

Take a summer adventure without ever leaving your hammock or beach towel. Go off on a journey that will give you a scare, make you laugh or shed a tear, or introduce you to some unusual and exciting people. Begin your adventure here, with this year's suggestions for summer reading—a collection of books to help you sit back and let your imagination soar.

You are asked to read at least three books over the summer, either from this list or any other titles or authors you find interesting. As you read, keep a log or journal and take notes on the title, characters, plot, and settings of your book of choice. When school resumes in September, your teachers will want you to share your reading records and experiences.

This list contains books of all types to suit many tastes and reading levels, but remember it is just a guide. Read whatever you like. The important thing is to keep reading—on the beach, in the backyard, while you're camping or traveling, anywhere and anytime at all. For all of you about to begin your summer adventures...Happy Reading!

Armchair Adventures

Broach, Elise. **Shakespeare's Secret.** Named after a character in a Shakespeare play, misfit sixth-grader Hero becomes interested in exploring this unusual connection because of a valuable diamond supposedly hidden in her new house, an intriguing neighbor, and the unexpected attention of the most popular boy in school. (2009 Nutmeg Nominee)

Cooper, Susan. **Victory.** Molly, upset by her family's move from London to the U.S., is strangely drawn to an old book about the life of Admiral Lord Nelson and soon finds her life intertwined with that of Sam, a boy her age who served with Nelson aboard the HMS "Victory" a century earlier.

Ibbotson, Eva. **The Beasts of Clawstone Castle.** During a summer at their great-uncle and aunt's castle in northern England, 11-year-old Madlyn and her younger brother, Rollo, attempt, with the help of several ghosts, to save the rare cattle that live on the grounds.

Johnson, Maureen. **13 Little Blue Envelopes.** When 17-year-old Ginny receives a packet of mysterious envelopes from her favorite aunt, she leaves New Jersey to criss-cross Europe on a sort of scavenger hunt that transforms her life.

Paulsen, Gary. **Lawn Boy.** Things get out of hand for a 12-year-old boy when a neighbor convinces him to expand his summer lawn mowing business.

Smith, Roland. **Zach's Lie.** When Jack Osborne is befriended by his school's custodian and a Basque girl, he begins to adjust to his family's sudden move to Elko, NV after

entering the Witness Security Program, but the drug cartel against which his father will testify is determined to track them down.

Sports

Crutcher, Chris. **Athletic Shorts: Six Short Stories.** A collection of short stories featuring characters from earlier books by Chris Crutcher.

Deuker, Carl. **High Heat.** When sophomore Shane Hunter's father is arrested for money laundering at his Lexus dealership, the star pitcher's life of affluence and private school begins to fall apart.

Feinstein, John. **Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery.** After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game.

Lupica, Mike. **Travel Team.** After he is cut from his travel basketball team, the very same team that his father once led to national prominence, twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. **Dairy Queen.** After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, 16-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her. (2009 Nutmeg Nominee)

Imagination Central

Bruchac, Joseph. **Wabi: a Hero's Tale.** A white great horned owl named Wabi transforms into a human being and has several trials and adventures while adapting to his new life.

Colfer, Eoin. **Supernaturalist.** In futuristic Satellite City, 14-year-old Cosmo Hill escapes from an abusive orphanage and teams up with three other people who share his unusual ability to see supernatural creatures, and together they determine the nature and purpose of the swarming blue Parasites that are invisible to most humans.

Halam, Ann. **Siberia.** In a bleak future in which almost no animals survive, 14-year-old Sloe spends two years in prison school before embarking on a dangerous quest across a frozen wasteland.

Pratchett, Terry. **The Wee Free Men.** Tiffany, a young witch-to-be in the land of Discworld, teams up with the Wee Free Men, a clan of 6-inch-high blue toughs, to rescue her baby brother and ward off a sinister invasion from Fairyland.

Shusterman, Neal. **Everlost.** When Nick and Allie are killed in a car crash, they end up in Everlost, a limbo for lost souls, where, although Nick is satisfied, Allie will stop at nothing--even skinjacking--to break free.

Silberberg, Alan. **Pond Scum.** Oliver stumbles across a mysterious gem that gives him the power to transform into any animal he touches.

