



## A message from Senator Jeff Klein

Summer, 2005

Dear Parent:

Another school year has passed and summer is upon us — a time of vacation trips, family picnics, trips to the beach and other outdoor activities. It is indeed the ideal time of year for parents to spend quality time with their children. So why not make this summer a special time for your children to explore their interests through books and other reading related activities?

Reading is one of the most important, rewarding and enjoyable learning experiences for children. Experts agree that even after children learn how to read, their enjoyment of reading grows with the companionship of reading with a parent. In addition, children who read at home with their parents perform better in school.

Reading does not always have to include a “book” and a “reader.” True reading takes place every time a child interacts through the processes of speaking, listening and writing. In this brochure, I have provided a suggested reading list. In addition, there is a list of activities compiled by reading teachers and librarians in which you can participate with your child, and also foster these valuable reading “experiences.” Make it a fun activity and let your child’s interests guide your choices!

After completing a book or reading activity, put a check mark in the accompanying box in this brochure. When there are ten or more checked off, your child has earned a New York State Senate Excellence in Reading Certificate. Fill out the information form and return it to me, and I’ll see that your child receives a certificate. Have fun, enjoy the summer and happy reading!

Sincerely,

Jeff Klein  
State Senator  
34th Senatorial District



*“The more things  
you read,  
the more things  
you will know.  
The more that  
you learn,  
the more places  
you’ll go.”*

— Dr. Seuss

## The Public Library

*“Your Community’s  
Treasure Chest”*

*“Here is where people  
One frequently finds  
Lower their voices  
And raise their minds”*

— Richard Armour

Take your child to your local public library where you will find a wealth of children’s books available for their enjoyment. Indeed, libraries are community treasure chests loaded with a wealth of information, and are ideal settings to introduce your child to the joys of reading and the wonderful world of books. In addition, many public libraries have summer programming geared toward children and young people such as summer reading clubs, storytimes, and children’s writing workshops. Ask your librarian what children’s summer programming they are offering!

Further information about your local public library can also be obtained on the website of the New York State Public Library at:

[www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/libspublibs/](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/libspublibs/)

# Suggested Reading List

The following lists of books and activities have been recommended by New York State Teachers, the New York Public Library, and the American Library Association.

## Early/Beginning Readers (Grades K-2)

### Picture Books/Fiction/Nonfiction

- A Chair for my Mother (*Vera Williams*)
- Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (*Judith Viorst*)
- Andy and the Lion (*James Daugherty*)
- Ask Mr. Bear (*Marjorie Flack*)
- Blueberries for Sal (*Robert McCloskey*)
- Charlotte's Web (*E.B. White*)
- The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash (*Trinka Hakes Noble*)
- Diary of A Wombat (*Jackie French*)
- Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! (*Mo Willems*)
- The Giving Tree (*Shel Silverstein*)
- Go Away Big Green Monster (*Ed Emberley*)
- Good Night, Gorilla (*Peggy Rathmann*)
- Goodnight Moon (*Margaret Brown*)
- Green Eggs and Ham (*Dr. Seuss*)
- Harold and the Purple Crayon (*Crockett Johnson*)
- Harry the Dirty Dog (*Gene Zion*)
- Henny Penny (*Paul Galdone*)
- Horton Hatches an Egg (*Dr. Seuss*)
- How The Grinch Stole Christmas (*Dr. Seuss*)
- How I Became a Pirate (*Melinda Long*)
- I Face the Wind (*Vicki Cobb*)
- Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book (*Yuyi Morales*)
- Little One Step (*Simon James*)
- My Name is Yoon (*Helen Recorvits*)
- One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish (*Dr. Seuss*)
- Papa, Please Get the Moon For Me (*Eric Carle*)
- The Polar Express (*Chris Van Allsburg*)
- The Racecar Alphabet (*Brian Floca*)
- Surprising Sharks (*Nicola Davies*)
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar (*Eric Carle*)
- What Do You Do with a Tail Like This? (*R. Page & S. Jenkins*)
- Where's Spot (*Eric Hill*)
- Whistle For Willie (*Ezra Jack Keats*)
- Winnie the Pooh (*A.A. Milne*)
- Yertle the Turtle (*Dr. Seuss*)

### Sample Reading "Experiences"

- ✓ Encourage your children to make up their own stories by looking at pictures in magazines, newspapers and picture books. They can read to you.
- ✓ Play a story tape while riding in the car. Let your children look at the book as they listen.
- ✓ Take a What's Happening Walk. Encourage your children to observe the surroundings and make up stories about things happening wherever they are.
- ✓ Rhyming. Make up silly rhyming pairs while driving the car.
- ✓ Help your child recognize words by using simple flash cards.
- ✓ Be a role model. Show your child that you too enjoy reading.
- ✓ Go to your Public Library and get a library card for your child!
- ✓ (Other) \_\_\_\_\_

## Advanced Beginning Readers (Grades 3-5)

### Fiction/Nonfiction

- Appalachia: Voice of the Sleeping Birds (*Cynthia Rylant*)
- Bruh Rabbit and the Tar Baby Girl (*Virginia Hamilton*)
- The Call of the Wild (*Jack London*)
- Cam Jansen (*David Adler*)
- Class Clown (*Joanna Hurwitz*)
- The Family Under the Bridge (*Natalie Savage Carlson*)
- George Washington's Teeth (*D. Chandra & M. Comora*)
- Granny Torrelli Makes Soup (*Sharon Creech*)
- Hana's Suitcase: A True Story (*Karen Levine*)
- Harriet the Spy (*Louise Fitzhugh*)
- Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez (*Kathleen Krull*)
- Jelly Belly (*Dennis Lee*)
- Locomotion (*Jacqueline Woodson*)
- Mack Made Movies (*Don Brown*)
- The Nate the Great Series (*Marjorie Sharmat*)
- Number the Stars (*Lois Lowry*)
- Pagoo (*Holling C. Holling*)
- The Pinballs (*Betsy Byars*)
- Polk Street (*Patricia Reilly Giff*)

