Rising second graders are required to read one of the following books:

- Dixie and the School Trip, by Grace Gilman
- Katie and the Fancy Substitute, by Fran Manushkin
- Nate the Great and the Missing Birthday Snake, by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
- Pinky and Rex and the Spelling Bee, by James Howe
- Horrible Harry in Room 2B, by Suzy Kline
- Stuart Goes to School, by Sara Pennypacker

Below is a selection of additional summer reading books suggested by second grade literacy teachers:

PIONEERS:
- Pioneer Girl: The Story of Laura Ingalls Wilder, by William Anderson
- Life on a Pioneer Homestead (Picture the Past), by Sally Senzell Isaacs
- Life on the Oregon Trail (Picture the Past), by Sally Senzell Isaacs
- The Gold Rush (The American Adventure), by Sally Senzell Isaacs
- Covered Wagons, Bumpy Trails, by Verla Kay
- Dandelion, by Eve Bunting
- Apples to Oregon, by Deborah Hopkinson
- You Wouldn't Want to Be an American Pioneer: A Wilderness You'd Rather Not Tame, by Jacqueline Morley

POETRY:
- 20th-Century Children's Poetry Treasury, edited by Jack Prelutsky
- A Child's Garden of Verses, by Robert Louis Stevenson
- The New Kid on the Block, by Jack Prelutsky
- Shoe Magic, by Nikki Grimes
- Falling Up and Where the Sidewalk Ends, by Shel Silverstein

SCIENCE:
- The Best Book of Bugs, by Claire Llewellyn
- National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to Insects and Spiders & Related Species of North America, by Arthur V. Evans

50 STATES:
- The Scrambled State of America, by Laurie Keller
- The 50 States, by Gabrielle Balkan
- National Parks: A Kids’ Guide to America’s Parks, Monuments and Landmarks, by Erin McHugh
- Our 50 States: A Family Adventure Across America, by Lynne Cheney
- Greetings from the 50 States: How They Got Their Names, by Sheila Keenan
- Don’t Know Much About the 50 States, by Kenneth C. Davis