

Summer Reading 2008  
Grades 4-5

Pig out on books ... while you are sizzling in the sun! Here are some suggestions to whet your appetite. Root through these tasty titles to find topics and authors that interest you.

The purpose of the summer reading program is to promote independent reading. You may read whatever you like. What is important is that you read.

**Fiction in Series**

Colfer, Eoin. **Artemis Fowl**. When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll.

Delaney, Joseph. **Revenge of the Witch**. Young Tom, the seventh son of a seventh son, starts work as an apprentice for the village spook, whose job is to protect ordinary folk from “ghouls, boggarts, and all manner of wicked beasties.”

Funke, Cornelia. **Inkheart**. Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father Mo, a bookbinder, can “read” fictional characters to life when an evil ruler named Capricorn, freed from the novel “Inkheart” years earlier, tries to force Mo to release an immortal monster from the story.

Greenburg, Dan. **The Onts**. Ten-year-old orphan twins Wally and Cheyenne Shluffmuffins have a hard time at Cincinnati’s Jolly Days orphanage, but things get much worse when the Mandible sisters offer to share their home in the Dripping Fang Forest.

Gutman, Dan. **Babe and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure**. With their ability to travel through time using vintage baseball cards, Joe and his father have the opportunity to find out whether Babe Ruth really did call his shot when he hit that home run in the third game of the 1932 World Series against the Chicago Cubs.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. **Among the Hidden**. In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family’s farm, until another “third” convinces him that the government is wrong.

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Horowitz, Anthony. **Stormbreaker**. After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, M16.

Hunter, Erin. **Into the Wild**. Rusty, a bored house kitten, is apprenticed by the ThunderClan and must struggle to fit in when the group of feral cats is threatened by the enemy ShadowClan.

Lobdell, Scott. **Hardy Boys, Undercover Brothers. #1, The Ocean of Osyria**. A graphic novel in which Frank and Joe Hardy, Callie, and Iola must recover the Ocean of Osyria, an art treasure taken from a Middle Eastern museum, in order to save their best friend, Chet, who has been accused of stealing it.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. **Boys Start the War**. Disgusted that a family with three girls moves into the house across the river, nine-year-old Wally and his three brothers declare a practical joke war on the girls.

Oppel, Kenneth. **Silverwing**. When a newborn bat named Shade but sometimes called "Runt" becomes separated from his colony during migration, he grows in ways that prepare him for even greater journeys.

Petrucha, Stefan. **Nancy Drew, Girl Detective. #1 The Demon of River Heights**. A graphic novel in which teen sleuth Nancy Drew, and her friends George and Bess, search for missing student film-makers and, in the process, discover the secret behind the local urban myth known as The Demon of River Heights.

VanDraanen, Wendelin. **Shedderman: Secret Identity**. Fifth grader Nolan Byrd, tired of being called names by the class bully, has a secret identity—Shedderman.

### **Nutmeg Children's Book Award**

Nutmeg Award winners are selected from favorite books read and recommended by Connecticut children in grades 4-6.

Riordan, Rick. **The Lightning Thief**. Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon, and is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and the demigod daughter of

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Athena who join him in a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war. (2008 winner)

Arnold, Louise. **Golden & Grey.** When a downhearted ghost becomes the "invisible friend" of an eleven-year-old boy who is an outcast in his new school, the two help each other find their place in their respective worlds. (2009 nominee)

Corbett, Sue. **Free Baseball.** Eleven-year-old Felix becomes a bat boy for a minor league baseball team, hoping to someday be like his father, a famous Cuban outfielder. (2009 nominee)

Gutman, Dan. **The Homework Machine.** Four fifth-grade students—a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker—as well as their teacher and mothers, each relate events surrounding a computer programmed to complete homework assignments. (2009 nominee)

Stewart, Jennifer. **Close Encounters of a Third-World Kind.** Twelve-year-old Annie is reluctant to travel to a village in Nepal for her father's two-month medical mission, but once there she assists at the clinic, makes friends with a local girl, and has adventures that change her life. (2009 nominee)

**Non-Fiction**

Armstrong, Jennifer. **The American Story: 100 True Tales from American History.** Contains 100 short stories about real people and events in American history, arranged chronologically from 1565 to 2000, including the lost colony of Roanoke, Pocahontas, the Chicago fire, and the 2000 presidential election.

Bishop, Nic. **Backyard Detective: Critters Up Close.** Describes a variety of animals and insects that can be found close to home and offers tips on how to observe them.

Hatkoff, Isabella. **Knut: How One Little Polar Bear Captivated the World.** Presents the story of Knut, the first polar bear cub at the Berlin Zoo in more than thirty years, and the efforts of Thomas Dorflein, a zookeeper who nurtured and fed him after the cub's mother rejected him.

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Hatkoff, Isabella. **Owen and Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship.** Illustrated text and full-color photographs tell the true story of the unusual relationship between Owen, a baby hippopotamus orphaned by the tsunami, and Mzee, a 130-year-old giant tortoise.

Markle, Sandra. **Outside and Inside Dinosaurs.** Describes the inner and outer workings of dinosaurs, discussing what has been learned about their anatomy, diet, and behavior from fossils.

Osborne, Mary Pope. **Favorite Greek Myths.** Retells twelve tales from Greek mythology, including the stories of King Midas, Echo and Narcissus, the Golden Apples, and Cupid and Psyche.

Scott, Elaine. **When is a Planet not a Planet?: The Story of Pluto.** Uses narrative and color photography to discuss astronomy and a history of the planets including Pluto's reassignment on August 24, 2006 from planet to dwarf planet.

Schanzer, Rosalyn. **How Ben Franklin Stole the Lightning.** Focuses on Benjamin Franklin's role as an inventor of whimsical gadgets and practical contraptions, with an emphasis on his experiment of flying a kite during a rainstorm.

