



Memorial Middle School

Summer Reading

June 2007

Dear Parents & Students,

The following titles are suggestions to entice you during the lazy days of summer. A variety of authors, genres, and topics of special interest are listed. You may select titles that are not on the list or listen to an audio book tape. If you have trouble finding a book, the librarians at the Public Libraries will assist you in locating one. The suggested summer reading list is available on <http://www.region15.org/mms/LMC> for your viewing. You may also want to browse the shelves of local bookstores to find just the right book that captivates your interest.

You are requested to read at least three books over the summer. The recommended titles you discover on your own may also be counted toward the State of Connecticut Governor's Reading Challenge. Attached is a Governor's Reading Challenge bookmark on which you may record the list of books you have read. When school resumes in the fall, bring your completed reading records to the Library Media Center.

Make reading an integral part of your life.

Sincerely,
Sharon Petti
Library Media Specialist
Memorial Middle School

Nutmeg Children's Book Award is an award given to a favorite book from a list of ten nominated titles. The Connecticut Library Media Association and the Connecticut Education Media Association sponsor the Nutmeg Children's Book Award. The final award will be given to the book with the most votes, which will take place in January.

2008 Nutmeg Nominees for Grades 6:

The 7 Professors of the Far North

Fardell, John

A Bear named Trouble

Bauer, Marion Dane

Escaping the Giant Wave

Kehret, Peg

Hatching Magic

Downer, Ann

Jackie's Wild Seattle

Hobbs, Will

The Lightning Thief

Riordan, Rick

Project Mulberry: A Novel

Park, Linda Sue

The Ravenmaster's Secret:

Escape from the Tower of London

Woodruff, Elvira

Secret Identity

Van Draanen, Wendelin

White Star: A Dog on the Titanic

Crisp Marty

2008 Nutmeg Nominees for Grades 7-8:

Bucking the Sarge

Curtis, Christopher Paul

Down the Rabbit Hole: An Echo Falls Mystery

Abrahams, Peter

Emako Blue

Woods, Brenda

In Darkness, Death

Hobbler, Dorothy

The Lightning Thief

Riordan, Rick

Locomotion

Woodson Jacqueline

The Last Apprentice: Revenge of the Witch

Delaney, Joseph

The river Between Us

Peck, Richard

The Sea of Trolls

Farmer, Nancy

Shackleton's Stowaway

McKernan, Victoria

Summer Reading Recommended List 2007

Middle Readers

Barrows, Annie. *Ivy and Bean* Bean knows she won't like the new girl ("Next train for Boring is leaving now!"), but when Bean gets into trouble, Ivy is the one who comes to her rescue.

Brown, Susan Taylor. *Hugging the Rock* When her mother leaves home, Rachel learns to communicate with and to love her father, while adjusting to disturbing truths about her mother's past. A free-verse novel about loss and reconciliation.

DiCamillo, Kate. *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. A self-important china rabbit finds himself on a journey that spans years and miles, bringing special people into his life and changing him forever.

Goodman, Susan E. *All in Just One Cookie* Have you ever thought about where that chocolate-chip cookie came from? As Grandma bakes her cookies, Cat and Dog learn about each ingredient, from butter to chips.

Hatkoff, Isabella and others. *Owen & Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship*. When Owen, a baby hippo, loses his mother in the 2004 tsunami, he bonds with Mzee, a giant Tortoise.

Henderson, Kathy. *Lugalbanda: The Boy Who Got Caught Up in a War*. Derived from one of the first recorded stories on earth, this tale of Ancient Iraq introduces Lugalbanda and his heroic deeds to assist the kingdom of Uruk during a war.

Lin, Grace. *The Year of the Dog*. During the Year of the Dog, Chinese-American Grace makes new friends, learns more about her family, and finds her place in the world.

Look, Lenore. *Ruby Lu, Empress of Everything*. In this second Ruby Lu book, a new cousin's emigration from China brings changes—some good and some challenging—into second-grader Ruby Lu's life.

Lord, Cynthia. *Rules*. "A boy can take off his shirt to swim, but not his shorts." Twelve-year-old Catherine creates rules for her younger, autistic brother, David in an attempt to normalize his life and her own. But what is normal? Lord's heroine learns to use words to forge connections with David, her workaholic father, and a paraplegic friend. *Newbery Honor Book and a Schneider Family Book Award Winner*.

McCarthy, Meghan. *Aliens Are Coming! The True Account of the 1938 War of the Worlds Radio Broadcast*. This is the radio broadcast that sent listeners into a panic. This dramatic picture book introduces young children to a fascinating piece of history. The art is reminiscent of the comics of the 1930s.

