Dear Second Grade Students & Families,

Here’s the summer reading assignment for students entering 3rd grade next year:

- Parents will help students use the “I PICK Good Fit Books” strategy to select their books (see attached description).
- Read two fiction and two non-fiction books. You can keep track of these and other books you read on one of the reading trackers recommended by Mrs. Fehrenbach.
- Bring two books (one fiction and one non-fiction) on the first day of school. These should be books that you have not read yet but would like to read in class.

Sincerely,
The 3rd Grade Team
**I PICK** Good Fit Books

*Information for Second Grade Parents*

Third graders learn why it is important to choose books that they can read well, and they learn how to choose good fit books. Research shows when children are reading independently, they should read books they understand and can read with 99% accuracy. When children read books that are too difficult they are not able to understand the story; sometimes they become frustrated, and other times they “fake” read, which does not lead to growth. We want third graders to enjoy reading and to read texts that support their growth as readers and thinkers, which means it is important that they are reading books they are interested in and on their just right level.

Current second graders will get to try out the **I PICK strategy for book selection** for summer reading. I PICK stands for: I choose books to read, Purpose, Interest, Comprehend, and Know the words.

Here are some easy steps that you and your child can follow in order to choose good fit books.

Have your child choose a book. This is the first I in I PICK which means **I choose books to read**.

**Purpose:** Ask your child, “What is your purpose for choosing this book? Is it for fun or to learn something?”

**Interest:** Ask, “Is this a book you are interested in? What do you find appealing about this book?”

**Comprehend:** Have your child read a page of the book. After your child reads the page, ask your child, “Who did you read about and what did they do?” If it is a good fit book your child should be able to answer your question.

**Know the words:** Have your child read another page (or use the same page) and ask, “Did you know the words?” Your child should know all or almost all of the words in order for it to be a good fit book.

Going through the steps of choosing a good fit book should only take a few minutes. Some children master this process quickly while others may need more guidance.
**Book-Finding Resources**


Check the reading level of a specific title. Find just the right books -- search by reading and interest level, subject, and genre.


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**Series Books that Hook Readers**

**Ottoline and the Yellow Cat**  by Chris Riddell

Ottoline is an interesting girl - strong and curious with lots of interesting traits. And she loves disguises and solving puzzles! The book is not quite a graphic novel, but the illustrations tell much of the story. The illustrations are black and white with a bit of red, and really bring the characters to life. This is the first book in a series of three.

**Roscoe Riley Rules**  by Katherine Applegate

Right away, I could tell kids would like the concept of this book. The main character, Roscoe, tells each book in the series from his "Official Time-Out Corner." Each book begins with Roscoe calling you over to his Time-Out Corner, and then telling the story of why he is there. Pretty clever. Roscoe seems to enjoy his corner well enough, and his parents and teachers seem to love and understand him well! This is a new series.

**Ellie McDoodle**  Series by Ruth McNally Barshaw

This is a new series with two books available so far. Ellie McDoodle is a girl who is easy to like. These books are actually Ellie's sketch journals. The combination of text, sketches, comics and white space will definitely appeal to fans of Captain Underpants. Ellie is always dealing with things that are typical for kids in this age group - moving, new school, family vacations, and more.

**Babymouse**  Series by Jennifer and Matt Holm

This is a terrific series for readers who are new to graphic novels. Babymouse is a character who has a vivid imagination - one that we often get to see! The graphic novels are done in black, white and pink. The text is simple and is part of each book.

**Hikaru No Go**  Series by Yumi Hotta

This is a more complex graphic novel series for readers who are new to the format. Hikaru teams up with a ghost of an ancient master of the Chinese board game Go. The book is part fantasy, part adventure. This is an engaging series for readers who enjoy graphics and adventure.
**Stink** Series by Megan McDonald

Stink is Judy Moody's younger brother. These books are a bit easier than the Judy Moody series and they incorporate more graphics. Illustrations appear on several pages in each book. There are also related comics and graphics throughout the book. In each issue, Stink tries to solve a variety of problems.

**Martin Bridge** Series by Jessica Scott Kerrin

This book is full of adventure as Martin creates new projects. This is a wonderful book for readers who are new to chapter books. Each book contains three chapters but each chapter is almost like a short story. The drawings support the text in this series.

**Journal of a Cardboard Genius** Series by Franki Asch

Alex invents many things in this series. Readers get to peek into his inventor's notebook that is full of his thinking, with drawings, labels, and other jottings. The author has done a great job finding a unique way to combine text and graphics in crafting a humorous story.

**Just Grace** Series by Charise Mercie Harper

Grace is one of four girls named Grace in her class so she is called "Just Grace." Grace is a strong-willed girl who has amazing adventures. Throughout the text, illustrations and graphics add to the story, and the text is rich in humor.

**Superhero ABC** by Bob McLeod

I try to include picture books in all of my baskets of books. Superhero ABC is a great comic-style book that takes a look at creative superheroes whose names begin with each letter of the alphabet. Each character has special powers that relate to the letter that begins their name.

**Transformed: How Everyday Things Are Made** by Bill Slavin

Kids love to know how things are made. Including this book in the basket invites readers to try a nonfiction text. Readers who love the graphics of Captain Underpants will love the diagrams in this book. Each two-page spread shares the steps necessary in making an item such as a football. The funny cartoon-like illustrations make this a fun read.

