

Suggested Summer Reading 2008
from
AASL List of Recommended books

Enjoy these wonderful titles:

Younger Readers

Agee, Jon. Nothing

When Suzie, the rich customer, asks the shopkeeper "what's for sale," his response is "nothing." "Good," says Suzie, "I'll pay you \$300 for it." And so the mad rush to purchase nothing begins.

Bang-Campbell, Monika. Little Rat Makes Music.

Little Rat loves playing the violin, but hates to practice. Her hard work with Kitty culminates in their recital duet.

Broach, Elise. When Dinosaurs Came with Everything

Errands are no longer boring when a little boy finds that a free gift comes with every purchase--a dinosaur! The dilemma comes when he brings his dinosaurs home.

Brown, Monica. My Name Is Gabito: The Life of Gabriel García Márquez/Me llamo Gabito: La vida de Gabriel García Márquez.

Evocative, tropical illustrations pull the eye into Gabriel García Márquez's imaginative world, introducing children to the early life of the celebrated Colombian author.

Coffelt, Nancy. Fred Stays with Me

Fred the dog goes with his young mistress to both mom's and dad's houses, wreaking havoc at both. "Fred can't stay here," say both parents, but his young owner says emphatically, "Fred stays with me!"

Cole, Brock. Good Enough to Eat

When the villagers sacrifice a scruffy street-girl to a terrible ogre, she must use all her considerable wits not only to survive but also to come out a winner.

Deedy, Carmen Agra. Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale.

With the help of her Abuela's shocking advice, Martina interviews a cast of unlikely suitors to find her true love in a lively and humorous retelling of a classic folktale.

Dillon, Leo and Diane Dillon. Mother Goose Numbers on the Loose

A series of animal and human characters, many with masks, illustrate 24 traditional rhymes that leap off the pages in this mathematical pageant for toddlers.

Floca, Brian. Lightship.

Simple, stately prose, perfectly complemented by luminous watercolors, introduces the lightship Ambrose, its crew and cat.

Gonzalez, Maya Christina. My Colors, My World/Mis colores, mi mundo.

Young Maya's journey from sand-covered surroundings to a world overflowing with rich violet and pink hues offers a visual feast of vibrant colors and magical realism.

Graham, Bob. Dimity Dumpty: The Story of Humpty's Little Sister.

Rambunctious Humpty along with his parents Dominic and Dorothy amaze audiences as members of the high flying acrobatic Tumbling Dumpties, but it is his quiet and shy sister who rescues him after that famous fall.

Gravett, Emily. Orange Pear Apple Bear

Combining the four words in the title, this early concept book about shape, color and sequence introduces language play as well as punctuation in soft hued watercolor illustrations.

Harrington Janice N. The Chicken-Chasing Queen of Lamar County

This fast-moving, quick-talking 'Chicken-Chasing Queen,' a high-spirited little girl on her grandma's farm, comes to understand and respect Miss Hen when she discovers this prize chicken's well-guarded secret!

Henkes, Kevin. A Good Day

At first it seems to be a bad day for bird, dog, fox, and squirrel, but then the tide turns, and it's a good day for everyone, including a little girl.

Isadora, Rachel. Yo, Jo

Bright collage illustrations show a young, lively boy greeting his friends in urban colloquial language, while reserving a more traditional English for his grandfather.

Lunde, Darrin. Hello, Bumblebee Bat.

Straightforward text pops out of a sparse background allowing this little mammal to describe its habitat and characteristics in an intriguing and accessible way.

McKissack, Patricia C. The All-I'll-Ever-Want Christmas Doll.

All Nella wants for Christmas is a Baby Betty doll, a nearly impossible dream for a depression-era child, but when her dream comes true in spite of her sisters' predictions, she finds it is more fun to share.

Morales, Yuyi. Little Night.

Little Night is summoned by Mother Sky to perform all the familiar routines that children everywhere experience, and like these children, Little Night responds with mischievous hiding games throughout the earth and sky

Perkins, Lynne Rae. Pictures from Our Vacation.

With her sketchbook and camera in hand, a young girl assembles a visual mosaic of what starts as an all-too-familiar disappointing family vacation to Dad's childhood home but ends as a fun-filled romp with relatives.

Pinkney, Jerry. Little Red Riding Hood

Lush pencil and watercolor illustrations featuring a Red Riding Hood of color, a wily wolf, and a resourceful woodcutter, bring a unique perspective to this traditional tale.

Sayre, April Pulley. Vulture View.

Rhyming lyrical text and dramatic textured collage introduce a day in the life of turkey vultures.

Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. Dog and Bear: Two Friends, Three Stories

In three easy-to-read stories, a playful dachshund and a multi-colored stuffed bear discover the ironies and humor of friendship familiar to the very young.

Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. First the Egg

Simple words and paintings create a jewel-like package that introduces the age-old chicken-and-egg riddle for the youngest reader.

Wheeler, Lisa. Jazz Baby.

Bebop rhyme and repeated stanzas are just the right rhythm for young readers in this nostalgic celebration of dancing, singing, and playing music.

Willems, Mo. Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity.

