**2020 Summer Reading List**

**Grade Level:** Pre-K-3

**Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday** by Judith Viorst

Last Sunday, Alexander’s grandparents gave him a dollar—and he was rich. There were so many things that he could do with all of that money! He could buy as much gum as he wanted, or even a walkie-talkie, if he saved enough. But somehow the money began to disappear.

Grade level: K-2
Teacher lesson plans
Parent Q&A

**Benny’s Pennies** by Pat Brisson

An easy-to-understand children’s story about financial literacy and the value of giving and saving—even five pennies! Benny McBride starts his day with five new pennies and is determined to spend them all. His mother wants him to buy something beautiful. His brother wants something good to eat. His sister wants something nice to wear. Benny knows his dog and cat would like something too. With the help of generous and thoughtful neighbors, Benny fulfills each request with a penny and arrives home with five but simple gifts.

Grade level: Pre-K-2
Teacher lesson plans: None
Parent Q&A: None

**A Chair for My Mother** by Vera B. Williams

After their home is destroyed by a fire, Rosa, her mother and grandmother save their coins to buy a really comfortable chair for all to enjoy. This classic and award-winning picture book was written and illustrated by the celebrated Vera B. Williams and was named a Caldecott Honor Book by the American Library Association. This picture book is an excellent choice to share during homeschooling, in particular for children ages 4 to 6. It’s a fun way to learn to read and as a supplement for activity books for children.

Grade level: Pre-K-2
Teacher lesson plans
Parent Q&A
Curious George Saves His Pennies by Monica Perez
When George decides to save up for that special red train in the toy store, he doesn't realize how long it will take—or how hard he'll have to work for his money. But when the time finally arrives to take his very full piggy bank to the toy store—surprise!—George loses it. Can this day, and George's hard-won earnings, be saved? For more monkey fun, investigate www.curiousgeorge.com and discover all the latest on Curious George, books, promotions, games, activities, and more!

Grade level: 1-2
Teacher lesson plans
Parent Q&A

The Doorbell Rang by Pat Hutchins
Victoria and Sam’s mother makes a batch of cookies for her two children. The doorbell keeps ringing with guests that are coming over, and the children must share their cookies. This book delves into the concept of division and has students guessing how many cookies the children end up with after each time the doorbell rings. Victoria and Sam are forced to share—or distribute—a limited number of cookies. Each time the doorbell rings, more friends arrive and the children face a cookie scarcity problem.

Grade level: Pre-K-3
Teacher lesson plans: None
Parent Q&A: None

Fairy Floss: The Sweet Story of Cotton Candy by Ann Ingalls
Step right up and read about the debut of cotton candy at the St. Louis World’s Fair in 1904! The 1904 World’s Fair in St. Louis, Missouri, was an exhibition like none other. It had huge buildings for displaying all sorts of inventions and machines, exhibits from all around the world, and vendors selling new foods, including something called Fairy Floss, which we now call cotton candy. In this book, a young girl named Lily and her Aunt Mae are told all about Fairy Floss by John Wharton, one of the inventors. Lily can’t wait to go to the Fair and see how it’s made. While there, she even makes a batch for herself.

Grade level: Pre-K-3
Teacher lesson plans: None
Parent Q&A: None

Follow the Money by Loreen Leedy
George, a newly minted quarter on his way to the bank, is in for quite a day. He’s about to be traded, spent, lost, found, donated, dropped into a vending machine, washed in a washing machine, and generally passed all around town. By the time George finally ends up back at the bank, he’s given readers a real run for their money. By George, what a way to practice math, learn about basic economics, and have a few laughs, too!

Grade level: K-3
Teacher lesson plans: None
Parent Q&A: None
How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World by Marjorie Priceman

An apple pie is easy to make...if the market is open. But if the market is closed, the world becomes your grocery store. This picture book takes readers around the globe to gather ingredients for a delicious apple pie. First hop a steamboat to Italy for the finest semolina wheat. Then hitch a ride to England and hijack a cow for the freshest possible milk. And, oh yes! Don’t forget to go apple picking in Vermont! A simple recipe for apple pie is included.

