Help Your Child with Summer Reading

Don't leave home without it
Bring along a book or magazine any time your child has to wait, such as at a doctor's office. Always try to fit in reading!

Once is not enough
Encourage your child to re-read favorite books and poems. Re-reading helps kids read more quickly and accurately.

Dig deeper into the story
Ask your child questions about the story you've just read. Say something like, "Why do you think Clifford did that?"

Take control of the television
It's difficult for reading to compete with TV and video games. Encourage reading as a free-time activity.

Pick books that are at the right level
Help your child pick books that are not too difficult. The aim is to give your child lots of successful reading experiences.

Make books special
Turn reading into something special. Take your kids to the library, help them get their own library card, read with them, and buy them books as gifts. Have a favorite place for books in your home or, even better, put books everywhere.

Talk about what you see and do
Talk about everyday activities to build your child's background knowledge, which is crucial to listening and reading comprehension. Keep up a running patter, for example, while cooking together, visiting somewhere new, or after watching a TV show.

“The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”
Dr. Seuss
West Haven Summer Reading Program

Grades K-4 Elementary Students:

Read at least two books and complete the Governor's Summer Reading Journal to receive a reward bag of fun stuff when you return to school in the fall. Bring your completed journal to school to receive your reward bag.

Read 10 or more books, complete the Governor's Summer Reading Journal, and go to TD Bank in West Haven. They will open up a savings bank account for you and start you off with $10.00 in the account or add $10.00 to your existing TD Bank Savings account.

Fourth Grade Fiction

9 Clues Series by various authors
An adventure series about Dan and Amy, orphans searching for the 39 clues that will lead to the secret of their lineage

A to Z Mysteries Series by Ron Roy
An exciting mystery series about Dink and his friends who solve mysteries.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series by Jeff Kinney
A soon-to-be classic realistic fiction series about Greg Heffley, and his experiences in middle school, as seen through his diary entries.

Franny K. Stein Series by Jim Benton
A fun series about a girl who is a mad scientist.

Geronimo Stilton Series by various authors
A graphic series about a talking mouse who works as a writer and lives on Mouse Island with his family.

The Great Sockathon by Michael Delaney
Sabrina, a girl contacted by a ghost, gets her friends to help her raise money to save the tree in which the ghost lives.

Wayside School Series by Louis Sachar
The hilarious adventures surrounding a school that was built sideways, where nothing is as it seems.

Matilda by Roald Dahl. Matilda applies her mental powers to rid the school of the evil headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore Miss Honey, her nice teacher, to financial security.

Enjoy your summer with books!
Nurse, Soldier, Spy: The Story of Sarah Edmonds, a Civil War Hero by Marissa Moss. The author describes the life of Sarah Emma Edmonds, who disguised herself as a man, took the name Frank Thompson, joined a Michigan army regiment to fight in the Civil War, served as a nurse on the battlefield, and became a spy.

All in the Family: A Look-It-Up Guide to the In-Laws, Outlaws, and Offspring of Mythology by Steven Otfinoski. Greek mythology hall of famers meet the modern age in a new series that brings the superstars of Greek mythology to life. Series

Ubiquitous: Celebrating Nature's Survivors by Joyce Sidman. In fourteen poems, this picture book blends poetry, science, and art in celebrating the earth’s most resilient and long-lived species.

Henry Aaron's Dream by Matt Tavares. In this beautiful picture book biography of Henry “Hank” Aaron, Henry overcomes many obstacles to realize his childhood dream of becoming a major league baseball player.

Amelia Earhart: This Broad Ocean by Sarah Stewart Taylor. In graphic novel format, Amelia Earhart’s life is described with a focus on the successful Atlantic crossing in 1928.

Queen of the Falls by Chris Van Allsburg. This biography tells about Annie Edson Taylor, a retired instructor of a charm school, who decided to attempt to go over Niagara Falls in a wooden barrel at the age of sixty-two.

What’s the Weather Inside? By Karma Wilson. This clever collection of original poetry is mostly light, humorous verse about family, friends, and school.

Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx by Johan Winter. Written in both English and Spanish, the life of Sonia Sotomayor is described from her childhood in poverty to how she worked her way up to the top of the United States judicial system.

