

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

Abrahams, Peter. **Down the Rabbit Hole: An Echo Falls Mystery.** Like her idol Sherlock Holmes, eighth grader Ingrid Levin-Hill uses her intellect to solve a murder case in her home town of Echo Falls.

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. **The Boy Who Dared.** In October, 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hubener, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people.

Birdsall, Jeanne. **The Penderwicks on Gardam Street.** The four Penderwick sisters are faced with the unimaginable prospect of their widowed father dating, and they hatch a plot to stop him.

Erlingsson, Fridrik. **Benjamin Dove.** Benjamin Dove recalls the summer that changed his life when his friend taught him how to stand up for himself and others; and they formed the Order of the Red Dragon that helped them survive a terrible tragedy.

Horvath, Polly. **My One Hundred Adventures.** Twelve-year-old Jane, who lives at the beach in a run-down old house with her mother, two brothers, and sister, has an eventful summer accompanying her pastor on Bible deliveries, meeting former boyfriends of her mother's, and being coerced into babysitting for a family of ill-mannered children.

Murphy, Pat. **The Wild Girls.** Twelve-year-old Joan, worried that she will not have any friends when her family moves from Connecticut to California, bonds right away with Sarah, a girl who prefers to be called Fox, and the two spend a joyous summer playing outside, making up stories, and attending a writing class.

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Sports

Lay-ups and Long Shots: An Anthology of Short Stories. A collection of nine short stories about sports by various authors.

Fitzgerald, Dawn. **Soccer Chick Rules.** While trying to focus on a winning soccer season, thirteen-year-old Tess becomes involved in local politics when she learns that all sports programs at her school will be stopped unless a tax levy is passed.

Hobbs, Will. **Go Big or Go Home.** Fourteen-year-old Brady and his cousin Quinn love extreme sports, but nothing could prepare them for the aftermath of Brady's close encounter with a meteorite after it crashes into his Black Hills, South Dakota, bedroom.

Lupica, Mike. **The Big Field.** When fourteen-year-old baseball player Hutch feels threatened by the arrival of a new teammate named Darryl, he tries to work through his insecurities about both Darryl and his remote and silent father, who was once a great ballplayer, too.

Mackel, Kathryn. **Boost.** Thirteen-year-old Savvy is the girls' basketball team's star player, but, despite her height and skills, Savvy struggles with her self-confidence and searches for some way to boost her performance, but when steroids are found in her bag, Savvy denies they are hers and the rumors start to fly.

Rud, Jeff. **Crossover.** Rising basketball star Kyle's interest in theater causes huge problems both on and off the court.

Imagination Central

Bell, David. **Dawn Gray's Pyjamas in Space.** Thirteen-year-old Dawn Gray, stuck on a planet full of other versions of herself, works with her friend Fitz--who is from another planet--to fix the problem in time and space that has resulted in Earth being towed away for relocation.

Flanagan, John. **The Ruins of Gorlan.** When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt, and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. **Found.** When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.

Law, Ingrid. **Savvy.** This story recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy"--a magical power unique to each member of her family--just as her father is injured in a terrible accident.

Thompson, Kate. **The New Policeman.** Fifteen-year-old musician J.J. Liddy leaves his small, Irish town and travels to the land of the fairies to search for time so he can give it to his busy mother, but when he gets there, he discovers that the inhabitants are in trouble and learns about his family's secret history.

Slice of Life

Dowd, Siobhan. **The London Eye Mystery.** When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

Lord, Cynthia. **Rules.** Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence, but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic.

Schmidt, Gary D. **Trouble.** Fourteen-year-old Henry, wishing to honor his brother, Franklin's dying wish, sets out to hike Maine's Mount Katahdin with his best friend and dog, but fate adds another companion--the Cambodian refugee accused of fatally injuring Franklin--and reveals troubles that predate the accident.

Spinelli, Jerry. **Loser.** Even though his classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and a loser, Donald Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.

Reality Speaking

Middle School: How to Deal. Five young girls offer advice to succeeding in middle school and address issues such as popularity and peer pressure, boys, family problems, bullies, fashion, makeup, and more.

Li, Moying. **Snow Falling in Spring: Coming of Age in China During the Cultural Revolution.** The author reveals the events of her life from age twelve to adulthood when the cultural revolution of Mao Zedong destroyed family customs and life as they knew it.

Deem, James M. **Bodies From the Ice: Melting Glaciers and the Rediscovery of the Past.** Examines the science of glaciers and looks at some of the discoveries of the past that have been made as the ice masses move and melt, including the preserved frozen remains of Otzi, the oldest human mummy ever found in ice, believed to be at least 5,300 years old.

Schlosser, Eric and Wilson, Charles. **Chew on This!** A look at fast food, what's in it, how it's made, and what it does to our bodies. This book, adapted from Eric Schlosser's adult book, *Fast Food Nation* (Houghton Mifflin, 2001), will change your eating habits!

Hamilton, Bethany. **Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to Get Back on the Board.**

Bethany Hamilton shares the story of her lifelong love of surfing, and tells how she was able to recover and return to competition with the help of her family, friends, and faith, after losing her arm in a shark attack at the age of thirteen.

