



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. 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!

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 read Riding Freedom by Pam Munoz Ryan. We will start the year off by discussing this story and doing corresponding activities during the opening days of school, so please make sure your child is ready to participate. We hope you will supplement the required reading with other books that you and your child choose from this or any other summer reading list. Children should spend some time reading every day during the summer.

### Summer Reading List for Incoming Third Grade

Themes include: Immigration, Native American Studies, & California History

#### **Required for all:**

Riding Freedom

Pam Munoz Ryan

#### **Suggestions:**

Dear America Series (except Great Railroad Race)

Little House series (except Big Woods + Prairie)

Babe, The Gallant Pig

Mr. Popper's Penguins

A Question of Time

Rent a Third Grader

How to Be Cool in Third Grade

A Series of Unfortunate Events series

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

Fantastic Mr. Fox

The Incredible Journey

The Cricket in Times Square

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH

The Mouse and the Motorcycle

My Side of the Mountain

Stuart Little

Sideways Stories from Wayside School

Guys Read series

Book Scavenger series

Various Authors

Laura Ingalls Wilder

Dick King-Smith

Richard & Florence Atwater

Dina Anastasio

B.B. Hiller

Betsy Duffey & Janet Wilson

Lemony Snickett

J.K. Rowling

J.K. Rowling

Roald Dahl

Sheila Burnford

George Selden

Robert C. O'Brien

Beverly Cleary

Jean Craighead George

E. B. White

Louis Sachar

Jon Scieszka

Jennifer Chambliss Bertman