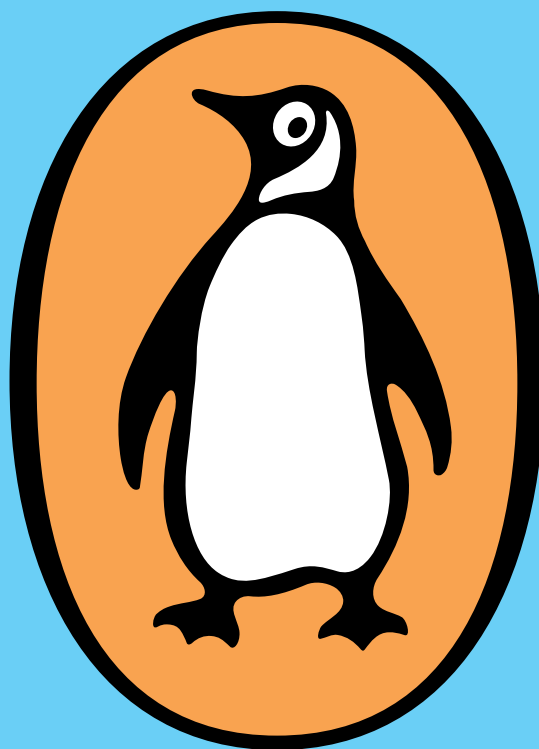


Resources  
for  
Book Clubs  
included!



# This Summer, take a Break and Read!

Simple and Fun Suggestions for  
a Sizzling Summer of Reading

A Guide for Parents, Caregivers, Teachers,  
Librarians, and Booksellers

# This Summer, Take a Break and Read

Students who read during the summer perform better in the fall.

Everyone looks forward to summer—to warm weather, vacations, much-earned relaxation, and spending free time with family and friends. If you're a teacher, librarian, bookseller, parent or caregiver, you know that the summer months are the most crucial connection on a child's path to a successful school year. Students who read regularly during the summer avoid documented reading achievement losses in the fall. By dedicating time to books during the summer months and demonstrating the importance of reading at home, you can help your child maintain the literacy skills he or she developed during the school year, gain additional ground in reading comprehension during time away from the classroom, and start school in the fall as a confident and eager reader.

**Keep in mind that, although there is an expected reading level for each grade, children may be reading below, at, or above this level independently.** For this reason, knowing your child's instructional as well as independent reading level is essential for selecting appropriate summer reading titles. Be sure to refer to the guided reading levels listed throughout this guide by each book, and feel free to choose selections from above or below your child's grade level depending on his or her individual independent reading level.

**This guide is designed to provide book recommendations by grade, reading level, and theme that adults across the country—teachers, librarians, booksellers, parents, and caregivers alike—can use to help the children in their lives participate in (and actually look forward to summer reading).** All titles featured are excellent choices for independent reading selections and also fit well into national standard curriculums, making them perfect for required and suggested summer reading lists and back-to-school assignments. Also included in this guide are tips to help make reading a fun, positive experience, attract reluctant readers to books, easily incorporate reading into your child's daily summer routine, and bridge the transition from summer to school with entertaining and educational extension activities. **Flip to the last page to read more!**

Visit [www.penguin.com/summerreading](http://www.penguin.com/summerreading) for additional helpful tips, book recommendations, downloadable materials, and printables to help enhance your summer reading program! The information on this site can be used during the summer for continued reading comprehension practice and can also be helpful in jumpstarting classroom lesson plan ideas for the new school year.

**BOOKSELLERS:** don't miss the many printable activity sheets, ideal for in-store events, and read-aloud suggestions for summer storytimes!

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**PAGES 17–19:** *Best Books: Use Critically Acclaimed Titles and Award Winners to Foster a Love of Reading*

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### DON'T FORGET TO CURL UP WITH A CLASSIC!

*You're never too old or too young to appreciate a wonderful story. Turn to the back of this booklet for some great suggestions that you can enjoy with your child, and download a full list of available classics at [www.penguin.com/summerreading](http://www.penguin.com/summerreading).*

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## ATTENTION TEACHERS & LIBRARIANS!

THERE'S EVEN MORE HELPFUL RESOURCES, ADDITIONAL MATERIALS, AND FUN STUFF ONLINE! BE SURE TO VISIT US AT [WWW.PENGUIN.COM/TEACHERSANDLIBRARIANS](http://WWW.PENGUIN.COM/TEACHERSANDLIBRARIANS) TO SEE ALL WE HAVE TO OFFER. HAVING TROUBLE GETTING YOUR BOYS TO READ? CHECK OUT OUR [WWW.PENGUIN.COM/BOOKS4BOYS](http://WWW.PENGUIN.COM/BOOKS4BOYS) WEBSITE FOR GREAT IDEAS AND TIPS ON HOW TO REACH THE MOST RELUCTANT READER.

 FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @THEPENGUINPEEPS

# Introducing...Penguin Young Readers a leveled reader program

The Penguin Young Readers program is a great way to build reading competence and confidence. This program applies the standards of Fountas and Pinnell's Guided Reading program in text layout, vocabulary, sentence structure, design, plot complexity, font size, genre, and themes in a clear, uncluttered approach that will appeal to kids, educators, and parents. To hear what educators and librarians are saying about Penguin Young Readers and to view a complete list of all available titles, visit [www.penguinyoungreaders.com](http://www.penguinyoungreaders.com).



## Level 1:

**Dick and Jane: Go, Go, Go**

**Monkey See, Monkey Do** by Dana Regan

**Tiny Goes to the Library** by Cari Meister

**Turtle and Snake Go Camping** by Kate Spohn  
illustrated by Rich Davis



## LEVEL 1

**Emergent Reader**

Guided Reading Levels A, B, C, D

## LEVEL 2

**Progressing Reader**

Guided Reading Levels E, F, G, H, I

## LEVEL 3

**Transitional Reader**

Guided Reading Levels J, K, L, M

## LEVEL 4

**Fluent Reader**

Guided Reading Levels N, O, P



## Good Night, Good Knight

by Shelley Moore Thomas

illustrated by Jennifer Plecas

**Max & Ruby: Max's Checkup**

## Spider's Lunch

by Joanna Cole

illustrated by Ron Broda



## Level 3:

**Amanda Pig and the Really Hot Day**

by Jean Van Leeuwen

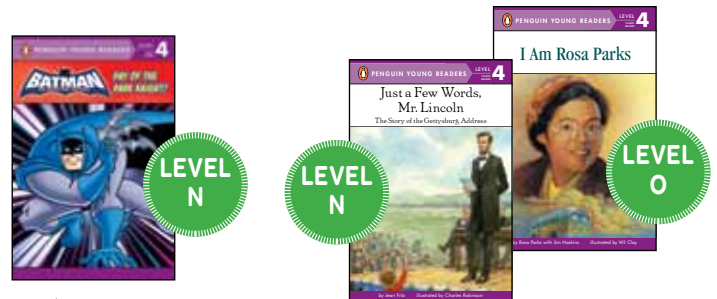
illustrated by Ann Schweninger

**Pearl and Wagner: Two Good Friends** by Kate McMullan

illustrated by R.W. Alley

**Young Cam Jansen and the Dinosaur Game** by David A. Adler

illustrated by Susanna Natti



## Level 4:

**Batman: The Brave and the Bold: Day of the Dark Knight!**

by Jade Ashe

**I Am Rosa Parks** by Rosa Parks with Jim Haskins

illustrated by Wil Clay

**Just a Few Words, Mr. Lincoln: The Story of the Gettysburg Address**

by Jean Fritz

illustrated by Charles Robinson

# The Summer Before . . . Kindergarten

During kindergarten, children often take their first steps toward becoming readers. The summer before, show your almost-kindergartner that reading is fun—and that anytime is a good time to curl up with a great book. Use the suggestions below to ensure that your child starts school viewing reading as an enjoyable, entertaining pastime. Remember, at this point you should be focusing on your child's listening comprehension level and reading aloud to them as much as possible.

LEVEL  
LLEVEL  
J

Reading as a family and incorporating books into your daily schedule is incredibly important for emerging readers. Develop a consistent reading routine with your child by—for example—always reading before nap or bedtime. *Whistle for Willie* by Ezra Jack Keats is a favorite of this age group. Also try *Max and Ruby's Bedtime Book* by Rosemary Wells; the format of this book is three shorter stories, making it the perfect choice for spending some quick time with a sleepy toddler.

