

Summer Reading 2009
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

Anderson, Jodi Lynn. **May Bird and the Ever After**. Lonely and shy, ten-year-old May Ellen Bird has no idea what awaits her when she falls into the lake and enters The Ever After, home of ghosts.

Buckley, Michael. **Fairy Tale Detectives**. Orphans Sabrina and Daphne Grimm are sent to live with an eccentric grandmother that they have always believed to be dead.

Cabot, Meg. **Moving Day**. Nine-year-old Allie Finkle has rules for everything and is even writing her own rule book, but her world is turned upside-down when she learns that her family is moving across town, which will mean a new house, school, best friend, and plenty of new rules.

Hunter, Erin. **Midnight**. Called by StarClan to fulfill a new prophecy, a group of young cats sets out on a long and dangerous journey, knowing only that trouble threatens the forest, as the adventures of the warrior clans continue.

Landy, Derek. **Skulduggery Pleasant**. When twelve-year-old Stephanie inherits her weird uncle's estate, she must join forces with Skulduggery Pleasant, a skeleton mage, to save the world from the Faceless Ones.

Lupica, Mike. **Two-Minute Drill**. Brainy Scott, a great kicker who otherwise struggles with football, and star quarterback Chris, who has dyslexia, team up to help each other succeed in both football and school.

Martin, Ann. **The Doll People**. A family of porcelain dolls that has lived in the same house for one hundred years is taken aback when a new family of plastic dolls arrives and doesn't follow The Doll Code of Honor.

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Riordan, Rick. **The Maze of Bones**. Amy and Dan, members of the powerful Cahill family, try to uncover the thirty-nine clues which will reveal the secrets of their lineage and find out what really happened to their parents.

Riordan, Rick. **Sea of Monsters**. Seventh-grader Percy Jackson has recently discovered that he is the son of Poseidon, making him half human and half god, and along with his a demigod and a satyr friend, must save his beloved Camp Half-Blood from evil forces determined to destroy it.

Skye, Obert. **Leven Thumps and the Gateway to Foo**. Fate brings fourteen-year-old Leven Thumps and thirteen-year-old Winter together, as they discover that for mankind to continue dreaming, the gateway between reality and the land of dreams and hopes--Foo--must be found and demolished.

White, Ellen Emerson. **Voyage on the Great Titanic: The Diary of Margaret Ann Brady**. In her diary in 1912, thirteen-year-old Margaret Ann describes how she leaves her lonely life in a London orphanage to become a companion to a wealthy American woman, sails on the Titanic, and experiences its sinking.

Nutmeg Children's Book Award

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

Evans, Douglas. **MVP* : *Magellan Voyage Project**. Twelve-year-old Adam Story is challenged by the deposed ruler of Babababad and his mongoose companion to become the first youngster to travel around the world in forty days without an adult. (2009 Winner)

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. **Double Identity**. Thirteen-year-old Bethany's parents have always been overprotective, but when they suddenly drop out of sight with no explanation, leaving her with an aunt she never knew existed, Bethany uncovers shocking secrets that make her question everything she thought she knew about herself and her family. (2010 Nominee)

Kehret, Peg. **The Ghost's Grave**. Apprehensive about spending the summer in Washington State with his Aunt Ethel when his parents get an overseas job, twelve-year-old Josh soon finds adventure when he meets the ghost of a coal miner. (2010 Nominee)

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Martin, Ann. **A Dog's Life: The Autobiography of a Stray**. Squirrel, a stray puppy, tells her life story, from her nurturing mother and brother to making her own way in the world, facing busy highways, changing seasons, and humans both gentle and brutal. (2010 Nominee)

Park, Linda Sue. **Archer's Quest**. Twelve-year-old Kevin Kim helps Chu-mong, a legendary king of ancient Korea, return to his own time. (2010 Nominee)

Non-Fiction

Anderson, Laurie Halse. **Independent Dames: What You Never Knew About the Women and Girls of the American Revolution**. Describes the role women and young girls played in the American Revolution, highlighting the contributions and exploits of women who had a significant impact on the colonists' fight for freedom.

Bishop, Nic. **The Secrets of Animal Flight**. Explains how birds, bats, and insects fly, presenting photos and anatomical diagrams.

Curlee, Lynn. **Brooklyn Bridge**. Describes the planning, construction, and history of the Brooklyn Bridge, celebrated as one of the greatest landmarks and grandest sights of New York City.

Grimes, Nikki. **Barack Obama: Son of Promise, Child of Hope**. Full-color illustrations and easy-to-follow text presents a narrative description of the life of President Barack Obama, beginning with his childhood in Hawaii, his family, his education, and professional achievements.

