

**First Grade Summer Reading List**  
**2011/2012 School Year**

In order to inspire a life-long love of reading in children, it is important to promote reading at home as a family event. Try to set aside 15 minutes per day to read with your child/ren to help nourish a love of books. Establish a reading routine at home; pick a certain time of day to read together and create an area at home that your child/ren can designate as a reading spot or personal library.

When you read with your child/ren, be sure to ask about the essential elements of each story including the setting, characters and plot. This will help develop strong comprehension skills and give meaning to what is read. Talking about literature helps children relate what they read to their lives.

I would like each incoming First Grader to read two stories that compliment our first IB Unit of Inquiry - Who We Are: "Our family and personal experiences create our history." The first book is *My Name is Yoon*, by Helen Recorvits. This is a first person narrative about a young Korean girl's challenges while adapting to a very different life in America. The second book is *The Way I Feel*, by Janan Cain. This is a colorful story that helps children recognize their feelings and express their emotions.

I'd like each student to illustrate, through drawing a detailed picture, what inspired them in each story. Next, please have your child/ren independently write one-three sentences explaining what is drawn. Please promote neat, clean handwriting and include capital letters at the beginning of sentences and correct punctuation at the end. This work should be turned in during the first week of school.

First Grade is rich with literature. We will be doing a lot of reading and writing. Learning to read is a beautiful process. For some children it comes naturally while for others there can be fear or anxiety. *Hooray for Reading Day*, by Margery Cuyler, is a creative story that offers a playful look at the anxiety some children feel when learning to read. There is no work due for this story and we will be reading and discussing this in class as we begin our literacy program. Your child/ren may feel more confident if s/he is already familiar with this book.

We use the Accelerated Reader program at THS. You may search [arbookfind.com](http://arbookfind.com) to find books at specific reading levels or look up a book to see

what level it is. Please continue to read daily with your child over the summer and watch his/her reading soar! I can't wait to work with you all of you and your children.

Have a great summer,  
Suzanne Mitchell