

**Trumbull Public Schools**  
**2009 Summer Reading List**

Dear Parents,

Helping your children create a love of reading is one of the greatest gifts you can give them. Establishing this habit is a shared responsibility between the home and school. We want students to become lifelong readers. A child who sees reading as a pleasant and relaxing activity is likely to enjoy it. **The key is enjoyment!**

This year, each child will receive a bookmark with suggested titles. The complete list, along with reading levels, is on the Trumbull website, [www.trumbullps.org](http://www.trumbullps.org). It would be most beneficial for students to read as many books as possible throughout the summer. On this bookmark are suggestions that represent literature written on a variety of levels. Reading widely from this list will give students a range of experiences with many good titles. While these books are recommended, students may read **any book** that is appealing to them. The listed books will be available through a cooperative effort with the Trumbull Public Library and local bookstores.

In September, school activities will focus on sharing summer reading experiences. Therefore, an accurate list of the books read will be very helpful in recalling titles, authors, and story lines. Your child can record these on the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge Journal.

The complete book listing, with reading level, is on the Trumbull website along with the strategy sheets. Strategy sheets are provided to strengthen the reading/writing connection. The four comprehension strategies are *Making Connections*; *Visualizing*; *Questioning*; and *Determining Importance*. These sheets are located on the Trumbull website, [www.trumbullps.org](http://www.trumbullps.org), and in the offices of the elementary schools.

**Ideas for Reading with Young Children**

- Read aloud to your children, even when they begin to develop the ability to read independently.
- Have children read to you or other children in the family.
- Find books on topics your child will enjoy: pets, sports, and outdoor activities.
- Reread favorite titles.
- Be a reader yourself; children often follow the example of parents.
- Help your children begin their own library.
- Help your children get their own library cards from the public library and take them to the library often.
- Set aside a special time for reading each day. This time should be seen as fun, not a chore or summer homework.
- Bring many books and magazines along on car trips and vacations.
- Visit local bookstores and watch for children's author visits to these stores.
- Explore reading links on the internet including Newbery, Caldecott, and Nutmeg award winners.

Happy reading!  
Terry Buckingham  
Language Arts Program Leader

## Nutmeg Favorites



### Babe and Me (Baseball Card Series)

Gutman, Dan

Joe Stoshack and his father travel back in time to meet Babe Ruth and find out if he really predicted his home run in the 1932 World Series. (Reading Level S. Series ranges R – T)



### Gregor the Overlander

Collins, Suzanne

When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving men, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy. (Reading Level T. Series ranges S–U)



### Joshua's Song

Harlow, Joan Hiatt

Needing to earn money after his father's death during the influenza epidemic of 1918, thirteen-year-old Joshua works as a newspaper boy in Boston. One day he finds himself in the vicinity of an explosion that sends tons of molasses coursing through the streets. (Reading Level R)



### Escaping the Giant Wave

Kehret, Peg

On a trip to the Oregon coastline, a dream vacation quickly turns into a nightmare for Kyle and his family. Kyle will have to use his wits if he and his sister are to survive an earthquake, a tsunami, and a hotel fire. (Reading Level S)



### The Lightning Thief

Riordan, Rick

21<sup>st</sup> century kid, Percy Jackson, discovers he is the secret son of one of the mythical Greek gods of Mount Olympus. After this discovery, Percy is sent to a summer camp for children of the gods where he learns to fight monsters and survive against unnatural odds, handy skills for his first quest. (Reading Level S)

Sequel: The Sea of Monsters

## Nutmeg Favorites

(continued)



### The Mysterious Matter of I. M. Fine

Stanley, Diane

Noticing that a popular series of horror novels is having a bizarre effect on the behavior of its readers, Franny and Beamer set out to find the mysterious author.

(Reading Level O)



### The Monsters of Morley Manor

Coville, Bruce

Anthony finds miniature brass monsters at Morley Manor; and when he spills water on one, it comes to life! Adventures abound as Anthony and his sister Sarah race to help the monsters save the world from alien invaders. (Reading Level S)



### White Star: A Dog on the Titanic

Crisp, Mary

Imagine you are lucky enough to be on the cruise of a lifetime. While on the trip, you explore the ship, meet a wonderful, heroic dog, and end up fighting for your life.

