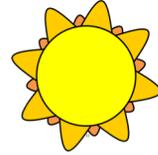
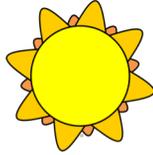


# Summer Literacy Connections

## Rising Grade 3



Dear Families,

It has been a wonderful year, full of learning and fun! Our children have worked incredibly hard and have grown tremendously as learners. We are proud of all the progress they have made during the school year.

As the school year winds down, we encourage you to plan for a summer of reading with your children. Research has shown that children who read during the summer months sustain reading gains made during the school year. Additionally, it is helpful to revisit skills that may otherwise be forgotten over the summer months.

Of course, summer is a time for vacations, camp and pursuing new interests. However, we would like to provide families with some suggestions for summer academic work. On the following pages you will find information on:

1. Reading and Spelling Trick (Sight) Words (Flashcards included)
2. Selecting a Just Right Book
3. Making the Most of Summer Reading - Suggestions for Parents
4. Engaging your Readers – Literal/Inferential Comprehension Prompts
5. Responding to Reading – Ideas/Suggestions for Kid Blogging about Book
6. Summer Themed Writing Prompts
- 7.. Thirsty for More? Links to online summer workbooks

Again, we respect your vacation time and the need in the summer for children to play and have fun. The activities and suggestions on the following pages are recommended, but remain optional.

Have a safe, healthy and happy summer!  
2<sup>nd</sup> grade team and the Literacy Coaches

# Trick Words

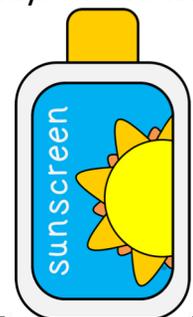
Trick words (also commonly called “sight” words) are words that often do not follow conventional phonics rules. They also tend to be high frequency words, so it is important that students learn to recognize them with increasing automaticity!

We recommend that rising third grade students practice **reading and spelling** the following words in isolation and in context of familiar stories! Although many of our students can READ the words, they are often challenging to spell! Please hold your children accountable for spelling these words correctly.

pull, full, both, talk, walk, done, goes, pretty, again, please, animal, sure, use, used, against, knew, know, always, often, once, only, house, move, right, place, together, eight, large, change, city, every, family, night, carry, something, world, answer, different, picture, learn, earth, father, brother, mother, great, country, away, America, school, thought, whose, won, son, breakfast, head, ready, favorite, early, ocean, cousin, lose, tomorrow, beautiful, bought, brought, piece, enough, special, laugh, daughter, trouble, couple, young

By the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, students should also read and spell the days of the week and months of the year correctly!

Although we provide a set of flashcards for you, trick words can be practiced in many fun and creative ways to keep learning interesting and hands-on for your child. Be sure to check out the suggested list of activities, games and tech connections on the next page for ideas.



the

a

is

and

his

of

as

has

he

to

we

into

she

be

me

for

or

you

**your**

**I**

**was**

**they**

**said**

**one**

from

have

do

does

were

are

who

what

when

where

here

there

why

by

try

my

put

two

too

very

some

also

would

come

could

should

over

her

number

say

says

between

each

see

many

any

how

now

out

down

our

about

friend

other

none

another

nothing

people

little

month

been

own

Mr.

want

**Mrs.**

**work**

**being**

**word**

**their**

**write**

first

look

new

good

water

called

**When**

**which**

**again**

**away**

**more**

**even**

their

animal

here

use

used

water

knew

know

often

house

move

right

place

together

why

large

change

city

every

family

world

answer

eye

carry

something

different

picture

learn

earth

great

country

America

example thought

too

school

son

breakfast

head

ready

mother

father

brother

neighbor

early

ocean

Monday Tuesday

cousin

lose

dance

beautiful

Wednesday

Thursday

Saturday

bought

library

piece

January

February

July

enough

special

paste

August

December

daughter

laugh

favorite

sugar

trouble

couple

may

day

way

# Reviewing Trick Words

Focus on Spelling

## Chalk Writing

Use sidewalk chalk to practice writing trick words. Call out a word and have your child write the word in big chalk letters!

## Sidewalk Chalk Hop

Write the letters in random order all over your driveway or another smooth surface. Call out a word and have students HOP to spell the word!



