

SUMMER READING LISTS

AWARD-WINNING BOOKS

(5th – 6th Grade reading level)

... and now Miguel by Krumgold – 1984, c1953 - Newbery winner in 1954 - Miguel lives with his family on a sheep ranch in New Mexico. More than anything else, he longs to go with the men to the Sangre de Christo Mountains

Afternoon of the elves by Lisle – c1989 - Newbery winner in 1990 - As Hillary works in the miniature village, allegedly built by elves, in Sara-Kate's backyard, she becomes curious about Sara-Kate's real life inside her big, gloomy house with her mysterious, silent mother.

Ashanti to Zulu by Masgrove – 1980, c1976 - Caldecott winner in 1977 - Explains some traditions and customs of twenty-six African tribes beginning with letters from A to Z.

Blue willow by Gates – 1976, c1940 - Newbery honor book in 1941 - Janey and her family settle in a real home after spending years as migratory workers.

Bull run by Fleischman – 1995, c1993 – Scott O'Dell award for historical fiction - Northerners, Southerners, generals, couriers, dreaming boys, and worried sisters describe the glory, the horror, the thrill, and the disillusionment of the first battle of the Civil War.

Caddie Woodlawn by Brink – 1997, c1935 - Newbery winner in 1935 - Chronicles the adventures of eleven-year-old Caddie growing up with her six brothers and sisters on the Wisconsin frontier in the mid-nineteenth century.

Call it courage by Sperry – 1990, c1940 - Newbery winner in 1941 - Relates how Mafatu, a young Polynesian boy whose name means Stout Heart, overcomes his terrible fear of the sea and proves his courage to himself and his people.

Cricket in Times Square, The by Selden – c1960 - Newbery honor book - The adventures of a country cricket who unintentionally arrives in New York and is befriended by Tucker Mouse and Harry Cat.

Dear Mr. Henshaw by Cleary – 2000, c1983 - Newbery winner in 1984 - In his letters to his favorite author, ten-year-old Leigh reveals his problems in coping with his parents' divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world.

Egypt game, The by Snyder – 1986, c1967 – Newbery honor book in 1968 - A group of children, entranced with Egypt, play their own Egypt game, are visited by a secret oracle, become involved in a murder, and befriend the Professor before they move on to new interests, such as Gypsies.

Esperanza rising by Ryan – c2000 – Pura Belpre Medal winner - 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.

Family under the bridge, The by Carlson – 1989, c1986 - Newbery honor book in 1987 - An old hobo in Paris finds his life changed when he discovers three children under a bridge.

Fledgling, The by Langton – 1994, c1980 - Newbery honor book in 1981 - Georgie's fondest hope, to be able to fly, is fleetingly fulfilled when she is befriended by a Canada goose.

From the mixed-up files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by Konigsburg – 2002, c1967 – Newbery winner in 1968 - Two suburban children run away from their Connecticut home and go to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, where their ingenuity enables them to live in luxury.

Gathering of days, A by Blos – 1990, c1979 - Newbery winner in 1980 - The journal of a fourteen-year-old girl, kept the last year she lived on the family farm, records daily events in her small New Hampshire town, her father's remarriage, and the death of her best friend.

Hatchet by Paulsen – 2007, c1987 - Newbery winner in 1988 - After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the Canadian wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

Homesick: my own story by Fritz – 1999, c1982 - Newbery honor book in 1983 - The author's fictionalized version, though all the events are true, of her childhood in China in the 1920's.

Island of the blue dolphins by O'Dell – 1990, c1960 - Newbery winner in 1961 - Records the courage and self-reliance of an Indian girl who lived alone for eighteen years on an isolated island off the California coast when her tribe emigrated and she was left behind.

It's like this, Cat by Neville – 1991, c1962 - Newbery winner in 1963 - A quietly humorous story of one kind of contemporary New York City boyhood, a fourteen-year-old and his family, his friends, and a stray tomcat.

