Shaker Heights Schools

3rd Grade Reading List

Recommended by your Shaker Schools Librarians
Aardema, Verna  Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears

In this West African folk tale, Mosquito tells Iguana a lie, and starts a whole series of mishaps in the jungle. Leo and Diane Dillon were awarded the Caldecott Medal for their illustrations.  *Folk Tale*

Adler, David A.  Martin Luther King, Jr.: Free at Last

Read this biography of the Baptist minister who worked unceasingly for his dream of a world without hate, prejudice, or violence.  *Biography*

Aldrin, Buzz  Reaching for the Moon

Buzz Aldrin shares how he became an astronaut and what it was like to walk on the moon.  *Biography*

Andrews, Troy  Trombone Shorty

Hailing from the Tremé neighborhood in New Orleans, Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews got his nickname by wielding a trombone twice as long as he was high. A prodigy, he was leading his own band by age six, and today this Grammy-nominated artist headlines the legendary New Orleans Jazz Fest.  *Biography*

Applegate, Katherine  The One and Only Ivan

Ivan has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall.  When he meets Ruby, a baby elephant added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.  *Fiction*

Applegate, Katherine  Never Walk in Shoes that Talk

Having gotten a pair of hard-to-find Walkie Talkie shoes, Roscoe is suddenly popular and wants his best friend, Gus, to join the fun. Before Gus's parents will buy him new shoes, he must wear out his long-lasting sneakers.  *(Roscoe Riley series #6)*  *Fiction*

Arkhurst, Joyce Cooper  The Adventures of Spider

Read 6 short stories from West Africa about a clever and mischievous spider whose tricks get him into trouble.  *Folk Tale*

Atwater, Richard  Mr. Popper's Penguins

Mr. Popper, the house painter, dreams of exploring the South Pole. When he receives a surprise gift of a penguin, the fun begins.  *Fiction*

Barretta, Gene  Neo Leo: The Ageless Ideas of Leonardo da Vinci

See how the ideas of this 15th century artist/inventor/engineer/scientist foreshadowed modern inventions such as the automobile and robots.  *Biography*
Barrows, Annie  
*Ivy & Bean and the Ghost That Had to Go*

Ivy and Bean set out to expel the ghost who is living in the girls’ bathroom at their school.  
*Fiction*

Bednar, Sylvie  
*Flags of the World*

Large, brilliant flag illustrations are paired with details about each flag and the country it represents. See how a flag can give you clues to the history, ideals, and culture of a country.  
*Nonfiction*

Bell, Cece  
*El Deafo*

Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers! In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful—and very awkward—hearing aid. The Phonic Ear gives Cece the ability to hear—sometimes things she shouldn’t—but also isolates her from her classmates. She really just wants to fit in and find a true friend, someone who appreciates her as she is. After some trouble, she is finally able to harness the power of the Phonic Ear and become “El Deafo, Listener for All.” And more importantly, declare a place for herself in the world and find the friend she’s longed for.  
*Graphic Novel*

Bianco, Margery Williams  
*The Velveteen Rabbit*

By the time the velveteen rabbit is dirty, worn out, and about to be burned, he has almost given up hope of ever finding the magic called “real.”  
*Fiction*

Blue, Rose  
*Ron’s Big Mission*

Based on an event in the life of astronaut Ron McNair, this inspiring book tells the story of how 9-year old Ron challenged the “whites-only” rules at his public library.  
*Picture Book*

Blume, Judy  
*Soupy Saturdays With the Pain and the Great One*

The relationship between a 6-year-old (The Pain) and his 8-year-old sister (The Great One) is tested by such events as learning to ride a bicycle, having a birthday party, and dog-sitting.  
*Fiction*

Borden, Louise  
*America Is…*

This poem about our country celebrates its places, its people, and the symbols that unite us as a nation.  
*Poetry*
Bradby, Marie  

**More Than Anything Else**

What do you want more than anything else? Booker T. Washington wanted to learn to read.  
*Fiction*

