Best Books for Summer 2010 and All Year Long

Summer is a great time to read and I’ve reminded all the students to READ, READ, READ this summer. I hope your family can use this list to find some new favorites to enjoy and to follow some new interests—there are so many wonderful books out there. Suggested grade levels on this list are just that “suggestions”. You know your tastes and preferences -- I hope everyone finds something of interest listed below. Many of these books may be found in public libraries and bookstores. I especially hope you will stop by the Curtis Memorial Library and check out its summer programs “Make a Splash – READ” and extensive collections.

Attached, AND available on Longfellow Library’s web site http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/libraries/lonlib/greatreading/ are links to my favorite reading lists--Newbery and Caldecott winners, the Maine Student Book Award nominees for next year (and Curtis will have at least two copies of each book to get started early), the American Library Association’s “Best Books” list and lots of other great web sites with great “reading lists.” And my genre lists—my favorites in several genres. Check them all out! Again this year I’ve asked students in the third grade for their “recommendations”—their favorite book they’ve read this year. Those can be found at http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/libraries/lonlib/greatreading/ ; scroll down to the class lists and click on the ones you’re interested in checking out.

I’ve checked and updated the activity and [educational] game sites at the end of this list and on the web page, for those rainy or “too hot to play outside” days. Remember that Border’s is doing a Summer Reading “Double Dog Dare” Challenge for kids 12 and under—available at the stores which can earn them a free book. And Scholastic is also having a Summer Reading Challenge at www.scholastic.com/summer Check it out!

Wende Sairio, Longfellow Librarian  
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***Remember to check out the Longfellow Library Web Page for reading suggestions; Previous years’ favorites can be found at http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/libraries/lonlib/what'snew/pastfavorites.htm

Picture Books
Arnold, Tedd. I Spy Fly Guy! K-Gr. 2    Fly is back in humorous I-Can-Read adventure.
Bell, Cece. Itty Bitty. Pres-Gr.1 Tiny dog makes a home in a hollow bone.
Brown, Ruth. Curious Garden. K-Gr.2 Liam creates a garden in elevated train tracks.
Burningham, John. It’s a Secret. Pres-Gr.1 Where do cats go at night?
Crum, Shutta. Thunder-Boomer! K-Gr.2 A family finds a kitten after a thunder storm.
Davies, Jacqueline. Tricking the Tallyman. Gr.1-4 In 1790 Vermont townsfolk do not want to be counted.
Gal, Susan. Night Lights. Pres-Gr.1 Little girl and her mother see streetlamps, birthday candles, and night-lights.
Hayes, Geoffrey. Benny and Penny in the Big No-No! K-Gr.2 This is a graphic novel for beginning readers.
Hest, Amy. *Little Chick.* Pres.-Gr.1 Curious Little Chick is helped by her Old Auntie.

Johnston, Tony. *My Abuelita.* K-Gr.2 Young boy describes his storytelling grandmother’s daily routines.

Lowry, Lois. *Crow Call.* Gr. 2-5 A young girl goes for a walk with her father who recently returned from WWII.

Mahy, Margaret. *Bubble Trouble.* Pres.-Gr.2 Mabel blows a huge bubble in this rhyming tongue twister.

McMullan, Kate. *Pearl and Wagner: One Funny Day.* K-Gr.2 Friends enjoy April Fools’ Day in this I-Can-Read.

Meschenmoser, Sebastian. *Waiting for Winter.* Pres.-Gr.1 Squirrel, Hedgehog, and Bear see snow everywhere it is not.

Mora, Pat. *Gracious/Thanks.* K-Gr.2 A boy is thankful for everything, from ladybugs to family and friends.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Looking Like Me.* Gr. 1-5 A person can be defined in many ways.

Newbery, Linda. *Posy.* Pres.-Gr.1 Kitten plays throughout the day.

Palatini, Margie. *Lousy Rotten Stinkin’ Grapes.* Pres-Gr3 This is a humorous spin-off of a Aesop fable.


Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. *Duck! Rabbit!* Pres-Gr.1 Viewers decide if lines make a duck or a rabbit.

Rylant, Cynthia. *All in a Day.* Pres-Gr.1 Each day holds glorious possibilities in the life of a farm boy.


Salley, Colleen. *Tumtum & Nutmeg: Adventures Beyond Mouse Hall.* Gr. 2-4 SLJ Old mouse couple have adventures.

