Book 3).* New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 2008. The Backyard Sports kids use hard work and teamwork to find another soccer field and get it ready for the tournament when they discover that their usual soccer field is closed.


digging holes around the Squeakspeare Mansion at night and it maybe be the ghost of Morgan Blackwhisker who rumored to have buried his treasure near there.


Warner, Sally. *EllRay Jakes is a Rock Star!* New York: Viking 2011. EllRay is faced with a problem when his plan to bring his dad's crystals to school in order to impress his classmates does not go as planned.

Wayans, Kim. *Playing Games (Amy Hodgepodge Series)*. New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 2008. Sadly, many titles in this series are out-of-print, but they can still be picked up at libraries and from used booksellers. In #4 of the series, Amy realizes her dream of playing sports when she joins the basketball league, and secret practices with Rusty improve her skills but her friends, believing she still plays badly, will not pass her the ball.

Wesley, Valerie Wilson. *How to (Almost) Ruin Your School Play (Willimena Rules! Series)*. New York: Jump at the Sun/Hyperion, 2005. Third-grader Willimena is unhappy when she is rejected for the leading role in a school play and instead is given the role of a tree in the play.

West, Kara. *Mia Mayhem (Series Book 1)*. New York: Little Simon, 2018. In this first book of a new series - eight-year-old Mia is delighted to learn she is from a family of superheroes, but her acceptance into the Program for In Training Superheroes requires she take a placement exam.

West, Tracey. *Journey to the Orange Islands (Pokémon Series)*. New York: Scholastic, 2017. Ash and his team travel to the Orange Islands on a mission where surprises await the young trainer at every turn.

West, Tracey. *Search for the Lightning Dragon (Dragon Masters Series Book 7)*. New York: Scholastic, 2017. The Dragon Masters have two tasks: track down the newly hatched Lightning Dragon, and find his destined Dragon Master, a boy named Carlos, and convince him to trust them--but somebody else has dark plans for this particular powerful and wild dragon. Start with Book 1 if this series is new for you.

**Book Series Recommendations by St. Paul’s Students**

*A-Z Mysteries* by Ron Roy (80 -130 p.)

*Bad Kitty* by Nick Bruel (120-150 p.)

*Bailey School Kids / Bailey School Kids Jr. chapter books* by Debbie Dadey & Marcia Thornton (40-70 p.)

*Avatar the Last Airbender* by Michael Teitelbaum and other authors

*Clementine* by Sarah Pennypacker (135p.)

*DK Star Wars Readers* by DK Publishing (32 p.)

*Dogman* by Dav Pilkey (230 p.)

*Elephant & Piggy* by Mo Willems (40 p.)

*Jake Maddox Sports Story* by Jake Maddox (100 p.)

*Katie Kazoo* by Nancy Krulik (80 p.)

*Kung Pow Chicken* by Cyndi Marko (80 p.)

*Lego Ninjago* by Greg Farshty (80 p.)

*Magic Puppy* or *Magic Kitten* by Sue Bentley

*Magic Tree House* by Mary Pope Osborne (120 p.)

*Matt Christopher* by various authors (100 – 200 p.)
Mermaid Tales by Debbie Dadey (100 p.)  
Nancy Drew and the Clue Crew; Nancy Drew / Nancy Drew  
Nikki and Deja by Karen English (100 – 120 p.)  
Notebook of Doom by Troy Cummings (90-100 p.)  
“Ology” books: Dragonology, Wizardology, Mythology, Spyology, Egyptology, Oceanology, Monsterology and more by Pokemon by Tracey West (87p.)  
Rainbow Magic: Various Fairy Series by Daisy Meadows (63 p.)  
Ramona Quimby / Henry Huggins by Beverly Cleary (160 – 200 p.)  
Rescue Princesses by Paula Harrison (120 p.)  
Secret Kingdom by Rosie Banks (90-100p.)  
Sports Illustrated Victory School Kids by various authors (100 p.)  
Star Wars (DK Readers) by various authors (32 p.)  
Stink by Megan McDonald (150 p.)  
Sugar Plum Ballerinas by Whoopi Goldberg (130 p.)  

