



SUMMER

reading list

Grades 2 to 3
2025

A Message to Pingry Families

June 2025

One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is a love of reading that will last a lifetime. The Lower School Library Summer Reading Program encourages pleasure reading as a guide for Pingry students' book choices during summer break.

We hope that our students will enjoy some wonderful experiences this summer, including sailing away with a treasured book!

Our list features a wide variety of genres and difficulty levels for every child to find something to spark their interest.

Students also have the opportunity to share their summer reading adventures! See the following resources for more optional summer reading fun:

- Postcards to the Library Program - Send postcards to the Library! See directions for participation on the next page.
- Reading Log - Set a reading goal and record all the amazing books read during the summer.
- Required Reading- Books for rising 3rd graders are noted.

Have a wonderful and book-filled break!

Happy Reading,
Ms. O'Holla and Miss Newman



Required Reading



Required Reading for Rising Third Graders

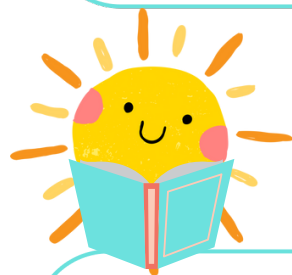


My Rotten Redheaded Older Brother by Patricia Polacco

There's nothing worse than a rotten redheaded older brother who can do everything you can do better! Patricia's brother Richard could run the fastest, climb the highest, and spit the farthest and still smile his extra-rotten, greeny-toothed, weasel-eyed grin.

Big Red Lollipop by Rukhsana Khan

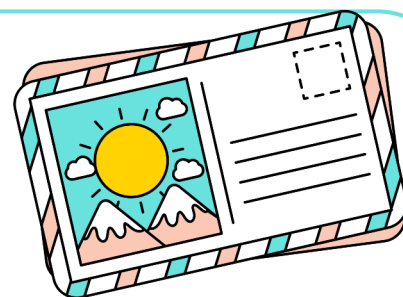
Rubina has been invited to her first birthday party, and her mother, Ami, insists that she bring her little sister along. Rubina is mortified, but she can't convince Ami that you just don't bring your younger sister to your friend's party.



How to Participate in “Postcards to the Library”

Send postcards to the Library at the below address:

The Pingry School Library
50 Country Day Drive
Short Hills, NJ 07078



- Send one postcard for every book you read.
- Postcards can be sent from anywhere. You do not need to travel!
- Include the book title, author's name, your first and last name, and what you liked about the book.
- Each postcard is entered in a drawing to be held at the start of the school year. Only postcards meeting the above criteria will be entered in the drawing.
- One postcard per grade will be chosen at random and prizes will be awarded. There will also be a drawing with a prize from the pool of all grades' postcards.
- Postcards will be displayed in the hallway outside the library.



Picture Books



Hello Lighthouse by Sophie Blackall. *Caldecott Medal Winner*.

On the highest rock of a tiny island stands a lighthouse. The lighthouse keeper, his wife and baby tend to the light and all the chores. Together they live in the lighthouse, keeping the ships safe.

Grace for President by Kelly DiPucchio Grace campaigns for president of her grade, but when her competition seems to have the support of all the male voters, she must use all her campaigning skills to win them over by showing she is the best person for the job.

Ellen's Broom by Kelly Starling Lyons

Ellen brings the broom her parents used in their wedding ceremony and accompanies them to the courthouse when the law changes and they are allowed to officially marry.

Finding Lincoln by Ann Malaspina

Louis needs to write an essay for school about young Abraham Lincoln. It's 1951 in Alabama, and African Americans can't use the public library. Then one courageous librarian lets him in after hours...

Finding Winnie, The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear by Lindsay Mattick

In 1914, a veterinarian on his way to tend horses in World War I, followed his heart and rescued a baby bear. This is the remarkable true story that inspired Winnie-the-Pooh.

Don't Touch My Hair by Sharee Miller

A fun picture book that teaches the importance of asking for permission first as a young girl attempts to escape the curious hands that want to touch her hair.

My Papi Has a Motorcycle by Isabel Quintero

In this celebration of a vibrant immigrant neighborhood, Daisy Ramona loves to zoom around her neighborhood with her papi on his motorcycle. She sees the people and places she's always known. She also sees a community that is rapidly changing around her.

Grandad's Camper by Harry Woodgate

Gramps and Grandad were adventurers. But after Gramps died, granddad hasn't felt like traveling anymore. So their amazing granddaughter comes up with a clever plan to fix up the old camper and get Grandad excited to explore again.



