Our ELA Goal at Rocky Hill Public Schools - No More Summer Reading Loss!

Did you know, that for every 5-6 weeks a child does not read regularly, a whole reading level can be lost? That means a child can decrease by 2 reading levels over the course of a summer...don’t let this happen to your child!

Did you also know that there is a strong correlation between the time a student spends reading independently outside of school and standardized test scores?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentile on standardized test scores</th>
<th>Minutes of reading per day</th>
<th>Words read per year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>4,733,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>2,357,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1,697,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1,156,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>722,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>601,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>421,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>261,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>134,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>51,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(From Striving to Thriving © 2017 by Stephanie Harvey and Anne Ward, Scholastic, Inc.)
What can you do to motivate your child to read?

Here are some activities to encourage...
★ Visiting the library
★ Setting up a routine for reading (like reading before bed)
★ Forming a book club with a friend or parent
★ Reading aloud to a sibling or pet
★ Finding a book series to read
★ Putting your TV settings on closed captioning
★ Participating in the Governor’s Summer Reading challenge
★ Reading digital books (Tumblebooks & Pebblego) that can be accessed through the school websites
★ Reading the same books children are reading and talking about them

Let's help our children find books they love and READ!!!!

What about writing? Writing volume matters too!

Students can...
★ Keep a daily journal to reflect on events and thoughts
★ Keep a writing notebook to write stories, poems, research
★ Write a letter to an author
★ Write reviews for books, restaurants, toys, etc.
★ Write about reading
A Message to Parents and Students

The State of Connecticut sponsors the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge because reading is the most important skill. Research shows that reading is crucial to a child's brain development and intellectual stimulation. And that's just the beginning:

**Reading is a gateway skill.** It opens the door to all other learning.

**Reading is the processing of information.** It requires the student to develop a capacity for conceptual thinking — an ability to think about the nature and significance of things.

**Reading builds language skills.** By becoming more familiar with language through reading, students build a rich vocabulary and an ability to express themselves clearly and creatively.

**Reading builds better thinking strategies.** Analyzing words, sentences, themes and meaning; concentrating, conceptualizing and visualizing — all these elements of reading are strategies to expand a student's ability to think.

**Reading is active and disciplined.** Students learn to choose what they read and when they read, and they learn to discipline themselves to concentrate on the written word.
What YOU Can Do to Encourage Reading

Use the library.
Make sure everyone in your family has a library card. Help children learn how to use the library's resources: card catalogs, computer systems, best-seller sections, etc. Visit regularly — as often as you go to the grocery store.

Read every day.
Make it a habit to set aside time each day for everyone to read—books, magazines, newspapers, letters. You can even begin by reading television listings, then discussing what you will watch together and why.

Talk about what you’re reading.
Children need to see adults reading frequently. They also need to know the benefits of reading. Talk to your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, even young neighbors about what you’re reading. Tell them how much you have enjoyed it, what you have learned, and how you have been inspired.

Ask about summer reading materials.
Schools and libraries often provide summer reading lists that highlight excellent books which are readily available, popular and consistent with grade-level reading skills. Call your school or library for information.

Make reading materials part of your home.
Buy books at bookstores and tag sales. Borrow books from the library and from friends. Subscribe to newspapers and magazines. Then read, read, read!

To learn more about the Summer Reading Challenge, ask your teacher, principal, or school or public librarian, or contact the Connecticut State Department of Education: 860-713-6751 or www.ct.gov/sde.
**PICTURE BOOKS**

**Life on Mars** by Jon Agee  
A young astronaut is trying to find life on Mars, but he's made a very big oversight. | ALA | Lexile: 470

**Mae Among the Stars** by Roda Ahmed  
When young Mae Jemison is asked by her teacher what she wants to be when she grows up, African American Mae tells her mostly white classmates that she wants to be an astronaut, a dream that her parents wholeheartedly support. | NSTA | Lexile: 580

**The Moon Over Star** by Dianna Hutts Aston  
On her family's farm in the town of Star, eight-year-old Mae eagerly follows the progress of the 1969 Apollo 11 flight and moon landing and dreams that she might one day be an astronaut, too. | ALA

**Tiny Little Rocket** by Richard Collingridge  
A little rocket takes its yearly trip through outer space. | Lexile: 620

