

SUMMER READING LIST*

Every Hero Has a Story! ~ Grades 3-4

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

PICTURE BOOKS

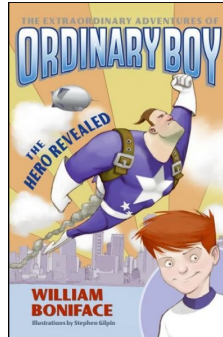
The Little Ships: The Heroic Rescue at Dunkirk in World War II *by Louise Borden*

A young English girl and her father take their sturdy fishing boat and join the scores of other civilian vessels crossing the English Channel in a daring attempt to rescue Allied and British troops trapped by Nazi soldiers at Dunkirk. | Lexile: 690 *ALA*

Heroes of the Surf

by Elisa Lynn Carbone

When the huge steamship on which they are traveling runs aground off the New Jersey coast in 1882, two boys and their families are among the passengers dramatically rescued by members of the U.S. Life Saving Service. Includes notes



The Princess in Black *by Shannon Hale*

Hiding her secret identity as a monster-fighting superhero, Princess Magnolia interrupts her fancy tea with the unsuspecting Duchess Wigtower to stop a big blue monster from endangering her kingdom's goats. | Lexile: 400

Andy Shane, Hero at Last

by Jennifer Richard Jacobson

[*Andy Shane* #6] Andy wants two things very much--to win the contest for the best decorated bicycle in the "Home Sweet Home parade" and to be a hero--but his best friend Dolores stands in the way of at least one goal.

Freddie Ramos Takes Off

by Jacqueline Jules

Freddie finds a mysterious package outside his apartment containing sneakers that allow him to run faster than a train, and inspire him to perform

heroic deeds. | Lexile: 550

CHAPTER BOOKS

The Hero Revealed

by William Boniface

Ordinary Boy, the only resident of Superopolis without a superpower, uncovers and foils a sinister plot to destroy the town. | Lexile: 890

The Hero of Third Grade

by Alice Delacroix

When Randall changes to a new school, he pretends to be an anonymous hero until, when his third grade class plans a fundraiser, he finds that being himself is good enough. | Lexile: 500

Flora & Ulysses: the Illuminated Adventures

by Kate DiCamillo

Rescuing a squirrel after an accident involving a vacuum cleaner, comic-reading cynic Flora Belle Buckman is astonished when the squirrel, Ulysses, demonstrates astonishing powers of strength and flight after being revived. | Lexile: 520 *ALA*

Odd and the Frost Giants *by Neil Gaiman*

An unlucky twelve-year-old Norwegian boy named Odd leads the Norse gods Loki, Thor, and Odin in an attempt to outwit evil Frost Giants who have taken over Asgard. Lexile: 820 *USBBY*

Stink: Solar System Superhero

by Megan McDonald

[*Stink* #5] When Stink discovers that Pluto has been downgraded from a planet to a dwarf planet, he launches a campaign in his classroom to restore its status to that of a full-fledged member of the solar system. | Lexile: 530

High Time for Heroes

by Mary Pope Osborne

[*Magic Tree House* #51] Jack and Annie are magically transported to mid-1800's Thebes where they are saved from a dangerous accident by Florence Nightingale! | Lexile: 560

Calvin Coconut: Hero of Hawaii

by Graham Salisbury

[*Calvin Coconut* #5] When a hurricane causes the river near his Hawaiian home to flood, a boy named Calvin Coconut makes a daring rescue. | Lexile: 460

Shredderman: Secret Identity

by Wendelin Van Draanen

Fifth-grader Nolan Byrd, tired of being called names by the class bully, has a secret identity — Shredderman! | Lexile: 520 *Nutmeg Nominee 2008*



