

Parents and Students,

Below is a curated list of book recommendations for Rising First Grade 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 Lower School students are at liberty to choose the titles that interest them.



- **Frog and Toad Are Friends** by: *Arnold Lobel* - (Harper Collins, 1970) *64 pages*. This classic features the escapades of Frog and Toad, an adorable amphibious duo who are the best of friends. Your child will love these five stories about friendship that include adventures such as feeling embarrassed when wearing a bathing suit, waiting for mail, finding a lost button and waking up from hibernation in the spring. Caldecott Honor Book, 1971
- **There Is a Bird on Your Head!** by: *Mo Willems* - (Hyperion Books for Children, 2007) *64 pages*. Bespeckled and a little stressed out, pessimistic Gerald the elephant has the look of a worried old man while his upbeat friend Piggie is much more kid-like and exuberant. Together they make a great pair, in much the same way as Frog and Toad. The language is simple and repetitive enough for beginning readers to enjoy. And the humor will hold their interest while they struggle with the harder parts. This book is so much fun that even struggling readers will want to read it over and over again, especially if they are able to share parts with another reader. And, happily, this is only one of several in the *Elephant and Piggie* series.
- **Is A Worry Worrying You?** by: *Ferida Wolff and Harriet May Savitz*, illustrated by: *Marie LeTourneau* - (Tanglewood Press, 2005) *32 pages*. This is a cleverly written and delightfully illustrated book

that enables children to investigate their fears and anxieties. An easy introduction to discussion about creative problem solving.

- **Dad, Jackie and Me** by: *Myron Uhlberg*, illustrated by: *Colin Bootman* - (Peachtree Publishers, 2005) 32 pages. An amazing semi-autobiographical picture book about a young boy and his deaf father set in Brooklyn. The year is 1947 and Jackie Robinson has just been signed to the Brooklyn Dodgers. Although Dad was never a sports fan (since he can't hear them on the radio), he becomes determined to meet Jackie in person. He wants to shake the hand of a man he views as a kindred spirit, "who works to overcome thoughtless prejudice." This book is a beautiful social justice story and also a love letter from a son to his father.
- **My Best Friend** by: *Pat Hutchins* - (Greenwillow, 1993) 32 pages. This playful story shows that two little girls can be friends and appreciate each other even though they are good at doing different things. Your child will enjoy this book over and over again.
- **Raggedy Ann's Wishing Pebble** by: *Johnny Gruelle*, illustrated by: *Jan Palmer* - (Simon & Schuster, 1925) 98 pages. A beautifully illustrated book with everyone's favorite rag dolls, Ann and Andy. In this Raggedy Ann and Andy adventure, all their animal friends try to help retrieve the magic wishing pebble that has been stolen by a trickster named Minky. Opens discussions about what wishes are important.