Brown, Jeff  

**Jedi Academy**

My whole life I planned on going to pilot school like the rest of my friends--then I got rejected! Along came a little green guy named Yoda who invited me to Jedi Academy. Now I'm at a school with aliens, robots, and lightsaber-wielding bullies who can lift things with their minds! How am I supposed to compete with that? As if starting middle school wasn't hard enough..." The story of Roan Novachez, Jedi Academy student, is told through comics, journal entries, letters, doodles, and newspaper clippings. This incredible, original story from author/illustrator Jeffrey Brown captures all of the humor, awkwardness, fun, and frustrations of middle school ... in a galaxy far, far away.  
*Graphic Novel*

Bryan, Ashley  

**Beautiful Blackbird**

In this Zambian tale colorful birds ask Blackbird to decorate them with some of his "blackening brew."  
*Folk Tale*

Bunting, Eve  

**Summer Wheels**

The Bicycle Man lends bikes to the kids in Lawrence’s neighborhood for free. “Get it back here by four,” he says, and everybody does - until a new kid moves in.  
*Fiction*

Byars, Betsy  

**Dog Diaries: Secret Writing of the WOOF Society**

At the 1st annual meeting of WOOF (Words of Our Friends) dogs share tales of canines throughout history, including Abu, who ruled all of Egypt except for one cat, and Zippy, who must find the squeaky toy.  
*Fiction*

Cameron, Ann  

**Julian, Secret Agent**

After seeing wanted posters in the Post Office, Julian and his friends decide to become crime busters.  
*Fiction*

Catling, Patrick Skene  

**The Chocolate Touch**

At first John Midas is thrilled to discover that everything his lips touch turns to chocolate. Then the unexpected happens.  
*Fiction*

Christelow, Eileen  

**Vote**

Chris Smith’s family learns about the electoral process when Chris runs for mayor. You’ll learn all about voting in America.  
*Nonfiction*
Cleary, Beverly  **Ramona’s World**

The adventures of 9-year-old Ramona continue, at home with her sisters Beezus and Roberta and at school in Mrs. Meacham’s class.  *Fiction*

Cooper, Floyd  **Mandela: From the Life of the South African Statesman**

Read about the childhood and education of the man who helped lead South Africa out of apartheid. Illustrated by the author.  *Biography*

Cousins, Lucy  **Yummy: Eight Favorite Fairy Tales**

These retellings of classic fairy tales will make you chuckle and send shivers down your spine! Read about brave heroes and horrible villains in this bold collection.  *Fairy Tale*

Cowell, Cressida  **How to Be a Pirate**

Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III continues his Viking training as his father leads the Hairy Hooligans in search of a pirate’s treasure.  *Fiction*

Davies, Jacqueline  **The Lemonade War**

Evan and his younger sister Jesse, react very differently to the news that they will be in the same class for 4th grade. They battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn 100 dollars.  *Fiction*

Davies, Nicola  **Wild about Dolphins**

Zoologist Davies loved dolphins as a child and still does as a scientist. She travels around Newfoundland and the Indian Ocean, collecting information about these fascinating creatures.  *Nonfiction*

De Paola, Tomie  **Strega Nona**

When Strega Nona leaves him alone with her magic pasta pot, Big Anthony is determined to show the townsfolk how it works.  *Picture Book*

Dingle, Derek  **First in the Field: Baseball Hero Jackie Robinson**

Read about the challenges Brooklyn Dodger Jackie Robinson faced when he became the first African American to play Major League baseball.  *Biography*

Draper, Sharon M.  **Sassy: Little Sister is Not My Name**

Fashion-savvy Sassy hates being the smallest student in her 4th-grade class - until a family emergency calls for a pint-sized heroine.  *Fiction*
Ehrlich, Amy  
*Random House Book of Fairy Tales*

All the best fairy tales are told just the way you like them!  
*Folk Tale*

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English, Karen  
*Nikki & Deja*

Nikki and Deja are next door neighbors and best friends. They decide to form a club that won’t include Antonia, a new girl in their class. They don’t expect what happens next. Read more in *Birthday Blues, Election Madness, and The Newsy News Newsletter*.  
*Fiction*

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Fleishman, Paul  
*Weslandia*

Wesley’s garden changes his life with a crop of huge, strange plants that provide food, drink, clothing, and shelter.  
*Picture Book*

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Franco, Betsy  
*A Dazzling Display of Dogs*