Masterful photo collages take Trixie and her daddy through their Brooklyn neighborhood to the Pre-K class where Trixie discovers that her beloved Knuffle Bunny is not "so one-of-a-kind anymore."

Willems, Mo. There Is a Bird on Your Head!

Elephant Gerald learns that there is something worse than having a bird on your head—having two birds on your head. Trying to help her friend, the always-playful Piggie ends up with a problem of her own.

Middle Readers

Bishop, Nic. Nic Bishop Spiders.

More than a dozen types of spiders are presented through vibrant, dramatic up-close photos and compelling, knowledgeable text.

Dowson, Nick. Tracks of a Panda.

This introduction to the species that follows a panda baby and its mother as the two find food, change location, and avoid danger is beautifully illustrated in the Chinese style with brush and ink paintings.

Giblin, James Cross. The Many Rides of Paul Revere.

Going far beyond Longfellow's poem, this presents Paul Revere as artist, statesman, revolutionary, entrepreneur, family man and more, with archival illustrations. An interesting addendum compares the poem to the true events.

Goscinnny, René. Nicholas and the Gang.

Energetic text and jaunty pen-and-ink artwork combine to tell of the escapades of a schoolboy and his classmates in an all-boys school.

Hest, Amy. Remembering Mrs. Rossi.

Third grade is a tough time to lose a mother. As the seasons come and go, interactions with her sometimes clueless but loving father and her mother's sixth grade students help Annie deal with her grief.

Judge, Lita. One Thousand Tracings: Healing the Wounds of World War II.

After World War II, the narrator's family sent a package to a needy German friend, beginning the project described in these 14 poems, that sent shoes and clothes, coats and canned food to European survivors.

Kobayashi, Issa. Today and Today.

Karas creates a serene pictorial arc for a selection of Issa's haiku poems that progresses through a single year of loss and rebirth.

Lehman, Barbara. Rainstorm.

It's a rainy day when a bored young boy finds a key that opens a trunk with a ladder in it. He climbs down and his amazing adventure begins.

Levine, Ellen. Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad.

Henry "Box" Brown's ingenious design to ship himself in a box from slavery to freedom is portrayed in luminous illustrations.

Lewin, Ted. At Gleason's Gym.

Lewin captures the sights and sounds of the busy, noisy Brooklyn gym, four rings of boxing and wrestling action and famous world wide, where nine-year-old Sugar Boy Younan trains for the National Silver Gloves championship.

Mora, Pat. Yum! ¡Mmmm! ¡Que Rico!: Americas' Sproutings.

Fourteen haiku celebrate foods that are native to North, Central, and South America. Vibrant illustrations energize the poems while informational sidebars invite further inquiry.

Ray, Deborah Kogan. Down the Colorado: John Wesley Powell, the One-Armed Explorer

Follow John Wesley Powell and his team through the Grand Canyon, as they collectively map the route and compile scientific data and Powell follows his personal dream of becoming a naturalist.

Richter, Jutta. The Cat: Or, How I Lost Eternity.

In this timeless fable, willful young Christine attempts to understand the nature of true learning and friendship.

Schlitz, Laura Amy. The Bearskinner: A Tale of the Brothers Grimm.

A soldier makes a terrible bargain with the devil and must survive seven years as an outcast in order to gain wealth, hope, and love.

Selznick, Brian. The Invention of Hugo Cabret.

Suspenseful text and wordless double-page spreads tell the story of young Hugo, an orphan secretly living in the walls of a train station where he labors to complete a mysterious invention left by his father. The 2008 Caldecott Medal Book and a YALSA Best Book for Young Adults.

Stewart, Trenton Lee. The Mysterious Benedict Society.

Four gifted orphans selected by their benefactor Mr. Benedict, set out on a dangerous mission to save the world from a scientist bent on world domination through mind control.

Varon, Sara. Robot Dreams.

In a wordless graphic novel, a rusty robot, abandoned on a beach, dreams of rescue while its former companion, a dog, tries various means to save it with an outcome that surprises both.

Older Readers

Alexander, Lloyd. The Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio

Set in an imaginary land reminiscent of the Arabian nights, Carlo Chuchio and his companions, seeking an elusive treasure, discover that “the journey is the treasure.”

Alexander, Elizabeth and Marilyn Nelson. Miss Crandall’s School for Young Ladies and Little Misses of Color

Through twenty-four sonnets, two Connecticut poets imagine the voices of selected “Little Misses of Color” to tell the courageous story of Prudence Crandall, who opened her nineteenth century academy to young African American women.

Burns, Loree Griffin. Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion

An introduction to the science of ocean motion describing the work of Dr. Curt Ebbesmeyer who tracks the distribution of trash, like sneakers and bathtub toys spilled at sea, through the Pacific Ocean.

Compestine, Ying Chang. Revolution Is Not a Dinner Party.

In this coming-of-age story, Ling narrates the terrible changes suffered by her family and neighborhood during the Cultural Revolution in China.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. Elijah of Buxton.

Elijah, the first free-born child in Buxton, a Canadian community of escaped slaves in 1860, transforms from a “fragile” 11-year-old boy into a courageous hero.

