

# Parent Guide to



Grades 2–3 Your resource for advice, ideas, and more for your independent reader September 2008

Get your  
Parent Guide to Lucky  
Every Month  
at [www.scholastic.com/read](http://www.scholastic.com/read).

## Editors' Picks of the Month

Look for these titles in your Lucky September Book Club flyer.

**Black Lagoon Adventures #13: Back-to-School Fright from the Black Lagoon**  
by Mike Thaler



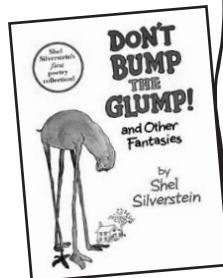
**Who it's for:**  
Kids who think *their* back-to-school week is frightening  
**Why we chose it:**  
It's just scary enough to be exciting.  
**Parents say:**  
"My daughter loves the goofy perils and silly monsters."

**Magic Tree House #37: Dragon of the Red Dawn**  
by Mary Pope Osborne



**Who it's for:**  
Young fantasy and history buffs  
**Why we chose it:**  
Osborne takes her readers on a thrilling tour of traditional Japan.  
**Kids weigh in:**  
"I really want to go to Japan now!"

**Don't Bump the Glump!**  
by Shel Silverstein



**Who it's for:**  
A new generation ready to meet Shel Silverstein  
**Why we chose it:**  
Silverstein's first book of poetry is a perfect example of his charming, whimsical voice  
**Parents say:**  
"I adored Shel Silverstein's work as a kid and now my children do, too."

## Reversing the Summer Slide

It's common for young readers' skills to slip slightly over the summer when vacation fun replaces school and books. Help your child regain ground once school starts using these strategies:

- 1. Keep reading aloud.** Kids of all ages benefit! Reading to your child builds listening comprehension skills and expands his experience with text, so he'll do better when he reads on his own.
- 2. Make studying fun.** Create Spelling Scrambles or Word Searches using our Spelling Wizard at [www.scholastic.com/homework](http://www.scholastic.com/homework).
- 3. See what's for homework.** Taking time — even just 20 minutes — to go over your child's assignments tells her you think what she does at school is important.
- 4. Limit TV.** Studies show that the more time kids spend watching television, the poorer they do academically. Replace TV time with active recreation like board games, soccer, or craft projects.
- 5. Get involved.** It's been proven that when parents are actively involved in their child's education, reading and writing test scores go up. For ideas on how you can participate, visit [www.scholastic.com/schoolinvolvement](http://www.scholastic.com/schoolinvolvement).



### Parent to Parent

"Magazine subscriptions are a great gift to get kids reading for fun!"  
—Sam, Tennessee

## Ask an Expert

### How can my child tackle bigger words?

1. Look for word parts at the beginning of a word (prefixes). *Replay* and *unhappy* contain prefixes.
2. Look for word parts at the end of a word (suffixes), like *-s* as in *bugs*, *-ed* as in *started*, and *-ing* as in *running*.
3. After removing the prefix and suffix, the base word is left. Use basic phonics skills to sound out the base.
4. Sound out the word parts. Once your child has found all the big chunks in a long word, put them together.
5. Say the word parts fast. Adjust pronunciation as needed.

**Meet Our Expert:** Wiley Blevins is a former teacher and director of primary programs at Scholastic. He has written several books for teachers and over 30 children's books.

Find more expert advice for your reader at [www.scholastic.com/read](http://www.scholastic.com/read).

## 5 Questions to Ask Your Child About His School Day

Keep your child's brain from melting with our summer-long activity guide.

1. Tell me the best part of your day.
2. What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
3. Tell me about what you read in class.
4. What's the biggest difference between this year and last year?
5. Can you show me something you learned (or did) today?

## Build a Reading Station

Create your very own space to explore great books!

- Find a spot where you won't be bothered by the TV or too much noise.
- Collect boxes that are large enough to hold piles of your books. Cover the boxes with paper, and decorate them. Use different artwork to make boxes for different types of books, such as:
  - Stars and spaceships for stories about outer space;
  - Wizard hat and magical creatures for favorite fantasies;
  - Cats, horses, or wild beasts for books about animals.
- Add a comfy seat — old pillows or a folded sleeping bag will make it extra cozy!
- If you have a tape player/recorder, keep it close by. Use it to listen to books on tape or record stories that you read or imagine, and play them back.
- Make a writer's box filled with paper, pencils, and art supplies that you can use to make your own books.
- Invite a parent or friends to your Reading Station, and read together!

## The Lowdown on Leveled Reading

Leveled reading uses various assessment tools to determine how well your child reads, and then matches her to books that are challenging enough for her to make progress, but not so hard that she will become frustrated. Books are categorized into levels of difficulty, which is how a perfect match, based on ability, can be made. There are a number of leveled reading systems utilized in schools across the country, typically beginning in kindergarten; it is up to school districts or individual schools to determine which, if any, are in place. The primary difference between the systems lies in how children are evaluated, and each program has its own way of labeling books. The three most common are Guided Reading Level (GRL), Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA), and Lexile Level. To see a chart comparing these three systems, visit <http://www.scholastic.com/familymatters/read/pdf/readinglevels2.pdf>.

## Find More Titles in Kids' Favorite Series

Now, you and your child can find more titles in your favorite book series online — at the Scholastic Book Clubs Series Headquarters. From the Magic Tree House to Geronimo Stilton and beyond, the Series Headquarters puts all kids' best-loved characters all in one place — and all at low Scholastic Book Clubs pricing. And books are delivered right to the classroom, just like always! Visit [www.scholastic.com/serieshq](http://www.scholastic.com/serieshq).

## Kids Read for Kids in Need

Scholastic Book Clubs' ClassroomsCare is a philanthropic literacy campaign designed to teach children the joys and importance of reading and giving. Students in classrooms across America are encouraged to read 100 books in order to trigger a 1MILLION BOOK donation by ClassroomsCare! Since 2001, ClassroomsCare has donated 7 MILLION books through Literacy Partners such as Save the Children, Reach Out and Read, and First Book, among others.

This year, for the first time, participating teachers and students will be able to choose where the books they "earn" go. They will have dozens of charities serving many different populations to choose from. This shift in the donation process is aimed at strengthening the connection between the kids who are reading and the kids who are receiving the books.

You can visit [www.scholastic.com/classroomscare](http://www.scholastic.com/classroomscare) to see how a child you know could make a difference by reading. You can also access resources and curriculum aimed at the ClassroomsCare message — kids have the power to make a difference and there is nothing more worthwhile than helping others, especially when you are offering the gift of reading.

## Daily Reading Fun

Spread books all around the house — even outdoors! Put nature titles on the front porch. Leave a book featuring a favorite character on top of the TV.

## Beyond Books

Help your child set up a wall calendar for the school year. Teach her how to write homework due dates and other important information on certain days. Don't forget to provide stickers for birthdays and holidays.

## Did You Know?

When you order, your child's class gets FREE books and resources!

Find out more about leveled reading at [www.scholastic.com/yourreader](http://www.scholastic.com/yourreader).

**About Your Parent Guide to Lucky**  
Your Parent Guide to Lucky is produced by the editorial staff at Scholastic.com/parents. For information on how to foster reading at home, age-appropriate booklists, and more, visit [www.scholastic.com/read](http://www.scholastic.com/read).