Celebrate dogs in 33 poems --haiku, odes, and acrostics. The poems cover everything from obedience school to backyard breakouts to slobber and burying bones. If you prefer felines, read *A Curious Collection of Cats*.  
*Poetry*

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George, Jessica Day  
*Tuesdays at the Castle*

Eleven-year-old Princess Celie lives with her parents, the king and queen, and her brothers and sister at Castle Glower, which adds rooms or stairways or secret passageways most every Tuesday, and when the king and queen are ambushed while travelling, it is up to Celie--the castle’s favorite--with her secret knowledge of its never-ending twists and turns, to protect their home and save their kingdom.  
*Fiction*

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Gerstein, Mordicai  
*The Man Who Walked Between the Towers*

Read about Philippe Petit’s 1974 tightrope walk between the World Trade Center towers. It’s a breathtaking walk 140 feet above the ground.  
*Biography*

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Gibbons, Gail  
*Planet Earth/Inside Out*

This book describes how the earth was formed and how the earth looks today. Read about earthquakes, glaciers, oceans, volcanoes and other natural phenomena.  
*Nonfiction*

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Giovanni, Nikki  
*Rosa*

Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus on December 1, 1955, and became famous as a person who took a stand for civil rights. Illustrated by Bryan Collier.  
*Biography*

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Giovanni, Nikki  
*Spin a Soft Black Song*

African-American children are featured in this collection of poems.  
*Poetry*
Greenfield, Eloise  
*Honey, I Love and Other Love Poems*

The joy of childhood experiences and the love of self are expressed in these poems. Illustrated by Diane and Leo Dillon. *Poetry*

Griffiths, Andy  
*The 13-Story Treehouse*

Who wouldn't want to live in a tree house? Especially a 13-story tree house that has a bowling alley, a see-through swimming pool, a tank full of sharks, a library full of comics, a secret underground laboratory, a games room, self-making beds, vines you can swing on, a vegetable vaporizer and a marshmallow machine that follows you around and automatically shoots your favorite flavored Who wouldn't want to live in a tree house? Especially a 13-story tree house that has a bowling alley, a see-through swimming pool, a tank full of sharks, a library full of comics, a secret underground laboratory, a games room, self-making beds, vines you can swing on, a vegetable vaporizer and a marshmallow machine that follows you around and automatically shoots your favorite flavored marshmallows into your mouth whenever it discerns you're hungry. *Fiction*

Grimes, Nikki  
*Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel*

Spunky 3rd-grader Dyamonde Daniel misses her old neighborhood. When she befriends a boy named Free, another new student at school, she finally starts to feel at home. *Fiction*

Harper, Charise Mericle  
*Just Grace Goes Green*

In this fun addition to the “Just Grace” series, Grace and Mimi decide that their class project will be to help conserve plastic bottles. Grace can do a lot of things...but can she save the planet? *Fiction*

Hatkoff, Juliana  
*Winter’s Tail: How One Little Dolphin Learned to Swim Again*

A young dolphin loses her tail when she is caught in a crab trap. Her rescuers give her an artificial tail and teach her how to swim again. See this book in its film version, *Dolphin Tale.* *Nonfiction*

Herzog, Brad  
*S is for Save the Planet: A How-to-be Green Alphabet*

Each letter of the alphabet offers suggestions, information, and poems about a green topic, showing how you can make a difference. *Nonfiction*

Hesse, Karen  
*Sable*

Tate finds a stray dog and tries to train her. It is not an easy task! *Fiction*

Holub, Joan  
*Zeus and the Thunderbolt of Doom*

Zeus is kidnapped when he is 10 years old. He discovers he can defend himself with a magical thunderbolt. If you like this book, read more of the *Heroes in Training* series books. *Fiction*
Hopkinson, Deborah  
*Sweet Clara & the Freedom Quilt*

Clara is a slave girl who uses her wits and her sewing skills to create a remarkable quilt that doubles as a secret map to freedom.  *Fiction*

Hudson, Wade, and Cheryl Hudson  
*How Sweet the Sound: African-American Songs for Children*

Gospel songs and spirituals are featured in this collection.  *Nonfiction*

Ichikawa, Satomi  
*My Pig Amarillo*

Pablito, a Guatemalan boy whose pet pig Amarillo has disappeared, uses a kite to send Amarillo a message that he still loves him.  *Fiction*

Isabella, Jude and Simone Shin  
*The Red Bicycle*

When Leo outgrows his bicycle, it finds a new home with Alisetta, who uses it to access to her family's sorghum field and the market.

