

Summer Reading Suggestions

Fourth & Fifth Grade

Chapter Books

About average by Andrew Clements (J Fiction)

As the end of sixth grade nears, Jordan Johnson, unhappy that she is only average in appearance, intelligence and athletic ability, reveals her special skills when disaster strikes her central Illinois elementary school.

The case of the case of the mistaken identity by Mac Barnett (J Fiction)

When twelve-year-old Steve Brixton, a fan of Bailey Brothers detective novels, is mistaken for a real detective, he must elude librarians, police, and the mysterious Mr. E as he seeks a missing quilt containing coded information.

The extraordinary education of Nicholas Benedict by Trenton Lee Stewart (J Fiction)

Nine-year-old Nicholas Benedict, an orphan afflicted with an unfortunate nose and narcolepsy, is sent to a new orphanage where he encounters vicious bullies, selfish adults, strange circumstances, and a mystery that could change his life forever.

The land of stories: the wishing spell by Chris Colfer (J Fiction)

Through the mysterious powers of a book of stories, twins Alex and Conner find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with the fairy tale characters they grew up reading about.

The last dogs (The vanishing) by Christopher Holt (J Fiction)

When all humans in his world disappear, Max, a yellow Lab Retriever, searches for Madame Curie who will help find his people. But as he and friends Rocky and Gizmo search, they face angry wolves, a gang of subway rats, and the Corporation, a supposed "perfect" society for dogs.

The lemonade war by Jacqueline Davies (J Fiction)

Evan and his younger sister, Jesse, will be in the same class for fourth grade, and during summer, they battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn 100 dollars.

Malcolm at midnight by W. H. Beck (J Fiction)

Malcolm, a smaller than average rat, loves life at McKenna School and the secret society of classroom pets that keep children out of trouble, but when Aggy, the iguana, disappears, Malcolm must use all of his ratty persistence to prove his innocence and save her.

The marble Queen by Stephanie J. Blake (J Fiction)

In 1959, ten-year-old Freedom Jane McKenzie wants to enter and win the marble competition at the Autumn Jubilee and win the title of Marble Queen, but first she must convince Mama that competing with boys is okay.

Precious Bones by Mika Ashley-Hollinger (J Fiction)

In 1949 in the Florida Everglades, a ten-year-old girl called Bones, whose father is part Miccosukee Indian, tries to discover what really happened when he is accused of two murders and sent to jail.

The quilt walk by Sandra Dallas (J Fiction)

Ten-year-old Emmy Blue learns the true meaning of friendship--and how to quilt--while making a harrowing wagon journey from Illinois to Colorado with her family in the 1860s.

Splendors and glooms by Laura Amy Schlitz (J Fiction)

When Clara vanishes after the puppeteer Grisini and two orphaned assistants were at her twelfth birthday party, suspicion of kidnapping chases the trio away from London. Soon the two orphans are caught in a trap set by Grisini's ancient rival, a witch with a deadly inheritance to shed, before it is too late.

Three times lucky by Sheila Turnage (J Fiction)

Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau (now eleven) and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a café and co-parent of Mo with his cook Miss Lana, is implicated in a murder.

The Vengekeep prophecies by Brian Farrey (J Fiction)

A magical tapestry prophesies doom for the town of Vengekeep, and to everyone's surprise twelve-year-old Jaxter Grimjinx and his family of con artists appear to be the town's saviors.

Who could that be at this hour? by Lemony Snicket (J Fiction)

Thirteen-year-old Lemony Snicket begins his apprenticeship with S. Theodora Markson of the secretive V.F.D. in the tiny dot of a town called Stain'd By The Sea, where he helps investigate the theft of a statue.

Winterling by Sarah Prineas (J Fiction)

Spirited young Fer travels through the Way to a magical world in which beings part human and part animal serve an evil ruler known as the Lady, and where she hopes to learn about her long-lost parents and her own identity.

