

Grades 1-6 Summer Reading 2026

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 – 2026

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 – 2026

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 – 2026

Required summer reading for students entering 3rd grade in the fall are:

1. *Duck for a Day* by Meg McKinlay
2. *Thunder Cake* by Patricia Polacco

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.

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 – 2026

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.

There is a packet for your child to complete as they read *Shiloh*. This packet will help with vocabulary and comprehension study. Students can complete and return this packet to receive extra points on their summer reading test which will be given the first full week of school.

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).

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

Fifth Grade and Sixth Grade

Summer Reading List – 2026

Fifth Grade: *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau

Sixth Grade: *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry

Summer reading is required! During the first two weeks of school students will complete a variety of graded assignments and assessments in Reading class.

Books may be purchased anywhere books are sold, downloaded to Kindle/ iPad, or checked out from the local public libraries.

Fifth graders have an OPTIONAL packet that can be completed for 10 points towards the first Comprehension Test. This packet enriches vocabulary, deepens comprehension, and garners interest.

Sixth graders do not have a packet.

The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis is a curriculum staple of PCS. If your child is new to PCS, may we suggest that your child read the following books from the series in addition to the required summer reading.

Fifth graders have read: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, *Prince Caspian*, and *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*

Sixth graders have read: the books listed above along with *The Horse and His Boy* and *The Silver Chair*

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
- *Anne Frank: Young Diarist* by Ruth Ashby
- *Gifted Hands, Kids Edition: The Ben Carson Story* (Biography)
- *Summer of the Monkeys* by Wilson Rawls (Realistic/Adventure Fiction)
- *Souder* by William H. Armstrong (Realistic Fiction)
- *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George (Realistic/Adventure Fiction)