**How to Bicycle to the Moon to Plant Sunflowers** by Mordicai Gerstein  
Too busy with school, soccer, and other activities, a young boy who wants to cheer up the sad, lonely moon presents the reader with a step-by-step plan for becoming the first human to bicycle to the moon. | Lexile: 690

**Kitten's First Full Moon** by Kevin Henkes  
When Kitten mistakes the full moon for a bowl of milk, she ends up tired, wet, and hungry trying to reach it. | ALA | Lexile: 450

**A Big Mooncake for Little Star** by Grace Lin  
Reimagines the cycles of the moon as a mother bakes a Big Moon Cookie and, despite Mama's request to wait, Little Star begins nibbling at it every night. | ALA

**The Moon is Going to Addy's House** by Ida Pearle  
The moon follows Addy all over the city before finally settling in at her house for bedtime. | ALA | Lexile: 260

**Best Friends in the Whole Universe** by Antoinette Portis  
Yelfred and Omek of planet Boborp are best friends, even when they have disagreements. | ALA

**Out There** by Tom Sullivan  
Two children looking up at the night sky wonder what kind of creatures and planets exist in other parts of the universe.

**Many Moons** by James Thurber  
Though many try, only the court jester is able to fulfill Princess Lenore's one wish. | ALA | Lexile: 700

**EARLY READERS**

**Fly Guy and the Alienzz** by Tedd Arnold  
Buzz is filming a movie about aliens from Outer Space, who capture Fly Guy and Buzz Boy—and our two heroes must outsmart the aliens, with some help from Dragon Dude and Fly Girl. | Lexile: 530

**Go, Otto, Go!** by David Milgrim  
Otto the robot builds a spaceship to take him home. | ALA | Lexile: 80

**GRAPHIC NOVELS**

**CatStronauts #1: Mission Moon** by Drew Brockington  
Alerted to a global energy crisis, the President consults with the World's Best Scientist, who suggests sending a special group of astronauts to turn the Moon into a solar power plant. | Lexile: 410

**The Glorkian Warrior Delivers a Pizza** by James Kochalka  
No mission is too small for an inept intergalactic hero and his talking backpack. |ILA | Lexile: 430
**NONFICTION**

**The Stuff of Stars** by Marion Dane Bauer
Describes the void that existed before the Big Bang generated life throughout the galaxy, making it possible for wondrous human children to evolve. | ALA

**One Giant Leap** by Robert Burleigh
Commemorating the 40th anniversary of man's first walk on the moon, this book is a tribute that transports readers to the stars, where they will experience the moon landing just as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin did. | NCTE, NSTA | Lexile: 470

**A Hundred Billion Trillion Stars** by Seth Fishman
A look at the numbers that surround us, big and small, on earth and in outer space. | NCTM

**Earthrise: Apollo 8 and the Photo That Changed the World** by James Gladstone
Describes the story behind the famous "Earthrise" photograph taken from the Apollo 8 mission in 1968, detailing how the photograph had a galvanizing effect on a world of unrest. | Lexile: 590

**ABCs From Space** by Adam Voiland
An alphabet book of photographs of Earth taken from outer space that look like each letter. | NSTA | Lexile: NP

**Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13** by Helaine Becker
An introduction to the boundary-breaking mathematician, Katherine Johnson, reveals how her love of mathematics started at a young age led her to a job at NASA where she calculated the course of moon landings and helped save the Apollo 13 mission. | ALA, NCTM, NSTA | Lexile: 710

**My Journey to the Stars** by Scott Kelly
A picture book memoir about NASA astronaut Scott Kelly takes readers on a journey through his childhood as an average student to his record-breaking year among the stars. | NSTA | Lexile: 680

**Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Universe** by Stephanie Roth Sisson
A biography of Carl Sagan focusing on his childhood and culminating in the Voyager mission and the Golden Record. | ALA, NCTE, NSTA, Nutmeg 2017 | Lexile: 760

**Caroline's Comets: A True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race** by Margot Lee Shetterly
A picture book adaptation of the story of four mathematicians who were pivotal to the success of America's space program. It describes how they overcame the limitations imposed on black women in the segregated 1960s. | ALA, NCSS, NSTA | Lexile: 980

**When Sparks Fly: The True Story of Robert Goddard, the Father of US Rocketry** by Kristen Fulton
Presents the life and accomplishments of the American scientist, describing his quest to discover the basic principles of rocketry, his successful invention of the first rockets in the 1920s, and his influence on the American space program. | NSTA | Lexile: 690

*Many of the 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 Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), 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.*
READ NUTMEG AWARD NOMINEES!

