



RECOMMENDED READ-ALOUD TITLES FOR 2nd GRADE STUDENTS

Officer Buckle and Gloria by Peggy Rathmann: Officer Buckle has a passion for safety (he's very clumsy). His safety presentations are b-o-r-i-n-g so the children of Napville are quite accident-prone. Fortunately, Gloria the dog joins him on stage and back-mimes each safety lesson and safety becomes an instant hit. Napville is safer than ever until Officer Buckle discovers Gloria's slap-stick antics.

My Father's Dragon [series] by Ruth Stiles Gannet: What would you do to save a baby dragon? When Elmer Elevator hears of an enslaved, tormented baby dragon, he knows that he must act, thus beginning his journey to Wild Island. This adventure-filled tale is a great beginner chapter book!

Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle [series] by Betty MacDonald : Funny names and exaggerated situations make Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle delightful for both children and adults. Children love Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle because she understands them. Well, that and her house is always filled with freshly baked cookies!

Amelia Bedelia [series] by Peggy Parish: Babysitting means that you sit on babies? According to everyone's favorite housekeeper it does! Amelia Bedelia stories are great fun—enjoy her silly antics and comical ways!

Skippyjon Jones by Judy Schachner: Skippyjon Jones is a silly, fun-lovin' Siamese cat with an active imagination. Spanish-speaking children will especially love the Spanish-language snippets and catchy rhymes. Everyone is guaranteed to love the great "Skippito Friskito." Definitely one of our favorites!

Nate the Great [series] by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat: Nate the Great, boy detective, jumps on the case when something is stolen. He knows how to collect the clues, ask the right questions and works hard to solve the crime and catch the culprit. Great introductory chapter book with tons of pictures!

Martha Speaks by Susan Meddaugh: Another one of our favorite stories! Martha is your average canine until her owner accidentally feeds her some alphabet soup. Now Martha speaks...and speaks and speaks! What would you do if you owned a talking dog? Also check out **Martha Blah Blah**.

Mercy Watson to the Rescue [series] by Kate DiCamillo: The author of **Because of Winn-Dixie** brings you a series about a pet pig who loves toast with lots of butter! Mercy Watson solves crimes, goes for rides and saves the day. Children will love the bright colorful illustrations as well!

Miss Nelson is Missing by Harry Allard: Miss Nelson is a sweet, kind teacher who cannot control her badly-behaved students. Little do the children know how good they have it until Miss Nelson is absent and Miss Viola Swamp, a mean, wicked-looking woman, is their substitute. Where is Miss Nelson and when, if ever, will she return?

The Dot by Peter H. Reynolds: Vashti stares and her blank paper at the end of art class and says, "I just CAN'T draw." Her art teacher gently encourages her to make a mark on the page and see where it takes her. This charming story highlights the importance of self-expression and imagination.

How I Became a Pirate by Melinda Long: Jeremy Jacob is building a sandcastle on the shore when he is plucked from obscurity and joins a pirate crew! Read all about the rollicking life of a pirate and be sure to highlight the awesome illustrations.

Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters From Obedience School by Mark Teague: Dear Mrs. LaRue is a collection of letters sent by Ike, a troublemaking, cat-chasing dog, to his "cruel" owner Mrs. LaRue who sent him to obedience school. Ike paints quite the picture of his "mistreatment" (black and white illustrations), but what's really happening is illustrated in color. Very funny book about a very funny dog!



POWER LUNCH TIPS & TITLES: 2nd GRADE EDITION

Read Aloud Tips

- Don't be afraid of chapter books. Remember that you are reading aloud to the child so you are reading at the listening level, which is higher than their reading level. Just think — you are introducing your student to richer stories and more interesting characters!
- If reading a chapter book, set the stage before you begin reading. “Do you remember what happened in the story last week?” Ask them to give you a quick re-cap of the events. That will also help you remember and give your student a few moments to settle down.
- Encourage your child to ask questions about difficult vocabulary.
- Engage your listener by pointing out illustrations or asking your child what he/she thinks is going to happen in the next chapter or page.
- Read with expression! Beginner chapters books and longer stories have many more characters and complex plots—use different voices, read with enthusiasm and change your tone.
- If you find that your child is zoning out or not focusing, ask your child if he/she knows anyone who has shared a similar experience as one of the characters. Try to break up the text with questions or conversation.
- Switch it up — variety of genre, authors, and book length will hold their attention longer. Vary the read-aloud menu from light, engaging stories to in-depth, provoking beginner chapter books.
- Color a picture! Younger students love to draw a picture from the book that they just completed. This is a great way to discuss the story too! Ask your School Coordinator for an activity sheet—we have word searches and coloring pages.
- Take a minute to talk about books! Ask the student what they've been reading in class or during free-time. Tell them what you're reading too.

Other Recommended Titles

Duck on a Bike by David Shannon

Edward in the Jungle by David McPhail

Snowmen at Night by Caralyn Buehner

Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown [series]

The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig
by Eugene Trivizas

Tacky the Penguin by Helen Lester [series]

Junie B. Jones by Barbara Park [series]

The Paper Bag Princess by Robert N. Munsch

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

Plantzilla by Jerdine Nolen

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein

**Edwina, the Dinosaur Who Didn't Know
She Was Extinct** by Mo Williams

Rotten Teeth by Laura Simms

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatball
by Judi Barrett

Will You Sign Here, John Hancock?
by Jean Fritz

Mr. Putter and Tabby Make a Wish
by Cynthia Rylant [series]

**For Laughing Out Loud: Poems to Tickle
Your Funnybone** by Jack Prelutsky

Doctor De Soto by William Steig

**Extreme Animals: The Toughest Creatures
on Earth** by Nicola Davies [non-fiction]