



# Hilton K-6 Summer Reading Recommendations

## Grades K, 1, 2

**Becker, Bonny. *A Visitor for Bear*. Illus. by Kady MacDonald Denton. Candlewick, 2008.** The simple backdrop of bear's forest home sets the stage for a visit from the persistent and irritating mouse who insists the two will become friends.

**Bee, William. *Beware of the Frog*. Illus. by the author, Candlewick, 2008.** Living alone in the forest, Old Mrs. Collywobbles needs protection from the Greedy Goblin, the Smelly Troll, and the Giant Hungry Ogre. Her pet frog jumps out of folklore to come to her rescue and give Mrs. Collywobbles more than she anticipated.

**Campbell, Sarah C. *Wolfsnail: A Backyard Predator*. Photos by Sarah C. and Richard P. Campbell. Boyds Mills Press, 2008.** Magnified photographs and informative text provide a nonfiction look at the carnivorous wolfsnail trapping and devouring its victim. This science book will amaze and attract readers. (2009 Geisel Honor Book)

**Davis, Eleanor. *Stinky*. Illus. by the author. RAW Junior/TOON Books, 2008.** Stinky, the swamp monster, is at first determined to rid his beloved "muddy, slimy, smelly swamp" of Nick, only to realize that this dreaded "kid" is not the appallingly clean intruder he supposes him to be. (2009 Geisel Honor Book)

**Dorros, Arthur. *Papá and Me*. Illus. by Rudy Gutierrez. Rayo, an imprint of HarperCollins, 2008.** Lively artwork tells the story of a father and son who spend a special day together in the city—singing, cooking, going to the park and the beach, riding the bus, and telling stories, culminated by a visit with Papá's parents. (2009 Belpré Illustrator Honor Book)

**Fleming, Denise. *Buster Goes to Cowboy Camp*. Illus. by the author. Henry Holt, 2008.** After a week at Cowboy Camp for Dogs, Buster's homesickness evaporates as he joyfully joins the controlled canine chaos of camp activities. Fleming's richly colored multimedia art details the camp's layout and the animals' constant motion.

**George, Jean Craighead. *Goose and Duck*. Illus. by Priscilla Lamont. HarperCollins/Laura Geringer, 2008.** Goose imprints on the boy who finds his egg,

Duck imprints on goose, and both follow the boy around until fall when they figure out who they are and join their fellows flying south.

**Graham, Bob. *How to Heal a Broken Wing*. Illus. by the author. Candlewick, 2008.** On a busy city street, young Will stops for an injured pigeon. Soft watercolor panels depict the family's care of the bird and its subsequent release into the sky over the city.

**Grant, Judyann Ackerman. *Chicken Said, "Cluck!"* Illus. by Sue Truesdell. HarperCollins, 2008.** Earl and Pearl shoo Chicken away as they work on their pumpkin patch, but as the story comes full circle, it's Chicken who does the shooing and saves the day. (2009 Geisel Honor Book)

**Harris, Robie H. *Maybe a Bear Ate It!* Illus by Michael Emberley. Orchard Books, an imprint of Scholastic, 2008.** When a favorite book goes missing, our frantic narrator conducts a frenzied search, imagining the worst. Cartoonish art illustrates the emotions of losing and finding a cherished object.

**Henkes, Kevin. *Old Bear*. Illus. by the author. HarperCollins/Greenwillow, 2008.** During his annual hibernation, Old Bear dreams of the seasons of his youth. Seasonal changes and Old Bear's sense of wonder are gently evoked in Henkes' ink and watercolor pictures.

**Hills, Tad. *What's Up, Duck? A Book of Opposites*. Illus. by the author. Random House/Schwartz & Wade, 2008.** Adapting Duck and Goose for the board book crowd, Hills whimsically presents concepts such as loud and quiet, far and near, and heavy and light in clear, child-appealing watercolors.

**Hole, Stian. *Garmann's Summer*. Illus. by the author. Tr. by Don Bartlett. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2008.** Humorous and poetic text, combined with surreal and multi-layered artwork, creates a truly unique and complex look at the universality of fear and uncertainty in this tale of a six-year-old's last summer before starting school. (2009 Batchelder Honor Book)

**McDonald, Megan. *The Hinky Pink*. Illus. by Brian Floca. Atheneum/Richard Jackson, 2008.** Until the young seamstress Anabel finds the perfect bed for the Hobbledy-gob Hinky-Pink, she will get no sleep and the Princess's dress will never be ready in time for the ball.

**Morales, Yuyi. *Just in Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book*. Illus. by the author. Roaring Brook/Neal Porter, 2008.** Vibrant jewel-tone colors masterfully capture the story of Señor Calavera's quest to find the perfect birthday gift for Grandma Beetle. Part ghost story, part trickster tale, the book

**Willems, Mo. *Are You Ready to Play Outside?* Illus. by the author. Hyperion, an imprint of Disney Book Group, 2008.** Easily approachable text and expressive drawings tell the story of Piggie and Gerald who experience the ups and downs of a rainy day. (2009 Geisel Award Book)

## Grades 3-4

**Auch, Mary Jane** *A Dog on his own Holiday House*. 2008. K-10 is a spunky dog who thinks he can make it on his own just fine. He doesn't need friends—human or canine--so when people adopt him, he always leaves. When the pound catches him, he decides to escape. K-10 soon realizes the outside world is more difficult than expected, so he must rely on his new companions, Pearl and Peppy, to survive. In the process, he learns the true meaning of friendship.