You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?! By Jonah Winter. Learn about Sandy Koufax, a powerful left-handed pitcher for the New York Dodgers, a practicing Jew who would not play baseball on High Holy days, and a mystery man who quit baseball after the best season of his career.

Kindergarten - Nonfiction

Farm by Elisha Cooper. This beautifully told and illustrated book is at once lively and peaceful, chronicling the events and quiet moments of life on a farm with graceful language and images that soothe, but never bore. Tractors, crops, animals and farmers all play a part in this wonderful book, which captures the rhythms of rural life and gives a feel for the sights and seasons of a working farm.

All the Water in the World by George Ella Lyon. A lyrical, illustrated look at the water cycle showing how water rises to the clouds, and is rained back down again to be used by plants, people, and every living thing.

Anno's Counting Book by Anno, Mitsumasa. Counting and number systems are introduced by showing mathematical relationships in nature.

An Egg Is Quiet by Dianna Aston. A variety of eggs from diverse wild parents are described with beautiful illustrations and informative text.

No Two Alike by Keith Baker. This story follows a pair of birds on a snowflake-filled journey through a winter landscape where everything, from branches and leaves to forests full of trees, is unique.
**WEST HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!** by Bob Barner. A nonsense rhyme and a section of fun facts introduce children to familiar bugs.

**How a Seed Grows** by Helen Jordan. Observations of bean seeds planted in eggshells are used to demonstrate the growth of seeds into plants.

**The Earth Book** by Todd Parr. Young readers are introduced to the importance of conservation and provided with ideas to live an environmentally friendly lifestyle, such as planting trees, using both sides of a piece of paper, and recycling.

**The Loud Book!** by Deborah Underwood. From the blare of an alarm clock in the morning to snores and crickets in the evening, simple text explores the many loud noises one might hear during the course of a day.

**What's Alive?** By Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld. A little girl interacts with plants and her pets as the text explains how humans are different from these living things; but like them, she grows and also needs food, water, and air.

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**Kindergarten - Fiction**

**Any Titles** by Eric Carle

Whimsical tales such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *The Very Busy Spider* will enchant readers with Eric Carle’s brightly colored illustrations and engaging prose.

**A Ball for Daisy** by Christopher Raschka

Any child who has ever had a beloved toy break will relate to Daisy's anguish when her favorite ball is destroyed by a bigger dog. This almost wordless book by Caldecott Medalist Chris Raschka explores in pictures the joy and sadness that having a special toy can bring.

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**Fourth Grade Nonfiction**

**Is My Dog a Wolf?: How Your Pet Compares to its Wild Cousin** by Jenni Bidner. Examines the differences and similarities between dogs and wolves with descriptions of how both have descended from the ancient wolf and how they have evolved into two diverse species.

**Derek Jeter** by Sandra Donovan

A well written and informative biography of the Yankees shortstop.

**Just a Second: A Different Way to Look at Time** by Steve Jenkins

A great nonfiction title about how we think about time, encompassing science and math with many unusual facts.

**The Titanic** by Joeming W. Dunn

A graphic (drawn) history of the events leading up to the shocking 1912 sinking of the ship.

**A Wizard From the Start: The Incredible Boyhood and Amazing Inventions of Thomas Edison** by Don Brown. This picture book shows that young Thomas Edison was a hard worker who was curious about everything, read a lot of books, studied diligently for years, and was passionate about inventing.

**North: The Amazing Story of Arctic Migration** by Nick Dowson. This book follows animals such as gray whales, terns, wolves and caribou as they journey north to the Arctic where they will join the polar bear, arctic hare, and fox to feed and breed all summer.

**Leo the Snow Leopard: The True Story of an Amazing Rescue** by Juliana Hatkoff et al. A rescue and survival of an orphaned snow leopard begins in the mountains of Pakistan and ends at the Bronx Zoo, allowing readers to learn about the life of these rare cats while documenting the determined cooperation of international animal conservationists.

**Hide and Seek: Nature's Best Vanishing Acts** by Andrea Helman. This beautifully photographed book takes the reader to ecosystems around the world to show how animals camouflage themselves for protection in each unique habitat.

**Never Smile at a Monkey: And 17 Other Important Things to Remember** by Steve Jenkins. Incredible cut paper illustrations highlight eighteen creatures whose weapons of teeth, claws, spines, and venom make them dangerous to humans, while the captivating text explains what you should never do if you encounter one of these animals.

