



3rd Grade Summer Reading 2026

Why encourage a summer reading plan for your children?

Studies suggest that children who read as few as six books over the summer maintain the level of reading skills they achieved during the preceding school year. Reading more books leads to even greater success. When children are provided with 10 to 20 self-selected children's books at the end of the regular school year, as many as 50 percent not only maintain their skills, but actually make reading gains.

Research suggests that if children have opportunities to listen to, discuss, and read books on topics that they select, or books about characters that they love, they develop extensive background knowledge that can strengthen their independent reading and sustain their engagement.

Source: <https://study.com/blog/why-is-summer-reading-so-important-for-kids-success.html>

Harding Academy has set in place a summer reading program for all lower school students. Each grade level has **one required book** to be read. An assignment is to be completed and returned to the teacher the first day of school. This assignment will be the first reading grade for the new school year.

The book for third grade is: Horrible Harry Moves Up to Third Grade by Suzy Kline

Additional suggestions for reading this summer:

Muggie Maggie by Beverly Cleary

The Boxcar Children series by Gertrude Chandler Warner

I Was a Third Grade Science Project by Mary Jane Auch

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters by John Steptoe

According to Humphrey series by Betty G. Birney

The Chocolate Touch by Patrick Skene Catling

A to Z Mysteries by Ron Roy

The Stories Julian Tells by Ann Chameron

Encyclopedia Brown series by Donald Sobol

Geronimo Stilton books by Geronimo Stilton

Special Note: See the attached pages for the paper bag report explanation, rubric, and worksheet.



3rd Grade Summer Reading Paper Bag Report

During the first week of school, third grade students will present a book report over the summer reading selection, Horrible Harry Moves up to Third Grade by Suzy Kline. This report will be unusual because it will involve bringing items from home. Each student will choose items that remind him/her of certain things in the story. These items must represent the elements of the story. The student will bring the items in a bag. As the report is presented (orally), the student will pull out an item from the bag and explain how it relates to the given elements in the story.

Each student must choose an item to represent:

1. The main character of the story.
2. The setting or settings of the story.
3. The plot (events) of the story - there may be more than one item for this part.
4. The part of the story that the student liked most.

Students may bring up to five items to describe the story.

Part of the grade that is earned will come from the explanation of the elements of the story, and part will come from the presentation of the report. A rubric, on the following page, shows how students will be graded.



Third Grade Summer Reading

Paper Bag Book Report Presentation Rubric

Category	4 - Excellent	3 - Good	2 - Fair	1 - Inadequate
<i>Character</i>	The main character was correctly identified and described thoroughly (both appearance and disposition). Most other characters were identified.	The main character was identified and described, but either the appearance or disposition was not described. Some other characters were identified.	The main character was identified and described, but either the appearance or disposition was not described. No other characters were identified.	The main character was not identified or described.
<i>Setting</i>	The main setting of the book was identified. Other settings were mentioned, too.. Both time and place were identified.	The main setting of the book was identified. Other settings were mentioned, too. Either time or place were identified.	The main setting of the book was identified. No other settings were mentioned. Either time or place were identified.	The main setting of the book was not identified.
<i>Plot</i>	The key events of the story were included without retelling the entire book. Only the most important information was included in the report.	Most key events were included without retelling the entire book. Only the most important information was included.	Some key events were included, but some important events were left out.	Many key events were left out of the report.
<i>Favorite Part</i>	The student told about his/her favorite part of the story. A reason for liking that part of the story was included and the explanation made sense.	The student told about his/her favorite part of the story. A reason for liking that part of the story was included, but it was difficult to understand the reason.	The student told about his/her favorite part of the story, but did not include a reason for liking it.	The student did not tell about his/ her favorite part of the story.
<i>Eye Contact</i>	The student made consistent eye contact during the report.	The student made some eye contact during the report.	The student made little eye contact during the report.	The student did not look at the audience at all.

Name: _____



3rd Grade Summer Reading Worksheet



Directions: Complete this worksheet and include it in your Paper Bag Report. Give your completed report to your teacher on the first day of school.

1. What is the title of your book? Who is the author?

Title: _____

Author: _____

2. *Character:* List the main characters. Be sure to describe how they look and something about their personalities.

3. *Setting:* Where does this story take place?

4. *Plot:* What is this story about?

5. *Favorite Part:* Describe your favorite part of the story and tell why you like that part.