Find the Elementary Nutmeg list at: http://nutmegaward.org

FAVORITES & CLASSICS

The Wall in the Middle of the Book* by Jon Agee
A knight who feels secure on his side of the wall that divides his book discovers that his side is not as safe as he thought, and the other side is not as threatening. | ALA, NCSS | Lexile: 390

Ten, Nine, Eight by Molly Bang
Numbers from ten to one are part of this lullaby which observes the room of a little girl going to bed. | ALA | Lexile: 450

The Skunk* by Mac Barnett
A man is followed by a skunk all day until the tables turn. | ALA | Lexile: 390

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs by Judi Barrett
Life is delicious in the town of Chewandswallow where it rains soup and juice, snows mashed potatoes, and blows storms of hamburgers — until the weather takes a turn for the worse. | Lexile: 730

Hello Lighthouse* by Sophie Blackall
Explores the life of one lighthouse as it beams its message out to sea through shifting seasons, changeable weather, and the tenure of its final keeper. | ALA | Lexile: 510

Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown
Goodnight to each of the objects in the great green room: goodnight chairs, goodnight comb, goodnight air. | Lexile: 360

Mr. Tiger Goes Wild* by Peter Brown
Bored with city life and the proper behavior it requires, Mr. Tiger has a wild idea that leads him to discover his true nature. | ALA | Lexile: 170

Children see a variety of animals, each one a different color, and a teacher looking at them. | Lexile: 200

Gravity* by Jason Chin
Introduces the scientific principles of gravity using researched, simple explanations of its essential role in the universe. | Lexile: 300

Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin
When Farmer Brown's cows find a typewriter in the barn they start making demands, and go on strike when the farmer refuses to give them what they want. | ALA | Lexile: 160

Maria Had a Little Llama / Maria Tenia una Llamita by Angela Dominguez
In this bilingual version of the classic rhyme, set in Peru, Maria takes her llama to school one day. | ALA | Lexile: 380

Abuela by Arthur Dorros
While riding on a bus with her grandmother, a little girl imagines that they are carried up into the sky and fly over the sights of New York City. | ALA | Lexile: 510

Millions of Cats by Wanda Gág
How can an old man and his wife select one cat from a choice of millions and trillions? | Lexile: 730

Honey I Love: and Other Love Poems by Eloise Greenfield

All Different Now* by Angela Johnson
In 1865, members of a family start their day as slaves, working in a Texas cotton field, and end it celebrating their freedom on what came to be known as Juneteenth. | NCSS | Lexile: 830

Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson
Harold goes for an adventurous walk in the moonlight with his purple crayon. | Lexile: 490

Drawn Together* by Minh Le
A boy and his grandfather cross a language and cultural barrier using their shared love of art, storytelling, and fantasy. | ALA, NCTE

April 2019

*New to the list in 2019
George and Martha by James Marshall  
Relates several episodes in the friendship of two hippopotamuses. | ALA | Lexile: 500

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin  
An alphabet rhyme/chant that relates what happens when the whole alphabet tries to climb a coconut tree. | ALA | Lexile: 530

Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey  
Mr. and Mrs. Mallard proudly return to their home in the Boston Public Garden with their eight offspring. | ALA | Lexile: 710

A Different Pond* by Bao Phi  
Bao Phi and his father wake up early in the morning to fish for food on the shores of a small pond in Minneapolis and Bao's father tells him about a different pond in their homeland of Vietnam. | ALA, NCSS | Lexile: 620

The Tortoise & the Hare* by Jerry Pinkney  
Illustrations and minimal text relate the familiar fable of the race between a slow tortoise and a quick but foolish hare. | ALA, ILA

Good Night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann  
An unobservant zookeeper is followed home by all the animals he thinks he has left behind in the zoo. | Lexile: 580

School's First Day of School* by Adam Rex  
Everyone's a little nervous on the first day of school, including the school building. | ALA | Lexile: 580

Henry and Mudge: The First Book of Their Adventures by Cynthia Rylant  
Henry, feeling lonely on a street without any other children, finds companionship and love in a big dog named Mudge. | Lexile: 460