Pfetzner, Mark & Galvin, Jack. **Within Reach: My Everest Story.** The author describes how he spent his teenage years climbing mountains in the United States, South America, Africa, and Asia, with an emphasis on his two expeditions up Mount Everest.

Woodford, Chris. **Cool Stuff Exploded: Get Inside Modern Technology.** Presents a piece-by-piece breakdown of everyday electronic objects to describe how they work, including cell phones, computers, and cars.

Read the Book, See the Movie

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.

(Movie Released, January 2009)

Gaiman, Neil. **Coraline.** Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own, where she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others.

(Movie Released, February 2009)

Grogan, John. **Marley: A Dog Like No Other.** A special adaptation of the author's book "Marley & Me" for young readers, in which he shares the story of his golden retriever Marley, and tells of the love his family has for the dog.

(Movie Released, December 2008)

Meyer, Stephenie. **Twilight.** Seventeen-year-old Bella leaves Phoenix to live with her father in Forks, Washington, where she meets an exquisitely handsome boy at school for whom she feels an overwhelming attraction and who she comes to realize is not wholly human.

(Movie Released, November 2008, **New Dawn** will be released November 20, 2009)

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

(Movie Release, November 2009)

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Rowling, J.K. **Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**. Sequel to: *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*; Year 6. Novice wizard Harry Potter, now 16-years-old, begins his sixth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in the midst of the battle between good and evil which has heated up with the return of the Dark Lord Voldemort. (Movie Release, July 2009)

Getting Graphic

Morse, Scott. **The Magic Pickle**. The Magic Pickle, a secret weapon created in a special lab under the floor of Jo Jo Wigman's bedroom, and Jo Jo set out to stop the Brotherhood of the Evil Produce.

Sturn, James. **Satchel Paige: Striking Out Jim Crow**. A graphic novel account of the career of Negro League pitcher Satchel Paige, discussing the show he put on as a popular player, as well as the respect he demanded as an African-American.

Sensational Series

Avi. **Crispin at the Edge of the World** (Sequel to: *Crispin, the Cross of Lead*) Branded as traitors by the king's authorities, Crispin and his guardian, Bear, flee to coastal towns in fourteenth-century England, where they perform a musical juggling act and bond as a family after befriending a disfigured girl.

Kinney, Jeff. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw** (Book 3 in the Wimpy Kid series) Middle-schooler Greg Heffley nimbly sidesteps his father's attempts to change Greg's wimpy ways until his father threatens to send him to military school.

MacHale, D.J. **Raven Rise**. (Book 9 in the Pendragon series) While Pendragon is trapped on Ibara, Alder returns to Denduron and reluctantly goes into battle again, and other Travelers face obstacles of various sorts, Saint Dane gains the power he seeks on Second Earth and makes his push to destroy and rebuild Halla.

Somper, Justin. **Demons of the Ocean**. (Series: *Vampirates*) Connor, who was rescued by pirates after his ship was wrecked, believes his twin sister, Grace, was abducted by the Vampirates and is determined to find her.

Laugh out Loud

Gorman, Carol. **Dork in Disguise**. Starting middle school in a new town, brainy Jerry Flack changes his image from "dork" to "cool kid," only to discover that he'd rather be himself.

Holm, Jennifer L. **Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf: A Year Told Through Stuff**. Ginny makes a "to do list" for her seventh grade year, which includes landing a role in the school play, trying to make friends, ignoring her horoscope, and going to see

her grandpa Joe in Florida; but she always seems to come up short in accomplishing any of it.

Leno, Jay. **How to be the Funniest Kid in the Whole Wide World (or Just in Your Class)**. Comedian Jay Leno presents a collection of jokes, puns, and bits of advice for starting a career in comedy.

Lubar, David. **Dunk**. Chad, hoping to work out his frustrations and his anger by taking a summer job as a dunk tank Bozo on the boardwalk at the New Jersey shore, comes to a better understanding of himself and the uses of humor as he undergoes training in the fine art of insults.

Soto, Gary. **Worlds Apart: Traveling with Fernie and Me**. Presents a collection of humorous poems that follow the adventures of Fernie and his friend as they embark on an imaginary trip around the world.

And the Winner Is....

Appelt, Kathi. **The Underneath**. An old hound that has been chained up at his hateful owner's run-down shack, and two kittens born underneath the house, endure separation, danger, and many other tribulations in their quest to be reunited and free. (Newbery Honor Book – 2009)

Connor, Leslie. **Waiting for Normal**. Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York. (Schneider Family Book Award: Middle – 2009)

Gaiman, Neil. **The Graveyard Book**. The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures. (Newbery Medal Winner – 2009)

Marsh, Katherine. **The Night Tourist**. Fourteen-year-old Jack Perdu, a prodigy of classical mythology, suffers a near-fatal accident after which he meets Euri, a young ghost who introduces him to New York's ghostly underworld, eight levels below Grand Central Station, where he decides to look for his mother who disappeared years earlier. (Edgar Allan Poe Award 2008) (Mystery Writers of America - Best Juvenile)

Woodson, Jacqueline. **After Tupac & D Foster**. In the New York City borough of Queens in 1996, three girls bond over their shared love of Tupac Shakur's music, as together they try to make sense of the unpredictable world in which they live. (Newbery Honor Books – 2009)

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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:

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.