

Ansonia Public Schools

Summer Reading 2022

Grades 6-8

Dear APS Families,

Summer is quickly approaching and we are thrilled to help our students find just-right texts that engage them and encourage them to dive into reading! Each elementary student will receive several books to help jumpstart their reading journey this summer! Our students need to read over the summer in order to:



- Maintain and grow their reading skills (students who do not consistently read over the summer can lose some of the progress they made during the year)
- Explore their identity, the world around them, and learn about experiences and cultures that are different from their own life.
- Foster a life-long love of reading and learning!

Our hope is to make summer reading an enjoyable experience for students by emphasizing choice in their reading and talking about the texts they are reading. Please visit our choice board to see all the ways students can choose to read over this summer. Want more resources? Visit our district website, click on the teaching and learning tab and then select Summer Reading 2022. Happy Reading!

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Summer Reading Suggestions:	Series Books (This is a great way to help your child fall in love with reading! They will want more books and more adventures!)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Efrén Divided by Ernesto Cisneros• Look Both Ways by Jason Reynolds• From the Desk of Zoe Washington by Janae Marks• Game Changer by Tommy Greenwald• The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson• Nowhere Boy by Katherine Marsh• Sadia by Colleen Selson• Finding Langston by Lesa Cline-Ransome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Unwanteds Series by Lisa McMann• The Enola Holmes Series by Nancy Springer• The Track Series by Jason Reynolds• The Uglies Series by Scott Westerfeld• The Maximum Ride Series by James Patterson• The Inheritance Games Series by Jennifer Lynn Barnes• Trapped in a Video Game Series by Dustin Brady

Please look through our choice board to set a plan for how your child wants to engage in reading over this summer! Color in each square as you complete the activity. Be ready to hand it to your teacher during the first week of school in August and your child will be invited to a celebration party! Please include work samples to showcase your child's hard work.

Name: _____

Grade: _____

R	E	A	D
<p>Read out loud a chapter (or part of a chapter) to a family member or friend. Be sure to use your best reading voice!</p>	<p>Read a book that will teach you something new or a life lesson. Write down what you learned.</p>	<p>Who is the author of your book? What information can you discover about them? Have they written any other books?</p>	<p>Read in your favorite place for as long as you can! Ideas: Read outside, create a reading corner in your room, etc.</p>
<p>Retell a book that you read! Feel free to use the Somebody Wanted But So Then strategy to help you retell the book.</p>	<p>Stop mid-way through your book and make a prediction about what will happen next in your book. Did your prediction come true? Why or why not?</p>	<p>Create a poem about a character in your book.</p>	<p>Describe the setting of your book. Where does your book take place? What does it look like? Draw a map or a detailed image of the setting.</p>
<p>Read in your favorite place for as long as you can! How long were you able to read for? Set a goal for this summer to read for a longer period of time.</p> <p>At the start of the summer, I could read for _____ minutes. Now, I can read for _____ minutes.</p>	<p>Pay attention to the words in your book. What words do you know? What words are new to you? Write these words down and keep practicing saying the words and what they mean throughout the summer. We want your vocabulary to grow and grow!</p>	<p>Create your own option! What do you want to do to celebrate your reading and learning this summer?</p>	<p>Compare and contrast two books that you have read this summer. How are they alike or the same? How are they different? Consider genre, main characters, conflict, author's craft, etc.</p>
<p>Describe the characters in your book. What do they look like? How do they act? How do you feel about them? Are they complex or complicated? Why or why not?</p>	<p>Draw a new cover for one of the books you read this summer! Be sure to include symbols in your cover and write a recommendation as to why other readers should read this book.</p>	<p>Write a new ending to one of your books OR write what would happen next if the author wrote a sequel.</p>	<p>Visit our public library and pick out a new book to read. Be sure to say "hi" to Ms. Jen. She has the best book recommendations!</p>



The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge

A Message to Parents and Students

The State of Connecticut sponsors the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge because reading is the most important skill. Research shows that reading is crucial to a child's brain development and intellectual stimulation. And that's just the beginning:



Reading is a gateway skill. It opens the door to all other learning.



Reading is the processing of information. It requires the student to develop a capacity for conceptual thinking — an ability to think about the nature and significance of things.



Reading builds language skills. By becoming more familiar with language through reading, students build a rich vocabulary and an ability to express themselves clearly and creatively.



Reading builds better thinking strategies. Analyzing words, sentences, themes and meaning; concentrating, conceptualizing and visualizing — all these elements of reading are strategies to expand a student's ability to think.



