



SUMMER READING LIST*

Every Hero Has a Story! ~ Grades 5-6

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

FICTION

A Horse Called Hero by Sam Angus

Forced to leave London for a new home in the country after their father refuses to join the military during World War II, Wolfie and his brother, Dodo, bond with an orphaned foal that they risk their lives to rescue.

Joshua Dread by Lee Bacon

Besides being bullied, Joshua faces one more obstacle in middle school, trying to hide his identity as the son of supervillains, the Dread Duo. | Lexile: 700 [Nutmeg Nominee 2015](#)

Powerless by Matthew Cody

Soon after moving to Noble's Green, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Daniel learns that his new friends have superpowers that they will lose when they turn thirteen, unless he can use his brain power to protect them. | Lexile: 750 [Nutmeg Nominee 2013](#)

Sidekicks by Jack D. Ferraiolo

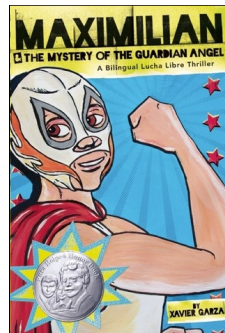
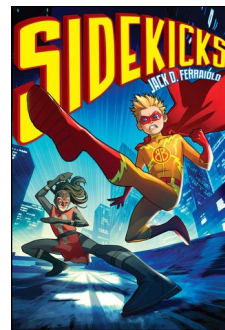
Scott Hutchinson, aka Bright Boy, the sidekick of Phantom Justice, begins to question how long he can remain in the shadow of the superhero after discovering that his nemesis, supervillain sidekick Monkeywrench, might be one of the most popular kids at his school.

Maximilian & the Mystery of the Guardian Angel: A Bilingual Lucha Libre Thriller by Xavier Garza

A young fan of lucha libre Mexican wrestling makes a connection to his battling hero, the Angel de la Guarda (the Guardian Angel). | Lexile: 820 [ALA](#)

The Adventures of Beanboy by Lisa Harkrader

Wheaton, Kansas seventh-grader Tucker MacBean loves comic books, so when his favorite comic has a contest to create a sidekick, he is hopeful that he can win, thereby fixing his struggling family. | Lexile: 670



The Hero's Guide to Saving Your Kingdom by Christopher Healy

The four princes erroneously dubbed Prince Charming and rudely marginalized in their respective fairy tales form an unlikely team when a witch threatens the whole kingdom.

[IRA](#)

Hero on a Bicycle by Shirley Hughes

When their mother reluctantly joins the Italian Resistance against occupying Nazi forces in World War II Florence, young Paolo and his sister, Costanza, devise a clever way to use their bicycle to assist the movement. [New York Times](#)

A World Without Heroes by Brandon Mull

Fourteen-year-old Jason Walker is transported to a strange world called Lyrian, where he joins Rachel, who was also drawn there from our world, and a few rebels, to piece together the Word that can destroy the malicious wizard emperor, Surroth.

8th Grade Superzero

by Olugbemisola Rhuday Perkovich

After half-heartedly joining his church youth group's project at a homeless shelter near his Brooklyn middle school, eighth-grade "loser" Reggie McKnight is inspired to run for school office on a platform of making a real difference in the community. [NCSS](#)

On the Wings of Heroes by Richard Peck

A boy in Illinois remembers the homefront years of World War II, especially his two heroes — his brother in the Air Force and his father, who fought in the previous war. [NCSS](#)

The Lost Hero by Rick Riordan

Jason, Piper, and Leo, three students from a school for "bad kids," find themselves at Camp Half-Blood, where they learn that they are demigods and begin a quest to free Hera, who has been imprisoned by Mother Earth herself. [ALA](#)



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GRAPHIC NOVELS

El Deafo by Cece Bell

The author recounts in graphic novel format her experiences with hearing loss at a young age, including using a bulky hearing aid, learning how to lip read, and determining her "superpower." [ALA](#)

Sidekicks by Dan Santat

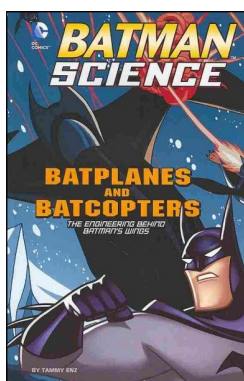
When Captain Amazing feels he is getting too old to be a reliable superhero, he tries to hire a new sidekick, but his pets have different ideas. [IRA](#)



picture book, complete with inspirational quotes and distinctive expressionist portraits. [ALA](#)

Heroes of Baseball: The Men Who Made It America's Favorite Game by Robert Lipsyte

Meet the men who were and remain the heroes of baseball. These are men who did more than hit home runs or pitch perfect games — they changed the way our society perceives itself, and the goals we set for ourselves and our nation. | Lexile: 1080



Animal Heroes: True Rescue Stories by Sandra Markle

Learn about animals, both domestic and wild, who have become heroes when they came to the rescue of humans. | Lexile: 880

POETRY

Heroes and She-ros by J. Patrick Lewis

Twenty-one poems celebrate and chronicle the actions of real-life persons (and one dog) who have performed heroic acts in service of others.

NONFICTION

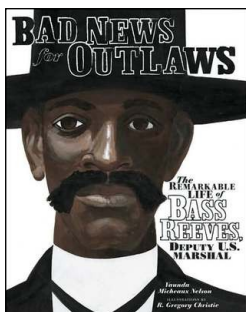
Batman Science series

Batarangs and Grapnels: The Science Behind Batman's Utility Belt by *Agnieszka Biskup*;

Batsuits and Capes: The Science Behind Batman's Body Armor by *Agnieszka Biskup*;

Batmobiles and Batcycles: The Engineering Behind Batman's Vehicles by *Tammy Enz*;

Batplanes and Batcopters: The Engineering Behind Batman's Wings by *Tammy Enz*. [ALA](#), [NSTA](#)



Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U. S. Marshal by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson

This biography profiles the life of Bass Reeves, a former slave who was recruited as a deputy United States Marshal in the area that was to become Oklahoma. | Lexile: 860 [ALA](#), [NCSS](#)

Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman by Marc Tyler Nobleman

Jerry Siegel & Joe Shuster, two misfit teens in Cleveland, were more like Clark Kent than Superman. Both boys escaped into the worlds of science fiction and pulp magazine tales. In 1934, they created the superhero, but it was four years before they convinced a publisher to take a chance on their Man of Steel in a new format--the comic book. [ALA](#), [NCSS](#)

Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream by Tanya Lee Stone

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 who would soon follow | Lexile: 980 [ALA](#), [NCSS](#)

Portraits of Hispanic American Heroes by Juan Felipe Herrera

Twenty Hispanic American artists, scientists, athletes, activists and political leaders are profiled in this stunning

The Hero Schliemann: The Dreamer Who Dug for Troy by Laura Amy Schlitz

A biographical portrait of archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann, describing how his youthful determination to live a romantic and heroic life came true when he discovered the lost city of Troy. | Lexile: 910

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



SUMMER READING

Favorites & Classics

For Grades 5-6

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 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

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

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



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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

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 Lanessa, 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:

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

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

Percy Jackson & the Olympians 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
