



# The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge

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## A Message to Parents and Students

The State of Connecticut sponsors the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge because reading is the most important skill. Research shows that reading is crucial to a child's brain development and intellectual stimulation. And that's just the beginning:



**Reading is a gateway skill.** It opens the door to all other learning.



**Reading is the processing of information.** It requires the student to develop a capacity for conceptual thinking — an ability to think about the nature and significance of things.



**Reading builds language skills.** By becoming more familiar with language through reading, students build a rich vocabulary and an ability to express themselves clearly and creatively.



**Reading builds better thinking strategies.** Analyzing words, sentences, themes and meaning; concentrating, conceptualizing and visualizing — all these elements of reading are strategies to expand a student's ability to think.



**Reading is active and disciplined.** Students learn to choose what they read and when they read, and they learn to discipline themselves to concentrate on the written word.

# What YOU Can Do to Encourage Reading

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## Use the library.

Make sure everyone in your family has a library card. Help children learn how to use the library's resources: card catalogs, computer systems, best-seller sections, etc. Visit regularly — as often as you go to the grocery store.



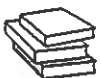
## Read every day.

Make it a habit to set aside time each day for everyone to read—books, magazines, newspapers, letters. You can even begin by reading television listings, then discussing what you will watch together and why.



## Talk about what you're reading.

Children need to see adults reading frequently. They also need to know the benefits of reading. Talk to your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, even young neighbors about what you're reading. Tell them how much you have enjoyed it, what you have learned, and how you have been inspired.



## Ask about summer reading materials.

Schools and libraries often provide summer reading lists that highlight excellent books which are readily available, popular and consistent with grade-level reading skills. Call your school or library for information.



## Make reading materials part of your home.

Buy books at bookstores and tag sales. Borrow books from the library and from friends. Subscribe to newspapers and magazines. *Then read, read, read!*

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**To learn more about the Summer Reading Challenge,  
ask your teacher, principal, or school or public librarian,  
or contact the Connecticut State Department of Education:  
860-713-6751 or [www.ct.gov/sde](http://www.ct.gov/sde).**



## THE GOVERNOR'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

### Students and Families:

To learn more, ask your teacher, principal, or school or public librarian,  
or contact the Connecticut State Department of Education  
at 860-713-6751 or [www.ct.gov/sde](http://www.ct.gov/sde).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN \_\_\_\_\_

