

Summer Reading 2010

Take a summer adventure without ever leaving your hammock or beach towel. Go off on a journey that will give you a scare, make you laugh or shed a tear, or introduce you to some unusual and exciting people. Begin your adventure here, with this year's suggestions for summer reading—a collection of books to help you sit back and let your imagination soar.

You are asked to read at least three books over the summer, either from this list or any other titles or authors you find interesting. As you read, keep a log or journal and take notes on the title, characters, plot, and settings of your book of choice. When school resumes in September, your teachers will want you to share your reading records and experiences.

This list contains books of all types to suit many tastes and reading levels, but remember it is just a guide. Read whatever you like. The important thing is to keep reading—on the beach, in the backyard, while you're camping or traveling, anywhere and anytime at all. For all of you about to begin your summer adventures...Happy Reading!

Armchair Adventures

Balliett, Blue. **Chasing Vermeer.** When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

Corbett, Sue. **12 Again.** Bernadette, having wished on the eve of her fortieth birthday to be young **again**, wakes up the next morning as a twelve-year-old, and enrolls in her son Patrick's class in hopes of somehow enlisting his help in returning to her old self.

Fama, Elizabeth. **Overboard.** Escaping from a sinking ferry in the waters off Sumatra, fourteen-year-old Emily fights for survival for herself and a young Indonesian boy, who draws courage from his quiet but firm Islamic faith.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. **Running out of Time.**

When a diphtheria epidemic hits her 1840 village, thirteen-year-old Jessie discovers it is actually a 1995 tourist site under unseen observation by heartless scientists, and it's up to Jessie to escape the village and save the lives of the dying children.

Hahn, Mary Downing. **All The Lovely Bad Ones.** Travis and his sister Corey decide to boost business at their grandmother's Vermont inn by staging a few "hauntings" that soon draw tourists from across the country, but when their antics awaken a dark force, they must find a way to put to rest the ghosts they have disturbed.

Korman, Gordon. **Zoobreak.** After a class trip to a floating zoo where animals are mistreated and Savannah's missing pet monkey is found in a cage, Long Island sixth-grader Griffin Bing and his band of misfits plan a rescue.

Mass, Wendy. **11 Birthdays.** After celebrating their first nine same-day birthdays together, Amanda and Leo, having fallen out on their tenth and not speaking to each other for the last year, prepare to celebrate their eleventh birthday separately; but peculiar things begin to happen as the day of their birthday begins to repeat itself over and over again.

Summer Reading 2010

Imagination Central

Bosch, Pseudonymous. **The Name of This Book is Secret.** Cassandra and Max find a missing magician's notebook and start to investigate the fire which burnt down his house and his mysterious "symphony of smells."

Collins, Suzanne. **The Hunger Games.** Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen accidentally becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a grave competition hosted by the Capitol where young boys and girls are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death.

Hoffman, Alice. **Aquamarine.** A love-struck mermaid named Aquamarine supplies adventure and insights to two twelve-year-old girls, life-long friends who are spending their last summer together before one of them moves away.

Hurley, Tonya. **Ghostgirl.** Charlotte Usher has always struggled to fit in at her high school, and when Charlotte finds herself living in a parallel spiritual world after choking to death on a gummy bear, she tries to reconnect with the physical world while making new friends at her new school for the dead.

Sage, Angie. **Magyk.** Jenna learns that she is a princess found as a baby by the man she believed was her father and now she and Septimus, who was taken at birth by the midwife, are being threatened by the evil wizard, Dom Daniel who intends to finish off the entire royal line.

Simmons, Michael. **Alien Feast.** In 2017, human-eating aliens have kidnapped two scientists who might cure the disease that is destroying them, and twelve-year-old William Aitkin, his elderly, ailing Uncle Maynard, and the scientists' daughter, Sophie, set out to rescue them.

Sports

Auch, M.J. **One Handed Catch.** After losing his hand in an accident in his father's butcher shop in 1946, sixth-grader Norman uses hard work and humor to learn to live with his disability and to succeed at baseball, art, and other activities.

Green, Tim. **Football Hero.** When twelve-year-old Ty's brother Thane is recruited out of college to play for the New York Jets, their Uncle Gus uses Ty to get insider information for his gambling ring, landing Ty and Thane in trouble with the Mafia.

Korman, Gordon. **Pop.** Lonely after a midsummer move to a new town, sixteen-year-old high-school quarterback Marcus Jordan becomes friends with a retired professional linebacker who is great at training him, but whose childish behavior keeps Marcus in hot water.

Lupica, Mike. **Million Dollar Throw.** Eighth-grade star quarterback Nate Brodie's family is feeling the stress of the troubled economy, and Nate is frantic because his best friend Abby is going blind, so when he gets a chance to win a million dollars if he can complete a pass during the halftime of a New England Patriot's game, he is nearly overwhelmed by the pressure to succeed.

Paulsen, Gary. **How Angel Peterson Got His Name: And Other Outrageous Tales About Extreme Sports.** Gary Paulsen relates tales from his youth in a small town in northwestern Minnesota in the late 1940s and early 1950s, such as skiing behind a souped-up car and imitating daredevil Evel Knievel.

