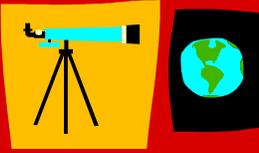




# SUMMER READING LIST\*

## Fizz Boom Read ~ Grades 7-8

Suggested summer reading compiled for the Connecticut Department of Education by Linda Williams, Connecticut State Library



### FICTION

#### **The Great Trouble: A Mystery of London, The Blue Death, and a Boy Called Eel** by *Deborah Hopkinson*

Eel, an orphan, and his best friend Florrie must help Dr. John Snow prove that cholera is spread through water, and not poisonous air, when an epidemic sweeps across their London neighborhood in 1854. Lexile: 660

#### **The Green Glass Sea** by *Ellen Klages*

It is 1943, and 11-year-old Dewey Kerrigan is traveling west on a train to live with her scientist father—but no one will tell her exactly where he is. When she reaches Los Alamos, New Mexico, she learns why: he's working on a top secret government program. Lexile: 790

[NCSS](#)

### SCIENCE FICTION

#### **Ship Breaker** by *Paolo Bacigalupi*

In a futuristic world, teenaged Nailer scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living, but when he finds a beached clipper ship with a girl in the wreckage, he has to decide if he should strip the ship for its wealth or rescue the girl. Lexile: 690

[ALA](#)

#### **The Testing** by *Joelle Charbonneau*

Sixteen-year-old Malencia (Cia) Vale is chosen to participate in The Testing to attend the University; however, Cia is fearful when she figures out her friends who do not pass The Testing are disappearing.

[ALA](#)

#### **Things Not Seen** by *Andrew Clements*

When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it. Lexile: 690

[ALA](#), [Nutmeg Nominee 2006](#)

#### **Dr. Franklin's Island** by *Ann Halam*

When their plane crashes over the Pacific Ocean, three science students are left stranded on a tropical island and then imprisoned by a doctor who is performing horrifying experiments on humans involving the transfer of animal genes. Lexile: 690

[ALA](#),

#### **When We Wake** by *Karen Healey*

Enjoying her life filled with music, first love and protesting social injustices, 16-year-old Tegan unexpectedly dies and reawakens 100 years in the future to discover that she is the first government guinea pig subject to be cryogenically frozen and successfully revived, a situation that forces her to confront appalling secrets.. Lexile: 770

[ALA](#)

#### **The Carbon Diaries, 2015** by *Saci Lloyd*

In 2015, when England becomes the first nation to introduce carbon dioxide rationing in a drastic bid to combat climate change, sixteen-year-old Laura documents the first year of rationing as her family spirals out of control. Lexile: 690

#### **Cinder** by *Marissa Meyer*

As plague ravages the overcrowded Earth, observed by a ruthless lunar people, Cinder, a gifted mechanic and cyborg, becomes involved with handsome Prince Kai and must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect the world in this futuristic take on the Cinderella story. Lexile: 790

[ALA](#), [IRA](#)

#### **Life As We Knew It** by *Susan Beth Pfeffer*

Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. Lexile: 770

[ALA](#), [Nutmeg Nominee 2010](#)

#### **Orleans** by *Sherry L. Smith*

Set in a futuristic, hostile Orleans landscape, Fen de la Guerre must deliver her tribe leader's baby over the Wall into the Outer States before her blood becomes tainted with Delta Fever. Lexile: 750

#### **20,000 Leagues Under the Sea** by *Jules*

*Verne*

The adventures of a French scientist and his companions who travel the seven seas in the mid-nineteenth century as prisoners in the submarine of the mysterious Captain Nemo. Lexile: 1030



# SUMMER READING LIST\*

## GRAPHIC NOVEL

### **Primates** by Jim Ottaviani

This is the true story of three scientists who risked their lives for research that forever changed the way we think of primates—including ourselves.

[ALA](#), [NSTA](#)

## POETRY

### **Fortune's Bones: The Manumission Requiem** by Marilyn Nelson

A series of poems on the life of Fortune, an eighteenth-century African-American slave in New England whose skeleton came to be an exhibit at Connecticut's Mattatuck Museum; includes notes and archival photos. Lexile: NP

[ALA](#)

## NONFICTION

### **Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion** by Loree Griffin Burns

Describes the work of a man who tracks trash as it travels great distances by way of ocean currents. Lexile: 1200

[ALA](#), [IRA](#)

### **Faces From the Past: Forgotten People of North America** by James Deem

Describes the discovery of bodies in North America from fifteen to twenty thousand years ago, and discusses the evidence their remains reveal about themselves and the civilizations in which they lived. Lexile: 1190

[NSTA](#)

### **Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science** by John Fleischman

Through the case history of Phineas Gage, a 19th century Vermonter who had an iron bar driven through his brain and lived, the book examines what is known of brain function. Lexile: 1030

[ALA](#)

### **Black Gold: The Story of Oil in Our Lives** by Albert Marrin

A history of the slick and foul-smelling substance that drives our existence and that becomes scarcer as our dependence on it grows. Lexile: 1070

