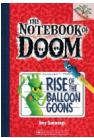
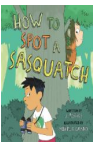
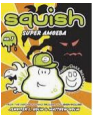
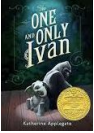

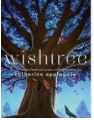







SUMMER READING LIST >>>> GRADES 3-5





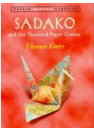
The summer is a wonderful time for children to read what they most enjoy, to learn new things, and to have fun! Summer reading is also an important way to prevent kids from losing too much ground over the summer — research shows that summer reading can make a significant difference in a student's overall academic achievement.




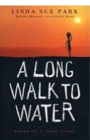
The following list contains *suggestions* for possible reading adventures.


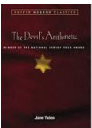



Lexile	Age Range	Title/Author	Summary
490 	5-8	<i>The Notebook of Doom Series: Rise of the Balloon Goons</i> by Troy Cummings	Alexander has just moved to a new town where he is about to uncover all sorts of monsters! He finds an old notebook with the word "DOOM" inscribed on the front cover. The Notebook of Doom, which Alexander now holds, contains top secret information about monsters! In this first book, Alexander goes up against spooky balloon goons--unique and twisted arm-waving balloon guys! This book is full of humor, engaging black-and-white illustrations, and of course . . . monsters!
510 	7-10	<i>How to Spot a Sasquatch</i> by J. Torres	<p>On a camping trip with the Junior Rangers, Jay feels like the odd one out. He's determined to get a photo of Bigfoot—but none of his friends believe Bigfoot exists. But if there's no such thing as Bigfoot, why is there a giant footprint? And who is stealing all the snacks?</p> <p>Meanwhile, Sass the Sasquatch and her curious forest friends are playing practical jokes on the campers. On the last day of camp, disaster strikes when Jay falls into a rushing river. Sass comes out of the woodwork—despite her parents' warnings to stay away from humans!—just in time to save his life. Soon after, Jay and Sass become fast friends, proving that nothing is impossible when it comes to friendship.</p>
520 	8-11	<i>Squish: Super Amoeba</i> by Jennifer L. Holm	Introducing SQUISH--a new graphic novel series about a comic book-loving, twinkie-eating grade school AMOEBA trying to find his place in the world (or at least trying to make it through a school day). Inspired by his favorite comic book hero, SUPER AMOEBA!, Squish has to navigate school (bullies! detention! Principal Planaria!), family (dad: Hates to wear a tie. Secretly listens to heavy metal in the car), and friends (Peggy-rainbows! happy all the time! and Pod . . . who's . . . well, you just have to meet him). Can Squish save the world--and his friends--from the forces of evil lurking in the hallways? Find out in Squish: Super Amoeba--saving the world, one cell at a time!

