

# 2011 Summer Reading Suggestions

from many sources, including Mrs. Blaha

## Upper Level Readers

### *Newbery Winners*

**A Single Shard** – Linda Sue Park

**A Wrinkle in Time** – Madeleine L'Engle Even “non-science fans” will enjoy this clever tale

**Dacey's Song** – Cynthia Voight – the Tillerman kids trying to make it on their own

**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** – Mildred Taylor Historical Fiction at its best

**The Giver** – Lois Lowry Are they alive or dead at the end? Captivating!

**The Graveyard Book** – Neil Gaiman – for readers who love scary

**The High King** – Lloyd Alexander Entertaining fantasy even for those who would not choose fantasy

**The Slave Dancer** – Paula Fox – thought-provoking

**The Tale of Despereaux** – Kate DiCamillo

**Walk Two Moons** – Sharon Creech Be ready to share how you feel about this story

### *Mysteries*

#### **The Calder Game by Balliett, Blue.**

When seventh-grader Calder Pillay disappears from a remote English village--along with an Alexander Calder sculpture to which he has felt strangely drawn--his friends Petra and Tommy fly from Chicago to help his father find him.

#### **Chasing Vermeer by Balliett, Blue, 1955-**

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

#### **Shakespeare's Secret by Broach, Elise.**

Named after a character in a Shakespeare play, misfit sixth-grader Hero becomes interested in exploring this unusual connection because of a valuable diamond supposedly hidden in her new house, an intriguing neighbor, and the unexpected attention of the most popular boy in school.

#### **Grooves : a kind of mystery by Brockmeier, Kevin.**

After a seventh-grader discovers that the grooves in his Thigpen-brand blue jeans are encoded with a cry for help, he sets out to save the factory workers from greedy entrepreneur Howard Thigpen.

#### **Things Hoped For by Clements, Andrew, 1949-**

Seventeen-year-old Gwen, who has been living with her grandfather in Manhattan while she attends music school, joins up with another music student to solve the mystery when her grandfather suddenly goes missing.

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\*\* New Suggestions for 2011

**Half-Moon Investigations by Colfer, Eoin.**

Twelve-year-old online detective school graduate Fletcher Moon--who suffers the nickname "Half Moon" because of his small stature--helps solve crimes for classmates and others in his Irish town, but things start to go wrong when he is asked to find a reportedly stolen lock of a pop star's hair and ends up an arson suspect.

**The Thief Lord by Funke, Cornelia.**

Orphaned brothers Prosper and Bo, having run away from their cruel aunt and uncle, decide to hide out in Venice where they fall in with the Thief Lord, a thirteen-year-old boy who leads a crime ring of street children.

**The Star of Kazan by Ibbotson, Eva.**

Annika, a twelve-year-old foundling in late nineteenth-century Vienna, inherits a trunk of costume jewelry, and soon afterwards a woman claiming to be her aristocratic mother arrives and takes her to live in a strangely decrepit mansion in Germany.

**Emil and the Detectives by Kastner, Emil.**

On his first real train journey, traveling down to his grandmother in Berlin, Emil Tischbein is robbed of all his money and gathers together a group of boys his own age to tail the thief.

**The Case of the Missing Marquess (An Enola Holmes Mystery series) by Springer, Nancy.**

Enola Holmes, much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, must travel to London in disguise to unravel the disappearance of her missing mother

### *Historical Fiction*

**Anderson, Laurie. Halse Chains**

After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.

**Anderson, Laurie. Halse, Fever, 1793**

Sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793

**Avi. The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle**

Thirteen-year-old Charlotte Doyle, the only passenger aboard a seedy ship on a transatlantic voyage from England to America in 1832, becomes caught up in a feud between the murderous captain and his mutinous crew.

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**Barrett, Tracy. Anna of Byzantium**

In the eleventh century the teenage princess Anna Comnena fights for her birthright, the throne to the Byzantine Empire, which she fears will be taken from her by her younger brother John because he is a boy.

**Bartoletti, Susan. The Boy Who Dared**

In October, 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hubener, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people.

**Boyne, John. The Boy in the Striped Pajamas**

Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.

**Carbone, Elisa Lynn. Blood on the River: James Town 1607**

Traveling to the New World in 1606 as the page to Captain John Smith, twelve-year-old orphan Samuel Collier settles in the new colony of James Town, where he must quickly learn to distinguish between friend and foe.

