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 our 3K-1st Grade common summer read. In *Rita and Ralph's Rotten Days*, Cuban-born, Georgia author, Carmen Agra Deedy’s brilliant storytelling combined with Pete Oswald’s spirited illustrations make for a comforting tale of healing and true friendship.

*In two little houses,*

*on two little hills,*

*lived two best friends...*

So begins the story of Rita and Ralph. Every day they meet to play beneath the apple tree. It’s always fun and games -- until one roundly rotten day when a new game means someone ends up crying. Who knew it could be so hard to say “I’m sorry?”

Just when it seems nothing will ever be right again, a surprising thing happens. The old friends try something new, that isn’t new at all. Something they’ve done a hundred times...

--from Amazon Review

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/