Chapter Book Series: Realistic Fiction



Frankie Sparks and the Class Pet by Megan Frazer Blakemore

Frankie's class is getting a pet, and she's sure that a rat is the best choice, but she'll have to convince the whole class—including her best friend Maya.

Rafi and Rosi Music! by Lulu Delacre

In this early reader set in Puerto Rico, anthropomorphic tree frog siblings Rafi and Rosi explore their surroundings and learn about the traditions of their culture.

Yasmin in Charge by Saadia Faruqi

In this collection of four short stories, Yasmin gets solvin' at school, in the kitchen, at the zoo, and in her neighborhood. A Renaissance girl for contemporary times.

Jasmine Toguchi, Mochi Queen by Debbi Michiko Florence Every year for New Year, Jasmine Toguchi's family makes mochi. Though mocha-tsuki, or the creation of these Japanese sweet rice cakes, is reserved for the men in the family, Jasmine is determined to be the first girl and first person under 10 to help.

Truman the Dog by Debbi Michiko Florence

Kaita, a loving pet owner and future vet, is thrilled when her father tells her the family will be fostering another dog, but making Truman feel at home is harder than it looks.

Meet the Crew at the Zoo by Patricia Reilly Giff

Luke and younger sister Benita go on a slew of new adventures through their father's new job as a zoo doctor. Short chapters, interesting facts about the zoo animals and wildlife, and illustrations throughout help accelerate the sweet, informative plot.

Sarai and the Meaning of Awesome by Sarai Gonzalez & Monica Brown

Teenage activist, actress, and internet sensation Gonzalez teams with Brown and Almeda for a feel-good story based on Gonzalez's own life.

How To Test a Friendship by Theanne Griffith

The arrival of new student Deepak turns best friend Pablo and Violet's duo into a trio, but Pablo isn't sure he likes competing for Violet's attention. But when the three must work together at the magical Maker Maze, they soon cement their initially shaky friendship.



Chapter Book Series: Humor



Cheetah Chases the Story by J.L. Anderson

Lively Cheetah is on assignment for WILD Action News. He spots Warthog, who has a tip for Cheetah about a developing story. It seems that some of the animals are leaving the preserve.

Didi Dodo, Future Spy: Recipe for Disaster by Tom Angleberger

Koko Dodo's Super-Secret Fudge Sauce has been stolen and he can't remember the secret ingredient to make more. With the Royal Cookie Contest right around the corner, he enlists the help of his friend Didi Dodo to solve the case.

Noodleheads: Fortress of Doom by Tedd Arnold & others

Arnold's buoyant illustrations and the protagonists' goofy dialogue are sure to entice readers into the latest installment of the Noodleheads, who are as clueless as ever.

Mac B, Kid Spy by Mac Barnett

One day, Mac receives a telephone call from the Queen, recruiting him to find the crown jewels (well, actually just the Coronation Spoon) and so Mac embarks on his first adventure as a secret agent--as long as the Queen will give him a note excusing him from school.

Snow Day in May by Christine Evans

Second grader Raven Rose dreads doing her "Voices from History" project. After wishing that "something magical could happen" to cancel the presentation, she stumbles upon a coin, makes a wish, tosses the coin into an old well, and is ushered into the mysterious Wish Library. Newly independent readers will relate to Raven while finding humor in the imposing librarian and unbelievable consequences of Raven's wish.

Princess Truly: I am Supergirl! by Kelly Greenawalt

Meet Princess Truly! With the help of her rocket boots and her magical, sparkly curls, she becomes a super girl and uses her smarts and strength to save the day. But when her friend Lizzie has a rescue mission of her own, Lizzie doesn't feel so super. Can Truly help her friend believe in herself and find her confidence?

Pug's Snow Day by Kyla May

When Bella tells Bub that she is wishing for a snow day this winter, Bub has no idea what she mean, in a hilarious and heartwarming tale of a dog's first snow.

The Fuzzy Apocalypse by Jonathan Messinger

In this wacky sci-fi adventure, a young troop of interstellar space scouts explore both a new planet and the limits of their friendship. The fast-paced plot dabbles in high stakes problems, but the narrative remains lighthearted and at times downright silly, as do Bitskoff's cheerful illustrations, sprinkled throughout the text.

