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 Kindergarten 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 teacher and classmates. Of course, we hope these are just the beginning of your summer reading, so we’ve included links to more lists of great reads for you and your child to enjoy!

*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.

*Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes--She was a perfect baby, and she had a perfect name. Chrysanthemum. When she was old enough to appreciate it, Chrysanthemum loved her name. And then she started school.
The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn--Chester Raccoon seeks love and reassurance from his mother as he ventures out into the world to attend his very first day of school.

Chicken Sunday by Patricia Polacco--After being initiated into a neighbor's family by a solemn backyard ceremony, a young Russian American girl and her African American brothers' determine to buy their gramma Eula a beautiful Easter hat. But their good intentions are misunderstood, until they discover just the right way to pay for the hat.

Little Tree by Loren Long—A gentle but powerful story about a young tree who holds tight to his leaves, even as everyone else lets theirs drop, takes on nothing less than the pain and sorrow of growing up.

Madeline by Ludwig Bemelmans--Nothing frightens Madeline—not tigers, not mice, not even getting sick. To Madeline, a trip to the hospital is a grand adventure.

Freedom Summer by Deborah Wiles--Joe and John Henry are a lot alike. They both like shooting marbles, they both want to be firemen, and they both love to swim. But there's one important way they're different.

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge by Mem Fox--A small boy tries to discover the meaning of "memory" so he can restore that of an elderly friend.

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.

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

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
http://teachingkidsnews.com/
http://www.timeforkids.com/
http://www.dogonews.com/
http://www.humanesociety.org/news/magazines/