

Summer Reading 2010  
Grades 4-5

Pig out on books ... while you are sizzling in the sun! Here are some suggestions to whet your appetite. Root through these tasty titles to find topics and authors that interest you.

The purpose of the summer reading program is to promote independent reading. You may read whatever you like. What is important is that you read.

**Fiction in Series**

Berlin, Eric. **The Puzzling World of Winston Breen.** Winston Breen loves solving puzzles; and when his sister uncovers a twenty-five-year-old scavenger hunt--which leads to a ring worth thousands of dollars--he and his family jump at the opportunity to solve it.

Blume, Judy. **Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing.** Living with his little brother, Fudge, makes Peter Hatcher feel like a fourth grade nothing. Whether Fudge is throwing a temper tantrum in a shoe store or trying to fly, he's never far from trouble. He's an almost three-year-old terror who gets away with everything, and Peter's had it up to here!

Buckley, Michael. **NERDS.** While running a spy network from their elementary school, five unpopular misfits combine their talents and use cutting-edge gadgetry to fight evil around the world.

Cowell, Cressida. **How to Train Your Dragon.** Chronicles the adventures and misadventures of Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third as he tries to pass the important initiation test of his Viking clan, the Tribe of the Hairy Hooligans, by catching and training a dragon.

Denenberg, Barry. **The Journal of William Thomas Emerson: a Revolutionary War Patriot.** William, a twelve-year-old orphan, writes of his experiences in pre-Revolutionary War Boston where he joins the cause of the patriots who are opposed to the British rule.

Funke, Cornelia. **Ghosthunters and the Incredibly Revolting Ghost.** A timid boy named Tom reluctantly agrees to help professional ghostbuster Hetty Hyssop dispel an IRG (Incredibly Revolting Ghost) from an old house.

Gutman, Dan. **Return of the Homework Machine.** After discarding their infamous homework machine, four friends, now in sixth grade, find themselves once again at the police station, this time giving testimony about an incident involving a powerful computer chip, a Grand Canyon treasure, and a dead body.

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Hale, Bruce. **The Chameleon Wore Chartreuse.** When hired by a fellow fourth-grader to find her missing brother, Chet Gecko uncovers a plot involving a Gila monster's revenge upon the school football team.

Hunter, Erin. **The Quest Begins.** Three young bears of different species--one black, one polar, and one grizzly--travel on a perilous quest to the Northern Lights, escorting a shape-shifting grizzly cub whose destiny will affect them all.

Lupica, Mike. **Hot Hand.** In the wake of his parents' separation, ten-year-old Billy seems to have continual conflicts with his father, who is also his basketball coach, but his quiet, younger brother Ben, a piano prodigy, is having even more trouble adjusting, and only Billy seems to notice.

Riordan, Rick. **The Lightning Thief.** Percy learns that his father is the Greek god Poseidon, and is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and the demigod daughter of Athena who join him in a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war.

Sachar, Louis. **Wayside School Gets a Little Stranger.** Unusual things continue to happen in the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School, which was accidentally built sideways with one classroom on each story.

Sobol, Donald J. **Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Disgusting Sneakers.** America's Sherlock Holmes in sneakers continues his war on crime in ten more cases.

### **Nutmeg Children's Book Award**

Nutmeg Award winners are selected from favorite books read and recommended by Connecticut children in grades 4-6.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. **Double Identity.** Thirteen-year-old Bethany's parents have always been overprotective, but when they suddenly drop out of sight with no explanation, leaving her with an aunt she never knew existed, Bethany uncovers shocking secrets that make her question everything she thought she knew about herself and her family. (2010 Winner)

Clements, Andrew. **No Talking.** The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest. (2011 Nominee)

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Davies, Jacqueline. **The Lemonade War**. Evan and his younger sister, Jesse, react very differently to the news that they will be in the same class for fourth grade and as the end of summer approaches, they battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn 100 dollars. (2011 Nominee)

Korman, Gordon. **Swindle**. After unscrupulous collector S. Wendell Palomino cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of misfits to break into Palomino's heavily guarded store and steal the card back, planning to use the money to finance his father's failing invention, the Smart Pick fruit picker. (2011 Nominee)

Smith, Roland. **Elephant Run**. Nick's father and others are taken prisoner when his plantation in Burma is invaded by the Japanese in 1941, leaving Nick and his friend Mya to risk their lives in order to free them from the POW camp. (2011 Nominee)

**Non-Fiction**

Bishop, Nic. **Frogs**. Color photographs and text present an introduction to the physical characteristics and behavior of frogs. Includes one set of fold-out pages.

Chandra, Deborah. **George Washington's Teeth**. A rollicking rhyme portrays George Washington's lifelong struggle with bad teeth.

Colbert, David. **Michelle Obama: an American Story**. A biography of Michelle Obama, covering her upbringing on Chicago's south side in a stable family environment and the historical context of her life that shaped her into an influential individual.

Corey, Shana. **You Forgot Your Skirt, Amelia Bloomer!** 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.

Fritz, Jean. **You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton?** A biography of suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton from her childhood, to her fight for the end of slavery, to her death 18 years before women were granted the right to vote.

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Golenbock, Peter. **Teammates**. Describes the racial prejudice experienced by Jackie Robinson when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers to become the first African-American player in Major League baseball and depicts the acceptance and support he received from his white teammate Pee Wee Reese.

Loccricchio, Matthew. **The International Cookbook for Kids**. Presents a collection of full-color illustrated instructions for kids to over sixty classic recipes from Italy, France, China, and Mexico, and includes information on nutrition and cooking terms.

Morley, Jacqueline. **You Wouldn't Want to be an American Colonist!** Cartoons and facts combine to explain what it was like to be an American colonist in the seventeenth century, discussing the realities of the voyage from England, dealing with Indians, and struggling for survival in the new world.

Tanaka, Shelley. **Attack on Pearl Harbor: the True Story of the Day America Entered World War II**. Describes the day Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, using eyewitness accounts to tell the true story.

### Picture Books

Ackerman, Karen. **The Tin Heart**. As the onset of the Civil War causes a rift between their fathers, Mahaley and Flora find a way to preserve their friendship.

Hesse, Karen. **The Cats of Krasinski Square**. Two Jewish sisters, escapees of the infamous Warsaw ghetto, devise a plan to thwart an attempt by the Gestapo to intercept food bound for starving people behind the dark Wall.

Polacco, Patricia. **Pink and Say**. Chronicles the friendship of Pink, a fifteen-year-old African-American Union soldier, and Say, his poor white comrade, as one nurses the other back to health from a battle wound and the two of them are imprisoned at Andersonville. Based on a true story.

Van Allsburg, Chris. **The Wretched Stone**. A strange glowing stone picked up on a sea voyage captivates a ship's crew and has a terrible transforming effect on them.

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Yolen, Jane. **Encounter**. A Taino Indian boy on the island of San Salvador recounts the landing of Columbus and his men in 1492.

**Fabulous Fiction**

Broach, Elise. **Shakespeare's Secret**. Named after a character in a Shakespeare play, misfit sixth-grader Hero becomes interested in exploring this connection because of a valuable diamond supposedly hidden in her new house, an intriguing neighbor, and the unexpected attention of the most popular boy in school.

Carlson, Drew. **Attack of the Turtle**. During the Revolutionary War, fourteen-year-old Nathan joins forces with his older cousin, the inventor David Bushnell, to secretly build the first submarine used in naval warfare.

Creech, Sharon. **Replay**. While preparing for a role in the school play, twelve-year-old Leo finds an autobiography that his father wrote as a teenager and ponders the ways people change.

Curtis, Christopher. **Bud, Not Buddy**. Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

Dahl, Roald. **The Fantastic Mr. Fox**. Three farmers, each one meaner than the other, try all-out warfare to get rid of the fox and his family.