Sierra, Judy. *The Sleepy Little Alphabet: A Bedtime Story for Alphabet Town.* Pres-Gr.1 26 lower case children don’t want to go to bed and try to avoid the 26 upper case adults.

Slate, Joseph. *I Want to Be Free.* Gr. 2-4. A young runaway slave escapes and saves another young slave.

Smith, Jeff. *Little Mouse Gets Ready.* K-Gr. 2 A humorous book for beginning readers, Little Mouse gets dressed up like a pirate.

Willems, Mo. *Pigs Make Me Sneeze!* Prs-Gr.2 In this I-Can-Read, is Gerald allergic to his best friend?

Yee, Wong Herbert. *Mouse and Mole.* K-Gr.2 Two friends create a book while bird-watching in this I-Can-Read.

**Fiction**

Baskin, Nora Raleigh. *Anything But Typical.* Gr. 4-7 BEC MSBA An Autistic 12-year-old tells his story.

Beil, Michael. *The Red Blazer Girls.* Gr. 5 – 8 Sophie and her friends try to track down a valued treasure and heirloom.

Bem, Emily. *Tumtum & Nutmeg: Adventures Beyond Mouse Hall.* Gr. 2-4 SLJ Old mouse couple have adventures.

Bredsdorff, Bodil. *Eidi.* Gr. 4- 6 BEC ALA In sequel to *The Crow Girl,* Eidi leaves home to gain independence.

Bryant, Jen. *Kaleidoscope Eyes.* Gr. 5-8 MSBA Lyza inherits a pirate’s map for buried treasure in her New Jersey backyard.

Burg, Ann. *All the Broken Pieces: A Novel in Verse.* Gr. 5-8 MSBA Matt Pin, a Vietnamese 12 year old, is adopted by American parents.

Couloumbis, Audrey. *War Games.* Gr. 5-8 HBF MSBA Boys play for real stakes in 1940s Nazi-occupied Greece.

Coy, John. *Top of the Order.* Gr. 4-6 MSBA Four 5th graders who love baseball must cope with a sister who wants to join their team.

DeFelice, Cynthia. *Signal.* Gr. 4 – 8 Owen faces a lonely summer until he meets an abused girl who may be a space alien.

DiCamillo, Kate. *The Magician’s Elephant.* Gr. 4-7 BEC ALA MSBA Peter journeys to find his sister.

Fagan, Deva. *Fortune’s Folly.* Gr. 5-8 MSBA In this humorous, adventurous tale, Fortunata tells a fortune that she must make true.

Forester, Victoria. *The Girl Who Could Fly.* Gr. 4-8 A young girl who teaches herself to fly ends up in a “special school” which is really something else entirely.

Forman, Mark. *Slathbog’s Gold.* Gr. 4-6 MSBA Alex teams up with elves and dwarves to slay a dragon.

French, Susannah. *Operation Redwood.* Gr. 4-6 MSBA Three 6th graders team up to stop the clear-cutting of a redwood grove.

George, Jessica Day. *Princess of the Midnight Ball.* Gr. 4 - 8
A retelling of the tale of twelve princesses who wear out their shoes dancing every night, and of Galen, a former soldier now working in the king's gardens, who follows them in hopes of breaking the curse.

Lidie leaves Brazil to join her father and brother on a horse ranch in New York, but she has a hard time adjusting to her changed circumstances.

Harris, Lewis. *A Taste for Red*. Gr. 4 - 6 MSBA  Svetlana thinks she is a vampire.

Henham, R.D. *Brass Dragon Codex*. Gr. 3 – 7 (Series)
Orphaned brass dragon named Kyani befriends a gnome and through friendship, both become better listeners.

Hiaasen, Carl. *Scat*. Gr. 5-8 SLJ
A teacher is missing during a class field trip in this ecological thriller set in Florida.

Higgins, F.E. *The Eyeball Collector*. Gr. 5-8 MSBA
A thief steals jewels to make into false eyeballs, and Hector becomes his employee.

Jonell, Lynne. *The Secret of Zoom*. Gr.4-7 SLJ
Christina sets out to save local orphans from being worked to death.

Kelly, Jacqueline. *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*. Gr. 4-8 C&N BEC SLJ ALA MSBA
Growing up with 6 brothers is not easy for Callie who wants more than cooking.