[NSTA](#)

### **Eruption!: The Science of Saving Lives**

by Elizabeth Rusch

An account of the work of volcanologists Andy Lockhart, John Pallister, and their team describes their life-risking efforts to investigate dangerous volcanoes that pose threats to more than one billion people worldwide. Lexile: 1000

[ALA](#), [NSTA](#)

### **Bomb: The Race to Build - And Steal - The World's Most Dangerous Weapon**

by Steve Sheinkin

Recounts the scientific discoveries that enabled atom splitting, the military intelligence operations that occurred in rival countries, and the work of brilliant scientists hidden at Los Alamos. Lexile: 920

[ALA](#), [NCSS](#)

### **The Plant Hunters: True Stories of Their Daring Adventures to the Far Corners of the Earth** by Anita Silvey

Presents the experiences and contributions of early adventurers, explorers, and scientists responsible for discovering and documenting new types of plants, showing how their often dangerous voyages help establish the field of botany. Lexile: ;1170

## BIOGRAPHY

### **Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different** by Karen Blumenthal

Traces the inspiring life and career of the late founder of Apple, covering topics ranging from his struggles as an adopted child and a college dropout to his Buddhist faith and friendship with Steve Wozniak, in a portrait framed around his inspirational Stanford University commencement speech. Lexile: 1110

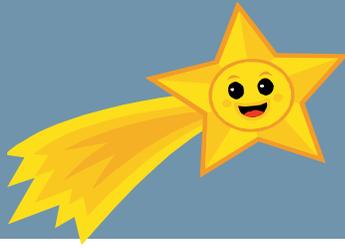
[ALA](#), [Outstanding Books for the College Bound](#)

### **Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith** by Deborah Heiligman

A biography of English naturalist Charles Darwin that provides an account of the personality behind evolutionary theory and the affect of his work on his personal life, such as his relationship with his religious wife. Lexile: 1020

[ALA](#), [NBA](#)

\*Many listed books were selected as exemplary by one or more of the following organizations: the *American Library Association* (ALA), the *International Reading Association* (IRA), the *National Council for the Social Studies* (NCSS), the *National Council of Teachers of English* (NCTE), the *National Science Teachers Association* (NSTA), the *American Association for the Advancement of Science* (AAAS) or the *United States Board on Books for Young People* (USBBY).



# SUMMER READING

## Favorites & Classics For Grades 7-8

### **The Giver** by Lois Lowry

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives. Lexile: 760

### **Eva** by Peter Dickinson

After a terrible accident, a young girl wakes up to discover that she has been given the body of a chimpanzee. Lexile: 1010

### **Whirligig** by Paul Fleischman

While traveling to each corner of the country to build a whirligig in memory of the girl whose death he causes, sixteen-year-old Brian finds forgiveness and atonement. Lexile: 760

### **House of Dies Drear** by Virginia Hamilton

A black family of five moves into an enormous house once used as a hiding place for runaway slaves. Mysterious sounds and events as well as the discovery of secret passageways make the family believe they are in grave danger. Lexile: 670

### **The Silver Kiss** by Annette Curtis Klause

A mysterious teenage boy harboring a dark secret helps Zoë come to terms with her mother's terminal illness. Lexile: 690

### **Touching Spirit Bear** by Ben Mikaelson

After his anger erupts into violence, Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the native American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life. Lexile: 670

### **The Wee Free Men** by Terry Pratchett

Tiffany, a young witch-to-be in the land of Discworld, teams up with the Wee Free Men, a clan of six-inch-high blue men, to rescue her baby brother and ward off a sinister invasion from Fairyland. Lexile: 680

### **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** by Mildred D. Taylor

A black family living in the South during the 1930's are faced with prejudice and discrimination which their children don't understand. Lexile: 920

### **Stargirl** by Jerry Spinelli

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever. Lexile: 590

### **Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind** by

*Suzanne Fisher Staples*

When eleven-year old Shabanu, the daughter of a nomad in the Cholistan Desert of present-day Pakistan, is pledged in marriage to an older man whose money will bring prestige to the family, she must either accept the decision, as is the custom, or risk the consequences of defying her father's wishes. Lexile: 970

### **The Hobbit** by J. R. R. Tolkien

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return. Lexile: 1000

### **Izzy, Willy-Nilly** by Cynthia Voigt

A car accident causes fifteen-year-old Izzy to lose one leg and face the need to start building a new life as an amputee. Lexile: 790

### **The Pigman** by Paul Zindel

A teenage boy and girl, high school sophomores from unhappy homes, tell of their bizarre relationship with an old man. Lexile: 950

### **The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak

Death tells the story of a young German girl, Liesel, whose book-stealing and story-telling talents during World War II help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors. Lexile: 730

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## FAVORITE SERIES

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**The Princess Diaries** series by Meg Cabot

**Artemis Fowl** series by Eoin Colfer

**Young Wizards** series by Diane Duane

**Song of the Lioness** quartet by Tamora Pierce

**Divergent** trilogy by Veronica Roth

**The Tillermans** series by Cynthia Voigt

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