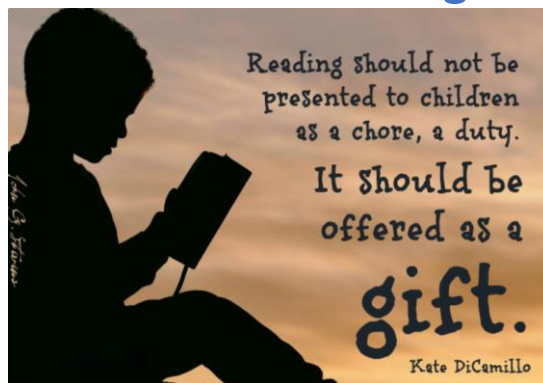


## Summer Reading



June 2022

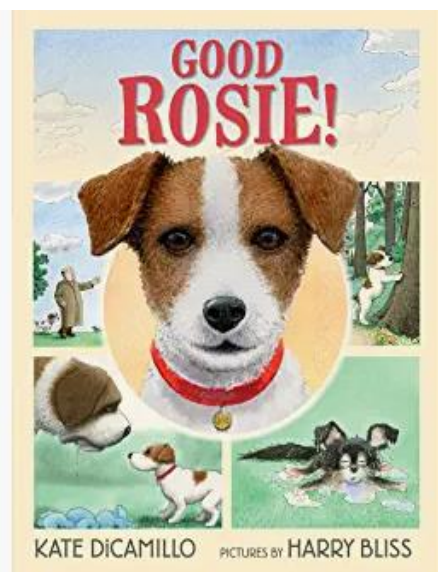
Dear Kindergarten Families,

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 First Graders are receiving:



Good Rosie by Kate DiCamillo. Rosie is a good dog and a faithful companion to her owner, George. She likes taking walks with George and looking at the clouds together, but the closest she comes to another dog is when she encounters her reflection in her empty dog bowl, and sometimes that makes Rosie feel lonely. One day George takes Rosie to the dog park, but the park is full of dogs that Rosie doesn't know, which makes her feel lonelier than ever. When big, loud Maurice and small, yippy Fifi bound over and want to play, Rosie's not sure how to respond. Is there a trick to making friends? And if so, can they all figure it out together?

With this book comes the expectation that your child will read this book, *at least once*, during the summer months. Rereading is a valuable reading strategy which encourages the reader to notice details that went unnoticed the first time. The book may be too challenging for your child to read independently, so we encourage you to use it 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 book. Below you will find author information and optional activities to support reading.

Happy Reading!

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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/>

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Below are some optional activities to go with your summer reading book, *Good Rosie!* by Kate DiCamillo.

- Visit <https://www.katedicamillo.com/> to find out more about the author, Kate DiCamillo.
- Think about how Rosie demonstrates the following character traits and emotions:
  - loyalty
  - bravery
  - fear
  - happiness
  - anger
- What do Rosie, Fifi, and Maurice learn about making new friends? What are some other strategies that people can use when trying to make new friends?
- Read another book illustrated by Harry Bliss. Compare the illustrations. How are they the same? How are they different?

Here are some suggestions of other books illustrated by Harry Bliss:

*Countdown to Kindergarten* written by Alison McGhee  
*Diary of a Worm* written by Doreen Cronin  
*Diary of a Spider* written by Doreen Cronin  
*Diary of a Fly* written by Doreen Cronin  
*A Fine, Fine School* written by Sharon Creech  
*Which Would You Rather Be?* written by William Steig  
*Sorry (Really Sorry)* written by Joanna Cotler

## 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.