LEVEL  
FLEVEL  
L

Picture books are a great vehicle for developing vocabulary and oral language skills. Choose books that focus on early concepts like numbers, letters, and colors in addition to books with story elements that feature interesting characters and imaginary play. *G is for Goat* by Patricia Polacco is a wonderful rhyming alphabet story, and the original *Ladybug Girl* by David Soman and Jacky Davis is excellent for inspiring imaginary play. Select books with vivid illustrations that lend themselves to rich conversations incorporating new words and concepts.



If your child loves a character—like *Llama Llama*, *Skippyjon Jones*, *Max and Ruby*, or *Ladybug Girl*—stick with it! A well-loved book character can become a friend to the youngest readers and a sure bet to keep them interested in reading! See what other books are available starring that character. Look for activity and sticker books featuring these characters; bring them on car trips and incorporate them into your child's daily playtime.

LEVEL  
LLEVEL  
ILEVEL  
J

Capitalize on the theme of summer by selecting books that focus on topics and events your child will encounter. Try *Ladybug Girl at the Beach* for vacation and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle for family picnics and to teach nutrition. Read Watty Piper's classic confidence-building tale *The Little Engine That Could* to give your young readers an extra boost of enthusiasm for embarking on new experiences.

LEVEL  
CLEVEL  
KLEVEL  
ILEVEL  
J

At the end of the summer, prepare your child for school by reading books with back-to-school themes to ensure an easy transition into the first formal school year. Favorites include *Llama Llama Misses Mama* by Anna Dewdney, *The Night Before Kindergarten* by Natasha Wing, and *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten* by Joseph Slate. Look for *The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School* by Laura Murray.





# The Summer Before... First Grade

Many rising first graders are still acquiring pre-reading skills, such as letter/sound relationships, while others are slowly developing a sight word vocabulary, which enables them to read simple books. But all soon-to-be first graders are anxious to be readers! Use the suggestions below to help your child take the next steps.



After your child has been introduced to reading in kindergarten, make sure to maintain his or her interest and skills during the summer before first grade by knowing your child's reading level. Being aware of how and when to introduce more difficult texts is crucial for your child's reading development. Select easy-to-read picture books and simple stories for early readers. *Billy & Milky, Short & Silly* is a fantastic choice; three- or four- word sentences combine with vivid illustrations to create short stories about two lovable characters. Books with plenty of rhyme, rhythm, and repetition can be good tools for helping early readers gain fluency. Try *Oh, Look!* by Patricia Polacco and *Gingerbread Friends* by Jan Brett.



Reread children's favorite stories so that they can become familiar with the text and master words that they have difficulty reading the first time. To develop reading comprehension skills, talk about the main idea and characters of each story with your child. Pause during the reading and ask your child to predict what might happen next or how the story might end. *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* by Jon Scieszka makes an entertaining read aloud; comparing and contrasting it to the original version can be a fun activity! A book that is above your child's independent reading level but at his or her listening comprehension level can make a good read-aloud. Move your finger under the line of print as you read aloud so your child can follow along. At this age, many children enjoy the popular *Bones* mystery series by David A. Adler or the friendship-themed *Cork and Fuzz* series by Dori Chaconas.



Remember to ask your child to pack a book or two when you go on vacation and always to keep books in your car! Try playing an audiobook while your child follows along with the print version. The Skippyjon Jones books by Judy Schachner are perfect for this, as they come with an audio CD of the author reading the book aloud. This series is also a sure bet for encouraging imaginative play during the summer months. Don't miss *Skippyjon Jones: The Great Bean Caper*. Visit [www.skippyjonjones.com](http://www.skippyjonjones.com) for games, printable activity sheets, and more!



Relevant thematic reading selections always make good choices. Caldecott Medal winner *Officer Buckle and Gloria* by Peggy Rathmann puts a fun spin on learning safety tips. Natasha Wing's *The Night Before* series is fantastic for introductions to new holidays and events. Start your summer off with *The Night Before Summer Vacation*, and if your youngster goes to camp, don't miss *The Night Before Summer Camp*. To prep for school near the end of summer try, *Princess Posey and the First Grade Parade* by Stephanie Greene and *The Night Before First Grade*.

# The Summer Before... Second Grade

The summer before second grade is the perfect time to begin to visit your local public library regularly with your child. Allow children to begin to select their own books and distinguish their personal tastes. Rising second graders should have access to different genres, including mysteries, poetry, realistic fiction, nonfiction, and fables. Their reading material should range from early chapter books they can read on their own to more advanced chapter books you can read together.

Try these more advanced picture books as read-aloud selections:

LEVEL I



A MODERN FABLE FEATURING HUMOR, COOPERATION & CURIOSITY

LEVEL Q



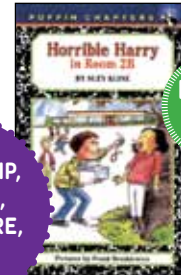
POETRY, FRIENDSHIP, DIVERSITY, TOLERANCE



LEVEL P

**Badger's Fancy Meal** by Keiko Kasza  
**The Other Side** by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis  
**Mirror, Mirror: A Book of Reversible Verse** by Marlynn Singer, illustrated by Josée Masse

Join Horrible Harry on his misadventures in the popular series by Suzy Kline!



LEVEL L

FRIENDSHIP, SCHOOL, ADVENTURE, HUMOR



LEVEL L

Make friends with Jean Van Leeuwen's Geisel Honor-winning Amanda Pig!



HUMOR, FRIENDSHIP, PROBLEM SOLVING

Solve mysteries with everyone's favorite super sleuth, Cam Jansen!



LEVEL L

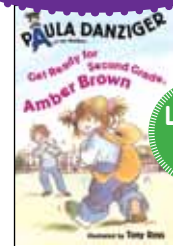
MYSTERY SERIES

The Cam Jansen series by David A. Adler is . . .

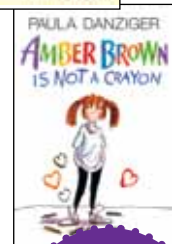
- ★ HUGE! With more than thirty books in the series, readers are guaranteed a full summer of sleuthing!
- ★ a classroom classic. Beloved by teachers—and written by a former teacher, as well—Cam is a great choice for any reading curriculum and library or bookstore recommendation.
- ★ liked by girls and boys.
- ★ part of the popular mystery genre. Kids love the excitement of solving Cam's cases as they read along.
- ★ perfect for practicing the comprehension strategies of predicting and questioning, which enhance active thinking behavior while reading.
- ★ diverse in topics and themes. From school mysteries to dinosaur who-done-its to sports crimes, Cam solves them all.
- ★ popular enough to have its own fan club! Visit [www.penguin.com/camjansensleuthsquad](http://www.penguin.com/camjansensleuthsquad) to learn more today.

SCHOOL, NEW EXPERIENCES

Follow award-winning author Paula Danziger's Amber Brown as she navigates school, friendship, and family in TWO series at different reading levels.



LEVEL M



FAMILY, FRIENDSHIP, CONFLICT RESOLUTION



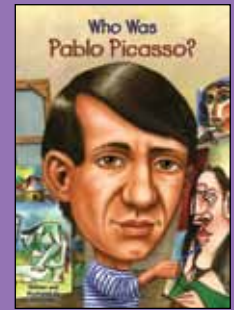
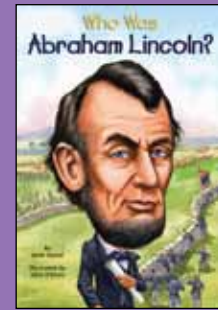
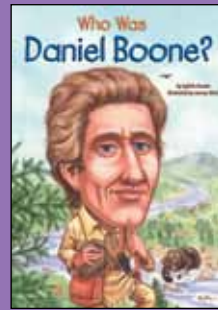
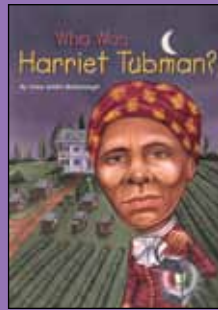
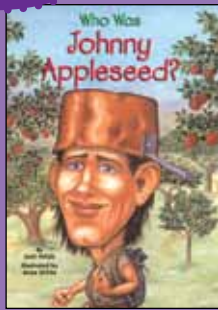


# The Summer Before... Third Grade

The summer before third grade is a good time to increase children's reading stamina—to encourage them to read longer books, for a longer period of time in one sitting. Series books are an ideal tool for sustaining the interest of rising third graders throughout the long summer months. Children at this age respond positively to character-driven books and enjoy getting to know a group of characters that engage in different adventures from book to book. If you get them hooked, they'll keep on reading, learning, and having fun!

Discover the lives of famous people with the **Who Was?** biography series. **LEVEL N**  
The Who Was? Series is . . .

NONFICTION



- ★ FUN! These books read like fiction but are packed with information.
- ★ a great option for a back-to-school biography unit where each child chooses a different figure to report on.

