

FOR STUDENTS ENTERING SECOND GRADE

These books are all appropriately fun and appealing to the interests and understandings of this age. They are listed in approximate order of "readability" (vocabulary, concepts, complexity), from easier to more challenging. Any of these books should be read aloud by the parent to the child first, with shared discussion at the end of each page. Subsequent readings by the child will lead to development of confidence and independence. All of these good books will be reviewed, read, and responded to in Second Grade, at the beginning of the school year. Please choose three or more books.

1. Henry and Mudge and the Forever Sea by Cynthia Rylant
Henry and his 180-pound dog, Mudge, are best friends forever. In this sixth book of their adventures, they share a fun-filled day at the beach.
2. Fox and His Friends by Edward Marshall
Ever popular Fox is asked to look after his sister, Louise. He wants to have fun with his friends, not take care of his little sister. What a bore! "Fetchingly ridiculous" and guaranteed to delight early readers of all ages.
3. Frog and Toad are Friends by Arnold Lobel
This book continues the adventures of these two friends. There are five short stories of caring, sharing, and enjoying days together.
4. The Three Little Pigs by James Marshall
This traditional story is up-dated with typically untraditional James Marshall touches. It's fun.
5. Jack and the Beanstalk by Steven Kellogg
This is a marvelous streamlined version of the classic. Through lovely illustrations Kellogg weaves a story within a story. The author's swirling pen depicts the ogre as toothy, warty and putrid yellow-green. His wife is tall and slim, very fond of lipstick, and wears a necklace of skeletal shrunken heads. A favorite character, Pinkerton, accompanies the princess's entourage while Jack himself is quite irresistible.
6. Horrible Harry in Room 2B by Suzy Kline
Harry tries his best to be horrible, and usually succeeds. But his friends understand him, and his teacher accommodates him because sometimes he turns out to be a great kid. This chapter book is the first of a series that is much read by second graders.