



Saint Francis of Assisi Mission Statement: We are a Catholic community of faith striving to follow Jesus, pledging each day to do our best by imitating Saint Francis of Assisi as "instruments of peace." Our goal is to maintain a safe and healthy environment and to be academically prepared for this technological age.

In third grade at SFA our comprehensive social studies curriculum engages students in the study of Massachusetts; past and present. Therefore, third graders will be required to read *Nicholas A Massachusetts Tale* by Peter Arenstam to help prepare for the social studies curriculum. Throughout the story Nicholas, the small field mouse, will explore the many diverse areas that make up Massachusetts; the Berkshire Mountains, Quabbin Reservation, Wachusett, Gloucester, Boston, Plymouth, and finally Martha's Vineyard. Students will then be required to create a diorama capturing one of these important events and places in the story. The diorama will be due at the end of the first week of school. This will provide students with a glimpse into the many places we will be studying in depth throughout the entire year.



In addition, Third Graders should pleasure read every day. We encourage parents to read with or to their children as well. It is important that students ask questions, make predictions, and practice summarizing stories to prepare for third grade.

The following list provides some examples of really exciting books that might interest third graders at various reading levels. It is important that they choose books that are interesting, relevant, and are about a topic that they enjoy. Pleasure reading should be fun and exciting! Although you are not limited to this list, you may want to check out the library or bookstore for some of these examples of great titles and authors that you may enjoy!

PICTURE BOOKS

Kellogg, *THE ISLAND OF THE SKOG* (and others by the same author)

Peet, *FLY, HOMER, FLY; THE WHINGDINGDILLY* (and others by the same author)

Polacco, *MY ROTTEN REDHEADED OLDER BROTHER* (and others by the same author)



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Tang, **MATH POTATOES: MIND-STRETCHING BRAIN FOOD** (and other books by the same author)
Zelinsky, **RAPUNZEL**

POETRY

DePaola, **TOMIE DEPAOLA'S BOOK OF POEMS**
DeRegniers, **SING A SONG OF POPCORN**
Prelutsky, **THE RANDOM HOUSE BOOK OF POETRY FOR CHILDREN**
Sierra, **THERE'S A ZOO IN ROOM 22**
Silverstein, **WHERE THE SIDEWALK ENDS** (and others by the same author)

I CAN READ BOOKS

Byars, **THE GOLLY SISTERS GO WEST**
Kessler, **KICK PASS AND RUN**
Lobel, **MOUSE TALES**
Marzollo, **SOCCER COUSINS**
Monjo, **THE DRINKING GOURD**
Parish, **AMELIA BEDELIA** (and others by the same author)
Rylant, **HENRY AND MUDGE GET THE COLD SHIVERS** (and others by the same author)

EARLY CHAPTER BOOKS - These are good after beginning readers

Barrows, **IVY AND BEAN**
Bulla, **THE SWORD IN THE TREE** (and others by the same author)
Cameron, **THE STORIES HUEY TELLS** (and others by the same author)
Christopher, **THE LUCKY BASEBALL**
Cole, **GATOR GIRLS**
Conford, **A JOB FOR JENNY ARCHER** (and others by the same author)
Dadey, **ADVENTURES OF THE BAILEY SCHOOL KIDS** series
Danziger, **AMBER BROWN IS NOT A CRAYON** (and others by the same author)
diTerlizzi and Black. **THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES ETC**
Gannett, **MY FATHER'S DRAGON** (and others by the same author)
Gutman. **WEIRD SCHOOL SERIES MISS SUKI IS KOOKY**



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Hurwitz, BUSYBODY NORA; RIP-ROARING RUSSELL (and others by the same author)

King-Smith, SCHOOL MOUSE (and others by the same author)

Kline, HORRIBLE HARRY AND THE GREEN SLIME (and others by the same author)

Marshall, RATS ON THE ROOF (and others by the same author)

McDonald, JUDY MOODY SERIES

Park, JUNIE B. JONES series

Osborne, MAGIC TREE HOUSE SERIES

Preller. JIGSAW JONES MYSTERY SERIES

Rylant, THE HIGH RISE PRIVATE EYES

Sachar, MARVIN REDPOST series

LONGER CHAPTER BOOKS - These make great read-alouds too.

Atwater, MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS

Bond, A BEAR CALLED PADDINGTON (and others by the same author)

Cleary, RAMONA QUIMBY, AGE 8 (and others by the same author)

Dahl, CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

King-Smith, THREE TERRIBLE TWINS

Lawson, BEN AND ME

McDonald, MRS. PIGGLE WIGGLE (and others by the same author)

Warner, THE BOXCAR CHILDREN

White, CHARLOTTE'S WEB

White, STUART LITTLE

Wilder, LITTLE HOUSE series

Winthrop, CASTLE IN THE ATTIC

NONFICTION - Try these and others that reflect your child's interests.

Ackerman, SHADOWS OF NIGHT: HIDDEN WORLD OF THE BROWN BAT

Adler, LOU GEHRIG: THE LUCKIEST MAN

Adler, THE PICTURE BOOK OF HELEN KELLER

Ballard, FINDING THE TITANIC

Bruchac, A BOY CALLED SLOW

Burleigh, FLIGHT



S A I N T F R A N C I S O F A S S I S I S C H O O L

850 Washington Street • Braintree, MA 02184

Phone: (781) 848-0842 • Fax: (781) 356-5309 • www.sfab.org

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Cole, MAGIC SCHOOL BUS AND THE ELECTRIC FIELD TRIP (and others by the same author)

Donnelly, TRUE LIFE TREASURE HUNTS

Fromental. 365 PENGUINS

Gerstein THE MAN WHO WALKED BETWEEN THE TOWERS

Gibbons, RABBITS, RABBITS & MORE RABBITS!

Gravett. WOLVES

Hutton, THE TROJAN HORSE

Jenkins, WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN SOMETHING WANTS TO EAT YOU?

Kramer, BASEBALL'S GREATEST HITTERS

Krull, WILMA UNLIMITED

Patterson, KOKO'S KITTEN

Royston. SLINKY, SCALY SNAKES

Simon, GORILLAS

Spinner, LITTLE SURE SHOT: THE STORY OF ANNIE OAKLEY

St. George. SO YOU WANT TO BE PRESIDENT...AN INVENTOR...AN EXPLORER

Wetterer, KATE SHELLEY AND THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS