

# Lower School Summer Reading

The goal of the Lower School community summer reading activity is to engage and involve students and families in fostering a love of reading. Designed to create a shared learning experience between our school community and home, **each student is asked to read one book from the list below.** Each book incorporates our community summer reading theme while helping students develop greater empathy and a larger appreciation of themselves and others.

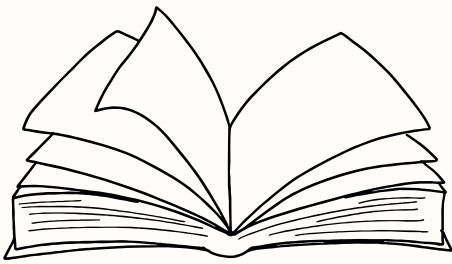
The theme of the Lower School community summer reading is:  
**Celebrating Differences and What Makes Us Unique**

Reading aloud with and to your child has tremendous educational benefits and can be a source of enjoyment for families. Read-alouds are not only enjoyable for beginning readers, but are just as essential for students in the upper elementary grades. Reading comprehension improves as students listen to and discuss events, characters, and motivations. They learn to predict what will happen next as well as increase their vocabulary knowledge and build syntactic awareness. Our utmost goal is to encourage a lifelong enjoyment of reading - a gift your child will treasure forever.

**In addition to reading the book, students are asked to create a summer reading project that reflects what they have learned after reading the novel.** Students will share their projects at our Summer Reading Showcase during the school day in mid-September. Ideas for projects are listed on the Summer Reading Project List sheet. Students are not limited to this list alone and are encouraged to be creative!

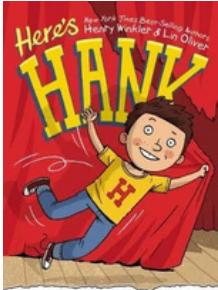
Along with reading a book from this list, we strongly encourage you to support your child in reading independently, reading with you, and listening to audiobooks as much as possible. We thank you in advance for your support with this important endeavor and hope that you and your child have a wonderful time enjoying many great books together this summer.





# Rising 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

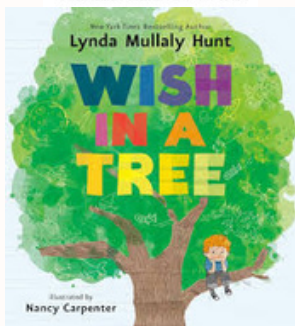
Select one book from the list below.



Bookmarks Are People Too!

## ***Bookmarks Are People Too* by Henry Winkler**

Hank struggles with school, especially reading and spelling, but often makes his classmates laugh. When he freezes during a play audition, he gets a small role, but later has the chance to save the performance and prove himself.



## ***Wish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt**

Oliver's brain is a volcano of ideas—always bubbling with questions. This makes it hard to focus at school, and sometimes he worries he won't ever fit in there. So it's a good thing he has a friend who reminds him that great minds don't think alike. And that a brain that blazes with curiosity and imagination is a glorious thing.



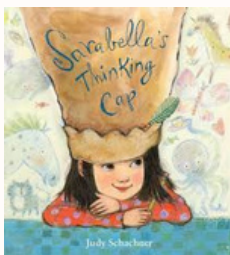
## ***Brilliant Bea* by Mary Vukadinovich and Shaina Rudolph**

Beatrice has big ideas and a wonderful imagination, but reading and writing can feel challenging. At school, it isn't always easy for others to recognize her strengths. When a thoughtful teacher introduces a new way for Beatrice to share her stories, she discovers that learning doesn't have to look the same for everyone.



## ***Just Harriet* by Elana K. Arnold**

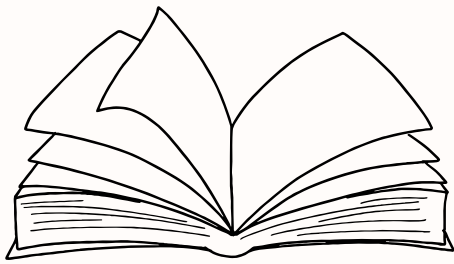
Harriet spends the summer on Marble Island with her grandmother, even though she's upset about leaving home. While there, she discovers a mystery connected to her father's childhood and becomes determined to solve it.



