

West Springfield Elementary Summer Reading List
June 2009
Rising 4th, 5th, and 6th Grade Students

Listed below is a suggested reading list taken from the American Library Association's Notable Children's Books. This list contains all kinds of books and is only a guide. Please feel free to read any books that you and your child will enjoy. Following the list of books, there is a list of Websites where you can find more recommended reading lists. We encourage all children to read at least 30 minutes a day over the summer. One way to actively encourage reading in the summertime is to register for the Summer Reading Program at any Fairfax County Public Library. Those students who have read at least 8 books before September may participate in an Ice Cream Sundae Party celebrating our summer readers. Just bring back your reading log from the public library program or our website. Have a wonderful vacation, and enjoy your summer of reading!

--Miss Pantel and Mrs. Bunce

Appelt, Kathi. **The Underneath**. Illus. by David Small.

Intertwining stories of an embittered man, a loyal hound, an abandoned cat and a vengeful lamia sing of love, loss, loneliness and hope. (2009 Newbery Honor Book)

Bishop, Nic. **Frogs**. Photos by the author.

Bishop presents salient facts about frogs through clear text, augmented with fascinating photographs of species around the world. Even the frog-phobic will be fascinated.

Broach, Elise. **Masterpiece**. Illus. by Kelly Murphy.

An artistic beetle with a yen for adventure and a lonely 11-year-old boy team up to catch the thief who has stolen a priceless Albrecht Durer from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Brown, Don. **All Stations! Distress!: April 15, 1912, the Day the Titanic Sank**. Illus.

Selecting just the right amount of essential information, Brown artfully captures the drama of what happened to the unsinkable Titanic on that fateful night.

Bryant, Jen. **A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams**. Illus. by Melissa Sweet.

Sweet's mixed-media collage and primitive watercolors flow seamlessly with Bryant's prose to reveal the important bits and pieces of Williams' ordinary, yet extraordinary, life as a doctor and poet. (2009 Caldecott Honor Book)

Clements, Andrew. **No Talking**.

Dave Packer's fifth grade class has a reputation for being loud and "unshushable" After reading about Gandhi's day of silence once a week, he decides to give silence a try. In a ultimate girls vs. boys challenge the students instigate a 48-hour no-talking contest. Principal and teachers are in shock as the fifth graders try to respectfully maintain their silence. (09-10 Virginia Reader's Choice)

Davies, Jacqueline. **Lemonade War**.

"People-smart" Evan and his younger "math-smart" sister Jessie normally get along well until a letter arrives revealing that they will be in the same fourth grade classroom. Arguments escalate until Evan makes a bet to see who can make the most money selling lemonade (winner takes all). Each chapter begins with a brief description of an economic/business term that relates to the ongoing sibling war. (09-10 Virginia Reader's Choice)

Dowd, Siobhan. **The London Eye Mystery**.

In a race against time, twelve-year-old Ted, with his sister Kat, uses his special skills and perceptions to discover how their cousin Salim disappeared while riding the London Eye, the world's tallest observation wheel.

Elliott, Zetta. **Bird**. Illus. by Shadra Strickland.

A young boy, Mehkai, nicknamed Bird because he loves to draw birds, finds solace in his art work as his beloved grandfather dies and his admired older brother Marcus succumbs to drug addiction. (2009 Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award)

Erdrich, Louise. **The Porcupine Year**.

In this third in the Birchbark House series set in 1852, Omakayas, a young Ojibwa girl now 12, and her family face serious challenges as they move westward from land the U.S. government has claimed.

Fern, Tracey E. **Buffalo Music**. Illus. by Lauren Castillo.

Pioneer Mary Ann Goodnight saves her beloved Texas buffalo from extinction by shipping those that escape slaughter to Yellowstone to become part of a new national herd. Spare scenes of primitive abstract art create a stunning visual landscape.

Fitzgerald, Dawn. **Vinnie and Abraham**

A talented young girl gets a chance to meet Abraham Lincoln and create a sculpture of him. After his death, Vinnie is commissioned to create a memorial statue of the President for the Capitol. (09-10 Virginia Reader's Choice)

Friedman, Laurie. **Mallory Vs. Max**.

Mallory is jealous when her brother Max gets a dog. She resists accepting the new dog in the family until an unfortunate event changes her perspective. A heartwarming tale that shows brothers and sisters can still be friends even if they don't always get along. (09-10 Virginia Reader's Choice)

Funke, Cornelia. **Igraine the Brave**.

