

**WEST ISLIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

**SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2017
Suggested Reading List
Grades 3-5**

Title	Description
<i>Flora & Ulysses</i> by Kate DiCamillo	Winner of the 2014 Newbery Medal. Holy unanticipated occurrences! A cynic meets an unlikely superhero in a genre-breaking new novel by master storyteller Kate DiCamillo. It begins, as the best superhero stories do, with a tragic accident that has unexpected consequences. The squirrel never saw the vacuum cleaner coming, but self-described cynic Flora Belle Buckman, who has read every issue of the comic book <i>Terrible Things Can Happen to You!</i> , is the just the right person to step in and save him. What neither can predict is that Ulysses (the squirrel) has been born anew, with powers of strength, flight, and misspelled poetry — and that Flora will be changed too, as she discovers the possibility of hope and the promise of a capacious heart. From #1 <i>New York Times</i> best-selling author Kate DiCamillo comes a laugh-out-loud story filled with eccentric, endearing characters and featuring an exciting new format — a novel interspersed with comic-style graphic sequences and full-page illustrations, all rendered in black-and-white by up-and-coming artist K. G. Campbell.
<i>Gone Fishing: A Novel in Verse</i> by Tamera Wissinger	Nine-year-old Sam loves fishing with his dad. So when his pesky little sister, Lucy, horns in on their fishing trip, he's none too pleased: "Where's my stringer? / Something's wrong! / The princess doll does not belong!" All ends well in this winsome book of poems—each labeled with its proper poetic form, from quatrain to tercet. Together the poems build a dawn-to-dusk story of a father-son bond, of sibling harmony lost and found—and most of all, of delicious anticipation. Charming line drawings animate the poetry with humor and drama, and the extensive Poet's Tackle Box at the end makes this the perfect primer to hook aspiring poets of all ages.
<i>The Empty Pot</i> by Demi	A long time ago in China there was a boy named Ping who loved flowers. Anything he planted burst into bloom. The Emperor loved flowers too. When it was time to choose an heir, he gave a flower seed to each child in the kingdom. "Whoever can show me their best in a year's time," he proclaimed, "shall succeed me to the throne!" Ping plants his seed and tends it every day. But month after month passes and nothing grows. When spring comes, Ping must go to the Emperor with nothing but an empty pot.
<i>All the Colors of the Earth</i> by Sheila Hamonaka	This book reveals in verse that despite outward differences, children everywhere are lovable and essentially the same.
<i>The Rag Coat</i> by Lauren Mills	Before Minna can go to school, she needs a winter coat. The Quilting Mothers offer to make her a coat from scraps of quilting cloth, and Minna carefully chooses the pieces that have the best stories behind them. Minna proudly wears it to school, only to be faced with her classmates' jeers of "Rag-Coat! Rag-Coat!" Minna's coat with its stories and memories, and Minna's own thoughtful part in its creation, that allow her to bring friendship to Sharing Day, making her coat the warmest one of all.
<i>Kate Shelley: Bound for Legend</i> by Robert San Souci	A biography of the fifteen-year-old Iowa teenager who helped avert a train disaster in 1881 and became a national heroine.
<i>Seven Brave Women</i> by Betsy Hearne	A young girl recounts the brave exploits of her female ancestors, including her great-great-grandmother who came to America in a wooden sailboat.
<i>A Long Way to Go</i> by Zibby Oneal	Ten-year-old Lila becomes sympathetic to the women's suffrage movement after her society grandmother is arrested for picketing the White House in support of the cause.