Grade level: 1-3
Teacher lesson plans
Parent Q&A: None

Mousetropolis by R. Gregory Christie

It’s time for a vacation! This is a fresh take on the Aesop classic fable, The Town Mouse and Country Mouse. City Mouse visits his cousin in the country- but while he loves to dance in the barn, he experiences spartan meals, unseen predators, unbearable heat and it’s too much quiet! City Mouse finds that the country isn’t as restful and pleasant as he’d hoped. And so, the two mice hop a train to the bustling city. While Country Mouse appreciates the plentiful city snacks, it is much too loud, and he’s afraid of cats! Perhaps City Mouse and Country Mouse have different ideas of what makes for a perfect home.

Grade level: 1-3
Teacher lesson plans
Parent Q&A: None

One Cent, Two Cents, Old Cent, New Cent by Bonnie Worth

The Cat in the Hat puts to rest any notion that money grows on trees in this super simple look at numismatics, the study of money and its history. Beginning with the ancient practice of bartering, the Cat explains various forms of money used in different cultures, from shells, feathers, leather, and jade to metal ingots to coins (including the smallest—the BB-like Indian fanam—and the largest—the 8-foot-wide, ship-sinking limestone ones from the Islands of Yap!), to the current king of currency, paper. Also included is a look at banking, from the use of temples as the first banks to the concept of gaining or paying interest, and a step-by-step guide to minting coins.

Grade level: Pre-K-5
Teacher lesson plans: None
Parent Q&A

Pedro’s Pan: A Gold Rush Story by Matthew Lasley

Pedro and his pan go on an exciting adventure together—to strike gold! They hike mountains, whack through bushes, and wade through streams as they sift through dirt and gravel in search of the hidden nuggets. But as time goes by without any success, Pan begins to worry that he is broken. Will he and Pedro ever find what they’re looking for? Inspired by the true story of Felix Pedro, a prospector who launched one of the richest gold rushes in Alaska’s history, Pedro’s Pan offers a glimpse into American history as well as educates how gold panning works in a fun and exciting way.

Grade level: K-2
Teacher lesson plans: None
Parent Q&A: None
**Violet the Pilot** by Steve Breen

Violet is a science-loving girl inventor with a flair for the air! Fans of Ada Twist, Scientist and Rosie Revere, Engineer will love this classic underdog story by two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist Steve Breen. By the time she’s two years old, Violet Van Winkle can engineer nearly any appliance in the house.

**Grade level:** Pre-K-3  
**Teacher lesson plans:** None  
**Parent Q&A:** None

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**Because of Winn-Dixie** by Kate DiCamillo

Based on the perennial best seller, Because of Winn-Dixie tells the story of a lonely young girl who adopts an orphaned dog she names Winn-Dixie (for the supermarket where she found him). The bond between the girl and her special companion brings together the people in a small Florida town and heals her own troubled relationship with her father.

**Grade level:** 3-5  
**Teacher lesson plans:** None  
**Parent Q&A**

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**Benjamin Franklin, American Genius: His Life and Ideas with 21 Activities** by Brandon Marie Miller

Author Brandon Marie Miller captures the essence of this exceptional individual through both his original writings and hands-on activities from the era. Readers will design and print an almanac cover, play a simple glass armonica (a Franklin invention), experiment with static electricity, build a barometer, and more. The text also includes a time line, glossary, Web and travel resources, and reading list for further study.

**Grade level:** 4-8  
**Teacher lesson plans:** None  
**Parent Q&A:** None

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**Crenshaw** by Katherine Applegate

An unforgettable and magical story about family, friendship, and resilience. Jackson and his family have fallen on hard times. There’s no more money for rent. And not much for food, either. His parents, his little sister, and their dog may have to live in their minivan. Again. Crenshaw is a cat. He’s large, he’s outspoken, and he’s imaginary. He has come back into Jackson’s life to help him. But is an imaginary friend enough to save this family from losing everything? Beloved author Katherine Applegate proves in unexpected ways that friends matter, whether real or imaginary. This title has Common Core connections.