Picture Books for All Ages  
Blackall, Sophie. Hello Lighthouse. New York: Little, Brown and Co., 2018. This current winner of the Caldecott Medal for best illustrated children’s books features beautiful and detailed illustrations that explore the life of one lighthouse as it beams its message out to sea through shifting seasons, changeable weather, and its final keeper. Pair with Boats on the Bay and a visit to the Point Arena lighthouse in Marin for fun in the Bay Area.  


Funk, Josh. Dear Dragon. New York: Viking, 2016. Are writing letters a lost art? - Not if you have an intriguing pen pal to receive them! As a school project, George and Blaise become pen pals, writing rhyming letters about their favorite things to do, unaware that one is human and the other a dragon.  

Howe, James. Horace and Morris but Mostly Dolores. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1999. Horace, Morris, and Dolores are very good friends and have always done everything together; however, their friendship may be in trouble when Horace and Morris decide to join a no-girls allowed club and Dolores joins a no-boys club.  

Miyazaki, Hayao. Kiki’s Delivery Service: Picture Book. San Francisco: Viz Media, 1989. Kiki’s quest to become a real witch takes a bizarre turn when her magical abilities begin to disappear, leaving Kiki unable to communicate with her cat or fly on her broomstick.  

Mollel, Tololwa. My Rows and Piles of Coins. New York: Clarion Books, 1999. A Tanzanian boy shows dedication and perseverance to save his coins to buy a bicycle so that he can help his parents carry goods to market, but then he discovers that in spite of all he has saved, he still does not have enough money. A surprise solution honors his hard work.  

Neuschwander, Cindy. Amanda Bean’s Amazing Dream: A Mathematical Story. New York: Scholastic, 1988. Amanda loves to count everything, but not until she has an amazing dream does she finally realize that being able to multiply will help her count things faster.  

Penfold, Alexandra. Food Truck Fest! New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2018. A family prepares for a day at the food truck festival, while at the same time, the food truck crews get ready for the
same event, checking recipes, starting to cook, and driving to the festival site. You’ll recognize familiar landmarks and settings courtesy of this book’s Bay Area-based illustrator.


Teague, Mark. *Dear Mrs. Larue: Letters From Obedience School.* New York: Scholastic, 2002. This is an excellent example and very funny choice for the persuasive writing unit. Gertrude LaRue receives typewritten and paw-written letters from her dog Ike, entreatings her to let him leave the Igor Brotweiler Canine Academy and come back home.


**Comics / Graphic Novels**

Aguirre, Jorge. *Giants Beware! (Series)* New York: First Second, 2012. Claudette wants nothing more than to slay a giant but her little village is too safe and quiet.

Burks, James. *Bird and Squirrel On the Run! (Series).* New York: Graphix, 2012. Squirrel, who is afraid of everything, teams up with Bird, who is fearless but grounded by a wounded wing, to head south for the winter, closely followed by Cat, who wants to eat them both.

Cammuso, Frank. *The Misadventures of Salem Hyde – Spelling Trouble.* New York: Amulet Books, 2013. Frequently admonished for her impulsive behavior, Salem Hyde, a young witch, ignores long lectures by her dignified animal companion and enters a spelling competition at school only to discover that the “spelling” involves words instead of magic.


Harper, Charise. *Bean Dog and Nugget (Series), Book 1: The Ball.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013. "Bean Dog and Nugget lose Bean Dog’s shiny new ball in a bush. They dream up elaborate and silly ways to get it back while they argue about who is actually going to go and get it”


Eaton, Maxwell. *The Flying Beaver Brothers and the Mud-Slinging Moles*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013. Ace and Bub stand up to nearsighted Captain Jo Jo and his crew of moles, who are stealing dirt from Beaver Island to make their own island home bigger.


Hatke, Ben. *Legends of Zita the Spacegirl*. New York: First Second, 2012. Zita is determined to find her way home to Earth, but her exploits have made her an intergalactic megastar, and as her true self is eclipsed by her public persona, she faces a robot doppelganger, unsure of whom she can trust.


