We want Brookstone students to be avid, life-long lovers of reading, and we work hard during the school year to build a culture that celebrates reading, being read to, and talking about books. We could not do this without your support of reading at home throughout the year, and summer is the perfect time to grow the joy, the magic, and the love of reading!

Reading together and talking about books builds a sense of community, a bond that supports all of the work we do together. This summer, we invite our parents to join our reading community with the Lower School's school-wide summer read. In *The Day You Begin*, the 2018-2019 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature and National Book Award winner, Jacqueline Woodson, has created a poignant, yet heartening book about finding courage to connect, even when you feel scared and alone. This is something each of us has experienced in our own lives.

“There are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look or talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat, or something just as random. It’s not easy to take those first steps into a place where nobody really knows you yet, but somehow you do it.

Jacqueline Woodson’s lyrical prose and warm narration remind us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes - and how brave it is that we go forth anyway. And that sometimes, when we reach out and begin to share our stories, others will be happy to meet us halfway.” –Amazon

Our 1st Grade teachers have also chosen a few of their favorite books for you to read and enjoy with your children. We hope you will travel to new places and make new friends as you read and reread these stories. Children will have opportunities to hear these books again at the beginning of next year and to talk about them with their teachers and classmates. We hope these are just the beginning of your child’s summer reading, and it is important that children spend some time reading independently each day. Therefore, we’ve also included links to more lists of great reads for you and your child to enjoy!

*Ish* by Peter H. Reynolds—A creative spirit learns that thinking “ish-ly” is far more wonderful than “getting it right” in this gentle new fable from the creator of the award-winning picture book *The Dot.*

*Enemy Pie* by Derek Munson—It was the perfect summer. That is, until Jeremy Ross moved into the house down the street and became neighborhood enemy number one. Luckily Dad had a surefire way to get rid of enemies: Enemy Pie.
The Honest-to-Goodness Truth by Patricia C. McKissack-- If telling the truth is the right thing to do, why is the whole world mad at Libby?

Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman-- Grace loves stories, whether they're from books, movies, or the kind her grandmother tells. So when she gets a chance to play a part in Peter Pan, she knows exactly who she wants to be.

A Chair for My Mother by Vera B. Williams-- The jar of coins is full. The day has come to buy the chair - the big, fat, comfortable, wonderful chair they have been saving for. The chair that will replace the one that was burned up - along with everything else - in the terrible fire. A book of love and tenderness filled with the affirmation of life.

Additional Resources for Children's Literature

This list of Award Winning books is by no means exhaustive or complete, but merely suggestions that children may find enjoyable and of the appropriate level.

Books for Independent 5 & 6 Year Old Readers:
https://imaginationsoup.net/best-books-5-6-year-olds/

Caldecott Award Winners and Honor Books:
http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecotthonors/caldecottmedal

Newbery Award Winners and Honor Books:
http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberyhonors/newberymedal

Coretta Scott King Award Winners:

Georgia Children's Book Award:

Nonfiction Book Lists:
http://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/kids-non-fiction

Online Books:
Epic Books for Kids-- https://www.getepic.com
http://mattbgomez.com/37-free-online-national-geographic-books/
http://igamemom.com/free-online-non-fiction-reading-for-kids/

Books for Girls:
http://www.randomhouse.com/rhpg/promos/greatbooks/booklist.html
http://school.familyeducation.com/reading/fiction/37735.html

Books for Boys:
http://www.pbs.org/parents/best-books-for-boys/picture-books-for-boys.html?scrlybrkr
https://www.pragmaticmom.com/2013/06/books-like-percy-jackson/
James Patterson’s Read, Kiddo, Read:  [http://www.readkiddoread.com](http://www.readkiddoread.com)

**Children’s Magazines:**
- COBBLESTONE
- ODYSSEY
- FACES
- MUSE
- CRICKET
- RANGER RICK
- BRAINSPACE
- DIG INTO HISTORY
- NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
- KID’S AMERICAN GIRL

**Online Magazines for Kids:**
- [https://www.sikids.com](https://www.sikids.com)