**Cushman, Karen. The Loud Silence of Francine Green**

In 1949, thirteen-year-old Francine goes to Catholic school in Los Angeles where she becomes best friends with a girl who questions authority and is frequently punished by the nuns, causing Francine to question her own values.

**Giff, Patricia Reilly. Nory Ryan's Song**

When a terrible blight attacks Ireland's potato crop in 1845, twelve-year-old Nory Ryan's courage and ingenuity helps her family and neighbors survive.

**Ibbotson, Eva. The Star of Kazan**

Annika, a twelve-year-old foundling in late nineteenth-century Vienna, inherits a trunk of costume jewelry, and soon afterwards a woman claiming to be her aristocratic mother arrives and takes her to live in a strangely decrepit mansion in Germany.

**Kadohata, Cynthia. Kira-Kira**

Chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.

**Martin, Ann M. Here Today**

In 1963, when her flamboyant mother abandons the family to pursue her dream of becoming an actress, eleven-year-old Ellie Dingman takes charge of her younger siblings, while also trying to deal with her outcast status in school and frightening acts of prejudice toward the "misfits" that live on her street.

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**Paulsen, Gary. The Legend of Bass Reeves: Being the True Account of the Most Valiant Marshal in the West**

The story of Bass Reeves who was born a slave and later became one of the most respected federal marshals in Oklahoma and Texas.

**Rinaldi, Ann. An Unlikely Friendship: A Novel of Mary Todd Lincoln and Elizabeth Keckley**

Relates the lives of Mary Todd Lincoln, raised in a wealthy Virginia family, and Lizzy Keckley, a dressmaker born a slave, as they grow up separately then become best friends when Mary's childhood dream of living in the White House comes true.

**Smith, Roland. Elephant Run**

Nick's father and others are taken prisoner when his plantation in Burma is invaded by the Japanese in 1941, leaving Nick and his friend Mya to risk their lives in order to free them from the POW camp.

*Realistic Fiction*

**Hope Was Here by Joan Bauer.**

When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor

**Hate that Cat by Sharon Creech.**

Jack is studying poetry again in school, and he continues to write poems reflecting his understanding of famous works and how they relate to his life.

**Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key (Joey Pigza series) by Jack Gantos.**

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription meds wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.

**\*My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George.**

A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship.

**Olive's Ocean by Kevin Henkes.**

On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, twelve-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer.

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**Deliver Us from Normal by Kate Klise.**

With a mother who buys Christmas cards in August and a younger brother who describes the Trinity as a toasted marshmallow on a graham cracker, life for eleven-year-old Charles Harrington is anything but normal in Normal, Illinois.

**The View from Saturday by E. L. Konigsburg.**

Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.

**Everest – series by Gordon Korman.**

Four climbers, winners of an American Junior Alpine Association contest, vie to become the youngest person ever to reach the peak of Mount Everest.

**\*Island – series by Gordon Korman.**

Six children try to survive on a desert island in the Pacific Ocean after a storm destroys their boat.

**\*Kidnapped – series by Gordon Korman.**

Aiden teams up with the FBI to track down his sister Meg who was kidnapped while they were walking home from school.

**Chicks with Sticks (It's A Purl Thing) by Elizabeth Lenhard.**

Four teenage girls from very different social cliques at their progressive Chicago high school become friends after forming a knitting club.

**Heat by Mike Lupica.**

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

**Miracle on 49th Street by Mike Lupica.**

Twelve-year-old Molly is surprised to learn from her dying mother that Josh Cameron, a star player with the Boston Celtics and media darling, is her father, and once she gets to know him, Molly comes to realize why her mom kept his identity a secret for so long.

**Myers, Walter. *Sunrise over Fallujah*, others**

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**How to Steal a Dog by Barbara O'Connor.**

Living in the family car in their small North Carolina town after their father leaves them virtually penniless, Georgina, desperate to improve their situation and unwilling to accept her overworked mother's calls for patience, persuades her younger brother to help her in an elaborate scheme to get money by stealing a dog and then claiming the reward that the owners are bound to offer.

**\*Brian's Winter and others by Gary Paulsen.**

Companion book to: Hatchet and The river. Instead of being rescued from a plane crash, as in the author's book Hatchet, this story portrays what would have happened to Brian had he been forced to survive a winter in the wilderness with only his survival pack and Hatchet.