Jenkins, Steve  
*Prehistoric Actual Size*

Go face-to-face with some of the dinosaurs that once roamed the Earth through these "actual-size" illustrations.  *Nonfiction*

Joubert, Beverly  
*Face to Face with Leopards*

Become a leopard expert! This book has facts at a glance and great pictures. Check out all the titles in this National Geographic “Face to Face” series.  *Nonfiction*

Kalman, Bobbie  
*Food Chains and You*

See how a food chain works and how people can harm a food chain. Other books in this series look at food chains in specific ecosystems such as the desert, the forest, and the meadow.  *Nonfiction*

Kellogg, Steven  
*Pecos Bill*

Read this funny, action-packed tall tale of a powerful cowboy who lived out West long ago. He can do things that seem larger than life!  *Folk Tale*

Koller, Jackie  
*The Dragonling*

Darek had been taught to hate and fear dragons. Why in the world would he risk his life to rescue an orphaned dragonling?  *Fiction*
Krull, Kathleen  
**Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World’s Fastest Woman**

Wilma Rudolph had polio as a child, yet she went on to be the first woman to win three Olympic gold medals. **Biography**

Lester, Julius  
**John Henry**

John Henry’s legendary strength helps him beat the steam drill in a battle between man and machine. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. **Folk Tale**

Look, Lenore  
**Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things**

Alvin loves superheroes and comes from a long line of brave Chinese farmer-warriors. He wants to make friends, but first he must overcome his fear of everything. **Fiction**

Look, Lenore  
**Love As Strong As Ginger**

After spending a day watching her grandmother at her job of cracking crabs, a Chinese-American girl realizes how hard her grandmother works to make her granddaughter’s dreams possible. **Fiction**

Lowry, Lois  
**Gooney Bird Greene**

Imagine a new classmate appearing on day one wearing pajamas and cowboy boots! She tells her teacher and classmates absolutely true stories about herself, including how she got her name. **Fiction**

Mack, Lindsay  
**Finding Winnie**

A woman tells her young son the true story of how his great-great-grandfather, Captain Harry Colebourn, rescued and learned to love a bear cub in 1914 as he was on his way to take care of soldiers' horses during World War I, and the bear became the inspiration for A.A. Milne’s Winnie-the-Pooh. **Picture Book**

Markle, Sandra  
**Outside and Inside Sharks**

Have you ever seen a shark’s liver? Or a shark’s ear? The photographs in this book show many varieties of sharks and the different features of each. **Nonfiction**

Martin, Jacqueline Briggs  
**Snowflake Bentley**

This biography of a self-taught scientist who photographed thousands of individual snowflakes in order to study their unique formations won the 1999 Caldecott Medal for illustrator Mary Azarian. **Picture Book**
Masiello, Ralph  
*Ralph Masiello’s Dinosaurs Drawing Book*

Are you fascinated by dinosaurs? Learn how to draw these creatures as well as prehistoric plants and scenery. *Nonfiction*

McCully, Emily Arnold  
*Beautiful Warrior: The Legend of the Nun’s Kung Fu*

Read the legend of two female kung fu masters in 17th century China and discover how their skill in martial arts saves them both. *Folk Tale*

McKissack, Patricia  
*Flossie and the Fox*

In this funny tale of foolery, a fox and a little girl try to trick each other. Read it and find out who wins! *Fiction*

McNulty, Faith  
*If You Decide to Go To the Moon*

What would happen if you were an astronaut going to the moon? Illustrated by Steven Kellogg. *Nonfiction*

Meddaugh, Susan  
*Lulu’s Hat*

One summer Lulu goes on the road as magician’s assistant to Uncle Jerry the Great. You’ll laugh as you read about the shiny black hat that accidentally leads Lulu to develop her own magical talents. *Fiction*