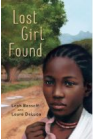




570 	8-10	<i>The One and Only Ivan</i> by Katherine Applegate	<p>Ivan is an easygoing gorilla. Living at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade, he has grown accustomed to humans watching him through the glass walls of his domain. He rarely misses his life in the jungle. In fact, he hardly ever thinks about it at all.</p> <p>Instead, Ivan thinks about TV shows he's seen and about his friends Stella, an elderly elephant, and Bob, a stray dog. But mostly Ivan thinks about art and how to capture the taste of a mango or the sound of leaves with color and a well-placed line.</p> <p>Then he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from her family, and she makes Ivan see their home—and his own art—through new eyes. When Ruby arrives, change comes with her, and it's up to Ivan to make it a change for the better.</p>
590 	7-10	<i>Diary of a Minecraft Zombie: A Scare of a Dare</i> by Zack Zombie (Series)	<p>In the first book of this hilarious Minecraft adventure series, we get to read the diary of an actual 12 year old, Minecraft Zombie. Take a peek at what is really going on between the hollow eyes, and dead expression that we normally see when we face the dreaded Zombies of Minecraft.</p> <p>Are Zombies really different from us? You'll be surprised at what you discover. So, jump into this Minecraft adventure and find out!</p>
590 	9-14	<i>Wishtree</i> by Katherine Applegate	<p>Red is an oak tree who is many rings old. Red is the neighborhood "wishtree"—people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches. Along with her crow friend Bongo and other animals who seek refuge in Red's hollows, this "wishtree" watches over the neighborhood. You might say Red has seen it all. Until a new family moves in. Not everyone is welcoming, and Red's experiences as a wishtree are more important than ever.</p>
600 	10+	<i>Ruby in the Sky</i> by Jeanne Zwick Ferruolo	<p>When twelve-year-old Ruby Moon Hayes and her mother move to Vermont, Ruby's goal is to stay as silent and invisible as a new moon in the frozen sky. She doesn't want kids at school asking about her missing father or discovering that her mother has been arrested. But keeping to herself isn't easy when Ahmad Saleem, a Syrian refugee in her class, decides he's her new best friend. Or when she meets "the Bird Lady," a recluse named Abigail who lives in a ramshackle shed near Ruby's house. No one in town understands Abigail — people whisper about her, about her boarded-up house and the terrible secrets she must be hiding.</p> <p>As Mom's trial draws near and Abigail faces eviction, Ruby is forced to make a choice: break her silence or risk losing everyone she loves. Ruby's story is about the walls we hide behind and the magic that can happen when we are brave enough to break free.</p>






610 	6+	<i>Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life</i> by Ashely Bryan	<p>Imagine being looked up and down and being valued as less than a chair. Less than an ox. Less than a dress. Maybe about the same as...a lantern. You, an object. An object to sell.</p> <p>In his gentle yet deeply powerful way, Ashley Bryan goes to the heart of how a slave is given a monetary value by the slave owner, tempering this with the one thing that CAN'T be bought or sold—dreams. Inspired by the actual will of a plantation owner that lists the worth of each and every one of his “workers”, Bryan has created collages around that document, and others like it. Through fierce paintings and expansive poetry he imagines and interprets each person’s life on the plantation, as well as the life their owner knew nothing about—their dreams and pride in knowing that they were worth far more than an Overseer or Madam ever would guess. Visually epic, and never before done, this stunning picture book is unlike anything you’ve seen.</p>
650 	8-12	<i>Last Kids on Earth</i> by Douglas Holgate (Series)	<p>Ever since the monster apocalypse hit town, average thirteen year old Jack Sullivan has been living in his tree house, which he's armed to the teeth with catapults and a moat, not to mention video games and an endless supply of Oreos and Mountain Dew scavenged from abandoned stores. But Jack alone is no match for the hordes of Zombies and Winged Wretches and Vine Thingies, and <i>especially</i> not for the eerily intelligent monster known only as <i>Blarg</i>. So Jack builds a team: his dorky best friend, Quint; the reformed middle school bully, Dirk; Jack's loyal pet monster, Rover; and Jack's crush, June. With their help, Jack is going to slay Blarg, achieve the ultimate Feat of Apocalyptic Success, and be average no longer! Can he do it?</p>
650 	10+	<i>Orphan Island</i> by Laurel Snyder	<p>On the island, everything is perfect. The sun rises in a sky filled with dancing shapes; the wind, water, and trees shelter and protect those who live there; when the nine children go to sleep in their cabins, it is with full stomachs and joy in their hearts. And only one thing ever changes: on that day, each year, when a boat appears from the mist upon the ocean carrying one young child to join them—and taking the eldest one away, never to be seen again.</p> <p>Today's Changing is no different. The boat arrives, taking away Jinny's best friend, Deen, replacing him with a new little girl named Ess, and leaving Jinny as the new Elder. Jinny knows her responsibility now—to teach Ess everything she needs to know about the island, to keep things as they've always been. But will she be ready for the inevitable day when the boat will come back—and take her away forever from the only home she's known?</p>
670 	8+	<i>Me & Marvin Gardens</i> by Amy Sarig King	<p>Obe Devlin has problems. His family's farmland has been taken over by developers. His best friend Tommy abandoned him for the development kids. And he keeps getting nosebleeds, because of that thing he doesn't like to talk about. So Obe hangs out at the creek by his house, in the last wild patch left, picking up litter and looking for animal tracks.</p> <p>One day, he sees a creature that looks kind of like a large dog, or maybe a small boar. And as he watches it, he realizes it eats plastic. Only plastic. Water bottles, shopping bags... No one has ever seen a creature like this before, because there's never been a creature like this before. The animal--Marvin Gardens--soon becomes Obe's best friend and biggest secret. But to keep him safe from the developers and Tommy and his friends, Obe must make a decision that might change everything.</p>


