

Grades 1-6 Summer Reading 2024

PCS believes it is important for students to develop a lifelong love of reading. Our summer reading program is designed to encourage our students to foster their love of reading.

PCS does not endorse any of the selected books, and encourages parents to screen any books that your child is reading. The Focus on the Family website (www.focusonthefamily.com) has great reviews of children's books.

Most of these books are available in the PCS Elementary Library, Books-a-Million, www.amazon.com, downloaded to a Kindle/iPad, or checked out from the local public libraries.

A suggested reading list is provided for upcoming first graders, but they will not be allowed take AR tests at this time.

You will also see below a list of blocked books. These tests are blocked because they are either for class reading or required summer reading. Your child's teacher will determine when these tests will be taken during the year. To check the availability of AR books available for testing at PCS, go to www.arbookfind.com

Please notice that for upcoming 2nd & 3rd graders, there are **two required books** and for 4th, 5th and 6th graders there is **one required book**. All other books are for suggested reading. During August, students will take AR tests on their required summer reading. Additional testing or assignments for these books is listed on each grade's summer reading instructions.

REQUIRED READING:

2nd Grade: *Frog and Toad Are Friends* by Arnold Lobel

Morris Goes to School by B. Wiseman

3rd Grade: *Duck for a Day* by Meg McKinlay

Thunder Cake by Patricia Polacco

4th Grade: *Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

5th Grade: *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau

6th Grade: *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry

The suggested and required reading summer lists for grades 1-6 are on the following pages:

First Grade Suggested Summer Reading List – 2024

Our goal is for children’s literature to be a part of every child’s summer. Please feel free to add books of your choice to this list. The reading level of the books suggested varies. If your child is already reading, have him or her read a page of the book aloud to you to see if it is a good fit. If they struggle with more than a few words on the page, it is probably too difficult, but would still be a great book to read aloud to your child.

Series:

Biscuit (Capucilli)
Clifford (N. Bridwell)
Arthur (M. Brown)
Fly Guy (T. Arnold)
Charlie the Ranch Dog (Drummond)
Pete the Cat (J. Dean)
Little Critter (M. Mayer)
Morris and Boris (B. Wiseman)
Junie B. Jones (B. Park)
Flat Stanley (J. Brown)
Elephant and Piggie (M. Willems)
Harry the Dirty Dog (Zion)
If You Give a Mouse a Cookie (Numeroff)

Any books by Eric Carle, Ezra Jack Keats, or Dr. Seuss

Folktales and Fairy Tales:

Chicken Little
Cinderella
The Tortoise and the Hare
Henny Penny
The Little Red Hen
The Three Bears
The Three Billy Goats Gruff
The Three Little Pigs
The Ugly Duckling

Reading Tips:

1. Start the book by making predictions. What do you think will happen in this story?
2. Ask questions and make comments during the reading process. How do you think this character feels? What do you think will happen next?
3. After reading a book, have your child tell you the events from the story in the correct order.
4. Encourage your child to make connections. Does this story remind you of another book you read, an event in your life, a movie?
5. Take turns reading pages with your child.
6. Don’t be afraid to read the same book again. Repeated reading helps build reading fluency.

Second Grade Summer Reading List – 2024

One of the essential ingredients in your child’s academic success is reading outside the classroom. For this reason, PCS has chosen to establish a required summer reading program for students entering 2nd grade. The summer reading program is designed to provide your child with an opportunity to extend the reading skills developed during the previous year’s instruction in the classroom and through our STAR Renaissance Accelerated Reading Program.

PCS SUMMER READING is required! Students are **REQUIRED** to read two books. Of course, students are encouraged to read more, but only these books are required for a comprehension grade. This grade will be entered into RenWeb as a comprehension weekly test grade during the first nine-weeks.

Required summer reading for students entering 2nd grade in the fall are:

#1 – *Frog and Toad Are Friends* by Arnold Lobel

#2 – *Morris Goes to School* by B. Wiseman

Students will take the Accelerated Reader test on these books in the Computer Lab at the beginning of the school year.

These books may be purchased from Books-a-Million or Amazon.com or checked out from the library.

In addition to the above required reading, we recommend the “*I Can Read!*” series from Scholastic and the “*Step into Reading*” series to build proficiency in reading. Additional suggestions include the following **series**:

Henry and Mudge by Cynthia Rylant

The Cul-de-sac Kids by Beverly Lewis

Junie B. Jones by Barbara Park

Third Grade Summer Reading List – 2024

1. *Duck for a Day* by Meg McKinlay
AR quiz # 149910 Book level: 3.3 Points: 1.0
2. *Thunder Cake* by Patricia Polacco
AR quiz # 6014 Book level: 3.5 Points: 0.5

These books may be purchased online or checked out through the local library. Students will take a comprehension test and an AR quiz on each of these books.

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Other books your child may enjoy reading this summer:

Boxcar Children series by Gertrude Chandler Warner
Clementine books by Sara Pennypacker
Ramona series by Beverly Cleary
Flat Stanley books by Jeff Brown
Nancy Drew and the Clue Crew books by Carolyn Keene
Magic Tree House books by Mary Pope Osborne
Freckle Juice by Judy Blume
Stuart Little by E.B. White

Fourth Grade Summer Reading List – 2024

All upcoming fourth grade students are required to read the book, *Shiloh* during the summer.

Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (fiction, AR quiz #5440, book level: 4.4, AR points 4.0). All students will take the AR test for this book during August. There will be ten other questions that students will answer to go along with the AR test. These will be combined and count as a reading test grade for the first nine weeks.

We do recommend reading the following books for those students wishing to read more:

Life According to Og the Frog by Betty G. Birney (fiction, AR quiz #198219, book level: 4.0, AR points: 4.0).