MY FAVORITE BOOK WAS \_\_\_\_\_

I LIKED THIS BOOK BECAUSE \_\_\_\_\_



# A UNIVERSE OF STORIES

CONNECTICUT READS 2019

THE GOVERNOR'S  
SUMMER READING  
CHALLENGE

SUMMER READING JOURNAL



# A UNIVERSE OF STORIES

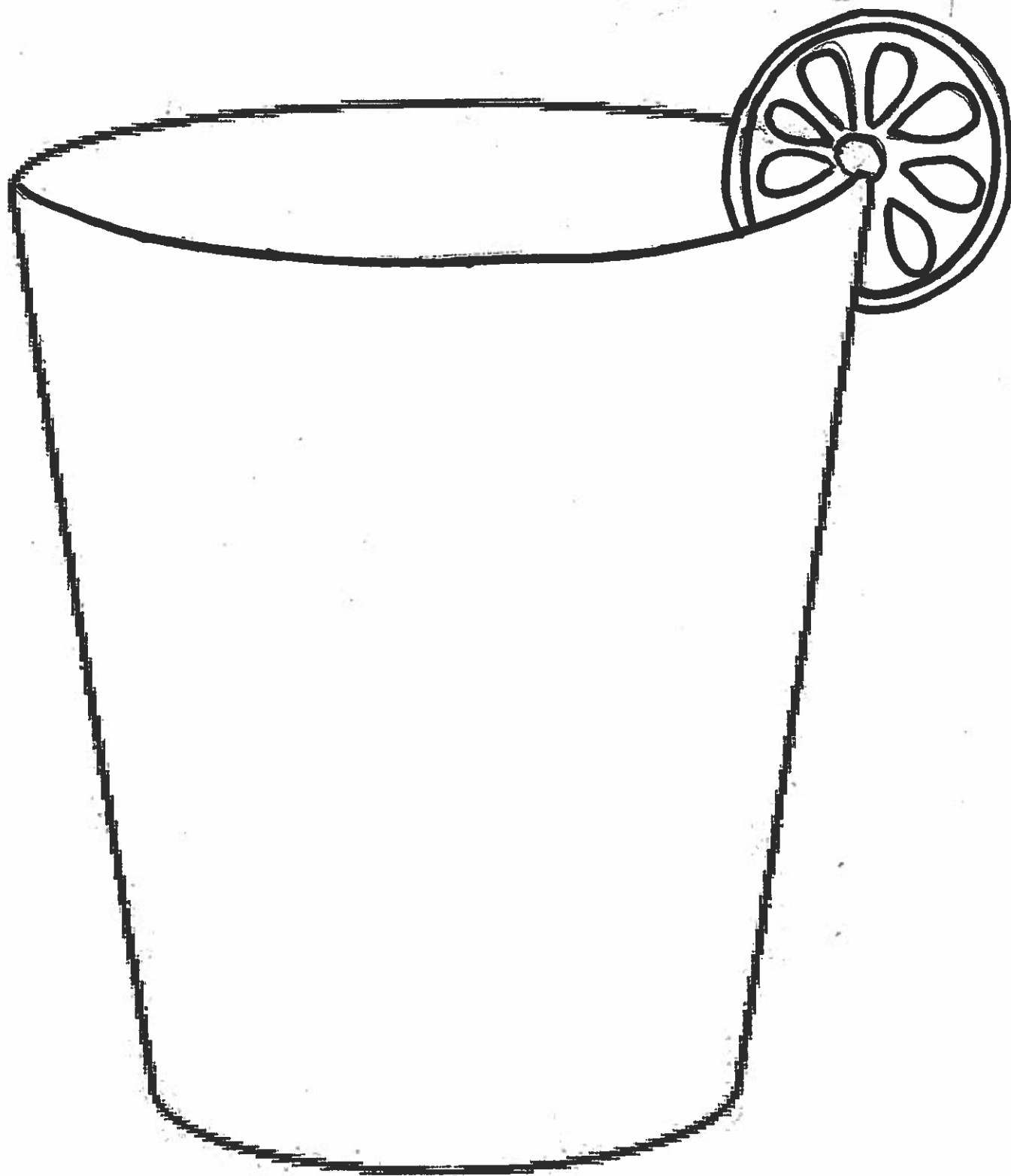


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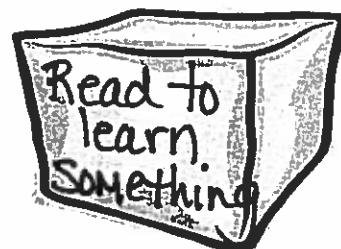
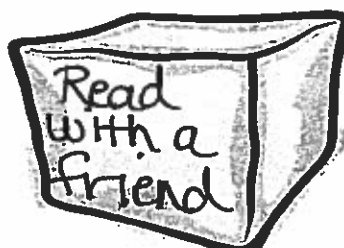
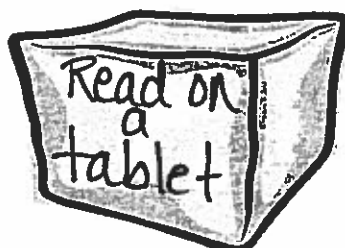
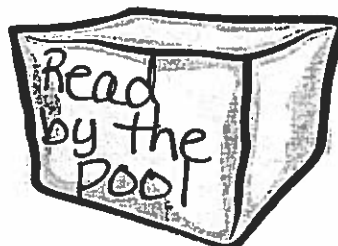
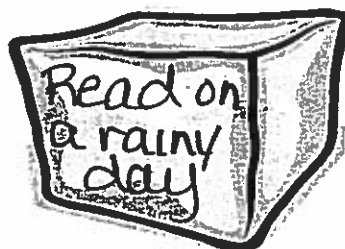
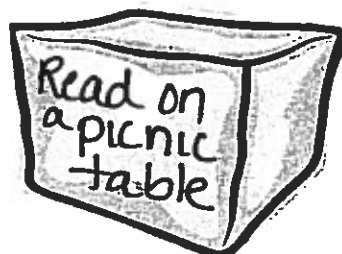
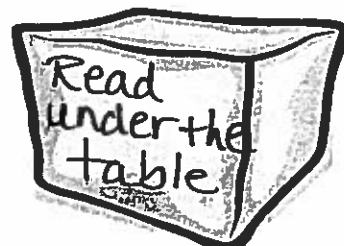
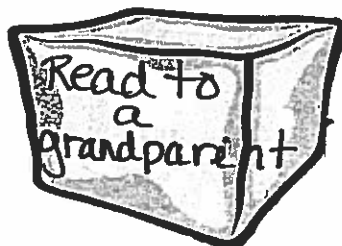
