

Dear Kindergarten (soon to be 1st Grade ☺) Parents,

It is hard to believe the school year has come to an end. We look forward to having your kiddos next year, but also want them to continue to be prepared for 1<sup>st</sup> grade! In other words, we want to combat **Summer Slide**.

Summer Slide is simply the loss of academic skills over the summer break. There are many ways to help avoid the summer slide. One is to read *every day*. Local libraries have great summer reading programs with incentives and rewards for books read over the summer.

We also would like to contribute to helping your child to hit the ground running, so to speak, as s/he enters 1st grade by asking that students read at least 5 books (of different genres) over the summer and chose 5 creative activities from the list provided. (Genres include fiction, realistic fiction, fantasy, non-fiction, biography, etc.)

Your child may chose books from the list provided as well as books that are not included on the list. We are also providing you with a list of book project choices. Please help your child to select books and projects that are appropriate for his/her reading level. The projects should be submitted to your child's 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at the beginning of our next school year.

**What we will be looking for (Rubric):**

**Is the activity completed?**

**Did you identify the characters and setting of the book?**

Thank you,  
Mrs. Berry and Mrs. Spencer

## Activities to Choose From (1 activity for each book):

### **72 Creative Ways for Students to Show What They Know From What They Read.....**

- 1 Create a poster
- 2 Make a PowerPoint presentation
- 3 Design a model
- 4 Make a shoebox diorama
- 5 Use a 3-panel display board
- 6 Make a timeline
- 7 Create a board game incorporating key elements.
- 8 Write a poem
- 9 Write and perform a skit
- 10 Make a TV or radio commercial
- 11 Make a collage
- 12 Make a mobile
- 13 Create a test about the topic
- 14 Make a word search
- 15 Make a crossword puzzle
- 16 Write a report
- 17 Create a flow chart or diagram
- 18 Write an interview of a relevant person
- 19 Create questions and an answer key
- 20 Write journal/diary entries
- 21 Write a postcard or letter exchange
- 22 Create a scrapbook
- 23 Create a photo album
- 24 Make an instructional video
- 25 Give a presentation
- 26 Create an interactive notebook
- 27 Create a set of task cards
- 28 Make a pamphlet or brochure
- 29 Write a newspaper article
- 30 Perform a puppet show
- 31 Hold a debate
- 32 Hold a mock court case
- 33 Create an episode of a reality show
- 34 Create a game show
- 35 Have a panel discussion of "experts"
- 36 Compose a rap or other song
- 37 Use a Venn diagram to compare two aspects of the topic
- 38 Design a comic strip about the topic
- 39 Create a children's story about the topic
- 40 Create a map
- 41 Write a fable or myth about the topic
- 42 Create a help wanted add and a letter/resume to answer it

- 43 Write a text message dialogue relevant to the topic
- 44 Write a series of tweets relevant to the topic
- 45 Create a Facebook wall relative to the topic
- 46 Create a Pinterest board relative to the topic
- 47 Start a blog
- 48 Decorate a box and fill with relevant objects
- 49 Create a foldable
- 50 Create a flip book
- 51 Create a Cootie Catcher
- 52 Create a cereal based on the topic (cover a cereal box)
- 53 Assemble a time capsule
- 54 Create several bookmarks about different aspects of the topic
- 55 Write a recipe relevant to the topic (good for showing causes of an event)
- 56 Do a newscast
- 57 Write an acrostic poem
- 58 Create an Internet scavenger hunt
- 59 Write an advice column with several problems related to the topic
- 60 Create flash cards or trivia cards
- 61 Create a cheer relevant to the topic
- 62 Make a short documentary film
- 63 Create a museum exhibit
- 64 Create a top 10 list relevant to the topic
- 65 Create a video game
- 66 Make a "Choose Your Own Adventure"
- 67 Create a mini book with one fact/idea per page
- 68 Create a glossary of relevant terms
- 69 Make a paper chain with a different fact for each link
- 70 Make a flower with a different fact for each petal
- 71 Write a handbook or instruction book
- 72 Create a newsletter

### **Possible Books to Choose From (choose 5 books):**

#### **PICTURE BOOKS**

- Applegate, Katherine. Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla. Ivan lived alone in a small cage for many years until he was relocated to Zoo Atlanta.
- Barne , Mac. Leo: A Ghost Story. Leo is a friendly house ghost—but when a family moves into his house and tries to get rid of him, he leaves and roams the city looking for a friend.
- Becker, Aaron. Journey (series). Follow a girl on an elaborate ight of fancy in a wondrously illustrated, wordless picture book about self- determination and unexpected friendship.

