

Welcome 3rd Grade Readers!

Anytime is a great time for reading! Children who read daily are more likely to find academic success. It provides practice of important skills that support learning and thinking. It builds self-esteem and independence, and reading is fun! Reading to and with young children helps them develop a love for reading and become confident and able readers.

Here are some thoughts to encourage your readers:

- Encourage your children to read for pleasure. Visit the library when you can. Let children choose. They often have favorite authors, characters, and interests. It's okay to reread old favorites and make new ones.
- 3rd graders often read longer texts for longer periods of time. They're getting ready to or are now transitioning to chapter books and still enjoy picture books. They are beginning to move from learning to read, to reading to learn.
- Books that are "just right", not too hard and not too easy, are best for independent reading. Reading is a meaning making process so if your child can't read and understand most of what's on the page, save it for the future.
- Reading aloud to your children is a special time. It provides time for great discussions and to enjoy some books that may be difficult to read alone. Reading together builds background knowledge, develops vocabulary, and encourages critical thinking.

Have a great summer and make reading part of the fun!

It has been a joy working with your children. Happy Reading!

Cheryl Miller, CTA Library 2021

Picture Books Here are a few to read together or independently!

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst 1987

Alexander woke up with gum in his hair. Then he tripped over his skateboard. He just knew it was going to be a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. Have you ever had a day like that?

Arthur's Teacher Trouble by Marc Brown 1989 Third-grade Arthur is amazed when he's chosen to be in the school spelling bee. Series

Aunt Chip and the Triple Creek Dam Affair by Patricia Polacco 1996 The people of Triple Creek watch too much TV so Aunt Chip shows them something better to do.

There are many Cinderella variants from around the world. Here are a few:

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters by John Steptoe Reprint 2008 Caldecott Honor African tale of how Mufaro's two daughters react to the King's search for a wife.

The Talking Eggs by Robert San Souci 1989 In this Creole "Cinderella", Blanche is kind, loving and patient, but her older sister Rose takes after their mean, sneaky mother.

The Way Meat Loves Salt by Nina Jaffe 1998 A rabbi's youngest daughter is sent away in disgrace but with some special help, good things happen.

The Cool Bean by Jory John 2019 Everyone knows the cool beans. And there's a bean who wants to be like them. It's hard not to fit in. But soon he discovers that it's coolest to be kind!

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs by Judy Barrett 1978 Strange weather comes to the town of Chewandswallow three times a day – at breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters from Obedience School by Mark Teague 2003 Stuck in obedience school Ike will do, and say, anything to get home. And he does just that in letters home!

Each Kindness by Jacqueline Woodson 2012 After Maya, the new girl, moves away Chloe sadly realizes she should have been kinder and more welcoming

Just Ask: Be Different, Be Brave, Be You by Sonia Sotomayor 2019 The author uses her own childhood experiences to celebrate children with challenges. While building a community garden, the kids ask and answer questions. The author encourages readers to do the same.

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein 1964 Over the course of a boy's life he asks a tree for help, but it is only as an old man that he feels gratitude to the tree.

Dr. Seuss' Hooray for Diffendoffer Day! 1998 Begun by Dr. Seuss and finished years later, by poet Jack Prelutsky & illustrator Lane Smith, this is a hilarious response to school testing and how important it is to teach children to think. Has original drawings and notes from Dr. Seuss.

Hello Lighthouse by Sophie Blackall 2019 Caldecott Medal What is a lighthouse? What does a lighthouse keeper do? Read this book to find out.

Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Pena, Christian Robinson 2016 Caldecott Honor & Newbery Medal CJ and Grandma ride the bus every Sunday. CJ wonders why they don't have a car and why they go to the dirty part of town. His grandma patiently helps him see the beauty in the world around them.

Something From Nothing by Phoebe Gilman 1993 In this modern adaptation of a Jewish folktale, as Joseph grows older, his grandfather redesigns and repurposes the blue baby blanket he made for him when he was born.

Stinky Cheese Man by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith 1992 A retelling that pokes fun at book design and fairy tales. Also read ***The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*** by this duo.

Jumanji by Chris Van Allsburg 30th Anniversary edition (2011) 1981 Caldecott Medal Winner Peter and Judy find a game in the park and take it home. There's a note inside that says, "once the game is started, it must be finished, or it will go on forever". Sequel ***Zathura***

Third graders' interests and reading abilities vary. They enjoy reading books independently that are a good fit. Here's something for every 3rd Grade reader!!

Early Readers

Go West, Amelia Bedelia by Herman Parish 2012 Amelia Bedelia visits her uncle's ranch. The West sure is wild when Amelia comes to town. Series

Fancy Nancy by Jane O'Connor 2005 Nancy loves to wear fancy clothes, play with fancy toys, and most of all, use fancy words! But everyone in her family is just the opposite. Series

Henry and Mudge by Cynthia Rylant 1996 Henry is lonely and wants a pet, so his parents let him get a huge, loveable dog named Mudge. Wonderful series.

Judy Moody and Friends: Triple Pet Trouble by Megan McDonald 2015 Dr. Judy knows about caring for a sick pet, and she's sure Jaws the Venus flytrap is sick. Time for Judy Moody, Pet Vet! Get to know this favorite character in this easy-to-read series.