**Birney, Betty G.** *Adventure according to Humphrey*. Penguin Group. 2009. See the other Humphrey books by the same author. Humphrey the hamster is the main character in this series. He is a classroom pet who learns from the students as much as they learn from him. When his friends begin studying the ocean and sailing, he not only discovers the new and exciting world of the library, but also stows away aboard a model boat and takes a very perilous sail on Potter's Pond. Enjoy all of the Humphrey books!

**Bryant, Jen** *A River of Words: the story of William Carlos Williams*. Illustrated by **Melissa Sweet**. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. 2008. This is a picture book format biography of the famous poet, William Carlos Williams. Beautiful mixed media illustrations celebrate the amazing man who found a way to earn a living and to honor his calling to be a poet. His poems are written and worked in throughout the book illustrations. A beautiful interesting biography.

**Mortenson, Greg.** *Listen to the Wind*. Illus. by **Susan Roth**. Dial Publishing. 2009. A picture-book narrative compressing Mortenson's adult best selling novel *Three cups of tea*, by focusing on the elements most important to children: the stranger's appearance, the drama of the construction, the happy conclusion. Colorful fabric, cut-paper, and even computer-chip collages portray the dramatic landscape and incredible undertaking. Children will also enjoy an appended scrapbook of photographs, maps, and additional information from Pakistan.

**Myers, Laurie.** *Surviving Brick Johnson*. Clarion Books. 2000. Fifth-grader Alex believes he has run afoul of the new kid, Brick Johnson, whose name says it all. Brick is a lot taller and bigger than the other kids in the class, and in Alex's mind, a terrifying bully. To protect himself, Alex decides to sign up for karate classes, and when Brick also signs up, Alex fears the worst. As the novel unfolds, however, Alex learns Brick is not what he thought.

**Nelson, Kadir.** *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*. Jump at the Sun. 2008. The story of the Negro Leagues is about hundreds of unsung heroes who overcame segregation, hatred, terrible conditions, and low pay to do the one thing they loved more than anything else in the world: play ball.

***Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out.* Candlewick Press. 2008.** Likely to be a favorite with children –and adults—who love presidential trivia, historical facts, and old stories. Children who weren't White House buffs already will surely be drawn into this colorful, fun history of an iconic building that simultaneously tells the story of the United States. Check out the website at [www.ourwhitehouse.org](http://www.ourwhitehouse.org) for more fun!

**Polacco, Patricia. *The Lemonade Club.* Philomel. 2007.** Our 2010 Visiting Author, Patricia Polacco, sends us the message *When life hands you lemons, you should make lemonade.* When Marilyn finds out she has leukemia, her best friend, teacher and the whole 5<sup>th</sup> grade come through. The author delivers doses of sadness and friendship in this picture book.

**Ruddell, Deborah. Illustrated by Joan Rankin. *A Whiff of pine, a hint of skunk: a forest of poems.* Margaret K. McElderry Books. 2009.** Take a lighthearted romp through four seasons in the forest with these whimsical poems. Marvel at the overachieving beaver, applaud the race-winning snail and its *perfect* trail of slime, or head off to be pampered at a squirrel spa. This quirky cast of animal characters and delightful pictures will cause giggles--the woods have never been so much fun!

**Shulevitz, Uri. *How I Learned Geography.* Farrar Straus Giroux. 2008.** Caldecott Honor Book and former Caldecott winner, Uri Shulevitz, brings you a semi-autobiographical story of a boy who escapes the hunger and misery of refuge life by learning about geography and art.

**Vande Velde, Vivian *Three Good Deeds.* Harcourt Children's Book. 2005.** When a local witch sees the boy Howard stealing eggs from the geese that she tends, she decides that he needs a lesson—and she changes him, fittingly, into a goose. Howard has to do three good deeds in order to be turned back into a boy.

**Yaccarino, Dan *Go, Go America.* Scholastic Press. 2008.** Hitch a ride with the fabulous Farley family—Mom, Dad, Freddie, Fran, and Fido—as they travel state to state and discover far-out festivals, kooky contests, ludicrous laws, peculiar people, and oodles of oddities across America. SO fasten your seat belt and get ready to go, go through fifty states of fun. Perfect for summer travel plans.

