

GRACE COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
 APPROVED READING LIST  
 GRADES 1-3  
 12-09

TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	SETTING	GRADES	DESCRIPTION
All of a Kind Family	Taylor	Realistic Fiction		2-4	Five sisters have old-fashioned fun around the home and at school. Family life and friends are highlighted. (89 pages - HB)
Baby Sitters Club, The (#6) [Kristy's Big Day]	Martin	Fiction	20th Century	2-5	When Kristy's mom get remarried, Kristy's friends help babysit the cousins while the family gets ready. Divorce and remarriage presented decently. Focus is on girls working as a team to babysit the group of children. [151 pages - HB]
Beast of Lor, The	Bulla	Realistic Fiction		2-5	An African Elephant is trained by a Roman family, then taken to Britain, where he travels with an orphan boy. (54 pages - HB)
Behind Rebel Lines	Reit	Historical Fiction	18th Century. American Civil War.	3-6	Based upon the true story of Emma Edmunds, a 19 year old Canadian girl. Emma disguises herself as a man, assumes the name Franklin Thompson, and engages several dangerous spy missions for the Union Army during the Civil War. (127 pages - SB)
Ben and Me	Lawson	Fantasy Fiction		2-4	Humorous historical fiction account of Benjamin Franklin as told by a mouse. (114 pages - HB)
Binkley's Bottleneck	Rapaport	Realistic Fiction		1-2	Story of a young boy living in middle America. Tells of small town life and the family business of running a ferry across the river. The ferry business is in danger of closing because of a new bridge. (72 pages - HB)
Dog on Barkham Street, A	Stolz	Realistic Fiction		3-5	A boy learns how to respond to a bully and create a friend, take on more responsibility, and learn about character through a visiting uncle and a new dog. (184 pages - HB)

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Down the Mississippi	Bulla	Historical Fiction	19th Century Rural America	1-3	In 1850 a 13 year old farm boy, Eric, gets to work on a log raft going down the Mississippi River. (114 pages - HB)
Elizabeth the Treasure Hunter	Holman	Realistic Fiction	Modern U.S.A.	1-3	While some children search for treasure buried by a friend as a game they enjoy exploring and learning about the seashore. Lots of information about shells and birds, but the story doesn't get bogged down with it. A simple mystery adventure. (42 pages - HB)
Five Little Peppers and How They Grew	Sidney	Realistic Fiction		3-7	Escapades and interactions of the five Pepper children. Highly recommended. (320 pages - HB)
Follow My Leader	Garfield	Realistic Fiction		1-6	Eleven year old Jimmy was blinded in an accident, but gets help from people and a guide dog. (191 pages - HB)
George Washington's Breakfast	Fritz	Fiction	Late 18th Century, Colonial America	1-3	Modern boy wonders what George Washington ate for breakfast and researches to find out. (40 pages - HB)
Guns for General Washington	Reit	Historical Fiction	Late 18th Century. American Revolutionary War.	3-6	Based upon a true story. In the bitter winter of 1775-1776, Colonel Henry Knox and his younger brother Will, both of the Continental Army, become frustrated with the British blockade of Boston, and attempt to move 183 cannons from Fort Ticonderoga, over 300 miles of mountainous wilderness, to defend the besieged city. (From the book jacket.) (140 pages - SB)
Kiya the gull	Lasell	Fiction	Contemporary times.	1-3	Kiya the seagull finds himself tangled in wire while seraching for food. He does not realize that the boy from whom he's trying to escape is actually trying to free him from the wire. Very descriptive; very readable for younger students.

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Lantern in the Window, A	Fisher	Historical Fiction	Pre-Civil War Rural American Midwest	2-5	A 12 year old boy moves to his relatives farm to help out and discovers that they help the Underground Railroad. (Story starts with mystery that will keep readers interested. Good explanation of the Underground Railroad.) (126 pages - HB)
Little Horse That Raced a Train, The	Hays	Realistic Fiction	Modern U.S.A.	1-2	A wild horse daily races a train to town, but gets trapped on a high cliff during winter until rescued. Good story; easy read. (32 pages - HB)
Miss Pickerell Goes to the Arctic	MacGregor	Fiction		3	An older lady becomes involved in a rescue mission in the Arctic. She and her friends see a need and try to help. (126 pages - HB)
Miss Pickerell Goes Undersea	MacGregor	Fiction	20th Century	2-4	Peculiar older woman has an adventure and learns about scuba diving, sunken ships, and atomic submarines. (127 pages - HB)
Peachtree Island	Lawrence	Realistic Fiction		3-4	Nine year old Cecilla (Cissie), an orphaned child passed from one aunt to another goes to live temporarily with her forgetful yet fun-loving Uncle Eben and his spunky housekeeper on Peachtree Island in Lake Michigan. She comes to love her life there and hopes to stay by proving that she can help her uncle with his work. 224 pages (large type) HB.
Poppy Seeds, The	Bulla	Fiction		1-3	In a small Mexican village, Pablo helps a little girl. She gives him flower seeds, which he plants throughout his village, including at the home of an old, unkind man. (34 Pages - HB)

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Rasmus and the Vagabond	Lindgren	Realistic Fiction		3-4	Adventure story of a young orphan boy who runs away from the orphanage in search of parents who would want an "older, straight-haired" boy. He encounters many good and bad characters in his journey. (192 pages, HB)
Rescue, The	Cunningham	Realistic Fiction	Modern U.S.A.	2-5	Family gets caught in a mountain cabin during severe thunderstorm and flooding. At the beginning, siblings are rude to each other, but get better as they work together. Dad is deceased and mom gets sick in this story, so the children must figure out what to do. (59 pages - HB)
Saturdays, The	Enright	Fiction	Mid-20th Century (WW II years) America.	2-5	Four siblings pool their allowances and take turns going out for adventures on Saturday afternoons. (175 pages - HB)
Secret of the Rosewood Box, The	Orton	Historical Fiction	Late 19th Century America.	2-4	A family moves west to Michigan in the Spring of 1880. Grandma's special hat box is lost, but eventually recovered. (Large type, easy to read, good story with a bit of a mystery.) (112 pages, HB)
Toad Food and Measles Soup	McDonnell	Realistic Fiction	Modern U.S.	2-3	This book consists of five short stories about Leo Nolan, an elementary school-aged boy, and his family. Leo faces a problem in each of the stories. (109 Pages - HB)
Understood Betsy	Fisher	Realistic Fiction		2-4	Nine year old girl moves from city to country farm after the death of her parents; learns to take care of herself and help others. Although the setting is old-fashioned and rural, activities are interesting. (211 Pages - HB)