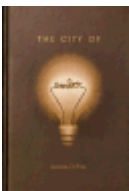
Reading Level U)



### Saving Lilly

Kehret, Peg

Erin finds out that the elephant in the visiting circus is being abused. But what can one girl do to save an elephant? (Reading Level T)



### City of Ember (Series)

DuPrau, Jeanne

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. (Reading Level U. Series ranges R – U)

## Nutmeg Favorites

(continued)



### Kensuke's Kingdom

Morpurgo, Michael

When Michael is swept off his family's yacht, he washes up on a desert island where he struggles to survive until he finds he is not alone. (Reading Level V)



### Gifts from The Sea

Kinsey-Warnock, Natalie

Quila and her father, living alone in a remote Maine lighthouse in the 1850's, find their lives profoundly changed when a baby washes ashore, and they decide to keep her as part of their family. (Reading Level X)



### Thunder from the Sea

Harlow, Joan Hiatt

Just when his dreams of being part of a family and having a dog seem to be coming true, Tom wonders if trouble with neighbors on his new island home and the impending birth of a new baby will change everything. (Reading Level S)

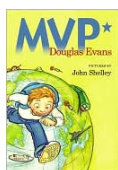
## Some of the 2009 Nutmeg Book Nominees



### The Homework Machine

Gutman, Dan

Who wouldn't love a machine that does homework for you? Can four unlikely friends keep the biggest secret of their lives? (Reading Level Q)



### MVP\* Magellan Voyage Project

Evans, Douglas

Adam Story is chosen as a player in the MVP challenge. To win the four million dollar prize, Adam must circle the world in forty days – no flying allowed. Competing against other players through time zones and across continents, he faces danger and unknown risks. Get ready for the trip of a lifetime! (Reading Level S)

## Some of the 2009 Nutmeg Book Nominees

(Continued)



### Free Baseball

Corbett, Sue

Desperate to connect with his absent father, eleven year-old Felix becomes the batboy for a minor league baseball team in the hope of learning more about his famous father's game. (Reading Level T)



### Shakespeare's Secret

Broach, Elise

When Hero starts sixth grade a new school, she meets Danny Cardova, the most popular boy. They work together to solve the mystery of the missing million dollar diamond that's hidden somewhere in Hero's house. (Reading Level W)



### Close Encounters of a Third-World Kind

Stewart, Jennifer J.

12 year-old Annie's world is turned upside down when her father agrees to move the entire family to Nepal on a medical mission. She makes new friends, learns some important lessons, and has adventures that change her life. (Reading Level T)

## Fabulous Fiction



### S.O.R. Losers

Avi

Each member of the South Orange River seventh grade soccer team has qualities of excellence, but not on the soccer field. (Reading Level N)



### • Fudge Books (Series)

Blume, Judy

Whether Fudge is swallowing a turtle, digging up worms, or vowing to marry his neighbor Sheila, he'll definitely be driving his older brother Peter crazy. One thing's for sure, anything is possible when Fudge is around! (Reading Level Q)



### No Dogs Allowed!

Wallace, Bill

Twelve-year-old Kristina, still struggling to come to terms with the death of her beloved horse, finds it difficult to accept the new dog she receives for her birthday(Reading Level O)  
Other titles by Bill Wallace:

The Backward Bird Dog (Reading Level P)

A Dog Called Kitty (Reading Level R)

Ferret in the Bedroom, Lizards in the Fridge (Reading Level T) Beauty (Reading Level V)



### Boston Jane: An Adventure

Holm, Jennifer L.

Schooled in the lessons of etiquette for young ladies of 1854, Miss Jane Peck of Philadelphia, while living among the American traders and Chinook Indians of Washington Territory, finds little use for manners during her long sea voyage to the Pacific Northwest. (Reading Level U)



### Paint the Wind

Ryan, Pam Munzo

After her overprotective grandmother has a stroke, Maya, an orphan, leaves her extremely restricted life in California to stay with her mother's family on a remote Wyoming ranch. While on the ranch, she discovers a love of horses and encounters a wild mare that her mother once rode. (Reading Level Q-R)

## Fabulous Fiction

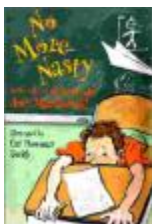
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### Charlie's Raven