Simon, Seymour. **Animals Nobody Loves.** Profiles twenty animals considered dangerous or unattractive--such as the bat, the rat, and the grizzly bear--providing color photos and facts about their physical characteristics and their hunting methods.

### Picture Books

Rappaport, Doreen. **Dirt on Their Skirts: The Story of the Young Women Who Won the World Championship.** Margaret experiences the excitement of watching the 1946 championship game of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League as it goes into extra innings.

Polacco, Patricia. **The Butterfly.** During the Nazi occupation of France, Monique's mother hides a Jewish family in her basement and tries to help them escape to freedom.

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Selznick, Brian. **The Invention of Hugo Cabret: A Novel in Words and Pictures.** When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

Van Allsburg, Chris. **Probuditi!** On his birthday, Calvin and his friend Rodney see a magician perform, then copy him by hypnotizing Calvin's little sister, but the joke is on them when they are unable to snap her out of it.

Yolen, Jane. **The Mary Celeste: An Unsolved Mystery from History.** A young girl relates the facts that are known about the unexplained disappearance of the crew on the ship Mary Celeste in 1872, and challenges the reader to solve the mystery.

### **Fabulous Fiction**

Cleary, Beverly. **The Mouse and the Motorcycle.** The adventures of a boy and a little mouse who wants to ride his toy motorcycle.

Coville, Bruce. **Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher.** Small for his age but artistically talented, twelve-year-old Jeremy Thatcher unknowingly buys a dragon's egg.

Creech, Sharon. **Ruby Holler.** Thirteen-year-old fraternal twins Dallas and Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage but their lives change forever when an eccentric but sweet older couple invites them each on an adventure, beginning in an almost magical place called Ruby Holler.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. **Elijah of Buxton.** Eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American South in 1859, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

Dahl, Roald. **The Twits.** The misadventures of two terrible old people who enjoy playing nasty tricks and are finally outwitted by a family of monkeys.

DiCamillo, Kate. **Because of Winn-Dixie.** Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

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Feinstein, John. **Vanishing Act.** Eighth-grade sports reporters Susan, Carol and Stevie reunite at the U.S. Open tennis championships where they investigate the mysterious disappearance of a top Russian player.

Funke, Cornelia. **The Thief Lord.** Orphaned brothers Prosper and Bo, having run away from their cruel aunt and uncle, decide to hide out in Venice where they fall in with the Thief Lord, a thirteen-year-old boy who leads a crime ring of street children.

Hahn, Mary Downing. **Deep and Dark and Dangerous: A Ghost Story.** When thirteen-year-old Ali spends the summer with her aunt and cousin at the family's vacation home, she stumbles upon a secret that her mother and aunt have been hiding for over thirty years.

Hiaasen, Carl. **Flush.** With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.

McKernan, Victoria. **Shackleton's Stowaway.** A fictionalized account of the adventures of eighteen-year-old Perce Blackborow, who stowed away for the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition and, after the ship *Endurance* was crushed by ice, endured many hardships during the nearly two-year return journey across sea and ice.

Salisbury, Graham. **Under the Blood-Red Sun.** Tomikazu Nakaji's biggest concerns are baseball, homework, and a local bully, until life with his Japanese family in Hawaii changes drastically after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

Schlitz, Laura Amy. **Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!** Voices from a Medieval Village. A collection of short one-person plays featuring characters, between ten and fifteen years old, who live in or near a thirteenth-century English manor.

Seidler, Tor. **Brainboy and the Deathmaster.** When Darryl, a twelve-year-old orphan, is adopted by a technology genius, he finds himself the star of his very own life-threatening video game.

### Poetry

Howitt, Mary and Tony DiTerlizzi. **The Spider and the Fly.** An illustrated version of the well-known poem about a wily spider who preys on the vanity and innocence of a little fly.

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Prelutsky, Jack and James Stevenson. **It's Raining Pigs and Noodles.** A collection of humorous poems such as "The Dancing Hippopotami," "You Can't Make Me Eat That," "My Father's Name is Sasquatch," and "Dear Wumbledeedumble."

Thayer, Ernest Lawrence and Christopher Bing. **Casey at the Bat:** A Ballad Sung in the Year 1888. A lavishly illustrated edition of the famous poem.

**Citation:** Some summary notes were taken from TITLEWAVE, a subsidiary of Follett Library Resources, Inc.

**A Note to Students:**

The purpose of the summer reading program is to promote independent reading. Choose whatever you like to read. Just keep reading and your reading skills will improve. Prepare for September follow-up activities by keeping a record of titles, authors, and personal feelings about the books you read.

**A Note to Parents:**

Help your children focus on their future. Encourage them to become better readers by reading more. Summer vacation shouldn't be a vacation from learning. Learning needs to be a year-round activity.

The suggested books on this list may be borrowed from the Milford Public Library after the close of school in June. Most of these books are also available in paperback through a co-operative effort with Words to Grow On at 50 Broad Street in Milford, Borders at the Westfield Mall, and Barnes & Noble in Milford and Orange.

Coordinators for Americans with Disabilities Act

Please be advised that questions, concerns under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or complaints regarding possible discrimination should be made in person or in writing to the following:

Regarding Facilities:

Philip G. Russell, Deputy Superintendent of Operations - 783-3405

Regarding Employment:

Wendy Kopazna, Director of Human Resources - 783-3403

Regarding Programs:

Susan Kelleher, Director of Pupil Personnel Services - 783-3411

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Any person needing special assistance or having a complaint under the ADA should contact the appropriate building principal or one of the coordinators listed above, which is in compliance with Board of Education policies 4118.142 and 4218.142.