The daughter of two magicians, 12-year-old Igraine wants nothing more than to be a knight. When her parents are trapped in magic gone wrong, Igraine must show bravery to help her parents break their spell and to protect the castle and her friends from a treacherous neighbor bent on stealing the magic books. (09-10 Virginia Reader's Choice)

Gaiman, Neil. **The Graveyard Book**. Illus. by Dave McKean.

A child marked for death by an ancient league of assassins escape into an abandoned graveyard, where he is reared and protected by its spirit denizens. A delicious mix of murder, fantasy, humor and human longing, Gaiman's tale is told in magical, haunting prose. (2009 Newbery Medal Book)

Giff, Patricia Reilly. **Eleven**.

Just before his eleventh birthday, Sam, a struggling reader, finds a newspaper clipping hidden in the attic that seems to suggest he was kidnapped. As mysterious ideas and thoughts that he can't quite remember haunt him, he desperately searches for someone he can trust to help him read the documents and find the truth about his identity and his beloved grandfather. (09-10 Virginia Reader's Choice)

González, Lucía. **The Storyteller's Candle/La velita de los cuentos.** Illus. by Lulu Delacre.

Text and sepia tone illustrations present the biographical story of Pura Belpré, the first Puerto Rican librarian hired by the New York Public Library, who introduces the public library to immigrants living in El Barrio and hosts the neighborhood's first Three Kings' Day fiesta. (2009 Belpré Author Honor Book and Illustrator Honor Book)

Greenberg, Jan and Sandra Jordan. **Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Through the Gates and Beyond.** Illus. with photographs.

Beginning with a description of the dramatic "Gates" project installed for two weeks in Central Park in 2005, readers are introduced to the extraordinary pair whose art, in its immense scope, has amazed and astounded the world.

Hale, Shannon and Dean Hale. **Rapunzel's Revenge.** Illus. by Nathan Hale.

In a vibrantly illustrated graphic novel set in a make-believe frontier land, an untraditional Rapunzel escapes the tower, uses her long braids as weapons, and takes revenge on the wicked Mother Gothel.

Hopkinson, Deborah. **Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek: A Tall, Thin Tale (Introducing His Forgotten Frontier Friend).** Illus. by John Hendrix.

Taking a boyhood story about Lincoln as inspiration, Hopkinson provides a lively, tongue-in-cheek telling with as many bends as Knob Creek. Hendrix's broad, cartoony illustrations visually suggest several possible outcomes to the boys' predicament.

Jonell, Lynne. **Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat.**

After her parents inherit money, Emmy is often alone and ignored by almost everyone (mostly because she's so good). When the nasty classroom rat starts talking with her, she discovers a strange world of rodents. It's up to Emmy and animal friends to get her world back to normal. (09-10 Virginia Reader's Choice)

Kerley, Barbara. **What to Do About Alice? How Alice Roosevelt Broke the Rules, Charmed the World, and Drove Her Father Teddy Crazy!**

Illus. by Edwin Fotheringham.

Growing up as the daughter of the President was not easy, but being the President and father of Alice Roosevelt was not easy either. Kerley's playful use of language and Fotheringham's rollicking illustrations converge to introduce energy and outrageousness. (2009 Sibert Honor Book)

Law, Ingrid. **Savvy**.

This rich first-person narrative draws readers into a wild bus ride, winding through the countryside on a journey of self-discovery for Mibs Beaumont and her companions. (*2009 Newbery Honor Book*)

Lewin, Ted and Betsy. **Horse Song: The Naadam of Mongolia**. Illus.

Alternating lavish watercolors and lively cartoon sketches, the artists document their travel to Mongolia, capturing the excitement and beauty of Naadam, the Summer Festival, where young boys and girls compete in horse racing.

McGill, Alice. **Way Up and Over Everything**. Illus. by Jude Daly.

Stylized watercolors illustrate A storyteller's account of the five newly purchased Africans who escaped the horrors of slavery by flying away from the Georgia plantation where her great-grandmama's mama lived and worked.

Nicholls, Sally. **Ways to Live Forever**.

Using clever lists, insightful questions, thoughtful journal entries and drawings, eleven-year-old Sam shares his perspective on his leukemia and his upbeat attitude as he faces the end of his life.

Nivola, Claire A. **Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai**. Illus.

Naïf, charming pictures, and well-chosen details illuminate the life and work of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Wangari Maathai, who responded to the impending desertification of her native Kenya by instigating the planting of 30 million trees.

Nobleman, Marc Tyler. **Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman**. Illus. by Ross MacDonald.

Part picture book, part graphic novel, this is the fascinating story of how two high school friends created a superhero that endures to this day.

Parker, Robert Andrew. **Piano Starts Here: The Young Art Tatum**. Illus.

