

Dear Students,

Welcome to Third Grade! I know you've worked hard all year in second grade to make progress in reading. It's important to keep that effort going during the summer. All rising 3rd grade students must read Third Grade Angels by Jerry Spinelli and Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan. We will complete activities in class related to the stories the first few weeks of school. Please bring your summer reading books to class on the first day of school.

Required Novels:

Third Grade Angels by Jerry Spinelli AR 2.9

Sarah Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan AR 3.4

Read one other book from the list below, and choose one activity to complete from the attached activity list for that book. Bring the completed assignment to class the first day of school. Be ready to take an AR test over all three books, answer reading response questions, and complete assignments when you return to school.

Suggested Books:

Freckle Juice by Judy Blume AR 3.1

How to be Cool in Third Grade by Betsy Duffey AR 3.5

The Courage of Sarah Noble by Alice Dalgliesh AR 3.9

Summer Reading is Killing Me by Jon Scieszka AR 3.9

Ivy and Bean by Annie Barrows AR 3.2

The Trouble with Chickens by Doreen Cronin AR 3.8

The Case of the Rock N Roll Dog by Martha Freeman AR 3.9

The Grasshopper's Song: An Aesop's Fable Revisited by Nikki Giovanni AR 4.5

The Littles by John Peterson AR 3.3, Runaway Ralph by Beverly Cleary AR 4.0

Sounder by William H. Armstrong AR 3.0

The Chalk Box Kid by Clyde Robert Bulla AR 2.7,

Activities (Choose one.)

For the activity, be sure to include the book title, author, and your name.

1. Draw and color a comic strip of your favorite scene or scenes in the book. Write one or two complete sentences explaining the scene. There should be at least four panels in your comic strip.
2. Create a collage of words and pictures about the story.
3. Write an advertisement with colored pictures encouraging someone to read the book.
4. Create a new book jacket for the book. Include a picture with the title and author on the front cover, and write a short summary on the back of your book jacket.
5. Write a friendly letter to one of the characters in your book.
6. Write a different ending for your book. It should be one paragraph.
7. Develop a 5-10 question quiz for the book. Don't forget to include the answers.
8. Make a diorama for the book. It should represent the setting and characters in your story.
9. Write a brief summary **in your own words**, and be sure to include the main characters, setting, and events in the story.

Be sure to include your first and last name on your work. All work must be neat and organized. Although your parents may help you with ideas, the work itself must be your own to receive credit. The completed work will be your first reading grade for the school year. Be prepared to explain your work to your teacher.

Dear Parents,

In the summer reading, I have listed books to meet different reading levels. Your child may read to themselves, they may read aloud to you, or you and your child may alternate reading to each other. Please note that in the reading assignments, the work is not typed, but rather in your child's handwriting.

Helping your child select a "just right" book is very simple. To encourage them to read it is important that they select books that are of interest to them and that they don't encounter a level of reading frustration because the text is too difficult. A smart way to guide your child in proper book selections is to incorporate the "5 Finger Rule." First, have your child choose a book they have an interest in reading. Next, open the book to a random page and have your child read aloud or whisper read the first few lines of the page. Listen carefully and ask your child to hold up one finger for each word that they do not know or stumble upon. If your child holds up 5 fingers before reaching the end of the page that is a sign that the book is too difficult. Holding up 1 finger or none signifies the text may be too easy. The magic number to look for is 2 fingers.

Five Finger Rule

Zero to one finger may be too easy.

Two fingers are just right.

Three fingers may be a little hard, but could be fun to read.

Four fingers are usually difficult to read. Try reading with parents or friends.

Five fingers are too difficult for now, and should be saved for later in the year.

Reading Strategies to Use When Reading with Your Child

- Look at the beginning sounds
- Skip the word and read to the end of the sentence
- Look for key words in the sentence
- Look for smaller words in bigger words
- Does it make sense in the sentence?
- Does it sound right?
- Go back and reread the sentence
- Look at the pictures

Making text connections can help your child's reading comprehension improve as they relate text read into 3 categories: Text-to-self, text- to text, and text- to-world. It's a simple skill that takes just a few minutes to stop, think, and reflect on. Below are some sample questions you can ask your child about their reading endeavors.

Text-to-Self:

- Does this book remind you of something that has happened to you before?
- How can you relate to this text?
- Can you make a connection between one of the characters and yourself?

Text-to-Text

- What happened in this book that reminds you of something that happened in another book?
- How is this book alike or different from the book you previously read?
- Does this remind you of a character from another book?

Text-to-World

- Does this book remind you of any world holidays you celebrate?
- Does this remind you of anything that is currently happening in our world today or in the past?
- Can you think of a place where this might happen?