Justin and the best biscuits in the world by Walter – 2000, c1986 - Coretta S. King winner - Suffering in a family full of females, ten-year-old Justin feels that cleaning and keeping house are women's work until he spends time on his beloved grandfather's ranch.

King of the wind by Henry – 1991, c1948 - Newbery winner in 1949 - Sham and the stable boy Agba travel from Morocco to France to England where, at last, Sham's majesty is recognized and he becomes the "Godolphin Arabian," ancestor of the most superior Thoroughbred horses.

Missing May by Rylant – 2003, c1992 - Newbery winner in 1949 - After the death of the beloved aunt who has raised her, twelve-year-old Summer and her uncle Ob leave their West Virginia trailer in search of the strength to go on living.

Misty of Chincoteague by Henry – 2006, c1947 - Newbery honor book in 1971 - Two youngsters' determination to own a Chincoteague pony is greatly increased when the Phantom and her colt are among those rounded up for the yearly auction.

Morning girl by Dorris – 1999 – Scott O'Dell award for historical fiction - Morning Girl, who loves the day, and her younger brother Star Boy, who loves the night, take turns describing their life on an island in pre-Columbian America; in Morning Girl's last narrative, she witnesses the arrival of the first Europeans to her world.

Mr. Popper's penguins by Atwater – 1988, c1938 - Newbery honor book in 1939 - The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Popper, a house painter obsessed by dreams of the Polar regions.

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh by O'Brien – 1986, c1971 - Newbery winner in 1972 - With nowhere else to turn, a field mouse asks the clever escaped lab rats living under the rosebush to help save her son, who lies in the path of the farmer's tractor, too ill to be moved.

My side of the mountain by George – 2001, c1959 - Newbery honor book in 1960 - A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains, including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship.

Noonday friends by Stolz – 1993, c1965 - Newbery honor book in 1966 - A humorous portrait of a happy family and their relationships with the rest of the world.

Old Yeller by Gipson – 2004, c1956 - Newbery honor book in 1957 - In the late 1860s in the Texas hill country, a big yellow dog and a fourteen-year-old boy form a close, loving relationship. (Savage Sam by Gipson – c1962 – continues the story with Old Yeller's son)

One-eyed cat by Fox – 2000, c1984 - Newbery honor book in 1985 - Eleven-year-old Ned disobeys his parents and sneaks the air rifle his uncle has given him out of the attic to take just one shot, but he is overcome with guilt when a one-eyed cat turns up at an elderly neighbor's woodshed and Ned is sure he is responsible for its sorry condition.

Shiloh by Naylor - 2000, c1991 - Newbery winner in 1992 - When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.

Sign of the beaver by Speare - 1984, c1983 - Newbery winner in 1984; Scott O'Dell award for historical fiction - Left alone to guard the family's wilderness home in eighteenth-century Maine, a boy is hard-pressed to survive until local Indians teach him their skills.

Sing down the moon by O'Dell – 1992, c1970 - Newbery honor book in 1971 - A young Navajo girl recounts the events of 1864 when her tribe was forced to march to Fort Sumner as prisoners of the white soldiers.

Smokey the cowhorse by James – 1993, c1926 - Newbery winner in 1927 - The experiences of a mouse-colored horse from his birth in the wild, through his capture by humans and his work in the rodeo and on the range, to his eventual old age.

Souder by Armstrong – 2002, c1969 - Newbery winner in 1970 - Angry and humiliated when his sharecropper father is jailed for stealing food for his family, a young black boy grows in courage and understanding with the help of the devoted dog Souder.

Summer of the swans by Byars – 1996, c1970 - Newbery winner in 1971 - A teenage girl gains new insight into herself and her family when her mentally retarded brother gets lost.

Wanderer, The by Creech – 2000 - Newbery honor book in 2001 - Thirteen-year-old Sophie and her cousin Cody record their transatlantic crossing aboard the Wanderer, a forty-five foot sailboat, which is en route to visit their grandfather in England.