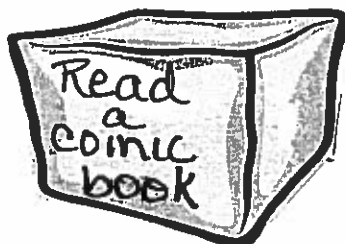
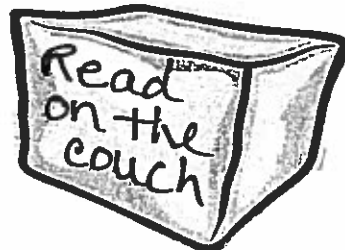
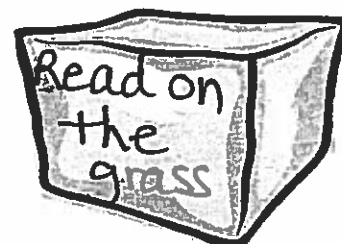
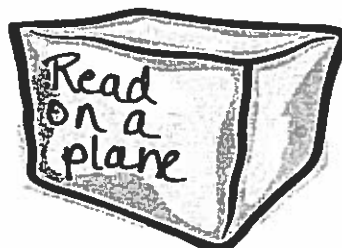
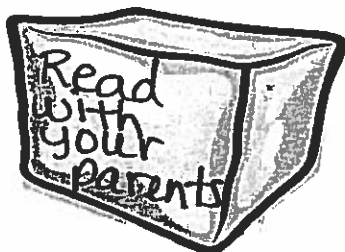
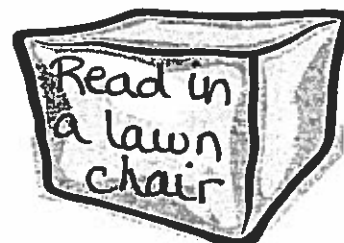
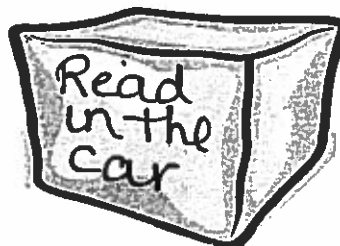
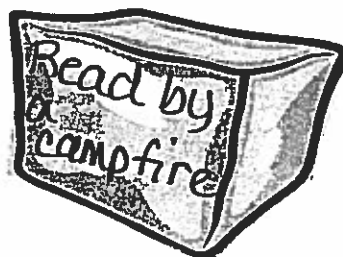
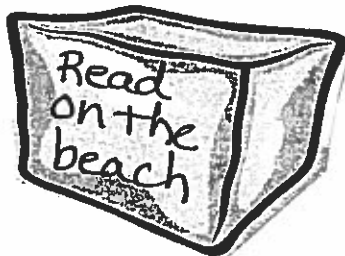
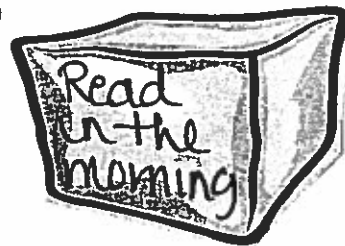
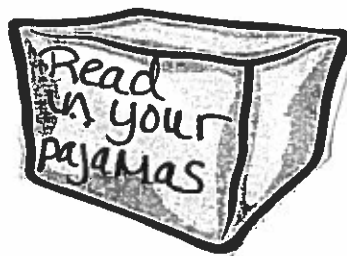
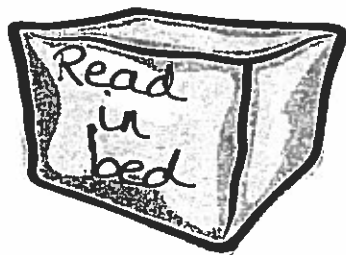
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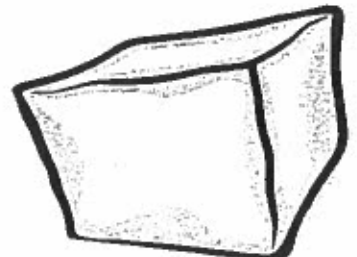
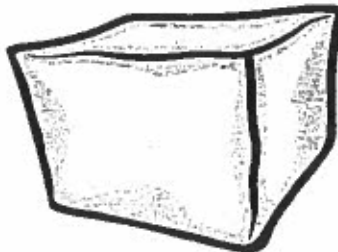
