

## To parents of Incoming Third Graders:

Your child is required to read **three books** over the summer. **The following title is required:**

### **Stone Fox by John Reynolds Gardner**

To complete the requirement, choose **two additional titles** from the list below. Brief annotations have been provided for each title to help you and your child with selection.

#### **Fiction**

\*\*\***Fudge-A-Mania** by Judy Blume

Peter Hatcher describes his family's Maine vacation highlighted by the antics of his younger brother Fudge and the presence of his sworn enemy Sheila Tubman and her family.

\*\***T. J.'s Secret Pitch** by Fred Bowen

In his determination to pitch for his neighborhood baseball team, twelve-year-old T. J. adopts the unorthodox style of the legendary Rip Sewell.

\***Julian, Secret Agent** by Ann Cameron

When Julian, his little brother Huey, and their friend Gloria decide to be "crime busters," they find themselves in one adventure after another.

\*\*\***Ramona Quimby, Age 8** by Beverly Cleary

The further adventures of the Quimby family as Ramona enters the third grade.

\*\***Tornado** by Betsy Byers

A tornado appears in the distance, and Pete, the farmhand, gathers everyone into the storm cellar. While they wait for the storm to pass, he tells the family about the dog dropped down by a tornado when Pete was a boy.

\*\*\***There's an Owl in the Shower** by Jean Craighead George

Because protecting spotted owls has cost Borden's father his job as a logger in the old growth forest of northern California, Borden intends to kill any spotted owl he sees, until he and his father find themselves taking care of a young owlet.

\*\*\***The Sasquatch Escape** by Suzanne Selfors

Spending the summer in his grandfather's rundown town, ten-year-old Ben meets an adventurous local girl and together they learn that the town's veterinarian runs a secret hospital for imaginary creatures.

\*\*\***Encyclopedia Brown-Boy Detective** by Donald J. Sobol

Fifth-grader "Encyclopedia" Leroy Brown solves ten mysteries and, by putting the solutions at the back of the book, challenges the reader to do the same.

\*\*\***The Trumpet of the Swan** by E. B. White

Knowing how to read and write is not enough for Louis, a voiceless Trumpeter Swan; his determination to learn to play a stolen trumpet takes him far from his wilderness home.

\***The Campout Mystery** by Gertrude Chandler (#27 in the Box Car Children series)

While on a camping trip with their grandfather, the Alden children try to find out about the loud music and missing food that threatens to scare away other campers.

**\*\*Ira's Shakespeare Dream by Glenda Armand**

Though his acting earned him fame and a knighthood in Europe, Ira Aldridge is hardly a household name in his homeland, but this attractive picture book biography may change that.

**\*\*The Earth Dragon Awakes by Lawrence Yep**

Eight-year-old Henry and nine-year-old Chin love to read about heroes in popular "penny dreadful" novels, until they both witness real courage while trying to survive the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

**\*\*\*Bird in a Box by Andrea Lavis Pinkney**

In a small upstate New York town during the Great Depression, three children--Hibernia, Willie, and Otis--are about to meet. Hibernia dreams of becoming a famous singer and performing at Harlem's swanky Savoy Ballroom. Willie is recovering from a tragedy that prevents him from becoming a junior boxing champ. Otis spends every night glued to the radio, listening to the voices that remind him of Daddy and Ma.

Each of them is looking for hope, and they all find it in the thrilling boxing matches of young Joe Louis.

**\*\*\*The Kite Fighters by Linda Sue Park**

In Seoul, Korea, in 1473, Young-sup and his older brother Kee-sup are excited about the New Year kite competition. Young-sup is an expert at kite flying. He knows just what his kite wants him to do. Kee-sup has trouble handling his kite, but can build and design a kite fit for a king.

**\*\*Abby Takes a Stand by Patricia McKissack**

The first book in the *Scraps of Time* series, predominantly set in the 1960s. It concerns an [African-American](#) grandmother, Abby, talking with some of her young relatives about the time she was a young girl in [Nashville, Tennessee](#), her experiences with [racial segregation](#), and her involvement with the [Civil Rights Movement](#).

## **Biography**

**\*\*Louis Braille by Margaret Davidson**

The life of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Frenchman who invented an alphabet enabling the blind to read.

**\*\*Benjamin Banneker: Pioneering Scientist by Ginger Wadsworth**

Gazing up at the stars, Benjamin Banneker longed to understand how and why things worked as they did. In a time when most black Americans were slaves, Banneker lived a life of freedom and became known as America's first black man of science.

**\*\*Helen Keller: Courage in the Dark by Johanna Hurwitz**

A biography of the blind and deaf girl who overcame both handicaps with the help of her teacher, Annie Sullivan.

**\*\*Jackie Robinson and the Story of All Black Baseball by Jim O'Connor**

A biography of the first black baseball player to play in the major leagues when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.

*(Indicates reading difficulty; \*easiest; \*\*\*most challenging.)*