Slice of Life

Abbott, Tony. **Firegirl.** A middle school boy's life is changed when Jessica, a girl disfigured by burns, starts attending his Catholic school while receiving treatment at a local hospital.

Budhos, Marina. **Ask Me No Questions.** Fourteen-year-old Nadira, her sister, and their parents leave Bangladesh for New York City, but the expiration of their visas and the events of September 11, 2001, bring fear, frustration, and sorrow for the whole family. (2009 Nutmeg Nominee)

Karbo, Karen. **Minerva Clark Goes to the Dogs.** Still enjoying her new found self-confidence, a 13-year-old sleuth in Portland, Oregon tries to uncover a missing red diamond and gets herself mixed up with a crooked animal shelter worker and some very strange animals.

Smelcer, John E. **The Trap.** In alternating chapters, 17-year-old Johnny Least-Weasel, who is better known for brains than brawn, worries about his missing grandfather, and the grandfather, Albert Least-Weasel, struggles to survive caught in his own steel trap in the Alaskan winter.

Reality Speaking

Bagert, Brod. **Hormone Jungle: Coming of Age in Middle School.** College-bound Christina Curtis is creating a scrapbook of the Digital Poets, her middle-school poetry group, which, interwoven with her narrative, reflects the hormonal angst of middle school.

Borden, Louise. **The Journey That Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margaret and H.A. Rey.** This beautifully illustrated picture book tells the story of Margret and H. A. Rey's WWII escape from Paris.

David, Laurie. **The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming.** A collection of facts and information about global warming and its consequences with suggestions on maintaining a healthy environment in the home, at school, and in the community.

O'Sullivan, Joanne. **101 Places You Gotta See Before You're 12.** Contains over one hundred suggestions for types of places kids should see and explore, such as lighthouses,

art museums, unusual animal farms, great estates, courthouses, and street markets, most with specific examples.

Sandler, Martin W. **Trapped in Ice.** Thirty-two whaling ships find themselves trapped in Arctic ice. As an early winter descended in the fall of 1871, the story reveals the painful decision to abandon the ships and the harrowing escape to safety. Amazingly, all 1,219 people survived.

Treaster, Joseph B. **Hurricane Force: In the Path of America's Deadliest Storms.** Describes how violent storms and hurricanes are formed and notes some of history's greatest storms to hit the United States such as Hurricane Katrina.

Rancic, Bill. **Beyond the Lemonade Stand: Starting Small to Make it Big!** Ideas and inspiration -- 20 kid businesses you can start today! -- Build your own business model -- Managing your money -- Your contacts and appointments. "Apprentice" winner Bill Rancic offers advice to kids on how to start a business and make it a success

Weber, Sandra. **Two in the wilderness: Adventures of a mother and daughter in the Adirondack Mountains.** A mother and daughter record their 60-mile backpacking trip through the Adirondack Mountains.

Film Lit

Brashares, Ann. **The Second Summer of the Sisterhood.** Sequel to *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*. (Movie release, August 2008 – some scenes filmed in New Haven and Bridgeport.) The four main characters, now sixteen, embark on another summer of travels and life lessons charmed by a shared pair of seemingly magical thrift-store jeans.

DiTerlizzi, Tony and Holly Black. **Spiderwick Chronicles.** (Movie release, February 2008). When the Grace children go to stay at their Great Aunt Lucinda's worn Victorian house, they discover a field guide to fairies and other creatures and begin to have some unusual experiences.

DuPrau, Jeanne. **City of Ember.** (Movie release, October 2008). In the city of Ember, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions.

Funke, Cornelia. **Inkheart.** (Movie release, January 2009). 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.

King-Smith, Dick. **The Water Horse.** (Movie released, December 2007). A Scottish boy named Angus MacMorrow discovers a strange egg in a tide pool and finds himself caring for a reptilian creature linked to an old legend.

Lewis, C.S. **Prince Caspian (The Chronicles of Narnia)**. (Movie release, May 2008). Four children help Prince Caspian and his army of Talking Beasts free Narnia from evil.

Getting Graphic

Lerer, Mark. **Totally spies! #2. I hate the 80s -- Attack of the 50 ft. tall Mandy**. Spies Alex, Sam, and Clover get stuck in the 1980s thanks to Boogie Gus; then they must face off against a fifty-foot-tall Mandy.

