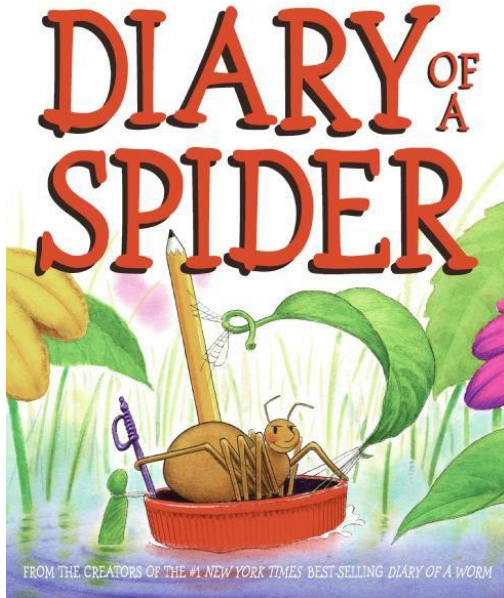


SUMMER READING LIST

Going into Second Grade

By Doreen Cronin • Pictures by Harry Bliss



Cronin, Doreen DIARY OF A SPIDER

From School Library Journal

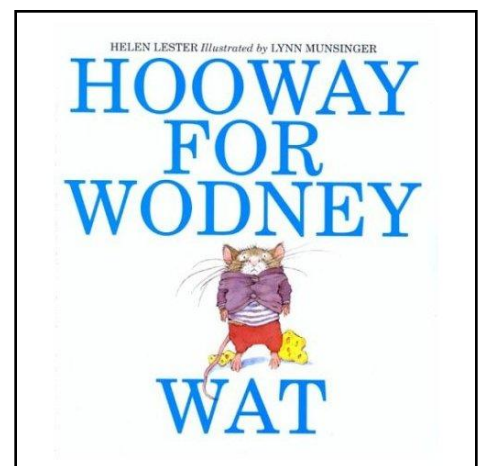
PreSchool-Grade 3—Children who enjoyed *Diary of a Worm* (HarperCollins, 2003) will be enchanted by this artistic team's latest collaboration. This time, Spider is the star. Through his humorous diary entries, readers learn about typical events in the life of a young spider. When Spider's mom tells him he's getting too big for his skin, he molts. Fly's feelings are hurt by a thoughtless comment from Daddy Longlegs, and Spider tries to help. He is concerned that he will have to eat leaves and rotten tomatoes when he has a sleepover with Worm. Spider's school doesn't have fire drills; it has vacuum drills (...vacuums eat spiderwebs

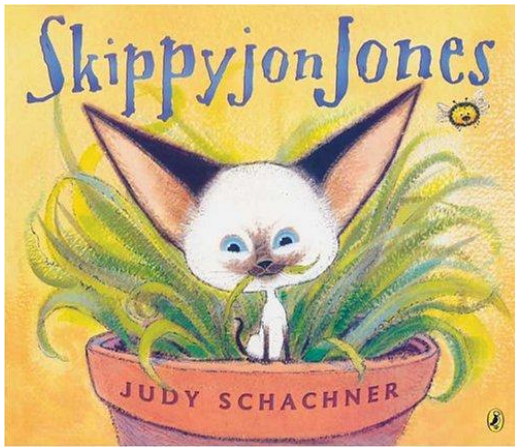
and are very, very dangerous). Grampa tells him that spider-fly relations have improved over the years and shares the secret of long life—don't fall asleep in shoes.

Lester, Helen HOOWAY FOR WODNEY WAT

From School Library Journal

PreSchool-Grade 2--Poor Rodney Rat is teased mercilessly by all the other rodents because he can't pronounce his R's in this beginning to read title by Helen Lester (Houghton, 1999). When Camilla Capybara joins the class and announces that she is bigger, meaner, and smarter than any of the other rodents, everyone is afraid, especially Wodney. One day he unwittingly catches Camilla out in a game of Simon Says, and surprises himself and saves his classmates from big bully Camilla. This retelling nicely reflects Wodney's transformation from shy rodent with a speech impediment to hero of the class.





Schachner, Judith SKIPPY JON JONES (series)

From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 3-This is a wildly wonderful book about a hyperactive kitten, Skippyjon Jones, whose head and ears are too big for his body, and whose imagination is too intense for his mama. According to her, he needs to do some serious thinking about what it means to be a Siamese cat instead of a bird (Skippyjon always wakes up and eats worms with his feathered friends). She sends him to his

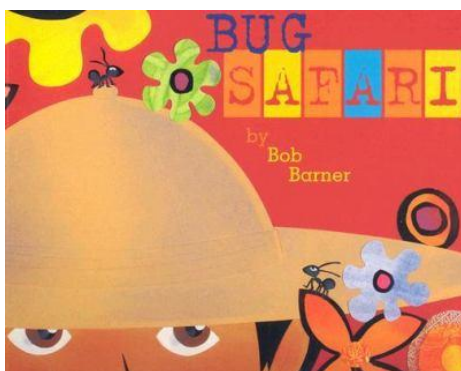
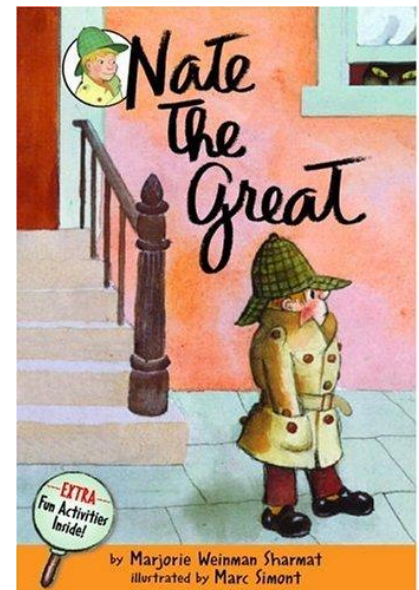
room, where he imagines he is a Chihuahua.

Sharmat, Majorie NATE THE GREAT

Shortly after a breakfast generously supplied with pancakes, Natethe Great got an urgent call from Annie. "I lost a picture," said Annie. "Can you help me find it?"

"Of course," said Nate. "I have found lost balloons, books, slippers, chickens. Even a lost goldfish. Now I, Nate the Great, will find a lost picture." "Oh, good," Annie said.

Nate, with the cool detachment of a Sam Spade, immediately plunges into his new and baffling case. Getting all the facts, asking the right questions, narrowing down the suspects. Nate, the boy detective who "likes to work alone," solves the mystery and tracks down the culprit. In the process he also discovers the whereabouts of Super Hex, the missing cat.



Barner, Bob BUG SAFARI

"From School Library Journal

PreSchool-Grade 2--In this suburban adventure, a young explorer describes his experiences as he tracks an army of ants through "a bug-infested jungle," observing their progress through a magnifying glass. The insects run into some dreadful hazards on their trek--a squadron of fierce red ants, a spider, a toad, and other predators. The safari ends in the child's own backyard, where his mother is waiting with a picnic lunch for the hungry boy and the ants. Barner used cut-and-torn paper

and homemade paste paper to create dense, vibrantly colored collages that cover every inch of the spreads. Proportions are maintained by including size clues--a magnifying glass, a ruler, a sneaker, and a pencil. The ants somehow manage to have expression without being anthropomorphized, and the text entertains while it informs. An appendix provides brief information about ants and the creatures they encountered during their journey. This book offers budding entomologists a grand tour of insect life in the backyard, while those who are less bug inclined will enjoy the gorgeous illustrations.--Jane Barrer, *Washington Square Village Creative Steps, New York City*