King and Kayla and the Case of the Secret Code by Dori Hillestad Butler 2017 Kayla and Mason both got mysterious letters, written in code. Can Kayla figure out who sent them? Read all the Kayla and King mysteries! Series

Mercy Watson to the Rescue by Kate DiCamillo 2009 Mr. Watson's usual weekend drive with his pig, Mercy, turns into an adventure when an unexpected passenger shows up in the back seat, and Mercy is driving! Series

Nate the Great by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat 1977 Nate is an extraordinary boy detective.

Chapter Books

A to Z Mysteries by Ron Roy Beginning with ***The Absent Author***, this series has 26 books, one for each letter of the alphabet. In each story, 3 children solve crime and mysteries.

Amber Brown Is Not a Crayon by Paula Danziger 2006 Amber is a third grader with lots of opinions. Series

Amelia Bedelia Means Business by Herman Parish 2013 Amelia wants a new bike, but her parents will only pay half. She needs a job. Young Amelia chapter book!

A Boy Called Bat by Elena Arnold 2017 Bat's mom brings home a baby skunk that needs care before it can go to a wild animal shelter. Bat, a special little boy, wants to care for, and keep it.

Cam Jansen: The Birthday Mystery by David Adler 2005 Cam's grandparents are robbed on their way to a birthday party, so she uses her photographic memory to solve the mystery. Series

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White 1953 Newbery Honor Modern day classic about Wilbur, that "stupendous" pig, and Charlotte. Also by the author is ***Stuart Little***, the classic story of a mouse with human parents.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl 1st publication 1964 Read about Willy Wonka and the lucky children who win a chance to enter his candy factory.

The Chocolate Touch by Patrick Skene Catling First published in 1952, it's a modern take on King Midas. When a boy buys chocolates, he discovers that what he touches turns to chocolate.

Clementine by Sara Pennypacker 2008 Clementine is a funny third grader with a heart of gold and a talent for getting into trouble. Series

Dog Man by Dav Pilkey Kids love this canine cop. Newest in the much loved 10 book series is 2021's ***Dog Man: Mothering Heights***. *Graphic Novel*

Dragon Masters: Rise of the Earth Dragon by Tracey West 2014 In the 19-book series, best read order, Drake joins other dragon masters in-training at the castle. Does he have what it takes to be one?

Eerie Elementary: The School is Alive by Jack Chabert 2014 On his first day as hall monitor Sam discovers that the school is alive! How will he save his classmates from this evil? Series

Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown 2013 reprint After a bulletin board falls on a sleeping Stanley, he discovers that being only a half inch thick has its advantages.

Flora & Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo 2014 Newbery Award A run in with a vacuum cleaner changes Ulysses, a squirrel. Flora, befriends this superhero, and she changes, too.

Gooney the Fabulous by Lois Lowry 2009 Gooney's idea is that the class learns about fables and then write their own. Everyone but Nicholas loves her fabulous idea. Will he come around?

How to be Cool in Third Grade by Betsy Duffy 1993 Robbie plans to be cool but it's not so easy when your mom kisses your goodbye at the bus stop!

Ivy and Bean by Annie Barrows 2006 When they met Bean and Ivy were sure they wouldn't be friends. But when Bean needs help Ivy comes to her rescue, proving that sometimes best friends are people never meant to like each other. Series

Judy Moody by Megan McDonald 2004 Judy Moody is a 3rd grader who has a mood for every occasion and a special face to go with it. Also, read ***Stink***, about Judy's 2nd grade brother. Series

Magic Tree House series by Mary Pope Osborne Jack and his sister Annie find a strange tree house filled with books. Soon it takes them through time and space, and into amazing adventures!

The Mouse and the Motorcycle by Beverly Cleary 1965 Ralph finds a toy motorcycle and takes it for a joyride! When his ride ends in disaster, he makes a new friend.

Mr. Popper's Penguins by Richard Atwater 1939 Newbery Honor Mr. Popper's ordinary life changes when he sends Admiral Drake a letter. The explorer sends him a penguin in return. Let the fun begin!

My Big Fat Zombie Goldfish by Mo O'Hara 2014 After Tom rescues Frankie, the goldfish, from his brother's toxic science experiment, Frankie develops strange hypnotic powers. Series

My Weird School by Dan Gutman This funny series about school life will have readers laughing. Among the many titles are ***Miss Daisy is Crazy*** and ***Mr. Dole is Out of Control***.

Nancy Clancy, Super Sleuth by Jane O' Connor 2013 When one of Nancy's classmate's treasured possessions disappears, it's up to detective Nancy to solve the mystery. Series

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate 2013 Newbery Medal Novel based on the story of Ivan, a gorilla, who lived for years in a circus-themed mall. Also by the author is the non-fiction picture book ***Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla*** 2014

Owl Diaries Book 1: Eva's Treetop Festival by Rebecca Elliott 2015 Eva's in over her head when she creates a Bloomtastic festival for her school. Series. New: ***Unicorn Diaries***

Ramona Quimby, Age 8 by Beverly Cleary Newbery Honor 1982 From the first day of third grade, life for Ramona Quimby is wild. Series

Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlin First published in 1985 A prairie story of a family's experiences with their new mother, Sarah.

