



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: Gulliver's Travels, a student entering fourth or fifth grade should keep a neat, well-written record of two additional books (chosen from the list below) by writing a short book report 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 Gulliver's Travels) and write two book reports on any two other books listed below. We encourage you to read an historical novel as one of your two choice novels, but we are not requiring it. Historical novels are marked with an asterisk. Doing so would provide more depth and understanding to the curriculum students will encounter next year. Also, please note that the version of Gulliver's Travels you need to read will be checked out by the school. Enjoy a great summer of reading!

Summer Reading List  
Incoming Fourth-Fifth Grades  
Themes: World History and Exploration

Required for all:	Gulliver's Travels	Jonathan Swift (Core Knowledge Version)
Choices:	*Chasing Vermeer	Blue Balliett
	*A Pride of Princesses	Shirley Clino
	*Matilda Bone	Karen Cushman
	*Midwife's Apprentice	Karen Cushman
	*Ink Heart	Cornelia Funke
	*Mara, Daughter of the Nile	Eloise Jarvis McGraw
	*True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle	Avi
	*Little Women	Louisa May Alcott
	*Crispin	Avi
	The Phantom Tollbooth	Norton Juster
	Tuck Everlasting	Natalie Babbitt
	There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom	Louis Sachar
	Holes	Louis Sachar
	The BFG	Roald Dahl
	The Higher Power of Lucky	Susan Patron and Matt Phelan
	Any Harry Potter book	J.K. Rowling
	The Wish Giver	Bill Brittain
	Five Children and It	E. Nesbit