Chapter Book Series: Mystery



The Powwow Thief by Joseph Bruchac

Marie Longbow and her twin brother Jamie accompany their grandparents to a powwow to sell jewelry and regalia. After the family returns from participating in the Friendship dance, they find that Grama's best piece of jewelry is missing. Using both brains and brawn, the twins track down a surprising thief.

Rory Branagan: Detective by Andrew Clover Meet RORY he eats bad guys for breakfast—well, not actually. But he is the best detective in town. With his canine sidekick and friend, Wilkins Welkin, and his nosy but helpful neighbor, Cassidy Corrigan.

Mystery on the Ostrich Express by Laura James

Fabio the flamingo detective is back to solve the next mystery, a stolen necklace on the Ostrich Express, in this endearing and colorful sequel.

The Case of the Loathsome School Lunches by Angie Lake

Mina Mistry is a girl who takes investigation extremely seriously; when Mina's school has a healthy eating assembly speaker, she notices that many of the options being served to students are unhealthy. Why would the school promote healthy eating, but serve unhealthy foods? Excerpts of Mina's various files give the chapters a nice break, adding dimension to the characters and storyline.

Sherlock Sam and the Sinister Letters in Bras Basah by A.J. Low

Junior detective Sam and his friends, aka Sherlock Sam and the Supper Club, are back on the case in their third mystery set in Singapore.

Heart of Gold by Shannon Penney

In this sparkly, fun series featuring puppy-unicorn hybrids known as Cutiecorns., Sparkle, with the help of her friends Twinkle and Flash, must put together the clues left behind to find the thief who stole her cherished necklace.

The Amazing Life of Azaleah Lane by Nikki Shannon Smith

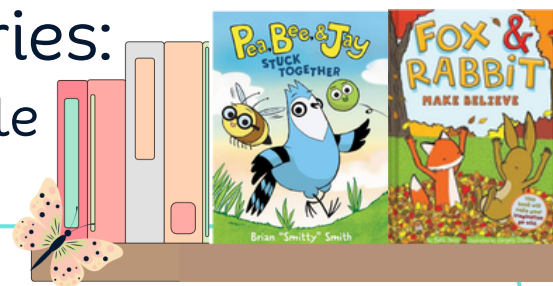
This enjoyable chapter book revolves around Azaleah and her upper-middle-class African American household and the ups and downs of family life in a Washington, DC suburb. Can she solve the mystery of her sister's missing stuffed frog and finish her diorama for school, or is she setting herself up for disappointment?

Who is the Mystery Reader? by Mo Willems

The gang from *I Lost My Tooth* is back in three episodic vignettes tied together by squirrels, puns, and acorn jokes. Silliness ensues as the squirrels try to figure out the identity of the Mystery Reader, a squirrel wearing a red mask and underpants.



Chapter Book Series: Graphic Novel-Style



Peter and Ernesto: The Lost Sloths by Graham Annable

When a hurricane destroys their tree, a group of sloths led by anxiety-ridden Peter and adventurous Ernesto journey through the jungle in search of a new home. Though this story is simple enough for the youngest graphic novel fans, Annable's exaggerated, pop-eyed cartoons brim with emotion, heightening the stakes and making the happy ending all the more satisfying.

Poppy and Sam and the Search for Sleep by Cathon

In this latest installment in the kid-friendly series, a tiny girl named Poppy and her panda friend Sam live in a garden and make plans to hibernate as fall turns to winter. But as hard as she tries, Poppy can't fall asleep. She seeks advice from their garden neighbors. Unfortunately, their suggestions aren't helpful.

Fox & Rabbit Make Believe by Beth Ferry

Whether Fox and Rabbit are navigating a corn maze or buying ice cream, they are inseparable. Confectionary days of ice cream and playgrounds, coupled with cooperation and respectful communication, make this an easy recommendation for young readers.

InvestiGators by John Patrick Green

In the first installment of what promises to be a wildly successful graphic novel series, Green (Kitten Construction Company) once again shows off his knack for pun-filled animal tales.

Fuzzy Baseball: Vol. 3: R.B.I. Robots by John Steven Gurney

It's baseball season, and the Fernwood Valley Fuzzies return to face a new group of rivals, the Geartown Clankees. While the Fuzzies include animals—rabbits, bears, possums—the Clankees are robots in disguise, and when their secret is revealed, the Fuzzies are upset!

