



READING LISTS

At Heritage Oak School, we desire to create a culture of reading among our students; not only for the short term, but for a lifetime of learning and pleasure. The only way to develop that culture is for students to have a steady supply of good books to choose from and to actually read on a regular basis. We hope this list provides both parents and students with guidance and direction needed.

Purpose

Each list has been compiled with specific objectives in mind.

- These lists are designed to be used for the January Read-A-Thon, summer reading requirements, or just for your student's pleasure.
- A range of student reading abilities was considered for each level and therefore you will find a selection on each list for emerging readers as well as accomplished readers.
- Book titles are designated by grade for age appropriate content. Books in the younger years are particularly vetted for themes and story lines that reflect what is true, good, and beautiful. Sometimes a book might begin with what seems to contradict these values, but as the story progresses, the plot is resolved in such a way as to promote the aforementioned principles. As students mature, literature themes also mature. Parents should be actively involved in helping their children select appropriate books for their maturity and reading level.

How to Use the Lists Provided

When selecting a book for your child from the list, please keep the following in mind:

- Books are listed in alphabetical order to make searching for titles easier.
- Please note the author we suggest and select that title as often there may be another book by the same title that is not recommended.
- An asterisk after a title indicates that there is more than one book in the series and the entire series is recommended unless there is a note specifying otherwise.
- Different scoring tools are used to determine the reading level of a book and each tool will vary on how it scores a book. We used the *Renaissance's Accelerated Reader (AR) Book Finder* (arbookfind.org) to determine the reading level of each book due to the ease of use. The number in front of the decimal indicates the grade level and the number following the decimal indicates the month (i.e. 2.5 = grade 2; 5th month). This scoring method is helpful when looking for books that may be a good fit for your child.

- Some books may be easier to read but the themes are more mature and therefore the book was placed in a more advanced grade level. We feel students at HOS can often read at a more advanced level than most suggested by AR and this is reflected in the lists as well.
- Don't rush your child to advance too quickly to the next grade level's recommended reading. Encourage them to savor the treasures on each list thoroughly before advancing. Reading slightly below grade level isn't always a negative thing as it actually helps a child with reading fluency (speed and accuracy).