



SUMMER READING LIST*

Every Hero has a Story! ~ Grades K-2

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

PICTURE BOOKS

The Astonishing Secret of Awesome Man by Michael Chabon

A young superhero describes his awesome powers, which he then demonstrates as various foes arrive on the scene. | Lexile: 600

Superman: The Story of the Man of Steel by Ralph Cosentino

Presents the life story of the superhero known as the Man of Steel.

Rescue Bunnies by Doreen Cronin

Newbie struggles to pass her field test to become a full-fledged Rescue Bunny.

Superworm by Julia Donaldson

Superworm's bug friends attempt to free him from the clutches of Wizard Lizard who, having heard of Superworm's wondrous and heroic deeds, capture him and force him to dig for treasure. | Lexile: 580

The Day I Lost My

Superpowers by Michaël Escoffier

When a young superhero-in-training gets hurt, she discovers that mothers have superpowers, too.

Traction Man is Here! by Mini Grey

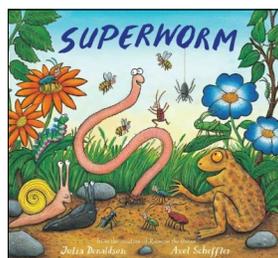
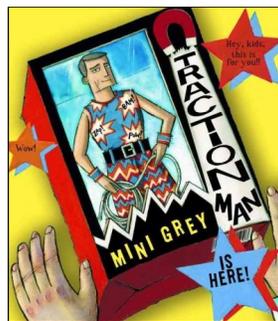
Traction Man, a boy's courageous action figure, has a variety of adventures with Scrubbing Brush and other objects in the house. | Lexile: 730

Zero the Hero by Joan Holub

Zero believes that he is a hero, but the counting numbers think he is worthless until they get into trouble with some Roman numerals, and only Zero can help.

Niño Wrestles the World by Yuyi Morales

Lucha Libre champion Niño has no trouble fending off monstrous opponents, but when his little sisters awaken from their naps, he is in for a no-holds-barred wrestling match that will truly test his skills. | Lexile: 260 ALA



New York's Bravest by Mary Pope Osborne

Tells of the heroic deeds of the legendary New York firefighter, Mose Humphreys. | Lexile: 350

Ten Rules of Being a Superhero by Deb Pilutti

An instruction manual for aspiring superheroes that follows the adventures of action figure Captain Magma and his sidekick/owner Lava Boy as they outsmart a villainous dinosaur, evade a bee, and save a worm from certain destruction.

The Adventures of Sparrowboy by Brian Pinkney

After an encounter with a sparrow, Henry finds he is able to fly just like his favorite comic book hero HawkMan. | Lexile: 540

Princess Super Kitty by Antoinette Portis

Maggie, a little girl with a huge imagination, becomes a cat, a superhero, a princess, and more in the course of a day.

Officer Buckle & Gloria by Peggy Rathmann

The children at Napville Elementary School always ignore Officer Buckle's safety tips, until a police dog named Gloria accompanies him when he gives his safety speeches. | Lexile: 510. ALA

Send for a Superhero! by Michael Rosen

A father reads his children a bedtime story about two villains whose wicked plot to suck all the money out of the banks and cover everything in slime is unsuccessfully countered by every superhero, until a clever young man transforms himself into Extremely Boring Man and puts everyone to sleep.

Red Knit Cap Girl to the Rescue by Naoko Stoop

Red Knit Cap Girl and White Bunny, with help from Mr. Owl and the Moon, take to the high seas as they set off on a journey to help the lost Polar Bear Cub find his way back to his family and his Arctic home.

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GRAPHIC NOVEL

Babymouse: Our Hero by Jennifer L Holm
An imaginative young mouse is terrified to face her enemy in dodgeball, but with the help of her best friend and support from her mother, she not only plays the game, she proves herself a hero.

POETRY

The Superheroes Employment Agency by Marilyn Singer

From Blunder Woman and Muffy the Vampire Sprayer to Stuporman and The Bulk, meet the members of the Superheroes Employment Agency — lovable misfits with oddball powers who make up for their lack of fame with an eagerness to please and a can-do attitude.

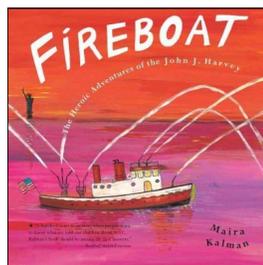


NONFICTION

Fireboat: The Heroic Adventures of the John J. Harvey by Maira Kalman
A fireboat, launched in 1931, is retired after many years of fighting fires along the Hudson River, but is saved from being scrapped and then called into service again on September 11, 2001. | Lexile: 280 ALA

Hands Around the Library: Protecting Egypt's Treasured Books by Susan L. Roth & Karen Leggett Abouraya

Documents the inspiring January 2011 story about how thousands of Egypt's students, library workers, and demonstrators joined hands around the great Library of Alexandria to protect the building and the freedom it represents. | Lexile: 760 NCSS