Johnson, Cathy G. *The Breakaways*. New York: First Second, 2019. Faith, an introverted fifth grader with a vivid imagination, starts middle school worrying about how she will fit in. She is convinced to join the school soccer team, the Bloodhounds. Having never played soccer in her life, Faith ends up on the C team, a ragtag group with a tendency for drama over teamwork. Despite their losing streak, Faith and her fellow teammates form strong bonds both on and off the soccer field, which challenge their notions of loyalty, identity, friendship, and unity.

Konami, Kanata. *Chi's Sweet Home (Series 1-11)*. New York: Vertical, 2010. Chi, a newborn American shorthair, becomes separated from its mother while out walking and is taken in by the Yamadas, who soon become attached to the kitten even though they are not supposed to have pets in their apartment.


Kusaka, Hidenori. *Pokémon Black and White*. San Francisco: Viz Media, 2011. At long last, Black, who is obsessed with winning the Pokémon League, receives his Pokémon, Tepig, and begins to explore the Unova Region and fill one of Professor Juniper's Pokédex.


Smith, Jeff. *Out From Boneville (Bone Series Book 1)*. New York: Graphix, 2005. Fone Bone, Phoney Bone, and Smiley Bone are run out of their home, Boneville, and become separated in the wilds, but better fortune begins when the three cousins reunite at a farmstead in a deep forested valley, where Fone meets a young girl named Thorn.

Spires, Ashley. *Binky the Space Cat*. Toronto, ON: Kids Can Press, 2009. Binky, a house cat who believes the family home is actually a space station, trains and prepares to travel into outer space, where his humans go everyday and need his protection.

Terrell, Brandon. *Quarterback Scramble (Sports Illustrated Kids Series)*. Mankato, MN: Stone Arch Books, 2011. After Wes Blake, the Hawks’ star quarterback, gets benched for getting a poor grade in math, the offense stalls with Ben as the back-up quarterback, and his teammates place the blame on his shoulders. Soon after, a possible solution to Ben's passing problems reveals itself, but Ben is not sure it's the right answer.

Winick, Judd. *HILÓ (Series)*. New York: Random House, 2015-2018. Local creator Winick’s colorful series about a mysterious boy falls from the sky, makes friends as they work to save the world.

Yang, Gene Luen. *Avatar: The Last Airbender; The Promise*. Milwaukie, OR: Dark Horse Books, 2012. Aang’s powers and ingenuity are tested by a faceoff against the Fire Nation, which could result in another world war. The Promise II comes out on June 12th.

**Bilingual and Libros en Español**


Hazan, Maurice. *I Can Read & Speak in Spanish: The Simple Picture Method for Kids to Learn Spanish Immediately (include audio CD)*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2005. Teaches Spanish through text sentences paired with word-for word pictures and icons, as well as illustrated vocabulary pages, and includes an audio CD.

Laínez, René Colato. *I am René, the Boy / Soy René, el niño / por René*. Houston, TX: Pinata books, 2003. Even though the other children laugh at him, but when the class does a project on family trees, Rene gets to explain why his names are so important. Presented in English and Spanish.

Moran, Alex. *¿Qué Día es Hoy?/What Day Is It?* Orlando: Harcourt, 2008. Gil the ant mistakenly believes that all of his friends have forgotten his birthday. Presented in English and Spanish.

Munsch, Robert. *Verde, Violeta y Amarillo*. New York: Annick Press, 1993. Beny is fascinated by coloring markers, and although she promises her mother that she will not draw on herself, the temptation is too great!

Parks, Carmen. *Farmers Market*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2010. A girl and her parents spend the day at the farmers’ market selling the vegetables they have grown. Presented in English and Spanish.


Shannon, David. *Muy Bien, Fergus!* New York: Scholastic, 2006. Fergus is having a perfect day chasing cats, taking walks, and getting scratched on his belly, but he doesn't like getting a bath.


Willems, Mo. *¡Estamos en un Libro!*. New York: Disney, 2015. Cerdita realizes that she and Elefante are in a book and that she can make the reader say words. You will find that most Elephant and Piggy books have been translated into Spanish.