George, Jean Craighead

Charlie Carlisle's grandfather is ill. Charlie's friend, Singing Bird, a Teton Sioux, tells him that ravens have curing powers, so Charlie steals a baby bird from its nest. Granddad, a retired naturalist, encourages Charlie to record his observations of the bird and study the effect it has on humans. Charlie just hopes that the raven will make Granddad well. (Reading Level U)



### No More Nasty

MacDonald, Amy

When Simon's Great Aunt Matilda becomes the substitute teacher for his unruly fifth-grade class, her unique way of looking at things gives the students a new perspective on learning. (Reading Level Q)



### Get Rich Quick Club

Gutman, Dan

Summer vacation in their small Maine town does not look too promising until twelve-year-old Gina and four of her friends make a pact to become millionaires before school starts in September. (Reading Level U)

Other titles by Dan Gutman:

Abner and Me (Reading Level T)

The Homework Machine (Reading Level Q)

The Million Dollar Putt (Reading Level S)

Virtually Perfect (Reading Level O)



### Week in the Woods

Clements, Andrew

Mark did not ask to move to New Hampshire, and he certainly did not request Mr. Maxwell as his new teacher. Mr. Maxwell doesn't like Mark, and now the whole fifth grade is headed out for a week of camping, Hardy's famous Week in the Woods. (Reading Level T)

## Fabulous Fiction

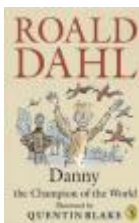
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### The Report Card

Clements, Andrew

Nora Rowley is very smart. When she comes home with a shocking report card, her parents and the entire school set out to determine what went wrong. (Reading Level R)



### Danny the Champion of the World

Dahl, Roald

A young English boy describes his relationship with his father and the special adventure they share together. (Reading Level T)



### Island (Series)

Korman, Gordon

Four children are involved in a shipwreck and are stranded on an island. (Reading Level Q)



### Everest (Series)

Korman, Gordon

Four children are prepared to go into thin air in order to become the youngest ever to climb Everest; however, they are not prepared for the challenges that await them as they get closer to the summit. (Reading Level R)



### Dive (Series)

Korman, Gordon

Four children are on a marine expedition for the summer, diving to explore an underwater habitat that's just been altered by a seismic event. What they find is much more than fish. It's sunken treasure! (Reading Level R)

## **Fabulous Fiction**

(continued)



### **The Trolls**

Horvath, Polly

Eccentric Aunt Sally comes from Canada to baby-sit the Anderson children while their parents are on a trip to Paris. Every night the bedtime story adds another piece to a very suspect family history. (Reading Level U – V)



### **Stand Tall**

Bauer, Joan

Tree, a six-foot-three-inch twelve-year-old, copes with his parents' recent divorce and his failure as an athlete by helping his grandfather, a Vietnam vet and recent amputee, and Sophie, a new girl at school. (Reading Level W)



### **Boys Start the War (Series)**

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds

Disgusted that a family with three girls moves into the house across the river, nine-year-old Wally and his three brothers declare a practical joke war on the girls. (Reading Level S)



### **101 Ways to Bug Your Parents**

Wardlaw, Lee

When his parents call off the family vacation and enroll their son in a creative writing class instead, twelve-year-old Steve comes up with a wacky moneymaking project. (Reading Level S)

## Fantasy and Beyond



### The People of Sparks (City of Ember Series)

DuPrau, Jeanne

Having escaped to the Unknown Regions, Lina and the others seek help from the village people of Sparks. (Reading Level ranges R – U)

The other title in City of Ember Series:

### The Prophet of Yonwood



### Gregor and the Prophecy of Bane

Collins, Suzanne

In his second adventure, eleven-year-old Gregor returns to the world beneath New York City to rescue his kidnapped sister, Boots, and fulfill a prophecy that will restore peace to the people, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders who populate the underworld.

(Reading Level ranges S – U)



### Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles

Edwards, Julie

With help from an eccentric professor in giving their imaginations special intensive training, three children succeed in locating the last of the great Whangdoodles and granting his heart's desire. (Reading Level X)



### Dragon of Lonely Island

Rupp, Rebecca

Three children spend the summer with their mother on a secluded island where they discover a three-headed dragon living in a cave and learn what it means to be a dragon friend. (Reading Level S)



### Over Sea, Under Stone

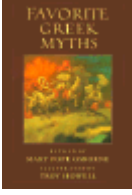
Cooper, Susan

Three children on a holiday in Cornwall find an ancient manuscript. It sends them on a dangerous quest for a grail that would reveal the true story of King Arthur.

