



## Recommended Summer Reading List

Remember: Read books within your ZPD level!  
Don't know your ZPD? Call 340.718.7909

### *Students Entering Grades 5 and 6:*

**The Adventures of Arnie the Doughnut: Bowling Alley Bandit** by Laurie Keller. 3.6  
Arnie the pet “doughnut dog” always has a fun time at the bowling alley, until something causes his owner to throw gutter ball after gutter ball.

**Barbed Wire Baseball.** Moss, Marissa. Biography 4.5  
Set in the internment camps of WWII, beautiful Japanese-style ink-and-calligraphy illustrations bring to life the story of Kenichi Zenimura, the father of Japanese-American baseball.

**Better Nate Than Ever.** Federle, Tim. 5.9  
Having run away from home, exuberant Nate experiences a variety of catastrophes and revelations on his way to becoming a Broadway star. Fresh, funny, and hopeful. (A 2014 Stonewall Honor Book)

**Big Nate: In a Class by Himself** by Lincoln Peirce 3.1  
Supremely confident middle school student Nate Wright manages to make getting detention from every one of his teachers in the same day seem like an achievement. *First in a series*

**The Birchbark House** by Louise Erdrich. Historical Fiction 6.1  
Omakayas, a young Ojibwa girl living near Lake Superior in the mid-1800s, cares for her baby brother and experiences the growing settlement of white people on her family's land. First in a series.

**Bo at Ballard Creek.** Hill, Kirkpatrick. Historical Fiction 5.2  
Set during the Alaska 1920s gold rush, orphaned Bo is adopted by two tough but loving gold miners; she experiences plenty of adventure, charmingly illustrated.

**The Boy Who Loved Math: The Improbable Life of Paul Erdős.** Heiligman, Deborah. Biography 3.4  
Readers will gain insight into the life of a genius in this colorful introductory biography of a brilliant unconventional mathematician.

**Clementine** by Sara Pennypacker. 4.5  
While sorting through difficulties in her friendship with her neighbor Margaret, eight-year-old Clementine gains several unique hairstyles while also helping banish the pigeons from her apartment building. First in a series.

**The Day-Glo Brothers.** by Chris Barton Biography 6.0

The true story of two brothers who, messing around in their basement, discover colors that glow in the dark.

**Doll Bones** by Holly Fantasy 5.4

Three friends set off for an adventure to bury a haunted doll made of the bones of a long-ago girl.

**Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library** by Chris Grabenstein 4.5

Kyle, a huge lover of games, gets to spend the night in Mr. Lemoncello's amazing new library and join in the biggest game of all—with a prize beyond his imagination.

**The Firefly Letters: A Suffragettes Journey to Cuba**, Engle, Margarita. Biography 6.2

Based on the diaries and letters of Swedish suffragist Fredrika Bremer, who spent three months in Cuba in 1851, this book focuses on oppressed women, the privileged as well as the enslaved, in three alternating free-verse narratives.

**Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures**. DiCamillo, Kate. Fantasy 4.3

In this homage to comic books, natural-born cynic Flora Belle Buckman and Ulysses, a flying, poetry-writing squirrel, join forces to overcome Ulysses' arch-nemesis, encountering a cast of quirky characters. (The 2014 Newbery Medal Book)

**Gone Fishing: A Novel in Verse**. Wissinger, Tamera Will- Poetry

Laugh-out-loud verse and humorous line drawings capture an older brother's frustration and a little sister's exuberance when they spend the day fishing with dad.

**The Grand Plan to Fix Everything** by Uma Krishnaswami, 4.6

Bollywood fan Dini is moving to India. Will she get a chance to meet her favorite movie star?

**The Great American Dust Bowl**. Brown, Don. Historical Fiction 5.1

Employing graphic novel format, Don Brown paints a vivid and startling picture of the 10-year span of dust storms that devastated the Midwest, and explores the human causes of this environmental disaster.

**How to Catch a Bogle**. Jinks, Catherine. Fantasy 5.2

In rough Victorian England, 10-year-old Birdie proudly works as an apprentice to a bogler, luring out the scary monsters that are eating children. Fast-paced, lots of historical detail, and starring a resourceful young heroine.

**Inside Out and Back Again** by Thanhha Lai 4.8

Hà escapes South Vietnam with her family and finds that life is very different in the United States.