Pea, Bee, & Jay: Stuck Together by Brian "Smitty" Smith A rebellious pea rolls away from the familiarity of his farm on a dare and gets lost, finding help from a bespectacled, know-it-all honeybee and a blue jay who's a nervous flier. Smith infuses his gentle tale of friendship with wordplay, a sense of the absurd, and a smattering of the subversive.

The Sewer Rat Stink by Geronimo Stilton & Elisabetta Dami

A horrible stench has invaded New Mouse City, and citizens are leaving in droves, so Geronimo and his old pal private detective Hercule Poirat venture into the smelly sewers of Mouse Island to investigate. Angleberger, best known for his "Origami Yoda" series, has adapted the escapades about the renowned rat reporter into a graphic novel; fans will be spellbound.

Shark and Bot by Brian Yanish

A great white shark and a robot become unlikely but fast friends in this new chapter book graphic novel. There's enough wackadoo humor here to make the upbeat, slightly hamfisted story go down without a hiccup, especially when Shark and Bot take on a squad of territorial playground kids. Shove Shark and Bot into the bottomless pit that is the elementary schooler's appetite for funny graphic novel chapter books.



Chapter Books



My Name is Maria Isabel by Alma Flor Ada

Maria Isabel, born in Puerto Rico and now living in the United States, badly wants to fit in at school. The teacher's writing assignment gives her that opportunity.

Just Harriet by Elana K. Arnold

Harriet is unhappy when she learns that she's going to have to spend her summer at her grandmother's Marble Island inn off the coast of California. She's angry and determined that she won't have a good time...until she discovers a mystery involving her Dad.

The Lucky Baseball Bat by Matt Christopher

Martin is new to the neighborhood and wants to make a good impression on his new teammates. But when he loses his lucky baseball bat, Martin fears that he has also lost his ability to play baseball.

The Dog who Lost His Bark by Eoin Colfer

This is the story of Oz, a puppy who journeys from pound to best pal when he meets human Patrick.

The Lemonade War (and sequels) by Jacqueline Davies

Evan and his younger sister, Jesse, battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn 100 dollars.

The Year of Billy Miller by Kevin Henkes

Seven-year-old Billy Miller starts second grade with a bump on his head and a lot of worries, but by the end of the year he has developed good relationships with his teacher, his little sister, and his parents, and has learned some important lessons.

Megabat by Anna Humphrey

A sweet and hilarious chapter book about a boy and a bat, two unlikely friends who bond over loneliness, jellyrolls and Darth Vader.

Betsy-Tacy (and sequels) by Maud Hart Lovelace

Betsy and Tacy are such good friends that everyone on Hill Street thinks of them as one person, Betsy-Tacy.



Chapter Books (continued)



Jo Jo Makoons: The Used-to-be Best Friend by Dawn Quigley

Jo Jo Makoons moves through the world a little differently than anyone else on her Ojibwe reservation. Even though Jo Jo loves her #1 best friend Mimi (who is a cat), she's worried that she needs to figure out how to make more friends. Because Fern, her best friend at school, may not want to be friends anymore.

Mindy Kim and the Yummy Seaweed Business by Lyla Lee

After Mindy Kim's mother dies, Mindy and her father move to Florida, where she finds a new circle of friends, launches a seaweed snack business, and lands herself in the principal's office.

Rock Star by Kelly Starling

After rock lover Jada Jones's best friend moves away, Jada struggles, but her hopes are lifted when her teacher announces a new project on rocks and minerals

The Birthday Castle by Dee Romito.

How can a kid earn some fast cash? A fort-building business!

Nina Soni, Former Best Friend by Kashmira Sheth.

When Nina Soni accidentally breaks her best friend's art project, their relationship turns rocky—and no matter what she does, Nina can't seem to fix it.

Chapter Two Is Missing by Josh Lieb

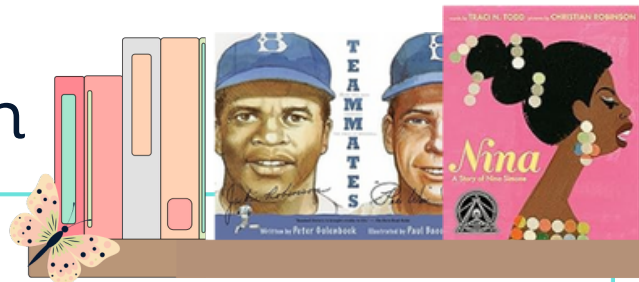
The narrator teams up with Detective McGarrigan, Milo the janitor, and the reader to help to find chapter two and continue the story in this highly interactive tale.