After the Fall* by Dan Santat  
After falling off the wall, Humpty Dumpty is very afraid of climbing up again, but is determined not to let fear stop him from being close to the birds. | ALA | Lexile: 550

The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka  
The wolf gives his own outlandish version of what really happened when he tangled with the three little pigs. | ALA | Lexile: 510

Baby Monkey, Private Eye* by Brian Selznick  
Baby Monkey, private eye, will investigate stolen jewels, missing pizzas, and other mysteries—if he can manage to figure out how to put his pants on. | ALA, NCTE | Lexile: 210

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina  
A band of mischievous monkeys steals every one of a peddler's caps while he takes a nap under a tree. | Lexile: 480

The Princess and the Warrior* by Duncan Tonatiuh  
When the warrior Popoca returns to find his love, the princess Izta, deep asleep and unable to be awoken, he stays by her side just as he promised. | ALA | Lexile: 770

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! by Mo Willems  
When a bus driver takes a break from his route, a very unlikely volunteer springs up to take his place. | ALA | Lexile: 280

Lillian's Right to Vote* by Jonah Winter & Shane W. Evans  
As an elderly woman, Lillian recalls that her great-great-grandparents were sold as slaves in front of a courthouse where only rich white men were allowed to vote, then the long fight that led to her right—and determination—to cast her ballot since the Voting Rights Act gave every American the right to vote. | ALA, NCSS | Lexile: 1030

FAVORITE AUTHORS

Byron Barton  
Margaret Wise Brown  
Anthony Browne  
Eric Carle  
Donald Crews  
Tomie de Paola  
P. D. Eastman  
Ed Emberley  
Mem Fox  
Ezra Jack Keats  
Jon Klassen  
James Marshall  
Robert McCloskey  
Jon Muth  
Jerry Pinkney  
Peggy Rathmann  
Dr. Seuss  
Maurice Sendak  
David Shannon  
Williams Steig  
David Wiesner  
Mo Willems  
Karma Wilson  
Jacqueline Woodson
A Universe of Stories! • Grades 3-4

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

PICTURE BOOKS

Armstrong: The Adventurous Journey of a Mouse to the Moon by Torben Kuhlmann
A mouse decides to fly to the moon. | Lexile: 730

CHAPTER BOOKS

The Boy Who Climbed into the Moon by David Almond
Helped by a very long ladder, some unusual acquaintances, two rather worried parents, and a great deal of community spirit, a young English boy makes an astonishing discovery when he embarks on a mission to prove that the moon is nothing but a big hole in the sky. | USBBY | Lexile: 470

I Love You, Michael Collins by Lauren Baratz-Logsted
In 1969, as her own family is falling apart, ten-year-old Marnie finds comfort in conducting a one-sided correspondence with the least famous astronaut heading toward the moon on Apollo 11. | NCSS | Lexile: 800

Sputnik’s Guide to Life on Earth by Frank Cottrell Boyce
Separated from his grandfather and placed in a foster home, Prez forges a friendship with an alien who appears as a dog to everyone else and entreats Prez to help compile a list of Earth's redeeming qualities. | Lexile: 530

Martin Bridge: Ready for Takeoff! by Jessica Scott Kerrin
In three short stories, Martin develops a crush on his new bus driver, takes care of his friend’s hamster with tragic results, and participates in a rocket exhibition that threatens a friendship. | ALA | Lexile: 540

Space Taxi by Wendy Mass & Michael Brawer
On "Take Your Kid to Work Day," eight-year-old Archie discovers that his father drives a space taxi that shuttles aliens from one area of the universe to another. | Lexile: 460

Herbert's Wormhole by Peter Nelson
When almost-sixth-grader Alex, a video game fanatic, is forced on a "playdate" with his neighbor Herbert, an inventor, the two travel to the twenty-second century and face off against aliens, who are not as beneficent as most people think. | Nutmeg 2012 | Lexile: 780

Planet Earth is Blue by Nicole Panteleakos
On the autism spectrum and nearly nonverbal, twelve-year-old Nova is happy in her new foster home and school, but eagerly anticipates the 1986 Challenger launch, for which her sister, Bridget, promised to return. | Lexile: 740

To the Moon! by Paul A. Reynolds
Twin mice Sydney and Simon compete to create the most interesting project about the Earth's moon for their elementary school, and win the first prize—a chance to meet a real astronaut.