**Knock Knock : My Dad's Dream for Me**. Beatty, Daniel. Historical Fiction 2.9

Beatty conveys loss and hope through poignant text and illustrations as a boy struggles to understand the absence of his father and their daily game of "Knock, Knock." (The 2014 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award Book)

**Lincoln's Grave Robbers**. Sheinkin, Steve. Historical Fiction 6.6

A thrilling account of a brazen plan by desperate counterfeiters to steal the body of Abraham Lincoln and use it as ransom for the release of a fellow felon.

**The Mad Potter: George E. Ohr, Eccentric Genius.** Greenberg, Jan and Jordan, Sandra. 6.9  
Biography

This fascinating account of the life and work of eccentric and inventive ceramic artist George E. Ohr is enhanced by photographs and information about where to see his art today. (A 2014 Sibert Honor Book)

**Mister Orange.** Matti, Truus. Historical Fiction 4.6

When his older brother enlists in 1943, Linus Muller assumes family responsibilities that introduce him to “Mister Orange,” Dutch painter Piet Mondrian. A coming of age story and a celebration of the power of art. (The 2014 Batchelder Award Book)

**One Came Home.** Timberlake, Amy. Knopf 5.4 Historical Fiction

In 1871 Wisconsin, 13-year-old Georgie tries to solve the mystery of her sister’s disappearance, pulling readers along on her journey of self-discovery. (A 2014 Newbery Honor Book)

**One Crazy Summer.** Williams-Garcia, Rita. Historical Fiction 4.6

In 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover their mother wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp

**P. S. Be Eleven.** Williams-Garcia, Rita. Historical Fiction 4.6

In this riveting sequel to *One Crazy Summer*, the Gaither sisters return to their grandmother's house in New York City, where they struggle with the chaos of turbulent times and changing family relationships. (The 2014 Coretta Scott King Author Award Book)

**Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote: A Migrant's Tale.** Tonatiuh, Duncan. 3.8

An emotional story of the effects of undocumented immigration on those who leave and those who stay behind. Through traditional folk elements, readers follow young Pancho Rabbit in his arduous journey across the border in search of his father. (A 2014 Belpré Author Honor Book and Illustrator Honor Book)

**Rooftoppers.** Rundell, Katherine. Historical Fiction 3.5

In a tale that soars with hope and humanity, Sophie has fled Victorian London to go mother-hunting in Paris. Bounding above the streets, a pack of homeless young “rooftoppers” assist in her search. Lyrical and poetic.

**Serafina's Promise: A Novel in Verse.** Burg, Ann E. Poetry 3.6

Set in Haiti and told in verse, 11-year-old Seraphina and her poor but loving family endure hunger, floods, and earthquakes while the determined girl never gives up her dreams of going to school and becoming a doctor.

**Soldier Dog.** Angus, Sam. Historical Fiction 6.0

During World War I, 14-year old Stanley becomes one of the first “keepers” of Britain’s Messenger Dog Service, training two beloved dogs with which he endures the horrors of trench warfare.

**A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin**, Bryant, Jen. Biography 4.1

This engaging picture book biography of artist Horace Pippin captures the essence of his life and work through tightly woven narrative and vibrant illustrations. (A 2014 Sibert Honor Book and Schneider Family Book Award Book)

**Treasury of Egyptian Mythology**. Napoli, Donna Jo. 6.6

In this exemplary book of folklore, Napoli introduces young readers to Egyptian mythology with vivid language and illustration and anchors the tales in intriguing and research-supported interpretation.

**The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp**. Appelt, Kathi. 5.4

In this comical tall tale, developers and an unlikely crew of characters including the Swamp Man, the raccoon brothers, and 12-year-old Chap set out to save it threaten the swamp.

**The War within These Walls**. Sax, Aline. Non-Fiction 4.1

With powerful text and stark illustrations, this novella provides a harrowing account of Jewish suffering in the Warsaw ghetto during World War II. (A 2014 Batchelder Honor Book)

**When Stravinsky Met Nijinsky: Two Artists, Their Ballet, and One Extraordinary Riot**.

Stringer, Lauren. Biography 3.4

Illustrations dance across the page as Russian composer Stravinsky and choreographer Nijinsky collaborate on “The Rite of Spring,” creating a modern ballet that polarized their artistic world.

**When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop**. Hill, Laban Carrick. Biography 4.2

Vibrant illustrations and brief text introduce DJ Clive Campbell, who took popular dance music, stretched the breaks in the songs, and turned basic rhythms into hip-hop. ((The 2014 Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award Book)

**Words with Wings**. Grimes, Nikki. Poetry 4.3

Gabriella journeys from daydreamer to writer thanks to the intervention of an empathetic teacher. An engaging novel told in verse. (A 2014 Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book)