

# Elementary Summer Reading 2024

## Guilderland - all elementary buildings

### Grades K-1

**Cordell, Matthew.** *Evergreen.*

To deliver her mother's delicious soup to her sick Granny Oak, Evergreen the squirrel must face her fears and make the journey, during which she meets other forest dwellers, including some who want to get their hands on her soup!

**Donaldson, Julia.** *The Baddies.*

A troll, a witch, and a ghost compete to see who can scare the little girl who is new to the their neighborhood, but her courage and kindness defeats them all.

**Dyckman, Ame and Mark Teague.** *Bat, Cat and Rat: three and a half stories.*

In three-and-a-half stories, friends and roommates Bat, Cat and Rat share, joke, and read together.

**Harrison, Vashti.** *Big.*

When a young brown-skinned girl is born, her life is full of possibilities. As she grows and learns, she's told that being a big girl is a good thing. Later, the word big begins to have negative connotations when others use it to make fun of her, exclude her, or single her out, such as in ballet class. Eventually, the girl tires of feeling bad about who she is and she decides to give the hurtful words of others back to them. She stands up for herself and chooses to love herself just as she is.

**Messner, Kate.** *Over and Under the Waves.*

Discover the . . . depths of the kelp forest, and all the . . . creatures living just a paddle's length away-both over and under the waves.

**Montgomery, Sy and Matt Petersen.** *The Book of Turtles.*

This tribute to one of the most diverse, fascinating, and beloved species on the planet (turtles) speaks to the diversity and wisdom of these long-lived reptiles.

**Rash, Andy.** *Eclipse.*

After hearing about the total solar eclipse happening in two months, a boy makes a plan with his father to go see it. They drive to the perfect campsite, not wanting to miss the couple of minutes when the sun will be completely hidden by the moon. When the moment happens, being together makes it even more special. Based on a trip that author-illustrator Andy Rash took with his son to see the eclipse in August 2017, Eclipse is a heartfelt and playfully illustrated ode to seeking out

unique adventures and savoring the most special moments with the people you love. The book features maps of eclipses' paths and scientific back matter about eclipses.

**Smith, Lane. *Stickler Loves the World.***

Stickler is a woodland creature who reminds us to appreciate the everyday wonders we often ignore.

**Tabor, Corey R. *Fox Has a Problem.***

Fox has a not-so-new problem, and every possible solution leads to more problems for the other animals, until they all come together with the ultimate fix.

**Windness, Kaz. *Worm and Caterpillar are Friends.***

A worm and a caterpillar are best friends and when one of them is about to go through a big change, they both learn what is inside is what counts.

## **Grades 2-3**

**Bidania, V. T. *Astrid & Apollo and the giant geography project.***

Astrid and Apollo, eight-year-old Hmong American twins, embark on a papier-mâché project to create famous landmarks from Laos for the Magnificent Wonders of the World Exhibit, but encounter an unexpected problem that threatens the twins' participation. Includes Hmong words and their definitions.

**Doerrfeld, Cori. *Beneath.***

Finn is in a bad mood, so his grandfather takes him on a walk in the forest, and tells him about all the things that are beneath the surface of plants and animals--and even people.

**Lanan, Jessica. *Jumper : a day in the life of a backyard jumping spider.***

A nonfiction picture book that follows a day in the life of a backyard jumping spider. Includes information about jumping spiders.

**Lavelle, Kari. *Butt or face? : Can you tell which end you're looking at?***

In . . . [this book], weird animals are introduced with a close-up photo. Kids must guess: are they seeing . . . the bottom or the top? Readers will learn about animals like Cuban Dwarf Frogs, whose backsides look like a pair of eyes, and the Mary River Turtle, which not only has a unique face, but even breathes through its butt! On every reveal page, kids can enjoy the animals' complete photos and . . . scientific facts, which explain how the critters' camouflage and trickery help them to engage with their habitats.

**Messner, Kate.** *Fergus and Zeke.*

Fergus, the pet mouse in Miss Maxwell's classroom, stows away in a backpack on a field trip to the museum. He makes a new friend, Zeke, another mouse, who shows Fergus many interesting exhibits, but now he wonders how to get back to school.

**Scheidt, Dave.** *Mayor Good Boy.*

A small town elects a dog mayor and, even with foes trying to put a stop to his campaign of fun, Mayor Good Boy helps Greenwood become a town filled with kindness.

**Shasken, Steven.** *Pizza and Taco. Who's the Best?*

Best friends Pizza and Taco agree on nearly everything until Pizza declares himself the best of all, leading to debating, voting, competing, and finally defining what being the best really means.