Freedman, Russell. Who Was First? Discovering the Americas.

A treasure hunt backwards in time reveals the multiplicity of cultures and peoples who lived in and contributed to America long before that fateful trip of Columbus in 1492.

Gore, Al. An Inconvenient Truth: The Crisis of Global Warming.

Gore's movie tie-in book, rewritten for children, uses the original argument and most of the original illustrations to introduce the issue, show symptoms, describe effects, and suggest things to do about the most important issue of our times.

Grandits, John. Blue Lipstick: Concrete Poems.

Thirty-three poems, often insightful and always original, reveal the topsy turvy feelings of 15-year-old Jessie.

Holm, Jennifer. Middle School Is Worse Than Meatloaf: A Year Told through Stuff.

Ginny Davis chronicles the ups and downs of her seventh-grade year in a colorful collage of newspaper clippings, report cards, school assignments, notes to self, and more.

Krull, Kathleen. Marie Curie: Giants of Science.

Marie Curie broke scientific ground discovering radium, from which both she and her husband died. Krull's conversational narrative brings a giant among scientists and her work to life.

Miyabe, Miyuki. Brave Story.

Wataru's chaotic life leads him to enter the videogame-infused world of Vision to alter his fate. The wisdom and power he gains on his journey enable him to embrace the transformed reality to which he returns.

Neri, G. Chess Rumble.

Marcus, a troubled eleven-year-old battling his own anger, gains coping skills after learning to play chess with a neighborhood master. This novel in verse, written in street vernacular, is illustrated in striking black and grey acrylics.

Rowling, J.K. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows.

In this seventh and final volume about Harry Potter, the battle of the young hero and his companions against dark evil comes to an edge-of-seat, swashbuckling conclusion.

Schlitz, Laura Amy. Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village.

Thirteenth-century England springs to life in 21 dramatic individual narratives that introduce young inhabitants of village and manor. The 2008 Newbery Medal Book.

Schmidt, Gary. The Wednesday Wars.

Seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood is convinced his teacher hates him. Through their Wednesday afternoon Shakespeare sessions, she helps him cope with events both wildly funny and deadly serious.

Sís, Peter. The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain.

In his deeply felt memoir set in mid-20th century Prague, Sís contrasts the constrictive walls of the communist state with his personal quest for artistic freedom.

Tan, Shaun. The Arrival.

A man leaves his family, travels to a new world and slowly assimilates into its strange new culture. In this riveting graphic novel, sepia-toned illustrations wordlessly reveal the loneliness and isolation of the immigrant experience.

Thompson, Kate. The New Policeman.

Hoping to buy a bit of time for his mother's birthday, J.J. Liddy discovers that time is leaking from his world into the land of fairies. Through music and his own wits, he navigates both worlds to try to correct the imbalance.

Wells, Rosemary. Red Moon at Sharpsburg.

The bloodiness of the Civil War (red moon) and the complex issues of divided loyalties are seen through the eyes of India Moody, coming-of-age in Virginia and determined, despite all, to become a scientist.

Williams, Marcia. Chaucer's Canterbury Tales.

The nine bawdy tales of Chaucer's Canterbury pilgrims are tamed and retold in modern English and graphic novel format with bits of the original language included in the borders, decorated in the manner of medieval manuscripts.

Woodson, Jacqueline. Feathers.

A new boy's arrival in a sixth-grade classroom helps Frannie recognize the barriers that separate people, and the importance of hope as a bridge.

Wynne-Jones, Tim. Rex Zero and the End of the World.

When ten-year-old Rex's family moves to Ottawa in 1962, he finds new friends outside his immediate neighborhood, comes to grips with living during the Cold War, and discovers the mystery of a missing panther.

**Enjoy these wonderful series: K – Grade 2
Easy Chapter Books**

Hi! Fly Guy series by Ted Arnold
Meet Mr. And Mrs. Green series by Keith Baker
Henry and Mudge series by Cynthia Rylant
Amanda Pig series by Jean VanLeeuwen
Amelia Bedelia series by Peggy Parrish
Minnie and Moo series by Denys Cazet
Gator Girl series by Stephanie Calmernson & Joanna Cole

Chapter Books

Mercy Watson series by Kate DiCamillo
Little House on the Prairie series by Laura Ingalls Wilder
Cam Jansen series by David Adler
Russell and Elisa series by Joanna Hurwitz
Jigsaw Jones series by James Preller
Judy Moody series by Megan McDonald
Ramona series by Beverly Cleary

Enjoy these wonderful series: Third – Fifth Grade

Clementine series by Sara Pennypacker
Martin Bridge series by Jessica Scott Kerin
Animal Ark series by Ben M. Baglio
Clarice Bean series by Lauren Child
Jake Drake series by Andrew Clements
How to Train Your Dragon series by Cressida Cowell
Spiderwick Chronicles by Holly Black
Princess Tales series by Gail Carson Levine
Warrior series by Erin Hunter
On the Run series by Gordon Korman
Gregor the Overlander series by Suzanne Collins
Inkheart series by Cornelia Funke
Among the Hidden series by Margaret Peterson Haddix