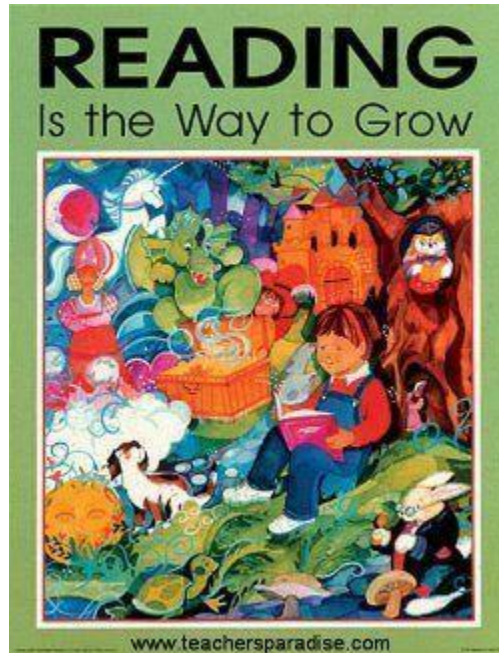


# Summer Reading for Third Graders



Dear Rising Third Graders,

Please read all summer long. There are many opportunities to read, places to read, and books to read. The summer reading assignment is to read at least **five** books. Three should be fiction (made –up stories) and two should be nonfiction (true/informational). Please look at the different genre examples and book titles on the next pages. Please make it your goal to read a variety of books. Record what you have read on the last page.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Bansbach

# What is a Genre?

When you go to the movie theater, how do you decide which movie you want to see? It might depend on what kind of mood you are in. If you're in the mood to be scared, you might want to see a scary movie. If you're in the mood to laugh, you might want to see a comedy. Scary movies and comedies are just a couple examples of the many different **genres** of film. There are genres of literature, too. This means that they are many different kinds or categories of literature, each with their own unique tone and style.

## Fiction

Many books and stories are **fiction**, meaning they are not factual. Fiction books are made-up stories that are often produced by the author's imagination. There are many different genres that fall within the genre of fiction, including (but not limited to):

- Fairy tales: Who doesn't love a good fairy tale? These stories are written for children and include magical characters, like fairies, elves, and dragons. "Cinderella" and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* are examples of fairy tales.
- Mysteries: If you enjoy reading books about detectives or unsolved crimes, then you are a fan of the mystery genre. These books deal with solving a crime or a secret, like the *Encyclopedia Brown* series.
- Horror: Just like there are scary movies, there are scary books. Horror books are written to scare or shock the reader, like the *Goosebumps* series or ghost stories you might tell around a campfire.
- Tall tales: These stories first began in America by the settlers who lived in the wilderness. They are told as if they are true, but they are fiction. Some tall tales are exaggerations of events that actually happened, like the story of Johnny Appleseed.
- Folklore: Has a grandparent ever told you a story that has been passed down through different generations? Folklore typically has cultural relevance, like the folktales of Paul Bunyan and Native American folktales.
- Realistic fiction: These books and stories may seem true, but they are actually fiction and have not occurred in real life. Examples include *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and *The Fault in Our Stars*.

- Science fiction: Do you like stories about aliens or outer space? Then you will enjoy science fiction books because they typically take place in outer space or even in the future, like *Star Wars* or *Animorphs* books.
- Fable: You can normally learn a lesson from the moral of the story in a fable. Often time, the animals speak as humans, like "The Lion and the Mouse" or "The Boy Who Cried Wolf."
- Fantasy: These stories are 'off-the-wall,' with strange and unusual characters or settings. The *Harry Potter* series is an example of fantasy.

## Non-Fiction

### **ANIMALS**

#### ***Bugs and Bugsicles: Insects in the Winter***

by Amy S. Hansen

What happens to insects in winter? Introduce your students to seven different insects: a praying mantis, a field cricket, a ladybug, a honeybee, a pavement ant, a monarch butterfly, and an Arctic woolly bear caterpillar, and discover how they survive and thrive in freezing temperatures.

#### ***Bubble Homes and Fish Farts***

by Fiona Bayrock

Bubbles may seem delicate and fragile, but they play a key role in animal survival. Discover how 16 animals, from juniper spittlebugs to whales, use bubbles in a variety of ways.

