

## Hello Upper Elementary,

Happy summer! I am excited to share with you **our summer reading list**. You may want to explore some of the titles on this list or other titles that have piqued your interest. I encourage you to read for pleasure, learning, and broadening your perspective on the world and humanity. You might choose to read genres you do not typically read; there is so much out there! Historical fiction, mysteries, fantasy, science fiction, biographies, graphic novels... Don't feel pressured to stick to your grade level- if there is a book that interests you, go for it!

For one of the books you read this summer, you will write a **book report**. I have provided a guide that reviews what makes a strong book report and an example. Your book report should be about one to two pages, hand-written (one, if typed) and have multiple paragraphs.

You will also **create a project** to accompany your report. You may choose to make a diorama, a cereal box book cover, or something completely different and original. Have fun with this project!

Over the first couple weeks of school next fall, each student will share their report and project with the class. Ahead of time, practice reading your work, so that you feel comfortable and prepared to share your report and project with your classmates.

Also this year, a **math packet** is being sent home for **skill review**. It will cover many skills learned over the past year as well as fact practice. I encourage you to do a little bit at a time and not wait to do it all at once (no procrastinating!); that would defeat the purpose of review! Both reading and math assignments can be brought to school the first week of class.

I hope you all have a fun-filled summer of playing outside, swimming, getting together with family and friends, and of course, picking up a good book!

Have a beautiful summer,

Note to parents: Our classroom has a wide range of maturity levels and reading levels. While the books on this list have been researched and many read by myself, I encourage each family to look over the books listed and help their child decide what books are most appropriate at this time.

## Elements of a Strong Book Report

**Introduction:** This part should have the **title of the book** and its **author**. You can also include the **genre** (i.e. mystery, science fiction, etc.) of the book and a brief note why you chose it.

**Plot Summary:** This part summarizes the **main events of the book** without giving away major spoilers. In this section you may also want to include who the **main characters** are and what they are like; also, where and when the story takes place (**the setting**).

**Themes and Messages:**

You may include what **important themes** the author writes about or lessons learned when reading the book.

**Personal Reflection and Conclusion:** End your report with what you thought about the story, if you enjoyed it or not and what it made you think about. You may want to include a recommendation or compare it to another book you found similar.



**Sample Book Report: *The One and Only Ivan***

This summer I read the novel *The One and Only Ivan*, by Katherine Applegate. This story is fiction, as the main characters are animals that can talk, but the themes in the story are real and help us connect to the characters.

The main character, Ivan, is a silver-back gorilla who has lived at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade for 27 years in captivity. He is a kind, peaceful gorilla, who is best friends with Stella (an elephant), Bob (a stray dog), and a human girl, Julia. Ivan struggles with being in a human environment; while he has friends and things around him to stay occupied, Ivan feels deep down that something is missing in his life. He is an artist and uses his talent to express himself and communicate with others. One day, a new animal arrives at the Big Top Mall and Ivan and his friends quickly become concerned about her safety and happiness. Ivan realizes that because of his silver-back nature and a promise to a friend, he cannot just stand by and watch what happens. He needs to act.

This story is written like a poetic journal, with Ivan being the narrator. Since we know Ivan's thoughts and feelings, it becomes easier to relate to him and his animal friends. Friendship, courage, and animal captivity are major themes in this story. The author makes the reader take a hard look at what is possible when one perseveres and has hope.

I really enjoyed this book. I could relate to a lot of the characters, even though they were animals. I also liked that the book was not just funny, it was touching and sometimes a little sad. I think that a lot of kids would like this book as well, since it's a fun read but also makes you think.