DiCamillo, Kate. **The Magician's Elephant**. When ten-year-old orphan Peter Augustus Duchene encounters a fortune teller in the marketplace one day who tells him that his sister, who is presumed dead, is in fact alive, he embarks on a remarkable series of adventures in an attempt to find her.

Etchemendy, Nancy. **The Power of Un**. Gib Finney, given a device that will let him erase mistakes from the past, is not sure which event from the worst day of his life he should change in order to keep his sister from being hit by a truck.

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Gutman, Dan. **Nightmare at the Book Fair**. On his way to lacrosse tryouts, the president of the PTA asks Trip Dinkelman to help her with the book fair, resulting in Trip sustaining a head injury which causes him temporary amnesia and makes for an interesting journey home.

White, E.B. **Stuart Little**. The adventures of the debonair mouse Stuart Little as he sets out in the world to seek out his dearest friend, a little bird who stayed a few days in his family's garden.

### Poetry

Creech, Sharon. **Hate That Cat**. Jack is studying poetry again in school, and he continues to write poems reflecting his understanding of famous works and how they relate to his life.

Prelutsky, Jack. **The Beauty of the Beast**. An illustrated collection of poems about animals, insects, and birds by poets from different parts of the world.

Silverstein, Shel. **Falling Up**. A collection of poems by American poet and humorist, Shel Silverstein, including the poems My Nose Garden, Little Hoarse, Strange Restaurant, Sharing, Noise Day, and many more.

### Graphic Novels

Hunter, Erin. **The Lost Warrior**. Graystripe, deputy leader of ThunderClan, has finally returned to his forest home after being kidnapped by Twolegs, and finds that Firestar has appointed a new deputy leader.

Kibuishi, Kazu. **Amulet: the Stonekeeper**. After moving to their ancestral home, Emily and Navin's mother is kidnapped by a tentacled creature in the basement that leads the children on a deadly chase into the magical world below their home.

Smith, Jeff. **Bone: Rose**. Princess Rose musters up courage to face the dragon that threatens the small towns in the Northern Valley, only to discover the dragon is actually the Lord of the Locusts; and meanwhile, her sister, Princess Briar, embarks on a more sinister quest.

Wood, Don. **Into the Volcano**. While their parents are away doing research, brothers Duffy and Sumo Pugg go with their cousin, Mister Come-and-Go, to Kokalaha Island, where they meet Aunt Lulu and become trapped in an erupting volcano.

**Citation:** Some summary notes were taken from TITLEWAVE, a subsidiary of Follett Library Resources, Inc.

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**A Note to Students:**

The purpose of the summer reading program is to promote independent reading. Choose whatever you like to read. Just keep reading and your reading skills will improve. Prepare for September follow-up activities by keeping a record of titles, authors, and personal feelings about the books you read.

**A Note to Parents:**

Help your children focus on their future. Encourage them to become better readers by reading more. Summer vacation shouldn't be a vacation from learning. Learning needs to be a year-round activity.

The suggested books on this list may be borrowed from the Milford Public Library after the close of school in June. Most of these books are also available in paperback through a co-operative effort with Words to Grow On at 50 Broad Street in Milford, Borders at the Westfield Mall, and Barnes & Noble in Milford.

## **Statement of Compliance**

In compliance with Title VI, Title IX and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Milford Public School system does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability in establishing and implementing hiring and employment practices and establishing and providing school activities and educational programs.

The Title VI and Title IX Coordinator and Compliance Officer is Clifford Bugyi. The Section 504 Compliance Officer is Susan Kelleher. They may be contacted by mail at the Milford Public Schools, 70 West River Street, Milford, CT 06460 or by phone at (203) 783-3400.

Questions, concerns or comments regarding possible discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should be made in person or in writing to the following:

Regarding Facilities: Philip G. Russell/Deputy Superintendent of Operations  
Regarding Employment: Wendy Kopazna/Director of Human Resources  
Regarding Programs: Susan Kelleher/Director of Pupil Personnel Services