With a name like Love by Tess Hilmo (J Fiction)

Thirteen-year-old Olivene Love gets tangled up in a murder mystery when her itinerant preaching family arrives in the small town of Binder, Arkansas in 1957.

Graphic Novels

Bake sale by Sara Varon (J Graphic Novel)

Cupcake runs a successful bakery with his best friend Eggplant, but dreams of going abroad to meet his idol, Turkish Delight, who is the most famous pastry chef in the world.

The dodgeball chronicles by Frank Cammuso (J Graphic Novel)

On his first day at a new middle school, Artie opens a locker that no one else ever could, and he and his new friends are challenged to beat a group of bullies at dodgeball or be expelled.

Extreme Babymouse by Jennifer L. Holm (J Graphic Novel)

It seems that everyone at school has taken up snowboarding, so Babymouse decides she must hit the slopes too.

Fashion Kitty and the unlikely hero by Charise Mericle Harper (J Graphic Novel)

When the principal at her school decides that fashion is a distraction and that everyone must wear uniforms, Kiki assumes her secret identity as Fashion Kitty.

Food fight! by Stephen McCraine (J Graphic Novel)

When Chad the dog begins having scary dreams, fourth-grade genius Mal creates a dream portal to defeat Chad's beast, but the portal malfunctions and the monster follows Mal out into reality.

Joey Fly, private eye in creepy crawly crime by Aaron Reynolds (J Graphic Novel)

Have you ever had one of those moments? You know--you're trying to find a stolen diamond pencil box for your beautiful butterfly customer, your mosquito witness won't give you any information and your clumsy scorpion assistant has just tampered with your only bit of evidence? Joey Fly has those moments a lot.

Legends of Zita the spacegirl by Ben Hatke (J Graphic Novel)

Zita is determined to find her way home to Earth but her exploits have made her an intergalactic megastar. As her true self is eclipsed by her public persona, she faces a robot doppelganger unsure of whom she can trust.

Lunch Lady & the mutant mathletes by Jarrett Krosoczka (J Graphic Novel)

For having skipped the school field trip Dee, Hector, and Terrence must join the mathletes team but as they are poised to beat the undefeated champions, secret crime fighter Lunch Lady discovers something strange about the opposing team.

Rapunzel's revenge by Shannon Hale (J Graphic Novel)

Using her long braided hair as a lasso, Rapunzel teams up with a wild outlaw named Jack and heads west to start a brand new life filled with grand adventures and crazy characters in this colorful graphic novel.

The secret world of Arrietty by Hayao Miyazaki (J Graphic Novel)

Arrietty is small enough to make her home under the floorboards of a typical house, "borrowing" what she and her family need from the giants above. When adults discover the Borrowers, Arrietty and her friend Sho must work together to save her family.

The unsinkable Walker Bean by Aaron Renier (J Graphic Novel)

In order to save his ailing grandfather from a curse, boy inventor Walker Bean must return an accursed pearl skull to the witches who created it and face pirates, magical machines and deadly peril along the way.

Non-Fiction

13 artists children should know by Angela Wenzel (Jf709.2 W489t)

Featured artists are introduced chronologically, accompanied by a timeline to offer helpful historical context. Each artist's entry includes a concise biography, beautiful reproductions of major works, and lively texts. Games, quizzes, and other activities help readers learn about the significant contributions of each artist in a way that is both fun and inspiring.

13 photos children should know by Brad Finger (Jf909.82 F494t)

Examines the history behind thirteen popular photographs, including the moon landing, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

50 burning questions: a sizzling history of fire by Tanya Lloyd Kyi (J541.361 K983f)

If you are burning with curiosity about fire, look inside and check out the hilarious cartoons, cool activities, and red-hot information for answers.

[100 people who made history: meet the people who shaped the modern world](#) by Ben Gilliland (Jf920 G415o)

Presents brief profiles of one hundred inventors, philosophers, economists, politicians, explorers, and other individuals who have made an impact on history, discussing the achievements of Aristotle, Mark Zuckerberg, Marie Curie, Pele, and others from various industries.