Montgomery, Sy. *Quest for the Tree Kangaroo: An Expedition to the Cloud Forest of New Guinea*. Biologist Lisa Dabek and her multinational team search for the beautiful, elusive Matschie's tree kangaroo in the cloud forests of Papua New Guinea. Dramatic color photographs vividly portray their quest through the mysteriously foggy forest. **Sibert Honor Book.**

Myers, Walter Dean. *Jazz*. Stunning paintings and thrillingly musical poems bring jazz to life for young readers. **King Illustrator Honor Book.**

Patron, Susan. *The Higher Power of Lucky* In the California desert community of Hard Pan (population 43), 10-year-old Lucky Trimble eavesdrops on 12-step program meetings from her hiding place behind Hard Pan's Found Object Wind Chime Museum & Visitor Center. Eccentric characters and quirky details spice up Lucky's life just as parsley embellishes her guardian Brigitte's French cuisine. **Newbery Medal Book.**

Pennypacker, Sara. *Clementine* Perceptive text and animated line drawings bring to life third-grader Clementine, who is not an easy child. Despite good intentions, things often go wrong for her; she pays attention, but not to the things that grownups think are important.

Rubin, Susan Goldman and Weissberger, Ela. *The Cat with the Yellow Star: Coming of Age in Terezin* Rubin and Weissberger (who portrayed the cat in the original production of *Brundibar* in the Terezin Ghetto) describe the hope offered imprisoned children by caring adults and the theater they created.

Siegel, Siena Cherson. *To Dance: A Ballerina's Graphic Novel*. Siegel dramatizes the struggle and fulfillment of becoming a professional ballerina—lifting the curtain on a dream shared by many young dancers. Partnered by husband Mark Siegel's evocative, elegant illustrations in graphic-novel format, her memoir leaps off the page. **Sibert Honor Book.**

Thimmesh, Catherine. *Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon*. With heart-stopping prose and stunning NASA photographs, Thimmesh's book celebrates the men and women who solved a series of unfolding crises that threatened the mission of Apollo 11. Personal interviews and oral histories recreate the immediacy of the event for a new generation. **Sibert Medal Book and a YALSA Best Book for Young Adults.**

Tingle, Tim. *Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship and Freedom*. A Choctaw angel leads seven slaves to freedom by walking on Bok Chitto, a river in Mississippi, which was a boundary between freedom and slavery before the Civil War.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. *Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom*. Nelson's dramatic renderings evoke the spiritual and physical journey of Harriet Tubman. Emotionally powerful images combined with poetically evocative text portray a strong woman who followed her star to an extraordinary destiny. **Caldecott Honor Book and King Illustrator Book Winner.**

Older Readers

Avi. *Crispin: At the Edge of the World*. In fourteenth-century England, Crispin and his friend Bear face danger as they flee from their enemies to the coast in order to find freedom and safety.

Bausum, Ann. *Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement*. The 1961 Freedom Rides come to life through the unflinching personal stories of two men united for a common cause. The dynamic book design includes civil rights song lyrics, firsthand accounts, and provocative black-and-white photographs layered with lavender-and-gray panels. Exemplary documentation and end notes further illuminate the journey. *Sibert Honor Book and a YALSA Best Book for Young Adults*.

Bondoux, Anne-Laure. *The Killer's Tears*. After his parents are murdered by itinerant criminal Angel, young Paolo and the killer haltingly discover their capacity for love and forgiveness. The two tempt fate when they accept a stranger into their lives and then venture beyond their bleak homestead on the southern tip of Chile. *Batchelder Honor Book and a YALSA Best Book for Young Adults*.

Budhos, Marina. *Ask Me No Questions*. In the wake of 9/11, with their father detained at the Canadian border, Nadira and her sister navigate tense circumstances as they seek their father's release. *YALSA Best Book for Young Adults*.

Coombs, Kate. *The Runaway Princess*. By competing in the contest herself, Princess Meg foils her father's plans to marry her to the prince who destroys a dragon, a witch, and a group of bandits.

Cottrell Boyce, Frank. *Framed*. The transformative powers of art and soccer receive due appreciation in this very funny tale of how one small Welsh town is brought to life when the National Gallery moves into the mountain next door.

DeMari, Silvana. *The Last Dragon*. With the help of two bewildered but kindly humans and, later, a feisty orphan, a young elf and irascible dragon, attempt to fulfill a prophecy that tests their courage and resilience. The tale offers adventure, romance, and a wonderfully realized magical world. *Batchelder Honor Book*.

Fleischman, Sid. *Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini*. Harry Houdini's journey from poverty to world renown is dramatically captured by a fine writer and fellow magician. *YALSA Best Book for Young Adults*.

Fradin, Judith Bloom and Fradin, Dennis Brindell. *Jane Addams: Champion of Democracy*. In a well-documented biography, the Fradins trace Jane Addams' life from her awkward childhood to her accomplishments as social activist, pacifist, and winner of the 1931 Nobel Peace Prize.

Freedman, Russell. *The Adventures of Marco Polo*. This gorgeously illustrated volume leads readers from thirteenth-century Venice to the Far East and back, asking them to consider this question: Was Marco Polo the world's greatest explorer or the world's biggest liar?

Freedman, Russell. *Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott*. The story of the civil rights movement's landmark victory is told through the eyes of the people who were there. *YALSA Best Book for Young Adults*.