(Reading Level ranges W – X)

## Fantasy and Beyond

(continued)



### Favorite Greek Myths

Osborne, Mary Pope

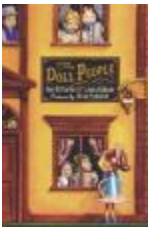
This is a retelling of twelve tales from Greek mythology, including the stories of King Midas, the Golden Apples, and Cupid and Psyche. (Reading Level T)



### Enchanted Forest Chronicles (Series)

Wrede, Patricia

These hilarious adventure stories are about Cimorene, the princess who refuses to be proper. (Reading Level ranges Q – R)



### The Doll People

Martin, Ann

This book is about adventures of a one-hundred-year-old dollhouse family who hunt for a doll family member who has been missing for many years. (Reading Level O/P)

Sequel: The Meanest Doll in the World (Reading Range Q)



### Magic By the Lake

Eager, Edward

This family vacation finds the children overwhelmed by a lakeful of magical adventures after one of them captures an ancient turtle that seems to have extraordinary powers. (Reading Level U, V, W)



### Half Magic (Series)

Eager, Edward

Instead of a dull summer, a family of four children suddenly finds themselves involved in a series of extraordinary adventures after discovering a coin that seems to grant wishes.

(Reading Level ranges R – S)

## Fantasy and Beyond

(continued)



### Gooseberry Park

Rylant, Cynthia

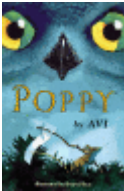
You will not want to put down this book about a gentle and funny story of friendship among a group of animals. (Reading Level P)



### Time Warp Trio (Series)

Scieszka, Jon

Whether the gang's fighting off the Black Knight in the middle of Camelot, practicing magic tricks on Blackbeard and his pirates, stampeding cattle in the Old West, or running from a woolly mammoth, one thing is for sure, no one is ever bored when the Time Warp Trio is around! (Reading Level ranges L – P. Most titles P)



### Tales from Dimwood Forest (The Poppy Series)

Avi

Poppy, the deer mouse, urges her family to move next to a field of corn big enough to feed them all forever. However, Mr. Ocax, a terrifying owl, has other ideas. (Reading Level ranges P – S)



### The Chronicles of Narnia (Series)

Lewis, C.S.

Narnia is the land of enchantment, glory, and nobility. It is the home of the magnificent Aslan, the cruel White Queen, Jadis, heroic Reepicheep, and kind Mr. Tumnus. (Reading Level T)

## Chillers and Thrillers



### **Spiderwick Chronicles (Series)**

DiTerlizzi, Tony & Black, Holly

This is the story of thirteen-year-old Mallory Grace and nine year old twins, Jared and Simon Grace. They move into the dilapidated Spiderwick Estate with their mother only to quickly find themselves sucked into a dark and fascinating world of faeries.

(Reading Level ranges Q – R)



### **Chet Gecko Mystery (Series)**

Hale, Bruce

Chet Gecko, the best lizard detective at Emerson Hicky Elementary, saves his own skin by solving the schools' wacky mysteries. (Reading Level O)



### **The Ghost of Fossil Glen**

DeFelice, Cynthia

Allie knows it is not her imagination when she hears a voice and sees in her mind's eye the face of a girl who seems to be seeking Allie's help. (Reading Level T)



### **Sammy Keyes (Series)**

Van Draanen, Wendelin

Thirteen-year-old Sammy's penchant for speaking her mind gets her in trouble when she involves herself in investigations and mysteries. (Reading Level ranges T – X)



### **The Dollhouse Murders**

Wright, Betty Ren

A dollhouse filled with a ghostly light in the middle of the night and dolls that have moved from where she last left them lead Amy and her sister to unravel the mystery surrounding grisly murders that took place years ago. (Reading Level S)

## Chillers and Thrillers

(continued)



### Ghost in Room 11

Wright, Betty Ren

When his family moves to a small town near Milwaukee, Matt's efforts to fit into his new fourth-grade class are complicated by his poor spelling and his encounter with the ghost of one of the school's former teachers. (Reading Level P)