- Copeland, Misty. *Firebird*. American Ballet Theatre soloist Misty Copeland encourages a young ballet student with brown skin like her own that, someday, with practice and dedication, the little girl will become a rebird too.
- Dolan, Elys. *Weasels*. When a group of weasels plot to take over the world, they encounter some technical difficulties.
- Donaldson, Julia. *Superworm*. Superworm's bug friends attempt to free him from the clutches of Wizard Lizard.
- Emme, Jonathan. *The Princess and the Pig (Royal Reads)*. When two babies are switched at birth, a princess becomes the farmer's daughter and the pig becomes royalty.
- Engle, Margarita. *Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music*. Follows a girl in the 1920s as she strives to become a drummer, despite being continually reminded that only boys play the drums and that there has never been a female drummer in Cuba.
- Golio, Gary. *Bird & Diz*. Presents a rhythmic tribute to Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie, and their creation of bebop.
- Hall, Michael. *Red: A Crayon's Story*. Red's factory-applied label clearly says that he is red, but despite the best efforts of his teacher, fellow crayons and art supplies, and family members, he cannot seem to do anything right until a new friend offers a fresh perspective.
- Hancocks, Helen. *Penguin in Peril*. Three hungry cats kidnap a penguin to help them catch a fish while the penguin tries to escape.
- Malnor, Carol L. *Kiki's Reef*. A green sea turtle hatches and grows up in the ocean, and then moves to a coral reef.
- Myers, Christopher. *My Pen*. An artist celebrates the many things he can do with a simple pen, and encourages the reader to do the same.
- Oll, Jenny. *Sparky*. How could any pet be more exciting than a sloth?
- Picard, Mathias. *Jim Curious: A Voyage to the Heart of the Sea (Graphic Novels)*. The fantastical story of a young boy and his thrilling trip to the bottom of the sea.
- Perrin, Clotilde. *At the Same Moment, Around the World*. Find out what kids do in each of the 24 time zones around the world.

- Sisson, Stephanie Roth. *Star Stu : Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos*. A biography of Carl Sagan, focusing on his childhood and culminating in the Voyager mission and the Golden Record.
- Stead, Philip. *Lenny & Lucy*. A picture book about moving to a new house and making new friends.
- Tonatiuh, Duncan. *Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin*. Two cousins, one in Mexico and one in New York City, write to each other and learn that they are very similar.

### EASY READERS (ALL SERIES)

- Bell, Cece. *Rabbit & Robot: The Sleepover* (Level 1). Rabbit is excited about the sleepover he has carefully planned for his friend Robot, but Robot has some different ideas about how things should go.
- Henkes, Kevin. *Penny and Her Marble* (Level 2). Penny feels guilty after taking a beautiful marble that she sees in Mrs. Goodwin's grass, and is pleasantly surprised when she returns it the next day.
- Lewin, Ted. *What Am I, Where Am I?* (Level 1). Use your observational skills and knowledge to uncover animal and habitat pairs.
- Macaulay, David. *How It Works* (Level 2). Take an inside look at castles, eyes, planes, and even toilets.

### NONFICTION

- Andrews, Troy. *Trombone Shorty* (BIO AND). 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 tall. Today this Grammy-nominated artist headlines the legendary New Orleans Jazz Fest.
- Barton, Bethany. *I'm Trying to Love Spiders* (595.44 BAR). This fresh and very funny nonfiction picture book shares lots of fascinating facts about spiders in an entirely captivating way.
- Berne, Jennifer. *On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein* (BIO EIN). Follow the life of the famous physicist, from his early ideas to
- Hilliard, Richard. *Ham the Astrochimp* (629.45 HIL). Learn about Ham the chimpanzee's role in developing manned space flight in the U.S.

- Kerley, Barbara. *The World Is Waiting for You* (910 KER). Encouraging adventure, exploration, and discovery, this book is a celebration of possibility!
- Ma ick, Lindsay. *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear* (599.78 MAT). 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 during World War I. That bear became the inspiration for A.A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh*.
- Meltzer, Brad. *I Am Abraham Lincoln* (series in Graphic Novel Bio). Follow Abraham Lincoln from his childhood to the presidency, and see how he spoke up about fairness and eventually led the country to abolish slavery.
- Pizzoli, Greg. *Tricky Vic: The Impossibly True Story of the Man Who Sold the Eiffel Tower* (364.1 PIZ). In the early 1900s, Robert Miller moved to Paris hoping to be an artist. A "con" artist, that is. Tricky Vic pulled off his most daring con in 1925, when he managed to "sell" the Eiffel Tower to one of the city's most successful scrap metal dealers! Six weeks later, he tried all over again.
- Rockli, Mara. *Gingerbread for Liberty! How a German Baker Helped Win the American Revolution* (973.3 ROC ). A stirring picture book biography about a forgo en hero of the American Revolution who rose to the occasion and served his country, not with muskets or canons, but with gingerbread!
- Rosenstock, Barb. *The Streak: How Joe DiMaggio Became America's Hero* (796.357 ROS). The riveting story of a baseball legend, his favorite bat, and the longest hitting streak in baseball history.