Klise, Kate. *Dying to Meet You*. Gr. 4-6 MSBA
This ghost story is told through letters, e-mails, lists, and newspaper clippings.

Knudsen, Michelle. *The Dragon of Trelian*. Gr. 4-8
A mage's apprentice, a princess, and a dragon combine their strength and magic to bring down a traitor and restore peace to the kingdom of Trelian.

LaFever, R.L. *Nathaniel Flood: Beastologist: Flight of the Phoenix*. Gr. 3 - 7
Nate is sent to live with a family cousin, the world's last beastologist, after his parents are declared lost at sea; danger mounts when he is brought on an expedition to the Arabian desert.

LaFleur, Suzanne. *Love, Aubrey*. Gr. 4-7 MSBA
Aubrey’s father & sister are killed in a car accident, & she goes to live with grandmother.

Orphans Ian and Theodosia travel through caves to escape the monster chasing them.

Lin, Grace. *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*. Gr.5-7 C&N ALA MSBA
Girl goes on quest to find legendary Old Man of the Moon.

Look, Lenore. *Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping, Hiking, & Other Natural Disasters*. Gr. 1-3 HBF
Alvin discovers six things more frightening than school teachers.

Mass, Wendy. *11 Birthdays*. Gr. 4-6 MSBA
Amanda must celebrate her 11th birthday over and over until she reconciles with a friend.

Mills, Claudia. *How Oliver Olson Changed the World*. Gr. 2-4 ALA
Third grader Oliver has overprotective parents.

Naylor, Phyllis. *Faith, Hope, and Ivy June*. Gr. 5-6 MSBA
Two 7th graders, one wealthy and one poor, take part in an exchange program.

O’Connor, Barbara. *The Small Adventure of Popeye and Elvis*. Gr.3-6 SLJ ALA MSBA
Popeye’s boring life changes when a new boy brings energy & adventures.

Parry, Rosanne. *Heart of a Shepherd*. Gr.5-8 HBF
Dad is in Iraq, and so Brother must help his grandparents keep the family ranch going.

Paterson, Katherine. *The Day of the Pelican*. Gr. 5-8 MSBA
Muslim family fearing genocide needs to flee Kosovo.

Peck, Richard. *A Season of Gifts*. Gr. 5-8 BEC MSBA
Grandma Dowdel returns with more funny episodes.

Phelan, Matt. *The Storm in the Barn*. Gr. 5-8 BEC ALA HBF
Boy wrestles the wind in this graphic novel tall tale.

Philbrick, Rodman. *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*. Gr. 4-6 C&N ALA MSBA
Young Maine boy searches for his older brother at the Battle of Gettysburg.

Polacco, Patricia. *January’s Sparrow*. 1-5 A slave family escapes North after a friend is whipped.

Exiled Conn travels to Wellmet to find out what’s happening to the magic.

Riordan, Rick. *The Red Pyramid*. Gr. 4 – 8
Carter and Sadie Kane try to track down their father’s killer while learning about their heritage; full of Egyptian mythology.

Rollins, James. *Jake Ransom and the Skull King’s Shadow*. Gr. 5 – 8
Jake and his sister are transported by a Mayan artifact to a world inhabited by people from long-ago civilizations who are threatened by prehistoric creatures and an alchemist.

Saunders, Kate. *The Little Secret*. Gr. 4-5  MSBA
While spending a summer on a Scottish island, a girl meets tiny elfin inhabitants.

St. John, Lauren. *The Last Leopard*. Gr. 4-6  MSBA
In this sequel to *The White Giraffe*, Martine goes to Zimbabwe to try to save a leopard.

Stead, Rebecca. *When You Reach Me*. Gr. 4-8  C&N BEC HBF SLJ ALA MSBA
In this time travel fantasy, Miranda receives notes that seem to come from the future.

Sturm, James. *Adventures in Cartooning: How to Turn Your Doodles into Comics*. Gr. k – 5
BECSLJALAMSBAA fun & cleverness go together in this fantasy graphic novel.

Taylor, Greg. *Killer Pizza*. Gr. 5-8  MSBA
Instead of selling pizzas, Toby finds himself working for a monster-hunting organization.

Thor, Annika. *A Faraway Island*. Gr. 4-6  HBF ALA
Jewish girl from Nazi-occupied Vienna is evacuated to Sweden.