## Scrambled Eggs

Write some trick words on a whiteboard or using letter tiles (scrabble tiles work great!) Time your child to see how fast they can unscramble the words and write/build them correctly.

## Spelling with Legos

Have some old Legos lying around? Write letters on a bunch (you may want to do a few sets of the vowels) and have your child build their sight words!

## Spelling Battleship

[Click here](#) to be taken to a website with a FREE PDF battleship board and directions!

# How To Help Your Child Pick a Just Right Book

Children become good readers one book at a time. But how do you help a child choose the right books? You don't have to be an expert in reading levels to guide a child to books that entertain, enlighten, and challenge (without overwhelming).

You may be accustomed to choosing books for the children in your life. But did you know that selecting a book is a useful skill that a child can and should learn? Choosing a book independently teaches a child that we seek books for different reasons. With some simple strategies, you can help a child to be a savvy book selector. You also can help him or her choose books that are neither too easy nor too hard.

## What is Your Purpose?

As early as you can, introduce the idea that we read for a purpose, even if that purpose is pure enjoyment.

### Ask

What type of book are you looking for today—and why?  
Are you looking for fiction (made up) or nonfiction (factual)?  
Ask them to explain their choice.

## SAY YES

Give the child authority over choosing books to read. Say “yes” as often as you can. A book that the child wants to read is the one you want to take home. Don't worry if a book seems short, too easy, or has pictures. Graphic novels (stories told in comic book frames) are a great way to hook a reluctant reader. Looking at pictures is a perfectly acceptable way to read a book.

## USE THE 5 FINGER RULE

When your child chooses a book, open the book to a random page and have them put out their five fingers. Have your child read aloud the page to you. For each word that cannot be decoded, have them put a finger down. If all five fingers are down by the end of the page, the book is most likely too challenging for the child to read independently.

## IF YOUR CHILD CHOOSES BOOKS THAT ARE TOO CHALLENGING

If the child really wants to read something you know is beyond his or her ability, solve it by reading it aloud together. You can take turns reading and define unfamiliar words as you go. That way the child will avoid the frustration and enjoy the added bonus of your company! You can also purchase or borrow books on audio!

# I-Pick Just Right Books

**I** choose a book

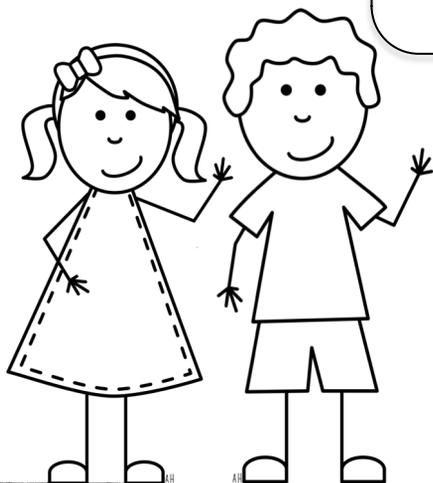
**P**urpose – Why do I want to read this book?

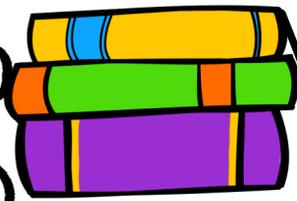
**I**nterest – Does it interest me?

**C**omprehend – Do I understand what I'm reading?

**K**now – Do I know most of the words?  
(5 finger rule!)

In school, we learn how to  
choose a book using the  
I-PICK acronym.





# Making The Most of Summer Reading

This is an exciting time for your child as a reader! We have a long summer to relax, so it's important that developing readers continue to practice their reading skills every day to keep them fresh.



We recommend that children continue to read out loud to you for 10-15 minutes per day from a “just right book”. A “Just Right” book should be a book that your child can read comfortably and understand with little help from you!



Continue to read aloud to your child from a variety of different genres and from books on a variety of different topics. You never know what will spark his or her interest!



Choose a series together to read over the summer and follow the same characters through different adventures!

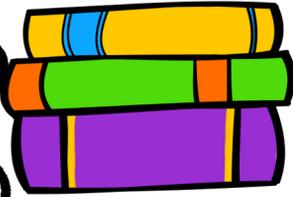


Encourage your child to reread for fluency or “reread until you sound like you are talking!”

