



RECOMMENDED READ-ALOUD TITLES FOR 1st GRADE STUDENTS

Epossumondas by Colleen Salley: A diaper-clad “sweet patootie” by the name of Epossumondas lives with his human mother and takes her instructions far too literally, causing some hilarious mishaps. One thing’s for sure: Epossumondas is an adorable, humorous little possum. Very cute story!

Hooway for Wodney Wat by Helen Lester: Poor Rodney Rat can’t pronounce his “r’s” and all the other rodents make fun of him. What do you think happens when Camilla, the meanest, smartest biggest rat, joins the classroom? Your student is bound to love this Cinderella story!

Click, Clack Moo: Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin: Trouble brews when the barnyard cows get a hold of a typewriter and begin to type letters to Farmer Brown! This story illustrates the importance of compromise. Be sure to explain some of the vocabulary like “ultimatum” and “neutral.”

Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems: If you don’t think that pigeons cause trouble, think again. Children love this book because they recognize the pigeon’s defiant, tantrum-throwing, irresistibility in themselves. Watch what happens when the bus driver steps away for a few moments.

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak: Grab your wolf suit and follow Max into the magical world where the wild things are! This classic tale makes you want to get sent to bed without supper more often.

The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant: A perfect read for the fall because many students probably had family visit in the summer. Great for adults and children because everyone knows what it’s like when the relatives come to town. Be sure to point out the comical illustrations!

Parts by Tedd Arnold: Very funny topic and fantastic illustrations! The little boy in this story seems to be falling apart. His hair is falling out so he thinks he’s going bald. Lint in his belly button is the “stuffing” that he’s losing. Little boys will love this book!

The Tale of Custard the Dragon [series] by Ogden Nash: Ogden Nash’s classic about brave Belinda and her “realio, trulio, little pet dragon” has been a favorite of children and until recently was unavailable in picture book format. Artist Lynn Munsinger rejuvenates the poem with her illustrations of no-nonsense Belinda and the cowardly dragon Custard. Inspirational for little girls!

There’s a Nightmare in My Closet by Mercer Mayer: Let your imagination run wild with this classic story! A little boy dressed in fuzzy-footed pajamas hides under his sheets and shuts the closet door each night because of the creature that lives in there, until one night it’s time to face his biggest fear!

Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge by Mem Fox: Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge is a very long, old-sounding name, but he’s a kid! He lives next door to a retirement home and his favorite person there is Miss Nancy (because she has four names, too)! When Wilfred hears that Miss Nancy is losing her memory he tries to help her find what she’s lost. Touching intergenerational story!

The Berenstain Bears and the Truth [series] by Stan and Jan Berenstain: When Brother and Sister Bear break Mama’s favorite lamp, they lie and come up with an involved story. Find out how Papa Bear sets the record straight and shares an important lesson. This is a great beginner series. Your student will want to read all of the Berenstain Bears books!

Wacky Wednesday by Dr. Seuss: A confused youngster wakes up one morning to discover that everything’s out of place, but no one else seems to notice. Children love to point out the silly things on the page. Engaging illustrations are sure to be a hit with 1st graders! You should also check out other Dr. Seuss classics including: **There’s a Wocket In My Pocket**, **Green Eggs and Ham**, and **Yertle the Turtle and Other Stories**.



POWER LUNCH TIPS & TITLES: 1st GRADE EDITION

Read Aloud Tips

- Young ones often need a moment to settle down. Ask your student to give you a quick re-cap of what you read last week or what he or she liked / disliked about last week's stories.
- Encourage your child to ask questions about vocabulary or concepts they may not understand.
- Engage your listener by pointing out illustrations or asking your child what he/she thinks is going to happen next.
- Read with expression! Stories are always much more engaging when you use different voices and the kids love it. Be sure to always read with enthusiasm.
- If you find that your child is zoning out or not focusing, ask your child if he/she knows anyone who has shared a similar experience as one of the characters. Try to break up the text with questions or conversation.
- Switch it up — variety of genre, authors, and book length will hold their attention longer.
- Color a picture! Younger students love to draw a picture from the book that they just completed. This is a great way to discuss the story too! Ask your School Coordinator for an activity sheet—we have word searches and coloring pages.
- Don't forget to update your Book Log! Take a few minutes after you read to update your list.
- When reading with a 1st grader it is very important to be stern and give the Power Lunch session structure. Pick out books ahead of time and remind your student that you're here to read stories and that you'll be back next week. Consistency is imperative for young students!

Other Recommended Titles

Officer Buckle and Gloria by Peggy Rathmann

Skippyjon Jones by Judy Schachner

Duck for President by Doreen Cronin

Green Wilma by Tedd Arnold

The Old Woman Who Named Things
by Cynthia Rylant

Trouble With Trolls by Jan Brett

Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey

Big Bad Bruce by Bill Pete

Madeline by Ludwig Bemelmans [series]

Dexter's Journey by Chris D'Lacey

Rachel Fister's Blister by Amy MacDonald [poetry]

Little Critter by Mercer Mayer [series]

Farm-Fresh Cats by Scott Santaro

Red Riding Hood by James Marshall

Cowgirl Kate & Cocoa by Erica Silverman [series]

Hi! Fly Guy by Tedd Arnold

Wolves by Emily Gravett

Owen & Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship by Isabella Hatkoff

Fancy Nancy by Jane O'Conner

Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale
by Mo Williams

I Will Never Not Eat a Tomato
by: Lauren Child [series]

Jackie Robinson and the Big Game
by Dan Gutman

The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg

Max's Words by Kate Banks

Taming Horrible Harry by Lily Chartrand

Toot and Puddle by Holly Hobbie [series]