**The Boy Who Invented TV: The Story of Philo Farnsworth** by Kathleen Krull. As a young boy in the early 1900's, Philo Farnsworth's curiosity about how things work eventually led him to develop the idea of how television could work.
Celebritrees: Historic & Famous Trees of the World by Margi Preus. Profiles fourteen trees from around the world that are significant in history or legend, such as the Bodhi Tree under which Buddha gained enlightenment, reminding us that these fascinating trees bring us pleasure and tell us about history.

Lemonade & Other Poems Squeezed from a Single Word by Bob Raczka. In this double treat for the brain and eyes, all these concrete poems are cleverly formed from the letters of the poem’s title.

Eleanor, Quiet No More: The Life of Eleanor Roosevelt by Doreen Rappaport. Well-researched and powerfully presented, this biography of Eleanor Roosevelt chronicles her life from a quiet, reserved child to an outspoken champion for the rights of all individuals.

The Titanic: An Interactive History Adventure by Bob Temple. The reader’s choices reveal the historical details of the sinking of the Titanic in 1912 from the perspective of a first-class passenger, a third-class passenger, and a crew member.

Third Grade Fiction

Horrible Harry Series by Suzy Kline
The humorous adventures of Harry and his friends who attend the same school.

Ivy and Bean Series by Annie Barrows
Chapter books about the fun adventures of two friends and neighbors.

Judy Moody Series by Megan McDonald
An enjoyable series about a free-spirited third grade girl.

Magic Tree House Series by Mary Pope Osborne
A suspenseful fantasy series in which Jack and Annie travel through time.

My Weird School Series by Dan Gutman
A hilarious series about A.J. and his adventures at Ella Mentry Elementary School.

Ramona Series by Beverly Cleary
The unforgettable adventures of an eight year old named Ramona Quimby.

Titanicat by Marty Crisp. Every ship had a cat, and in this historical fiction picture book, the story of the Titanic's cat is told; but just where is the cat's luck during the Titanic's doomed voyage?

Clifford Series by Norman Bridwell
Clifford the Big Red Dog takes readers on a series of adventures ranging from going to school to getting a job to just plain growing up!

Elephant and Piggie Series; Pigeon Series by Mo Willems
Comical books that follow the antics of Elephant, Piggie and the Pigeon will provide many chuckles and lots of fun!

Goldilicious; Pinkalicious; Purplicious; Silverlicious; by Victoria Kann
These sparkling picture books, filled with favorite things in each color, celebrate all things pink, purple, silver, etc. while showing that being yourself is best of all.

Good Night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann
A gorilla snatches the keys of the zoo keeper, lets out all the animals, and follows the zoo keeper home.

If You Give a Cat a Cupcake by Laura Numeroff
The latest in the If You Give... series by Laura Numeroff features a familiar cat whose every whim is indulged by a young friend.

Kitchen Dance by Maurie J. Manning
Two sleepy children sneak out of their beds to watch as their parents break into a dance while washing the dishes.

Too Many Toys by David Shannon
After he finally concedes that he has far too many toys, Spencer agrees to give many of them away, but realizes that there is one special toy that he absolutely cannot part with.

Whose Shoes? A Shoe for Every Job by Stephen Swinburne
There is a right shoe for every job! Swinburne explores various
First Grade Nonfiction

Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature by Joyce Sidman
An illustrated, poetic exploration of various examples of spirals appearing in nature, looking at snail shells, flower petals, elephant tusks, crashing waves, and more.

Spiders by Nic Bishop. Includes foldout pages, photographs, and text providing basic information about various kinds of spiders.

Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars by Douglas Florian. A collection of twenty whimsical poems about comets, the stars, moon, and the planets.

Around the World on Eighty Legs by Amy Gibson. An illustrated collection of poems that provides information about animals around the world.

Hatch! By Roxie Munro. Presents illustrations of various eggs with related clues, prompting readers to guess which type of bird laid the eggs.

Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City by Janet Schulman. Recounts the true story of Pale Male, a red-tailed hawk living in New York City, who has become one of the city's most-watched celebrities as bird watchers, tourists, and residents admire the bird and his nest which is built on a Fifth Avenue apartment building.

Did Dinosaurs Have Feathers? By Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld. This book discusses the discovery and analysis of Archaeopteryx, a feathered dinosaur, which may have been an ancestor of modern birds.

