



Dear Rising 2nd Grade Families,

Welcome to 2nd Grade! We are so excited to spend the coming year with your child!

This summer we hope our soon to be second graders will continue to develop a love for reading, and specifically find a book series that that they really enjoy! We have compiled a list of book series with strong characters and relatable storylines. We ask that your child choose a book series and **read 2 books of the same series** this summer. These books can be read independently, as a shared reading with an adult, or as an adult read aloud to your child. The Dallas Public Libraries will have copies of most of these series- so we encourage you to take a trip to the library to check out these titles with your child to see which ones interest them!

Series books engage children and keep them wanting more. We can't wait to hear about which series our readers loved most this summer. Until then, we wish you all a wonderful and safe summer!

See you in August!
The 2nd Grade Team

Please don't forget that the public library has many copies of these popular books. As well as being a great resource, regular visits to the Public Library can be a valuable routine that promotes reading for children and their family members.

Series Selections:

Sam Wu by Katie and Kevin Tsang

Don't call him scaredy-cat Sam because Sam Wu IS NOT AFRAID of ghosts! Except... he totally is. Can he conquer his fear by facing the ghost that lives in the walls of his house?

Little Shaq by Shaquille O'Neal

Seven-year-old Shaquille O'Neal, a talented basketball and video game player, learns to share the spotlight with his cousin Barry.

Ready, Freddy! By Abby Klein

Freddy Thresher, is a second grader who experiences everyday problems and situations normal to an elementary school student.

Desmond Cole Ghost Patrol by Andres Miedoso

Andre is scared of everything, but his BFF, Desmond, investigates all kinds of hauntings—from peddling poltergeists to mer-monsters!

Katie Woo by Fran Manushkin

Katie Woo is a spunky, sassy, and stylish schoolgirl that readers will fall in love with

Dory Fantasmagory by Abby Hanlon

Dory is the baby of the family with a HUGE imagination. She has a fairy god-father named Mr. Nuggy and an imaginary friend named Mary who often leads her astray (like taking off her shoes and losing them at school).

Ninja Kid by Anh Do

Nelson wakes up on his tenth birthday, he discovers he is a NINJA!

Judy Moody by Megan McDonald

Who is *Judy Moody*? She's smart, precocious — and, yes, moody — but most importantly, she's a relatable girl with real problems!

Black Lagoon Adventures by Mike Thaler

Hubie is a new student who enters a haunted elementary school and faces menacing monsters, fierce animals, and bullies.

Zoey and Sassafras by Asia Citro

Zoey sometimes needs to run experiments, while other times she needs to investigate a mystery, and yet other times she needs to do research.

Lola Levine by Monica Brown

Lola Levine likes writing in her *diario*, sipping her mom's *cafe con leche*, eating her dad's matzo ball soup, and playing soccer with her team, the Orange Smoothies. So what if she doesn't always fit in?

Ivy and Bean by Annie Barrows

Ivy and Bean are very different. Bean is loud and wild and goofy. She loves to be involved in games and poke her nose in other people's business. Ivy is quiet and full of ideas. She spends most of her time learning how to be a witch.

Magic Tree House by Mary Pope Osborne

Meet Jack and Annie! Jack and his younger sister, Annie, are just regular kids. But when they discover a tree house in the woods, something magical happens.

Stink by Megan McDonald

Stink Moody is a math maniac, a science star, an encyclopedia enthusiast. In short, he's smart and pursues his passions with . . . well, a passion.

Critter Club by Callie Barkley

In the small California town of Santa Vista, four eight-year-old best friends help found and maintain The Critter Club, a rescue shelter set on saving "lost and lonely" animals, in this sweet and silly chapter book series.

Princess in Black by Shannon and Dean Hale

Who says princesses don't wear black? When trouble raises its blue monster head, Princess Magnolia ditches her flouncy dresses and becomes the Princess in Black!

Amelia Bedelia Chapter Books by Herman Parish

Amelia Bedelia is very clumsy, silly, and sometimes mischievous. Many many times she fails to follow instructions, that is because she often misunderstands how to do things.

Ballpark Mysteries by David A. Kelly

Kate and her cousin Mike go to each major league ballpark with her parents, a sports reporter and a baseball scout -- which explains the kids' VIP access to players, parks, and managers. In every city, in every park, there's a mystery -- something is missing.