Townley, Rod. *The Blue Shoe: A Tale of Thievery, Villainy, Sorcery, and Shoes*. Gr.4-6  MSBA
Boy lands in prison in this complex fairy tale.

Tracy, Kristen. *Camille McPhee Fell Under the Bus*. Gr. 3-5  SLJ
Fourth grade girl has a take-charge attitude about life.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Peace Locomotion*. Gr. 4-6  SLJ
This is a stand alone sequel to *Locomotion* about life, love, and family.

### Great Series for Anytime

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Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* Harry Potter
Sarah Prineas *The Magic Thief* The Magic Thief
Emily Rodda *The Charm Bracelet* Fairy Realm
Emily Rodda *Clementine* Clementine
Michael Scott *The Alchemyst* Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas
Flamel

Jon Scieszka *Knights of the Kitchen Table* Time Warp Trio
Sherwood Smith *Wren to the Rescue* Wren
Lemony Snicket *The Bad Beginning* Series of Unfortunate Events
Nancy Springer *Rowan Hood...* Outlaws of Sherwood Forest
Trenton Lee Stewart *Mysterious Benedict Society* Mysterious Benedict Society
Jeff Stone *Tiger* The Five Ancestors
Wendelin Van Draanen *Sammy Keyes & the Hotel Thief* Sammy Keyes
Gertrude Chandler Warner *Boxcar Children* Boxcar Children
Henry Winkler *Niagara Falls or Does It?* Hank Zipzer
Various authors *When Will This Cruel War End?: The Civil War Diary of Emma Simpson*
Dear America

**Folklore and Poetry**

Agee, Jon. *Oranguan Tongs: Poems to Tangle Your Tongue.* Gr.1-4  HBF
These poems are fun to read aloud.
Aylesworth, Jim. *The Mitten.* Pre-Gr.2  HBF  Popular folktale is retold.
Cousins, Lucy. *Yummy: Eight Favorite Fairy Tales.* Pres-Gr. 2  BEC  SLJ  ALA
Cousins retells folktales with bright illustrations.
Emberley, Rebecca. *Chicken Little.* Prs-G.2  SLJ  Folktales have bold new illustrations.
Hughes, Langston. *The Negro Speaks of Rivers.* Gr.1-5  BEC
Classic poem’s illustrations include the whole human family.
Kajikawa, Kimiko. *Tsunami!* Gr.1-4  ALA  In Japanese folktale, grandfather saves his village.
Pinkney, Jerry. *The Lion and the Mouse.* Pres-Gr 2  C&N  BEC  HBF  SLJ
Fable is retold in watercolor illustrations & sound effects without words.
Ruddell, Deborah. *A Whiff of Pine, a Hint of Skunk: A Forest of Poems.* K-Gr.5  SLJ  ALA
Here are playful poems about woodland creatures.
Schertle, Alice. *Button Up! Wrinkled Rhymes.* Pres-Gr.2  HBF
These first person poems are in the voice of apparel.
Sidman, Joyce. *Red Sings from Treetops: A Year in Colors.* Pres-Gr.2  C&N  BEC  HBF  ALA
Each season is explored in colors.
Wilson, Karma. *What's the Weather Inside?: Poems*  Gr. 4-8  MSBA
More than 100 short poems are accompanied by charming line drawings.

**Informational Books**

Bang, Molly and Penny Chisholm. *Living Sunlight.* Pres-Gr. 3  BEC
Book explains photosynthesis for youngest readers.
Barton, Chris. *The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob and Joe Switzer’s Bright Ideas and Brand-New Colors.* Gr. 3-6 SLJ  ALA  MSBA  This book covers invention, biography, fun artwork, and business.
Bernier-Grand, Carmen. *Diego: Bigger than Life.* Gr. 5up ALA
The life of Mexican painter is explored in free verse and through his own paintings.

Bishop, Nic. *Nic Bishop Butterflies and Moths.* Gr. 2 – 5 BEC SLJ
Stunning photos draw readers in.

Bond, Rebecca. *In the Belly of an Ox: The Unexpected Photographic Adventures of Richard and Cherry Kearton.* K- Gr.3 ALA
Pioneering bird photographers created ingenious camouflages.

Bryan, Ashley. *Ashley Bryan: Words to My Life’s Song.* Gr.4-6 MSBA
Creative Maine artist & author tells his life story.

