



SUMMER READING LIST*

A Universe of Stories! ~ Grades 5-6

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

FICTION

Cosmic by Frank Cottrell Boyce

Super-sized twelve-year-old Liam makes a giant leap for boy-kind by competing with a group of adults for the chance to go into space. | Lexile: 670

Shooting the Moon by Frances O'Roark Dowell

When her brother is sent to fight in Vietnam, twelve-year-old Jamie begins to reconsider the army world that she has grown up in. | Lexile: 890

The Jamie Drake Equation by Christopher Edge

Jamie has a close encounter with an alien who tells him his father, an astronaut on a mission at the International Space Station, is in trouble and needs Jamie's help. | Lexile: 960

Last Day on Mars by Kevin Emerson

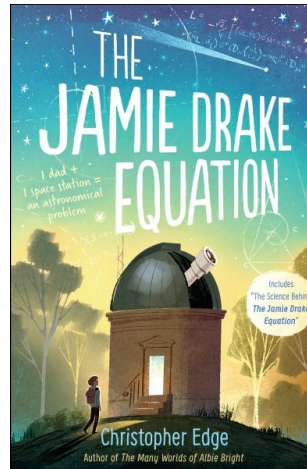
While waiting to leave Mars before it burns up just like the Earth before it, Liam and his friend Phoebe discover some facts about time and space and realize that the human race is just one of the races trying to survive in space.

Full Cicada Moon by Marilyn Hilton

In 1969 twelve-year-old Mimi and her family move to an all-white town in Vermont, where Mimi's mixed-race background and interest in "boyish" topics like astronomy make her feel like an outsider. | ALA, NCSS, *Nutmeg* 2018 | Lexile: 790

Unidentified Suburban Object by Mike Jung

Chloe Cho is a Korean American seventh-grader who would like to get in touch with many of the aspects of her heritage, but her parents are unwilling to talk about it—then when a class assignment forces Chloe to confront them directly, they finally tell her the truth about her family, which may just be too much for one girl to handle. | Lexile: 830



Dragon Pearl by Yoon Ha Lee

Min, a thirteen-year-old girl with fox-magic, stows away on a battle cruiser and impersonates a cadet in order to solve the mystery of what happened to her older brother in the Thousand World Space Forces. | Lexile: 780

Love, Ish by Karen Rivers

Twelve year old Mischa "Ish" Love's longtime dream has been to someday live on

Mars, but when she collapses on the first day of seventh grade, Ish receives a diagnosis which threatens her future plans. | ILA | Lexile: 640

We're Not From Here by Geoff Rodkey

The award-winning author of the Chronicles of Egg series finds the narrator, a Mars colonist, relocating in the aftermath of Earth's mysterious demise to the planet Choom, where the mosquito-like inhabitants dislike human singing, jokes and emotions so much that they are outlawed. | Lexile: 740

A Problematic Paradox by Eliot Sappingfield

Thirteen-year-old Nikola's world is turned upside down when her father is abducted by aliens and she is transported to a boarding school for geniuses, but things get stranger when she realizes she has certain abilities that put her school in danger. | Lexile: 850

The Truth About Martians by Melissa Savage

When a flying saucer crash-lands next to Mylo's Roswell, New Mexico, ranch in 1947, he and his friends Dibs and Gracie set out to find and help the Martians. | Lexile: 650

The Countdown Conspiracy by Katie Slivensky

Miranda, one of six elite kids training for the world's first-ever mission to Mars, begins receiving death threats from hatemongers who do not consider her worthy, until a terror attack on the training base places the team and mission in Miranda's hands. | Lexile: 700



SUMMER READING LIST*

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Sanity & Tallulah by Molly Brooks

Sanity and Tallulah live in a space station at the end of the galaxy. When Sanity's illegally created three-headed kitten escapes, the girls have to turn their home upside down to find her in this graphic novel. | Lexile: 530

Rocket to the Moon! by Don Brown

Presents a history of rocket technology, from ancient Chinese rockets, the "bombs bursting in air" during the War of 1812, and Russia's Sputnik program.