Miller, Debbie S.  
*The Great Serum Race: Blazing the Iditarod Trail*

Togo, a Siberian husky dog, leads a sled team to deliver antitoxin serum for people sick with diphtheria in Nome, Alaska. This life-or-death mission is now celebrated by the Iditarod race. *Nonfiction*

Mora, Pat  
*Dona Flor: A Tall Tale About a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart*

Dona Flor sets off to protect her neighbors from what they think is a dangerous animal, but soon discovers the tiny secret behind the huge noise. *Folk Tale*

Muth, Jon J.  
*Zen Shorts*

Three children befriend a giant panda named Stillwater, who charms and enlightens them with his storytelling. *Picture Book*

Nelson, Kadir  
*Nelson Mandela*

When he was a young boy, Mandela decided that he would change South Africa and help people who were poor and struggling. He became the president of his country by believing in equality for people of all colors. *Biography*
Nelson, Vaunda Micheauz  
*Book Itch: Freedom, Truth, and Harlem's Greatest Bookstore*

Relates the story of the National Memorial African Bookstore, founded in Harlem by Louis Michaux in 1939, as seen from the perspective of Louis Michaux Jr., who met famous men like Muhammad Ali and Malcolm X while helping there. *Picture Book*

Osborne, Mary Pope  
*Favorite Greek Myths*

Here are twelve favorite myths that are just as well-loved today as they were in ancient times. *Nonfiction*

Paterson, Katherine  
*The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks*

This beautifully illustrated Japanese tale tells how kindness and loyalty can outsmart a cruel lord. Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. *Folk Tale*

Paul, Chris  
*Long Shot: Never Too Small to Dream Big*

Although he is shorter than most of his classmates and everyone discourages him from trying out for the basketball team, 8-year old Chris works harder than anyone else so his height will not matter. *Nonfiction*

Paulsen, Gary  
*Dogteam*

Feel the excitement, the danger, and the beauty of a dogsled run on a moonlit winter’s night. *Fiction*

Pennypacker, Sara  
*Clementine*

Have you ever had a very bad week? Clementine is having one. She cuts off her hair. She is sent to the principal’s office. Her friend Margaret stops talking to her. And that’s just the start! Read more in *Clementine and the Family Meeting, Clementine’s Letter, and Talented Clementine*. *Fiction*

Perdomo, Willie  
*Visiting Langston*

A visit to Langston’s home by a father and daughter prompts this tribute to African-American poet Langston Hughes: “He can tell you why my/Dreams run wild/Why Daddy says I’m like/Langston’s genius child.” Illustrated by Bryan Collier. *Poetry*

Pichon, Liz  
*The Three Horrid Little Pigs*

When their mother sends them packing, three pigs create interesting new homes for themselves. When the big, friendly wolf tries to show them the error of their ways, the pigs respond by huffing and puffing. *Picture Book*

Pinkney, Andrea  
*Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down*

On February 1, 1960, four young black men take a stand against the injustice of segregation by sitting down at a “whites-only” Woolworth’s counter to order a doughnut and a cup of coffee. *Nonfiction*
Pinkney, Angela Davis  
*Dear Benjamin Banneker*

In the 1700s, Benjamin Banneker wrote and published an almanac - something no other black person had ever done. *Biography*

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Prelutsky, Jack  
*A Pizza the Size of the Sun*

Hilarious drawings by James Stevenson enhance funny verses. *New Kid on the Block* and *Something Big Has Been Here* have more silly poems. *Poetry*

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Ramsey, Calvin  
*Ruth and the Green Book*

In the early 1950s Ruth and her parents drive from Chicago to visit her grandma in Alabama. They face discrimination at places of business along the way. A gas station attendant tells them about The Green Book, a guide to help African-American travelers. *Fiction*

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Rappaport, Doreen  
*Martin’s Big Words*

The “big words” Dr. King used describe how he felt about his work in the civil rights movement and the words highlight his life. Bryan Collier illustrated this Caldecott and Coretta Scott King Honor book. *Biography*

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Richardson, Charisse K.  
*The Real Lucky Charm; The Real Slam Dunk*

Twins Marcus and Mia love basketball. In *The Real Slam Dunk* Marcus gets help from basketball pro Jason Carte. In *The Real Lucky Charm*, Mia believes that luck - not hard work - helps her succeed on the court. She panics when her lucky gold charm goes missing. *Fiction*