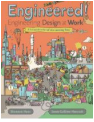
670 	9+	<i>Number the Stars</i> by Lois Lowry	It's 1943 Copenhagen and the Jews of Denmark are being "relocated," so Annemarie Johansen's best friend, Ellen, moves in with the Johansens and pretends to be part of the family. When Annemarie is asked to go on a dangerous mission, she must find the courage to save her friend's life.
680 	9+	<i>Percy Jackson and the Olympians Series: The Lightning Thief</i> by Rick Riordan	Percy Jackson is a good kid, but he can't seem to focus on his schoolwork or control his temper. And lately, being away at boarding school is only getting worse - Percy could have sworn his pre-algebra teacher turned into a monster and tried to kill him. When Percy's mom finds out, she knows it's time that he knew the truth about where he came from, and that he go to the one place he'll be safe. She sends Percy to Camp Half Blood, a summer camp for demigods (on Long Island), where he learns that the father he never knew is Poseidon, God of the Sea. Soon a mystery unfolds and together with his friends—one a satyr and the other the demigod daughter of Athena - Percy sets out on a quest across the United States to reach the gates of the Underworld (located in a recording studio in Hollywood) and prevent a catastrophic war between the gods.
680 	9+	<i>Going Through the Gate</i> by Janet S. Anderson	In the last one-room schoolhouse in the county, a strange graduation ceremony takes place. No one in town will say what happens, but it changes the students forever. Becky and the other sixth-graders are about to find out, and to discover parts of themselves that they couldn't have imagined the day before.
680 	8-12	<i>The Black Stallion</i> by Walter Farley	While he is returning home after visiting his uncle in India, Alec Ramsay nearly loses his life when his ship sinks during a storm. Follow the adventures of Alec and the stallion that saves his life as they prepare to enter a horse race to determine the fastest horse in the world.
690 	10+	<i>Sadako and The Thousand Paper Planes</i> by Eleanor Coerr	Chizuko came to visit her friend Sadako in the hospital. She had a piece of gold paper that she had cut into a large square. "Watch!" she said, and she folded the paper over and over, and it turned into a beautiful crane. "If a sick person folds one thousand paper cranes," Chizuko said, "the gods will grant her wish and make her well again." Sadako Sasaki was only twelve years old when she died. She was two when an atom bomb was dropped on the city of Hiroshima in Japan, where she lived with her family. Ten years later, she had leukemia as a result of radiation from the bomb. Sadako had folded six hundred and forty-four cranes. The flock hung above her bed on strings. Her classmates folded the rest. Today Sadako is a heroine to the children of Japan, who visit her memorial in Hiroshima Peace Park to leave the paper crane...

