



SUMMER READING LIST*

Get in the Game: READ! ~ Grades 5-6

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

FICTION

The Green Bicycle by Haifaa Al Mansour

Since girls do not ride bikes in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, eleven year old Wadjda has to scheme to get her own. | Lexile: 790 | [ALA](#)

Soar by Joan Bauer

Moving to Hillcrest, Ohio, when his adoptive father accepts a temporary job, twelve-year-old Jeremiah, a heart transplant recipient, has sixty days to find a baseball team to coach. | Lexile: 510

Tangerine by Edward Bloor

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight. | Lexile: 680 | [ALA](#), [ILA](#)

Zombie Baseball Beatdown by Paolo Bacigalupi

While practicing for their next baseball game, thirteen-year-old friends Rabi, Miguel, and Joe discover that the nefarious activities of the Delbe, Iowa, meatpacking plant have caused cows to turn into zombies. | Lexile: 650 |

The Warriors by Joseph Bruchac

Jake has left the reservation for Welton Academy and entered a different world. Everyone there loves lacrosse, but no one understands it the way Jake does, as an Iroquois. And no one understands Jake either. | Lexile: 810 | [Nutmeg 2007](#)

The Girl Who Threw Butterflies by Mick Cochrane

Eighth-grader Molly's ability to throw a knuckleball earns her a spot on the baseball team, which not only helps her feel connected to her recently deceased father, who loved baseball, but helps in other aspects of her life, as well. | Lexile: 750

Maximilian & the Mystery of the Guardian Angel by Xavier Garza

Eleven-year-old Margarito, a big fan of the form of wrestling known as lucha libre, begins to suspect that he has a close connection with his favorite luchador, El Angel de La Guardia, the Guardian Angel. | Lexile: 820 | [ALA](#)

The Million Dollar Shot by Dan Gutman

Eleven-year-old Eddie gets a chance to win a million dollars by sinking a foul shot at the National Basketball Association finals. | Lexile: 680 | [Nutmeg 2000 Winner](#)

The Underdogs by Mike Lupica

Small but fast twelve-year-old Will Tyler, an avid football player in the down-and-out town of Forbes, Pennsylvania, takes matters into his own hands to try and finance the city's football team, giving the whole community hope in the process. | Lexile: 840

After All, You're Callie Boone by Winnie Mack

Runaway ferrets, former BFF drama-trauma, and one gigantic (and very, very public) belly flop. No doubt about it, Callie Boone's summer is crummy. The only things keeping her afloat are dive practice with her dad and a top-secret Olympic dream. Then a boy named Hoot—who is not her boyfriend!—moves in next door and turns her world upside down and right-side up. | Lexile: 800

King of the Mound by Wes Tooke

Twelve-year-old Nick loves baseball so after a year in the hospital fighting polio and with a brace on one leg, Nick takes a job with the team for which his father is catcher and gets to see the great pitcher, Satchel Paige, play during the 1935 season. | Lexile: 900 | [Nutmeg 2015](#)

Navigating Early by Clare Vanderpool

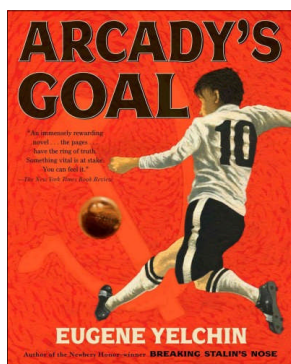
Odyssey-like adventure of two boys' incredible quest on the Appalachian Trail where they deal with pirates, buried secrets, and extraordinary encounters. | Lexile: 790 | [ALA](#), [NCTE](#)

Bat 6 by Virginia Euwer Wolff

In small town, post-World War Oregon, twenty-one sixth-grade girls recount the story of an annual softball game, during which one girl's bigotry comes to the surface. | Lexile: 930 | [ALA](#)

Arcady's Goal by Eugene Yelchin

When twelve-year-old Arcady is sent to a children's home after his parents are declared enemies of the state in Soviet Russia, soccer becomes a way to secure extra rations, respect, and protection but it may also be his way out if he can believe in and love another person — and himself. | Lexile: 630 | [ILA](#)

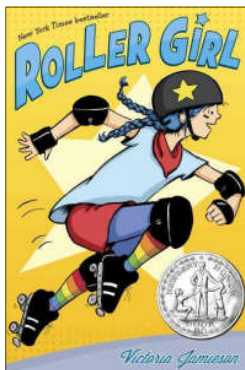


SUMMER READING LIST*

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Roller Girl by Victoria Jamieson