Chaikin, Andrew. *Mission Control, This Is Apollo.* Gr. 4-8 HBF BEC
This tells about the first 12 moon missions.

Chin, Jason. *Redwoods.* Pres-Gr.3 BEC HBF
Scientific facts are joined with imaginative paintings & story.

Davies, Nicola. *Just the Right Size: Why Big Animals Are Big and Little Animals Are Little.*
Gr. 3-6 HBF
Author and illustrator combine humor and facts.

Dennis, Brian. *Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine, and a Miracle.* Gr. 1-5 MSBA
Irish dog meets American Marine.

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Irish dog meets American Marine.

Floca, Brian. *Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11.* K-Gr.4 BEC HBF SLJ
Informative picture book provides technical and human details about the moon landing.

Hendrix, John. *John Brown: His Fight for Freedom.* Gr. 5-8 BEC
This is an illustrated story of the famous abolitionist.

Hoose, Phillip. *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice.* Gr. 5-10 C&N HBF SLJ
A year before Rosa Parks, 15-year-old Claudette refused to give up her bus seat.

Jenkins, Steve. *Down Down Down: A Journey to the Bottom of the Sea.* K-Gr.3 ALA
Readers go deeper and deeper in underwater exploration.

Krull, Kathleen. *The Boy Who Invented TV: the Story of Philo Farnsworth.* Gr. 2-5 SLJ
Inspired by his imagination and science magazines, 22-year-old invents television.

Gr. 4-6 MSBA Science and photos create an inviting book.

Marrin, Albert. *Years of Dust: The Story of the Dust Bowl.* Gr. 5-8 BEC SLJ
Illustrations and text portray frightening realities of the era.

Metselaar, Menno. *Anne Frank: Her Life in Words and Pictures.* Gr. 5-9 SLJ ALA
This covers Anne’s life before, during, and after her years in hiding.

Montgomery, Sy. *Saving the Ghost of the Mountain: An Expedition Among Snow Leopards in Mongolia.* Gr. 4-8 SLJ MSBA Photo essay follows life of a research biologist.

Mora, Pat. *Book Fiesta! Celebrate Children’s Day/Book Day.* K-Gr.2 ALA
Latin children invite us to celebrate reading.

Mortenson, Greg. *Listen to the Wind: The Story of Dr. Greg and Three Cups of Tea.* K-Gr.3 ALA
Children in Pakistan help an American build a school.

Murphy, Jim. *Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting.* Gr. 5-8 BEC
This is a vivid account of World War I.

Nelson, Marilyn. *Sweethearts of Rhythm: The Story of the Greatest All-Girl Swing Band in the World.* Gr. 5-8 BEC

Nelson, Vaunda. *Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshall.* Gr.4-6 ALA
Colorful life is retold.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Sojourner Truth’s Step-Stomp Stride.* K-Gr.3 SLJ
Picture book biography portrays Truth’s great spirit.

Rappaport, Doreen. *Eleanor, Quiet No More.* Gr. 2 – 5 BEC
This picture book biography of Mrs. Roosevelt is illustrated with paintings.

Both Jews and Muslim resistance fighters faced great danger.

Siwanowicz, Igor. *Animals Up Close: Zoom in on the World’s Most Incredible Creatures.* Gr. 4-8 MSBA
Wide variety of animals are viewed.

Talbott, Hudson. *River of Dreams: The Story of the Hudson River.* Gr.4-6 ALA
This New York river played many important parts in American history.
Turner, Pamela. *The Frog Scientist*. Gr. 4-6  ALA
This photo illustrated book tells how Dr. Hayes studies the effect of pesticides on frogs.
Weitzman, David. *Pharaoh’s Boat*. Gr. 4 – 7  BEC  SLJ  ALA
Pharoah’s ship prepared for the afterlife was discovered thousands of years later.
Wing, Natasha. *An Eye for Color: the Story of Josef Albers*. Gr.k-3  ALA
Picture book biography shows how colors interact with each other.
Winter, Jonah. *You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?* Gr. 2-4  BEC  ALA
This is a picture book biography of the great left-handed pitcher.
Wood, A.J. *Charles Darwin and the Beagle Adventure*. Gr. 4-8  SLJ
With creative layout & inserts, this interactive book presents famous scientist.
This is a picture book biography.

### Real-life Animal Stories

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