Parker imagines renowned jazz pianist Tatum's early years, employing a first person narrative that takes readers from his Toledo youth to big city clubs and concert halls. Luminous watercolors compellingly extend the text. (*2009 Schneider Family Book Award*)

Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. **When the Wolves Returned: Restoring Nature's Balance in Yellowstone**. Photographs by Dan Hartman and Cassie Hartman.

Lively photographs, capturing images of wildlife, and an easy text make it clear to young readers the beneficial impact to the ecosystem when wolves were reintroduced.

Preller, James. **Six Innings: A Game in the Life**.

The heart stopping action of a little league baseball game frames a personal introduction to the players, the strategies, and twelve-year-old Sam, sidelined by cancer.

Ray, Deborah Kogan. **Wanda Gág: The Girl Who Lived to Draw**. Illus.

This intimate portrait of the creator of Millions of Cats combines Gág's own words with more detailed text to describe a girl who never let go of her dream. Lush illustrations suggest Gág's style and versatility.

Rumford, James. **Silent Music: A Story of Baghdad**.

Ali, a young boy in contemporary Baghdad, loves calligraphy and practices his art to shut out the sights and sounds of war. Mixed media illustrations contrast rich color, lush texture, bold silhouettes, and flowing calligraphy.

St. George, Judith. **The Ghost, the White House, and Me**.

After their mother's inauguration KayKay and Annie Granger become intrigued with the White House's history, in particular, the Lincoln bedroom and the alleged ghost that roams through the rooms. They finally get the gumption and permission to spend the night in the Lincoln bedroom hoping to solve the mystery. (*09-10 Virginia Reader's Choice*)

Scieszka, Jon. **Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories about Growing Up Scieszka**. Illus.

A hilarious saga of growing up in a household with five brothers during the 1950's and 1960's by the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, illustrated with candid pictures from the period.

Schulman, Janet. **Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City**. Illus. by Meilo So.

Lush watercolors and personable narrative bring to life the story of Pale Male, a male hawk who nests atop a swanky Fifth Avenue apartment building and sparks a battle for his habitat among residents and conservationists.

Shulevitz, Uri. **How I Learned Geography**. Illus.

Recounting memories of his family's flight from the Warsaw Blitz and his years as a refugee during World War II, Shulevitz employs watercolor and ink to depict a boy liberated from his dreary existence through flights of fancy inspired by the map his father buys in the village market. (2009 Caldecott Honor Book)

Stone, Tanya Lee. **Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote**. Illus. by Rebecca Gibbon.

This introductory biography outlines Elizabeth Cady Stanton's childhood realization of the secondary status of women and continues with her adult activism that leads to the right to vote for women. Folk art expands the text.

Thomas, Joyce Carol. **The Blacker the Berry**. Illus. by Floyd Cooper.

A collection of twelve poems celebrating and affirming the variations in skin color and individuality of African American children, illustrated with richly colored paintings of children complementing the imagery of the free verse. (2009 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award and Author Honor Book)

Uehashi, Nahoko. **Moribito: Guardian of the Spirit**. Illus. by Yuko Shimizu.

Tr. by Cathy Hirano.

Balsa, a female warrior, accepts the task of protecting a young prince from demons and his father's assassins. Prince Chagum is the Moribito, the guardian of the sacred spirit. Together they must find in each other the source of strength they need to prevail. (2009 Batchelder Award Book)

Uhlberg, Myron. **Dad, Jackie, and Me**.

In 1947 Brooklyn, New York, a boy learns about discrimination and tolerance as he and his deaf father share their enthusiasm for baseball and the Dodgers' first baseman Jackie Robinson. (09-10 Virginia Reader's Choice)

Urban, Linda. **A Crooked Kind of Perfect**.

Zoe's dream of playing the piano at Carnegie Hall has a drawback - she doesn't have a piano and she doesn't know how to play. Her eccentric dad tries to help by buying her the Perfectone D-60, an organ with sound effects. In spite of her quirky family and new friend, Zoe finds hope and perfection in an imperfect world. (09-10 Virginia Reader's Choice)

Suggested Websites with Recommended Reading Lists

- Fairfax County Public Library
Booklists for Children:
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/reading/elem/>
Suggested Websites for Readers:
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/internet/readers.htm>
- Virginia Reader's Choice (including past year's nominees)
<http://www.vsra.org/VRCindex.html>
- The Horn Book
Children's Classics:
<http://www.hbook.com/pdf/childrensclassics.pdf>
Summer Reading:
<http://www.hbook.com/booklists/summer.asp>
- Read-Write-Think
<http://www.readwritethink.org/beyondtheclassroom/summer/>