

Summer Reading Club

Janet Sparks
Fourth Grade
Wabash City Schools

Purpose: Students will retain reading levels over the summer

Goal: Participants will read one book each month and complete the activity for each Book, and also correspond via e-mail, or regular mail 1 time per week. The book club will meet three times before school starts. Dates for June, July, and August will be announced.

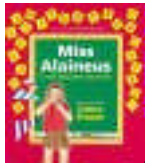
Procedures: Students will be expected to read the book and complete the activity over a period of 3 ½ weeks.

June: **Donovan's Word Jar**

Level: ages 9 – 12 F

Activity: Students should gather new and unfamiliar words to bring on Activity Day. These should be words that are new or just fun to say. Words will be used in a Bingo Game on Activity Day.

As this book is a fairly quick read, students may also want to check out the following books:



- ***Miss Alaineous***

by Debra Frasier

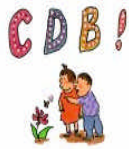
Sniffling and coughing through a week at home with a cold, Sage (*one who shows wisdom, experience, judgment*) misunderstands one of Mrs. Page's vocabulary words in the homework assignment, and the resulting embarrassment in front of her fifth-grade class leaves her "devastated: *wasted, ravaged*. Ruined: *destroyed*. Finished: *brought to an end*." Miss Alaineous is not, as Sage determined in her "defective and delirious" mind, "the woman on green spaghetti boxes whose hair is the color of uncooked pasta and turns into spaghetti at the ends." Sage slumps home after the vocabulary bee fiasco, to her mom's comforting, if seemingly impossible words: "There's gold in every mistake." Fortunately, and as always, mothers know best.



- ***Frindle***

by Andrew Clements

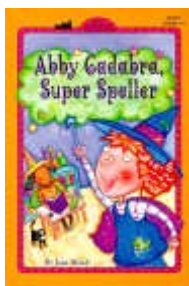
Nicholas is a bright boy who likes to make trouble at school, creatively. When he decides to torment his fifth-grade English teacher, Mrs. Granger (who is just as smart as he is), by getting everyone in the class to replace the word "pen" with "frindle," he unleashes a series of events that rapidly spins out of control. If there's any justice in the world, Clements (Temple Cat, 1995, etc.) may have something of a classic on his hands. By turns amusing and adroit, this first novel is also utterly satisfying. The chess like sparring between the gifted Nicholas and his crafty teacher is enthralling, while Mrs. Granger is that rarest of the breed: a teacher the children fear and complain about for the school year, and love and respect forever after. With comically realistic black-and-white illustrations by Selznick (The Robot King, 1995, etc.), this is a captivating tale--one to press upon children, and one they'll be passing among themselves. (Fiction. 8-12) -- Copyright ©1996, Kirkus Associates, LP.



• **C D B**

by William Steig

William Steig--*The New Yorker* cartoonist and revered author of dozens of other magnificent books--first wrote and illustrated the original, black-and-white edition of *CDB!* more than 30 years ago. Adding splashes of watercolor on larger, broader pages (and an answer key in the back!), Steig brings new life to his well-loved favorite. For the uninitiated, "C D B!" translates to "See the bee!" Other letter codes are more challenging, such as the boy leaning on a tree saying "I F-N N-E N-R-G" or a droopy decrepit man slouching in a chair labeled "O-L H." Once you get used to this abbreviated Steig-speak, all (or at least most) will become clear--"X" sometimes means "eggs," "D" is sometimes "the," and "S" can be "is" or "has," for example. Or, you can just read the letters out loud over and over until the proper phrase emerges plain as day. (The pictures help, too, of course!) Those who crave more wordplay will want to explore *CDC?* This book is nothing less than X-L-N, and no home where words are celebrated should be without it. (Ages 5 to 105) (*Review from Amazon.com*)



• **Abby Cadabra, Super Speller**

by All Aboard Reading

Abby Cadabra is the best speller at the Hoakus Croakus School--that is until the arrival of a new student and equally talented speller, Wanda Cassandra. The competition between the two little witches is fierce, leading right up to the day of the big Spelling Bee. Not

until then do they realize that F-R-I-E-N-D-S-H-I-P is the best "spell" of all. This is an All Aboard Reading Level Two book. (Review from Amazon.com)

July: **Love That Dog**

Level: Ages 9 – 12 F

Activity: Upon completion of this book, students will complete the following web quest: www.bgcs.k12.oh.us/kramp/poetry.htm. Students should bring their completed review to the July meeting for review and discussion. Those students unable to connect to the Internet should find three poems by different poets to share with the group.

August: **Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot**

Level: Ages 9 – 12 NF

Activity: As the summer winds down, I chose to end with a more serious book. The activities planned for this book are to read the Interview with Col. Gail Halvorsen at www.jfks.de/newsevents/candybomber.html, and also the airlift operation at www.konnections.com/airlift/candy.htm. Students without Internet access should write a reflective response about the book and their feelings concerning war. **

I plan to culminate the end of the summer reading club with a pool party at the local pool for participating students and their families. I will also follow up on the students Fall STAR scores as they begin the year to determine if the summer slump can be alleviated.

**To extend the use of this book during the regular school year, see Cheryl's ideas in the Books with Class section of her website.