Summer Reading 2010

Ritter, John. **The Boy Who Saved Baseball.** The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game, and Tom Gallagher hopes to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player, Dante Del Gato.

Slice of Life

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.

Frost, Helen. **Crossing Stones.** Four young people in two families tell of their experience during World War I when the boys enlist and are sent to fight, Emma finishes school, and Muriel joins the suffrage movement.

Hobbs, Will. **Go Big or Go Home.** Fourteen-year-old Brady and his cousin Quinn love extreme sports, but nothing could prepare them for the aftermath of Brady's close encounter with a meteorite after it crashes into his Black Hills, South Dakota, bedroom.

Keller, Julia. **Back Home.** Thirteen-year-old Rachel Browning understands that her father will be different after being injured in the Iraq War, but no one is prepared for the impact that his traumatic brain injury and other wounds have on the entire family.

Nuzum, K.A. **The Leanin' Dog.** Eleven-year-old Dessa Dean, mourning the death of her mother, finds an injured dog on her porch, which allows both Dessa and the dog to heal together with a friendship that shapes both of their lives.

Salisbury, Graham. **Night of the Howling Dogs.** Eleven Boy Scouts, their leaders, and some new friends camping at Halape, Hawaii, in 1975, find their survival skills put to the test when a massive earthquake strikes, followed by a tsunami.

Spinelli, Jerry. **Smiles to Go.** Will Tuppen's life has always been ruled by science and common sense but in ninth grade, shaken up by the discovery that protons decay, he begins to see the entire world differently and gains new perspective on his relationships with his little sister and two closest friends.

Reality Speaking

Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out. A collection of essays, personal accounts, historical fiction, and poetry that traces the history of the White House through the eyes of the children who have lived and visited there.

Brownlee, Christen. **Cute, Furry, and Deadly: Diseases You Can Catch from Your Pet!** Examines various diseases and viruses that can be spread from animals to humans, and includes case studies involving rabies, monkeypox, and E-coli.

Jackson, Donna M. **Extreme Scientists: Exploring Nature's Mysteries from Perilous Places.** Profiles three extreme scientists who risk their lives to conduct research in some of the world's most intense environments, describing the experiences of scientists studying hurricanes, cave microbes, and forest canopies.

Summer Reading 2010

LaBella, Laura. **Angelina Jolie: Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations.** Chronicles actress Angelina Jolie's involvement with the United Nations, describing her work as a Goodwill Ambassador, which allows her to travel around the world raising funds and awareness for refugee causes in third world countries.

Morrison, Yvonne. **The DNA Gave It Away!: Teens Solve Crime.** Examines how the technology of DNA is able to help law enforcement in the solving of different crimes.

Mortenson, Greg, adapted for younger readers by Sarah Thompson . **Three Cups of Tea.** Adapts for young readers Greg Mortenson's book in which he recounts the experiences he had while trying to help impoverished villages in Pakistan's Karakoram Himalaya build schools for their children.

Orr, Tamra. **Beautiful Me: Finding Personal Strength & Self-acceptance.** Presents a number of real-life situations that address various personal issues that young girls face including self-esteem and dangerous behaviors.

Read the Book, See the Movie

Carroll, Lewis. **Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass.** By falling down a rabbit hole and stepping through a mirror, Alice experiences unusual adventures with a variety of nonsensical characters. (Movie Released, March 2010)

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. (Movie Released, March 2010)

Kinney, Jeff. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid.** Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to survive, but when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship. (Movie Released, March 2010)

Lewis, C.S. **Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader.** Lucy and Edmund, accompanied by their peevish cousin Eustace, sail to the land of Narnia where Eustace is temporarily transformed into a green dragon because of his selfish behavior and skepticism. (Movie Release, December 2010)

Meyer, Stephenie. **Eclipse.** Bella must choose between her friendship with Jacob, a werewolf, and her relationship with Edward, a vampire, but when Seattle is ravaged by a mysterious string of killings, the three of them need to decide whether their personal lives are more important than the well-being of an entire city. (Movie Release, June 2010)

Meyer, Stephenie. **New Moon.** When the Cullens, including her beloved Edward, leave Forks rather than risk revealing that they are vampires, it is almost too much for eighteen-year-old Bella to bear, but she finds solace in her friend Jacob until he is drawn into a "cult" and changes in terrible ways. (Movie Released, November 2009)

Summer Reading 2010

Riordan, Rick. **The Lightning Thief.** After learning that he is the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea, twelve-year-old Percy is sent to a summer camp for demigods like himself, and joins his new friends on a quest to prevent a war between the gods.
(Movie Released, February 2010)

Rowling, J.K. **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part I.** Harry Potter attempts to bring an end to his archenemy, Lord Voldemort.
(Movie Release, November 2010)

Sendak, Maurice. **Where the Wild Things Are.** After he is sent to bed without supper for behaving like a wild thing, Max dreams of a voyage to the island where the wild things are.
(Movie Released, October 2009)

Getting Graphic

Black, Holly. **The Good Neighbors.** Book One, Kin. Sixteen-year-old Rue Silver, whose mother disappeared weeks ago, believes she is going crazy until she learns that the strange things she has been seeing are real, and that she is one of the faerie creatures, or Good Neighbors, that mortals cannot see.

