

Summer Packing List

Make sure you check your list for these books!

Ms. Balas' essential reading list for rising 1st & 2nd Grades

Chapter

Nonfiction

Books to Share



Picture

- Benjamin Bear in Brain Storms!***
by Philippe Coudray
A collection of one-page comic strips featuring Benjamin Bear, a very serious bear who has his own silly logic for doing things.
- Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear***
by Lindsay Mattick
A fictionalized account of Captain Harry Coleburn's relationship with a bear cub in 1914, which he rescued while on his way to care for soldiers' horses during World War I and became the inspiration for A.A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh.
- Tell Me a Picture: Adventures in Looking at Art***
by Quintin Blake
Provides guidance for studying paintings and illustrations from the National Gallery in London to find the story within each.
- Trapped!: A Whale's Rescue***
by Robert Burleigh
Text and illustrations look at the rescue of a humpback whale that got trapped in a fishing net.
- My Heart is Laughing***
by Rose Lagercrantz
Dani's been trying her best to stay happy ever since her best friend Ella moved away. But when some girls in Dani's class start being cruel to her, it starts a chain of events.
- You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Tall Tales to Read Together***
by Mary Ann Hoberman
Presents short retellings of familiar tall tales, each told in two voices designed especially for young children and adults to read together.
- Last Stop on Market Street***
by Matt de la Peña
A young boy rides the bus across town with his grandmother and learns to appreciate the beauty in everyday things.
- Detective Gordon: the First Case***
by Ulf Nilsson
Detective Gordon, a toad, is on the case when someone keeps stealing the squirrel's nuts.
- Flutter & Hum: Animal Poems = Aleteo y Zumbido: Poemas de Animales***
by Julie Paschkis
All sorts of animals flutter and hum, dance and stretch, and slither and leap their way through this collection of poems in English and Spanish.
- Mango, Abuela, and Me***
by Meg Medina
Mia's Abuela has left her sunny house with parrots and palm trees to live with Mia and her parents in the city. The night she arrives, Mia tries to share her favorite book with Abuela and discovers that Abuela can't read the words inside.
- Fly Away***
by Patricia MacLachlan
While in North Dakota helping her aunt prepare for a flood, Lucy finds her voice as a poet with the help of her two-year-old brother and a few cows.
- Water is Water: A Book About the Water Cycle***
by Miranda Paul
A spare, poetic picture book exploring the different phases of the water cycle in surprising and engaging ways.
- Beautiful Hands***
by Kathryn Otoshi and Bret Baumgarten
Little hands can do so many wonderful things: plant ideas; lift spirits; stretch imaginations. This colorful concept book rouses children to use their hands for the good and reach for their dreams.

Ms. Balas' extras for rising 1st & 2nd Grades

- ***Dory and the Real True Friend***
by Abby Hanlon
Dory, a highly imaginative youngest child, makes a new friend at school but her brother and sister are sure Rosabelle is imaginary, just like all of Dory's other friends.
- ***Lulu and the Hedgehog in the Rain***
by Hilary McKay When Lulu rescues a wild hedgehog in a storm, she knows she can't keep it as a pet--it wants to roam free. So she and her cousin Mellie come up with the neighborhood Hedgehog Club to keep it safe.
- ***Changes: A Child's First Poetry Collection*** by Charlotte Zolotow
Poems and color illustrations show the changing of the seasons.
- ***See You Next Year***
by Andrew Larsen
Summer vacations can be magical. Especially when you go back to the same place every year. A place where nothing ever changes and where each long, lazy day unfolds just as it did the year before. Only this year, something does change. And sometimes, change turns out to be a good thing.
- ***Mr. Putter & Tabby Smell the Roses***
by Cynthia Rylant Mr. Putter wants Mrs. Teaberry's birthday to be extra special this year. So how about a trip to the Conservatory to see the beautiful trees and plants and flowers? It will be heavenly. And it is! Mr. Putter and Tabby and Mrs. Teaberry and Zeke sniff the air. They smell the roses. They learn the plant facts. It's the perfect celebration until Zeke finds the banana tree.
- ***Queen of the Diamond: The Lizzie Murphy Story***
by Emily Arnold McCully
A picture book biography about Lizzie Murphy, the first woman to play in a major league exhibition game and the first person to play on both the New England and American leagues' all-star teams.
- ***The Owl Who was Afraid of the Dark*** by Jill Tomlinson
Owls are supposed to be night birds, but young Plop is afraid of the dark, despite how much other people and animals tell him they enjoy it.

