

# Books for Relaxing Reading



**Grades 3 - 5**



**Pittsburgh  
Public Schools**

**EXCELLENCE<sup>★</sup>  
FOR ALL**

*The Pathway to the Promise.*



## Pittsburgh Public Schools

Linda S. Lane, Ed.D, Deputy Superintendent  
Office of Instruction, Assessment, and Accountability

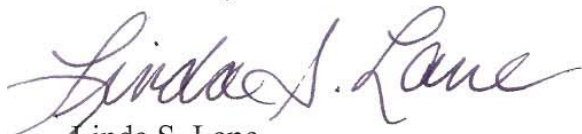
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May 2009

Dear Pittsburgh Public Schools Students:

I know you are looking forward to the summer break and I hope that many of you plan to continue learning through our summer programs for reading and math. Another way to keep on learning is through your summer reading list for reading on your own. This list is to help you find books to read so you can continue to work hard and dream big all summer long. You do not have to only read books on the list, but do keep track of what you read by writing your summary in the reading log. Your principal is going to do this too, so check to find out how many books they read this summer when you come back to school! Bring your log with you to school in August. The Carnegie Libraries have the list and can help you find the books you want to read. Stay safe and read this summer!

All the best,



Linda S. Lane



*The Pathway to the Promise.*

We are an equal rights and opportunity school district



## Branches of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh



Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh operates 19 neighborhood locations including Main Library and the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Each neighborhood library is staffed with exceptional employees who are dedicated to assisting their customers. Check your local neighborhood location to find daily hours of operation.

**Main Library**  
4400 Forbes Ave.  
412.622.3114

**Allegheny**  
(opening Summer, 2009)  
1210 Federal St.  
412.237.1890

**Beechview**  
1910 Broadway Ave.  
412.563.2900

**Brookline**  
708 Brookline Blvd.  
412.561.1003

**Carrick**  
1811 Brownsville Rd.  
412.882.3897

**Downtown & Business**  
612 Smithfield St.  
412.281.7141

**East Liberty** (closing for renovations, summer, 2009)  
130 S. Whitfield St.  
412.363.8232

**Hazelwood**  
4901 Second Ave.  
412.421.2517

**Hill District**  
2177 Centre Ave. at Kirkpatrick St.  
412.281.3753

**Homewood**  
7101 Hamilton Ave.  
412.731.3080

**Knoxville**  
400 Brownsville Rd.  
412.381.6543

**Lawrenceville**  
279 Fisk St.  
412.682.3668

**Mt. Washington**  
315 Grandview Ave.  
412.381.3380

**Sheraden**  
720 Sherwood Ave.  
412.331.1135

**South Side**  
2205 East Carson St.  
412.431.0505

**Squirrel Hill**  
5801 Forbes Ave.  
412.422.9650

**West End**  
47 Wabash Ave.  
412.921.1717

**Woods Run**  
1201 Woods Run Ave.  
412.761.3730

### Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Leonard C. Staisey Bldg.  
4724 Baum Blvd.  
412.687.2440      800.242.0586

Once you've finished the books on this list, don't forget to ask your teacher-librarian or Carnegie librarian for more suggestions.



## Books for Relaxing Reading

– Grades 3 - 5 –

- Armstrong, William H.** **Sounder**  
Angry and humiliated when his sharecropper father is jailed for stealing food for his family, a young black boy grows in courage and understanding by learning to read and through his relationship with his devoted dog Sounder. A powerful Newbery Award-winning classic.
- Avi** **True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle**  
As the only passenger, and the only female, on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, thirteen-year-old Charlotte finds herself caught between a murderous captain and a mutinous crew.
- Ayres, Katherine** **Macaroni Boy**  
In Pittsburgh in 1933, sixth-grader Mike Costa notices a connection between several strange occurrences, but the only way he can find out the truth about what's happening is to be nice to the class bully. Includes historical facts.
- Barrows, Annie** **Ivy and Bean**  
When seven-year-old Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy, the new neighbor, who is less boring than Bean first suspected.
- Clements, Andrew** **No Talking**  
The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest with surprising results. (Ask your librarian for other suggestions by Andrew Clements.)
- Colfer, Eoin** **Artimis Fowl (series)**  
When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll. This is the first book of a series. (You may also want to find other books by this author. Ask your librarian for suggestions.)
- Creech, Sharon** **Love That Dog**  
A young student, who comes to love poetry through a personal understanding of what different famous poems mean to him, surprises himself by writing his own inspired poem.
- Dahl, Roald** **James and the Giant Peach.**  
A young boy escapes from his two evil aunts and embarks on a series of adventures with an assortment of insects whom he meets inside a peach. (Any title by Roald Dahl will bring a smile to a reader of any age. Ask your librarian for suggestions.)
- Danziger, Paula** **Amber Brown is Not a Crayon**  
Her third grade year is a sad time for Amber, because her best friend Justin is getting ready to move to a distant state.
- DiCamillo, Kate** **Because of Winn-Dixie**  
Ten-year-old India Opal describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big, lovable dog Winn-Dixie. (Ask your librarian for suggestions of titles by Kate DiCamillo.)
- Diterlizzi, Tony** **The Spiderwick Chronicles**  
Adventures of the Grace children who have some unusual experiences after they discover a field guide to fairies and other creatures.
- Eager, Edward** **Half Magic**  
Faced with a dull summer in the city, Jane, Mark, Katharine, and Martha suddenly find themselves involved in a series of extraordinary adventures after Jane discovers an ordinary-looking coin that seems to grant wishes.
- Farmer, Nancy** **The Ear, the Eye and the Arm**  
In 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them. (Ask your librarian for other titles by Nancy Farmer.)

