

May 29, 2019

Parents and Students,

Below is a curated list of book recommendations for Rising Kindergarten students, in case you are looking for a place to start with book selection. Please keep in mind these specific titles are ONLY suggestions and are NOT required. Our kindergarten students are at liberty to choose the titles that interest them.

- **Where the Wild Things Are** by: *Maurice Sendak* - (Harper Collins, 1963) *48 pages*. Originally published in 1963, this is the story of Max, who puts on a wolf suit, causes mischief, gets sassy with his mother and is sent to bed without any dinner. The story is one of escaping into a child's imagination when he's on the outs with Mom. Max's room becomes a forest, he finds he has his own boat and then sails off "in and out of weeks...to the place where the wild things are." There, he is not impressed with the posturing of the wild things, and without much ado, he becomes their king. The color illustrations are some of Sendak's best (he won the 1964 Caldecott Medal for them), and the wild things are very huggable-looking. This is a bedtime classic that transcends time.
- **Kindergarten Rocks!** by: *Katie Davis* - (Harcourt Children's Books, 2005) *32 pages*. Meet Dexter, a soon-to-be kindergartner! He's terrified and has thoughts of all kinds of reasons to be so. A must-read to help relieve the anxiety all of us feel when starting school. Dexter finds out it's okay to be scared.
- **Chicka Chicka Boom Boom** by: *Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault*, illustrated by: *Lois Ehlert* - (Simon and Schuster, 1989) *36 pages*. When "a" tells "b" and "c", "d" and "e" to meet at the top of the coconut tree, all of the alphabet joins in the rollicking adventure. Too many vowels and consonants bring a crash that calls mamas, papas, uncles and aunts (the capital letters, of course) to the rescue. Skit Skat Skoodle Doot, Flip Flop Flee, no sooner are the little letters comforted and consoled than the rhyming tale begins anew

with a moonlight challenge: “Dare double dare, you can’t catch me. I’ll beat you to the top of the coconut tree!”

- **The Bravest of the Brave** by: *Shutta Crum*, illustrated by: *Tim Bowers* - (Random House Children's Books, 2005) 32 pages. The rhythm of this tale about a skunk — who heads home and wonders about robbers, pirates, ghosts and trappers — is very engaging. Children are captive to the tension of the tale.
- **How to Be a Friend: A Guide to Making Friends and Keeping Them** by: *Laurie Kransy Brown*, illustrated by: *Marc Brown* - (Little, Brown Young Readers, 1998) 32 pages. Fun dinosaur characters explain important facts about friendship. Through silly illustrations, the authors explore different ways to make friends and appropriate ways to cope with difficult situations and emotions such as arguments, bullying, and rejection.
- **Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!** by: *Mo Willems* - (Hyperion Press, 2003) 36 pages. Mo Willems is such a huge name among picture-book authors that it’s hard to believe his first children’s book, *Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* was published only five years ago. Willems perfectly captures a small child’s method of trying to get his own way, as the pigeon implores, promises, whines, begs and, in the end, throws a tantrum that both you and your child will recognize. Help your emerging reader make progress over the summer break with highly amusing and fun books like this one.
- **A Handful of Dirt** by: *Raymond Bial* - (Walker Books for Young Readers, 2000) 32 pages. Kids will never see dirt the same way again after award-winning photo-essayist Raymond Bial takes you on this eye-opening, fun and “dirty” tour of one of the planet’s most precious resources. As Bial says, “Without soil, there would be no life on earth.” Understanding this concept is vital to teaching little ones about the fundamentals of environmentalism.