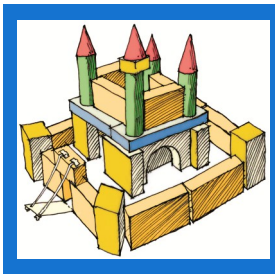


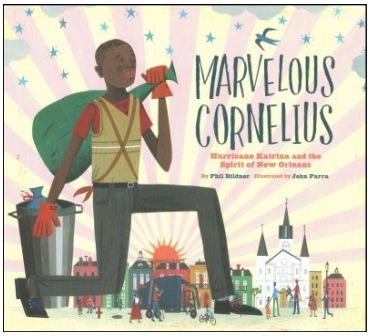
Summer Reading List*

Build a Better World ~ Grades 3-4

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

PICTURE BOOKS

Dream Something Big *by Dianna Hutts Aston*
In Watts, California, over a period of many years, a man known to all as Uncle Sam spends his free time collecting broken bits of pottery, glass, and other scraps and turning them into a work of art. (CIP) Simon Rodia, 1879-1965. Simon Rodia's Towers. Watts. Los Angeles. | *ILA* | Lexile: 830



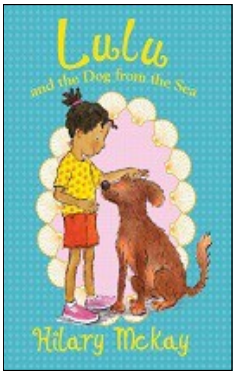
Marvelous Cornelius *by Phil Bildner*
A man known as the "Trashcan Wizard" sings and dances his way through the French Quarter in New Orleans, keeping his beloved city clean, until Hurricane Katrina's devastation nearly causes him to lose his spirit. | *ILA, NCSS* | Lexile: 560

Buffalo Music *by Tracey E. Fern*
After hunters kill off the buffalo around her Texas ranch, a woman begins raising orphan buffalo calves and eventually ships four members of her small herd to Yellowstone National Park, where they form the beginnings of newly thriving buffalo herds. | *ALA* | Lexile: 860

CHAPTER BOOKS

Annie Glover is Not a Tree Lover *by Darleen Bailey Beard*
When her grandmother chains herself to the tree across from the school to save it from being cut down, fourth-grader Annie wants to die of humiliation, but when she discovers the town's history, her attitude changes. | Lexile: 630

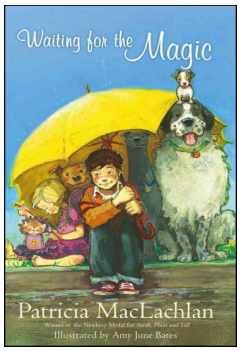
Violet Mackerel's Pocket Protest *by Anna Branford*
Violet and Rose organize a protest to save the big oak tree in Clover Park. | Lexile: 1110



Manatee Rescue *by Nicola Davies*
When her father successfully harpoons a manatee, leaving its baby orphaned, Manuela vows to rescue the calf and return it to the river, helping change the attitudes of the people in her village in the process. | *NSTA* | Lexile: 910

Book Uncle and Me *by Uma Krishnaswami*
Every day, Yasmin borrows a book from Book Uncle, a retired teacher who has set up a free lending library on the street corner. But when the mayor tries to shut down the rickety book-stand, Yasmin has to take her nose out of her book and do something. | Lexile: 580

The Wild Ones *by C. Alexander London*
After his parents are killed, Kit, a young raccoon sets off for the city with a stone that may be the key to finding the Bone of Contention, a legendary object that is proof of a deal giving the wild animals the rights to Ankle Snap Alley, which the dogs and cats--known as the flealess--want back and are willing to kill for. | Lexile: 810



Waiting for the Magic *by Patricia MacLachlan*
When Papa goes away for a little while, his family tries to cope with the separation by adopting four dogs and a cat. | *Nutmeg* | Lexile: 420

Lulu and the Dog from the Sea *by Hilary McKay*
Seven-year-old Lulu and her cousin think their vacation house is the most perfect place ever until they find a trouble-prone, stray dog living on the beach. | *Nutmeg* | Lexile: 770

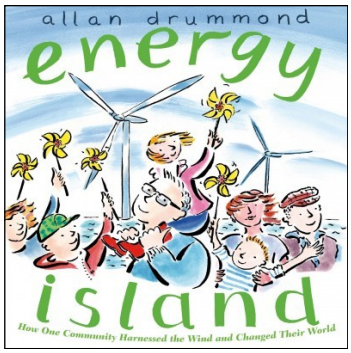
Sydney & Simon Go Green! *by Paul A. Reynolds*
After discovering that a green sea turtle was harmed by plastic in the ocean, twin mice Sydney and Simon come up with a creative campaign to increase recycling and reduce the amount of trash created in their home, school, and town. | Lexile: 750