Cody and the Mysteries of the Universe by Tricia Springstubb
When Cody’s best friend Spencer moves to her street, an excited Cody asks for Spencer’s help tackling the mystery of a neighbor who has a skull-and-crossbones sign in his window, while a new school year ushers in “new school jitters” for Spencer, and for Cody, a newly forged bond with a teacher who shares her love for Mozart. | Nutmeg 2019 | Lexile: 460

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Jedi Academy by Jeffrey Brown
When Roan’s application to pilot school is rejected, he finds he has been invited to study under Master Yoda at the Jedi Academy. | ALA | Nutmeg 2016 | Lexile: 650

Leo Geo and the Cosmic Crisis by Jon Chad
Armed with his knowledge of science, Leo Geo becomes an astronaut and heads into space, where he encounters pirates and tries to stop a comet that is headed toward his brother’s science laboratory on Earth.
**Zita the Spacegirl: Far From Home** by Ben Hatke
Zita rushes to the rescue after her best friend is abducted by an alien doomsday cult, and, before long, finds herself hailed as an intergalactic hero. | **ALA, Nutmeg 2015** | Lexile: 310

**Hilo: The Boy Who Crashed to Earth** by Judd Winick
When a mysterious boy falls from the sky, friends D.J. and Gina must discover the secrets of his identity and help him save the world. | **Nutmeg 2017** | Lexile: 460

**The Day the Universe Exploded My Head** by Allan Wolf
With poetry that is equal parts accurate and entertaining, accompanied by lively, whimsical and energetic illustrations, amateur stargazers and budding astrophysicists will be enthralled by the many wonders of the universe as presented in this picture book that includes notes about the poems, a glossary and a list of resources.

**Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11** by Brian Floca
Here is the story of the Apollo 11 mission to the Moon -- a story of leaving and returning during the summer of 1969, and a story of home, seen whole, from far away by steady astronauts in their great machines. | **ALA, NCTE** | Lexile: 830

**Impact!: Asteroids and the Science of Saving the World** by Elizabeth Rusch
Asteroids come in all shapes and sizes--and hit our planet in them, too. But what happens if a catastrophically large one approaches earth? By looking on the ground at historical asteroid craters and present-day falls, and up into space for the big ones yet to come, a wide variety of scientists are trying to figure out how to track asteroids--and how to avoid devastating impacts in the future. | **ALA, NCTE** | Lexile: 1070

**Exoplanets** by Seymour Simon
Introduces exoplanets, examining the planets outside of our solar system, discussing what makes them habitable, and exploring the efforts to discover new life. | **NSTA**

---

**Look Up!: Henrietta Leavitt, Pioneering Woman Astronomer** by Robert Burleigh
An illustrated portrait of astronomer Henrietta Swan Leavitt traces the years she spent measuring stars from her position at the Harvard College Observatory and her important discoveries that enabled the scientific community to gain a fuller understanding of the universe's vast size. | **NCSS** | Lexile: 600

**Mission to Space** by John B. Herrington
Chickasaw astronaut, John Herrington, shares his flight on the space shuttle Endeavour and his thirteen-day mission to the international Space Station. | **ALA**

**Fascinating: The Life of Leonard Nimoy** by Richard Michelson
An uplifting picture book portrait of the late actor best known as Spock from Star Trek describes his upbringing as the child of immigrant parents, his early dreams of becoming an entertainer and the ways his famous character reflected his experiences of being different. | **NCSS** | Lexile: 920

**Starry Messenger: A Book Depicting the Life of a Famous Scientist, Mathematician, Astronomer, Philosopher, Physicist, Galileo Galilei** by Peter Sis
Describes the life and work of the courageous man who changed the way people saw the galaxy, by offering objective evidence that the earth was not the fixed center of the universe. | **ALA, NCTE** | Lexile: 830

**A Computer Called Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Helped Put America on the Moon** by Suzanne Slade
Shares the story of the pioneering African American mathematician, Katherine Johnson, who helped calculate America's first manned flight into space, its first manned orbit of Earth, and the world's first trip to the moon.