Reading is active and disciplined. Students learn to choose what they read and when they read, and they learn to discipline themselves to concentrate on the written word.

What YOU Can Do to Encourage Reading



Use the library.

Make sure everyone in your family has access to electronic library resources.



Read every day.

Make it a habit to set aside time each day for everyone to read—books, magazines, newspapers, letters. You can even begin by reading television listings, then discussing what you will watch together and why.



Talk about what you're reading.

Children need to see adults reading frequently. They also need to know the benefits of reading. Talk to your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, even young neighbors about what you're reading. Tell them how much you have enjoyed it, what you have learned, and how you have been inspired.



Ask about summer reading materials.

Schools and libraries often provide summer reading lists that highlight excellent books which are readily available, popular, and consistent with grade-level reading skills. Call your school or library for information.



Make reading materials part of your home.

Buy books at bookstores and tag sales. Borrow books from the library and from friends. Subscribe to newspapers and magazines. *Then read, read, read!*

**To learn more about the Summer Reading Challenge,
contact the Connecticut State Department of Education:
860-713-6751 or <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/CTRead/Connecticut-Reads>.**



The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge

Students and Families:

To learn more, ask your teacher, principal, or school or public librarian, or contact the Connecticut State Department of Education at 860-713-6751 or www.ct.gov/sde.

Name _____

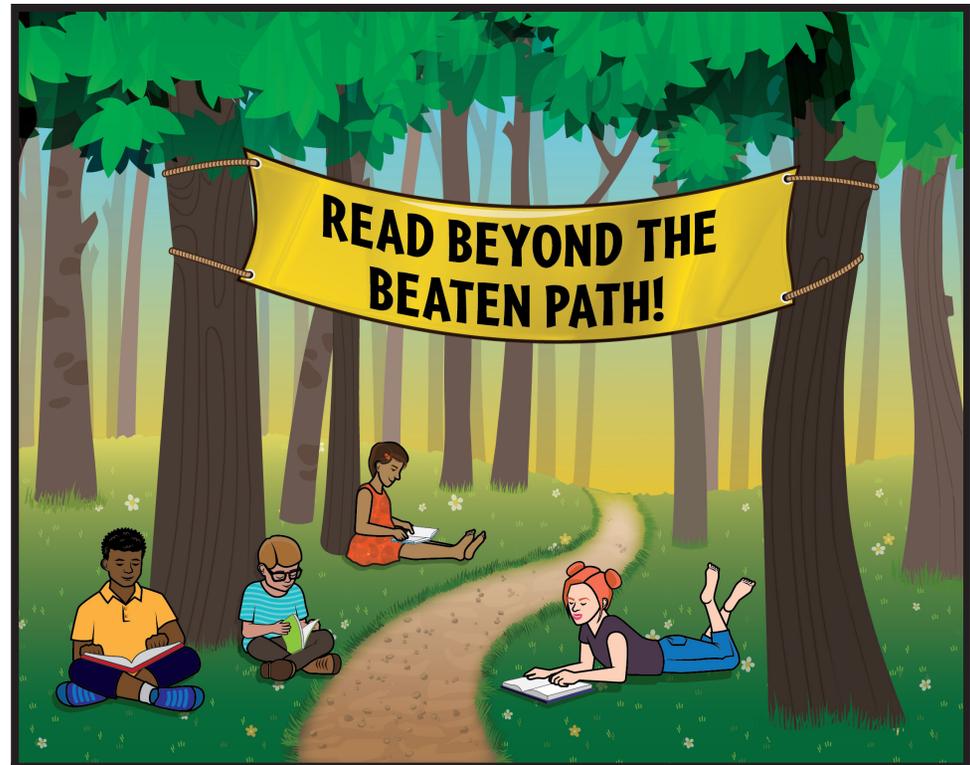
Grade _____

School _____

Town _____

My favorite book was _____

I liked this book because _____



SUMMER READING JOURNAL

Connecticut Reads 2022

The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge



Connecticut Reads 2022

The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge

Title of book:

1. _____
2. _____
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30. _____

Total number of books read: _____

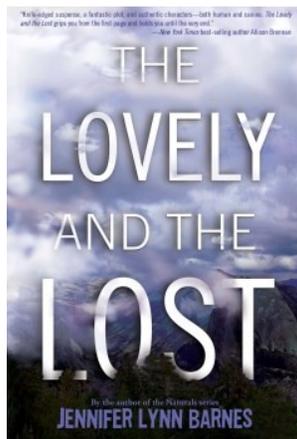
Governor's Summer Reading Challenge Grades 7-8