Hocus and Pocus and the Spell for Home by A.R. Capetta

Puppies Hocus and Pocus are still waiting to be adopted from the Shelter for Slightly Magical Pets. Even though Hocus can see two minutes into the future and Pocus can turn bad feelings into bubbles (which he eats!), nobody seems to want them. This could be because the two keep causing mischief so they won't be separated



Nonfiction



The Crayon Man: The True Story of the Invention of Crayola Crayons by Natascha Biebow
A colorful picture book biography of a fascinating inventor!

The Truth About Your Favorite Animals Series by Maxwell Eaton
This hilarious series offers a lighthearted look filled with useful facts about animals that will make you laugh so hard, you won't even realize you're learning something!

Teammates by Peter Golenbock
When Jackie Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers and became the first Black Major League baseball player, his friendship with his white teammate, Pee Wee Reese, helped him through the racial prejudice.

Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist by Jess Keating
Eugenie devoted her life to learning about sharks and taught the world that sharks are to be admired rather than feared.

This Is How I Do It: One Day in the Life of You and 59 Real Kids from Around the World by Matt LaMothe
For fans of *This Is How We Do It*, this interactive activity book invites readers to document their lives and daily rituals alongside 59 real kids.

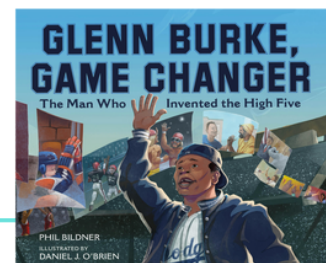
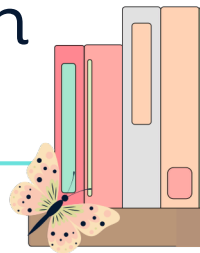
Ordinary People Change the World (i.e. I Am) series by Brad Meltzer
A favorite picture book biography series!

Nina: A Story of Nina Simone by Traci N. Todd
This picture book biography tells the story of little Eunice who grew up to become the acclaimed singer Nina Simone and her bold, defiant, and exultant legacy.

Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuku Ando by Andrea Wang
For years, Momofuku Ando dreamed about making a new kind of ramen noodle soup that was quick, convenient, and tasty. This is the true story behind the creation of one of the world's most popular foods.



Nonfiction (continued)



Rebel Girls Celebrate Neurodiversity: 25 Tales of Creative Thinkers by Rebel Girls

This collection features 25 inspiring tales of neurodivergent artists, athletes, innovators, and more. Read about how these women and girls thought creatively, achieved their dreams, and advocated for the rights of neurodivergent people everywhere.

Glenn Burke, Game Changer: The Man Who Invented the High Five by Phil Bildner Playing for the Los Angeles Dodgers, Glenn Burke could do it all—hit, throw, run, field. He was the heart of the clubhouse who energized his teammates with his enthusiasm and love for the game. It was that energy that led Glenn to invent the high five one October day back in 1977—a spontaneous gesture after a home run that has since evolved into our universal celebratory greeting.

Memory Garden Hardcover by Zohreh Ghahremani

A lively afternoon together in Nana's garden is full of laughter, discovery, and connection. In lyrical text that blends past and present, Memory Garden takes us to the places we leave behind but never forget

The Secret Elephant: Inspired By a True Story of Friendship by Ellan Rankin

A remarkable friendship between a baby elephant and her keeper shows that kindness is never forgotten. Inspired by a true story, this uplifting picture book is a perfect read for animal lovers of all ages

Journey to the Stars: Kalpana Chawla, Astronaut by Laurie Wallmark and Raakhee Mirchandani

A powerful story of hope about a woman who fought against all odds to become the first Indian American female astronaut.

The Life-Changing Magic of Chess: A Beginner's Guide with Grandmaster Maurice Ashley by Maurice Ashley

After making history as the chess world's first Black Grandmaster, Maurice Ashley went on to become a three-time national championship coach and commentator. Now he's sharing his passion for chess with YOU!

Club Microbe (Elise Gravel Club) by Elise Gravel

In Club Microbe, Elise Gravel teaches young readers that germs live all around us—and even inside of us! Guided by Gravel in this formidable introduction to the fascinating world of microorganisms, we learn that some microbes get a bad rep for making us sick, but that most are helpful creatures that allow us to digest food, make cheese, and even enable snowflakes to form in winter.