BIOGRAPHY

You Forgot Your Skirt, Amelia Bloomer!: A Very Improper Story by Shana Corey

Amelia Bloomer, who does not behave the way nineteenth-century society tells her a proper lady should, introduces pantaloons to American women to save them from the discomfort of their heavy, tight dresses. | Lexile: 350 ALA

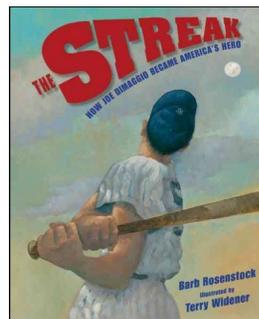
Grandfather Gandhi by Arun Gandhi & Bethany Hegedus

Mahatma Gandhi's grandson tells the story of how his grandfather taught him to turn darkness into light in this uniquely personal and vibrantly illustrated tale that carries a message of peace. | Lexile: 600

Martin's Big Words by Doreen Rappaport

A picture book biography introduces the ideas and accomplishments of a gifted and influential speaker by using some of his own words to tell the story. | Lexile: 410

ALA, IRA, NCSS



The Streak: How Joe DiMaggio Became America's Hero by Barb Rosenstock

In the summer of 1941, Yankee center fielder Joe DiMaggio and his favorite bat, Betsy Ann, begin the longest hitting streak in baseball history. But when Betsy Ann goes missing, will DiMaggio keep hitting? Set on the brink of World War II, this is a spellbinding account of a sports story that united the country and made DiMaggio a hero, at a time when one was profoundly needed. | Lexile: 730 NCTE

Dolores Huerta: A Hero to Migrant Workers by Sarah Warren

An illustrated look at the life and accomplishments of Dolores Huerta, who fought to ensure fair and safe workplaces for migrant workers. | Lexile: 520

*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 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). Other awards as noted.



SUMMER READING

Favorites & Classics

For Kindergarten to Grade 2

Miss Nelson is Missing! by Harry Allard

The kids in Room 207 take advantage of their teacher's good nature until she disappears and they are faced with a vile substitute. | Lexile: 340

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.

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

The Mitten by Jan Brett

One by one, animals in a snowy forest crawl into Nicki's lost white mitten to get warm until the bear sneezes, sending the animals flying up and out of the mitten. On each turn page, signature borders inspired by Ukrainian folk art hint at what animal is coming next. | Lexile: 800

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

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Eric Carle

Children see a variety of animals, each one a different color, and a teacher looking at them. | Lexile: 440

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. | Lexile: 160

Strega Nona: An Old Tale by Tomie de Paola

When Strega Nona leaves him alone with her magic

pasta pot, Big Anthony is determined to show the townspeople how it works. | Lexile: 800

Maria Had a Little Llama / María Tenía una Llamita by Angela Dominguez

In this bilingual version of the classic rhyme, Maria takes her llama to school one day.

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. | Lexile: 520

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

Titles include "I Look Pretty," "Fun," "Riding on the Train," "Harriet Tubman," and "By Myself." | Lexile: 290

Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson

Harold goes for an adventurous walk in the moonlight with his purple crayon. | Lexile: 490

The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats

The adventures of a little boy in the city on a very snowy day. | Lexile: 500

The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss

Despite everyone's dire predictions, a little boy has faith in the carrot seed he plants. | Lexile: 230

Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same! by Grace Lin

Ling and Ting are identical twins that people think are exactly the same, but time and again they prove to be different. | Lexile: 390

Frederick by Leo Lionni

Frederick, the poet mouse, stores up something special for the long cold winter. | Lexile: 500



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Favorites & Classics

For Kindergarten to Grade 2

The Poky Little Puppy by *Janette Sebring Lowrey*

One night a puppy, who is always late coming home, finds there is no dessert for him. | Lexile: 640

George and Martha by *James Marshall*

Relates several episodes in the friendship of two hippopotamuses. | 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. | 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. | Lexile: 630

The Little Engine That Could by *Watty Piper*

Although she is not very big, the Little Blue Engine agrees to try to pull a stranded train full of toys over the mountain. | Lexile: 680

The Tale of Peter Rabbit by *Beatrix Potter*

Adventurous Peter Rabbit disobeys his mother and wanders into Mr. McGregor's garden. | Lexile: 660

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.

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: 420

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. | Lexile: 570

Where the Wild Things Are by *Maurice Sendak*

A naughty little boy, sent to bed without his supper, sails to the land of the wild things where he becomes their king. | Lexile: 740

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

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by *Judith Viorst*

On a day when everything goes wrong for him, Alexander is consoled by the thought that other people have bad days too. | Lexile: 970

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. | Lexile: 120

Bear Snores On by *Karma Wilson*

On a cold winter night many animals gather to party in the cave of a sleeping bear, who then awakes and protests that he has missed the food and the fun. | Lexile: 280

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