700 	8-12	Dragonbreath by Ursula Vernon	<p>It's not easy for Danny Dragonbreath to be the sole mythical creature in a school for reptiles and amphibians?Especially because he can't breathe fire like other dragons (as the school bully loves to remind him). But having a unique family comes in handy sometimes, like when his sea-serpent cousin takes Danny and his best iguana friend on a mind boggling underwater tour, complete with vomiting sea cucumbers and giant squid. It sure beats reading the encyclopedia to research his ocean report . . .Using a hybrid of comic-book panels and text, Ursula Vernon introduces an irresistible set of characters with a penchant for getting themselves into sticky situations. It's perfect for both the classroom and fans of <i>Wimpy Kid</i> and <i>Bad Kitty</i>.</p>
700 	10+	Out of My Mind by Sharon M. Draper	<p>Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom—the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged, because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow.</p>
710 	8-10	Clayton Byrd Goes Underground by Rita Williams-Garcia	<p>Clayton feels most alive when he's with his grandfather, Cool Papa Byrd, and the band of Bluesmen—he can't wait to join them, just as soon as he has a blues song of his own. But then the unthinkable happens. Cool Papa Byrd dies, and Clayton's mother forbids Clayton from playing the blues. And Clayton knows that's no way to live.</p> <p>Armed with his grandfather's brown porkpie hat and his harmonica, he runs away from home in search of the Bluesmen, hoping he can join them on the road. But on the journey that takes him through the New York City subways and to Washington Square Park, Clayton learns some things that surprise him.</p>
720 	11-14	A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story by Linda Sue Park	<p>The <i>New York Times</i> bestseller <i>A Long Walk to Water</i> begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way.</p>

730 	9-13	Twinchantment by Elise Allen	In their kingdom where potentially-magical beings are outlawed, princesses Flissa and Sara have had to pretend to be one person since they were born. They trade off royal duties like attending balls, fencing exhibitions, and making friends with other nobles, while hiding in plain sight. But when a magical attack puts their mother's life in danger, they must break the rules to save her - with the help of a brave servant boy and his kitten. Setting off on a quest to the Twists - a place full of dark magic - and with time running out, the girls must make their own magic to save the day.
730 	10+	<i>The Devil's Arithmetic</i> by Jane Yolen	When Hannah opens the door during Passover Seder to symbolically welcome the prophet Elijah, she suddenly finds herself in the unfamiliar world of a Polish village in the 1940's. Hannah had always complained about listening to her relatives tell the same stories of the Holocaust over and over, but now she finds herself in a terrifying situation. The Nazi soldiers have come to take the villagers away, and Hannah can guess where they are going.
740 	8-10	<i>The Wild Robot</i> by Peter Brown	When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island. Why is she there? Where did she come from? And, most important, how will she survive in her harsh surroundings? Roz's only hope is to learn from the island's hostile animal inhabitants. When she tries to care for an orphaned gosling, the other animals finally decide to help, and the island starts to feel like home. Until one day, the robot's mysterious past comes back to haunt her....
750 	10+	<i>Esperanza Rising</i> by Pam Muñoz Ryan	Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico--she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances--Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.
750 	10-14	<i>Game Changer</i> by Tommy Greenwald	Thirteen-year-old Teddy Youngblood is in a coma fighting for his life after an unspecified football injury at training camp. His family and friends flock to his bedside to support his recovery—and to discuss the events leading up to the tragic accident. Was this an inevitable result of playing a violent sport, or was something more sinister happening on the field that day? Told in an innovative, multimedia format combining dialogue, texts, newspaper articles, transcripts, an online forum, and Teddy's inner thoughts, <i>Game Changer</i> explores the joyous thrills and terrifying risks of America's most popular sport.