The Lovely and the Lost

by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

Kira Bennett's earliest memories are of living alone and wild in the woods. She has no idea how long she was on her own or what she had to do to survive, but she remembers the moment that Cady Bennett and one of her search-and-rescue dogs found her. Adopted into the Bennett family, and together with Cady's son, Jude, Kira works alongside Cady to train the world's most elite search-and-rescue dogs. When Cady's estranged father tracks his daughter down and asks for her help in locating a missing child the teens find themselves on the front lines sooner than they expected. | Lexile: HL710L



work with a cousin she doesn't know at a rustic team-building retreat center in the middle of nowhere. In a summer is full of challenges, she must make the toughest decision of her life: keep quiet and follow her dad's marching orders, or find the courage to stand up to him to have any hope of finding her way back home.

The Journey Back

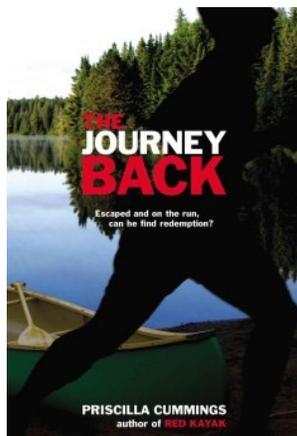
by Priscilla Cummings

His bold escape from a juvenile detention facility is almost his undoing, but soon an angry 14-year-old Digger is on the run. When injuries stop him, Digger hides at a riverside campground, where he befriends a young boy and girl. New friends and a job caring for rescue horses, make Digger realize that the journey back is not just about getting home, it's about discovering what he's really running from and how to come to terms with his troubled past.

Lexile: 810L

The Wild Lands by Paul Greci

Natural disasters and a breakdown of civilization have cut off Alaska from the world and destroyed its landscape. Now, as food runs out and the few who remain turn on each other, Travis and his younger sister, Jess, must cross hundreds of miles in search of civilization. The wild lands around them are filled with ravenous animals and desperate survivors pushed to the edge. They will make a few friends and a lot of enemies on their terrifying journey across the ruins of today's world—they'll have to fight for what they believe in as they see how far people will go to survive.



course of action? Meet up at summer camp and figure out why Abby's parents gave Savvy up for adoption. But there are complications: Savvy is a rigid rule-follower. Leo is the camp's co-chef, and her parents have a secret that threatens to unravel everything.

Dry by Neal Schusterman

The drought, or the Tap-Out, as everyone calls it, has been going on for a while now. Everyone's lives have become an endless list of don'ts: don't water the lawn, don't fill up your pool, don't take long showers. Until the taps run dry. Suddenly, Alyssa's quiet suburban street spirals into a warzone of desperation; neighbors and families turned against each other on the hunt for water. When her parents don't return, her life and her brother's are threatened. Alyssa has to make impossible choices to survive. | Lexile: 790L

No Place Like Here by Christina June

Ashlyn Zanotti has big plans for the summer. But her life is turned upside down. Ashlyn's father sends her to

Peak by Roland Smith

After 14-year-old Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with two choices, Juvenile Detention or go live with his long-lost father, who runs a climbing company in Thailand. He quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached. He wants his son to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit—and his motives are selfish at best and could cost Peak his life. Lexile: 760L



Sadia by Colleen Selson

Fifteen-year-old Sadia Ahmadi is passionate about one thing, basketball. Her best friend Mariam, on the other hand, wants to get noticed by the popular crowd and has started de-jabbing, removing her hijab, at school every morning. When tryouts for an elite basketball team are announced, Sadia jumps at the opportunity. Her talent speaks for itself. Her head scarf, on the other hand, is a problem; especially when a discriminatory rule means she has to choose between removing her hijab and not playing. Mariam, Sadia's parents, and her teammates all have different opinions about what she should do. But it is Sadia who has to find the courage to stand up for herself and fight for what is right on and off the court.

Sisters of the Neversea

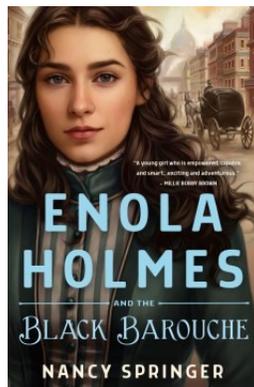
by Cynthia Leitich Smith

Lily and Wendy have been best friends since they became stepsisters. But with their feuding parents planning to spend the summer apart, what will become of their family and their friendship? Little do they know that a mysterious boy has been watching them from the oak tree outside their window. A boy intends to take them away from home for good, to an island of wild animals, Merfolk, Fairies, and kidnapped children, to a sea of merfolk, pirates, and a giant crocodile; a boy who calls himself Peter Pan.