- ★ diverse in subject and topic—from musicians to explorers to presidents to famous celebrities, there's something for everyone.
- ★ also available in Spanish to reach bilingual and ESL students.



Visit **26 Fairmount Avenue** for humorous and heartfelt family stories!

LEVEL N

- ★ a great introduction to Newbery books for younger readers.
- ★ filled with charming illustrations that children will enjoy as they read the story.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY SERIES

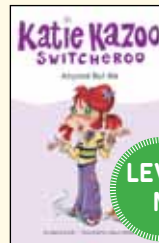
Follow job-obsessed **Frannie B. Miller** on her comical journey to find employment in a real live office.

GENERAL FICTION, HUMOR



LEVEL M

- ★ a great tool for teaching creative vocabulary and nonsense words.
- ★ a wonderful platform for a unique getting-to-know-you exercise: writing a résumé!



LEVEL M



LEVEL N

SERIES FICTION, HUMOR

Take a step in someone else's shoes (or paws!) with **Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo!**

The **Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo** series by **Nancy Krulik** is . . .

- ★ HUGE! With more than forty books in the series, fans can have a book on deck all summer long.
- ★ popular enough to have its own fan club! Visit [www.katiekazoo.com](http://www.katiekazoo.com) to learn how you can become a member today!

If your child likes **Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo**, don't miss **Nancy Krulik's George Brown, Class Clown** series!

GENERAL FICTION, TIME TRAVEL



LEVEL P

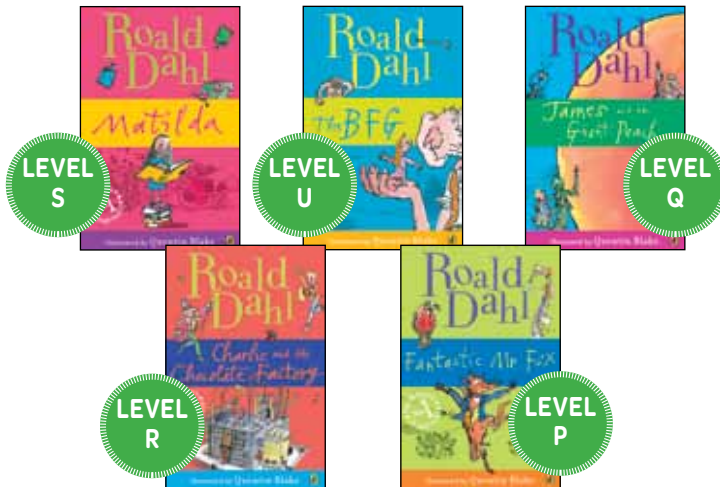
Join **Sam, Joe, and Fred** on their action-packed adventures in the boy-friendly **Time Warp Trio** series.

The **Time Warp Trio** series is . . .

- ★ written and illustrated by the knockout team of **Jon Scieszka**, the first National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, and **Caldecott Honor**–winner **Lane Smith**.
- ★ the perfect way to give your kids a dose of history disguised as FUN

# The Summer Before... Fourth Grade

Fall into the splendiferous world of Roald Dahl!



Roald Dahl is . . .

- ★ the World's #1 Storyteller!
- ★ an author whose books will hold the attention of any child who loves fantasy and using his or her imagination.
- ★ the inspiration behind many wonderful movies based on his classic novels. Read the books before you see them!
- ★ the creator of memorable characters that make excellent models for character studies.
- ★ the perfect choice for a beginning-of-the-year author study. His books make perfect mentor texts!
- ★ an inspiration for teaching FUN vocabulary lessons—particularly using *The BFG*.
- ★ a crowd-pleasing selection for summer book clubs.

Visit [www.roalddahl.com](http://www.roalddahl.com) for discussion questions, games, and more!

## Teachers and Librarians

Visit [www.roalddahl.com](http://www.roalddahl.com) to find out how you can help your school and library participate in Roald Dahl Month each September. Download FREE activities, printables, games, and more! AND: Did you know that there are play versions available of practically every Roald Dahl book? They're each a ready-made reader's theater script! Performances help to increase reading fluency and confidence and also boost enjoyment.



LEVEL  
Q

HUMOROUS FICTION

Spend your summer with everyone's favorite class pet, Humphrey the hamster!

The Humphrey series by Betty G. Birney is . . .

- ★ The winner of eight state awards and has been nominated for more than eighteen!
- ★ A good choice for animal lovers and can be enjoyed by both boys and girls.
- ★ Filled with humorous stories that kids will relate to (and secretly wish they could be a part of).
- ★ A great series for vacations and car trips, as the paperbacks have puzzles in the back!

Introduce your child to the outrageous (and incredibly charming) *Pippi Longstocking* by Astrid Lindgren. What child wouldn't be fascinated by a girl who lives without grown-ups?!



LEVEL  
O

CLASSIC FICTION



LEVEL  
Q

HUMOROUS FICTION

Every rising fourth grader should read the first book in Judy Blume's classic Fudge series, *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*.

Celebrating its  
40th Anniversary!



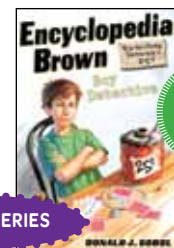
LEVEL  
Q



MYSTERY SERIES

Crack the case with John R. Erickson's Hank the Cowdog on one of his more than FIFTY-SEVEN adventures!

Children who love Hank the Cowdog may also enjoy the Encyclopedia Brown series by Donald J. Sobel.



LEVEL  
P

MYSTERY SERIES



LEVEL  
P



ADVENTURE SERIES

Explore the hazards of the deep in this exciting new series sure to grab the interest of any reluctant reader.



# The Summer Before . . . Fifth Grade

LET YOURSELF BE CHARMED BY NEWBERY HONOR BOOK *SAVVY* BY INGRID LAW



*Savvy* is . . .

- ★ an award-winning book loved by adults and kids alike.
- ★ a coming-of-age story both boys and girls will easily relate to.
- ★ filled to the brim with a well-defined, inventive cast of characters perfect for character studies and analysis projects.
- ★ fantasy, adventure, and just the right dose of realism to make for a page-turning, teachable read.
- ★ a great prompt for creative writing: imagine that in your family, you receive a special ability when you turn thirteen. Your brothers create electricity and hurricanes and your grandfather could move mountains. What would you want to be able to do?
- ★ full of thematic connections: family, friendship, conflict resolution, understanding differences, valuing uniqueness.
- ★ a fantastic choice for fun-filled, dramatic reader's theater presentations.
- ★ the perfect book to remind kids that *everyone* is special in some unique way.

Visit [www.penguin.com/summerreading](http://www.penguin.com/summerreading) for printable teaching guides for both *Savvy* and *Scumble*. The information in these guides can be used during the summer for continued reading comprehension practice and can also be helpful in jumpstarting lesson plan ideas for the new school year.

## Teachers and Librarians

E-mail [schoolandlibrary@us.penguin.com](mailto:schoolandlibrary@us.penguin.com) with "Summer Reading" in the subject line to request your FREE paperback Teacher's Edition of *Savvy*, which includes discussion questions, extension activities, and full lesson plans aligned to national language arts standards.

READERS WHO LOVE *SAVVY* AND *SCUMBLE* WILL ALSO ENJOY THESE MAGICAL NOVELS



***The Secret of Platform 13***  
by Eva Ibbotson



***Which Witch?***  
by Eva Ibbotson



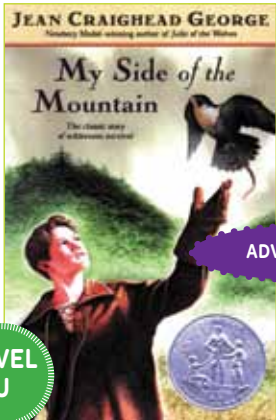
***The Ogre of Oglefort***  
by Eva Ibbotson



**The Books of Elsewhere series**  
by Jacqueline West



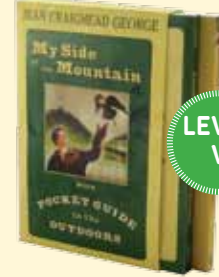
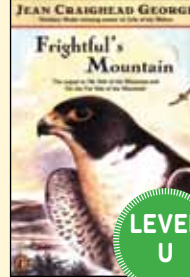
READ CLASSIC ADVENTURE STORY *MY SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN* BY JEAN CRAIGHEAD GEORGE



*My Side of the Mountain* is . . .