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– Grades 3 - 5 –

**Bonham, Frank**

### **A Dream of Ghosts**

This is the book that got me hooked on reading. An American family moves into a haunted French castle. There are 8 copies around the PPS Library system, more than Carnegie's 2. Still wanted to include this.

**Funke, Cornelia**

### **Inkheart**

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can "read" fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force him into service.

**Gaiman, Neil**

### **Coraline**

Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own, where she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others. (Ask your librarian for suggestions of other books by this award winning author.)

**Golenbock, Peter**

### **Teammates**

This book describes the racial prejudice experienced by Jackie Robinson when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers and became the first black player in Major League baseball and depicts the acceptance and support he received from his white teammate Pee Wee Reese.

**Gutman, Dan**

### **Homework Machine**

Four fifth-grade students--a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker--as well as their teacher and mothers, each relate events surrounding a computer programmed to complete homework assignments.

**Hale, Bruce**

### **Chet Gecko Mysteries (series)**

Detective Chet Gecko and his associate, Natalie Attired, take a case... [1] The big nap -- [2] The chameleon wore chartreuse -- [3] Farewell, my lunchbag -- [4] Give my regrets to Broadway -- [5] The hamster of the Baskervilles -- [6] Key Lardo -- [7] The malted falcon -- [8] Murder, my tweet -- [9] The mystery of Mr. Nice -- [10] The possum always rings twice -- [11] This gum for hire -- [12] Trouble is my beeswax.]

**Hannigan, Katherine**

### **Ida B.**

Who is Ida B. Applewood? She is a fourth grader like no other, living a life like no other, with a voice like no other, and her story will resonate long after you have put this book down. With the help of a patient teacher, a loyal cat and dog, her beloved apple trees, and parents who believe in the same things she does (even if they sometimes act as though they don't), Ida B. Applewood takes the hand that is extended and starts to grow up.

**Hiaasen, Carl**

### **Flush**

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home. (Ask your librarian to suggest other titles by Carl Hiaasen.)

**Howe, James**

### **Bunnicula**

Though scoffed at by Harold the dog, Chester the cat tries to warn his human family that their founding baby bunny must be a vampire. (Others in series, like Nighty Nightmare, are also fun.)

**Kinney, Jeff**

### **Diary of a Wimpy Kid**

Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to survive, but when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship.

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## Books for Relaxing Reading

– Grades 3 - 5 –

**Kline, Suzy**

### **Horrible Harry Moves Up to Third Grade**

Harry and his friends start off with a new grade and a field trip to a copper mine. (The rest of the Horrible Harry series is also enjoyable.)

**Klise, Kate**

### **Regarding the Fountain**

When the principal asks a fifth-grader to write a letter regarding the purchase of a new drinking fountain for their school, he finds that all sorts of chaos results.

**Konigsburg, E.L.**

### **The View from Saturday**

Did Mrs. Olinsky choose the four members of the sixth grade Academic Bowl Team, or did they choose her--and one another? Four stories-within-in-a-story, interspersed with the ongoing narrative of the team's triumphant march to the state championship, introduce each member of the team in his own her own voice, and bring the dynamics of the group into focus. (Ask your librarian for suggestions of other titles by E.L. Konigsburg.)

**Korman, Gordan**

### **Swindle**

After unscrupulous collector S. Wendell Palamino cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of misfits to break into Palomino's heavily guarded store and steal the card back, planning to use the money to finance his father's failing invention, the SmartPick fruit picker.

**Larson, Kirby**

### **Hattie Big Sky**

After inheriting her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana, sixteen-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks travels from Iowa in 1917 to make a home for herself and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war being fought in Europe.

**Levine, Ellen**

### **Henry's Freedom Box**

A fictionalized account of how in 1849 a Virginia slave, Henry "Box" Brown, escapes to freedom by shipping himself in a wooden crate from Richmond to Philadelphia

**Levy, Elizabeth**

### **My Life as a Fifth Grade Comedian**

Although Bobby's father thinks that he might be expelled just like his older brother, with the encouragement of a new fifth-grade teacher, Bobby tries to channel his penchant for humor into a learning experience.

**Lewis, C.S.**

### **Chronicles of Narnia (series)**

From the seed of a silver apple came the wardrobe. Through the wardrobe came four children. To these children came a special magic. With that magic came seven unforgettable stories.

**MacLachlan, Patricia**

### **Sarah, Plain and Tall**

When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay.