Holm, Jennifer L. *Penny from Heaven*. Eleven-year-old Penny looks forward to spending the summer rooting for the Brooklyn Dodgers and scheming with her cousin Frankie. Instead, she navigates the space between her two families and uncovers the reason for their estrangement in this funny, touching tale of intergenerational love, set in 1953. *Newbery Honor Book*.

Hopkinson, Deborah. *Up Before Daybreak: Cotton and People in America*. The voices of Slaves, sharecroppers, and millworkers trace the threads of cotton from the Industrial Revolution through the Great Depression. *YALSA Best Book for Young Adults*.

Krull, Kathleen. *Isaac Newton*. This entry in the Giants of Science series offers readers an engaging and elucidating account of the great physicist's life and works.

Krull, Kathleen. *Sigmund Freud*. The fascinating life, career, revolutionary ideas, and far-ranging influence of the Austrian father of psychoanalysis are explored in this volume in the Giants of Science series.

Larson, Kirby. *Hattie Big Sky*. Sixteen-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks is looking for a place to belong—a home. In 1918, she leaves Iowa for the Montana prairie, where she strives to forge a new life. Told in first-person narrative and distinguished by vivid imagery and careful attention to historical detail, this memorable novel portrays her struggle to prove her claim. *Newbery Honor Book and a YALSA Best Book for Young Adults*.

Lowry, Lois. *Gossamer*. In this story of abuse, love, and patience, Littlest One and Thin Elderly, both dream givers, come into the lives of three people and work their transformative magic.

Lupica, Mike. *Heat*. A refugee from Cuba, 12-year-old Michael Arroyo is a pitching prodigy whose right to play Little League baseball is challenged by a hostile coach.

Mourlevat, Jean-Claude. *The Pull of the Ocean*. This contemporary version of the Tom Thumb story follows charismatic Yann, the youngest and smallest of seven brothers, as he silently leads his siblings across the rain-soaked French countryside. Their harrowing flight from abusive parents is described through the boys' recollections and the distinctive voices of those who witness or abet their journey. *Batchelder Award Book*.

Paulsen, Gary. *The Legend of Bass Reeves: Being the True and Fictional Account of the Most Famous Marshal in the West*. A man who was born a slave and survived in the wilderness of the American West becomes one of the most successful lawmen of his time, a real hero.

Pearsall, Shelley. *All of the Above: A Novel*. In alternating voices, students in an urban middle school tell of their triumphant construction of the world's largest tetrahedron and the way the project changed their lives.

Pratchett, Terry. *Wintersmith*. Thirteen-year-old Tiffany Aching didn't mean to make the Wintersmith fall in love with her—it just happened. But now Winter holds the world in his frozen fist, all for the love of Tiffany. What's an apprentice witch to do? *YALSA Best Book for Young Adults*.

Reeve, Philip. *Larklight: A Rousing Tale of Dauntless Pluck in the Farthest Reaches of Space*. A rip-snorting Victorian science fiction adventure pulls out all the stops as Art and his big sister, Myrtle, strive to save the British Empire and its planetary territories from a race of sinister, space-going white spiders.

Roy, Jennifer. *Yellow Star*. This free-verse novel recounts the life of four-year-old Sylvia and her family, who are forced to live in the Lodz Ghetto during the Nazi occupation of Poland.

Rubin, Susan Goldman. *Andy Warhol: Pop Art Painter*. A strikingly designed biography explores the development of the Pop artist whose paintings of mundane objects had a radical impact on our thinking about art.

Salisbury, Graham. *House of the Red Fish*. One year after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, 13-year-old Tomi Nakaji is determined to raise his father's fishing boat, which was sunk by the army in the wake of the attack. A sequel to *Under the Blood-Red Sun*.

Todd, Mark and Watson, Esther Pearl. *Whatcha Mean, What's a Zine? The Art of Making Zines and Mini-Comics* Dive into this how-to guide for creating and appreciating the zine alternative art-form.

Walker, Paul Robert. *Remember Little Bighorn: Indians, Soldiers, and Scouts Tell Their Stories*. Enriched by historical quotes, photographs, and drawings by battle warriors, this book offers an insightful examination of the bloody battles at Little Bighorn in 1876.

Winthrop, Elizabeth. *Counting on Grace*. Grace Forcier and her family withstand the living and working conditions in a Vermont textile mill town in the early 1900s. When Lewis Hine and his camera come to visit, she dares to hope for a better life.

All Ages

McKissack, Patricia C. *Porch Lies: Tales of Slicksters, Tricksters, and Other Wily Characters*. Ten original tales of exaggeration and humor derived from African American lore and tradition recount various ways clever, colorful folk outwitted those who tried to best them—even the Devil himself.

Wiesner, David. *Flotsam*. A vintage camera washed up on the beach provides a young boy with a surprising view of fantastical images from the bottom of the sea. From fish eye to lens eye, readers see a frame-by-frame narrative of lush marinescapes ebbing and flowing from the real to the surreal. *Caldecott Medal Book*.

Resources

American Library Association www.ala.org

School Library Journal www.slj.com

Nutmeg Book Award www.nutmegaward.org

What do I Read Next? www.iconn.org

Visit

Southbury or Middlebury Public Libraries

Local Bookstores