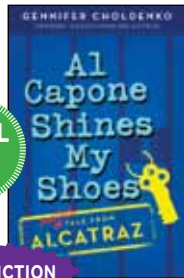
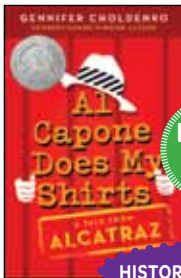
- ★ the perfect selection for classroom lesson plans and library programs.
- ★ the ideal read for wilderness and nature enthusiasts.
- ★ filled with adventure and the fantasy of living on your own.

Don't miss the other two books in the trilogy and the brand-new *Pocket Guide to the Outdoors!*



- ★ a great prompt for creative writing: imagine how you would survive in the wilderness with only a penknife, a ball of cord, forty dollars, and some flint and steel.
- ★ a classic Newbery Honor book and page-turning read that modern-day kids will pick up again and again—and recommend to their friends.

SPEND THE SUMMER ON ALCATRAZ WITH MOOSE FLANAGAN AND HIS FRIENDS!



*Al Capone Does My Shirts* and *Al Capone Shines My Shoes* by Jennifer Choldenko are . . .

- ★ historical fiction set in a time period recent enough for kids to easily relate to the setting.
- ★ set in one of the most famous prisons in the world but are appropriate for younger readers.
- ★ stories that showcase the importance of family, tolerance, and friendship.
- ★ award-winning novels that read like movie scripts.

MORE FANTASTIC CHOICES FOR RISING FIFTH GRADERS INCLUDE



*When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*  
by Judith Kerr



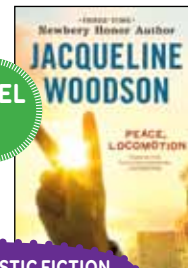
*Nothing's Fair in Fifth Grade*  
by Barthe DeClements



*The Cat Ate My Gymsuit*  
by Paula Danziger



*Locomotion and Peace, Locomotion*  
by Jacqueline Woodson

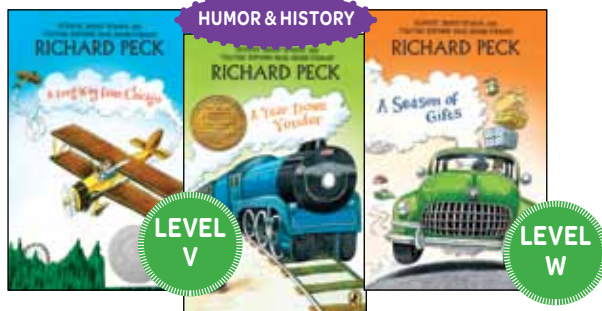


*A Tale Dark and Grimm*  
by Adam Gidwitz



## The Summer Before . . . Sixth Grade

GET WRAPPED UP IN THE HEARTFELT AND HUMOROUS GRANDMA DOWDEL TRILOGY BY RICHARD PECK.

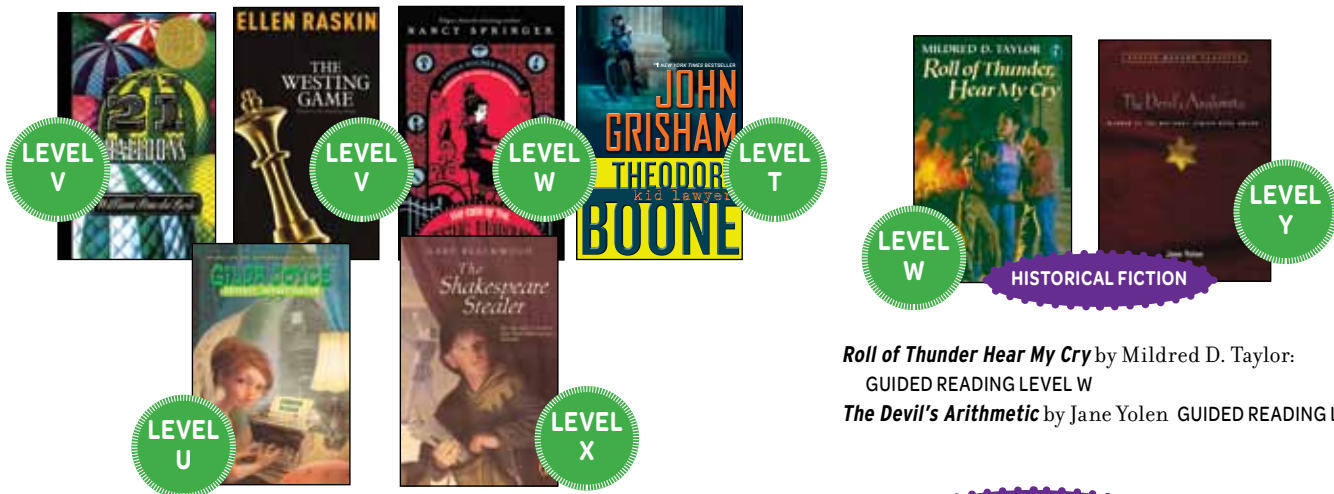


***A Long Way from Chicago, A Year Down Yonder, and A Season of Gifts* are . . .**

- ★ filled with laugh-out-loud funny, incredibly endearing, and absolutely unforgettable characters.
- ★ full of inspiring relationships and tales complete with adventure and action ideal for creative writing projects.
- ★ written in a short story format that is appealing to readers.
- ★ an excellent literary accompaniment to a unit on the Great Depression.
- ★ perfect for book club and literature circle discussion groups.

### Teachers and Librarians

E-mail [schoollandlibrary@us.penguin.com](mailto:schoollandlibrary@us.penguin.com) with "Summer Reading" in the subject line to request your FREE paperback Teacher's Edition of *A Long Way from Chicago* and *A Year Down Yonder*, which includes discussion questions, extension activities, and full lesson plans aligned to national language arts standards. Visit [www.penguin.com/summerreading](http://www.penguin.com/summerreading) for a classroom guide to all of Richard Peck's books and for one specifically dedicated to the Grandma Dowdel trilogy.



***Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry*** by Mildred D. Taylor:  
GUIDED READING LEVEL W

***The Devil's Arithmetic*** by Jane Yolen: GUIDED READING LEVEL Y

FOR THIS GRADE LEVEL, WE ALSO RECOMMEND . . .

#### MYSTERY & SUSPENSE

***21 Balloons*** by William Pène du Bois: GUIDED READING LEVEL V  
***The Westing Game*** by Ellen Raskin: GUIDED READING LEVEL V  
***The Gilda Joyce, Psychic Investigator series*** by Jennifer Allison:  
GUIDED READING LEVEL U  
***The Enola Holmes series*** by Nancy Springer: GUIDED READING LEVEL U  
***The Shakespeare Stealer*** by Gary Blackwood: GUIDED READING LEVEL X  
***Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer*** by John Grisham: GUIDED READING LEVEL T

***The Redwall series*** by Brian Jacques: GUIDED READING LEVEL Z  
***The Lost Years of Merlin and The Merlin's Dragon series*** by T.A. Barron:  
LOST YEARS OF MERLIN: GUIDED READING LEVEL W  
 MERLIN'S DRAGON: GUIDED READING LEVEL V  
***The Ruins of Gorlan*** by John Flanagan



# The Summer Before...Seventh Grade

Upper middle school and junior high school students will enjoy diving into these stories. By reading widely, students will increase the benefit of their summer reading experience. Encourage them to read across genres and to discover new authors and series.

## HISTORICAL FICTION

LEVEL  
Z



**Summer of My German Soldier**  
by Bette Greene

*Summer of My German Soldier* is the story of twelve-year-old Patty Bergen, a Jewish girl from Arkansas who begins a romance with a German prisoner during World War II.

## REALISTIC FICTION

LEVEL  
T



**Red Kayak**  
by Priscilla Cummings

Priscilla Cummings weaves a suspenseful tale of three teenagers caught in a web of deception in her multistate award-nominated *Red Kayak*.



**Climbing the Stairs**  
by Padma Venkatraman

Set during World War II and the last days of British occupation in India, *Climbing the Stairs* is a powerful story about love and loss.

## HISTORICAL FICTION

## REALISTIC FICTION, GLBTQ

LEVEL  
Z



**My Most Excellent Year: A Novel of Love, Mary Poppins, and Fenway Park** by Steve Kluger

Told in alternating perspectives, this is the hilarious and touching story of T.C., Augie, and Alé's most excellent year.



**Postcards from No Man's Land**  
by Aiden Chambers

Geertrui and Jacob live worlds apart, but their voices blend together to tell one story that transcends time and place and war. By turns moving, vulnerable, and thrilling, this extraordinary Printz Medal-winner takes the reader on a memorable voyage of discovery.

## GENERAL FICTION



**The Outsiders**  
by S.E. Hinton

A groundbreaking classic that reads as if it was written for today's teens. First published in 1967, *The Outsiders* immediately resonated with young adults: honest and gritty, it was like nothing else out there and still stands up as one of the greatest modern YA classics.