<i>Catch that Pass</i> by Matt Christopher	Everyone knows Jim will be the star linebacker on the team if can only conquer his fear of being tackled, but it takes a boy in a wheelchair to teach him that kind of courage.
<i>Teammates</i> by Peter Golenbock	The moving story of how Jackie Robinson became the first black player on a major league baseball team and how on a fateful day in Cincinnati, Pee Wee Reese took a stand and declared Jackie his teammate.
<i>The Invention of Hugo Cabret</i> by Brian Selznick	ORPHAN, CLOCK KEEPER, AND THIEF, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. But when his world suddenly interlocks with an eccentric, bookish girl and a bitter old man who runs a toy booth in the station, Hugo's undercover life, and his most precious secret, are put in jeopardy. A cryptic drawing, a treasured notebook, a stolen key, a mechanical man, and a hidden message from Hugo's dead father form the backbone of this intricate, tender, and spellbinding mystery. Winner of the 2008 Caldecott Medal
<i>No Talking</i> by Andrew Clements	It's boys vs. girls when the noisiest, most talkative, and most competitive fifth graders in history challenge one another to see who can go longer without talking. Teachers and school administrators are in an uproar, until an innovative teacher sees how the kids' experiment can provide a terrific and unique lesson in communication. In <i>No Talking</i> , Andrew Clements portrays a battle of wills between some spunky kids and a creative teacher with the perfect pitch for elementary school life that made <i>Frindle</i> an instant classic.
<i>Out of My Mind</i> by Sharon M. Draper	"If there is one book teens and parents (and everyone else) should read this year, <i>Out of My Mind</i> should be it" (Denver Post). Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom—the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged, because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow. In this breakthrough story—reminiscent of <i>The Diving Bell and the Butterfly</i> —from multiple Coretta Scott King Award-winner Sharon Draper, readers will come to know a brilliant mind and a brave spirit who will change forever how they look at anyone with a disability.
<i>Savvy</i> by Ingrid Law	Thirteen is when a Beaumont's savvy hits—and with one brother who causes hurricanes and another who creates electricity, Mibs Beaumont is eager to see what she gets. But just before the big day, Poppa is in a terrible accident. And now all Mibs wants is a savvy that will save him. In fact, Mibs is so sure she'll get a powerful savvy that she sneaks a ride to the hospital on a rickety bus with her sibling and the preacher's kids in tow. After this extraordinary adventure—full of talking tattoos and a kidnapping—not a soul on board will ever be the same.
<i>Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters</i> by John Steptoe	Mufaro has two daughters, the bad-tempered Manyara and the loving Nyasha, who must pass a series of tests in order for one of them to be considered a beautiful and worthy wife for the Great King. Fiercely competitive, Manyara taunts Nyasha with threats of becoming a servant once Manyara is made Queen. Nyasha doesn't complain to her father about her sister's ill will, but merely tends to her garden where she befriends a little garden snake, Nyoka. As Manyara and Nyasha journey to meet with the Great King, they are each tested by Nyoka in his various disguises.

A great way to keep children engaged in reading is to introduce them to books that are part of a series. The following series are popular with students in grades 3-5.

Name of Series	Author(s)
<i>The 39 Clues</i>	Various authors
<i>The Baby-Sitters Club</i>	Ann M. Martin
<i>Big Nate</i>	Lincoln Peirce
<i>Bunnicular</i>	Deborah Howe & James Howe
<i>Captain Underpants</i>	Dav Pilkey
<i>Dear America</i>	Various authors
<i>Dog Whisperer</i>	Nicholas Edwards
<i>Encyclopedia Brown</i>	Donald J. Sobol
<i>Fudge</i>	Judy Blume
<i>Ghost Buddy</i>	Henry Winkler & Lin Oliver
<i>Goddess Girls</i>	Joan Holub & Suzanne Williams
<i>Goosebumps</i>	R.L. Stine
<i>Henry Huggins</i>	Beverly Cleary
<i>Ivy and Bean</i>	Annie Barrows & Sophia Blackall
<i>Judy Moody</i>	Megan McDonald

BOOK CHOICE RESOURCES

The following websites provide information on books that students have read and enjoyed. Recommendations from other students often help to spark interest in their peers.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/swyar/>

This site provides a forum for students in grades K-12 to read book reviews posted by other students, which may spark interest and curiosity. The book reviews are organized by genre and by grade. Students also have an opportunity to write book reviews of their own to share with others.

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/collection/more-reading-resources/keep-your-kids-reading-all-summer-long>

This link takes you to the Scholastic, Inc. summer reading resources for parents and students. Suggested book lists are available for ages 6-7, 8-10, and 11-13.

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb>

The Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, offers numerous book lists, including a list of Notable Children's Books. Many of the books on this list are award winning titles. For titles suitable for children in Grades 3-5, please scroll down to the area for Middle Readers.

www.spaghettibookclub.org

This site posts book reviews by kids for kids. Titles are listed alphabetically—just click and read!