**Grade level:** 4-6  
**Teacher lesson plans**  
**Parent Q&A** : None
The Go-Around Dollar by Barbara Johnston Adams

Every dollar travels from person to person in a different way. Matt finds a dollar on his way home from school and uses it to buy shoelaces from Eric. Eric spends the dollar on bubble gum at the corner store. Jennifer, who happens to be the next customer, receives the dollar as part of her change. A dollar bill is something we all see and use every day of our lives. But do we know how it’s made? The meaning of the symbols that are shown on the front and back of the dollar? How long the average dollar stays in circulation?

Grade level: 3-5
Teacher lesson plans: None
Parent Q&A: None

Homer Price by Robert McCloskey

Welcome to Centerburg! Where you can win a hundred dollars by eating all the doughnuts you want; where houses are built in a day; and where a boy named Homer Price can foil four slick bandits using nothing but his wits and pet skunk. The comic genius of Robert McCloskey and his wry look at small-town America has kept readers in stitches for generations!

Grade level: 3-5
Teacher lesson plans: None
Parent Q&A: None

The Inventor’s Secret: What Thomas Edison Told Henry Ford by Suzanne Slade

Thomas Edison and Henry Ford started off as insatiably curious tinkerers. That curiosity led them to become inventors—with very different results. As Edison invented hit after commercial hit, gaining fame and fortune, Henry struggled to make a single invention (an affordable car) work. Witnessing Thomas’s glorious career from afar, a frustrated Henry wondered about the secret to his success. This little-known story is a fresh, kid-friendly way to show how Thomas Edison and Henry Ford grew up to be the most famous inventors in the world—and best friends, too.

Grade level: 3-5
Teacher lesson plans
Parent Q&A: None

Million-Dollar Throw by Mike Lupica

Everyone calls Nate Brodie “Brady” because he’s a New England quarterback, just like his idol, Tom Brady. And now he’s got a chance to win a million dollars by throwing one pass through a target at halftime in the Patriots’ Thanksgiving night game. More than anything, Nate’s family needs the money—his dad’s been downsized, his mom’s working two jobs, and they’re on the verge of losing their house. The worry is more weight than a 13-year-old can bear, and it’s affecting his playing for his own football team. Suddenly the boy with the golden arm is having trouble completing a pass… but can he make the one that really counts?

Grade level: 5-6
Teacher lesson plans: None
Parent Q&A: None
**Swindle** by Gordon Korman

The youngster in this book is concerned about his family finances. His father is an inventor and an innovator who has left his regular job and they don't have much of an income stream. Their house is going on the market; he is worried about having to move away, and he's desperate to stay. Then he finds a rare baseball card and he realizes that at auction it can go for close to $1 million. He takes it to a dealer and the dealer convinces this boy and his friend that the card is not worth very much at all, and he gets just $120 for it. Later he finds out that the card was authentic and that he's been swindled. That's all economics in terms of the family finances and the value of the card. It's a scarce card, so it's worth quite a bit of money.

Grade level: 4-7
Teacher lesson plans: None
Parent Q&A: None

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**Sky Boys: How They Built the Empire State Building** by Deborah Hopkinson and James E. Ransome

A riveting brick-by-brick account of how one of the most amazing accomplishments in American architecture came to be. Join a young boy as he watches the Empire State Building being constructed from scratch, then travels to the top to look down on all of New York City in 1931. Hopkinson, a master of historical fiction, and Ransome, an award-winning illustrator, dazzle us with this ALA Notable and a Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor Book.

Grade level: 3-5
Teacher lesson plans
Parent Q&A

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**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** by Mildred D. Taylor

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry is a 1976 novel by Mildred D. Taylor, sequel to her 1975 novella Song of the Trees. It is a book about racism in America during the Great Depression and Jim Crow era. The novel won the 1977 Newbery Medal. It is followed by two more sequels, Let the Circle Be Unbroken (1981), The Road to Memphis (1990), and a prequel to the Logan family saga, The Land (2001).

Grade level: 6-8; 9-12
Teacher lesson plans: None
Parent Q&A