## BULLYING

LEVEL  
Z

LOVE *THE OUTSIDERS*? CHECK OUT ANOTHER GREAT S.E. HINTON READ!



**The Schwa Was Here**  
by Neal Shusterman

Neal Shusterman's award-winning *The Schwa Was Here* is an unforgettable story of a unique friendship and an unusual quest for notoriety that middle school students will love.

LEVEL  
X



Continue Antsy's adventures in *Antsy Does Time*



**That Was Then, This Is Now**  
by S.E. Hinton

LEVEL  
Z

## BULLYING

# The Summer Before... Eighth Grade

## Joan Bauer

### REALISTIC FICTION

Full of humor, unforgettable characters, surprises, and lots and lots of heart, Joan Bauer's books are perfect for kids coming into their own.



LEVEL  
T

**Close to Famous**  
by Joan Bauer

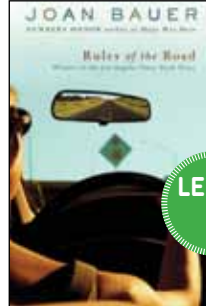
Everyone has a dream, but nobody is even close to famous in the little town of Culpepper.



LEVEL  
T

**Peeled**  
by Joan Bauer

Something's rotten in the heart of apple country!



LEVEL  
X

**Rules of the Road**  
by Joan Bauer

Meet Jenna Boller, star employee at Gladstone Shoe Store in Chicago.



LEVEL  
W

**Hope Was Here**  
by Joan Bauer

Meet everyone's favorite waitress in this Newbery Honor-winning novel.

## THE CHRONICLES OF VLADIMIR TOD SERIES

by Heather Brewer

Sink your teeth into a boy-friendly vampire series that's clean (as long as you don't mind a little blood).

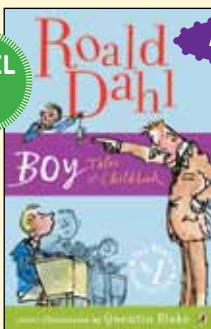
LEVEL  
Z



BULLYING

## NONFICTION

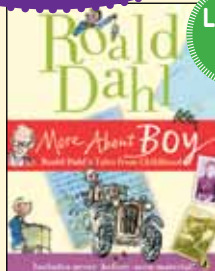
### AUTOBIOGRAPHY



LEVEL  
T

**Boy, More About Boy, and Going Solo**  
by Roald Dahl

Learn the true story of Roald Dahl's childhood. Read these three nonfiction tales to see where he got the inspiration for his marvelous storytelling.



LEVEL  
V



LEVEL  
X

AMERICAN HISTORY

**The Mayflower and the Pilgrims' New World**

by Nathaniel Philbrick

Adapted from the *New York Times* bestseller *Mayflower* specifically for younger readers, this edition brings to life an important period of history.



LEVEL  
Y

AMERICAN HISTORY,  
CIVIL RIGHTS

**Marching for Freedom: Walk Together, Children, and Don't You Grow Weary**  
by Elizabeth Partridge

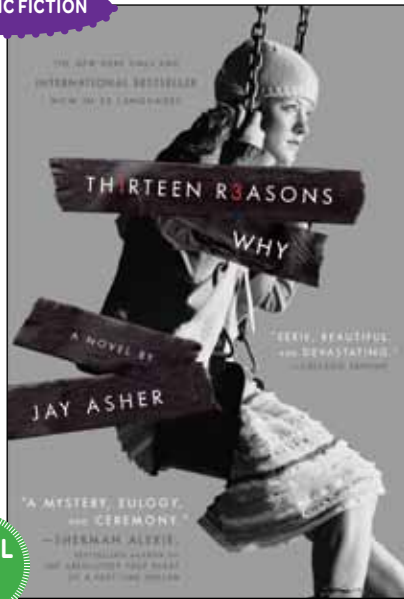
Award-winning author Elizabeth Partridge leads you straight into the chaotic, passionate, and deadly three months of protests that culminated in the landmark march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965.

# Teen Must-Reads for the Summer Before... High School

## USING BOOKS TO PROMOTE COMPASSION AND CAMARADERIE

**High school is a challenging time in every teen's life:** new school, new classmates, new teachers, new classes. Everything seems bigger, more difficult, and more intense. At this time in students' lives, their support system—friends, family, teachers—is extremely important. With the increased presence of bullying in schools, it is essential that students learn to treat each other with understanding and compassion.

REALISTIC FICTION



LEVEL  
Z

***Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher is a teen novel that has made a deep impact nationwide since its publication in 2007.** The intricate, heartrending, and sensitive story that Clay and Hannah tell through their dual narrative makes for a standout novel that truly illustrates the power that teenagers have over the quality of each other's lives. *Thirteen Reasons Why* is a book to teach, a book to learn from, and a book that will stay with readers long after they close its cover.

**Try *Thirteen Reasons Why* as a one book, one school read.**

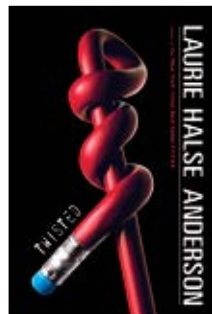
This title is being embraced as the perfect book for adults and teens to read together to broach the sensitive issues faced by high schoolers today. Use this book to foster discussion and eliminate stigma surrounding these taboo topics by organizing a Community Read. For resources on how to adopt this book in your community, visit [www.penguin.com/teachersandlibrarians](http://www.penguin.com/teachersandlibrarians).

## Laurie Halse Anderson



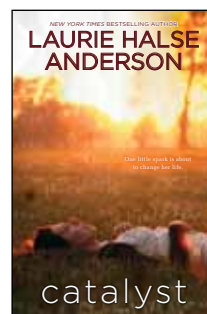
### *Wintergirls*

An emotionally wrenching, lyrically-written look at the deadly dangers of anorexia.



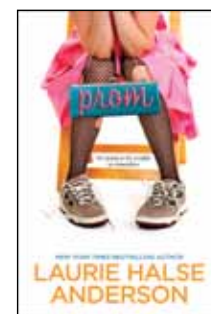
### *Twisted*

A thought-provoking exploration of what it means to be a man.



### *Catalyst*

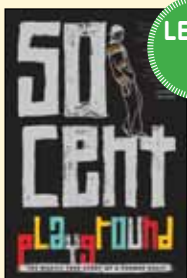
No amount of planning can prepare Kate for her senior year.



### *Prom*

Ashley doesn't care about her senior prom, but she's the exception as it's pretty much the only good thing at her urban Philadelphia high school.

LEVEL  
Z



LEVEL  
X

### *Playground* by 50 Cent

A hard-hitting and inspirational novel about the redemption of a bully from international icon 50 Cent.

For an educator guide on this title as well as additional anti-bullying materials, visit [www.penguin.com/teachersandlibrarians](http://www.penguin.com/teachersandlibrarians).



# Read all the books by these favorite teen authors

Teens love to read about characters and situations that reflect themselves and their own experiences. Finding an author with a sizable backlog gives them an opportunity to read all summer long.

## Gayle Forman

*If I Stay*

*Where She Went*

Critically acclaimed novels that will change the way you look at life, love, and family.



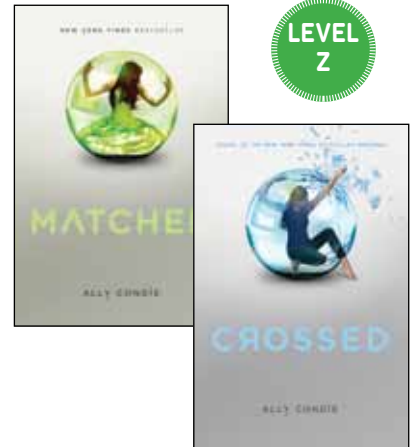
LEVEL  
Z

## Ally Condie

*Matched*

*Crossed*

Society Matched them, but Love set them free.



LEVEL  
Z

## Sarah Dessen

Know teens who can't get enough of Sarah Dessen? Tell them to check out [www.sarah-land.com](http://www.sarah-land.com) where they can chat with other fans, view trailers, and enter to win prizes.

LEVEL  
Y



*What Happened to Goodbye?*



*Along for the Ride*



*Lock and Key*



*Just Listen*

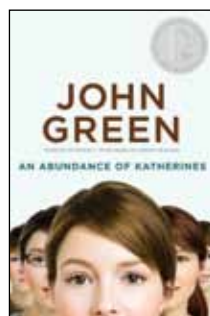
## John Green

Did you know that when John Green isn't writing books for teens he's a prolific video blogger? See what John has to say at [www.johngreenbooks.com](http://www.johngreenbooks.com).