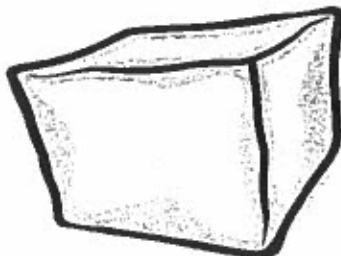
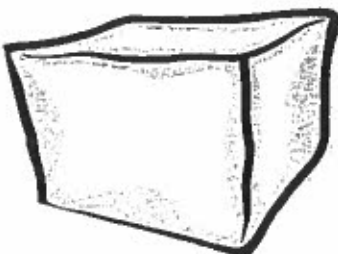
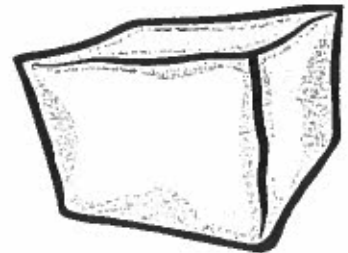
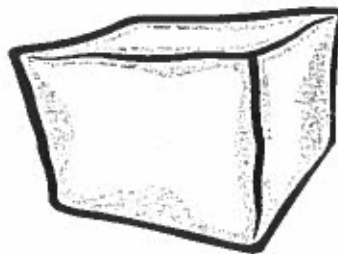
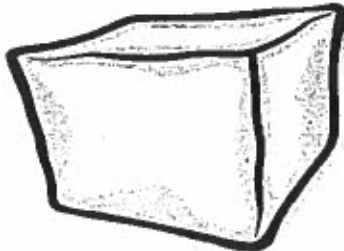
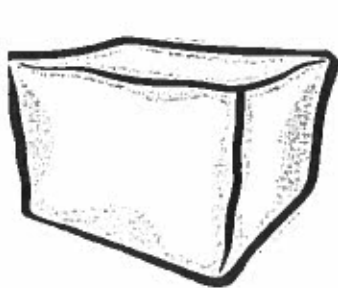
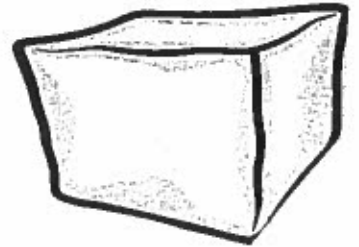
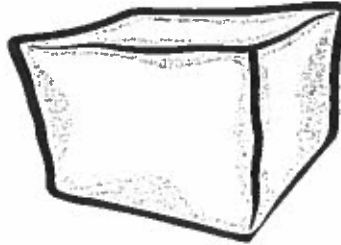
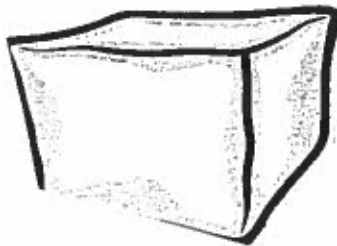
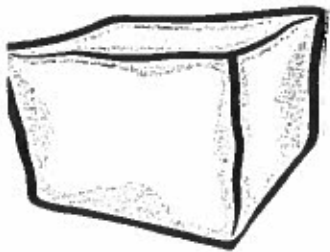
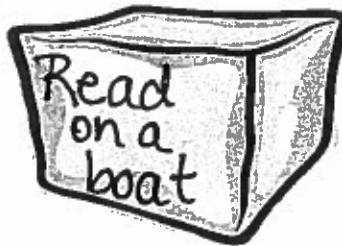
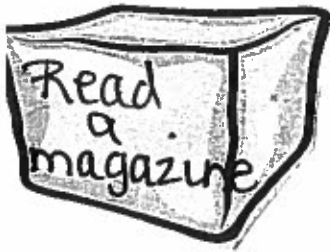
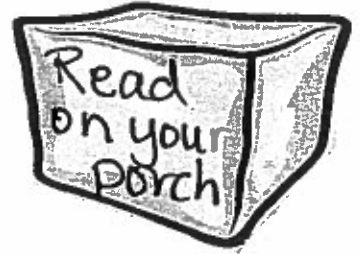
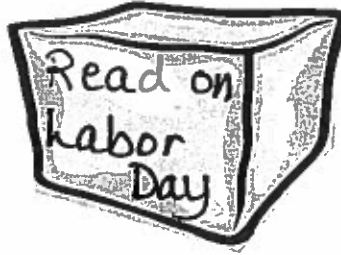
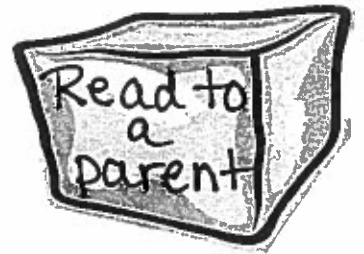
Total Number of Books Read \_\_\_\_\_