A graphic novel adventure about a girl who discovers roller derby right as she and her best friend are growing apart. | Lexile: 440 | [ALA](#)



POETRY

A Moose Boosh: A Few Choice Words About Food by Eric-Shabazz Larkin

Presents a collection of children's poems about growing, making, eating, and sharing food. | [ALA](#)

NONFICTION

What the World Eats by Faith D'Aluisio

A photographic collection exploring what the world eats featuring portraits of twenty-five families from twenty-one countries surrounded by a week's worth of food. (Publisher) | Lexile: 1150 [ALA](#), [NCSS](#)

We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball by Kadir Nelson

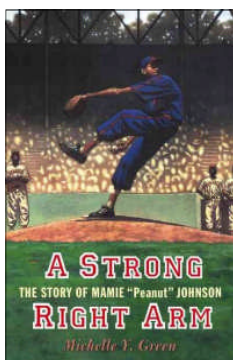
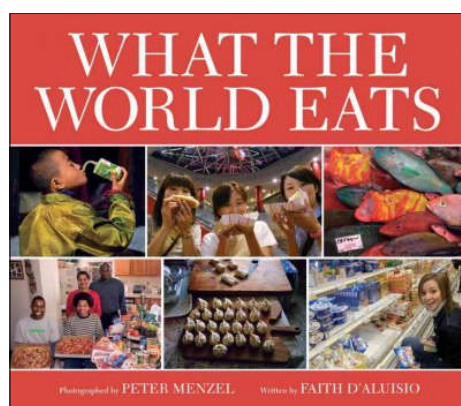
Using an "Everyman" player as his narrator, Kadir Nelson tells the story of Negro League baseball from its beginnings in the 1920s through the decline after Jackie Robinson crossed over to the majors in 1947. Illustrations from oil paintings by artist Kadir Nelson. | Lexile: 900 | [ALA](#)

¡Olé! Flamenco by George Ancona

Photo-essay about Flamenco, a southern Spanish art form that incorporates song, dance, and music, tracing its cultural history and focusing on a contemporary young girl and her brother as they learn the traditional style of movement and instrument playing. | Lexile: 920 | [ALA](#)

Pedal It!: How Bicycles are Changing the World by Michelle Mulder

Presents information about bicycles, including their history, their construction, how they are used for work and recreation, and how they are used to make a difference in the lives of people. | Lexile: 1060



BIOGRAPHY

Women Daredevils: Thrills, Chills, and Frills by Julie Cummins

The stories of fourteen women during the period from 1880 to 1929 who performed feats of daring from being shot out of a cannon to high-diving on horseback. (CIP) | Lexile: 1140 | [NCSS](#)

Women Explorers: Perils, Pistols, and Petticoats by Julie Cummins

Introduces inspiring women whose passions for exploration made them push the boundaries, including Nellie Cashman, Annie Smith Peck, and Delia Julia Denning Akeley. | Lexile: 1150

Ali: An American Champion by Barry Denenberg

Puts the famous boxer into historical context through the use of newspaper articles, interviews, opinion pieces, and photographs. | Lexile: 1030 | [NCSS](#)

Queen of the Track: Alice Coachman, Olympic High-Jump

Champion by Heather Lang

Tells the story of Alice Coachman, an athlete from rural Georgia who made history as the first African-American woman to win an Olympic gold medal in 1948. | Lexile: 790 | [ALA](#)

A Strong Right Arm: The Story of Mamie "Peanut" Johnson by Michelle Y. Green

Presents a biography of Mamie Johnson, one of three women to play in the professional Negro League, discussing the challenges she faced as a black woman to make her way into professional baseball. | Lexile: 860 | [NCSS](#)

The Closer : Young Readers Edition by Mariano Rivera

A middle-grade adaptation of the New York Yankees world champion's memoir recounts how he knew nothing about baseball in his early childhood, his rapid rise as a pitcher, and his experiences with Yankees teammates.

*Many listed books were selected as exemplary books 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 (USBYP). Others awards as noted.