Summer Reading List*

GRAPHIC NOVELS

The Legend of Hong Kil Dong: The Robin Hood of Korea by Anne Sibley O'Brien
Graphic novel treatment of the life and career Hong Kil Dong, the Korean equivalent of Robin Hood. | *ALA* | Lexile: 680

NONFICTION



Energy Island: How One Community Harnessed the Wind and Changed Their World *by Allan Drummond*
It's windy on the Danish island of Samsø. Meet the environmentally friendly folks who, in a few short years, worked together for energy independence, and who now proudly call their home Energy Island. | *ILA, NSTA* | Lexile: 920

Ada's Violin: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay *by Susan Hood*
A town built on a landfill. A community in need of hope. A girl with a dream. A man with a vision. An ingenious idea. | *ILA, NCTE* | Lexile: 820

Stay: The True Story of Ten Dogs *by Michaela Muntean*
Luciano Anastasini, a man who calls the circus home, and ten homeless dogs are brought together by fate. | *Nutmeg* | Lexile: 760

The Camping Trip That Changed America: Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, and Our National Parks *by Barb Rosenstock*
Introduces the story of how President Theodore Roosevelt, on a camping trip with naturalist John Muir in Yosemite National Park, decided to support the conservation of national parks. | *NCSS* | Lexile: 740

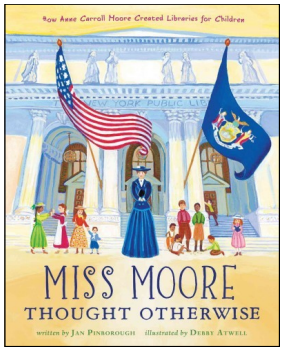
Brick by Brick by Charles R. Smith, Jr.
Constructed brick by brick, the White House was created by human hands, many of them slaves', whose hard labor helped create the symbol of this country, in the story of how the official residence and principal workplace of the United States presidents was built.

BIOGRAPHY

Grandfather Gandhi *by Arun Gandhi*
Mathama Gandhi's grandson tells the story of how his grandfather taught him to turn darkness into light. | *ILA, NCSS* | Lexile: 600

Fur, Fins, and Feathers: Abraham Dee Bartlett and the Invention of the Modern Zoo *by Cassandre Maxwell*
A biography of Abraham Dee Bartlett and how he helped to invent the modern zoo. | *NCSS*

Miss Moore Thought Otherwise: How Anne Carroll Moore Created Libraries for Children *by Jan Pinborough*
A picture book biography about librarian Anne Carroll Moore who, as the New Yorker said, "more or less invented the children's library. | *NCSS*



Wangari Maathai: The Woman who Planted Millions of Trees *by Franck Prevot*
Wangari Maathai received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for her efforts to lead women in a nonviolent struggle to bring peace and democracy to Africa through its reforestation. Her organization planted over thirty million trees in thirty years. This beautiful picture book tells the story of an amazing woman and an inspiring idea. | *ALA, ILA, NCSS* | Lexile: 970

Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909 *by Michelle Markel*
Describes how immigrant Clara Lemlich, fought back against the poor treatment of her fellow factory workers and led the largest walkout of women workers in the country. | *ALA, NCTE* | Lexile: 760

A Boy Named FDR: How Franklin D. Roosevelt Grew Up to Change America *by Kathleen Krull*
Focuses on Franklin D. Roosevelt's childhood years and summarizes his achievements as president. | *ILA* | Lexile: 930

*Many listed books were selected as exemplary by one or more of the following organizations: the *American Library Association* (ALA), the *International Literacy Association* (ILA), 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). Other awards as noted.

Summer Reading

Favorites & Classics

For Grades 3-4

My Name Is Maria Isabel
by Alma Flor Ada
Third grader María Isabel, born in Puerto Rico and now living in the U.S., wants badly to fit in at school; and the teacher's writing assignment "My Greatest Wish" gives her that opportunity. | Lexile: 880

Mr. Popper's Penguins *by Richard Atwater*
The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Popper, a house painter obsessed by dreams of the Polar regions. | Lexile: 910

Tuck Everlasting *by Natalie Babbitt*
The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing any older. | Lexile: 770

Madeline *by Ludwig Bemelmans*
Madeline, smallest and naughtiest of the twelve little charges of Miss Clavel, wakes up one night with an attack of appendicitis. | Lexile: 480

Freckle Juice *by Judy Blume*
Andrew wants freckles so badly that he buys Sharon's freckle recipe for fifty cents. | Lexile: 370

The Stories Julian Tells *by Ann Cameron*
Relates episodes in seven-year-old Julian's life which include getting into trouble with his younger brother Huey, planting a garden, what he did to try to grow taller, losing a tooth, and finding a new friend. | Lexile: 520

James and the Giant Peach *by Roald Dahl*
Wonderful adventures abound after James escapes from his fearful aunts by rolling away inside a giant peach. | Lexile: 870

Because of Winn-Dixie *by Kate DiCamillo*
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. | Lexile: 610

