Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for supporting your child throughout the year by encouraging reading at home. Summer reading is crucial to maintaining students’ literacy skills. You can continue this literacy support by making sure that your child has many opportunities to read and write throughout the summer.

The attached resource list includes some book suggestions and other related links for you and your family’s reading enjoyment. You can access the live links on the Hingham Public Schools website and on your school’s website. As always, the Hingham Public Library is a wonderful resource for materials and programs to foster reading. Students in grades K-5 are invited to make choices from the attached resource list. This year, in addition to their choices, all students entering grades 4 and 5 are required to read the following selections:

**Grade 5:** *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate  
**Grade 4:** *Frindle* by Andrew Clements

To help your child select appropriate books for his/her reading level, follow the *Five Finger Rule*.

- Choose a passage (or book) of about 100 words.  
- When your child comes to a word that he/she cannot pronounce correctly, ask him/her to put up a finger.  
- If your child reaches the fifth finger, the book is too difficult. Choose a different book.

Remember to balance independent reading with read-alouds. If a book is too difficult for your child, feel free to read it to him/her and encourage a different book for independent reading. Fluent readers still like to be read to and to listen to audio books. For older readers, be cautious that your child is not choosing books beyond his/her maturity level. Both librarians and the reputable websites listed are great sources of information in this area.

Proficient readers read lots of different types of texts. Read books or brochures about places where you may travel. Keep a journal of a special day or vacation. The library contains a wonderful collection of age-appropriate newspapers and magazines that children can read in order to learn interesting facts and information about their world. Don’t forget to encourage reading comprehension by talking with your children about their books or asking them questions about the stories they are reading. Finally, remember to be a role model for your children. It is important for them to see you reading! Relax and read for pleasure!

Thank you for your support. Have a summer filled with many reading adventures!

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2019 Caldecott Title
Hello Lighthouse, illustrated and written by Sophie Blackall, published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc.

Masterful ink and watercolor illustrations illuminate the story of a lighthouse and the family inside. Stunning images of the lighthouse in all kinds of weather alternate with views of intimate interior detail and circular motifs. Blackall’s skill with composition, line, and close attention to detail have created an exquisite book.

2019 Newbery Title
Merci Suárez Changes Gears, written by Meg Medina, published by Candlewick Press.

Using humor and grace, Merci, a charming and plucky protagonist, cycles through life’s challenges with the support of her intergenerational family. This richly nuanced novel tackles the complexity of navigating a multicultural identity amidst changing family dynamics.

Helpful Websites
(Live access to these links can be found on the Hingham Public Schools website or your school’s website.)


Start a Series!

A-Z Mysteries
Alex Rider
Allie Finkle
The American Girl
Artemis Fowl
Bounders
Clementine
Diary of a Wimpy Kid

Elephant and Piggy
Eyewitness
Frog and Toad
Geronimo Stilton
Harry Potter
I Survived
Ivy and Bean
Magic Tree House

The Mysterious Benedict Society
Nate the Great
Percy Jackson
The Spiderwick Chronicles
Warriors
Who Was...?
Zach Files
...and others!

More Reading Ideas

Start a Book Club!
school.familyeducation.com
Summer Fun/Ideas (Check out the library!)
hinghamlibrary.org/
Parent Tips
readingrockets.org