### Summer Reading Challenge- 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Choose at least 20 different ice cube reading challenges. When you complete the challenge, glue it to your glass. There are some blank ice cubes for you to create your own challenge. The length of each challenge should be 30 minutes. Finally, decorate your glass in a creative way. Good Luck! Happy Reading!









## SUMMER READING LIST® A Universe of Stories! ~ Grades 5-6

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

### FICTION

#### **Cosmic** by Frank Cottrell Boyce

Super-sized twelve-year-old Liam makes a giant leap for boy-kind by competing with a group of adults for the chance to go into space. | Lexile: 670

#### **Shooting the Moon** by Frances O'Roark Dowell

When her brother is sent to fight in Vietnam, twelve-year-old Jamie begins to reconsider the army world that she has grown up in. | Lexile: 890

#### **The Jamie Drake Equation** by Christopher Edge

Jamie has a close encounter with an alien who tells him his father, an astronaut on a mission at the International Space Station, is in trouble and needs Jamie's help. | Lexile: 960

#### **Last Day on Mars** by Kevin Emerson

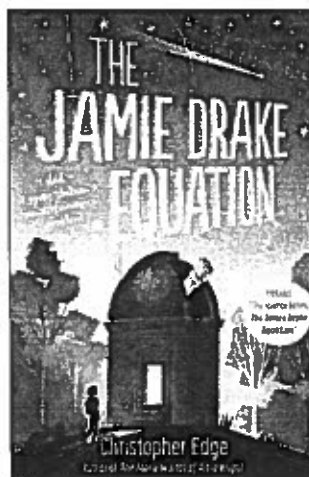
While waiting to leave Mars before it burns up just like the Earth before it, Liam and his friend Phoebe discover some facts about time and space and realize that the human race is just one of the races trying to survive in space.

#### **Full Cicada Moon** by Marilyn Hilton

In 1969 twelve-year-old Mimi and her family move to an all-white town in Vermont, where Mimi's mixed-race background and interest in "boyish" topics like astronomy make her feel like an outsider. | ALA, NCSS, *Nutmeg* 2018 | Lexile: 790

#### **Unidentified Suburban Object** by Mike Jung

Chloe Cho is a Korean American seventh-grader who would like to get in touch with many of the aspects of her heritage, but her parents are unwilling to talk about it—then when a class assignment forces Chloe to confront them directly, they finally tell her the truth about her family, which may just be too much for one girl to handle. | Lexile: 830