Look to the Stars by Buzz Aldrin. Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin traces the history of air and space exploration from Isaac Newton to the International Space Station and Mars using personal insights and conversational text.

Lizards by Nic Bishop. Amazing photographs and interesting tidbits of information are the highlights of this latest Nic Bishop romp through the world of lizards.

Caring for Cheetahs: My African Adventure by Rosanna Hansen. Pounce into this colorful photo-essay about protecting endangered cheetahs at a nature reserve owned by the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia, Africa.

African Acrostics: A Word in Edgeways by Avis Harley. Entertaining acrostic poems about African animals provide readers information both about the animals as well as the various forms of acrostic poems.

The Fastest Game on Two Feet and Other Poems About How Sports Began by Alice Low. This book contains funny poems about various sports as well as a brief paragraph about the origin of each sport.

Animal Heroes: True Rescue Stories by Sandra Markle. Nine riveting tales share examples of animals saving humans, along with photos and extra information and insights into animal behavior.

Wonder Horse: The True Story of the World's Smartest Horse by Emily Arnold McCully. Bill “Doc” Key, who was a former slave, trains his horse, Jim Key, to recognize letters and numbers and perform around the country, ultimately teaching others to treat animals humanely.

Inkblot: Drip, Splat, and Squish Your Way to Creativity by Peot Margaret. In addition to interesting facts about the world of art, step-by-step instructions and examples are provided for using inkblots to spark creativity.
## Second Grade Fiction
**Bad Kitty Series** by Nick Bruel
The comical adventures of Bad Kitty, the neighborhood cat!

**Bink and Gollie** by Kate DiCamillo
Two best girlfriends—one tiny, one tall—share humorous adventures involving outrageously bright socks, an impromptu trek to the Andes, and a most unlikely marvelous companion.

**A Chair for My Mother** by Vera Williams
A child, her waitress mother, and her grandmother save dimes to buy a comfortable armchair after all their furniture is lost in a fire.

**Dinotrux** by Chris Gall
Illustrations and simple text introduce creatures that are part truck and part dinosaur in a safari through a world ruled by the Cranesaurus, the Garbageadon, and Tyrannosaurus Trux.

**Henry and Mudge Series** by Cynthia Rylant
Henry doesn't have any brothers or sisters, but he doesn't feel lonely...he finds companionship and love in his big dog named Mudge...and they're having loads of fun together!

**Mercy Watson Series** by Kate DiCamillo
Mercy Watson is an adorable pet pig who lives with her family, the Watsons. Join Mercy on a series of funny and exciting adventures from trick-or-treating to driving the family car!

**Stink: The Incredible Shrinking Kid** by Megan McDonald
These chapter books recount the hilarious adventures of Judy Moody's silly younger brother, Stink. Join Stink on a series of comical adventures enhanced by comic-strips, drawn by Stink himself!

## Third Grade Nonfiction
**Where the Sidewalk Ends** by Shel Silverstein
Classic collections of humorous poems for all ages.

**Can We Save the Tiger**? by Martin Jenkins
A beautifully illustrated nonfiction book about ways to save the tiger from extinction.

**Checkerboard Animal Library: Cats, Dogs, Snakes, etc.** by various authors
A wonderful nonfiction series full of photographs and facts about animals.

**Unforgettable Season** by Phil Bildner
The true story of Joe Dimaggio and Ted Williams, and the records they set during the 1941 baseball season.

## K-4 Summer Reading Guide

### First Grade Fiction

**Bailey Goes Camping** by Kevin Henkes
Bailey is too young to go camping with the Bunny Scouts, but his parents take him on a special camping trip—in the house.

**Bats at the Beach** by Brian Lies
On a night when the moon is full, bats pack their moon-tan lotion and baskets of treats and fly off for some fun on the beach.

**Biscuit Series** by Alyssa Capucilli
This popular series features the adventures of the lovable puppy, Biscuit, as he makes friends and explores the world around him.

**Fly Guy Series** by Tedd Arnold
Fly Guy is not your average fly, and children will love the way in which this likeable little creature communicates with the people around him. Humorous illustrations fill the pages and the text is easy to read!