Stone Fox by John Reynolds Gardiner 1980 Little Willy's grandpa is sick, and they may lose the farm, so Willy enters the National Dogsled race to win money and save his grandpa and farm.

Third Grade Angel by Jerry Spinelli 2012 "Suds" is now in 3rd grade, and he's heard the rhyme about "first grade babies/second grade cats/third grade angels/fourth grade rats," but what does this mean for his school year?

Teacher Troubles for Jelly Eli Z by David Adler 2018 Eli Zipperbaum is a good kid, but he doesn't always pay attention in class. But then something happens. Is he in trouble? Series

The Trouble with Chickens: A J.J. Tully Mystery by Doreen Cronin 2012 Will a retired rescue dog help 2 chicks and their mom? Also, enjoy, *The Chicken Squad: The First Misadventure*.

The World According to Humphrey by Betty Birney 2005 Humphrey, the hamster, learns a lot about humans when he comes to live in Room 26 – even how to read and write! Read the series.

Non-Fiction

Balloons Over Broadway: the true story of the puppeteer of Macy's Parade by Melissa Sweet 2011 Everyone's a New Yorker on Thanksgiving Day. Read about Tony Sarg, who invented those giant balloons.!

A Boy and a Jaguar by Alan Rabinowitz 2015 Schneider Family Award As a boy Rabinowitz thought he was “broken” because he couldn't speak fluently. He didn't stutter when he talked to animals and grew up to be a wildlife conservationist and a spokesman for stutterers!

The Boy Who Loved Math: The Improbable Life of Paul Erdos by Deborah Heligman 2013 The true story of a mathematical genius who traveled the world problem-solving but wasn't always able to do simple things.

The Brain is Kind of a Big Deal by Nick Seluk 2019 This funny and factual picture book explains the science behind everything the brain helps you do. That's kind of a big deal!

Brothers at Bat by Audrey Vernick 2012 This is the true story of the Acerra family. Twelve of the brothers played on their all-brother baseball team.

Finding Winnie by Lindsay Mattick 2016 Caldecott Medal The true story of Captain Harry Coleburn and a bear cub he rescued during WW I. That bear later became the inspiration for A.A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh.

I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark by Debbie Levy 2016 Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg spent her life disagreeing with inequality, arguing against unfair treatment, and standing up for what's right for people everywhere.

It's Raining Pigs & Noodles by Jack Prelutsky Enjoy this book by the author of *New Kid on the Block*, *Pizza the Size of the Sun* and many more books of funny poems.

Laugh-eteria by Douglas Florian 1999 More than 100 humorous poems for kids. Also by this author *Insectlopedia*, *Beast Feast* and many more.

Locomotive by Brian Floca 2014 Caldecott Award; Siebert Honor Experience the sights and sounds of the Transcontinental Railroad as you learn about our country and the steam engine.

Magic School Bus series by Joanna Cole & Bruce Degen These books combines the make-believe of Ms. Frizzle and her class field trips with real facts about dinosaurs, space, and more.

Magic Tree House Fact Tracker Nonfiction Companions Follow-up a Magic Tree House adventure with books that give factual answers to what you want to know more about.

The Moon Book by Gail Gibbons Update 2019 Simple text and colorful illustrations present fascinating facts about our moon.

National Geographic Readers: Cats vs. Dogs by Elizabeth Carney 2011 Which is better? Let the facts help you decide. Good series.

Nic Bishop Spiders 2007 Beautiful photos and lots of information about these scary creatures.

On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein by Jennifer Berne 2013 The life of Albert Einstein, how he thought and how his ideas changed the way scientists think.

Owen & Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship by Isabella Hatkoff 2006 The amazing story of two friends, an orphaned baby hippo and 130-year-old giant turtle.

Rocks & Minerals (DK Eyewitness Book) by R.F. Symes 2008 Take a look at rocks & minerals. Lots of information and pictures.

She Persisted: Thirteen Women Who Changed the World by Chelsea Clinton 2017 Learn about 13 American women like Helen Keller, Clara Lemlich, and Sally Ride who made their voices heard and accomplished great things.

Teammates by Peter Golenbock 1992 The story of how Jackie Robinson became the first black player on a major league baseball team and how his teammate, Pee Wee Reese, took a stand and declared Jackie his teammate.

What Was the Gold Rush? by Joan Holub 2013 In 1848 gold was discovered in California and then 300,000 rushed there to strike it rich! Easy to read series about historical events.

Who Was Harry Houdini? By Tui Sutherland 2002 Learn about this famous magician and escape-artist. Learn about lots of other famous people, too, in the *Who is.../Who Was...?* series. New in this many book series include Kobe Bryant, Kamala Harris, Mr. Rogers.

Who Would Win: Whale or Giant Squid? by Jerry Pallotta 2018 What would happen if a whale and a giant squid met each other? What if they had a fight? Who would win? Series

Lots of great nonfiction is out there. Your reader's interests are a good guide!