**\*Dogsong by Gary Paulsen.**

A fourteen-year-old Eskimo boy who feels assailed by the modernity of his life takes a 1400-mile journey by dog sled across ice, tundra, and mountains seeking his own "song" of himself.

**The Great Gilly Hopkins by Katherine Paterson.**

An eleven-year-old foster child tries to cope with her longings and fears as she schemes against everyone who tries to be friendly.

**The Boy Who Saved Baseball by John Ritter.**

The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game, and Tom Gallagher hopes to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player, Dante Del Gato.

**Paint the Wind by Pam Munoz Ryan.**

After her overprotective grandmother has a stroke, eleven-year-old Maya, an orphan, leaves her extremely restricted life in California to stay with her mother's family on a remote Wyoming ranch, where she discovers a love of horses and encounters Artemisia, a wild mare that her mother once rode.

**Blue Jasmine by Kashmira Sheth.**

When twelve-year-old Seema moves to Iowa City with her parents and younger sister, she leaves friends and family behind in her native India but gradually begins to feel at home in her new country.

**Loser by Jerry Spinelli.**

Even though his classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and a loser, Donald Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.

**\*Blind Mountain by Jane Thomas.**

Unsure of himself and annoyed at having to spend a day climbing a Montana mountain with his bossy father, twelve-year-old Sam must become the guide on their perilous journey down when his carelessness temporarily blinds his father.

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**Homeless Bird by Gloria Whelan.**

Thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage and must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's customs or find the courage to oppose tradition.

**Millicent Min, Girl Genius (Sid Fleischman Humor Award) by Lisa Yee.**

In a series of journal entries, eleven-year-old child prodigy Millicent Min records her struggles to learn to play volleyball, tutor her enemy, deal with her grandmother's departure, and make friends over the course of a tumultuous summer.

**Stanford Wong Flunks Big-time by Lisa Yee.**

After flunking sixth-grade English, basketball prodigy Stanford Wong must struggle to pass his summer-school class, keep his failure a secret from his friends, and satisfy his academically demanding father.

**End of Upper Grade Suggestions**

## Kindergarten

*“Reading aloud with children is known to be the single most important activity for building the knowledge and skills they will eventually require for learning to read.”*

- Marilyn Jager Adams

**Berenstain, Stan and Jan** *Berenstain Bears* series

**Bridwell, Norman** *Clifford* series

**Brown, Marc Arthur** series

**Capucilli, Alyssa Satin** *Biscuit* series

**Carle, Eric** *A House For Hermit Crab*, others

**Cronin, Doreen** *Thump, Quack, Moo*, others

**DePaola, Tomie** *Strega Nona*, others

\*\***Ehlert, Lois** *Oodles of Animals*

\*\***Ernest, Lisa Campbell** *Round Like a Ball!*

**Florian, Douglas** *Dinothesaurus*

\*\***Gonzalez, Maya** *My Colors, My World*

\*\***Himmelman, John** *Katie Loves the Kittens*

**Jenkins, Steve** *Never Smile at a Monkey*, others

**Kellogg, Steven** *Pinkerton* series

**Kirk, Daniel** *Library Mouse*

\*\***Lies, Brian** *Bats at the Library*

**Lobel, Arnold** *Frog and Toad are Friends*, others

\*\***Low, William** *Machines Go to Work*

**Marshall, James** *Miss Nelson* series

**O’Connor Jane** *Fancy Nancy* series

**Potter, Beatrix** *Peter Rabbit* series

**Rathman, Peggy** *Office Buckle and Gloria*

**Sayre, April** *Pulley Turtle, Turtle Watch Out!*

**Schachner, Judy** *Skippyjon Jones* series

**Steig, William** *Doctor DeSoto*, others

**Waddell, Martin** *Farmer Duck*, others

**Willems, Mo** *Elephant and Piggie* series, *Knuffle Bunny, Edwina the Dinosaur, Pigeon* series

**Wick, Walter** *Can You See What I See?* series

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## First Grade

*“There are many little ways to enlarge your child’s world. Love of books is the best of all.”*