#### ***Can an Old Dog Learn New Tricks? And Other Questions About Animals***

by Buffy Silverman

Can 17 common animal adages stand up to science? Find out in this colorful book that will appeal to reluctant readers and animal lovers alike.

#### ***Ready, Set . . . Wait!***

by Patti R. Zelch

People are forewarned of the arrival of a hurricane and have time to prepare. But what about animals? This picture book explains how animals can forecast trouble and prepare for a hurricane.

### **SCIENCE**

#### ***Magic Up Your Sleeve; Amazing Illusions, Tricks, and Science Facts You'll Never Believe***

by Helaine Becker

Explore the science behind the magic of math, chemistry, and physics in dozens of easy-to-follow tricks that will keep your students spellbound. The tricks are clearly explained and use a handful of common household materials.

***The Hive Detectives: Chronicle of a Honey Bee Catastrophe***

by Loree Griffin Burns

Follow four scientists into the field as they try to discover why millions of bees mysteriously vanished, and why their disappearance matters to humans.

**CIVIL RIGHTS**

***Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down***

by Andrea Davis Pinkney

The story of four college students who integrated a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1960. Told in free verse with delicious food metaphors served up with an informative Civil Rights timeline.

***Child of the Civil Rights Movement***

by Paula Young Shelton

Written by the daughter of a Civil Rights leader, this memoir shows what it was like growing up during the Civil Rights movement.

**SPACE**

***Cars on Mars: Roving the Red Planet***

by Alexandra Siy

Take a ride on Spirit and Opportunity, two rovers that have been sending back data to earthlings since 2003.

***Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11***

by Brian Floca

Go along for the ride with NASA's Apollo 11, the mission that put the first astronauts on the moon. Those who want to delve into the mission in more detail can read the amended note at the end.

***Older Than the Stars***

by Karen C. Fox

The big bang theory is explained in rhyme to satisfy younger readers, while sidebars showcase language that's appropriate for older readers.

**WOMEN IN HISTORY**

***Phillis Sings Out Freedom: The Story of Phillis Wheatley and George Washington***

by Ann Malaspina

When General George Washington was feeling discouraged in the fall of 1775, Phillis Wheatley knew just how he felt. Wheatley, an African-American poet who had fought for her own freedom, wrote the soon-to-be president a poem to boost his spirits.

### ***She Loved Baseball: The Effa Manley Story***

by Audrey Vernik

In the early 1900s, most folks would have said, "Baseball's no place for a woman." But Effa Manley didn't listen. She bought and managed the Newark Eagles, a baseball team in the Negro National League. When she fought to have her players included in the Baseball Hall of Fame, she never dreamed that she would one day be inducted right along with them.

### ***Soar, Elinor!***

by Tami Lewis Brown

Young Elinor Smith didn't listen when people said only men could fly airplanes. She became America's youngest pilot ever, flying underneath all four of New York City's East River bridges.

## **INVENTORS**

### ***The Boy Who Invented TV: The Story of Philo Farnsworth***

by Kathleen Krull

Follow a young boy's journey from farm hand to inventor of one of the planet's most famous machines, the television. Farnsworth's fascination with machines and electricity will inspire your students to examine the link between science and technology.

### ***The Day-Glo Brothers***

by Chris Barton

In the 1930s, brothers Joe and Bob wanted to enhance Joe's magic act. They ended up coloring our world with their trial-and-error invention of fluorescent colors.

### ***Neo Leo: The Ageless Ideas of Leonardo da Vinci***

by Gene Barretta

Who invented the robot? What about tanks? Contact lenses? Answer: Leonardo da Vinci, 500 years before these ideas ever came into being. Truly a man born before his time, Leo's story inspires the importance of thinking big.

## **MATH**

### ***Pythagoras and the Ratios***

by Julie Ellis

Explore ratio and proportion with a young Pythagoras in this Math Adventures series. Includes a historical note and instructions for making an instrument using Pythagorean ratios and glasses of water.

### ***Growing Patterns: Fibonacci Numbers in Nature***

by Sarah C. Campbell

Invite your students to explore patterns with the Fibonacci sequence, where each number in the pattern is the sum of the two preceding numbers. Photos illustrate how the sequence is found in nature, from the petals of a flower to pinecones to a nautilus shell.

<b>Genre</b>	<b>Number of Pages</b>	<b>Book Title and Author</b>	<b>Thumbs Up Or Thumbs Down?</b>