Hatkoff, Isabella. **Owen & Mzee: The Language of Friendship**. Text and color photos tell the true story of the friendship that developed at a Kenyan wildlife sanctuary between Owen, a baby hippopotamus orphaned by the 2004 Southeast Asian tsunami, and Mzee, a 130-year-old giant tortoise.

Markle, Sandra. **Outside and Inside Sharks**. Describes the inner and outer workings of sharks, including their diet, anatomy, and reproduction.

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Murphy, Jim. **Blizzard! The Storm That Changed America.** Presents a history, based on personal accounts and newspaper articles, of the massive snow storm that hit the Northeast in 1888, focusing on the events in New York City.

Simon, Seymour. **Strange Mysteries from Around the World.** Describes ten strange natural phenomena and possible explanations for them, including the day it rained frogs, an atomic explosion that occurred forty years before the atom bomb, and an eerie crystal skull.

Sis, Peter. **The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain.** Artist Sis Peter describes what it was like growing up in a Communist country and discusses how Western culture influenced his life.

Picture Books

Gerstein, Mordicai. **The Man Who Walked Between the Towers.** A lyrical evocation of Philippe Petit's 1974 tightrope walk between the World Trade Center towers.

Macaulay, David. **Black and White.** Four brief "stories" about parents, trains, and cows, or is it really all one story? The author recommends careful inspection of words and pictures to both minimize and enhance confusion.

Polacco, Patricia. **Aunt Chip and the Great Triple Creek Dam Affair.** Aunt Chip saves the town of Triple Creek, where everyone has forgotten how to read because of the invasion of television.

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. **Zathura.** Left on their own for an evening, two boisterous brothers find more excitement than they bargained for in a mysterious and mystical space adventure board game.

Fabulous Fiction

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Avi. **Seer of Shadows.** Photographer Horace Carpetine is commissioned to do a portrait for society matron Mrs. Frederick Von Macht; however, the photos evoke both the image and the ghost of the Von Macht's dead daughter, Eleanora, who has returned to seek vengeance on those who killed her.

Clements, Andrew. **Lunch Money.** Twelve-year-old Greg, who has always been good at moneymaking projects, is surprised to find himself teaming up with his lifelong rival, Maura, to create a series of comic books to sell at school.

Dahl, Roald. **Matilda.** Matilda applies her untapped mental powers to rid the school of the evil, child-hating headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore her nice teacher, Miss Honey, to financial security.

DiCamillo, Kate. **The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread.** The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

Estes, Eleanor. **Ginger Pye.** The disappearance of a new puppy named Ginger and the appearance of a mysterious man in a mustard yellow hat bring excitement into the lives of the Pye children.

Gutman, Dan. **The Get Rich Club.** Summer vacation in their small Maine town does not look too promising until twelve-year-old Gina and four of her friends make a pact to become millionaires before school starts in September.

Spinelli, Jerry. **Eggs.** Mourning the loss of his mother, nine-year-old David forms an unlikely friendship with independent, quirky thirteen-year-old Primrose, as the two help each other deal with what is missing in their lives.

Williams, Laura. **Behind the Bedroom Wall.** Ten-year-old Korinna must decide whether to report her parents to her Hitler youth group when she discovers that they are hiding Jews in a secret space behind Korinna's bedroom wall.

Young, Steve. **15 Minutes.** Seventh-grader Casey Little is always late until he discovers a magic watch that takes him back in time fifteen minutes, a trick he uses both on and off the football field.

Poetry

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Carle, Eric. **Eric Carle's Animals, Animals**. An illustrated collection of poems by a variety of authors describing the peculiarities of pets and wild and domestic animals.

Janeczko, Paul. **A Kick in the Head**. Presents an illustrated collection of poems which showcases twenty-nine different poetic forms, each with a brief definition.

Prelutsky, Jack. **For Laughing Out Loud: Poems to Tickle Your Funnybone**. A collection of humorous poems by writers including Ellen Raskin, Karla Kuskin, Ogden Nash, and Arnold Lobel.

Graphic Novels

Biskup, Agnieszka. **Exploring Ecosystems with Max Axiom, Super Scientist**. In graphic novel format, follows the adventures of Max Axiom as he explains the science behind ecosystems.

DeMolay, Jack. **Bigfoot: A North American Legend**. Looks at the legend of Bigfoot, telling the story of the alleged sighting of the huge, hairy creature by miners in 1924, and looking at subsequent evidence that Bigfoot exists.

Holm, Jennifer. **Puppy Love**. Even though Babymouse doesn't have good luck when it comes to keeping pets, she decides to take in a stray dog and train it.

Smith, Jeff. **Rock Jaw: Master of the Eastern Border**. Fone Bone and Smiley return a lost rat creature cub to the mountains and discover Rock Jaw, a giant mountain lion whose big ambitions bring him face-to-face with monstrous competition.

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:

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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.

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

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.