



Dear Parents,

Reading is one of the most important skills there is. Indeed, it is the foundation of almost all future learning for your child at Hilldale School and beyond. Families who encourage daily reading and writing will have more successful children. Your support at home is essential!

Reading experts note that most young readers suffer a back slide in reading skills during the summer down time. But that need not be the case! Families can make reading a priority during the summer months. You can help your child succeed by the positive attitude you take toward reading to your child and hearing him/her read to you, by the expressive voice intonation you use, by questioning about what you and your child have read and about what your child can see in a book's pictures, and by the encouragement you express to your child as they try out their reading in a variety of venues. Please help to make reading a priority during the coming summer months!

Every Hilldale student is encouraged to read as much as possible during the summer vacation. A list of recommended titles follows, and each student is **required** to independently read **at least three books** from this list. One of them is a required book for all, so that we can start the year off right by discussing the story during the opening days of school. You may supplement the selections with other books that you and your child may find and enjoy.

In addition to reading the required reading book: Soft Rain: A Story of the Cherokee Trail of Tears, a student entering third grade should keep a neat, well-written record of two additional books (chosen from the list below) using the attached sheet. These are to be handed in to the teacher on the first day of school, and they will be graded. Therefore, students have to read three books (one of which has to be Soft Rain: A Story of the Cherokee Trail of Tears) and write two book reports on any two other books listed below. Enjoy a great summer of reading!

Summer Reading List for Incoming Third Grade

Themes include: States and Regions, Immigration, Trail of Tears

Required for all:

Soft Rain: A Story of the Cherokee Trail of Tears

Cornelia Cornelissen

Choices:

Dear America Series (any book)

Little House series (except Big Woods + Prairie)

The Indian in the Cupboard

Babe, The Gallant Pig

Mr. Popper's Penguins

A Question of Time

Rent a Third Grader

How to Be Cool in Third Grade

A Series of Unfortunate Events series

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

Shiloh

The Wizard of Oz

Fantastic Mr. Fox

The Incredible Journey

The Cricket in Times Square

Various Authors

Laura Ingalls Wilder

Lynne Reid Banks

Dick King-Smith

Richard + Florence Atwater

Dina Anastasio

B.B. Hiller

Betsy Duffey + Janet Wilson

Lemony Snickett

J.K. Rowling

Phyllis Reynolds

L. Frank Baum

Roald Dahl

Sheila Burnford

George Selden