

BEE a Summer Reader  
Summer Reading Program

As the summer break approaches, thoughts may turn to vacations, summer camp, and all kinds of outdoor activities. Make sure your summer plans include time to read, read, read!

*BEE a Summer Reader* is our summer reading program for incoming 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Students are required to read one assigned book, and complete one of the activities listed at the end of this handout.

Students who choose to read an additional two books from the recommended list, and complete an activity for each book, will receive a prize and be recognized at the first Kabbalat Shabbat.

Note: An activity for the required book must be brought to school the first day of school, along with a copy of the book. Language Arts assignments during the first weeks of school will be related to the required book.

Students who want to qualify for the *BEE a Summer Reader* award must also hand in the two additional activities on the first day of school. The books read for this award must be from the recommended list that is attached.

San Diego Jewish Academy  
Summer Reading 2007  
Incoming Grade 4 Students

**Required Reading**

All In-coming fourth graders are required to read the following book, and complete one of the activities listed at the end of this book list.

***War With Grandpa***

**By Robert Kimmel Smith**

Peter loves his grandpa, but when he moves in and forces Peter to give up his room, Peter has no choice but to declare war! With the help of his friends, Peter devises outrageous plans to make Grandpa surrender the room. But Grandpa is tougher than he looks. Rather than give in, Grandpa plans to get even.

**Recommended Reading**

The following books are recommended reading. If you read two of these books and complete one of the activities listed at the end for each book, you will be recognized at the first Kabbalat Shabbat, and given a prize.

***And Twelve Chinese Acrobat***

**by JaneYolen**

When Wolf's spirited older brother Lou, crosses the line of acceptable humor he is sent away to military school in Kiev. Not surprisingly, he is expelled; when he returns home months later leading a team of Chinese acrobats, his father recognizes his managerial ability and sends him to America to find a place for a "troop of Yolens" to stay.

***The Castle in the Attic***

**by Elizabeth Winthrop**

A miniature castle comes to life for ten-year-old William when he shrinks to fit into its adventures.

***Charlie bone and the Hidden Key***

Or any book in the *Charlie Bone* series

**by Jenny Nimmo**

In this fifth book in the Children of the Red King series, 12-year-old Charlie Bone, endowed with the gift of entering into photographs, contends with mystifying events that are occurring. Evil forces are determined to keep Charlie from discovering the truth about his long-lost father.

***Fourth Grade Rats***

**by Jerry Spinelli**

Suds learns that his best friend is wrong. You don't have to be a tough guy, a "rat," to be a grown up fourth grader.

***The Good Dog***

**by Avi**

McKinley, a malamute, is a good dog -- he's reliable and trustworthy. Whether it's watching over the other dogs of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, or taking care of his human pup, Jack, McKinley never even thinks of letting anyone down -- until he meets Lupin. Lupin is a she-wolf and she's urging the dogs of Steamboat Springs to leave their domesticated lives and join her wild pack. And though she scares McKinley, he also finds himself drawn to her and the life of freedom that she offers.

***The Great Turkey Walk***

**by Kathleen Karr**

This is the hilarious novel of a boy who resolves to walk 1000 turkeys from the Show-Me state of Missouri to Denver, Colorado. Simon, who's 15 and newly graduated from the third grade, may not be too bright, but he figures he can make his fortune by buying Mr. Buffey's bronze turkeys for a quarter apiece and selling them in Denver for \$5 each.

***The Indian in the Cupboard***

**by Lynne Reid Banks**

The first book in this bestselling series begins with young Omri receiving an old family wooden medicine cupboard as a birthday gift. Given to him by his mother in order to house his plastic toy soldiers, the cupboard has a magical power: It can bring Omri's toys to life. When his toy Indian comes alive and befriends him, Omri finds himself involved in all kinds of adventure and excitement.

***In Plain Sight***

**by Carol Otis Hurst**

When Sarah's father leaves their Massachusetts farm to prospect for gold in California, even his stories of riches and adventure can't console her. In his absence, Sarah chafes against her mother's cold demeanor and strict discipline, and at times it doesn't seem like anyone misses her fun-loving father the way she does. But she must put her feelings aside and work hard to help keep the farm running.

***Island of the Aunts***

**by Eva Ibbotson**

Three aging aunts who need help caring for an entire island and their magical animals resort to kidnapping three children from London to help them with such tasks as cleaning mermaids and coaxing a boobrie to lay its enormous eggs. A funny adventure with imaginative and memorable characters.

***James and the Giant Peach***

**by Roald Dahl**

When poor James Henry Trotter loses his parents in a horrible rhinoceros accident, he is forced to live with his two wicked aunts, Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker. After three years he becomes "the saddest and loneliest boy you could find." Then one day, an old man gives James a bag of magic crystals that promise to reverse his misery forever. When James accidentally spills the crystals on his aunts' withered peach tree, he sets the adventure in motion.

***Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher***

**by Bruce Coville**

In this entertaining fantasy readers will soon realize that things are not always as they seem. Jeremy Thatcher is plagued with all of the problems of a 12-year-old plus a few extra. He ends up forming an unexpected bond with Tiamat the dragon.

***The Just Desserts Club***

**by Johanna Hurwitz**

When Cricket decides to start cooking to cure her summer blues, it's not long before Lucas, Julio, and friends -the stars of Hurwitz's Class Clown books-get involved and "stir up" the action. From "Zucchini Houdini" to "April Food's Day," here are four zesty stories and sixteen easy recipes to dig into for a fiesta of reading, cooking, and eating -just desserts!

***King of the Wind***

**by Marguerite Henry**

Follows the adventures of the Arabian stallion brought to England to become one of the founding sires of the Thoroughbred breed and the mute Arab stable boy who tended him with loyalty and devotion all his life.

***Millions***

**by Boyce Cottrell**

When fourth-grader Damian finds a bag full of cash by the train tracks, he and his brother try to spend it fast. The bills are all pounds, and England is just a few weeks away from converting to the euro, so anything they don't use will, in their minds, soon be worthless. Damian is obsessed with saints, and Anthony has an endless supply of antics. In spite of the humor, there is a sense of sadness as their Mother's recent death is revealed later in the story.

***Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane***

**by Kate DiCamillo**

Once, in a house on Egypt Street, there lived a china rabbit named Edward Tulane. The rabbit was very pleased with himself, and for good reason: he was owned by a girl named Abilene, who treated him with the utmost care and adored him completely. And then, one day, he was lost, and the girl begins a miraculous journey to recover her beloved companion.

***My Teacher Is an Alien***

**by Bruce Coville**

Susan can tell that her new substitute teacher is really weird. She doesn't know how weird until she catches him peeling off his face -- and realizes Mr. Smith is really an alien! Now it's up to Susan and her friends to get rid of the extraterrestrial visitor.

***Ruby Holler***

**by Sharon Creech**

After a series of disastrous foster home placements, orphan twins Dallas and Florida find a loving if unlikely home with an elderly, eccentric couple. This story has drama, suspense, and humor.

***Search for the Shadowman***

**by Joan Lowery Nixon**

Twelve-year-old Andy Bonner isn't thrilled with his teacher's assignment to explore family history. When he starts asking questions about his ancestors, he is startled to discover a black sheep in the family tree. No one wants to reveal what happened in his family's past. Casting his net widely, from the Internet to the local cemetery, Andy helps everyone realize it's never too late to seek justice. Challenging.

***Secret School*****by Avi**

When the teacher at the one-room schoolhouse in Elk Valley must depart unexpectedly, the head of the school board decides to end the academic year right then, a month and a half before the summer break. 14-year-old Ida Bidson protests, and secretly takes over the school, swearing the students to secrecy. "Miss Bidson" has to learn self-confidence, and she must keep up with her farm chores and with her own studies. When the county examiner discovers the secret, he agrees to keep it only if all the students take a final exam.

***Shoeless Joe and Me***

Or any book in this series

**by Dan Gutman**

Joe Stoshack travels back to 1919, where he meets Shoeless Joe Jackson and tries to prevent the fixing of the World Series in which Jackson was wrongly implicated.

***The Snake Scientist*****by Sy Montgomery**

The excitement of science in action fills the pages of the book. Montgomery focuses on one man and his research on the red-sided garter snake in Canada. There are large, full-color photos of the zoologist and young students at work, and lots of wriggly snakes.

***When the Circus Came to Town*****by Lawrence Yep**

In this historical tale based on real events, ten-year-old "Pirate Ursula" is the fearless leader of her playmates, but after she contracts smallpox and is left with significant facial scarring, she sees herself as "Monster Ursula." She becomes a recluse, never leaving her family's stagecoach station in early 20th-century Whistle, MT. Through the efforts of the new Chinese cook, Ah Sam, she eventually finds the courage to rediscover "Pirate Ursula", and Ursula finally understands that it is what is inside a person that matters most.

***The Year of Miss Agnes*****by Kirkpatrick Hill**

Ten-year-old Fred (short for Frederika) narrates the story of school and village life among the Athapascans in Alaska during 1948 when Miss Agnes arrives as the new teacher. She doesn't have much faith that the new teacher will last very long. Most teachers who come to their one-room schoolhouse in remote, Alaska leave at the first smell of fish, claiming that life there is just too hard. Will Miss Agnes be different?

**Summer Reading Activities**

For each book you read from the Summer Reading List, choose an activity as a way to report on the book. Keep written assignments short. These activities are not meant to take a lot of time. You may choose a different activity for each book, or repeat the same activity for all the books – your choice!

1. Draw a scene from the book. On the back, write a few sentences telling about the scene you have illustrated.

2. Design a book jacket. Draw a cover for the book on the front, write a brief summary of the story on the inside flap.

3. Create an "ad" to sell the book to your friends.

4. Pretend you are one of the characters in the book and describe a day in your life.

5. Write a newspaper article about an exciting event from the book.