## Grades 5-6

**Cabot, Meg. *Allie Finkle's Rules For Girls* series.** In book #1: When Allie's parents announce that the family is moving, Allie's sure her life is over. To make matters worse, they're moving into an old Victorian house in the middle of town! She's not at all happy about having to give up her pretty pink wall-to-wall carpeting for creaky floorboards and creepy secret passageways . . . not to mention leaving her modern, state-of-the-art suburban school for a rundown, old-fashioned school just two blocks from her new house. With a room she's half-scared to go into, the burden of being "the new girl", and her old friends all a half-hour car ride away, how will Allie ever learn to fit in? Read the whole series, you'll love it! Also, check out the official website:  
<http://alliefinkle.scholastic.com/about/about.html>

**Clements, Andrew & Mark Elliott. *Room One: A Mystery or Two*. Ted Hammond. Simon and Schuster. 2006.** Ted Hammond loves a good mystery, and in the spring of his fifth-grade year, he's working on a big one. How can his school stay open next year if there are going to be only five students? Out here on the Great Plains in western Nebraska, everyone understands that if you lose the school, you lose the town. But the mystery that has Ted's full attention at the moment is about that face--the face he sees in the upper window of the Andersons' house as he rides past on his paper route. The Andersons moved away two years ago, and their old farmhouse is empty, boarded up tight. At least it's supposed to be. Ted Hammond learns that in a very small town, there's no such thing as an isolated event, and the solution of one mystery is often the beginning of another.

**Dowd, Siobhan. *The London Eye Mystery*. Random House Children's Books. 2009 reprint.** In a race against time, twelve-year-old Ted, with his sister Kat, uses his special skills and perceptions to discover how their cousin Salim disappeared while riding the London Eye, the world's tallest observation wheel.

**Duncan, Lois. *Hotel For Dogs*. Scholastic. 2008.** The Walkers are moving to a new town, and staying with an aunt who's allergic to dogs. Too bad for Andi and her brother Bruce, who love dogs -- and happen to meet a stray that needs help. Soon, Andi hatches a plan, turning the abandoned house down the block into a hotel for dogs. But as more and more tenants move in, the secret gets too big to keep. Can the kids save their canine castle? Or will the hotel have to close?

**Grogan, John. *Marley: A Dog Like No Other*. Harper Collins Publishers. 2008.** With an appetite for nearly anything he can get his mouth around, including couches and fine jewelry, Marley is always getting into trouble. But to his family, he is a dog like no other. In this adaptation of his #1 *New York Times* bestselling *Marley & Me*, John Grogan brings the Labrador retriever's heartwarming antics to life—and shows how one big, rambunctious dog can teach a family what really matters in life.

**Hale, Shannon and Dean Hale. *Rapunzel's Revenge*. Bloomsbury USA. 2008.** In a vibrantly illustrated graphic novel set in a make-believe frontier land, an untraditional Rapunzel escapes the tower, uses her long braids as weapons, and takes revenge on the wicked Mother Gothel.

**Korman, Gordon. *Swindle*. Scholastic. 2008.** After a mean collector named Swindle cons him out of his most valuable baseball card, Griffin Bing must put together a band of misfits to break into Swindle's compound and recapture the card.

**Law, Ingrid. *Savvy*. Penguin. 2008.** In Mississippi Beaumont's family, turning 13 means your savvy kicks in. When her grandfather turned 13, he created Idaho. And when her brother turned 13, he caused a hurricane. At the start of Law's winning debut novel, Mississippi's 13th birthday is only two days away. What will "Mibs" savvy turn out to be?

**Lupica, Mike. *Comeback Kids* series.** "This book is everything I love in football, and in sports. It is about a boy with heart trying to beat the odds and refusing to ever let anyone tell him he's not good enough, and it shows that we all have the ability to make that one play that people won't ever forget. **Two-Minute Drill** will make you cheer."  
—Doug Flutie, Heisman Trophy Winner, NFL and CFL quarterback, and ESPN commentator. Read the whole series: ***Two Minute Drill, Hot Hand, Safe At Home, Long Shot.***

**Murphy, Kelly. *Masterpiece*. Henry Holt & Co. 2008.** An artistic beetle with a yen for adventure and a lonely 11-year-old boy team up to catch the thief who has stolen a priceless Albrecht Durer from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. An ALA notable title.

**McKissack, Patricia. *A Friendship For Today*. Scholastic. 2007.** The year is 1954, the place is Missouri, and twelve-year-old Rosemary Patterson is about to make history. She is one of the first African American students to enter the white school in her town. Headstrong, smart Rosemary welcomes the challenge, but starting this new school gets more daunting when her best friend is hospitalized for polio. Suddenly, Rosemary must face all the stares and whispers alone. But when the girl who has shown her the most cruelty becomes an unlikely confidante, Rosemary learns important truths about the power of friendship to overcome prejudice.

**(Various authors). *39 Clues* series. *Book 1: Maze of Bones; Book 2: One False Note; Book 3: The Sword Thief; Book 4: Beyond the Grave.*** Minutes before she died Grace Cahill changed her will, leaving her descendants an impossible decision: "You have a choice - one million dollars or a clue." Grace is the last matriarch of the Cahills, the world's most powerful family. 39 Clues hidden around the world will reveal the family's secret, but no one has been able to assemble them. Now the clues race is on, and young Amy and Dan must decide what's important: hunting clues or uncovering what REALLY happened to their parents. Also, visit the website at [www.39clues.com](http://www.39clues.com).