



Dear Parents of Incoming First Grade Students,

First and foremost, our goal for every child is to develop a love of reading. When reading is fun and enjoyable, it easily becomes a regular part of life. It's essential to incorporate reading into our daily lives so that our children see the pleasure in it, and will want to experience it.

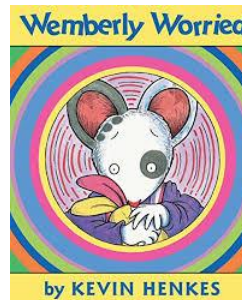
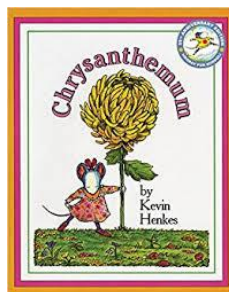
Research shows that when children select their own books, they will be more motivated and engaged while reading them. Showing your child a handful of books and asking them to choose a few can be empowering for a young reader. While we encourage reading any and all kinds of books, below is a list of our favorite authors that are available at most public libraries.

Recommended Picture Book Authors

Frank Asch	Jan Brett	Eve Bunting	Eric Carle
Joy Cowley	Kevin Henkes	Tomie DePaola	Mem Fox
Gail Gibbons	Ezra Jack Keats	Leo Lionni	Mercer Mayer
Jack Prelutsky	Cynthia Rylant	Robert Munsch	Audrey Wood

For most people, reading is a social experience. Though most of our young budding readers may not be ready to read the words independently quite yet, they do have thoughts and opinions as they listen and read the pictures. Our hope is for more experienced readers to read to and talk with your child this summer. Ask them what they are thinking before, during and after reading, letting their answer guide the conversation!

We will begin our school year by reading several picture books by Kevin Henkes. Many of their themes connect to citizenship and will help us as we build our classroom communities. Therefore, it is helpful, **but not required**, if our students are familiar with these ahead of time.



We hope you enjoy your summer and wish you lots of happy reading!

Sincerely,

The First Grade Team