Jasmine Toguchi by Debbi Michiko

Jasmine Toguchi—a spunky, eight-year-old Japanese-American heroine is unafraid to try new things while learning life lessons about family, friendship, and sisterhood along the way.

In addition, here are some open ended comprehension questions to guide your readers through the books.

- Did we learn something new about the character today?
- Does this character remind you of any other characters from other books?
- Do you think the character changed in the story?
- How do you think the character is feeling after —— happened?
- How would you solve the problem your character is facing? What would you do different?
- Can you tell me about a time when you might have felt like the character?
- What words would use to describe the main character?

One more thing to consider:

Some chapter book series are designed to be read in sequential order, while others can be read in any order. Each series will be different in this way.

St. John's Summer Reading Suggestions: Entering Second Grade

Over the summer, we ask that families of incoming second graders continue or create a reading routine that highlights the joy of sharing books together. To help support this routine, our librarian Ms. Powers has compiled the following list of suggested books, many of which can be found at your local public library.

CHAPTER BOOKS

The books listed below should satisfy a reader who wants a bit of a challenge.

Barrows, Annie	<i>Ivy + Bean (series)</i>
Beaty, Andrea	<i>The Questioners (series)</i>
Benton, Jim	<i>Franny K. Stein (series)</i>
Bruel, Nick	<i>Bad Kitty (series)</i>
Elliott, Rebecca	<i>Unicorn Diaries and Owl Diaries (series)</i>
Flintham, Thomas	<i>Press Start! (series)</i>
Faruqi, Saadia	<i>Meet Yasmin! (series)</i>
Gutman, Dan	<i>My Weird School (series)</i>
Hale, Shannon	<i>The Princess in Black (series)</i>
Hanlon, Abby	<i>Dory Fantasmagory</i>
Mews, Melody	<i>Itty Bitty Princess Kitty (series)</i>
Osborne, Mary Pope	<i>The Magic Tree House (series)</i>
Roy, Ron	<i>A to Z Mysteries (series)</i>
West, Tracey	<i>Dragon Masters (series)</i>

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Many great graphic novels are published for beginning readers. Students of all ages love these.

Annable, Graham	<i>Peter & Ernesto (series)</i>
Arnold, Tedd	<i>Noodleheads (series)</i>
Blabey, Aaron	<i>The Bad Guys (series)</i>
Burks, James	<i>Bird & Squirrel (series)</i>
Green, John	<i>InvestiGators (series)</i>
O'Hara, Mo	<i>Agent Moose (series)</i>
Pizzoli, Greg	<i>Baloney and Friends (series)</i>
Winick, Judd	<i>Hilo (series)</i>

NON-FICTION

“True” books to entertain and inform.

DK	<i>Junior Maker: Experiments to Try, Crafts to Create, and Lots to Learn!</i>
Donnelly, Judy	<i>The Titanic: Lost and Found</i>
Eggers, Dave	<i>Her Right Foot</i>
Ehlert, Lois	<i>The Scraps Book: Notes From a Colorful Life</i>
Florian, Douglas	<i>Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars</i>
French, Jess	<i>What A Waste: Trash, Recycling, and Protecting our Planet</i>
Hood, Susan	<i>Shaking Things Up: 14 Young Women Who Changed the World</i>
Martin, Claudia	<i>My Little Book of Rocks, Minerals, and Gems</i>
Osborne, Will	<i>Magic Tree House Research Guides</i>
Silverstein, Shel	<i>Where the Sidewalk Ends</i>

PICTURE BOOKS

Picture books are great for any age. Some favorites for entering second graders include:

Beaty, Andrea	<i>Sofia Valdez, Future Prez</i>
Burach, Ross	<i>The Very Impatient Caterpillar</i>
DiCamillo, Kate	<i>A Piglet Named Mercy</i>
Funk, Josh	<i>How to Code a Rollercoaster</i>
Higgins, Ryan T.	<i>Norman Didn't Do It!: (Yes, He Did)</i>
James, LeBron	<i>I Promise</i>
John, Jory	<i>The Smart Cookie</i>
Miller, Rhett	<i>No More Poems!: A Book in Verse That Just Gets Worse</i>
Pizzoli, Greg	<i>The Book Hog</i>
Reynolds, Aaron	<i>Nerdy Birdy Tweets!</i>
Rubin, Adam	<i>Gladys the Magic Chicken</i>
Stutzman, Jonathan	<i>Llama Unleashes the Alpacalypse</i>
Willems, Mo	<i>The Pigeon HAS to Go to School!</i>