#### **Dragon Pearl** by Yoon Ha Lee

Min, a thirteen-year-old girl with fox-magic, stows away on a battle cruiser and impersonates a cadet in order to solve the mystery of what happened to her older brother in the Thousand World Space Forces. | Lexile: 780

#### **Love, Ish** by Karen Rivers

Twelve year old Mischa "Ish" Love's longtime dream has been to someday live on

Mars, but when she collapses on the first day of seventh grade, Ish receives a diagnosis which threatens her future plans. | ILA | Lexile: 640

#### **We're Not From Here** by Geoff Rodkey

The award-winning author of the *Chronicles of Egg* series finds the narrator, a Mars colonist, relocating in the aftermath of Earth's mysterious demise to the planet Choom, where the mosquito-like inhabitants dislike human singing, jokes and emotions so much that they are outlawed. | Lexile: 740

#### **A Problematic Paradox** by Eliot Sappingfield

Thirteen-year-old Nikola's world is turned upside down when her father is abducted by aliens and she is transported to a boarding school for geniuses, but things get stranger when she realizes she has certain abilities that put her school in danger. | Lexile: 850

#### **The Truth About Martians** by Melissa Savage

When a flying saucer crash-lands next to Mylo's Roswell, New Mexico, ranch in 1947, he and his friends Dibs and Gracie set out to find and help the Martians. | Lexile: 650

#### **The Countdown Conspiracy** by Katie Slivensky

Miranda, one of six elite kids training for the world's first-ever mission to Mars, begins receiving death threats from hatemongers who do not consider her worthy, until a terror attack on the training base places the team and mission in Miranda's hands. | Lexile: 700





# SUMMER READING LIST\*

## GRAPHIC NOVELS

### **Sanity & Tallulah** by *Molly Brooks*

Sanity and Tallulah live in a space station at the end of the galaxy. When Sanity's illegally created three-headed kitten escapes, the girls have to turn their home upside down to find her in this graphic novel. | Lexile: 530

### **Rocket to the Moon!** by *Don Brown*

Presents a history of rocket technology, from ancient Chinese rockets, the "bombs bursting in air" during the War of 1812, and Russia's Sputnik program.

### **One Trick Pony** by *Nathan Hale*

In a future where alien beings consume technology as a few humans try to preserve it, Strata, her brother, and a friend are separated from their caravan and, with a wonderful robotic horse, must fight their way back. | ALA | Lexile: 260

### **Cleopatra in Space #1: Target Practice** by *Mike Maihack*

When a young Cleopatra finds a mysterious tablet that zaps her to the far, REALLY far future, she learns of an ancient prophecy that says she is destined to save the galaxy from the tyrannical rule of the evil Xaius Octavian. | ALA, ILA | Lexile: 430

### **Red's Planet** by *Eddie Pittman*

The story of headstrong 10-year-old foster child Red, who stows away on an alien spaceship and is marooned on a deserted planet with a menagerie of misfit aliens. | ILA | Lexile: 350



### **A Black Hole is Not a Hole** by *Carolyn Cinami DeCristofano*

Introduces black holes, describing their physical features, how they were discovered, what causes them, and where they exist in space. | ALA, NCTE | Lexile: 900

### **When Planet Earth Was New** by *James Gladstone*

Describes the formation of planet Earth, from its beginnings as molten rock and poison gas, to the formation of oceans, to the evolution of life. | NSTA | Lexile: 530

### **Our Moon: New Discoveries About Earth's Closest Companion** by *Elaine Scott*

Discusses the most up-to-date information known about the moon, including the newest theories on how it formed, the recent discovery of water on its surface, and the possibility of future moon colonies. | NSTA | Lexile: 1280

### **To Pluto & Beyond: The Amazing Voyage of New Horizons** by *Elaine Scott*

The newest book from science writer, Elaine Scott, introduces young readers to New Horizons, the space ship that NASA built to explore Pluto and the fringes of our solar system. | NSTA | Lexile: 1090

### **Welcome to Mars: Making a Home on the Red Planet** by *Buzz Aldrin*

The Apollo 11 astronaut invites curious youngsters to evaluate Mars as a potential planet for human colonization, describing what Mars residents might experience while traveling to and living on the Red Planet. | NSTA | Lexile: 900

