3rd Grade Reading Suggestions

**Frindle by Andrew Clements**
When clever yet precocious Nick decides to invent a new word for pen, it puts him at odds with his no-nonsense teacher, a stickler for grammar and proper word usage. What begins as a classroom duel over the usage of the word "frindle," escalates into a national word craze.

**Dexter the Tough by Margaret Petersen Haddix**
Dexter is tough! On the first day of school, he lashes out when he trips and the other kids laugh at him. He punches another kid in the bathroom. But like so many kids with a gruff demeanor, Dexter is acting out because of a painful circumstance at home. He learns to express his emotions because of a gifted teacher and a writing assignment. I can think of no better lesson for a child to learn — feelings come out, one way or another — and finding a healthy way to sort them out is important. Perfect for a third-grader who has been bullied, or who can be too tough with others. 144 pages.

**Thank You Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco**
Patricia Polacco describes what it was like to be unable to read in the fifth grade. She was taunted by classmates and plagued with her own self-doubt until a teacher finally recognized that she couldn’t read and gave her the assurance and help she needed to succeed. 40 pages

**Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo**
Because of a hysterical encounter with Winn-Dixie, a stray but lovable dog, India Opal’s life changes forever. Opal is forced to deal with the absence of her mother and a father who is absorbed in his work. One day she stumbles upon a stray dog in the Winn-Dixie grocery and it’s love at first sight. Opal adopts the dog and he helps her make friends with people that the town-folks have labeled as strange and different. This is a beautiful story about friendship, forgiveness, and tolerance.

**Judy Moody by Megan McDonald**
Yes, Judy is a third-grade girl but she is very much the tomboy and boys love this series as much as girls. The series does a great job of captivating unmotivated readers who are making the transition into chapter books. Children will relate to Judy’s constant dilemmas and will laugh their way through the book as Judy comes up with the most intriguing solutions to problems such as having to sit next to a kid who eats paste and a toad that pees on her!

**How to Train Your Dragon**
This story of Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III, son of a Viking chief, is filled with slightly rude humor that often appeals to preadolescent boys. Clever wordsmithing engages readers in the plight of a scrawny boy and his extraordinarily small dragon.
**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl**

Poor Charlie Bucket is practically starving to death, but his luck changes for the better when he wins a lifetime supply of candy — and a chance to visit Willy Wonka’s fabulous, top-secret chocolate factory. This charming, irreverent tale, one of Roald Dahl’s best, has captivated children for more than thirty years. In the best fairy-tale tradition, Dahl doesn’t hide the fact that the world can be a grim and unfair place. Charlie’s depressing life of poverty at the beginning of the novel reflects this bleak view. But, also in the best fairy-tale tradition, Dahl appeals to the strong sense of natural justice in children, and invites them to revel in a marvelously imagined world where people, both good and bad, get exactly what they deserve.

**Half Magic by Edward Eager**

Half Magic was the Magic Tree House of its day. As if wizardry was not enough, our four main characters take on multiple adventures with only "half" the magical prowess they need from a found coin. The kids devise clever ways to utilize the coin's capacity and the result is a very cool and captivating story. If your child falls in love with Half Magic, there are several sequels to quench their thirst for more.

**Knights of the Kitchen Table by Jon Scieszka**

This first book in the Time Warp Trio Series is an imaginative and humorous read. The book begins with three boys celebrating a birthday. One of the presents happens to be a book with a card that states, "Be careful what you wish for." Once the book is opened, the boys are transported back to the time of knights, giants and dragons. If you enjoy adventure and fantasy this is a must read!

**Shredderman by Wendelin van Draanen**

Nolan is tired of Bubba Bixby’s bullying! When the kids receive an assignment to create a newspaper expose, Nolan thinks that this is the perfect chance to truly expose Bubba. After gathering some very compromising information, Nolan creates shredderman.com, a Web site that will shield his identity while fighting back against Bubba's tyranny.

**Polar Bears and the Arctic, Magic Treehouse Series**

In this nonfiction companion to *Polar Bears Past Bedtime*, the *Magic Tree House* characters Jack and Annie take their readers on a chilly journey to the Arctic as they find out what it’s really like to live there. The familiar twosome cover a lot of ground - landscape, animals, the lives and cultures of native people, and the effects of global warming.