

# Recommended Summer Reading Booklist for Grades K-8 2006

Below is a recommended list of books for summer reading based on award-winning titles. These books are suggested titles for students at the listed grade level and a brief annotation is included with each title.

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## Grades K-1

Cronin, Doreen. **Diary of a Worm.** A very funny worm relates the events of his life-loving dirt, not needing to go to the dentist and having friends as well as an irritating older sister.

Eastman, P.D. **Are You My Mother?** A small bird goes from animal to animal hoping to find his mother.

Falconer, Ian. **Olivia.** At home getting ready for the day, on the beach or in bed at night, Olivia is a feisty pig who has too much energy for her own good.

Feiffer, Jules. **Bark, George.** A mother dog worries about the strange noises her puppy is making.

Gag, Wanda. **Millions of Cats.** A little old man sets off to find his little old wife a cat, but comes back with many more!

Weeks, Sarah. **Baa-Choo!** Repetition and humor guide new readers through Sam the lamb's struggles to get out his stalled sneeze.

Zion, Gene. **Harry the Dirty Dog.** Harry, a white dog with black spots, doesn't like taking baths, so he runs away from home.

## Grades 2-3

Blackaby, Susan. **Buds and Blossoms: A Book About Flowers.** Fun facts abound in this book about flowers. (Nonfiction)

Dahl, Michael. **Do Bees Make Butter?** Introduces a number of different animals and the things they produce. (Nonfiction)

Grey, Mini. **Traction Man is Here!** Narrow escapes, heroic rescues, and sly good humor animate the square-jawed adventures of a little boy's action hero.

Kellogg, Steven. **The Mysterious Tadpole.** Louis's uncle gives him a tadpole for his birthday, but the tadpole's growth soon makes it obvious this is no ordinary tadpole!

Lester, Julius. **Ackamarackus.** A collection of six original fables with morals both silly and serious.

Scieszka, Jon. **The Time Warp Trio: Summer Reading is Killing Me!** At the beginning of summer vacation Joe, Sam, and Fred find themselves trapped inside their summer reading list, involved in a battle between good and evil characters from well-known children's books. (Chapter Book)

Whybrow, Ian. **Little Wolf's Diary of Daring Deeds.** In letters home to Mom and Dad, Little Wolf describes his journey to rescue his little brother, Smellybreff, from a crafty cubnapper, Mister Twister the Fox. (Chapter Book)

## **Grades 4-5**

Fleischman, Sid. **The Giant Rat of Sumatra, or Pirates Galore.** Cliffhanging chapter endings keep the pages flying in the latest historical romp by Newbery-winning author.

Harlow, Joan Hiatt. **Star in the Storm.** In 1912, fearing for the safety of her beloved Newfoundland dog Sirius because of a new law outlawing non-shepherding dogs in her Newfoundland village, twelve-year-old Maggie tries to save him by keeping him hidden.

Howe, James. **It Came From Beneath the Bed.** With help from his Uncle Harold, who wrote books about Bunnacula, Howie the wire-haired dachshund writes a story in which he saves the world from a science experiment gone awry.

King-Smith, Dick. **The School Mouse.** Flora, the world's most educated mouse, saves her family during a crisis.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. **Saving Shiloh.** Marty and his family try to help Judd Travers change his mean ways, even though his neighbors continue to expect the worst of him.

Peck, Richard. **Fair Weather.** In 1893 thirteen-year-old Rosie and members of his family travel from their Illinois farm to Chicago to visit Aunt Euterpe and attend the

World's Columbian Exposition which, along with an encounter with Buffalo Bill and Lillian Russell, turns out to be a life-changing experience for everyone.

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.

## **Grade 6**

Avi. **The Book Without Words: A Fable of Medieval Magic.** Sybil is a servant girl working for Thorston, an alchemist, who has spent his life trying to figure out the secret to immortality which can be found in *The Book Without Words*. Just as he is about to succeed he drops dead, leaving Sybil and Odo, a talking raven, to reap the rewards of his work.

Barry, Dave. **Peter and the Starcatchers.** Peter, an orphan boy, and his friend Molly fight off thieves and pirates in order to keep a secret trunk full of “starstuff” from falling into the hands of the diabolical Black Stache and his evil associate Mister Grin.

Birdsall, Jeanne. **The Penderwicks.** Four lovable sisters and their father spend their summer vacation in the Berkshire Mountains. While there, they share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of their snobbish mother.

Cooper, Susan. **King of Shadows.** While in London as part of an all-boy acting company preparing to perform in a replica of the famous Globe Theater, Nat Field suddenly finds himself transported to 1599 and performing in the original theater under the tutelage of Shakespeare himself.

Farmer, Nancy. **The Sea of Trolls.** After Jack becomes apprenticed to a Druid bard, he and his little sister Lucy are captured by Viking Berserkers and taken to the home of Kong Ivar the Boneless and his half-troll queen, leading Jack to undertake a vital quest to Jotunheim, home of the trolls.

Funke, Cornelia Caroline. **Inkheart.** Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father Mo, a bookbinder, can “read” fictional characters to life when an evil ruler named Capricorn, freed from the novel *Inkheart* years earlier, tries to force Mo to release an immortal monster from the story.

Pinkwater, Daniel. **The Hoboken Chicken Emergency.** Arthur's chicken, who weighs 266 pounds, escapes and mayhem ensues.

## **Grade 7-8**

Cooper, Susan. **The Dark is Rising.** On Will Stanton's 11<sup>th</sup> birthday he begins a quest through which he finds his own special gifts, the powers they give him and his role in the fight against the forces of evil.

Farmer, Nancy. **A Girl named Disaster.** While journeying to Zimbabwe, eleven-year-old Nhamo struggles to escape drowning and starvation and in so doing comes close to the luminous world of the African spirits.

Fisk, Pauline. **Midnight Blue.** Bonnie's newfound happiness in a world beyond the sky is threatened by the cruel Grandbag, and although she is offered help by the ancient, elusive lord and lady of the hill, she alone must meet the challenge in the end.

Fleischman, Sid. **Whirligig.** Brian travels to the four corners of the U.S. to build a whirligig in memory of a girl he killed while he was driving drunk.

Fletcher, Susan. **Shadow Spinner.** When Marjan, a thirteen-year-old crippled girl, joins the Sultan's harem in ancient Persia, she gathers for Scheherazade the stories which will save the queen's life.

Hobbs, Will. **Wild Man Island.** After fourteen-year-old Andy slips away from his kayaking group to visit the wilderness site of his archaeologist father's death, a storm strands him on Admiralty Island, Alaska, where he manages to survive, encounters unexpected animal and human inhabitants, and looks for traces of the earliest prehistoric immigrants to America.

Sachar, Louis. **Holes.** As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.