### The Coastwatcher

Weston, Elise

It is 1943, and Hugh and his family escape a polio epidemic by leaving Charleston for the South Carolina seashore for the summer. While there, the eleven-year-old considers it is his duty to watch for any signs of enemy activity. He becomes suspicious after seeing what he believes to be a periscope off the coast, finding German cigarettes, and stumbling across an unreadable map. (Reading Level O)



### Charlie Bone (Series)

Nimmo, Jenny

Charlie Bone's life with his widowed mother and two grandmothers undergoes a dramatic change when he discovers that he can hear people in photographs talking. (Reading Level ranges Q – T)



### The 13<sup>th</sup> Floor

Fleischman, Sid

After his older sister disappears, twelve-year-old Buddy follows her back in time and finds himself aboard a seventeenth century pirate ship captained by a distant relative. (Reading Level U)

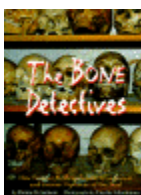
## The World Around Us and Poetry



### The Pot that Juan Built

Andrews-Goebel, Nancy

A cumulative rhyme summarizes the life's work of renowned Mexican potter Juan Quezada. Additional information describes the process he uses to create his pots after the style of the Casas Crandes people. (Reading Level Z)



### The Bone Detectives

Jackson, Donna

This book explores the world of forensic anthropology and its applications in solving crimes. (Reading Level Y)



### The Dragon in the Cliff

Cole, Sheila R.

A twelve-year-old English girl discovers an Ichthyosaurus skeleton in 1811. This leads her to a life-long interest in fossils. (Reading Level Not Rated)



### Accidents May Happen

Jones, Charlotte Foltz

This book describes how a wide variety of things such as nursery rhymes, the national anthem, anesthesia, cellophane, raisins, and dynamite came into being. (Reading Level V)



### Seaman: The Dog Who Explored the West with Lewis & Clark

Karwoski, Gail

Seaman, a Newfoundland, proves his value as a hunter, navigator, and protector while serving with the Corps of Discovery when it explores the West under the leadership of Lewis and Clark. (Reading Level U-V)

## The World Around Us and Poetry

(continued)



### Surviving Jamestown

Karwoski, Gail

Sam Collier, a twelve-year-old, serves as page to John Smith during the relentless hardship experienced by the founders at the first permanent English settlement in the New World. (Reading Level V, W)



### Quake

Karwoski, Gail

It is 1906, and thirteen year old Jacob Kaufman, who lives in San Francisco with his father and little sister, is outside when a major earthquake shakes the city cracking streets and toppling buildings. (Reading Level R)



### Stowaway

Hesse, Karen

A fictionalized journal relates the experiences of a young stowaway from 1768 to 1771 aboard the Endeavor which sailed around the world under Captain James Cook. (Reading Level W)



### Leonardo, Beautiful Dreamer

Byrd, Robert

Illustrations and text portray the life of Leonardo da Vinci. He gained fame as an artist through such works as the Mona Lisa. As a scientist, he became famous by studying various subjects including human anatomy and flight. (Reading Level T)



### Backyard Detective

Bishop, Nic

What's in your back yard? Explore the life-size photographs of backyard scenes inside this book and you'll be a backyard detective. You can spot and describe more than one-hundred twenty-five tiny animals that are there. (Reading Level R)

## The World Around Us and Poetry

(continued)



### Hannah of Fairfield

Van Leeuwen, Jean

For almost nine-year-old Hannah Perley of Fairfield, Connecticut, growing up means facing new challenges. The challenges are both great and small, from saving the life of a baby lamb to helping the family prepare to send her brother Ben to join the colonial soldiers in the American Revolutionary War. (Reading Level P)



### Science Verse

Scieszka, Jon

If you love science, you will love these poems. (Reading Level P)



### Insectlopedia

Florian, Douglas

This presents twenty-one short poems about such insects as the inchworm, termite, cricket, and ladybug. (Reading Level Q)



### The Beauty of the Beast

Prelutsky, Jack

This is an illustrated collection of poems about animals, insects, and birds by poets from different parts of the world. (Reading Level P)



### Liberty

Curlee, Lynn

All the planning and efforts that went into the construction of one of the most famous symbols of the United States, the Statue of Liberty, is discussed in this book.

(Reading Level Z)



### Ballpark: The Story of America's Baseball Fields

Curlee, Lynn

The histories and cultural significances of America's most famous ballparks, including Fenway Park, Yankee Stadium, and Wrigley Field, are explored in this book.

(Reading Level Z)