Enola Holmes and the Black Barouche by Nancy Springer

Enola Holmes is the much younger sister of her more famous brothers, Sherlock and Mycroft. At fifteen, she's an independent young woman and living on her own in London. When a young professional woman, Miss Letitia Glover, shows up on Sherlock's doorstep, it is Enola who steps up. It seems her sister, the former Felicity Glover, has died according to her husband the Earl of Dunhench.

But Letitia Glover is convinced this isn't the truth, and that she'd feel if her twin had died. The Earl's note is suspicious and the death certificate is even more dubious. The only way forward is for Enola to go undercover.



Nonfiction

Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart by Candace Fleming

On May 21, 1937, the most famous female pilot of all time, Amelia Earhart, set out to do the impossible—circumnavigate the globe at its widest point, 27,000 miles in all. Just six weeks later, she disappeared over the Pacific Ocean. Eighty years have passed since that fateful flight, and still, Amelia's plane has

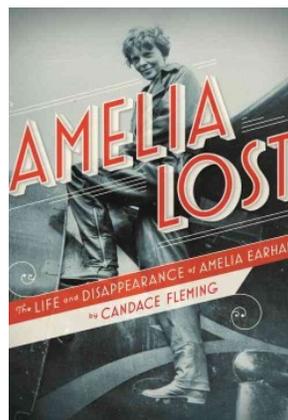
never been found. Discover the thrilling life and tragic end of America's most famous trailblazing flier with this impeccably researched and masterfully crafted book from acclaimed author Candace Fleming. | Lexile: 930L

Graphic Novels

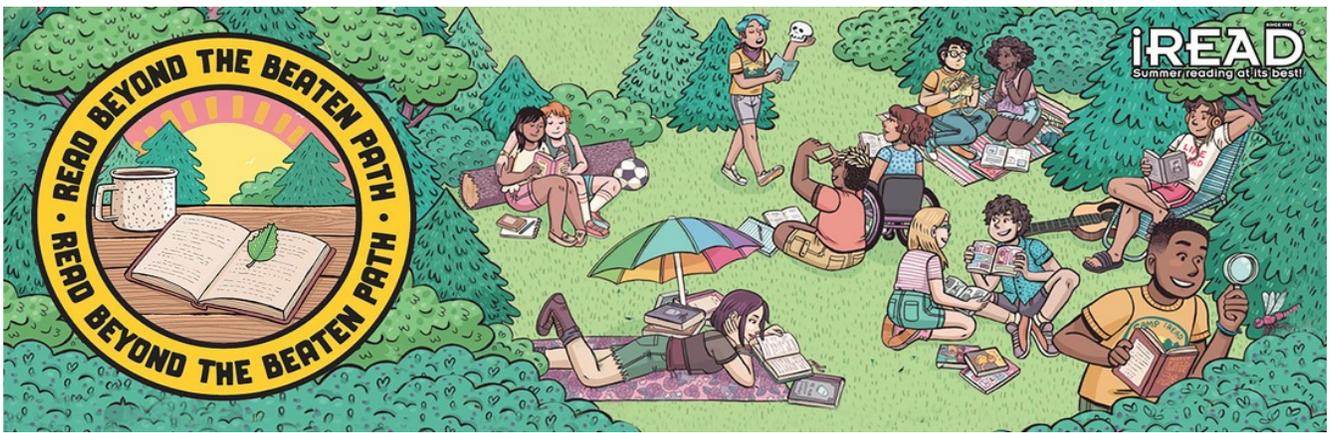
Diary of a Tokyo Teen: A Japanese-American Girl Travels to the Land of Trendy Fashion, High-tech Toilets and Maid Cafes

by Christine Mari Inzer

Born in Tokyo to a Japanese mother and an American father in 1997, Christine Mari Inzer spent her early years in Japan and relocated to the United States in 2003. The summer before she turned sixteen, she returned to Tokyo, making a solo journey to get reacquainted with her birthplace. Through illustrations, photos, and musings, Inzer documented her journey.



Many of the listed books were recognized as exemplary books by one or more of the following organizations: *American Library Association (ALA)*, *Children's Literature & Reading and Special Interest Group (CL/R SIG)*, *Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP)*, *American Indian Library Association (AILA)*, *International Literacy Association (ILA)*, *National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)*, *National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)*, *National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)*, *National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)*, *American Association of the Advancement of Science (AAAS)*, *United States Board on Books for Young People (USBYP)*. Other awards as noted.



