

# **SUMMER READING LIST\***

# Dig Into Reading! ~ Grades 3-4

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

### **PICTURE BOOKS**

## In the Garden with Dr. Carver by

Susan Grigsby

A fictionalized account of how plant scientist George Washington Carver came to an Alabama school and taught the children how to grow plants and reap the rewards of nature's bounty. Includes factual note about George Washington Carver. Lexile: 990

NCSS

## Boy of the Deeps by Ian Wallace

James, the son of a coal miner, goes with his father for the first time to work in the mines of Cape Breton. Lexile: 690 *NCSS* 

#### **CHAPTER BOOKS**

# Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Dinosaur

**Bones** by David A. Adler

When she notices some bones missing from a dinosaur skeleton exhibited in the museum, a young girl with a photographic memory tries to discover who has been taking them and why. Lexile: 490

### The End of the Beginning by Avi

Avon the snail and Edward, a take-charge ant, set off together on a journey to an undetermined destination in search of unspecified adventures. Lexile: 620

### **Fantastic Mr. Fox** by Roald Dahl

Three farmers, each one meaner than the other, try all-out warfare to get rid of the fox and his family. Lexile: 600

# **Tales From the Waterhole** by Bob Graham

During the dry season, Morris the crocodile and his animal friends enjoy playing in and near the water hole. Lexile: 490

# Watch Out World, Rosy Cole is Going Green! by Sheila Greenwald

Rosie's team comes up with some creative ideas for the Read School Fall Fair, whose mission is to sell "green-themed" products. Lexile: 760

# Me and the Pumpkin Queen by Marlane

Kennedy

Although Aunt Arlene tries to interest her in clothing and growing up, ten-year-old Mildred is entirely focused on growing a pumpkin big enough to win the annual Circleville, Ohio, contest, as her mother dreamed of doing before she died. Lexile: 790

### **Dying to Meet You** by Kate Klise

In this story told mostly through letters, children's book author, I. B. Grumply, gets more than he bargained for when he rents a quiet place to write for the summer. Lexile: 730

Nutmeg Nominee 2004

# Marty McGuire Digs Worms! by Kate

Messner

With help from her Grandma Barb, Marty builds a habitat for worms in her school cafeteria as part of the Save the Earth Project.

## The Spindlers by Lauren Oliver

Accompanied by an eccentric, human-sized rat, Liza embarks on a perilous quest through an underground realm to save her brother,

Patrick, whose soul has been stolen by the evilest of creatures--the spider-like spindlers.

## Nanny Piggins and the Wicked Plan

by R. A. Spratt

When Mr. Green announces his diabolical plan to remarry, his children are horrified at the thought of losing their beloved Nanny Piggins. Includes a story called "Nanny Piggins and the Tunnel to China." Lexile: 880

## Lulu and the Brontosaurus by Judith

Viorst

Lulu's parents refuse to give in when she demands a brontosaurus for her birthday and so she sets out to find her own, but while the brontosaurus she finally meets approves of pets, he does not intend to be Lulu's. Lexile: 910

# On the Banks of Plum Creek by Laura

Ingalls Wilder

Laura and her family move to Minnesota where they live in a dugout until a new house is built and face misfortunes caused by flood, blizzard, and grasshoppers. Lexile: 720 ALA

# SUMMER READING LIST

#### **GRAPHIC NOVEL**

Leo Geo: And His Miraculous Journey

Through the Center of the Earth by Jon Chad

Armed with scientific knowledge and a magic dagger, Leo is determined to outwit man-eating Quadclops giants and Malvisors and travel to the center of the earth.

ALA

### **FOLKLORE**

# The Secret of the Stones by Robert D. San

When they try to find out who is doing their chores while they are working in the field, a childless couple discovers that the two stones they have brought home are actually two bewitched orphans. Lexile: 700

NCSS

#### **POETRY**

# Please Bury Me in the Library by J. Patrick Lewis

An illustrated collection of fifteen poems about the joy of books and reading.

#### **NONFICTION**

Wild Tracks!: A Guide to

Nature's Footprints by Jim Arnosky Learn how to read the secret language of

animal tracks. Find out how to tell how fresh tracks are, which animals made them, how fast they might have been traveling, and more. Lexile: 1040

ALA

## A Rock is Lively by Dianna Hutts Aston

Introduces readers to rocks and minerals, describing how they are created, what they can be used for, and their different forms and types. Lexile: 1110

# Wolfsnail: A Backyard Predator by Sarah

Campbell

Stunning photographs and a fact-filled story deliver a closeup look at a day in the life of a tiny, and unexpected, predator-the seriously slimy wolfsnail.

ALA

### If You Find a Rock by Peggy Christian

Celebrates the variety of rocks that can be found, including skipping rocks, chalk rocks, and splashing rocks. Lexile: 930

NCTE

**Bones**: Skeletons and How They Work *by Steve Jenkins* 

A guide to human and animal skeletons provides informative comparisons while sharing such facts as the number of bones in the human body and the ways that skeletal structures work. Lexile: 980

ALA

## Muddy as a Duck Puddle: And Other

American Similes by Laurie Lawlor

A collection of 26 American similes—one for each letter of the alphabet—including notes on the origins and meanings of each.