Wheel on the school, The by De Jong – 1972, c 1954 - Newbery winner in 1955 - The people in a little town in Holland try to bring storks to nest in their village.

OTHER GREAT BOOKS to READ (5th - 6th Grade or reading level)

Abel's Island by Steig – 1976 - Castaway on an uninhabited island, Abel, a very civilized mouse, finds himself tested to the limit as he struggles to survive and return to his home.

Addie across the Prairie by Lawlor – 2002, c1986 - Unhappy to leave her home and friends, Addie reluctantly accompanies her family to the Dakota Territory and slowly begins to adjust to life on the prairie.

Anastasia has the answers by Lowry – 1992, c1986 - Anastasia continues the perilous process of growing up as her thirteenth year involves her in conquering the art of rope climbing, playing Cupid for a recently widowed uncle, and surviving a crush on her gym teacher.

Anastasia Krupnik by Lowry – 1993, c1979 - Anastasia's tenth year has some good things like falling in love and really getting to know her grandmother and some bad things like finding out about an impending baby brother.

And then what happened, Paul Revere? by Fritz – 1996, c1973 - Describes some of the well-known as well as the lesser-known details of Paul Revere's life and exciting ride.

Battle for the castle by Winthrop – 1994, c1993 - Sequel to: The castle in the attic. Twelve-year-old William uses the magic token to return, through the toy castle in his attic, to the medieval land of Sir Simon, which is now menaced by a skeleton ship bearing a plague of ravenous rats.

Battlefield ghost by Cuyler – 2000, c1999 - When fourth grader John and his sister Lisa move into an old house in Princeton, New Jersey, they find it haunted by the ghost of a Hessian soldier from the Revolutionary War and try to reunite him with the ghost of his beloved horse.

Ben and me by Lawson – 1988, c1967- Benjamin Franklin's companion, Amos the mouse, recounts how he was responsible for Franklin's inventions and discoveries.

Borrowers, The by Norton – 1998, c1952 - Miniature people who live in an old country house by borrowing things from the humans are forced to emigrate from their home under the clock.

Bound for Oregon by Van Leeuwen – 1996, c1994 - A fictionalized account of the true life journey made by nine-year-old Mary Ellen Todd and her family from their home in Arkansas westward over the Oregon Trail in 1852.

Cabin faced West by Fritz – 1987, c1958 - Ten-year-old Ann overcomes loneliness and learns to appreciate the importance of her role in settling the wilderness of western Pennsylvania.

Can't you make them behave, King George by Fritz – 1996, c1977 - A biography of George the Third, King of Great Britain at the time of the American Revolution.

Castle in the attic by Winthrop – 1994, c1985 - A gift of a toy castle, complete with silver knight, introduces William to an adventure involving magic and a personal quest.

Cat who went to Heaven, The by Coatsworth – 1990, c1930 - The cat "Good Fortune" watches the Japanese artist as he paints the animals going one by one to do homage to the Buddha. At long last, a miracle brings the cat into the picture.

Charley Skedaddle by Beatty - c1987 - During the Civil War, a twelve-year-old Bowery Boy from New York City joins the Union Army as a drummer, deserts during a battle in Virginia, and encounters a hostile old mountain woman.

Christmas carol, A by Dickens – A miser learns the true meaning of Christmas when three ghostly visitors review his past and foretell his future.

Cowboys of the wild west by Freedman – c1985 - Describes, in text and photographic illustrations, the duties, clothes, equipment, and day-to-day life of the cowboys who flourished in the West from the 1860s to the 1890s.

Cross-eyed ghost by Zeplin – c1991 - When Keith's family moves to a small town, he is drawn into a mystery involving the family property and a ghost who can make people cross-eyed.