**To the Stars!: The First American Woman to Walk in Space** by Carmella Van Vleet
Shares the story of renowned astronaut and distinguished scientist Kathryn Sullivan, describing how she defied the conventions of her childhood to pursue interests previously limited to boys and how she became the first woman to walk in space. | **NCSS** | Lexile: 680

---

*Many of the 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 Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), 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**

New Favorites & Classics

*For Grades 3-4*

**READ NUTMEG AWARD NOMINEES!**

Find the Elementary (Grade 3) & Intermediate (Grade 4) Nutmeg lists at: [http://nutmegaward.org](http://nutmegaward.org)

---

**FAVORITES & CLASSICS**

**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.  | *ALA* | 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.  | *ALA* | 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.  | *ALA* | Lexile: 330

**On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein** by Jennifer Berne

Follows the life of the famous physician, from his early ideas to his groundbreaking theories.  | *ALA* | Lexile: 680

**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.  | *ALA* | Lexile: 670

**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.  | *ALA* | Lexile: 970

**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: 760

**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.  | *ALA* | Lexile: 780

**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.  | *ALA* | Lexile: 660

**Firefly Hollow** by Alison McGhee

Because their dreams of daring adventures go against the cautious teachings of their nations, Firefly and Cricket set out on their own, find a home with kindly Vole, and together help a grieving "miniature giant" named Peter.  | Lexile: 690

**Juana & Lucas** by Juana Medina

A spunky young girl from Colombia loves playing with her canine best friend and resists boring school activities, especially learning English, until her family tells her that a special trip is planned to an English-speaking place.  | *ALA, Nutmeg 2019* | Lexile: 870

**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.  | *ALA, Nutmeg 2010* | Lexile: 690

**Pax** by Sara Pennypacker

After being forced to give up his pet fox Pax, a young boy named Peter decides to leave home and get his best friend back.  | *ALA* | Lexile: 760

---

*New to the list in 2019*

---

April 2019

---

*CT State Library*

Preserving the Past, Informing the Future
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: 600

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. | ALA | Lexile: 790

The Noisy Paint Box* by Barb Rosenstock
An exuberantly illustrated introduction to the early life of abstract painter Vasya [Wassily] Kadinsky describes how his creative life was profoundly shaped by a neurological condition called "synesthesia," which caused him to experienced colors as sounds, and sounds as colors. | ALA, NCTE, NCSS | Lexile: 630

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: 650

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. | ALA | Lexile: 790

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

Harriet the Invincible* by Ursula Vernon
Never a conventional princess, Harriet becomes an adventurer after learning she is cursed to fall into a deep sleep on her twelfth birthday, but after two years of slaying ogres, cliff-diving, and more with her riding quail, Mumfrey, things go awry at home and she must seek a prince to set things right. | ALA, Nutmeg 2017 | Lexile: 810

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: 620

SERIES

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

Summer Reading
New Favorites & Classics
For Grades 3-4
**Summer Reading List**

*A Universe of Stories! - Grades 5-6*

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

---

** FICTION **

*Cosmic* by Frank Cottrell Boyce
Super-sized twelve-year-old Liam makes a giant leap for boy-kind by competing with a group of adults for the chance to go into space. | Lexile: 670

*Shooting the Moon* by Frances O’Roark Dowell
When her brother is sent to fight in Vietnam, twelve-year-old Jamie begins to reconsider the army world that she has grown up in. | Lexile: 890

*The Jamie Drake Equation* by Christopher Edge
Jamie has a close encounter with an alien who tells him his father, an astronaut on a mission at the International Space Station, is in trouble and needs Jamie’s help. | Lexile: 960

*Last Day on Mars* by Kevin Emerson
While waiting to leave Mars before it burns up just like the Earth before it, Liam and his friend Phoebe discover some facts about time and space and realize that the human race is just one of the races trying to survive in space.

*Full Cicada Moon* by Marilyn Hilton
In 1969 twelve-year-old Mimi and her family move to an all-white town in Vermont, where Mimi’s mixed-race background and interest in “boyish” topics like astronomy make her feel like an outsider. | ALA, NCSS, Nutmeg 2018 | Lexile: 790

*Unidentified Suburban Object* by Mike Jung
Chloe Cho is a Korean American seventh-grader who would like to get in touch with many of the aspects of her heritage, but her parents are unwilling to talk about it—then when a class assignment forces Chloe to confront them directly, they finally tell her the truth about her family, which may just be too much for one girl to handle. | Lexile: 830

*Dragon Pearl* by Yoon Ha Lee
Min, a thirteen-year-old girl with fox-magic, stows away on a battle cruiser and impersonates a cadet in order to solve the mystery of what happened to her older brother in the Thousand World Space Forces. | Lexile: 780