LEVEL  
Z



*Will Grayson, Will Grayson*  
with David Levithan



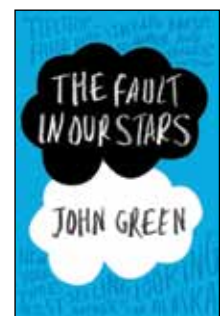
*An Abundance of Katherines*



*Paper Towns*



*Looking for Alaska*



*The Fault In Our Stars*

PRINTZ  
AWARD-WINNING  
MODERN CLASSIC

# Other great High School reads

## CLASSIC FICTION

### GET A HEAD START WITH CURRICULUM FAVORITES

LEVEL  
Z



**Dracula**  
by Bram Stoker



**Hamlet**  
by William Shakespeare



**The Fall of the House of Usher and Other Stories**  
by Edgar Allan Poe

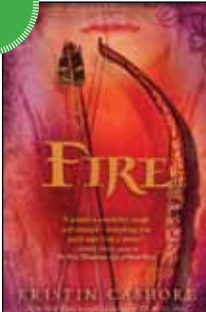


**Frankenstein**  
by Mary Shelley

## FANTASY

### DISCOVER A UNIQUE NEW WORLD

LEVEL  
U



**Fire**  
by Kristin Cashore

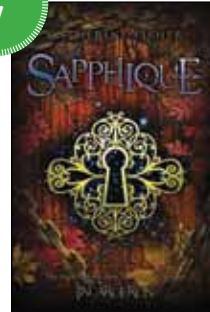
The exquisitely romantic and breathtaking companion to bestselling teen fantasy *Graceling*.

LEVEL  
V



**Incarceron**  
by Catherine Fisher

A heart-pounding, page-turning *New York Times* bestselling thriller.



**Sapphique**  
by Catherine Fisher

Find out what happens next as Finn's adventure continues.

LEVEL  
Z

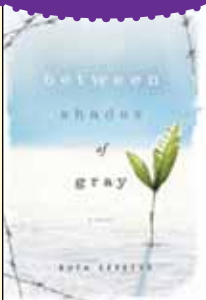


**EON & EONA**  
By Alison Goodman

Is forbidden love worth the ultimate sacrifice? Action, a stunning magic system, and swordplay galore!



## HISTORICAL FICTION

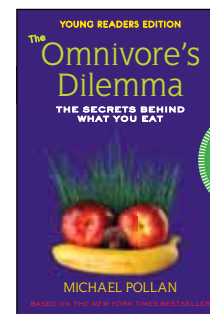


**Between Shades of Gray**  
by Ruta Sepetys

*Between Shades of Gray* is a novel that will steal your breath and capture your heart as it elegantly delves into a little-known event in history telling the tale of fifteen-year-old Lina, a Lithuanian girl who is sent to a work camp in the coldest reaches of Siberia during World War II.

LEVEL  
Z

## NONFICTION



LEVEL  
Z

**The Omnivore's Dilemma for Kids**  
By Michael Pollan

The *New York Times* bestseller that's changing America's diet is now perfect for younger readers.

# BEST NEW BOOKS from 2011

introduce your readers to these starred reviewed, soon-to-be classics

## FOR YOUNGER READERS



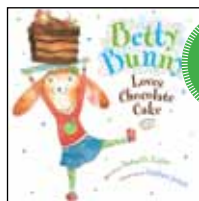
LEVEL  
J

### **Blue Chicken**

★ ★ ★

By Deborah Freedman

An irresistible chicken who springs to life and wreaks havoc in a farmyard with a pot of blue paint.



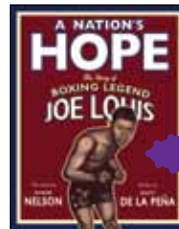
LEVEL  
L

### **Betty Bunny Loves Chocolate Cake**

★ ★ ★

By Michael Kaplan  
with illustrations by Stephane Jorisch

When Betty Bunny eats chocolate cake for the first time, she declares, "I am going to marry chocolate cake."



LEVEL  
V

NEW YORK TIMES  
BEST ILLUSTRATED

### **A Nation's Hope: The Story of Boxing Legend Joe Louis**

★ ★ ★

By Matt de la Pena with  
illustrations by Kadir Nelson

This elegant and powerful biography centers around the historic fight in which Americans were able to put aside prejudice and come together to celebrate our nation's ideals.

## FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL READERS



LEVEL  
R

### **Secrets at Sea**

★ ★ ★ ★

By Richard Peck

An irresistible adventure story of the tiny individuals who secretly live among us humans.



LEVEL  
X

### **Jefferson's Sons**

★ ★ ★ ★

By Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

The untold story of Thomas Jefferson's slave children.



LEVEL  
Y

### **Saint Louis Armstrong Beach**

★ ★ ★

By Brenda Wood

A gripping story of a boy, a dog, and a hurricane.



LEVEL  
U

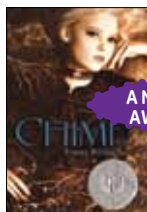
### **Small Persons with Wings**

★ ★ ★

By Ellen Booraem

An irreverent take on fairies for fans of Savvy and Ella Enchanted!

## FOR YOUNG ADULTS



A NATIONAL BOOK  
AWARD FINALIST!

### **Chime**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

By Franny Billingsley

As many secrets as Briony has been holding, there are secrets even she doesn't know.



A MORRIS AWARD  
NOMINEE!

### **Between Shades of Gray**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

By Ruta Sepetys

Lina is just like any other fifteen-year-old Lithuanian girl in 1941 until one night when Soviet officers take her away from everything she's ever known.

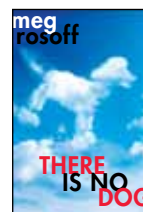


### **Legend**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

By Marie Lu

Full of nonstop action, suspense, and romance, this dystopian novel is sure to move readers as much as it thrills.



### **There Is No Dog**

★ ★ ★ ★

By Meg Rosoff

What if God were a teenaged boy?



### **Stay With Me**

★ ★ ★ ★

By Paul Griffin

An urban romance that will capture your soul, break your heart, and restore your faith in the human spirit.

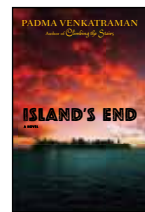


### **Imaginary Girls**

★ ★ ★ ★

By Nova Ren Suma

As Chole and Ruby reunite following a tragic accident, the fragile line between life and death will be redrawn by the complex bonds of sisterhood.



### **Island's End**

★ ★ ★ ★

By Padma Venkatraman

From the acclaimed author of *Climbing the Stairs* comes a fascinating story set on a remote island untouched by time.



# Award Winners

Use these critically-acclaimed, award-winning titles to foster a love of reading.

## NEWBERY MEDAL WINNERS



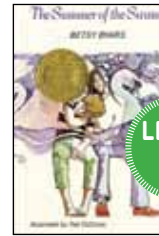
**Amos Fortune,  
Free Man**  
by Elizabeth Yates