IRA

### **BIOGRAPHY**

**Barnum's Bones**: How Barnum Brown Discovered the Most Famous Dinosaur in the World by Tracey Fern Documents the work of an early twentieth-century paleontologist, named after the famous circus icon by his ambitious parents, who grew up to work for the American Museum of Natural History and discovered the first documented skeletons of the Tyrannosaurus Rex and other noteworthy species. Lexile: 1010

# **Mama Miti**: Wangari Maathai and the Trees of Kenya *by Donna Jo Napoli*

The story of Wangari Maathai, who in 1977 founded the Green Belt Movement, an African grassroots organization, and in 2004 was the first African woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Lexile: 710

# The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins by Barbara Kerley

The true story of Victorian artist Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins, who built life-sized models of dinosaurs in the hope of educating the world about these awe-inspiring ancient animals and what they were like. Lexile: 550

ALA

\*Many listed books were selected as exemplary by one or more of the following organizations: the *American Library Association* (ALA), the *International Reading Association* (IRA), the *National Council for the Social Studies* (NCSS), the *National Council of Teachers of English* (NCTE), the *National Science Teachers Association* (NSTA) or the *United States Board on Books for Young People* (USBBY).



# SUMMER READING LIS

## **Books by Connecticut Authors & Illustrators**

**Grades 3-4** 

A few newer books written or illustrated by Connecticut residents. See a list of Connecticut authors and illustrators at: http://tinyurl.com/CTauthors illustrators

**PICTURE BOOKS** 

**Snook Alone** by Marilyn Nelson (East Haddam)

Through the power of faith, a monk named Abba Jacob and his loval rat terrier, Snook, are reunited after being separated by a ferocious storm. Lexile: 890

Abe Lincoln's Dream by Lane Smith (Washington Depot)

When a schoolgirl gets separated from her tour of the White House and finds herself in the Lincoln bedroom, she also discovers the ghost of the great man himself. Lexile: 390

### **CHAPTER BOOKS**

### The Brixen Witch by Stacy DeKeyser (Simsbury)

Twelve-year-old Rudi stumbles upon a witch's lair while out hunting, takes a gold coin he finds there but loses it again, then must deal with the witch's servant who promises to end the town's rat infestation only if he receives that gold coin, in a story reminiscent of The Pied Piper of Hamelin. Lexile: 720

**Lexie** by Audrey Couloumbis, illustrated by Julia Denos (Cheshire)

When ten-year-old Lexie goes with her father to the beach for a week, she is surprised to find that he has invited his girlfriend and her two sons to join them for the entire week. Lexile: 600

## **R** My Name is Rachel by Patricia Reilly Giff (Weston)

Three city siblings, now living on a farm during the Great Depression, must survive on their own when their father takes a construction job miles away. Lexile: 550

# Emma Dilemma and the New Nanny by

Patricia Hermes (Fairfield)

Emma tries to help her parents understand that, although their beloved new nanny has made a few mistakes, no one can behave perfectly responsibly all the time. Emma Dilemma series. Lexile: 510

**Strawberry Hill** by Mary Ann Hoberman (Greenwich)

Ten-year-old Allie's family moves from urban New Haven to rural Stamford, Connecticut, in the midst of the Great Depression. Lexile: 610

### Twelve Kinds of Ice by Ellen Bryan Obed, illustrated by Barbara McClintock (Windham)

From the first ice, a thin skin on a bucket of water, through thickly-iced fields, streams, and gardens, a girl, her family, and friends anticipate and enjoy a winter of skating, ending with an ice show. Lexile: 870

### **NONFICTION**

## Look to the Stars by Buzz Aldrin, illustrated by Wendell Minor (Washington)

Astronaut Buzz Aldrin takes readers on a journey through the history of space exploration, offering the perfect introduction to everything space related, including the development of the first rockets, America's space race with Russia, details of all the Apollo missions, and the space station.

**Trains!** by Susan E. Goodman, illustrated by *Michael J. Doolittle* (New Haven)

Provides information about the history of trains and introduces a variety of trains and their technologies. Step Into Reading series. Lexile: 390

Boys of Steel by Marc Tyler Nobleman (Cos Cob), illustrated by Ross MacDonald (Connecticut) Jerry Siegel & Joe Shuster, two misfit teens in Cleveland, were more like Clark Kent than Superman. They escaped into the worlds of science fiction and pulp magazine tales. In 1934, they created the superhero, but it took 4 years to convince a publisher to take a chance on their Man of Steel in a new format--the comic book.

The Taxing Case of the Cows by Iris Van Rynbach (Glastonbury) & Pegi Deitz Shea (Rockville) In the 1800s, Abby and Julia Smith refused to pay an unfair property tax. When the authorities confiscated their cows, the Smiths bought them back at auction, year after year, attracting the attention of women's suffrage supporters across the country.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

The Adventures of Mark Twain by Robert Burleigh, illustrated by Barry Blitt (Riverside)

An illustrated biography of American author Mark Twain, presented from the perspective of the Twain's famous literary character Huckleberry Finn. Lexile: 750