*Love, Ish* by Karen Rivers
Twelve year old Mischa "Ish" Love’s longtime dream has been to someday live on Mars, but when she collapses on the first day of seventh grade, Ish receives a diagnosis which threatens her future plans. | ILA | Lexile: 640

*We’re Not From Here* by Geoff Rodkey
The award-winning author of the Chronicles of Egg series finds the narrator, a Mars colonist, relocating in the aftermath of Earth’s mysterious demise to the planet Choom, where the mosquito-like inhabitants dislike human singing, jokes and emotions so much that they are outlawed. | Lexile: 740

*A Problematic Paradox* by Eliot Sappingfield
Thirteen-year-old Nikola’s world is turned upside down when her father is abducted by aliens and she is transported to a boarding school for geniuses, but things get stranger when she realizes she has certain abilities that put her in danger. | Lexile: 850

*The Truth About Martians* by Melissa Savage
When a flying saucer crash-lands next to Mylo’s Roswell, New Mexico, ranch in 1947, he and his friends Dibs and Gracie set out to find and help the Martians. | Lexile: 650

*The Countdown Conspiracy* by Katie Slivensky
Miranda, one of six elite kids training for the world’s first-ever mission to Mars, begins receiving death threats from hatemongers who do not consider her worthy, until a terror attack on the training base places the team and mission in Miranda’s hands. | Lexile: 700

---

April 2019
GRAPHIC NOVELS

Sanity & Tallulah by Molly Brooks
Sanity and Tallulah live in a space station at the end of the galaxy. When Sanity's illegally created three-headed kitten escapes, the girls have to turn their home upside down to find her in this graphic novel. | Lexile: 530

Rocket to the Moon! by Don Brown
Presents a history of rocket technology, from ancient Chinese rockets, the "bombs bursting in air" during the War of 1812, and Russia's Sputnik program.

One Trick Pony by Nathan Hale
In a future where alien beings consume technology as a few humans try to preserve it, Strata, her brother, and a friend are separated from their caravan and, with a wonderful robotic horse, must fight their way back. | ALA | Lexile: 260

Cleopatra in Space #1: Target Practice by Mike Maihack
When a young Cleopatra finds a mysterious tablet that zaps her to the far, REALLY far future, she learns of an ancient prophecy that says she is destined to save the galaxy from the tyrannical rule of the evil Xaius Octavian. | ALA, ILA | Lexile: 430

Red's Planet by Eddie Pittman
The story of headstrong 10-year-old foster child Red, who stows away on an alien spaceship and is marooned on a deserted planet with a menagerie of misfit aliens. | ILA | Lexile: 350

NONFICTION

Seven Wonders of the Solar System by David A Aguilar
Explores seven extraordinary celestial wonders, from our close neighbor Mars to mysterious Planet 9. | NSTA | Lexile: 1070

American Moonshot (Young Readers' Edition) by Douglas Brinkley
A young readers' edition of the award-winning historian's 50th anniversary account of America's race to the moon shares behind-the-scenes insights into the heroic achievements of the Apollo 11 team and why the mission was so important.

A Black Hole is Not a Hole by Carolyn Cinami DeCristofano
Introduces black holes, describing their physical features, how they were discovered, what causes them, and where they exist in space. | ALA, NCTE | Lexile: 900

When Planet Earth Was New by James Gladstone
Describes the formation of planet Earth, from its beginnings as molten rock and poison gas, to the formation of oceans, to the evolution of life. | NSTA | Lexile: 530

Our Moon: New Discoveries About Earth's Closest Companion by Elaine Scott
Discusses the most up-to-date information known about the moon, including the newest theories on how it formed, the recent discovery of water on its surface, and the possibility of future moon colonies. | NSTA | Lexile: 1280

To Pluto & Beyond: The Amazing Voyage of New Horizons by Elaine Scott
The newest book from science writer, Elaine Scott, introduces young readers to New Horizons, the space ship that NASA built to explore Pluto and the fringes of our solar system.

Welcome to Mars: Making a Home on the Red Planet by Buzz Aldrin
The Apollo 11 astronaut invites curious youngsters to evaluate Mars as a potential planet for human colonization, describing what Mars residents might experience while traveling to and living on the Red Planet.