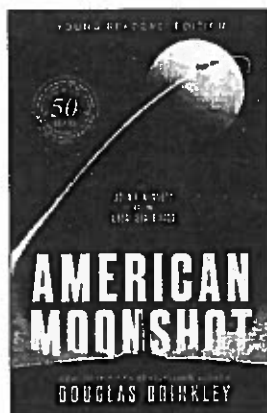
## NONFICTION

### **Seven Wonders of the Solar System** by *David A Aguilar*

Explores seven extraordinary celestial wonders, from our close neighbor Mars to mysterious Planet 9. | NSTA | Lexile: 1070

### **American Moonshot** (Young Readers' Edition) by *Douglas Brinkley*

A young readers' edition of the award-winning historian's 50th anniversary account of America's race to the moon shares behind-the-scenes insights into the heroic achievements of the Apollo 11 team and why the mission was so important.



## BIOGRAPHY

### **Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream** by *Tanya Lee Stone*

Presents the story of the thirteen women connected with NASA's Mercury 13 space mission, who braved prejudice and jealousy to make their mark and open the door for the female pilots and space commanders that would soon follow. | ALA, NCTE, NSTA | Lexile: 980

\*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 Literacy Association (ILA), the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), 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 (USBYP). Other awards as noted.



# SUMMER READING

## Favorites & Classics

For Grades 5-6

### READ NUTMEG AWARD NOMINEES!

Find the Intermediate Nutmeg list at: <http://nutmegaward.org>

### FAVORITES & CLASSICS

#### **Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster\*** by Jonathan Auxier

In nineteenth-century England, after her father's disappearance Nan Sparrow, ten, works as a "climbing boy," aiding chimney sweeps, but when her most treasured possessions end up in a fireplace, she unwittingly creates a golem. | Lexile: 630

#### **The Girl Who Drank the Moon\*** by Kelly Barnhill

Luna, whose magical abilities are emerging, was raised in the forest by a witch, a swamp monster, and a dragon, but when a young man from the Protectorate is determined to kill the witch, Luna must use her magic to protect her family. | ALA | Lexile: 640

#### **The Secret Garden** by Frances Hodgson Burnett

A ten-year-old orphan comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors where she discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden. | Lexile: 970

#### **The Madman of Piney Woods\*** by Christopher Paul Curtis

Even though it is now 1901, the people of Buxton, Canada (originally a settlement of runaway slaves) and Chatham, Canada are still haunted by two events of half a century before--the American Civil War, and the Irish potato famine, and the lasting damage those events caused to the survivors. | Lexile: 870

#### **The City of Ember** by Jeanne DuPrau

In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions. | ALA | Lexile: 680

#### **The Birchbark House** by Louise Erdrich

Omakayas, a seven-year-old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847. | ALA | Lexile: 970

#### **The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm** by Nancy Farmer

In 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are

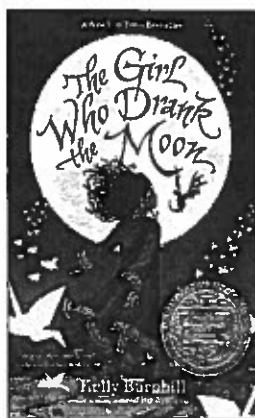
kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine, while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them. | ALA | Lexile: 660

#### **Harriet the Spy** by Louise Fitzhugh

Eleven-year-old Harriet, who is a spy and plans to be an author keeps a secret notebook filled with thoughts and notes on her schoolmates and people she observes on her afterschool spy route, but when some of her classmates read the notebook, they seek revenge. | Lexile: 760

#### **Roller Girl\*** by Victoria Jamieson

A graphic novel adventure about a girl who discovers roller derby right as she and her best friend are growing apart. | ALA, Nutmeg 2017 | Lexile: 440



#### **The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe** by C. S. Lewis

Four English schoolchildren find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter. | Lexile: 940

#### **Number the Stars** by Lois Lowry

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis. | ALA | Lexile: 670

#### **Merci Suárez Changes Gears\*** by Meg Medina

Merci Suárez begins the sixth grade and knows things will change, but she did not count on her grandfather acting strangely, not fitting in at her private school, and dealing with Edna Santos' jealousy. | ALA | Lexile: 700