Lorien Lawrence

Lorien Lawrence is a writer and middle school English teacher from Connecticut. She has creative writing degrees from Wheaton College and Bath Spa University in Bath, England. When she's not reading or

writing, she can be found hunting ghosts with her family.

The Stitches (Fright Watch #1)

Lexile: 670L

The Collectors (Fright Watch #2)

Unmasked (Fright Watch #3)



Sarah Albee

Sarah lives in Connecticut with her husband, who is a high school history teacher and administrator. They have three grown kids, and a dog, Rosie. Prior to becoming a full-time writer, she worked at Children's Television Workshop

(producers of Sesame Street) for nine years. She played basketball in college, and a year of semi-professional women's basketball in Cairo, Egypt. She especially loves writing about topics where history and science connect.

Poison: Deadly Deeds, Perilous Professions, and Murderous Medicines | Lexile: 1080L

Accidental Archaeologist | Lexile: 990L



Susan Ross

A former trustee of the Westport Connecticut Library, Susan Ross divides her time between Westport, and her childhood home of Lewiston-Auburn, Maine. Susan began her working career as a lawyer, and upon leaving law, began teaching legal writing in

Brooklyn and creative writing in Connecticut.

Kiki and Jacques | Lexile: 640L
Searching for Lottie



Stacy Barnett Mozer

Stacy Barnett Mozer started teaching in 1997. During her teacher training at NYU she was introduced to the writer's workshop style of teaching writing and started her first writer's notebook. She never expected that would lead

her to write "actual books," but every time she gave an assignment to her students, she would do it first. She used her own writing pieces as models in the classroom, enjoying writing in a way she had never remembered experiencing as a child.

The Sweet Spot
The Perfect Trip (The Sweet Spot Book 2)

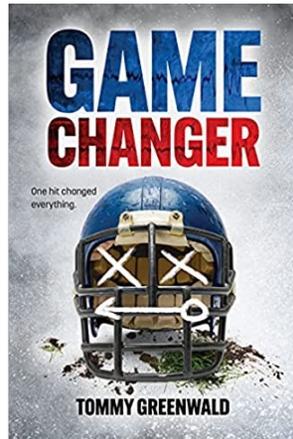


Nutmeg

Classics and Popular Titles

What are the Nutmeg Book Awards?

The CT Nutmeg Book Award encourages children in grades 2-12 to read quality literature and to choose their favorite from a list of ten nominated titles. There are four divisions: Elementary (grades 2-3); Intermediate (grades 4-6); Middle School (grades 7-8); and High School (grades 9-12). Jointly sponsored by the Connecticut Library Association and the Connecticut Association of School Librarians, the Nutmeg Committee is comprised of children's librarians and school library media specialists who are members of the sponsoring organizations, as well as students. For more information visit www.nutmegaward.org.



The Line Tender by Kate Allen

Suggested Reading by Dave Connis

96 Miles by J. L. Esplin

Game Changer by Tommy Greenwald

The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson

Nowhere Boy by Katherine Marsh

The Magic Fish by Trung Le Nguyen

Look Both Ways by Jason Reynolds

Black Brother, Black Brother
by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Superman Smashed the Klan by Gene Luen

City of Orphans by Avi

In 1893 New York, thirteen-year-old Maks, a newsboy, teams up with Willa, a homeless girl, to clear his older sister, Emma, from charges that she stole from the brand new Waldorf Hotel, where she works. Includes historical notes. Lexile: 570L

Elijah of Buxton

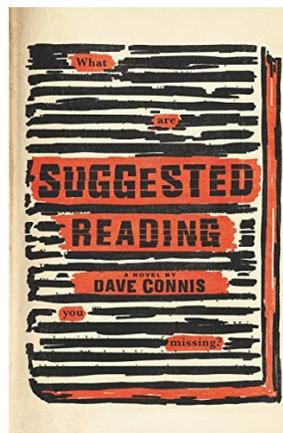
by Christopher Paul Curtis

In 1859, eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, a haven for slaves fleeing the American south, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom. | Lexile: 980L

Standing Against the Wind

by Traci L. Jones

As she tries to escape her poor Chicago neighborhood by winning a scholarship to a prestigious boarding school, shy and studious eighth-grader Patrice discovers that she has more options in life than she previously realized. | Lexile: 780L



The Giver by Lois Lowry

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community, and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives. | Lexile: 760L

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the Canadian wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given to him by his mother, while learning to survive his parents' divorce. | Lexile: 1020L