BIOGRAPHY

Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream by Tanya Lee Stone
Presents the story of the thirteen women connected with NASA's Mercury 13 space mission, who braved prejudice and jealousy to make their mark and open the door for the female pilots and space commanders that would soon follow. | ALA, NCTE, NSTA | Lexile: 980

*Many of the 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 Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), 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.
**Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster** by Jonathan Auxier
In nineteenth-century England, after her father’s disappearance, Nan Sparrow, ten, works as a "climbing boy," aiding chimney sweeps, but when her most treasured possessions end up in a fireplace, she unwittingly creates a golem. | Lexile: 630

**The Girl Who Drank the Moon** by Kelly Barnhill
Luna, whose magical abilities are emerging, was raised in the forest by a witch, a swamp monster, and a dragon, but when a young man from the Protectorate is determined to kill the witch, Luna must use her magic to protect her family. | ALA | Lexile: 640

**The Secret Garden** by Frances Hodgson Burnett
A ten-year-old orphan comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors where she discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden. | Lexile: 970

**The Madman of Piney Woods** by Christopher Paul Curtis
Even though it is now 1901, the people of Buxton, Canada (originally a settlement of runaway slaves) and Chatham, Canada are still haunted by two events of half a century before—the American Civil War, and the Irish potato famine, and the lasting damage those events caused to the survivors. | Lexile: 870

**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. | ALA | 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. | ALA | 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. | ALA | 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

**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. | ALA, Nutmeg 2017 | Lexile: 440

**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

**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. | ALA | Lexile: 700

**Merci Suárez Changes Gears** by Meg Medina
Merci Suárez begins the sixth grade and knows things will change, but she did not count on her grandfather acting strangely, not fitting in at her private school, and dealing with Edna Santos’ jealousy. | ALA | 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

**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 learns to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself. | Lexile: 920
**Summer Reading**

**Favorites & Classics**

*For Grades 5-6*

**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

**Tom's Midnight Garden** by Philippa Pearce
While staying with his aunt and uncle, Tom discovers a beautiful garden that is visible only at night and meets a little girl from the Victorian era with whom he travels back in time. | Lexile: 860

**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. | ALA | 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. | ALA | Lexile: 750

**Amal Unbound** by Aisha Saeed
In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family. | ALA | Lexile: 700

**The Marvels** by Brian Selznick
In 1766, a boy, Billy Marvel, is shipwrecked, rescued, and goes on to found a brilliant family of actors that flourishes in London until 1900—and nearly a century later, Joseph Jervis, runs away from home, seeking refuge with his uncle in London, and is captivated by the Marvel house, with its portraits and ghostly presences. | ALA, NCTE | Lexile: 770

**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. | ALA, NBA | Lexile: 750

**Beyond the Bright Sea** by Lauren Wolk
Twelve-year-old orphan Crow embarks on a journey to discover who her parents were and why they abandoned her as an infant. | ALA | Lexile: 770

**Brown Girl Dreaming** by Jacqueline Woodson
In vivid poems that reflect the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, an award-winning author shares what it was like to grow up in the 1960s and 1970s in both the North and the South. | ALA, NBA, NCTE | Lexile: 990

**Front Desk** by Kelly Yang
After emigrating from China, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel, despite the nasty owner, Mr. Yao, who exploits them, while she works the front desk and tries to cope with fitting in at her school. | ALA | Lexile: 640

**SERIES**

- **The Chronicles of Prydain** by Lloyd Alexander
  - Crispin trilogy by Avi
  - Poppy by Avi
- **John Bellairs Mysteries** by John Bellairs
  - The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall
  - The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper
  - The Unicorn Chronicles by Bruce Coville
  - The Moffats by Eleanor Estes
  - Joey Pigza by Jack Gantos
  - Shadow Children by Margaret Peterson Haddix
  - Redwall by Brian Jacques
  - Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

- **Regarding the...** by Kate Klise
- **Dog Friday** trilogy by Hilary McKay
- **Percy Jackson & the Olympians** by Rick Riordan
- **Harry Potter** by J. K. Rowling
- **Septimus Heap** by Angie Sage
- **Enola Holmes Mysteries** by Nancy Springer
- **The Mysterious Benedict Society** by Trenton Lee Stewart
- **Sammy Keyes** by Wendelin Van Draanen
- **Adam Canfield** by Michael Winrip
- **Enchanted Forest Chronicles** by Patricia Wrede
- **Dear America** by various authors