

Starting the School Year off Right: Funny Books

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The days are getting shorter and the evenings are cooler which signals the beginning of school. Some children are excited with the prospect of returning to school after a long summer vacation. However, other children may not be looking forward to attending class and doing homework. There are many books in the library about school that will spark their interest in reading by using the element of humor.

The Pigeon Has to Go to School by Mo Willems will delight children in preschool and kindergarten. This is a comical adventure about a pigeon who must attend school but he worries about learning the alphabet. *In Rocking in My School Shoes* by Eric Litwin, a cat named Pete wears his school shoes everywhere including school while singing a special song!

For first graders, the Fly Guy series by Tedd Arnold would be a great place to start. Fly Guy is about the adventures of a young boy and his pet fly. There are several titles to choose from including *Super Fly Guy*, which takes place in a school cafeteria. Another well-known series is about an adorable puppy named Biscuit. In *Biscuit Goes To School* by Alyssa Capucilli, you can follow the adventures of Biscuit when he goes to school and meets his teacher.

For second or third graders, the series *Weird School* by Dan Gutman is guaranteed to bring a smile to their faces. Many titles exist including *Mr. Hynde is Out of his Mind* which is about a new music teacher who dances in class and believes he will become a famous musician. Be sure to check out the entire series including *Weird School*, *Weirder School*, and *Weirdest School*. Similar to *Weird School*, the *Wimpy Kid* series by Jeff Kinney, uses graphics and text to tell humorous stories about school. In *Old School*, Greg has to live without electronics when his town unplugs. This is a great read because it will give children ideas on ways they can enjoy themselves without electronics.

If you have a child in fourth or fifth grade, there are several books they may want to explore. *The House of Robots* by James Patterson, the first in a series, is about a boy already having trouble fitting into middle school, when his mom makes him take her robot to school to learn how to be a student. Another book for upper elementary kids is *Because of Mr. Terupt* by Rob Buyea which is a heartwarming story about fifth graders describing how their lives were changed for the better by their new teacher, Mr. Terupt.

Going back to school after a long break, especially if it is a new school, can be tough on kids. Finding a book that will engage your child while making them laugh at the same time, may make them look forward to a new school year!