**Smith, Nikkolas.** *The Artist.*

Motivated by the realization of global inequities, a young boy embraces his dual identities as an artist and activist, becoming an "artist" to make a difference by using his viral mural as a catalyst for positive change.

**Steinke, Aron Nels.** *Mr. Wolf's Class.*

Mr. Wolf has just started teaching at Hazelwood Elementary. He wants the first day of school to go well, but he's got his hands full with his new class. Some of his students include: Margot, who is new in town and is trying to make friends. Sampson, who brought something special to school for show-and-tell. Aziza, who just wants everyone to be quiet and do their work. And Penny, who is very sleepy because she has a new baby brother at home, goes missing!

**West, Tracey.** *The Rise of the Earth Dragon.*

Eight-year-old Drake is snatched up by the King's soldiers and taken to the castle where he is told by the wizard Griffith that he has been chosen to be a Dragon Master like Ana, Rori, and Bo--and his first task will be to discover whether his dragon, Worm, has any special powers.

## **Grades 4-5**

**Anderson, M. T.** *Elf Dog and Owl Head.* 229 p.

Quarantined with his family as a global plague ravages the world, Clay retreats to the woods where he meets a special little dog who leads him on surreal adventures where choosing the wrong path could cause them both to lose their way forever.

**Bow, Erin.** *Simon Sort of Says.* 305 p.

Two years after a tragedy saddles him with viral fame, twelve-year-old Simon O'Keeffe and his family move to Grin And Bear It, Nebraska, where the internet and cell phones are banned so

astrophysicists can scan the sky for signs of alien life, and where, with the help of two new friends, a puppy, and a giant radio telescope, Simon plans to restart the narrative of his life.

**Day, Nicholas. *The Mona Lisa vanishes : a legendary painter, a shocking heist, and the birth of a global celebrity.* 276 p.**

A narrative nonfiction about how the Mona Lisa was stolen from the Louvre, how the robbery made the portrait the most famous artwork in the world--and how the painting by Leonardo da Vinci should never have existed at all.

**DiCamillo, Kate. *Ferris.* 226 p.**

During the summer before fifth grade, Ferris Wilkey has her hands full with her little sister terrorizing the town, her Aunt Shirley moving into their basement and her grandmother seeing a ghost--one who has wild, impractical and illuminating plans.

**Eggers, Dave. *The Eyes and the Impossible.* 249 p.**

Johannes, a free dog, lives in a park hemmed in on three sides by dense human neighborhoods, and on one side by the ocean. His job is to be the Eyes--to see everything that happens within the park and report to the park's elders, three ancient bison who ensure the Equilibrium. His friends--a stalwart seagull, a mordant raccoon, a one-eyed squirrel, and a pelican who can read--work with him as the Assistant Eyes, observing the humans and other animals who share the park and making sure everything is in balance. But changes are afoot.

**Hirsch, Andy. *Dogs : from predator to protector.* 119 p.**

Join one friendly mutt on a journey to discover the secret origin of dogs, how genetics and evolution shape species.

**Klassen, Jon. *The skull : a Tyrolean folktale.* 105 p.**

In a big abandoned house, on a barren hill, lives a skull. A brave girl named Otilla has escaped from terrible danger and run away, and when she finds herself lost in the dark forest, the lonely house beckons. Her host, the skull, is afraid of something too, something that comes every night. Can brave Otilla save them both?

**Ogle, Rex and Dave Valeza. *Four Eyes.* 220 p.**

Sixth grade isn't as great as Rex thought it would be. He's the only kid who hasn't had a growth spurt, and the bullies won't let him forget it. His closest friend is unreliable, at best. And there's a cute girl in his class who he can't stop thinking about. With so much going on, everything is a blur, including Rex's vision! So when he discovers that he needs glasses, and his family can only afford the ugliest pair in the store, any hope Rex had of fitting in goes completely out of focus. This moving true story is for anyone who has ever felt like they did not belong!

**Schmidt, Gary D. *The Labors of Hercules Beal.***

Seventh-grader Hercules Beal has to figure out how to fulfill his teacher's assignment of performing the Twelve Labors of Hercules in real life, and discovers important things about friendship, community, and himself along the way.

**Weatherford, Carole Boston. *How do you spell unfair? : MacNolia Cox and the National Spelling Bee.***

A true story of determination and groundbreaking achievement follows eighth grade African American spelling champion MacNolia Cox, who left Akron, Ohio, in 1936 to compete in the prestigious National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., only to be met with prejudice and discrimination.