Dollhouse murders, The by Wright – c1983 - A dollhouse filled with a ghostly light in the middle of the night and dolls that have moved from where she last left them lead Amy and her sister to unravel the mystery surrounding some murders that took place years ago.

Dolphins and me, The by Reed – c1989 - The author, a former diver, describes his experiences with and observations of the dolphins whose underwater world he shared for more than thirteen years at California's Marine World/Africa USA.

Enormous egg, The by Butterworth – c1984 - Problems develop when Nate's hen lays an egg that hatches into a dinosaur.

Esio Trot by Dahl – 1990 – Shy Mr. Hoppy devises a plan to win the heart of his true love by teaching her a spell to make her tortoise grow bigger.

Everyone else's parents said yes by Danziger – c1998 - Matthew cannot resist the temptation to play practical jokes on his older sister and all the girls in his class at school, so by the time of the big party for his eleventh birthday they have all declared war on him.

Family apart, A by Nixon – 1996, c1987 - When their mother can no longer support them, six siblings are sent to live with farm families in Missouri in 1860.

Fear place, The by Naylor – 1996 - When he and his older brother Gordon are left camping alone in the Rocky Mountains, twelve-year-old Doug faces his fear of heights and his feelings about Gordon--with the help of a cougar.

Follow my Leader by Garfield – 1994, c1957 - After being accidentally blinded by a firecracker, Jimmy learns to live a normal life with the help of Leader, his seeing eye dog.

From Anna by Little – c1972 - When the family moves from Germany to Canada in the 1930s, a nine-year-old girl discovers the reason for her awkwardness and apparent inability to do anything right.

George Washington's socks by Woodruff – c1991 - In the midst of a backyard campout, five children find themselves transported back into the time of George Washington, where they begin to live out American history firsthand and learn the sober realities of war.

Ghost in the house, A by Wright – c1991 - Strange things happen when twelve-year-old Sarah is alone in the house with Great Aunt Margaret, who appears to be the victim of a ghost seeking revenge for a death in the past.

Grand escape, The by Naylor – 2005, c1993 - After years of being strictly house cats, Marco and Polo escape into the wonderful, but dangerous outside world and are sent on three challenging adventures by a group of cats known as the Club of Mysteries.

Grasshopper summer by Turner – 2000, c1989 - In 1874 eleven-year-old Sam and his family move from Kentucky to the southern Dakota Territory, where harsh conditions and a plague of hungry grasshoppers threaten their chances for survival.

Harriet the spy by Fitzhugh – 2001, c1964 - Eleven-year-old Harriet keeps notes on her classmates and neighbors in a secret notebook, but when some of the students read the notebook, they seek revenge.

Homer Price by McCloskey – 1976, c1943 - Six episodes in the life of Homer Price including one in which he and his pet skunk capture four bandits and another about a donut machine on the rampage.

House on Hackman's hill, The by Nixon – 1990, c1985 - Jeff and Debbie make their way through the snow to the old Hackman mansion to look for a stolen Egyptian mummy. Soon they are trapped in the house by the snow.

Hundred dresses, The by Estes – 2004, c1944 - In winning a medal she is no longer there to receive, a tight-lipped little Polish girl teaches her classmates a lesson. Includes a note from the author's daughter, Helena Estes.

Incredible journey, The by Burnford – 1996, c1960 - A young Labrador Retriever, an old Bull Terrier and a Siamese cat undertake a 250-mile trek through the Canadian wilderness in order to return to their home.

Indian in the cupboard, The by Banks – 2003, c1980 - A nine-year-old boy receives a toy Native American, a cupboard, and a little key for his birthday and embarks on an adventure when the toy comes to life and befriends him.

Jacob's rescue by Drucker – 1994, c1993 - In answer to his daughter's questions, a man recalls the terrifying years of his childhood when a brave Polish couple, Alex and Mela Roslan, hid him and other Jewish children from the Nazis. Based on a true story.

