

SOUTHBRIDGESUMMER READING LIST – Grades 3 and 4 - Fiction

Diary of a Wombat by Jackie French - In his diary, a wombat describes his life of eating, sleeping, and getting to know some new human neighbors. Readers everywhere will be begging for one to move in under their house.

Stone Fox by John Reynolds Gardiner – Willy hope to win the prize in a sled dog race in order to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm. This is a wonderful story about the love of a boy for his dog.

The Gold Miner's Daughter: A Melodramatic Fairytale by Jackie Mims Hopkins – In trying to pay her debt to mean ole Mr. Bigglebottom, Gracie Pearl meets many fairytale characters along the way who have had their own problems with the money hungry banker in this entertaining fairytale.

Bobby the Brave (Sometimes) by Lisa Yee - In his last adventure, Bobby Ellis-Chan got stuck to a stinky tree, had underwear attached to his back, and faced down a whole wolfpack of girls. What could be scarier or more humiliating than that? Oh, how about playing sports with his football-hero dad..., a cat with 27 toes..., an asthma attack in public..., and dancing on stage in the school musical. And the list goes on! Bobby will have to overcome his fears if he's going to come out on top.

Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor - When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.

Bad to the Bone by Lucy Nolan - Along with friends Sit and Hush, average pet Down Girl, tries and tries to train her master to understand that cats are bad and dogs just want food and attention, but it's awfully hard work.

The Curse of the Bologna Sandwich by Greg Trine - Bad guys tremble at the sound of his name! Meet Melvin Beederman. He's a pretty good superhero, even though it always takes him five or six tries to get launched and flying. His weakness (every superhero has one) is bologna, which makes it hard to go into a deli. Still, Melvin manages to keep the city of Los Angeles free of nasty villains—once he's airborne.

Oggie Cooder by Sarah Weeks - Oggie Cooder has a talent. He chews and carves pieces of cheese into any shape he wants them to be. This is called charving. Oggie doesn't think his charving is anything special. In fact, most of the kids in his school think it's a little weird. But then a big TV show comes to town, looking for people who have weird talents. Suddenly, Oggie is Mr. Popular...especially with Donnica Perfecto, the girl across the street who wants to be famous, no matter what. Will Oggie be able to charve his way to the top? Is he ready to be a Big Cheese?

Just Grace Walks the Dog by Charise Mericle Harper - Grace has a dog. Unfortunately, he's only made of cardboard and rides a skate board. Grace is determined though to prove to her parents that she is responsible and dependable enough to get a real dog. There is a series of "Just Grace" books.

SOUTHBRIDE SUMMER READING LIST – Grades 3 and 4 - Nonfiction

Is My Dog a Wolf? How Your Pet Compares to its Wild Cousin by Jenni Bidner – This book examines the differences and similarities between dogs and wolves with descriptions of how both have descended from the ancient wolf and how they have evolved into two diverse species.

Forest Explorer: A Life-Size Field Guide by Nic Bishop – Enjoy up close view of the wildlife in a forest through breathtaking beautiful photography and informative text.

Hurricanes by Gail Gibbons – Informative text and drawings present an overview of how hurricanes are formed, their categories, the destruction they cause, and how they are forecast and tracked.

Hide and Seek: Nature's Best Vanishing Acts by Andrea Helman – This beautifully photographed book take the reader to ecosystems around the world to show how animals camouflage themselves for protection in each unique habitat.

How to Scratch a Wombat: Where to Find it...What to Feed It...Why It Sleeps All Day by Jackie French – This book tells you all you need to know about caring for and living with wombats and how to keep the "hairy brown rocks with legs" from breaking your door down. It is based on the author's thirty years of experience in her Australian home.

Wonder Horse: The True Story of the World's Smartest Horse by Emily Arnold McCully – Bill "Doc" Key, who was a former slave, trains his horse, Jim Key, to recognize letters and numbers and perform around the country, ultimately teaching others to treat animals humanely.

Panda Kindergarten by Joanne Ryder - School is in session! But this is no ordinary kindergarten class. Meet sixteen young giant panda cubs at the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda at the Wolong Nature Preserve. The cubs are raised together from infancy in a protected setting, where they grow strong. Under the watchful eyes of the scientists and workers, the cubs learn skills that will help prepare them to be released into the wild.

Never Smile at a Monkey: And 17 Other Important Things to Remember by Steve Jenkins Incredible cut paper illustrations highlight eighteen creatures whose weapons of teeth, claws, spines, and venom make them dangerous to human. You will learn what you should never do if you encounter one of these animals.

Henry Aaron's Dream by Matt Tavares – In this biography of "Hank" Aaron, Hank overcomes many obstacles to realize his childhood dream of becoming a major league baseball player.

You can also try titles from these great authors:

Andrew Clements	Patricia Polacco
Matt Christopher (sports)	Judy Blume
Jean Fritz	David Adler
Beverly Cleary	Allen Say
James Howe	Jack Prelutsky (poetry)
Nick Bruel (Bad Kitty series)	