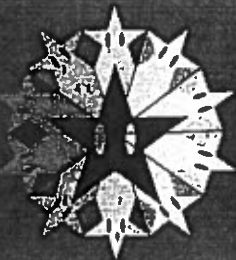
#### **Anne of Green Gables** by L. M. Montgomery

Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her. | Lexile: 850

#### **A Single Shard** by Linda Sue Park

Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself. | Lexile: 920





# SUMMER READING

## Favorites & Classics

For Grades 5-6

### **Bridge to Terabithia** by Katherine Paterson

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm. | Lexile: 810

### **Tom's Midnight Garden** by Philippa Pearce

While staying with his aunt and uncle, Tom discovers a beautiful garden that is visible only at night and meets a little girl from the Victorian era with whom he travels back in time. | Lexile: 860

### **Ninth Ward** by Jewell Parker Rhodes

In New Orleans' Ninth Ward, twelve-year-old Lanesha, who can see spirits, and her adopted grandmother have no choice but to stay and weather the storm as Hurricane Katrina bears down upon them. | ALA | Lexile: 470

### **Esperanza Rising** by Pam Muñoz Ryan

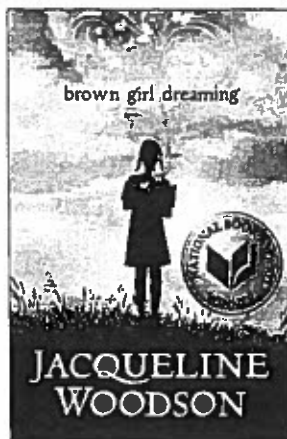
Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression. | ALA | Lexile: 750

### **Amal Unbound\*** by Aisha Saeed

In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family. | ALA | Lexile: 600

### **The Marvels\*** by Brian Selznick

In 1766, a boy, Billy Marvel, is shipwrecked, rescued, and goes



on to found a brilliant family of actors that flourishes in London until 1900--and nearly a century later, Joseph Jervis, runs away from home, seeking refuge with his uncle in London, and is captivated by the Marvel house, with its portraits and ghostly presences. | ALA, NCTE | Lexile: 770

### **One Crazy Summer** by Rita Williams-Garcia

In the summer of 1968, after travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the

intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp. | ALA, NBA | Lexile: 750

### **Beyond the Bright Sea\*** by Lauren Wolk

Twelve-year-old orphan Crow embarks on a journey to discover who her parents were and why they abandoned her as an infant. | ALA | Lexile: 770

### **Brown Girl Dreaming\*** by Jacqueline Woodson

In vivid poems that reflect the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, an award-winning author shares what it was like to grow up in the 1960s and 1970s in both the North and the South. | ALA, NBA, NCTE | Lexile: 990

### **Front Desk\*** by Kelly Yang

After emigrating from China, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel, despite the nasty owner, Mr. Yao, who exploits them, while she works the front desk and tries to cope with fitting in at her school. | ALA | Lexile: 640

## SERIES

**The Chronicles of Prydain** by Lloyd Alexander

**Crispin** trilogy by Avi

**Poppy** by Avi

**John Bellairs Mysteries** by John Bellairs

**The Penderwicks** by Jeanne Birdsall

**The Dark is Rising** by Susan Cooper

**The Unicorn Chronicles** by Bruce Coville

**The Moffats** by Eleanor Estes

**Joey Pigza** by Jack Gantos

**Shadow Children** by Margaret Peterson Haddix

**Redwall** by Brian Jacques

**Diary of a Wimpy Kid** by Jeff Kinney

**Regarding the....** by Kate Klise

**Dog Friday** trilogy by Hilary McKay

**Percy Jackson & the Olympians** by Rick Riordan

**Harry Potter** by J. K. Rowling

**Septimus Heap** by Angie Sage

**Enola Holmes Mysteries** by Nancy Springer

**The Mysterious Benedict Society** by Trenton Lee Stewart

**Sammy Keyes** by Wendelin Van Draanen

**Adam Canfield** by Michael Winrip

**Enchanted Forest Chronicles** by Patricia Wrede

**Dear America** by various authors



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