**McDonald, Megan**

### **Judy Moody (series)**

(First book): Third grader Judy Moody comes to school on the first day in a bad mood, but that all changes when she gets an assignment to create a collage about herself. (Ask your librarian to help you find other titles in this series.)

**Naylor, Phyllis  
Reynolds**

### **Shiloh**

When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.

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– Grades 3 - 5 –

**Nimmo, Jennifer**

**Midnight for Charlie Bone**

Charlie Bone's life with his widowed mother and two grandmothers undergoes a dramatic change when he discovers that he can hear people in photographs talking. This is the first book in the Children of the Red King series. All of the books will be enjoyable reading.

**Osborne, Mary Pope**

**Magic Tree House (series)**

The magic tree house carries Jack and Annie to different places in past, present, future. (Ask your librarian to help you find others in the series.)

**Parks, Barbara**

**Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus**

In her own words, a young girl describes her feelings about starting kindergarten and what she does when she decides not to ride the bus home. (You may also enjoy more books in the Junie B. Jones series)

**Patterson, Katherine**

**Bridge to Terabithia**

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

**Pennypacker, Sara**

**Clementine (series)**

While sorting through difficulties in her friendship with her neighbor Margaret, eight-year-old Clementine gains several unique hairstyles while also helping her father in his efforts to banish pigeons from the front of their apartment building.

**Pinkney, Jerry**

**Aesop's Fables**

A collection of nearly sixty fables from Aesop, including such familiar ones as "The Grasshopper and the Ants," "The North Wind and the Sun," "Androcles and the Lion," "The Troublesome Dog," and "The Fox and the Stork."

**Polacco, Patricia**

**Pink and Say**

Chronicles the friendship of Pink, a fifteen-year-old African-American Union soldier, and Say, his poor white comrade, as one nurses the other back to health from a battle wound and the two of them are imprisoned at Andersonville. Based on a true story.

**Rowling, J. K.**

**Harry Potter (series)**

Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. (Ask your librarian to help you to find – and read – them all. Bet you can't read just one!)

**Sachar, Louis**

**Sideways Stories From Wayside School (series)**

Humorous episodes from the classroom on the thirtieth story of a school that was built sideways. (Ask your librarian to suggest more titles from this author.)

**Salisbury, Graham**

**The Lord of the Deep**

Mikey seems to have a great relationship with his stepfather until his stepfather has to make a crucial decision that involves doing the right thing versus doing what best serves the family.

**San Souci, Robert D.**

**Talking Eggs**

A Southern folktale in which kind Blanche, following the instructions of an old witch, gains riches, while her greedy sister makes fun of the old woman and is duly rewarded.

**Schmidt, Gary D.**

**Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy**

In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers--and Turner's--want to change into a tourist spot.

**Scieszka, Jon**

**Math Curse**

When the teacher tells her class that they can think of almost everything as a math problem, one student acquires a math anxiety which becomes a real curse.

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– Grades 3 - 5 –

**Selznick, Brian**

**The Invention of Hugo Cabret**

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toy-seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

**Silverstein, Shel**

**A Light in the Attic**

A collection of humorous poems and drawings. (Ask your librarian for more titles by Shel Silverstein.)

**Silverstein, Shel**

**Where the Sidewalk Ends**

A boy who turns into a TV set and a girl who eats a whale are only two of the characters in a collection of humorous poetry illustrated with the author's own drawings. (Ask your librarian for more titles by Shel Silverstein.)

**Smith, Robert Kimmel**

**Chocolate Fever**

From eating too much chocolate, Henry breaks out in brown bumps that help him foil some hijackers and teach him a valuable lesson about self-indulgence.

**Snicket, Lemony**

**Series of Unfortunate Events (series)**

This series of 13 books chronicles the time when after the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune.

**Spinelli, Jerry**

**Maniac Magee**

After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries. (Ask your librarian for suggestions about more books from Jerry Spinelli.)

**Sterman, Betsy**

**Too Much Magic**

Two brothers find a magic cube and have a grand time wishing for all kinds of things only to find out to "be careful what you wish for."

**Stewart, Trent Lee**

**Mysterious Benedict Society (series)**

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. (This is the first of a series.)

**White, E.B.**

**Charlotte's Web**

The relationships among a group of animals and a spider on a farm demonstrates the bonds of friendship, truth and loyalty. (Ask your librarian for other titles by E.B. White.)

Once you've finished the books on this list, don't forget to ask your teacher-librarian or Carnegie librarian for more suggestions.

# **Books for Relaxing Reading** (Student Log, Grades K-5)

Photocopy this sheet or go to <http://www.pps.k12.pa.us/portal>  
to download additional copies of the student log.

Student's name \_\_\_\_\_

Book # \_\_\_\_\_ Date read: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Book: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_ Illustrator: \_\_\_\_\_

On the lines below write a short summary of the story. If you like, include why you would recommend the book to others. \_\_\_\_\_

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Book # \_\_\_\_\_ Date read: \_\_\_\_\_

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On the lines below write a short summary of the story. If you like, include why you would recommend the book to others. \_\_\_\_\_

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