LEVEL  
V



**Roll of Thunder, Hear  
My Cry**  
by Mildred Taylor

LEVEL  
W



**Summer of the Swans**  
by Betsy Byars

LEVEL  
U



**The Twenty-one Balloons**  
by William Pène du Bois

LEVEL  
V



**The Westing Game**  
by Ellen Raskin

LEVEL  
V



**A Year Down Yonder**  
by Richard Peck

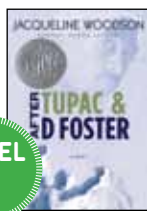
LEVEL  
V

## NEWBERY HONOR BOOKS



**26 Fairmount Avenue**  
by Tomie dePaola

LEVEL  
N



**After Tupac & D Foster**  
by Jacqueline Woodson

LEVEL  
Y



**Al Capone Does  
My Shirts**  
by Gennifer Choldenko

LEVEL  
X



**Feathers**  
by Jacqueline Woodson

LEVEL  
X



**Getting Near to Baby**  
by Audrey Coulombis

LEVEL  
V



**Hope Was Here**  
by Joan Bauer

LEVEL  
W



**A Long Way from  
Chicago**  
by Richard Peck

LEVEL  
V



**Millions of Cats**  
by Wanda Gag

LEVEL  
J



**My Side of the Mountain**  
by Jean Craighead George

LEVEL  
U



**Savvy**  
by Ingrid Law

LEVEL  
U



**Show Way**  
by Jacqueline Woodson  
Illustrated by  
Hudson Talbott

LEVEL  
Z



**To Be A Slave**  
by Julius Lester

LEVEL  
Z

## CALDECOTT MEDAL WINNERS



**Joseph Had a Little Overcoat**  
by Simms Taback



**Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China**  
by Ed Young



**Madeline's Rescue**  
by Ludwig Bemelmans



**Make Way for Ducklings**  
by Robert McCloskey



**Officer Buckle and Gloria**  
by Peggy Rathmann

LEVEL I

LEVEL S

LEVEL K

LEVEL L

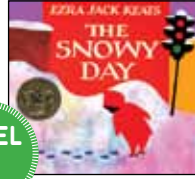
LEVEL U



**Owl Moon**  
by Jane Yolen  
Illus. by John Schoenherr



**Rapunzel**  
by Paul O. Zelinsky



**The Snowy Day**  
by Ezra Jack Keats



**So You Want to Be President?**  
by Judith St. George  
Illus. by David Small

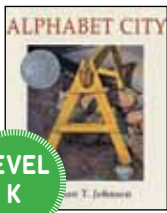
LEVEL O

LEVEL N

LEVEL J

LEVEL S

## CALDECOTT HONOR BOOKS



**Alphabet City**  
by Steven T. Johnson



**Blueberries for Sal**  
by Robert McCloskey



**Coming on Home Soon**  
by Jacqueline Woodson  
Illus. by E. B. Lewis



**Goldilocks and the Three Bears**  
by James Marshall



**John Henry**  
by Julius Lester  
Illus. by Jerry Pinkney

LEVEL K

LEVEL M

LEVEL M

LEVEL K

LEVEL K



**Madeline**  
by Ludwig Bemelmans



**Seven Blind Mice**  
by Ed Young



**The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales**  
by Jon Scieszka  
Illus. by Lane Smith



**Swamp Angel**  
by Anne Isaacs  
Illus. by Paul O. Zelinsky



**When I Was Young in the Mountains**  
by Cynthia Rylant  
Illus. by Diane Goode

LEVEL K

LEVEL K

LEVEL P

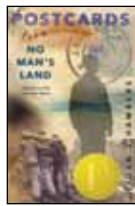
LEVEL P

LEVEL K

## MICHAEL L. PRINTZ AWARD WINNERS



**Looking for Alaska**  
by John Green



**Postcards from No Man's Land**  
by Aidan Chambers



**A Step from Heaven**  
by An Na

## MICHAEL L. PRINTZ HONOR BOOKS



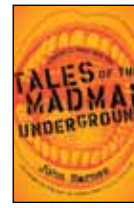
**An Abundance of Katherines**  
by John Green



**Fat Kid Rules the World**  
by K. L. Going



**John Lennon: All I Want Is the Truth**  
by Elizabeth Patridge



**Tales of the Madman Underground: An Historical Romance, 1973**  
by John Barnes

## CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD WINNERS



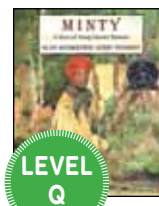
**Bronx Masquerade**  
by Nikki Grimes



**The Land**  
by Mildred Taylor



**The Middle Passage: White Ships/Black Cargo**  
by Tom Feelings and Jason Henrik  
Illustrator Award Winner



**Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman**  
by Alan Shroeder  
Illus. by Jerry Pinkney  
Illustrator Award Winner



**Miracle's Boys**  
by Jacqueline Woodson

LEVEL Z

LEVEL Z

LEVEL Z

LEVEL Q

LEVEL Z



# Reaching Reluctant Readers

NOT EVERY CHILD IS A BORN BOOK LOVER, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN CHILDREN CAN'T LEARN TO LOVE READING!

Both boys and girls can be equally reluctant to dive into summer reading, but boys are traditionally less eager than girls. Use these suggestions to reach the boys in your life and help them find the fun in reading. Know a boy who doesn't love books but is obsessed with . . . sports/science experiments/action movie blockbusters/comics/history (particularly war stories)/vampires/anything super gross, including bugs, snakes, and slime? Then suggesting books based on themes or subjects that the boys you know are already fanatic about will be a much easier task and a more effective sell. If you find a local author or series that your child likes, ask your librarian or local bookstore for more titles. Remember, getting your child hooked on a prolific author or large series means they'll always have a book on deck. And don't forget to visit [www.penguin.com/summerreading](http://www.penguin.com/summerreading) for more recommendations!

## For Kids who . . .

### DEVOUR GRAPHIC NOVELS.

LEVEL  
O



**Dragonbreath**  
by Ursula Vernon



**Dragonbreath: Curse of the Were-wiener**  
by Ursula Vernon



**Dragonbreath: Attack of the Ninja Frogs**  
by Ursula Vernon



**Dragonbreath: Lair of the Bat Monster**  
by Ursula Vernon

It's not easy for Danny Dragonbreath to be the sole mythical creature in a school for reptiles and amphibians—especially because he can't breathe fire like other dragons. Using a hybrid of comic-book panels and text, author Ursula Vernon has created an irresistible set of characters with a penchant for getting themselves into sticky situations. It's perfect for both the classroom and fun summer reading selections.

### LIVE TO LAUGH.

LEVEL  
O



**Zombiekins**  
by Kevin Bolger

LEVEL  
P



**Time Warp Trio #1**  
by Jon Scieszka

### THINK FARTS AND BURPS ARE HYSTERICAL.

LEVEL  
N



**The George Brown, Class Clown series**  
by Nancy Krulik

LEVEL  
R



**Sir Fartsalot Hunts the Booger**  
by Kevin Bolger

### LOVE CHOCOLATE.

LEVEL  
O



**Chocolate Fever**  
by Robert Kimmel Smith



BOOKS  
4  
BOYS

For more awesome book recommendations for boys, supplemental materials for teachers and parents, notes from favorite authors, and materials and suggestions for book clubs, visit [www.penguin.com/books4boys](http://www.penguin.com/books4boys)!



# For Kids who . . .

ENJOY A LITTLE NONSENSE.

LEVEL  
T



**Zorgamazoo**  
by Robert Paul  
Weston

LEVEL  
T



**Knucklehead: Tall Tales  
and Mostly True Stories  
of Growing Up Scieszka**  
by Jon Scieszka

LOVE ACTION MOVIES  
AND CRIME SHOWS.

LEVEL  
X



**The Alex Rider series**  
by Anthony Horowitz

LEVEL  
T



**Theodore Boone:  
Kid Lawyer**  
by John Grisham

ARE INTO SWORD FIGHTING  
AND COMBAT.

LEVEL  
U



**The Ranger's  
Apprentice series**  
by John Flanagan

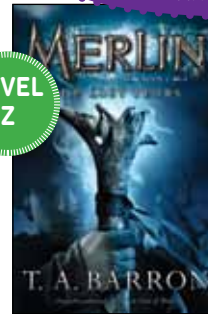
LEVEL  
Z



**The Redwall series**  
by Brian Jacques

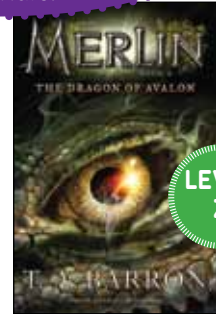
ARE INTRIGUED BY DRAGONS  
AND MAGIC.

LEVEL  
Z



**The Merlin's Dragon series**  
by T.A. Barron

LEVEL  
Z



LIKE HORROR FLICKS.

LEVEL  
Z



**The Chronicles of  
Vladimir Tod series**  
by Heather Brewer

ARE OBSESSED  
WITH  
BASEBALL.

LEVEL  
V



**Heat**  
by Mike Lupica

LIKE HISTORY AND  
WAR STORIES.

LEVEL  
W



**Code Talker: A Novel  
About the Navajo Marines  
of World War Two**  
by Joseph Bruchac

WISH FOR  
SUPERPOWERS.

LEVEL  
V



**Hero**  
by Mike Lupica

# Book Clubs

## HELP OPEN THE DOOR TO INCREASED READING COMPREHENSION SKILLS

An excellent way to improve a child's reading comprehension level during the summer is by joining or creating a book club. Book clubs make reading a joint and interactive experience through opinion sharing, question/answer sessions, and predicting exercises. Plus, they're a fun way to get together with friends! With younger children, you can hold meetings weekly and discuss a few chapters at a time. During the school year, teachers or librarians can organize and moderate sessions after school or at recess. Booksellers, consider hosting your own events with young readers; have an author host a book club as part of an event at your store! Parents, create a parent/child club where adults and children read the same book and meet to discuss the story every few weeks. The following are several book suggestions that work well for group discussions, but keep in mind that sometimes the best book recommendations for younger children come from people their own age. Encourage your child to trade books with their friends or host a book-swap party during your first meeting, where all attendees come with an old favorite and leave with a new one for independent reading outside the club.