Moo by Sharon Creech (fiction, AR quiz #184108, book level: 4.4, AR points: 3.0).

Aurora County All Stars by Deborah Wiles (fiction, AR quiz #115906, book level: 4.5, AR points 6.0)

*If your child is new to PCS, we suggest that your child also read *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis (fiction, AR quiz #52, book level: 5.7, AR points: 6.0).

Suggestion: To help with comprehension, students may want to write a short summary for each chapter.

Books may be purchased from Amazon.com, Books-a-Million, or checked out from the local public libraries.

Fifth Grade Summer Reading List – 2024

One of the essential ingredients in your child's academic success is reading outside the classroom. For this reason, PCS has chosen to establish a required summer reading program for students entering 5th grade. The summer reading program is designed to provide your child with an opportunity to extend the reading skills developed during the previous year's instruction in the classroom and through our STAR Renaissance Accelerated Reading Program.

PCS SUMMER READING is required! Students are required to read one book. Of course, students are encouraged to read more, but only this one book will be assessed for summer reading requirements. Assessments will include a written vocabulary test, an Accelerated Reader online test on the book, and a teacher generated written comprehension test. These assessment grades will be entered into RenWeb gradebook as a vocabulary test grade and two comprehension test grades during the first nine weeks. These assessment grades are not eligible to be drop grades at the end of the nine weeks.

Required summer reading for students entering 5th grade in the fall:

The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau AR Quiz No. 69274

The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to dim. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. Now, she and her friend Doon must race to figure out the clues to keep the lights on. If they succeed, they will have to convince everyone to follow them into danger. But if they fail? The lights will burn out and the darkness will close in forever.

The City of Ember may be purchased from Books-a-Million, Amazon.com, downloaded to Kindle/iPad, or checked out from the local public libraries.

ASSESSMENTS will take place in reading class and will include the following:

- Students may write a book report on *The City of Ember* in class using the writing guidelines in the 5th grade ABEKA Language textbook. If your reading teacher assigns a book report, it will take place during the second week of school in class, under the instruction and supervision of the reading teacher.
- Students will take a vocabulary test on August 16th and an Accelerated Reader test and comprehension test on August 18th. (second week of school).
- There is an OPTIONAL packet that students can complete that goes along with this book. Students who complete this packet will receive 10 bonus points on the comprehension test. This packet is available for download or from the school office.

For those of you who would like for your child to read more books over the summer, we recommend:

- *Call It Courage* by Armstrong Sperry which is a Realistic/Historical fiction. Summary: An inspiring youth overcomes his fear of the sea and proves his courage to himself and his tribe.
- *Anne Frank: Young Diarist* by Ruth Ashby which is a Biography. Summary: This book follows the life of the Jewish girl who chronicled her day-to-day life in a diary as she hid in an attic in Nazi-occupied Holland for two years.

NOTE: If your child is new to PCS, may we suggest that your child read one or two of these books from *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis as summer reading choices in addition to the required book. These books are class enrichment units in the 3rd-4th grade at PCS: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, *Prince Caspian*, and *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*.

Sixth Grade Summer Reading List - 2024

One of the essential ingredients in your child's academic success is reading outside the classroom. For this reason, PCS has chosen to establish a required summer reading program for students entering 6th grade. The summer reading program is designed to provide your child with an opportunity to extend the reading skills developed during the previous year's instruction in the classroom and through our STAR Renaissance Accelerated Reading Program.

PCS SUMMER READING is required! Students are required to read one book. Of course, students are encouraged to read more, but only this one book will be assessed for summer reading requirements. Assessments will include a written vocabulary test, an Accelerated Reader online test on the book, and a teacher generated written comprehension test. These assessment grades will be entered into Renweb gradebook as a vocabulary test grade and two comprehension test grades during the first nine-weeks. These assessment grades are not eligible to be drop grades at the end of the nine weeks.

Required summer reading for students entering 6th grade in the fall:

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry AR Quiz No. 379

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis. (Book description taken from AR BOOK FINDER)

Number the Stars may be purchased from Books-a-Million, Amazon.com, downloaded to Kindle/ iPad, or checked out from the local public libraries.

ASSESSMENTS will take place in reading class and will include the following:

- Students will write a book report on Number the Stars in class using the writing guidelines in the 6th grade ABEKA Language textbook. This assignment will take place during the first week of school under the instruction and supervision of the reading teacher.
- Students will take a written vocabulary test on August 16th and an Accelerated Reader test and a written comprehension test on August 18th.

For those of you who would like for your child to read more books over the summer, we recommend:

- Gifted Hands, Kids Edition: The Ben Carson Story (Biography) This book is the revised story of Ben Carson, providing an account of how he went from a poor child in Detroit, labeled the class dummy, to one of the world's leading pediatric neurosurgeons. The coauthor is Deborah Shaw Lewis
- Summer of the Monkeys by Wilson Rawls (Realistic/Adventure Fiction) A fourteen-year-old Ozark Mountain boy attempts to recapture monkeys escaped from a traveling circus.
- Souder by William H. Armstrong (Realistic Fiction) Angry and humiliated when his sharecropper father is jailed for stealing food for his family, a young boy grows in courage and understanding by learning to read and through his relation with his devoted dog, Souder.
- My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George (Realistic/Adventure Fiction) Written in the form of a diary, this story relates the days of a young boy in the Catskill Mountains.
(Book descriptions taken from AR BOOK FINDER)

NOTE: If your child is new to PCS, we suggest that your child read one or two of these books from *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis as summer reading choices in addition to the required book. These books are class enrichment units in the 3rd-5th grades at PCS: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, *Prince Caspian*, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, *The Horse and His Boy*, and *The Silver Chair*.