Hale, Shannon & Dean. **Rapunzel's Revenge.** Rapunzel, having grown up in a lovely castle with the woman she thought was her mother, is placed in a very tall hollow tree as punishment after her curiosity prompts her to climb the castle wall and look at the ruin of the world beyond her home. She is able to escape and with the help of Jack, embarks on a plan to free the land from the grip of the witch.

Phelan, Matt. **The Storm in the Barn.** Eleven-year-old Jack Clark struggles with everyday obstacles while his family and community contend with the challenges brought on by the Dust Bowl in 1937 Kansas.

Sala, Richard. **Cat Burglar Black.** K. Westree arrives at Bellsong Academy, where she hopes to leave her past as a cat-burglar behind, but she quickly learns that the school contains a hidden treasure left by its founder, and as she resumes her old habits, she starts to question whether she really wants a normal life.

Sensational Series

Collins, Suzanne. **Catching Fire.** Sequel to *The Hunger Games*. By winning the annual Hunger Games, District 12 tributes Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark have secured a life of safety and plenty for themselves and their families, but because they won by defying the rules, they unwittingly become the faces of an impending rebellion.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. **Sent.** Book two in *The Missing* series. Jonah, Katherine, Chip, and Alex find themselves in 1483 at the Tower of London, and discover that Chip and Alex are Prince Edward V and Richard of Shrewsbury, imprisoned by Richard III; but trying to repair history without knowing what is supposed to happen proves challenging.

Horowitz, Anthony. **Snakehead.** *Alex Rider Adventures.* Alex Rider crash lands off the coast of Australia where he is recruited by the Australian Secret Service to infiltrate one of the ruthless gangs operating across South East Asia, and in the midst of his dangerous mission, Alex discovers information about his parents' murder.

Summer Reading 2010

Riordan, Rick. **The Last Olympian.** Book five in the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series. The long-awaited prophecy surrounding Percy Jackson's sixteenth birthday unfolds as he leads an army of young demigods to stop Kronos in his advance on New York City, while the Olympians struggle to contain the rampaging monster, Typhon.

Scott, Michael. **The Alchemyst.** *The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel* series. Fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, find themselves caught up in the deadly struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient book that holds the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life.

Laugh Out Loud

Gantos, Jack. **I am not Joey Pigza.** Joey's father returns, calling himself Charles Heinz and apologizing for his past bad behavior, and he swears that once Joey and his mother change their names and help him fix up the old diner he has bought, their lives will change for the better.

Kinney, Jeff. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days.** Greg Heffley recounts his daily experiences during summer vacation as he tries to live out his ultimate fantasy of spending the days indoors playing video games with no responsibilities and no rules, despite his mother's attempts to pack the summer with outdoor activities and family fun.

Paulsen, Gary. **Lawn Boy.** Things get out of hand for a twelve-year-old boy when a neighbor convinces him to expand his summer lawn mowing business.

Peck, Richard. **A Season of Gifts.** Relates the surprising gifts bestowed on twelve-year-old Bob Barnhart and his family, who have recently moved to a small Illinois town in 1958, by their larger-than-life neighbor, Mrs. Dowdel.

And the winner is...

Kostick, Conor. **Epic.** On New Earth, a world based on a video role-playing game, fourteen-year-old Erik persuades his friends to aid him in some unusual gambits in order to save Erik's father from exile and safeguard the futures of each of their families. (Nutmeg Children's Book Award 2010)

Lockhart, E. **The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks.** Frankie Landau-Banks attempts to take over a secret, all-male society at her exclusive prep school, and her antics with the group soon draw some unlikely attention and have unexpected consequences that could change her life forever. (2009 Printz Honor Book; ALA 2009 Best Books for Young Adults; and 2009 Teen's Top Ten)

Mass, Wendy. **Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life.** Just before his thirteenth birthday, Jeremy Fink receives a keyless locked box--set aside by his father before his death five years earlier--that purportedly contains the meaning of life. (Nutmeg Children's Book Award 2010)

Pratchett, Terry. **Nation.** A tsunami destroys everything leaving Mau, an island boy, Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, and a small group of refugees responsible for rebuilding their village and their lives. (2009 Printz Honor Book and ALA 2009 Best Books for Young Adults)

Summer Reading 2010

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NOTE TO PARENTS:

It has been long established that reading improves reading ability. A publication by the U.S. Department of Education states, “the amount of leisure time spent reading is directly related to children’s reading comprehension, the size of their vocabularies, and the gains in their reading ability.” Clearly, reading outside of school can be a powerful supplement to class work. Encourage leisure reading by making books an important part of the home. Give books or magazines as presents and visit the local library. Summer for many families means time spent in the car. Why not try listening to audiobooks together?

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