SUMMER READING

Favorites & Classics

For Grades 5-6

Return to Sender by *Julia Alvarez*

After his family hires migrant Mexican workers to help save their Vermont farm from foreclosure, eleven-year-old Tyler befriends the oldest daughter, but when he discovers they may not be in the country legally, he realizes that real friendship knows no borders. | Lexile: 890

The Incredible Journey by *Sheila Burnford*

A Siamese cat, an old bull terrier, and a young Labrador retriever travel together 250 miles through the Canadian wilderness to find their family. | Lexile: 1320

Lowriders in Space by *Cathy Camper*

Lupe, Flapjack, and Elirio customize their car into a low rider for the Universal Car Competition to win the cash prize that will enable them to buy their own garage. | Lexile: 430

Extra Credit by *Andrew Clements*

As letters flow back and forth — between the prairies of Illinois and the mountains of Afghanistan, across cultural and religious divides — sixth-grader Abby, ten-year-old Amira, and eleven-year-old Sadeed begin to speak and listen to each other. | Lexile: 830

The Watsons Go To Birmingham - 1963 by *Christopher Paul Curtis*

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963. | Lexile: 1000

The Search for WondLa by *Tony DiTerlizzi*

Living in isolation with a robot on what appears to be an alien world populated with bizarre life forms, a twelve-year-old human girl called Eva Nine sets out on a journey to find others like her. Features "augmented reality" pages, in which readers with a webcam can access additional information about Eva Nine's world. | Lexile: 760

The City of Ember by *Jeanne DuPrau*

In the year 241, 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. | Lexile: 680

The Birchbark House by *Louise Erdrich*

Omakayas, a seven-year-old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847. | Lexile: 970

The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm by *Nancy Farmer*

In 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine, while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them. | Lexile: 660

Harriet the Spy by *Louise Fitzhugh*

Eleven-year-old Harriet, who is a spy and plans to be an author, keeps a secret notebook filled with thoughts and notes on her schoolmates and people she observes on her afterschool spy route, but when some of her classmates read the notebook, they seek revenge. | Lexile: 760

Bandit's Moon by *Sid Fleischman*

Twelve-year-old Annyrose relates her adventures with Joaquín Murieta and his band of outlaws in the California gold-mining region during the mid-1800s. | Lexile: 690

Coraline by *Neil Gaiman*

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. | Lexile: 740

No More Dead Dogs by *Gordon Korman*

Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life as well. | Lexile: 610

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by *C. S. Lewis*

Four English schoolchildren find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter. | Lexile: 940



SUMMER READING

Favorites & Classics

For Grades 5-6

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis. | Lexile: 670

Anne of Green Gables by L. M.

Montgomery

Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her. | Lexile: 850

The Borrowers by Mary Norton

Miniature people who live in an old country house by borrowing things from the humans are forced to emigrate from their home under the clock. | Lexile: 780

A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park

Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself. | Lexile: 920

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm. | Lexile: 810

Ninth Ward by Jewell Parker Rhodes

In New Orleans' Ninth Ward, twelve-year-old Lanesha, who can see spirits, and her adopted grandmother have no choice but to stay and weather the storm as Hurricane Katrina bears down upon them. | Lexile: 470

Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression. | Lexile: 750

Fuzzy Mud by Louis Sachar

Two middle-grade kids take a shortcut home from school and discover what looks like fuzzy mud but is actually a substance with the potential to wreak havoc on the entire world. | Lexile: 700

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia

In the summer of 1968, after travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp. | Lexile: 750

SERIES

The Chronicles of Prydain by Lloyd Alexander

Crispin trilogy by Avi

Poppy series by Avi

John Bellairs Mysteries by John Bellairs

The Penderwicks series by Jeanne Birdsall

The Dark is Rising series by Susan Cooper

The Unicorn Chronicles by Bruce Coville

The Moffats series by Eleanor Estes

Joey Pigza series by Jack Gantos

Shadow Children by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Redwall series by Brian Jacques

Diary of a Wimpy Kid series by Jeff Kinney

Regarding the.... series by Kate Klise

Dog Friday trilogy by Hilary McKay

The Kane Chronicles by Rick Riordan

Harry Potter series by J. K. Rowling

Septimus Heap series by Angie Sage

Enola Holmes Mysteries by Nancy Springer

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart

Sammy Keyes series by Wendelin Van Draanen

Adam Canfield series by Michael Wintrip

Enchanted Forest Chronicles by Patricia Wrede

Dear America series by various authors