One Trick Pony by Nathan Hale

In a future where alien beings consume technology as a few humans try to preserve it, Strata, her brother, and a friend are separated from their caravan and, with a wonderful robotic horse, must fight their way back. | ALA | Lexile: 260

Cleopatra in Space #1: Target Practice by Mike Maihack

When a young Cleopatra finds a mysterious tablet that zaps her to the far, REALLY far future, she learns of an ancient prophecy that says she is destined to save the galaxy from the tyrannical rule of the evil Xaius Octavian. | ALA, ILA | Lexile: 430

Red's Planet by Eddie Pittman

The story of headstrong 10-year-old foster child Red, who stows away on an alien spaceship and is marooned on a deserted planet with a menagerie of misfit aliens. | ILA | Lexile: 350



A Black Hole is Not a Hole by Carolyn

Cinami DeCristofano

Introduces black holes, describing their physical features, how they were discovered, what causes them, and where they exist in space. | ALA, NCTE | Lexile: 900

When Planet Earth Was New by James Gladstone

Describes the formation of planet Earth, from its beginnings as molten rock and poison gas, to the formation of oceans, to the evolution of life. | NSTA | Lexile: 530

Our Moon: New Discoveries About Earth's Closest Companion by Elaine Scott

Discusses the most up-to-date information known about the moon, including the newest theories on how it formed, the recent discovery of water on its surface, and the possibility of future moon colonies. | NSTA | Lexile: 1280

To Pluto & Beyond: The Amazing Voyage of New Horizons by Elaine Scott

The newest book from science writer, Elaine Scott, introduces young readers to New Horizons, the space ship that NASA built to explore Pluto and the fringes of our solar system. | NSTA | Lexile: 1090

Welcome to Mars: Making a Home on the Red Planet by Buzz Aldrin

The Apollo 11 astronaut invites curious youngsters to evaluate Mars as a potential planet for human colonization, describing what Mars residents might experience while traveling to and living on the Red Planet. | NSTA | Lexile: 900

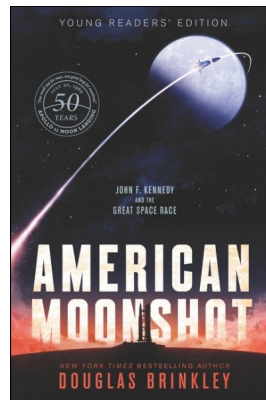
NONFICTION

Seven Wonders of the Solar System by David A Aguilar

Explores seven extraordinary celestial wonders, from our close neighbor Mars to mysterious Planet 9. | NSTA | Lexile: 1070

American Moonshot (Young Readers' Edition) by Douglas Brinkley

A young readers' edition of the award-winning historian's 50th anniversary account of America's race to the moon shares behind-the-scenes insights into the heroic achievements of the Apollo 11 team and why the mission was so important.



BIOGRAPHY

Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream by Tanya Lee Stone

Presents the story of the thirteen women connected with NASA's Mercury 13 space mission, who braved prejudice and jealousy to make their mark and open the door for the female pilots and space commanders that would soon follow. | ALA, NCTE, NSTA | Lexile: 980

*Many of the listed books were selected as exemplary books by one or more of the following organizations: the *American Library Association* (ALA), the *International Literacy Association* (ILA), the *National Council for the Social Studies* (NCSS), the *National Council of Teachers of English* (NCTE), the *National Council of Teachers of Mathematics* (NCTM), the *National Science Teachers Association* (NSTA), the *American Association for the Advancement of Science* (AAAS) or the *United States Board on Books for Young People* (USBBY). Other awards as noted.



SUMMER READING

Favorites & Classics

For Grades 5-6

READ NUTMEG AWARD NOMINEES!

Find the Intermediate Nutmeg list at: <http://nutmegaward.org>

FAVORITES & CLASSICS

Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster* by Jonathan Auxier

In nineteenth-century England, after her father's disappearance Nan Sparrow, ten, works as a "climbing boy," aiding chimney sweeps, but when her most treasured possessions end up in a fireplace, she unwittingly creates a golem. | Lexile: 630

The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill

Luna, whose magical abilities are emerging, was raised in the forest by a witch, a swamp monster, and a dragon, but when a young man from the Protectorate is determined to kill the witch, Luna must use her magic to protect her family. | ALA | Lexile: 640

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

A ten-year-old orphan comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors where she discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden. | Lexile: 970

The Madman of Piney Woods* by Christopher Paul Curtis

Even though it is now 1901, the people of Buxton, Canada (originally a settlement of runaway slaves) and Chatham, Canada are still haunted by two events of half a century before--the American Civil War, and the Irish potato famine, and the lasting damage those events caused to the survivors. | Lexile: 870

The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau

In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions. | ALA | Lexile: 680

The Birchbark House by Louise Erdrich

Omakayas, a seven-year-old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847. | ALA | Lexile: 970

