

Dear Second Grade Parents,

We look forward to seeing your children in the second grade next year. We have plenty of great things in store for the students! We want to recommend a few things to work on this summer to prepare your child for second grade. During the three long months of summer vacation, skills can be lost if not practiced. Two major skills that deteriorate are reading fluency/comprehension and memorization of math facts. Below are a few recommendations and websites to help your child continue to grow and learn over summer.

#### REQUIRED SUMMER READING:

1. Please have your child read at least one book from the "Frog and Toad" series by Arnold Lobel, AND one book from the "Henry and Mudge" series by Cynthia Rylant.
2. Attached are two book report forms for those books. If your child would like to do more, you can make copies of these or print more from our classroom webpage.
3. Students may write the names of other books that they read over the summer on the book log.
4. Please have your child return both the book reports and the reading logs the first week of school.

#### MORE RECOMMENDATIONS:

##### Reading

- Spend at least 20 minutes a day reading. Mix it up! Have your child read to you or read silently. Read to your child or take turns with every other page. The important thing is that they are practicing their reading skills every single day!
- Have your child retell the story in the correct sequence using the words First, Next, Then, and Finally.
- Ask your child questions about the problem/solution, characters, setting, and main idea.
- Play phonics games online. Some suggestions are included at the end of this note.

##### Writing

- Give your child a notebook or diary to have them write a journal about the summer.
- Have them correct an entry once a week for a capital letter at the beginning and a period at the end of each sentence.
- Encourage creative writing and poetry as well.

## Math

- The most important skill to practice in math over the summer is memorizing addition math facts. Facts should be mastered. Facts are mastered when the student can see the problem and know the answer instantly. A wait time of more than 2-3 seconds indicates that the fact is not completely mastered. Mastery of basic facts helps in all areas of the math curriculum.
- The best way to memorize facts is 2 or 3 at a time. After they have those memorized, add another.
- It is very easy to make flash cards, and it is a good activity for your child. They can use note cards or cut up colored paper. Anything to make it fun!
- You can also go on to [www.aplusmath.com](http://www.aplusmath.com) to print flashcards and play games.
- It's a good idea to make it a habit of practicing math facts. Try to get into a routine with the facts so that the students come to expect the practice time as a normal part of their day. Throughout the school year, students will be expected to practice their facts nightly.

Some great websites are listed below. As always, make sure you monitor your child's internet usage!

Math: [www.aplusmath.com](http://www.aplusmath.com)  
[www.aaamath.com](http://www.aaamath.com)

Reading: [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)  
[www.gamequarium.com](http://www.gamequarium.com)

General: [www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)  
[www.pbskids.org](http://www.pbskids.org)  
[www.factmonster.com](http://www.factmonster.com)

Have a great summer! We're looking forward to seeing you in August!

Sincerely,  
Lisa Stuart and Terri Davis



# Book Report

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_ Number of pages \_\_\_\_\_

Write about the beginning, middle, and end of the book. Draw an illustration for each part.

## Beginning

_____	
_____	
_____	
_____	
_____	
_____	

## Middle

_____	
_____	
_____	
_____	
_____	
_____	

End


### Parts of the Book

Fill in the important parts of the book.

**Main Character(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Setting** (when and where the story takes place) \_\_\_\_\_

**Problem** \_\_\_\_\_

**Solution** \_\_\_\_\_

**My favorite part of the book was** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



End


### Parts of the Book

Fill in the important parts of the book.

Main Character(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Setting (when and where the story takes place) \_\_\_\_\_

Problem \_\_\_\_\_

Solution \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite part of the book was \_\_\_\_\_

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## Second Grade Recommended Books

### ***The Adventures of Taxi Dog***

by Debra Barracca, Sal Barracca, Mark Buehner (illus.)

Jim, a New York City taxi driver, rescues a stray dog and dubs his new pet Maxi. Maxi accompanies Jim in his taxi and meets all sorts of people. With each new passenger, Maxi makes a new friend -- and even helps Jim get tips! The text is written in a bouncing rhyme, and Buehner's paintings capture Maxi's doggy personality and Jim's geniality. Can you find the cat in every picture?

### ***Amelia Bedelia (I Can Read Book Series)***

by Peggy Parish, Fritz Siebel (illus.)

Meet Amelia Bedelia, the unflappable maid who does everything literally. With her purse on her arm and hat firmly on her head, Amelia Bedelia follows instructions to a T: Change the towels? Nothing a pair of scissors can't do! Dust the furniture? That's when the perfumed dusting powder really comes in handy. Dress the chicken for dinner -- well, do you want a boy chicken or a girl chicken? Amelia Bedelia's well-meaning gaffs cause readers to chuckle but her employer to fume -- it's a good thing she's such a good cook!