SUMMER READING LIST*

GRAPHIC NOVELS

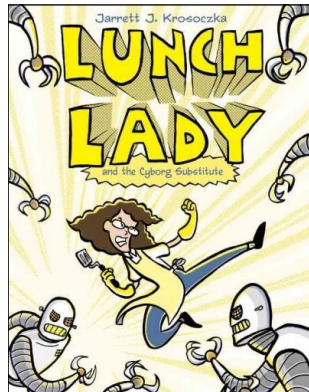
Trial by Fire by Chris Bolton

[*Smash #1*] An action-packed graphic novel simultaneously spoofs and pays tribute to superhero lore while inspiring a new generation of crimefighters. *IRA*

Lunch Lady and the Cyborg Substitute

by Jarrett Krosoczka

[*Lunch Lady #1*] The school lunch lady is a secret crime fighter who uncovers an evil plot to replace all the popular teachers with robots. | Lexile: 240 *ALA*



FOLKLORE

John Henry by Julius Lester

Retells the life of the legendary African American hero who raced against a steam drill to cut through a mountain. | Lexile: 720 *ALA*

NONFICTION

The Donkey of Gallipoli: A True Story of Courage in World War I by Mark Greenwood

The true story of an English boy who, due to his love and understanding of donkeys, enlisted in World War I as a stretcher bearer and courageously carried more than three hundred wounded Allied soldiers off the battlefield as bombs blew up all around him and the donkeys with whom he worked. *NCSS, USBBY*

The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq by Jeanette Winter

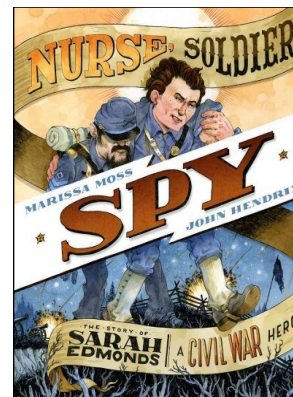
Alia Muhammad Baker is a librarian in Basra, Iraq. For fourteen years, the library where she works has been a meeting place for those who love books. Now war has come, and Alia fears that the library will be destroyed forever. In a war-stricken country where civilians — especially women — have little power, this true story about a librarian's struggle to save her community's priceless collection of books reminds us all how, throughout the world, the love of literature and the respect for knowledge know no boundaries. | Lexile: 640 *ALA, NCTE*

Mary Walker Wears the Pants: The True Story of the Doctor, Reformer, and Civil War Hero by Cheryl Harness

Tells the story of Mary Walker, a remarkable woman who challenged traditional roles and lived life on her own terms. | Lexile: 910 *ALA*

Rachel Carson and Her Book That Changed the World by Laurie Lawlor

Retells the story of Rachel Carson, a pioneering environmentalist who wrote and published "Silent Spring," the revolutionary book pointing out the dangerous effects of chemicals on the living world. | Lexile: 890 *NSTA*

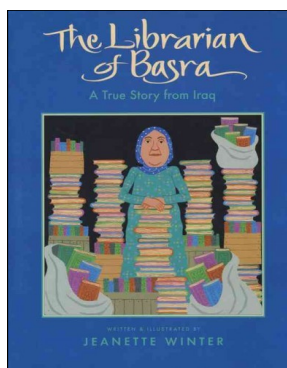


Nurse, Soldier, Spy:

The Story of Sarah Edmonds, A Civil War Hero by Marissa Moss
A story of a nineteen-year-old woman who disguised herself as a man to avoid an unwanted marriage and who distinguished herself as a male nurse during the Civil War, and later as a spy for the Union Army. | Lexile: 820 *NCSS*

Bill, the Boy Wonder: The Secret Co-Creator of Batman by Marc Tyler Nobleman

Recounts the life of the unrecognized co-creator of the Batman comic strip and details the author's quest to find out more about him. | Lexile: 970



Sixteen Years in Sixteen Seconds:

The Sammy Lee Story by Paula Yoo

A biography of Korean American diving champion Sammy Lee, focusing on how his childhood determination and his father's dreams set the stage for a medical career as well as his athletic achievements which earned him

Olympic gold medals in 1948 and 1952. | Lexile: 760

*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 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