The Hundred Dresses *by Eleanor Estes*
In winning a medal she is no longer there to receive, a tight-lipped little Polish girl teaches her classmates a lesson. | Lexile: 870

My Father's Dragon *by Ruth Stiles Gannett*
A young boy determines to rescue a poor baby dragon who is being used by a group of lazy wild animals to ferry them across the river on Wild Island. | Lexile: 990

Misty of Chincoteague *by Marguerite Henry*
Paul and his sister Maureen's determination to own a pony from the herd on Chincoteague Island, Virginia, is greatly increased when the Phantom and her colt are among the ponies rounded up for the yearly auction. | Lexile: 750

The Story of Ferdinand *by Munro Leaf*
Ferdinand likes to sit quietly and smell the flowers, but one day he gets stung by a bee and his snorting and stomping convince everyone that he is the fiercest of bulls. | Lexile: 710

The Tales of Uncle Remus
as told by Julius Lester
A retelling of the African American tales about the adventures and misadventures of Brer Rabbit and his friends and enemies. | Lexile: 760

Pippi Longstocking *by Astrid Lindgren*
Escapades of a lucky little girl who lives with a horse and a monkey — but without any parents — at the edge of a Swedish village. | Lexile: 870

Sarah, Plain and Tall
by Patricia MacLachlan
When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay. | Lexile: 560

Archer's Quest *by Linda Sue Park*
Twelve-year-old Kevin Kim helps Chu-mong, a legendary king of ancient Korea, return to his own time. | Lexile: 690

Summer Reading

Favorites & Classics

For Grades 3-4

Little Red Riding Hood *by Jerry Pinkney*
A sweet little girl meets a hungry wolf in the forest while on her way to visit her grandmother. | Lexile: 840

Pink and Say *by Patricia Polacco*
Say Curtis describes his meeting with Pinkus Aylee, a black soldier, during the Civil War, and their capture by Southern troops. Based on a true story about the author's great-great-grandfather. | Lexile: 590

Tar Beach *by Faith Ringgold*
A young girl dreams of flying above her Harlem home, claiming all she sees for herself and her family. Based on the author's quilt painting of the same name. | Lexile: 790

Grandfather's Journey *by Allen Say*
A Japanese American man recounts his grandfather's journey to America which he also undertakes later, and the feelings of being torn by a love for two different countries. | Lexile: 560

Knights of the Kitchen Table
by Jon Scieszka
Joe receives a magic book for his birthday present from his uncle. Joe, Fred, and Sam are transported to a time when evil knights, fire-breathing dragons, and vile-smelling giants roamed the land. | Lexile: 630

Where the Sidewalk Ends
by Shel Silverstein
A boy who turns into a TV set and a girl who eats a whale are only two of the characters in this collection of humorous poetry illustrated with the author's own drawings.

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters
by John Steptoe
Mufaro's two beautiful daughters, one bad-tempered, one kind and sweet, go before the king, who is choosing a wife. | Lexile: 720

All-of-a-Kind Family *by Sydney Taylor*
The adventures of five sisters growing up in a Jewish family in New York in the early twentieth century. | Lexile: 750

Charlotte's Web *by E. B. White*
Wilbur, the pig, is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be the farmer's Christmas dinner until his spider friend, Charlotte, decides to help him. | Lexile: 680

The Velveteen Rabbit *by Margery Williams*
By the time the Velveteen Rabbit is dirty, worn out, and about to be burned, he has almost given up hope of ever finding the magic called Real. | Lexile: 820

Dragonwings *by Lawrence Yep*
In the early twentieth century a young Chinese boy joins his father in San Francisco and helps him realize his dream of making a flying machine. | Lexile: 870

Lon Po Po *by Ed Young*
Three sisters staying home alone are endangered by a hungry wolf who is disguised as their grandmother. | Lexile: 670

Rumpelstiltskin *by Paul O. Zelinsky*
A strange little man helps the miller's daughter spin straw into gold for the king on the condition that she will give him her first-born child. | Lexile: 740

SERIES

Ramona series *by Beverly Cleary*
Amber Brown series *by Paula Danziger*
Bink & Gollie series *by Kate DiCamillo*
Mercy Watson series *by Kate DiCamillo*
Sassy series *by Sharon Draper*
Nikki and Deja series *by Karen English*
Babymouse series *by Jennifer L. Holm*
Bunnicula series *by James Howe*
Frog and Toad series *by Arnold Lobel*
Gooney Bird series *by Lois Lowry*
Lulu series *by Hilary McKay*
Magic Treehouse series *by Mary Pope Osborne*
Junie B. Jones series *by Barbara Park*
Clementine series *by Sara Pennypacker*
Calvin Coconut series *by Graham Salisbury*
The Time Warp Trio series *by Jon Scieszka*
EllRay Jakes series *by Sally Warner*
Commander Toad series *by Jane Yolen*