### ***The Case of the Spooky Sleepover, Jigsaw Jones Mystery #4***

by James Preller

Ralphie Jordan can't sleep. Something is making spooky noises in his room at night. It's a perfect case for Jigsaw Jones, who pieces together all the ghostly clues.

### ***Chicken Soup with Rice, A Book of Months***

by Maurice Sendak

"Each month is gay, each season is nice, when eating chicken soup with rice." It's nice in January, April, June, and December -- here's the every-month dish for everyone to remember.

### ***Flat Stanley***

by Jeff Brown, Steve Bjorkman (illus.)

Stanley Lambchop is a nice, average boy. He leads a nice, ordinary life. Then one day a bulletin board falls on him, and suddenly Stanley is flat. This turns out to be very interesting. Stanley gets rolled up, mailed, and flown like a kite. He even gets to stop crime. He's flat, but he's a hero!

### ***The Giving Tree***

by Shel Silverstein

A little boy befriends a tree. Loving and generous, the tree provides everything she can for him -- fruit, shade, a place for a swing -- throughout the boy's life. He, in turn, takes from the tree without noticing the sacrifices she makes. It isn't until he's old and infirm and gratefully rests on her stump that he understands all she has done. This powerful parable is fitting for all age groups.

### ***The Great Kapok Tree A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest***

by Lynne Cherry

A man walks into a lush rain forest and starts chopping down a huge kapok tree. Lulled by the heat, he sits down and soon falls asleep. The forest dwellers approach, each whispering in his ear a reason to keep the tree standing. Suddenly, the man wakes up, and for the first time notices the beauty all around him. Will he still chop down the tree? The beauty of Cherry's art helps to convey an important message in this environmental tale.

### ***Is Your Mama a Llama?***

by Deborah Guarino, Steven Kellogg (illus.)

A young llama is curious -- are all his friends' mamas llamas? Each animal tells Lloyd facts about its mother, and Lloyd -- along with young readers -- guesses what kind of animal each mother is. The rhyming text and illustrations give hints, and preschoolers will enjoy yelling out the answers, which are revealed by turning the page.

### ***Junie B. Jones Smells Something Fishy, Junie B. Jones Series #12***

by Barbara Park, Denise Brunkus (illus.)



Frustrated because the rules for her class's Pet Day will not let her take her dog to school, Junie B. Jones considers taking a raccoon, a worm, a dead fish, and other unusual replacements.

### ***Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse***

by Kevin Henkes

Lilly the mouse adores her teacher, Mr. Slinger -- until he takes away the purple plastic purse she was proudly showing off to her class. Lilly is so angry she draws a nasty picture of Mr. Slinger and slips it in his bag. At the end of the day, Lilly gets her purse back and inside is a sympathetic note and a bag of treats. As in all his other books, Henkes shows an incredible sensitivity to children's feelings.

### ***Martha Blah Blah***

by Susan Meddaugh

When the current owner of the soup company breaks the founder's promise to have every letter of the alphabet in every can of soup, Martha, the talking dog, takes action.

### ***Mrs. Katz and Tush***

by Patricia Polacco

In this special Passover story, Larnel Moore, an African-American boy, and Mrs. Katz, an elderly Jewish woman, develop an unusual friendship through their mutual concern for an abandoned cat named Tush. Together they explore the common themes of suffering and triumph in each of their cultures.

### ***Stellaluna***

by Janell Cannon, Jewell Cannon

Stellaluna, a little brown bat, is accidentally dropped by her mother. The helpless baby falls smack into a nest of fledglings and is immediately accepted as one of the family. Stellaluna tries to fit in but keeps acting unbirdlike, hanging upside down and wanting to fly at night. By chance Stellaluna is reunited with her mother and finally learns to be a proper bat.

### ***Tonight on the Titanic, Magic Tree House Series #17***

by Mary Pope Osborne, Sal Murdocca (illus.)

The Magic Tree House whisks Jack and Annie away to the decks of that ill-fated ship, the Titanic. There they must help two children find their way to a lifeboat -- while they are in danger of becoming victims of that tragic night themselves.

### ***You Can't Eat Your Chicken Pox, Amber Brown***

by Paula Danziger, Tony Ross (illus.)

Amber Brown has survived third grade -- even though her best friend, Justin, moved away. Now she's heading to London with her Aunt Pam -- and then to Paris. Before she gets there, Amber finds out she has chicken pox. Amber Brown is a kid with problems. Now that she can't go to Paris, how will she convince her dad to move back in with her mom?

### ***Zelda and Ivy***

by Laura McGee Kvasnosky

Zelda and Ivy are sisters with a flair for the dramatic. Whether they're performing a circus act, fashioning their tails in the latest style, or working wonders with "fairy dust," their exploits are described with wit and charm in a very special trio of stories exploring the intimate dynamic between an older and younger sister.