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Ride, Sally  
*To Space and Back*

The first American woman astronaut describes her space travel experiences. Excellent color photos show you the trip. *Nonfiction*

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Rockwell, Anne  
*Big George: How a Shy Boy Became President Washington*

George Washington wasn’t afraid of much but he was shy about talking to people. He overcame shyness and a quick temper to lead an army against the British and to serve as president of the new nation. *Biography*

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Roop, Connie  
*Grace’s Letter to Lincoln*

On the eve of the 1860 presidential election, 11-year-old Grace helps Abraham Lincoln get elected by advising him to grow a beard. *Fiction*
San Souci, Robert D.  *Sukey and the Mermaid*
Sukey's life on the island is miserable until a mermaid offers her kindness, wealth, and treasure more precious than gold. Will her greedy stepfather ruin everything?  *Folk Tale*

Schotter, Roni  *The Boy Who Loved Words*
Selig, who loves words and copies them on paper to carry with him, goes on a trip to discover his life's purpose.  *Picture Book*

Sidman, Joyce  *Meow, Ruff*
In this visual poem a dog slips out of his house and meets a white cat left alone on the street. Their adventure together begins.  *Poetry*

Simon, Seymour  *Volcanoes*
Explore our volcanic earth in this absorbing read! Incredible photographs enhance Simon's 100+ books on topics like space, the natural world, the human body, and animals.  *Nonfiction*

Smith, Charles R.  *28 Days: Moments in Black History That Changed the World*
A picture book look at many of the men and women who revolutionized life for African Americans throughout history.  *Nonfiction*

Smith, David J.  *If the World were a Village: A Book about the World's People*
There are more than 6 billion people on earth, but what if we imagine the world's population as represented by a village of just 100 people? Find out who we are, where we live, how fast we are growing, what languages we speak, and more.  *Nonfiction*

Steptoe, John  *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*
Two sisters journey to meet a prince in this African Cinderella tale.  *Folk Tale*

Stewart, Whitney  *Who Was Walt Disney?*
Walt Disney loved to entertain people—in films, books, and even theme parks. Learn about the man behind the magic. Disney and many other famous people—artists, scientists, heroes and presidents—are featured in the "Who Was?" series.  *Biography*

Sweet, Melissa  *Balloons over Broadway*
It's fun to watch the Thanksgiving Day parade in New York, and wonder what new giant balloons will fill the air. Read about the parade, and about Tony Sarg, the man who invented these magical balloons.  *Biography*
Swinburne, Stephen R.  
*Turtle Tide: The Ways of Sea Turtles*

Sea turtles hatch on the beach, live in the sea, and return to the beach to lay eggs for the next generation. *Nonfiction*

Tarshis, Lauren  
*I Survived: True Stories of Five Epic Disasters*

From the author of the New York Times-bestselling I Survived series come five harrowing true stories of survival, featuring real kids in the midst of epic disasters. From a group of students surviving the 9.0 earthquake that set off a historic tsunami in Japan, to a boy nearly frozen on the prairie in 1888, these unforgettable kids lived to tell tales of unimaginable destruction -- and, against all odds, survival. Read their incredible stories: The Children's Blizzard, 1888 The Titanic Disaster, 1912 The Great Boston Molasses Flood, 1919 The Japanese Tsunami, 2011 The Henryville Tornado, 2012. *Fiction*

Tompert, Ann  
*Grandfather Tang's Story*

As Grandfather shares a Chinese folk tale, he arranges tangram pieces into shapes of the story's characters. *Picture Book*

Towle, Wendy  
*The Real McCoy: The Life of an African-American Inventor*

A Canadian-born black American studied engineering in Scotland and patented over fifty inventions despite the obstacles he faced because of his race. *Biography*

Turner, Ann  
*Shaker Hearts*

The beliefs and daily life of the Shakers are described in rhyming text. *Nonfiction*

Van Allsburg, Chris  
*The Wreck of the Zephyr*

A boy's ambition to be the greatest sailor in the world brings him to ruin when he misuses his new ability to sail his boat in the air. *Picture Book*