Smith, Jeff. **Bone. 3, Eyes of the Storm**. Lucius, Smiley and Phoney are attacked by rat creatures in the forest, barely making it to Lucius' tavern while at the farm, Fone Bone and Thorn are having strange dreams and Gran'ma Ben suddenly begins revealing secrets and new dangers.

Sensational Series

Bauer, Joan. **Best Foot Forward**. Sequel to *Rules of the Road*. Between school and Al-Anon meetings, Jenna helps Mrs. Gladstone cope with escalating problems that result from the merger of Gladstone Shoes with Shoe Warehouse Corporation, while managing a new employee with a shoplifting record.

Cabot, Meg. **Perfect Princess**. *Princess Diaries* Series. Princess Mia's friends and assistants examine the style, accomplishments, and other characteristics of real and fictional princesses, as Mia gleans from each a "random act of princess" for self-improvement.

Colfer, Eoin. **The Lost Colony**. Sequel to *The Opal Deception*. Teenager Artemis Fowl solves a temporal equation that helps him and Captain Holly Short track fairy demons that are appearing from another dimension, but there is another person who has figured out the formula and abducts one of the beings.

Langon, Paul. **The Bully**. *Blueford High* Series. Darrell Mercer, a new student at Blueford High, decides it is time to take a stand after he tires of being harassed and threatened by bully Tyray Hobbs.

Stroud, Jonathan. **Ptolemy's Gate**. Book three of *The Bartimaeus Trilogy*. Seventeen-year-old Nathaniel has risen to a position of importance in the British government with the help of Bartimaeus, a djinni he summoned to help him root out rebels, but with Bartimaeus' essence weakening due to having spent too long in the real world, he and Nathaniel are forced to team up with rival Kitty Jones to save the country from demons.

Laugh out Loud

Klise, Kate. **Deliver Us From Normal**. Life for 11-year Old Charles with his wacky family life is anything but normal in Normal, Illinois.

Bonk, John J. **Dustin Grubbs: One-Man Show**. A sixth-grader, Dustin who longs to see his name in lights, recounts life with his class in preparation for the school drama production.

Gantos, Jack. **Jack's Black Book**. Comic misadventures ensue when seventh-grader Jack tries to write the great American novel.

Paulsen, Gary. **The amazing life of birds: (the 20-day puberty journal of Duane Homer Leech)**. As 12-year-old Duane endures the confusing and humiliating aspects of puberty, he watches a newborn bird in a nest on his windowsill begin to grow and become more independent, all of which he records in his journal.

Smith, Greg. **Ninjas, Piranhas, and Galileo**. Honoria, Shohei, and Elias, who are "united together against that which is the Peshtigo School," face conflict over their budding romantic interests and a science project gone awry.

And the Winner Is....

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. (2008 Coretta Scott King Author Award, 2008 Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction, and 2008 Newbery Honor Book)

Fox, Helen. **Eager**. In late-twenty-first-century England, the Bell family, looking to replace their malfunctioning robot, buys Eager, who is programmed to learn through trial and error like humans and who, with the Bell children, comes to see that something is not right with the BDC4s, a sleek, alarmingly clever line of robots the Bells could not afford. (2009 Nutmeg Nominee)

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. (2008 Newbery Medal)

Selznick, Brian. **The Invention of Hugo Cabret**. When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized. (2008 Caldecott Medal)

Woodson, Jacqueline. **Feathers**. When a new, white student nicknamed "The Jesus Boy" joins her sixth grade class in the winter of 1971, Frannie's growing friendship with him makes her start to see some things in a new light. (2008 Newbery Honor Book)

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

NOTE TO PARENTS:

It has been long established that reading improves reading ability. A publication by the U.S. Department of Education states, “the amount of leisure time spent reading is directly related to children’s reading comprehension, the size of their vocabularies, and the gains in their reading ability.” Clearly, reading outside of school can be a powerful supplement to class work. Encourage leisure reading by making books an important part of the home. Give books or magazines as presents and visit the local library. Summer for many families means time spent in the car. Why not try listening to audiobooks together?

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.

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:

Kelleher, Sue, Director of Pupil Personnel Services – 783-3411

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.