I also look for authors who have a variety of genres and formats in their work. **Ralph Fletcher** and **Jon Scieszka** each have variety in the types of books they write.

**Series Books for Transitional Readers**

If our kids read books that are too complex, they start assuming that reading is always a challenge. As my students begin to move into reading chapter books as part of their independent reading, I am always on the lookout for new series and books for reader who are new to chapter books. Here are some of my favorite new finds for transitional readers:

**Babymouse** by Jennifer Holm and Matthew Holm

This is a terrific new series of graphic novels featuring a female character. It is full of humor and the graphic effects make it a hit with boys and girls. This series was the first to "hook" me onto graphic novels.
Ivy and Bean by Annie Barrows

This is a fun new series about two girls who become best friends. They are very different from each other but are always getting into some kind of trouble. I have only read the first in the series but I'm already looking forward to reading more installments.

Stink: The Incredible Shrinking Boy by Megan McDonald

Stink is Judy Moody's brother. If you like Judy Moody, you will also enjoy Stink. The text is a bit easier than the Judy Moody books and it is a perfect length for transitional readers.

Shredderman by Wendelin Van Draanen

Shredderman is a series that is loved by readers new to chapter books as well as more independent readers. You can't help but love the character in this series who creates a new identity for himself on the Internet-one to combat bullying. This is the first series I've seen that incorporates today's technology so creatively.

Geronimo Stilton by Geronimo Stilton

Although these books have sophisticated humor, the text is easy to read. It is almost a rerebus in form so it is good for readers who are intimidated by too much text on a page. The pictures and the variety of fonts break up the text in creative ways - it's a colorful and engaging read.

Charlie Bone by Jenny Nimmo

I like these books, and not necessarily for students new to chapter books. Each book in the series is big and fat BUT they have large print. So, for readers who are dying to read a fat book like Harry Potter, this is a much better choice. The publisher has done a fine job of creating a series that is accessible to readers wanting to move to longer chapter books.

Mercy Watson by Kate DiCamillo

Kate DiCamillo is one of my favorite authors. This series is a relatively new one about a feisty pig and his adventures. The humor is fun and there are lots of colorful pictures for readers new to chapter books.

The Spiderwick Chronicles by Holly Black and Tony DiTerlizzi

A favorite among chapter book readers of all ages. This series is about a group of siblings who moves to a home with fairies, goblins and more. It is a terrific series for beginning fantasy readers. There is a companion book to this series that is quite enjoyable-Arthur Spiderwick's Field Guide to the Fantastical World Around You which gives information about all of the creatures in the books.

Hank Zipzer by Henry Winkler

Henry Winkler ("The Fonz") has done a fantastic job with these books. He has created a character to love and put him in situations that kids can relate to easily. This is a series that is especially popular with boy readers.
Nonfiction Books You Can Easily Read Cover to Cover

Many of these books are in a nonfiction narrative form that is comfortable for students to read. When students experience reading a book from cover to cover, they learn many new things and build new questions about a topic. Look for nonfiction with great illustrations and/or photographs to support the reader.

**The Journey That Saved Curious George** by Louise Borden

The true story of Margaret and H.A. Rey's escape to the United States with a draft of the first Curious George manuscript in their bag.

**Hey Batta Batta Swing! The Wild Old Days of Baseball** by Sally Cook and James Charlton

A fun look at the history of baseball, this book shares many facts in a kid-friendly way. The illustrations are perfect for the subject.

**You Forgot Your Skirt, Amelia Bloomer** by Shana Corey

It is always surprising to our students that there was a time when girls were not allowed to wear pants. They love to read this simple picture book about Amelia Bloomer who made bloomers popular. A great author's note provides additional information.

**Hero Dogs: Courageous Canines in Action** by Donna M. Jackson

The stories of several "hero dogs" are shared in this book. In narrative form, the author tells the stories of several working dogs that have made a huge impact in the world. The photos help make the information accessible to students.

**Sneeze!** by Alexander Siy

This book shares a great deal of information about sneezes, with a focus on the reasons people sneeze. The magnified photographs add interesting information and make this book visually appealing.

Nonfiction Books with Interesting Topics for Intermediate Readers

**Albino Animals** by Kelly Milner Halls

This book presents information on many albino animals around the world. The photographs are intriguing and draw the reader in.

**Dogs and Cats** by Steve Jenkins

A great book for animal lovers, chock-full of information. The format and illustrations make it one of the best dog and cat books I've seen.

**What Stinks?** by Marilyn Singer

This book obviously focuses on things that stink. It is written with humor and packed with facts. The photos and illustrations are colorful and spread out across the pages.
**Transformed: How Everyday Things Are Made** by Bill Slavin

Kids love to know how things are made. In this book, each two-page spread shares the steps necessary in making an item such as a football. The funny cartoon-like illustrations make this a fun read.

**You Wouldn't Want to Explore With Sir Francis Drake: A Pirate You'd Rather Not Know** by David Stewart

This book is part of a favorite nonfiction series in our classroom. Each book is filled with information about a certain period in history. The illustrations are colorful and humorous.

**Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women** by Catherine Thimmeash

A great collection of short pieces that share stories of things invented by women.