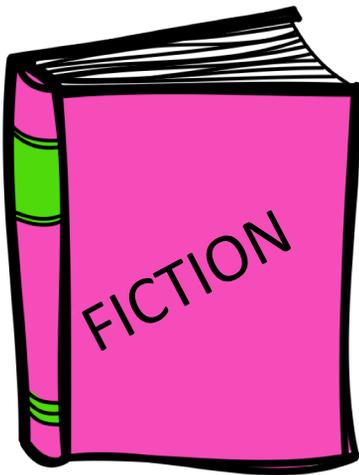


Explore audio books! Listening to a book is a great option if a selected book is too hard for the reader,

# Engaging Your Young Readers



As your children grow as readers, it is important to make sure that they are understanding what they are reading. Here are some quick and easy prompts you can ask after your children finish reading to encourage comprehension!



Who are the characters? What are they like?

How did the character feel when \_\_\_\_\_? How do you know?

Why did the character \_\_\_\_\_?

Did the character change in the story? How?

What is the setting? Where does the story take place? When does it take place?

What is the problem? How is the problem solved?

What lesson do the characters learn?

What do you predict will happen next?

What did you learn about this topic?

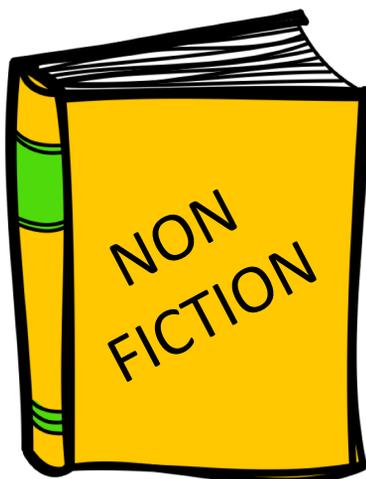
Did you notice any text features? How do they help you?

What was the big idea in this book? What did the author want you to learn?

Do you think this is a good title for the book? Why or why not?

What are some new words that you learned?

Do you have any questions after reading this book?



# Responding To Reading

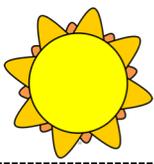
**Keep a journal this summer and write about what you are reading!  
Here are some ideas of things you can write about!**

## **Fiction Prompts**

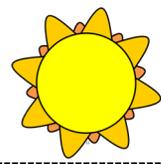
1. What was your favorite part of the story? Why was this part important?
2. How did the main character change in the story?
3. What lesson did the character learn in the story?
4. Does this book (or a part of the book) remind you of another book? Explain the similarities between the two books.
5. Does this book (or a part of the book) remind you of someone or something in your life? Explain why/how.
6. What was the unique about the way the author wrote the book?
7. Describe the main character. What are some character traits that describe him or her? Be sure to use evidence from the book!
8. What was the setting? How does the setting impact the story?
9. What was the problem? How was the problem solved?
10. How are you similar or different to the main character? Use at least 2 reasons to describe your thinking.

## **Nonfiction Prompts**

1. What new or interesting information did you learn in this book?
2. Describe two nonfiction text features that you noticed. How did they help you understand the topic?
3. What was the main idea of the book? What did the author want you to learn?
4. What is something unique about this nonfiction book?
5. Why do you think the author chose the title? Is it a good title? Why or why not? If not, come up with an alternate title.



# Pick-A-Prompt



Do you have a hard time of thinking of what to write?  
Cut up the summer-themed prompts below, put them  
in a jar and then pick one to write!



What is your favorite family summer tradition?



How would summer vacation be different if it was taken during the winter months?



Describe how to build a sandcastle. Use sequence words to help you.



Does your family have any special rules during the summer? What are they?



What is your favorite summer memory so far?



What is your favorite summer treat? Why?



Should you catch lightning bugs and keep them in a jar? Why or why not?



Is it better to be outside or inside during the summer? Explain your thinking.



Bedtime should be later during the summer. Agree or disagree? Explain why.



Should teachers assign summer homework? Why or why not?



How did you spend the 4<sup>th</sup> of July?



Which month of summer is the best? Why?



Write a poem describing a beautiful summer day. Use your 5 senses to help!



Write a story from the perspective of a fish. What would it be like to live underwater?



Write about the first time you jumped or dove into the deep end of the pool.



Have you learned a new skill this summer? If not, what would you like to learn?



How are the beginning and end of summer different?



Write about a summer camp experience.