## **Upper El Summer Reading List**

### ***Recommended for 4th Years***

- ❖ The Million Dollar Shot - Dan Gutman
- ❖ Sign of the Beaver - Elizabeth George Speare
- ❖ Turtle in Paradise by Jennifer L. Holm
- ❖ Henry Huggins by Beverly Cleary (series)
- ❖ How to Eat Fried Worms by Thomas Rockwell
- ❖ No Talking by Andrew Clements
- ❖ Ramona Quimby by Beverly Cleary ( or others in the series)
- ❖ Flush, Hoot, Scat, or Chomp by Carl Hiaasen (companion books)
- ❖ Rain Reign by Ann M. Martin
- ❖ Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick
- ❖ Mr. Lemoncello's Library by Chris Grabenstein (series)
- ❖ Book Scavenger by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman (series)
- ❖ The Maze of Bones by Rick Riordan (39 Clues series)
- ❖ The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart (series)
- ❖ Runaway Ralph by Beverly Cleary
- ❖ Stuart Little by E.B. White
- ❖ The BFG by Roald Dahl
- ❖ Castle in the Attic by Elizabeth Winthrop (series)
- ❖ The Land of Stories by Chris Colfer (series)
- ❖ The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick
- ❖ If You Lived at the Time of the American Revolution by Kay Moore (series)
- ❖ Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World by Jennifer Armstrong True Stories by various authors (series by Usborne)
- ❖ Caddie Woodlawn by Carol Ryrie Brink
- ❖ Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
- ❖ The Wild Robot by Peter Brown
- ❖ I Survived (series) - Lauren Tarshis

### ***Recommended for 5th Years***

- ❖ Wonder - R. J. Palacio

- ❖ The Only Girl in School - Natalie Standiford
- ❖ The Penderwicks (series) - Jeanne Birdsall
- ❖ Loki's Wolves - K. L. Armstrong
- ❖ El Deafo - Cece Bell
- ❖ Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing - Judy Blume
- ❖ The Name of This Book is Secret - Pseudonymous Bosch
- ❖ Because of Mr. Terupt - Rob Buyea
- ❖ The Lemonade War - Jacqueline Davies
- ❖ Thor's Serpents - K. L. Armstrong
- ❖ Superfudge - Judy Blume
- ❖ Spy School - Stuart Gibbs
- ❖ Where the Mountain Meets the Moon - Grace Lin
- ❖ Rules - Cynthia Lord
  
- ❖ The Lightning Thief - Rick Riordan
- ❖ Booked - Kwame Alexander
- ❖ Echo Mountain - Lauren Wolk
- ❖ Holes - Louis Sachar
- ❖ Inside Out and Back Again - Thanhha Lai
- ❖ My Side of the Mountain - Jean Craighead George
- ❖ Other Words for Home - Jasmine Warga
- ❖ Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart by Candace Fleming
- ❖ Archimedes and the Door of Science by Jeanne Bendick
- ❖ The Remarkable Rough-Riding Life of Theodore Roosevelt and the Rise of Empire America by Cheryl Harness

### ***Recommended for 6th Years***

- ❖ The Trouble with Heroes - Kate Messner
- ❖ Willowdeen - Katherine Applegate
- ❖ The Lion of Mars - Jennifer L. Holm
- ❖ My Life as a Potato - Arianne Costner
- ❖ Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH - Robert C. O'Brien
- ❖ Little Women - Louisa May Alcott
- ❖ The Door of No Return - Kwame Alexander
- ❖ The Last Cuentista - Donna Barba Higuera
- ❖ The Call of the Wild - Jack London
- ❖ The Dark is Rising - Susan Cooper
- ❖ Island of the Blue Dolphins - Scott O'Dell
- ❖ Chains - Laurie Halse Anderson
- ❖ Midnight Without a Moon - Linda Williams Jackson
- ❖ Ghost - Jason Reynolds
- ❖ Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry - Mildred D Taylor
- ❖ The Graveyard Book - Neil Gaiman
- ❖ Wolf Hollow - Lauren Wolk
- ❖ The 50 States - Gabrielle Balkan
- ❖ Beetle Boy - MG Leonard
- ❖ The Mysterious Benedict Society (series) - Trenton Lee Stewart
- ❖ Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (or any in the series) J. K. Rowling
- ❖ Where the Red Fern Grows - Wilson Rawls
- ❖ Anne of Green Gables (series) - LM Montgomery
- ❖ A Wrinkle in Time - Madeline L'Engle
- ❖ Amal Unbound - Aisha Saeed
- ❖ Jack London and the Klondike Gold Rush by Peter Lourie
- ❖ The Woman Who Split the Atom: The Life of Lise Meitner by Marissa Moss
- ❖ Seen and Unseen - Elizabeth Partridge and Lauren Tamaki (Illustrator)
- ❖ Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl
- ❖ Everything Sad is Untrue by Lucinda Dyer