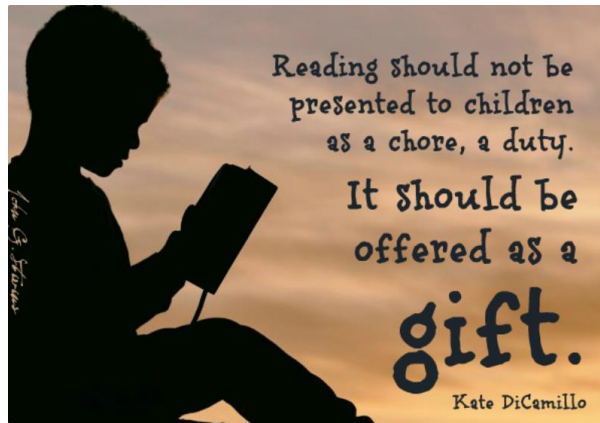


Summer Reading



June 2022

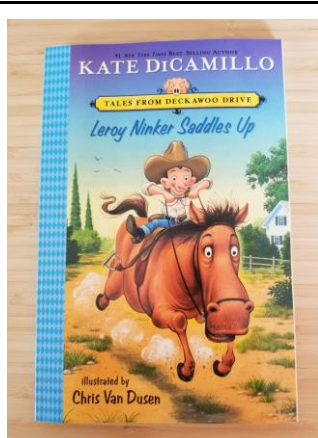
Dear Families of Second Graders,

Students need a strong foundation in reading and writing to reach their full potential. Reading outside of the classroom is critical for maintaining and expanding a child's literacy skills, especially over the extended summer break. Research suggests that students should spend a minimum of 20 minutes a day reading. This could be listening to a book read aloud or practicing their own reading skills. Conversations about each book increase enjoyment and connection to texts.

Timberlane's summer goal is simple: Help students connect with books (both fiction and nonfiction) to grow a love for learning and engagement in texts. This will inspire students to become lifelong readers. To this end, we are gifting each student with a book that we hope will be read and reread over the summer.

Students at each grade level, returning to our elementary schools next year, are receiving a book by the author Kate DiCamillo. If you have children in multiple grades, encourage them to share similarities and differences in the books she writes.

Incoming Third Graders are receiving:



Leroy Ninker Saddles Up by Kate DiCamillo. Leroy Ninker has a hat, a lasso, and boots. What he doesn't have is a horse – until he meets Maybelline, that is, and then it's love at first sight. Maybelline loves spaghetti and sweet nothings, and she loves Leroy, too. But when Leroy forgets the third and final rule of caring for Maybelline, disaster ensues. Can Leroy rescue the horse of his dreams? Join Leroy, Maybelline, and a cast of familiar characters – Stella, Frank, Mrs. Watson, and everyone's favorite porcine wonder, Mercy – for some hilarious and heartfelt horsing around on Deckawoo Drive.

With the book comes the expectation that your child will read the book, *at least once*, during the summer months. It can be an independent reading opportunity or shared as a read aloud.

At the start of the school year, expect your child's teacher to follow up with lessons and activities based upon this beautifully written book. Below you will find author information and optional activities to support reading.

Happy Reading!

One way to share and celebrate reading is to visit local bookstores or libraries and peruse selections. Be sure to check out local area library schedules for events occurring during the summer months!

Atkinson <https://kimballlibrary.com/>
Danville <https://colbymemoriallibrary.org/>
Sandown <https://www.sandownlibrary.us/>
Plaistow <https://www.plaistowlibrary.com/>

Below are some optional activities to go with your summer reading book, *Tales From Deckawoo Drive: Leroy Ninker Saddles Up* by Kate DiCamillo.

- Visit <https://www.katedicamillo.com/> to find out more about the author, Kate DiCamillo.
- Leroy named his dream horse *Tornado*, because he wanted him to be fast and strong, like a tornado. Do you think Maybelline is an appropriate name for Leroy's real horse? How would you describe Maybelline? Make a list of as many adjectives (describing words) that you can think of for Maybelline.
- Maybelline likes to be complimented. Synonyms for complementing include: *flattering, showing praise, expressing admiration, and patting on the back*. How does a compliment make you feel? Write 5 people a note with a compliment.
- Visit Pebble Go (<https://site.pebblego.com/> username: pollard password: school) **change the PW and UN for each school**. Type "horses" in the search bar. Learn about different breeds of horses. Which one is your favorite?
- Kate DiCamillo has written other stories about characters that live on Deckawoo Drive. Choose one from the list below to read. Compare the stories. How are they the same? How are they different?

Mercy Watson series

Francine Poulet Meets the Ghost Raccoon

Where Are You Going, Baby Lincoln?

Eugenia Lincoln and the Unexpected Package

Stella Endicott and the Anything-Is-Possible Poem

3 Adventures on Deckawoo Drive

Kate DiCamillo

Kate DiCamillo's writing journey has been a truly remarkable one. She grew up in Florida and moved to Minnesota in her twenties, when homesickness and a bitter winter led her to write *Because of Winn-Dixie* — her first published novel, which became a runaway bestseller and snapped up a Newbery Honor. *The Tiger Rising*, her second novel, was also set in Florida and went on to become a National Book Award finalist. Since then, the best-selling author has explored settings as varied as a medieval castle and a magician's theater while continuing to enjoy great success, winning two Newbery Medals and being named National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. She now has almost 30 million books in print worldwide.

Now, for the first time ever, Kate DiCamillo is returning to the world of a previous novel to tell us more about a character whom her fans already know and love. In *Louisiana's Way Home*, set two years after the events of National Book Award finalist *Raymie Nightingale*, she picks up the story of Raymie's friend Louisiana Elefante, who uncovers difficult truths about her past — and makes choices that will determine her future.

Kate DiCamillo's books' themes of hope and belief amid impossible circumstances and their messages of shared humanity and connectedness have resonated with readers of all ages around the world. In her instant #1 New York Times bestseller *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, a haughty china rabbit undergoes a profound transformation after finding himself face down on the ocean floor — lost and waiting to be found. *The Tale of Despereaux* — the Newbery Medal-winning novel that later inspired an animated adventure from Universal Pictures — stars a tiny mouse with exceptionally large ears who is driven by love to become an unlikely hero. *The Magician's Elephant*, an acclaimed and exquisitely paced fable, dares to ask the question *What if?* And Kate DiCamillo's second Newbery Medal winner, *Flora & Ulysses*, was released in 2013 to great acclaim, garnering five starred reviews and an instant spot on the New York Times bestseller list.

Born in Philadelphia but raised in the South, Kate DiCamillo now lives in Minneapolis, where she faithfully writes two pages a day, five days a week.