**Frog and Toad Series** by Arnold Lobel
Simple, often funny, short stories about good friends Frog and Toad. Some of their adventures include: attempting to fly a kite, and cleaning Toad's messy house as opposed to waiting until "tomorrow" to do so.

**Little Dog Lost: The True Story of a Brave Dog** by Monica Carnesi
On a cold winter day, a curious dog wanders onto a frozen river, and before he knows it he is traveling fast on a sheet of ice. Many people try to help, but the dog can't be reached. Finally, after two nights and 75 miles, the little dog is saved by a ship out in the Baltic Sea.

**Meet the Dogs of Bedlam Farm** by Jon Katz
Meet Rose, Izzy, Frieda, and Lenore, four dogs that work hard on the farm doing various jobs. They're good friends now, but it wasn't always this way. Just as each dog has a different role on the farm, each has a unique story. Filled with his captivating photographs, bestselling author Jon Katz's heartwarming account of his dogs' lives on Bedlam Farm is unforgettable.

**Miss Nelson Series** by Harry Allard
Miss Nelson is the nicest teacher in the school. She never yells and she gives the easiest assignments. The students in Room 207 take advantage of her good nature until circumstances change and the kids must face the challenge!

**Shark vs. Train** by Chris Barton
A shark and a train compete in a series of contests on a seesaw, in hot air balloons, bowling, shooting baskets, playing hide-and-seek, and more.
Second Grade Nonfiction


**Orangutans Are Ticklish: Fun Facts From an Animal Photographer** by Jill Davis. Provides interesting facts about animals and explores what it takes to photograph them, with animal photographer Steve Grubman sharing some of his favorite, and scariest, encounters.


**Gorillas** by Gail Gibbons. An illustrated introduction to gorillas, describing their physical characteristics, behaviors, diets, and other related topics.

**Levi Strauss Gets a Bright Idea: A Fairly Fabricated Story of a Pair of Pants** by Tony Johnston. Retells, in tall-tale fashion, how Levi Strauss went to California during the Gold Rush, saw the need for a sturdier kind of pants, and invented jeans.

**Theodore** by Frank Keating. A biography of Theodore Roosevelt that imagines the president looking back on his life, describing his childhood, his youthful journeys throughout the world, his experiences as a leader, and the value he placed on knowledge, adventure, originality, and integrity.

**Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival** by Kirby Larson and Mary Nethery. Bobbi the dog and Bob Cat show us how friendship and perseverance kept them together through the rough times of Hurricane Katrina.

**All the Water in the World** by George Ella Lyon. An illustrated explanation of the water cycle, showing how water rises to the clouds and is rained back down again to be used by plants, people, and every living thing.

**The Greatest Story Never Told: The Babe and Jackie** by Ray Negron. Two young boys who are sick in the hospital decide they do not want to be roommates because of their differences; but when they travel back in time and meet Babe Ruth and Jackie Robinson, they change their minds.

**Baseball Hour** by Carol Nevius. All baseball players will enjoy the rhythmic rhyming of this story and photo-like illustrations of children practicing baseball in an effort to build a winning team and, ultimately, a circle of friends.

**The Watcher: Jane Goodall’s Life with the Chimps** by Jeanette Winter. This picture book biography of Jane Goodall traces her life from her childhood passion for observing the natural world to her famous studies of chimpanzees in the wild.

**Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates** by Johan Winter. This is the story of Roberto Clemente, a young Puerto Rican who followed his baseball dream to the big leagues and went on to help the poor in his homeland.

**Emma’s Poem: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty** by Linda Glaser. “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free...” Who wrote these words? In 1883, Emma Lazarus, deeply moved by an influx of immigrants from Eastern Europe, wrote the poem that was to give voice to the Statue of Liberty. Read about the inspiration for and history of Emma Lazarus' sonnet which is inscribed on the Statue of Liberty’s plaque.

**How Many Baby Pandas?** by Sandra Markle. Basic counting skills combine with panda facts to introduce readers to numbers along with these cuddly cubs, from the moment they were born to the time they started climbing trees. Tracked as they play and grow in captivity, until they are strong enough to be released into the wild, these baby pandas will steal any reader’s heart!

**Me – Jane** by Patrick McDonald. Holding her stuffed toy chimpanzee, young Jane Goodall observes nature, reads Tarzan books, and dreams of living in Africa and helping animals. Includes biographical information on the famous zoologist.