*- Jacqueline Kennedy*

**\*\*Bliss, Harry** *Luke on the Loose*

**\*\*Chocolate, Debbi** *El Barrio*

**Cole, Joanna** *Magic School Bus* series

**\*\*Fucile, Tony** *Let’s Do Nothing*

**George, Jean Craighead** *Goose and Duck*

**\*\*Kiddo, Yukiko** *Wet Pet*

**Parish, Peggy** *Amelia Bedelia*

**Seuss, Dr.** *The Lorax*, others

**Sharmat, Marjorie** *Nate the Great* series

**\*\*Watts, Melanie** *Have I Got a Book for You!*

## Second Grade

**“There is no substitute for books in the life of a child” - May Ellen Chase**

**\*\*Adler, David** *Young Cam Jansen and the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School*

**\*\*Bang, Molly** *Living Sunlight*

**Danzinger, Paula** *Amber Brown* series

**\*Florian, Douglas** *Dinothesaurus*

**\*\*Frazee, Marla** *A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever*

**\*\*Nolan, Lucy** *Bad to the Bone*

**\*\*Rylant, Cynthia** *Annie and Snowball and the Pink Surprise*

**Roy, Ron** *A-Z Mysteries, Capital Mysteries*

**Park, Barbara** *Junie B. Jones* series

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## Third Grade

“The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.”

-Dr. Seuss

**Adler, David** Cam Jansen series

**Avi**, Poppy

**Benton, Jim** Franny K. Stein series

**Birney, Betty** Humphrey series

**Blume, Judy** Freckle Juice, *\*\*Friend r Fiend?*

**Cameron, Ann** The Stories Julian Tells

**Cleary, Beverly** All of her books Ramona, Henry, Beezus, The Mouse & the Motorcycle

**\*\*Collins, Ross** *Medusa Jones*

**\*\*Grimes, Nikki** *Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel*

**Howe, James** Bannicula series

**Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds** Roxie and the Hooligans

**\*\*Robinson, Sharon** *Testing the Water*

## Fourth Grade

*“So please, oh PLEASE, we beg, we pray, Go throw your TV set away, And in its place you can install,  
A lovely bookshelf on the wall.”* - Roald Dahl, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

IF YOU LIKED.....

**Harry Potter, then try:**

*The Secret of Platform 13* by Eva Ibbotson

*The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis

*Pendragon* series by D. J. MacHale

*Charlie Bone* series by Jenny Nimmo

**Wimpy Kid, then try:**

*Amazing Days of Abby Hayes* series by Anne Mazer

*Amelia’s Notebook* series by Marissa Moss

*Big Nate: In a Class by Himself* by Lincoln Peirce

*Dork Diaries* by Rachel Russell

*Geronimo Stilton* series by Geronimo Stilton

**Allie Finkle’s Rules for Girl, then try:**

*Ellie McDoodle* by Ruth Barshaw

*Clarice Bean* series by Lauren Child

*Main Street* series by Ann Martin

*The Sisters Club* by Megan McDonald

*Julia Gillian* series by Alison McGhee

**39 Clues, then try:**

*The Puzzling World of Winston Breen* by Eric Berlin

*Hardy Boys* series by Franklin Dixon

*Nancy Drew* series by Carolyn Keen

*Odyssey* series by Mary Pope Osborne

*It’s All Greek to Me* by Jon Scieszka

\*\***Nelson, Vaunda** *Bad News for Outlaws*

\*\***Smith, Charles** *Winning Words: Sport’s Stories and Photographs*

## Fifth Grade

*“Today A Reader, Tomorrow A Leader”- Margaret Fuller*

**Barry, Dave** *Peter and the Starcatchers*

**Broach, Elise** *Masterpiece*

**\*\*Bryan, Ashley** *Words to My Life’s Song*

**Bryant, Annie** *Beacon Street Girls* series

**\*\*Burg, Ann** *All the Broken Pieces*

**Cassidy, Cathy** *Scarlett, Indigo Blue, Izzy*

**Choldenko, Gennifer** *Al Capone Shines My Shoes*

**Creech, Sharon** *Unfinished Angel, Hate that Cat*

**Curtis, Christopher Paul** *\*Bud, Not Buddy*

**Green, Tim** *Rivals, A Baseball Great Novel*

**Henkes, Kevin** *Bird Lake Moon*

**Ibbotson, Eva** *Dragonfly Pool*

**Konisburg, E. L.** *\*From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*

**Nimmo, Jenny** *Children of the Red King* series

**\*\*Prineas, Sarah** *The Magic Thief*

**Riordan, Rick** *The Red Pyramid, Percy Jackson*

**Sanderson, Brandon** *Alcatraz vs the Evil Librarians*

**Sachar, Louis** *\*Holes*

**\*\*Scieszka, Jon** *Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories about Growing Up*

**\*\*Haddix, Margaret Peterson** *Found*