Knights of the Kitchen Table by Scieszka – 2006, c1991 - Joe, Fred, and Sam are sent back in time by a magic book, and find themselves face-to-face with giants, dragons, wizards, and the Knights of the Round Table.

Lion, the witch, and the wardrobe, The by Lewis – 2000, c1950 - Four English school children 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.

Matilda by Dahl – 1998, c1988 - Five-year-old genius Matilda finds it easy to get around her horrible parents; however, she meets her match with Miss Trunchbull, the headmistress at her school.

Midnight fox by Byars – 1996, c1968 - A young boy saves the life of a fox that has been raiding his uncle's farm.

Missing gator of Gumbo Limbo by George – c 1992 - Sixth-grader Liza Poole searches for an alligator that helps to control the ecosystem of the Gumbo Limbo area of the Florida Everglades, against state officials who want to destroy it.

Mouse and the motorcycle, The by Cleary – 2000, c1965 - The adventures of a boy and a little mouse who wants to ride his toy motorcycle.

Mr. Tucket by Paulsen – c1994 - In 1848, while on a wagon train headed for Oregon, fourteen-year-old Francis Tucket is kidnapped by Pawnee Indians and then falls in with a one-armed trapper who teaches him how to live in the wild.

Mrs. Piggle Wiggle's magic by MacDonald – 1985, c1949 - Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle helps mothers by curing the bad habits of sloppy, lazy, and precocious children.

Muggie Maggie by Cleary – c1990 - Maggie resists learning cursive writing in the third grade, until she discovers that knowing how to read and write cursive promises to open up an entirely new world of knowledge for her.

Paradise called Texas by Shefelman – c1985 - Searching for a better life, Mina and her parents leave their German fatherland in 1845 and sail to Texas where they find hardship, tragedy, and adventure.

Pedro's journal by Conrad – c1991 --Written as a diary by Columbus's cabin boy, presents a personal view of the first trip across the Atlantic and his discovery of America.

Pigs might fly by King-Smith – 1990 - Having been coached in swimming by a duck and an otter, a runt piglet with deformed front feet becomes a hero when their farm is flooded.

Racso and the Rats of NIMH by Conly – 1998, c1986 - Sequel to: Mrs. Frisby and the rats of NIMH by Robert C. O'Brien. Timothy Frisby, a field mouse, teams up with the adventurous rat, Racso. Together they try to prevent the destruction of a secret community of rats that can read and write.

Return of the Indian by Banks – 1987, c1986 - Sequel to: The Indian in the Cupboard. A year after he sends his Indian friend, Little Bear, back into the magic cupboard, Omri decides to bring him back.

Runaway Ralph by Cleary – 2006, c1970 - Ralph the mouse is bored with his family, so he decides to hop on his motorcycle and head to Happy Acres Camp; however, life at camp makes him wish he were back home.

Sarah Bishop by O'Dell – c1980 - Left alone after the deaths of her father and brother who took opposite sides in the War for Independence, and fleeing from the British who seek to arrest her, Sarah struggles to shape a new life for herself in the wilderness.

Save Queen of Sheba by Moeri – c1994 - After miraculously surviving a Sioux Indian raid on the trail to Oregon, a brother and sister set out with few provisions to find the rest of the settlers.

Sea otter rescue: the aftermath of an oil spill by Smith – 1999 - Describes the rescue of the sea otters following the 1989 oil spill in Valdez, Alaska.

Secret garden, The by Burnett – 1994, c1911 - 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.

Secret of the Indian by Banks – 1990, c1989 - sequel to The Return of the Indian. Omri and his friend Patrick must risk grownups' discovering their secret when they find themselves in need of a friend's toy plastic doctors to save wounded people from the dangerous world of the Old West.

Snow treasure by McSwigan – 2004, c1942 - In 1940, when the Nazi invasion of Norway reaches their village in the far north, twelve-year-old Peter and his friends use their sleds to transport nine million dollars worth of gold bullion past the German soldiers to the secret harbor where Peter's uncle keeps his ship ready to take the gold for safekeeping in the United States.