## ***Sarabella's Thinking Cap* by Judith Byron Schachner**

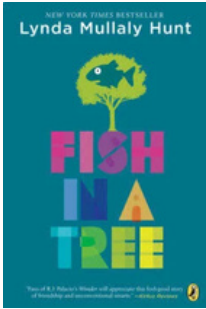
Sarabella loves daydreaming and using her imagination, but it sometimes makes school difficult. With support from her teacher, she finds a creative way to express who she truly is.





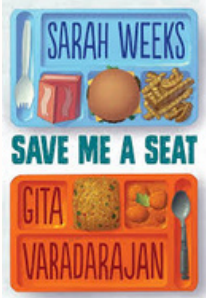
# Rising 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

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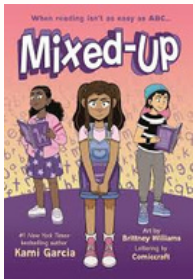
## ***Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt**

Ally hides her inability to read by acting out at school, afraid to ask for help. But her new teacher, Mr. Daniels, recognizes her creativity and helps her understand that dyslexia does not define her. As Ally gains confidence, she learns to embrace herself and see beyond labels.



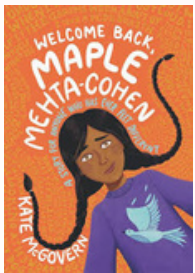
## ***Save Me a Seat* by Sarah Weeks & Gita Varadarajan**

Joe and Ravi come from very different backgrounds but both struggle to fit in at school. After facing bullying and personal challenges, the two boys form a strong friendship and learn to support each other.



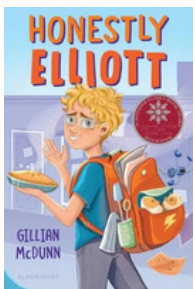
## ***Mixed Up* by Kami Garcia**

Stella is excited for fifth grade, especially with her friends and favorite TV show to enjoy. But when school starts to become difficult, she learns she has dyslexia and gets the support she needs to succeed. *Mixed-Up* shows that our differences don't need to separate us.



## ***Welcome Back, Maple Mehta-Cohen* by Kate McGovern**

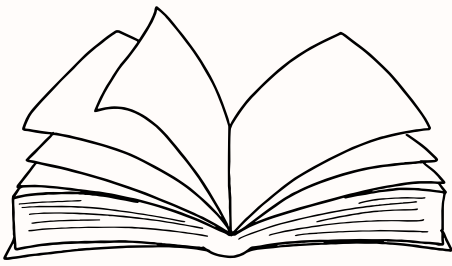
Maple hides her struggles with reading by using clever tricks and her strong storytelling skills. After being held back in fifth grade, she must face her challenges, build new friendships, and learn to accept and value herself just as she is.



## ***Honestly Elliott* by Gillian McDunn**

Elliott feels overlooked as he struggles with ADHD, changes at home, and losing his best friend. When he partners with Maribel on a school project, the two form an unexpected friendship and learn to better understand themselves and each other.





# Project List

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**Create** a book trailer.

**Write** a new ending for your book.

**Write** a continuation of your book.

**Write** a song that tells about your book.

**Make** a video that tells about your book.

**Create** a comic strip.

**Make** a diorama displaying your favorite scene.

**Write** a character diary as if you are the main character in the story.

**Write** a poem about the book.

**Create** a timeline of the major events of your book.

**Design** a poster to advertise your book.

**Design** a new book cover.

**Create** character trading cards.

**Create** a character interview.

**Create** a digital presentation.

**Build** a scene from the book.

**Create** a character scrapbook.