The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm by Nancy Farmer

In 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are

kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine, while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them. | ALA | Lexile: 660

Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh

Eleven-year-old Harriet, who is a spy and plans to be an author keeps a secret notebook filled with thoughts and notes on her schoolmates and people she observes on her afterschool spy route, but when some of her classmates read the notebook, they seek revenge. | Lexile: 760

Roller Girl* by Victoria Jamieson

A graphic novel adventure about a girl who discovers roller derby right as she and her best friend are growing apart. | ALA, Nutmeg 2017 | Lexile: 440

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis

Four English schoolchildren find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter. | Lexile: 940

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis. | ALA | Lexile: 670

Merci Suárez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina

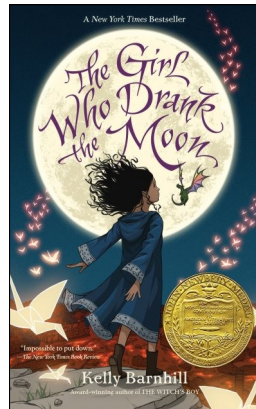
Merci Suárez begins the sixth grade and knows things will change, but she did not count on her grandfather acting strangely, not fitting in at her private school, and dealing with Edna Santos' jealousy. | ALA | Lexile: 700

Anne of Green Gables by L. M. Montgomery

Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her. | Lexile: 850

A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park

Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself. | Lexile: 920





SUMMER READING

Favorites & Classics

For Grades 5-6

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm. | Lexile: 810

Tom's Midnight Garden by Philippa Pearce

While staying with his aunt and uncle, Tom discovers a beautiful garden that is visible only at night and meets a little girl from the Victorian era with whom he travels back in time. | Lexile: 860

Ninth Ward by Jewell Parker Rhodes

In New Orleans' Ninth Ward, twelve-year-old Lanessa, who can see spirits, and her adopted grandmother have no choice but to stay and weather the storm as Hurricane Katrina bears down upon them. | ALA | Lexile: 470

Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan

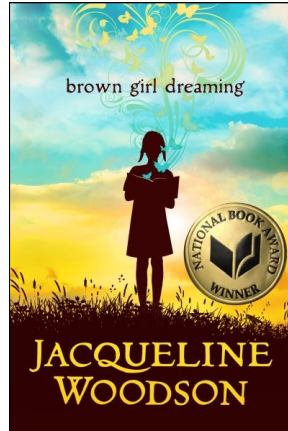
Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression. | ALA | Lexile: 750

Amal Unbound* by Aisha Saeed

In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family. | ALA | Lexile: 600

The Marvels* by Brian Selznick

In 1766, a boy, Billy Marvel, is shipwrecked, rescued, and goes



on to found a brilliant family of actors that flourishes in London until 1900--and nearly a century later, Joseph Jervis, runs away from home, seeking refuge with his uncle in London, and is captivated by the Marvel house, with its portraits and ghostly presences. | ALA, NCTE | Lexile: 770

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams -Garcia

In the summer of 1968, after travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the

intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp. | ALA, NBA | Lexile: 750

Beyond the Bright Sea* by Lauren Wolk

Twelve-year-old orphan Crow embarks on a journey to discover who her parents were and why they abandoned her as an infant. | ALA | Lexile: 770

Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson

In vivid poems that reflect the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, an award-winning author shares what it was like to grow up in the 1960s and 1970s in both the North and the South. | ALA, NBA, NCTE | Lexile: 990

Front Desk* by Kelly Yang

After emigrating from China, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel, despite the nasty owner, Mr. Yao, who exploits them, while she works the front desk and tries to cope with fitting in at her school. | ALA | Lexile: 640

SERIES

The Chronicles of Prydain by Lloyd Alexander

Crispin trilogy by Avi

Poppy by Avi

John Bellairs Mysteries by John Bellairs

The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall

The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper

The Unicorn Chronicles by Bruce Coville

The Moffats by Eleanor Estes

Joey Pigza by Jack Gantos

Shadow Children by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Redwall by Brian Jacques

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

Regarding the.... by Kate Klise

Dog Friday trilogy by Hilary McKay

Percy Jackson & the Olympians by Rick Riordan

Harry Potter by J. K. Rowling

Septimus Heap by Angie Sage

Enola Holmes Mysteries by Nancy Springer

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart

Sammy Keyes by Wendelin Van Draanen

Adam Canfield by Michael Winrip

Enchanted Forest Chronicles by Patricia Wrede

Dear America by various authors