

June 2010



Dear Second Grade Parents,

Welcome to Second Grade! We are looking forward to getting to know your child this next 2010-2011 school year. As you may know, our Language Arts curriculum is largely centered around the Open Court Reading Series.

As we prepared this **suggested** summer reading list, we are listing books that coincide with each Unit of our Reading Program for Second Grade.

UNIT 1: Sharing Stories

Anansi does the Impossible by Verna Aardema.

Where do stories come from? A spider and his wife? Impossible? Read and find out.

Aunt Isabel Makes Trouble by Kate Duke.

Have you ever wanted a story to go on forever? So does Penelope.

Author: A True Story by Helen Lester.

How do you become a writer? This writer started at three years old.

Gabriella's Song by Candace Fleming.

Come to Venice where Gabriella's story is set to music.

Keepers by Jeri Hanel Watts.

Kenyon catches more than balls with his new baseball glove: he catches on.

More Than Anything Else by Marie Bradby.

Meet nine-year-old Booker T. Washington and see why he wants to learn to read more than anything else.

Sarah's Story by Bill Harley.

What happens to Sarah on the way to school?

Too Much Talk by Angela Shelf Medearis.

What happens when yams and fish and dogs start talking? Read this West African folktale and find out just how much talk is too much.

UNIT 2: Kindness

Badger's Bad Mood by Hiawyn Oram.

What plan does Mole come up with to chase his best friend Badger's blues away?

The Bat in the Boot by Annie Cannon.

The bats come at night, so why is there a bat in a boot in broad daylight?

My Brother, Ant by Betsy Byars.

Anthony's big brother is kind to him in many ways.

The Gardener by Sarah Stewart.

What changes does Lydia make to the rooftop of her Uncle Jim's bakery hoping to make him smile?

I know a Lady by Charlotte Zolotow.

Sally knows a lady who is always doing something nice for someone else.

Jamaica's Find by Juanita Havill.

Is it really better to give than to receive?

Leah's Pony by Elizabeth Friedrich.

What is Leah willing to part with to help her family through hard times?

Tonio's Cat by Mary Calhoun.

Why does Tonio's kindness to a stray cat, Toughy, make him happier in his new country?

UNIT 3: Look Again

Animals in Disguise by Anita Ganeri.

Sunglasses? False mustaches? Read and find out what animals use for disguises.

If At First You Do Not See by Ruth Brown.

Around the page and upside down, this book is full of surprises.

Cantsee: The Cat Who Was the Color of the Carpet by Gretchen Schields. Mr. Blue wants to give Cantsee, a chameleon-like kitten, away.

Crafty Chameleon by Mwenye Hadithi.

How do you handle a bully?

Disguises and Surprises by Claire Llewellyn.

Owls, spiders, polar bears, even flowers have camouflage tricks up their sleeves.

Hiding Out: Camouflage in the Wild by James Martin.

Hey, what's going on here? Is that an insect or is it a stick?

How to Hide a Crocodile by Ruth Heller.

Even crocodiles need to hide sometimes.

What Do You Do When Something Wants To Eat You? by Steve Jenkins.

How do 14 different animals escape from becoming someone else's dinner?

UNIT 4: Fossils

A Dinosaur Named After Me by Bernard Most.

Are you named after a dinosaur? Ryan, Amy Eric, and Katy are! Who else?

Big Old Bones by Carol Carrick.

Professor Potts is having trouble putting together some old bones he found out West. Can you help him?

Digging Up Dinosaurs by Alikei.

How do those dinosaur bones get into the museum anyway?

A Boy Wants a Dinosaur by Hiawyn Oram.

Alex thinks he would like a dinosaur for a pet, but he realizes that it might just be too much trouble.

Dinosaur Hunters by Kate McMullan.

How do scientists find out what prehistoric animals were like?

Dinosaur for a Day by Jim Murphy.

Imagine you are a dinosaur mother with eight hungry children to feed.

Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp by Carol Shields.

Have you ever wondered what caused the first earthquake?

Time Train by Paul Fleischman.

Miss Pym and seven students are headed to Utah for spring break but it looks like they might have taken a wrong turn.

UNIT 5: Courage

Arnie and the Skateboard Gang by Nancy Carlson.

Is it braver to say no or skateboard down Hairy Kerry Hill?

Brave Horace by Holly Keller.

How does Horace find the nerve to go to a monster-movie party?
Would you be scared?

Fabulous Flying Fandinis by Ingrid Snyder.

Fandidi family fun: trapezes, trampolines and unicycles. How does Bobby find the courage to share in their adventures?

Faraway Drums by Virginia Kroll.

Which is scarier: city noises or jungle noises?

Fly Away Home by Eve Bunting.

With no home but the airport, Andrew and his father bravely face each day.

Harry and the Terrible Whatzit by Dick Gackenbach.

Is the terrible whatzit in the cellar as bad as Harry thinks it is?

Shy Charles by Rosemary Wells.

No talk but all action. Silent Charles may surprise you!

What's Under My Bed? By James Stevenson.

Louie and Mary discover that Grandpa, too, was afraid of things under his bed.

UNIT 6: Our Country and Its People

The American Wei by Marion Hess Pomeranc.

Will the tooth fairy find Wei Fong now that he's an American citizen?

Father's Rubber Shoes by Yumi Heo.

How does his father's story about a pair of rubber shoes help a young Korean immigrant make new friends?

Frida Maria: A Story of the Old Southwest by Deborah Nourse

Lattimore. What happens to Frida Maria's frilly dress when she enters a horse race at the fiesta?

Grandmother and the Runaway Shadow by Liz Rosenberg.

Have you made friends with your shadow lately? Meet a young Russian girl who did just that.

Grandfather's Journey by Allen Say.

You can't be two places at the same time, but if you could, would you want to be? Some people do.

Mama Provi and the Pot of Rice by Sylvia Rosa-Casanova.

A pot of rice becomes a feast as it makes a trip up seven flights of stairs.

Red Bird by Barbara Mitchell.

Why does Jenny become Red Bird once a year?