Strider by Cleary – 2000, c1991 - Sequel to: Dear Mr. Henshaw. In a series of diary entries, Leigh tells how he comes to terms with his parents' divorce, acquires joint custody of an abandoned dog, and joins the track team at school.

Stuart Little by White – 1999, c1945 - The adventures of the debonair mouse Stuart Little as he sets out in the world to seek out his dearest friend, a little bird who stayed a few days in his family's garden.

Summer of the monkeys, The by Rawls – 1992, c1976 - In rural Oklahoma at the turn of the century, fourteen-year-old Jay Berry Lee discovers a tree full of monkeys, a find that leads to a summer that teaches him about life.

Tales mummies tell by Lauber – 1985 - Explains how the study of mummies can reveal information about ancient civilizations and prehistoric life.

Thank you, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.! by Tate – 1997, c1990 - Children discover the Contributions of many famous African-Americans during Black History Month.

Thomas Edison by Sullivan – c2001 - A biography of Thomas Edison which uses his lab notes, business records, and personal recollections as sources.

Tikta 'Liktak: an Inuit-Eskimo legend by Houston – c1993 - A young Eskimo hunter fights for survival while stranded on an isolated and desolate island.

Time cat: the remarkable journeys of Jason and Gareth by Alexander – 2003, c1963 - Jason & his magic cat travel through time to visit countries all over the world during different periods of history.

Time for Andrew: a ghost story by Hahn – c1994 - Spending the summer with his great-aunt in the family's old house, eleven-year-old Drew is drawn eighty years into the past to trade places with his great-great-uncle.

Trouble river by Byars – 1989, c1969 - A twelve-year-old boy builds a raft never dreaming that it will serve as the sole means of escape for him and his grandmother when hostile Indians threaten their prairie cabin.

Trumpet of the swan, The by White – 2000, c1970 - Louis, a voiceless trumpeter swan, finds himself far from his wilderness home when he determines to communicate by learning to play a stolen trumpet.

Twenty-one balloons by Du Bois – 2005, c1947 - Relates the incredible adventures of Professor William Waterman Sherman who in 1883 sets off in a balloon across the Pacific, survives the volcanic eruption of Krakatoa, and is eventually picked up in the Atlantic.

Water sky by George – c1987 - While searching for his uncle in Barrow, Alaska, a young boy joins the crew of an Eskimo whaling captain and learns the importance of whaling to the Eskimo culture.

What's the big idea, Ben Franklin by Fritz – 1996, c1976 - A brief biography of the eighteenth-century printer, inventor, and statesman who played an influential role in the early history of the United States.

When Hitler stole pink rabbit by Kerr – 1997, c1971 - Recounts the adventures of a nine-year-old Jewish girl and her family in the early 1930s as they travel from Germany to England.

Will you sign here, John Hancock? by Fritz – 1997, c1976 - A biography of the first signer of the Declaration of Independence, outlining all that he did for himself as well as what he did for Massachusetts and his new nation.

Willow Creek home by Shefelman – c1985 - Sequel to "A paradise called Texas." A summer drought and epidemic illness in 1847 force Mina, Papa, and his new wife, Lisette, to move on to a larger land grant deep in Commanche territory.

Wind in the willows, The by Grahame – 1999, c1907 - The escapades of four animal friends who live along a river in the English countryside-- Toad, Mole, Rat, and Badger.

Wizard of Oz, The by Baum – 2008, c1900 - Dorothy, swept from Kansas by a cyclone, is deposited over the rainbow in the magical land of Oz where she runs afoul of an evil witch who tries to keep Dorothy from finding her way back home.

Wonderful flight to the Mushroom Planet by Cameron – c1954 - A mystery man inspires two boys to build a space ship which takes them to a planet to help the Mushroom people.