Warner, Gertrude Chandler  
*The Boxcar Children*

Four orphaned children run away and take shelter in an old, red boxcar, which they make into a cozy home. They have many adventures in this mystery series, now also available in graphic novel form. Read one and find out why 3rd graders just can’t stop reading them. *Fiction*

Warner, Sally  
*Ellray Jakes is Not a Chicken*

Ellray's father has promised a family trip to Disneyland if Ellray can stay out of trouble for a week, The real challenge: not defending himself against Jared, the class bully. *Fiction*
Waters, Kate  
*Tapenum’s Day: A Wampanoag Indian Boy in Pilgrim Times*

Words and pictures recreate the world of a Wampanoag Indian boy in the 1600s. Read more about life in Pilgrim times in *Sarah Morton’s Day* and *Samuel Eaton’s Day*.  
*Nonfiction*

Weeks, Sarah  
*Honey*

When she suspects that her father has a girlfriend, Melody and her best friend are determined to figure out who it is and why it is a secret.

Wheeler, Jill  
*Barack Obama*

Learn about our first African-American president, Barack Obama.  
*Biography*

White, E. B.  
*Stuart Little*

Meet a mouse named Stuart who finds a human family and has many funny adventures. It is a classic story that was also made into a feature film.  
*Fiction*

Wiesner, David  
*Sector 7*

While on a school trip to the Empire State building, a boy is taken by a friendly cloud to visit Sector 7. There he discovers how clouds are shaped and moved across the country. 
*Picture Book*

Wilder, Laura Ingalls  
*Little House on the Prairie*

Laura and her sisters share adventures in frontier America. In this story they move from the woods of Minnesota to the prairies further west. Read one, and you will want to read others in this series.  
*Fiction*

Williams, Vera  
*Amber Was Brave, Essie Was Smart*

Essie is smart – she can read. Amber is brave – she can talk the grocer into giving them milk that they cannot pay for now. Two sisters help each other as their mother works long hours and their father is in jail.  
*Fiction*

Willems, Mo and Tony DiTerlizzi  
*The Story of Diva and Flea*

In the bustling city of Paris, a small yet brave dog, Diva, and an adventurous cat named Flea become two unlikely friends.  
*Fiction*
Winter, Jonah  \textit{Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx}

As a child growing up in the South Bronx Sonia Sotomayor dealt with poverty and poor health. A love of reading and a willingness to work hard took her all the way from this humble beginning to a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court.  \textit{Biography}

Wright, Courtni C.  \textit{Journey to Freedom: A Story of the Underground Railroad}

Led by Harriet Tubman, Joshua and his family escape from a plantation in Kentucky and travel to freedom.  \textit{Fiction}

\textbf{The mission of the Shaker City Schools Library Media Program is to ensure that all students and staff are effective users of information and ideas.}

Strong reading skills are the key to student achievement and lifelong learning. This reading list is intended as an aid in choosing books to provide rich reading experiences for students.

Professional school librarians work with their students—your children—to build strong skills in locating, accessing and analyzing information. This begins with the retelling of stories in the earliest grades, through the teaching of sophisticated web evaluation strategies for older students. These critical thinking skills will serve students well throughout their school career and beyond. Our goal is to help all children make good selections and learn to judge the quality and intent of information in all formats.

Our libraries also provide online resources for students and families to use, accessible from any Internet connection. You can find them on http://www.shaker.org/library.aspx, or by going to your school building and clicking the library link there. Use the “Information /Databases” link to see the online materials we have for school and home use. You can get the access codes needed from your school library staff.

We encourage you to use the Shaker Heights Public Library to bring a multitude of good books and reading experiences to your children. They can suggest other great books for you to enjoy, as well as provide events like story hours and their summer reading program. Their kids’ page can be found at http://shakerlibrary.org/kids/.

\textbf{Elementary Websites}

If you are looking for more information about good reading for your child, you can also check the following websites.

Reading Rockets http://www.readingrockets.org/audience/parents/ provides a wide variety of materials about books for children and developing reading skills.

Carol Hurst, author and educator, provides a children’s literature website, organized by topics. The “Featured Books” link will take you to long descriptions of her recommended books. The address is http://www.carolhurst.com/

\textit{For more information about the Shaker Heights Schools Library Media Program, call (216) 295-4181.}