### REALISTIC FICTION

*Mockingbird* by Kathryn Erskine

Winner of the 2010 National Book Award for Young People's Literature, *Mockingbird* tells the story of Caitlin, an eleven-year-old girl with Asperger's. The world according to her is black and white; anything in between is confusing. Before, when things got confusing, Caitlin went to her older brother, Devon, for help. But Devon has died, and Caitlin's dad is so distraught that

he is just not helpful. Caitlin wants everything to go back to the way they were, but she doesn't know how to do that. Then she comes across the word *closure*, and she realizes this is what she needs. And in her search for it, Caitlin discovers that the world may not be black and white after all.

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- \* *Mockingbird* is told in first person; how would the story be different if someone besides Caitlin were telling it?
- \* Throughout the novel Caitlin tries to understand the meaning of closure. What are some of the events that help her achieve closure? How does her understanding of the concept of closure change?
- \* Caitlin states, "You can open and close books a million times and they stay the same. They look the same. They say the same words. The charts and pictures are the same colors. Books are not like people. Books are safe." (p.34) What can we infer about her statement? Do you agree with Caitlin? Provide some examples from the story to validate her point.
- \* When Josh and Caitlin have an altercation on the playground, their classmates come to Caitlin's defense, but later, some of these same students laugh and tease Caitlin about her behavior—why would they choose to behave this way?

**WRITER'S WORKSHOP:** Throughout the novel, Josh struggles greatly because he feels that others blame him for being related to one of the school shooters. Using Josh's voice, write a journal entry in which you detail the playground event and the altercation with Caitlin. To prepare, create an outline using the five Ws (who, what, when, where, and why). Remember to write in first person and give special attention to sensory imagery (what you saw, smelled, heard, etc.) Visit [www.penguin.com/teachersandlibrarians](http://www.penguin.com/teachersandlibrarians) for a complete discussion guide, including additional questions, activity ideas, and a Q&A with the author.

### ADDITIONAL BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS



LEVEL  
Z



*Hope Was Here*  
by Joan Bauer

LEVEL  
W

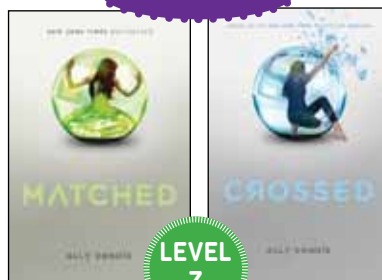
REALISTIC FICTION

HISTORICAL FICTION



*Between Shades of Gray*  
by Ruta Sepetys

LEVEL  
Z



NONFICTION

LEVEL  
Z

*Matched  
Crossed*  
Society Matched them,  
but Love set them free.

Visit [www.penguin.com/summerreading](http://www.penguin.com/summerreading) for tips on how to start your own book club, additional reading selections, and sample questions and activities.

# Tips for a Sizzling Summer of Reading

While every district has its own literacy program, all schools strongly encourage reading over summer vacation and many require that children read specific titles in the months before they begin a new grade level. The intensity of summer assignments may range from asking children to read books of their own choosing, to selecting several titles from a reading list issued by the school, to reading a group of mandatory stories and then completing a writing assignment. Students' reactions to summer reading are as broad as the assignments themselves: to some, reading is a welcome activity; to others, and for reluctant or challenged readers in particular, summer reading can seem like a chore. Take advantage of the following tips and suggestions, designed to assimilate reading naturally into your child's summer routine and help you get personally involved!

**Be a Reader and Writer Yourself:** Children learn by example.

Through simple acts like reading a book in the backyard or the newspaper at breakfast, you're showing your child that reading is both fun and important. Encourage your child to apply this concept to his or her own life by reading the cereal box in the morning, a menu in a restaurant, or signs as you drive in the car. Have your child help you write your weekly grocery list and then read the items to you as you shop together.



**Know Your Child's Reading Level:** Remember that each child has an instructional *and* an independent reading level. Book choices for independent summer reading selections should be at a level where your child can read most of the words and easily understand the story on his or her own. Keep in mind that a child's independent reading level is slightly lower than his or her instructional reading level. However, when selecting a read-aloud, feel free to choose books at a higher readability level, which may be more in line with your child's listening comprehension level. Booksellers and librarians: having a handle on the reading level system used at your local schools will assist you in helping your patrons appropriately select books during the summer. This booklet refers to Guided Reading Levels; if your local school uses a different system for leveling books, you can easily find a conversion chart online.



**Make Use of Your School, Bookstore, or Public Library's Reading Incentive Program (Or Create Your Own!):** A motivational program—whether you're counting the number of pages read, hours spent, or books completed—is an excellent way to get kids excited about reading during the summer. Keep track of their progress with a Summer Reading Log, available for download at [www.penguin.com/summerreading](http://www.penguin.com/summerreading).



**Encourage Students to Read Widely:** Expose your children to a variety of genres, titles, and authors so that they can develop their own reading interests and expand their background knowledge in various subjects.

**Summer Writing Is Just as Important as Summer Reading:** The ability to write about what one reads is an essential skill that your child will employ in each subject taught in school. In order to maintain the writing skills your child developed over the school year, he or she will need to practice writing over the summer. Visit [www.penguin.com/summerreading](http://www.penguin.com/summerreading) for a list of writing activities and prompts for every grade level.



**Tie Reading into the Themes of Your Summer Activities:** If you're planning a vacation, read about the destination together. Look for books where the main characters take part in the same activities your child does, like going to camp, taking swimming lessons, visiting family, getting a new pet, etc. Ask your librarian or local bookstore for summer-themed books on your child's reading level.



**Attend Author Events at Your Local Library and Bookstore:** Meeting a favorite author is an exciting experience for a child. Bringing books to life in this way will create a lasting connection between your child and reading.



**Make Reading a Joint Experience:** As you read aloud together, take turns reading pages, or obtain two copies of the book and each read silently. In either case, tell your child what you are thinking as you read and ask your child questions about what he or she reads. Reading and discussing books together will expand your child's ability to think more deeply about a story, which leads to an increased level of comprehension. Sharing your ideas and enthusiasm about books will serve to nurture a love for reading. Children who engage in recreational reading increase their vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension as they enjoy books. **An excellent way to achieve this goal with older children is by starting a book club.** Visit [www.penguin.com/summerreading](http://www.penguin.com/summerreading) for tips on how to get started.

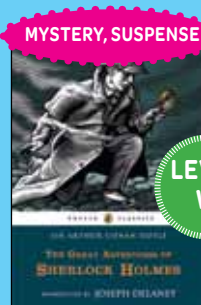
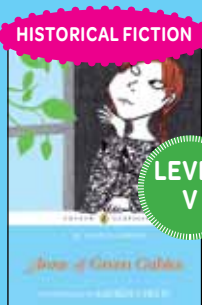
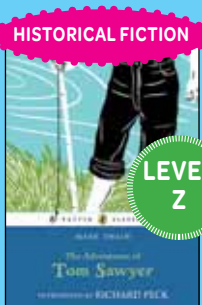
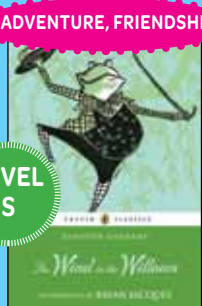
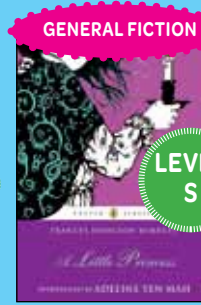
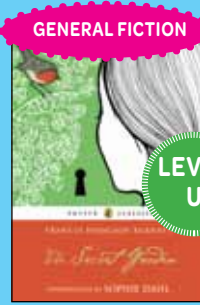
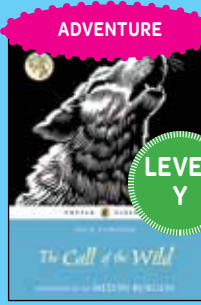
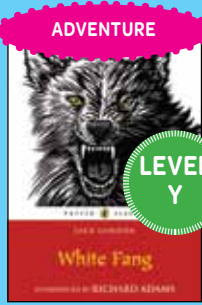




# Classics

## This Summer, Curl Up with a Classic

You're never too old or too young to enjoy a great story! With eye-catching, modern covers and introductions written by some of today's most popular children's and young adult authors, the Puffin Classics line is a wonderful choice for any young reader. Return to these treasured tales or indulge in them for the first time. Choose a classic you loved when you were young and share it with your child—taking turns reading chapters can be an enjoyable and rewarding experience for you both! Remember to pause and prompt your child's reading comprehension skills with questions about plot, setting, characters, and vocabulary.



★ Visit  
[www.penguin.com/summerreading](http://www.penguin.com/summerreading)  
 for a full list of classics.