[The book of blood: from legends and leeches to vampires and veins](#) by H.P. Newquist (J612.1 N473b)

A thrilling and lively tour of the world of blood, from ancient history to modern science, to dark and often gruesome legends of vampires and plague, this book informs readers about the most important tissue in the body.

[Courage has no color: the true story of the Triple Nickels: America's first Black paratroopers](#) by Tanya Lee Stone (J940.541 St724c)

Examines the role of African-Americans in the military through the history of the Triple Nickels, America's first black paratroopers, who fought against little-known attacks perpetrated on the American West by the Japanese during World War II, and "proved that the color of a man had nothing to do with his ability."

[Creep and flutter: the secret world of insects and spiders](#) by Jim Arnosky (Jf595.7 Ar661c)

Celebrates the beauty and diversity of hundreds of insects and spiders in an illustrated work that features eight gatefolds depicting butterflies, beetles, spiders, and other insects.

[Diego Rivera: an artist for the people](#) by Susan Goldman Rubin (J759.972 R524r)

Offers insight into the life and artwork of the famous Mexican painter and muralist and follows his career, looking at his influences and tracing the evolution of his style.

[The Emily sonnets: the life of Emily Dickinson](#) by Jane Yolen (JfB D56y)

Recounts Emily Dickinson's schooling, seclusion and the slant rhymes for which she became famous.

[Explore Titanic](#) by Peter Chrisp (Jf910.916 C461c)

This pictorial history of the ill-fated ocean liner is comprised of photographs and illustrations as well as 3-D-rendered graphics.

[I grew up To be president](#) by Laurie Calkhoven (J973.099 C129i)

An introduction to the presidents of the United States describes each president's childhood, career, achievements while in office, and life after the White House.

[Hana's suitcase: a true story](#) by Karen Levine (J940.5318 B729L)

A biography of a Czech girl who died in the Holocaust, told in alternating chapters with an account of how the curator of a Japanese Holocaust center learned about her life after Hana's suitcase was sent to her.

[Human body factory](#) by Dan Green (Jf612 G821h)

Meet the workers of the amazing Human Body Factory! Tugging on tendons, delivering blood, and squirting saliva-- these guys toil night and day to keep this marvelous machine moving.

[A little book of slime](#) by Clint Twist (J590 T926L)

Plants and animals that ooze and leave a trail of gunk are included in this book.

[Louisa May's battle: how the Civil War led to Little Women](#) by Kathleen Krull (JfB AL19k)

Recounts the author's experiences as a young woman caring for wounded Union soldiers in Washington, D.C. during the Civil War, and the impact that these experiences had on her development as an author.

[Robotics: discover the science & technology of the future with 20 projects](#) by Kathy Ceceri (J629.892 C323r)

This fun and educational introduction to the exciting field of robotics and the science of designing, building, and operating robots gives kids the basic tools for creating their own robots using ordinary craft materials and parts salvaged from recycled toys and other household devices.

[Top secret: shady tales of spies and spying](#) by Laura Buller (J327.12 B873t)

Explores the tools, gadgets, techniques, and strategies used by spies, discusses famous agents and the history of espionage, and describes national and international agencies such as the FBI and MI5, business spies, internet spying and personal spy devices that can be used to gather information and other related topics.

[White House kids: the perks, pleasures, problems, and pratfalls of the Presidents' children](#) by Joe Rhatigan (J973.099 R341w)

Shares the experiences of growing up in the White House. Discusses the good and the bad and profiles the children who have lived there.

[Wildlife gardening](#) by Martyn Cox (J639.92 C839w)

A fun and informative introduction to gardening and garden wildlife that is full of simple, step-by-step gardening activities that can be explored anywhere, from city to suburbs.

[The world in your lunch box: the wacky history and weird science of everyday foods](#) by Claire Eamer (J641.3 Ea61w)

A wacky history and the weird science of everyday foods.