

- Get Ready for Summer Reading!

Academic research studies have shown that students who participate in summer reading programs, or engage in free voluntary reading during the summer, return to school in September ahead of those students who don't participate in these activities. Don't let your child fall victim to the "summer slide!" How can you help?

- Encourage your child to spend time reading for pleasure during the summer. There's no better way to spend a hot afternoon than curled up in a cool spot with a great book.
- Sign your child up for one of the great summer reading programs sponsored by the Cranford Public Library. Programs are available for children of all ages.
- Model reading for pleasure in your home. Make a variety of materials (books, magazines, newspapers, comic books) available and let your child see you enjoying them. There's no better endorsement than your example.

To help you get started, take a look at some of the books featured below. Summer reading lists are also available at the Cranford Public Library.

Have a great summer filled with great reading!

Grades 3 and 4

*How I Learned Geography* by Uri Shulevitz. In this fictionalized version of true events, a boy and his family find themselves lost in a strange land. The gift of a wall map opens the door to faraway places and provides a distraction from the troubles at hand.

*Farmer George Plants a Nation* by Peggy Thomas. You know all about George Washington as the father of our country, but how much do you know about his role as a farmer?

*Clementine's Letter* by Sara Pennypacker. Clementine really loves her teacher. So, should she write him a letter of recommendation so he can go on an archaeological dig?

Should she think of someone else before herself? (If you like *Clementine*, check out the other books in the series.)

*Our White House* by the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance. We have a new president, so what better time to take a look at his new house? This beautifully done book describes not only the White House, but the various families that have occupied this historic home.

*Eleanor, Quiet No More: The Life of Eleanor Roosevelt* by Doreen Rappaport. Using Eleanor Roosevelt's own words, the author tells the story of her growth from a shy, insecure child to a beloved and respected First Lady of the United States and citizen of the world.

*Cool Zone with the Pain and the Great One* by Judy Blume. This third book in the series continues the story of older sister Abigail ("the Great One") and younger brother Jake ("the Pain").

*Don't Talk to Me About the War* by David A. Adler. It's 1940, and much is going on in the life of 13-year-old Tommy Duncan. He would love to carry on with his routine of family, school and the Brooklyn Dodgers, but the world won't leave him alone. This historical fiction selection is a great introduction to an important time in our country's history.

*One World, One Day* by Barbara Kerley. Sixty crisp, skillfully composed photographs follow children from all corners of the globe through a day, revealing activities that are strikingly similar yet very different.

*Dexter the Tough* by Margaret Peterson Haddix. As part of a writing assignment in his new school, Dexter describes himself as "tuf" and explains how he got off to a rough start. As the writing process continues, he elaborates his story and comes to grip with the changes in his life.

*The Homework Machine* by Dan Gutman. Four students, as well as their teacher and mothers, each relate events surrounding a computer programmed to complete homework assignments. (Also check out these Dan Gutman series, "The Baseball Card Adventures" and "My Weird School.")

*The Scrambled States of America: Talent Show* by Laurie Keller. In this sequel to "The Scrambled States of America", the states decide to get together and put on a show featuring their particular talents, sharing facts about their history and geography.

*Emmaline and the Bunny* by Katherine Hannigan. Lonely Emmaline wants a bunny "most mostly". But messy pets are prohibited in her town, Neatasapin, where ornery Mayor Orson Oliphant has outlawed dirt, weeds and puddles. One day she follows a wild bunny into the underbrush where she learns that in order to keep the rabbit, she must make her environment more inviting to wild creatures and shake up the orderly world she lives in.

*Who Stole the Wizard of Oz?* by Avi. Becky and her brother use some ingenious clues to identify the person who stole five children's books from the town's library.

*Just Grace Goes Green* by Chris Mericle Harper. As Miss Lois's class learns about ways to help the environment, Grace helps comfort her friend Mimi, whose favorite stuffed toy has gone missing. Look for other books about Just Grace.

*The Year of the Dog* by Grace Lin. Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog, to her own life.