- Pippi Longstocking (*Astrid Lindgren*)
- Rip Van Winkle (*Washington Irving*)
- Sarah, Plain and Tall (*Patricia MacLachlan*)
- The Shape Game (*Anthony Browne*)
- Shh! We're Writing the Constitution (*Jean Fritz*)
- Silent Movie (*Avi*)
- Snowed in with Grandmother Silk (*Carol Fenner*)
- Stuart Little (*E.B. White*)

- Tales of a 4th Grade Nothing (*Judy Blume*)
- True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle (*Avi*)
- Tuck Everlasting (*Natalie Babbitt*)
- The Velveteen Rabbit (*Margery Williams*)
- Wayside School (*Louis Sacher*)
- Walking the Road of Freedom (*Jeri Ferris*)
- The Widow's Broom (*Chris Van Allsburg*)
- Wizard of Oz (*Frank Baum*)

### Sample Reading "Experiences"

- ✓ Encourage your children to keep a summer journal describing their favorite events.
- ✓ Make word searches and puzzles with your child by using [www.puzzlemaker.com](http://www.puzzlemaker.com).
- ✓ Have your child write out the grocery list and find the items while shopping.
- ✓ Form a book club. Read a chapter and discuss with your children and their friends.

- ✓ Encourage your child and their friends to create plays and invite siblings to watch.
- ✓ Inquire at your Public Library about upcoming children's events and participate.
- ✓ (Other) \_\_\_\_\_

## Early Independent Readers (Grades 6-8)

### General Interest

- A Gathering of Days: A New England Girl's Journey, 1830-1832 (*Joan Blos*)
- A Girl Named Disaster (*Nancy Farmer*)
- A String in the Harp (*Nancy Bond*)
- A Swiftly Tilting Planet (*Madeleine L'Engle*)
- Abel's Island (*William Steig*)
- Ashanti to Zulu: African Tradition (*Margaret Musgrove*)
- Bucking the Sarge (*Christopher Paul Curtis*)
- By the Shores of Silver Lake (*Laura Ingalls Wilder*)
- Castle (*David Macaulay*)
- Colibri (*Ann Cameron*)
- Earthshine (*Theresa Nelson*)
- Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery (*Russell Freedman*)
- Homesick: My Own Story (*Jean Fritz*)
- Jason's Gold (*Will Hobbs*)
- Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices (*Paul Fleischman*)
- In Defense of Liberty: The Story of America's Bill of Rights (*Russell Freedman*)
- Inkheart (*Cornelia Funke*)

- Jack: The Early Years of John F. Kennedy (*Ilene Cooper*)
- Keeper of the Knight (*Henry Holt*)
- Maniac Magee (*Jerry Spinelli*)
- M.C. Higgins, the Great (*Virginia Hamilton*)
- The Merlin Conspiracy (*Diana Wynne Jones*)
- Mr. Popper's Penguins (*Richard & Florence Atwater*)
- Nothing But the Truth: A Documentary Novel (*Avi*)
- Olive's Ocean (*Kevin Henkes*)
- Queenie Peavy (*Robert Burch*)
- Rabble Starkey (*Lois Lowry*)
- Ramona and Her Father (*Beverly Cleary*)
- Ruby Electric (*Theresa Nelson*)
- Sing Down the Moon (*Scott O'Dell*)
- Sounder (*William Armstrong*)
- Stonewords (*Pam Conrad*)
- Stop the Train! (*Geraldine McCaughrean*)
- The Friendship (*Mildred Taylor*)
- The Great Fire (*Jim Murphy*)
- The Great Gilly Hopkins (*Katherine Paterson*)
- The House of Sixty Fathers (*Meindert DeJong*)
- The Island on Bird Street (*Uri Orlev*)
- The Sixth Grade Nickname Game (*Gordon Korman*)
- Wringer (*Jerry Spinelli*)

### Sample Reading "Experiences"

- ✓ Have a game night. Play Scrabble, Boggle and other fun word games.
- ✓ Visit your Public Library and join their book club.
- ✓ Take a family hike or go biking, and draw and write about the natural surroundings.
- ✓ Encourage poetry readings and share your interpretations.
- ✓ Find library books on your child's favorite hobbies.

- ✓ Discuss your family roots, including family members, and your ethnic background. Look up your family name and use resources to make a family tree.
- ✓ Read newspapers together and discuss how a local or national story affects your community.
- ✓ (Other) \_\_\_\_\_



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Senator Jeff Klein



New York State Senate

"Excellence  
in Reading"



2005  
Summer  
Reading  
Program

Sponsored by  
Senator  
Jeff Klein

*"Children are made readers on  
the laps of their parents."*

— Emilie Buchwald

cut here



New York State Senate  
**Excellence  
in Reading  
Certificate**

To receive your certificate, complete this  
form and send to:

**Senator Jeff Klein**  
3713 East Tremont Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10465

Information Form:

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parents \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Number of books/reading activities: \_\_\_\_\_