770 	8-14	<i>Lost Girl Found</i> by Leah Bassoff	<p>For Poni, life in her small village in southern Sudan is simple and complicated at the same time. Stay in school. Beat up any boy who tries to show attention. Watch out for the dangers in the river. But then the war comes. When soldiers arrive in her village, and bombs begin to rain from the sky, there is only one thing for Poni to do. Run for her life. Though many of the villagers do not escape, she does. An unknown man carries her across the river, and then she is walking — a long, dusty trek across the African countryside with thousands of refugees. Along the way, many die from starvation, land mines, wild animals, and despair, but Poni does not, driven by the sheer will to survive and the hope that she can make it to the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, and one day be reunited with her family.</p>
780 	9+	<i>The Indian in the Cupboard</i> by Lynn Reid Banks	<p>It all starts with a birthday present Omri doesn't even want -- a small plastic Indian of no use to him at all. But when an old wooden cupboard and a special key bring an unusual toy to life, Omri's Indian becomes his most important secret: precious, dangerous, wonderful, and above all, magical.</p>
800 	9+	<i>Caroline's Comet: A True Story</i> by Emily Arnold McCully	<p>Caroline Herschel (1750 1848) was not only one of the greatest astronomers who ever lived but also the first woman to be paid for her scientific work. Born the youngest daughter of a poor family in Hanover, Germany, she was scarred from smallpox, stunted from typhus and used by her parents as a scullery maid. But when her favorite brother, William, left for England, he took her with him. The siblings shared a passion for stars, and together they built the greatest telescope of their age, working tirelessly on star charts. Using their telescope, Caroline discovered fourteen nebulae and two galaxies, was the first woman to discover a comet, and became the first woman officially employed as a scientist by no less than the King of England! The information from the Herschels star catalogs is still used by space agencies today.</p>
820 	9+	<i>The Toothpaste Millionaire</i> by Jean Merrill	<p>Sixth-grader Rufus Mayflower doesn't set out to become a millionaire. He just wants to save on toothpaste. Betting he can make a gallon of his own for the same price as one tube from the store, Rufus develops a step-by-step production plan with help from his good friend Kate MacKinstrey. By the time he reaches the eighth grade, Rufus makes more than a gallon -- he makes a million!</p>
840 	11-13	<i>Breakout</i> by Kate Messner	<p>Nora Tucker is looking forward to summer vacation in Wolf Creek--two months of swimming, popsicles, and brushing up on her journalism skills for the school paper. But when two inmates break out of the town's maximum security prison, everything changes. Doors are locked, helicopters fly over the woods, and police patrol the school grounds. Worst of all, everyone is on edge, and fear brings out the worst in some people Nora has known her whole life. Even if the inmates are caught, she worries that home might never feel the same.</p> <p>Told in letters, poems, text messages, news stories, and comics--a series of documents Nora collects for the Wolf Creek Community Time Capsule Project</p>

850 	10+	<i>Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation</i> by Stuart Gibbs	In Stuart Gibbs' CHARLIE THORNE AND THE LAST EQUATION, 12-year-old supergenius (and very wealthy thief) Charlie is forced to help the CIA hunt down one of Einstein's lost -- and potentially world-ending -- secrets, while trying to figure out who the "good guys" really are. The CIA wants Charlie to figure out where Einstein hid his most powerful discovery: an equation that could benefit the world forever or destroy it completely. Charlie is skeptical that the CIA would always use it for good, but she also wants to keep it out of the hands of people she's <i>certain</i> would use it for evil. So she follows clues, dodges bullets, and addresses her odd family situation, all while translating the world through her amazing mathematical brain and showing off some world-class snowboarding skills
860 	8+	<i>Through My Eyes</i> by Ruby Bridges	In November 1960, all of America watched as a tiny six-year-old black girl, surrounded by federal marshals, walked through a mob of screaming segregationists and into her school. An icon of the civil rights movement, Ruby Bridges chronicles each dramatic step of this pivotal event in history through her own words.
910 	10-14	<i>Secret Soldiers</i> by Keely Hutton	<i>Secret Soldiers</i> follows the journey of Thomas, a thirteen-year-old coal miner, who lies about his age to join the Claykickers, a specialized crew of soldiers known as "tunnelers," in hopes of finding his missing older brother. Thomas works in the tunnels of the Western Front alongside three other soldier boys whose constant bickering and inexperience in mining may prove more lethal than the enemy digging toward them. But as they burrow deeper beneath the battlefield, the boys discover the men they hope to become and forge a bond of brotherhood.
920 	6-9	<i>What a Waste: Trash, Recycling, and Protecting Our Planet</i> by Jess French	Did you know that every single plastic toothbrush ever made still exists? Or that there is a floating mass of trash larger than the USA drifting around the Pacific Ocean? It is not all bad news though. While this is a knowledge book that explains where we are going wrong, <i>What a Waste</i> also shows what we are getting right! Discover plans to save our seas. How countries are implementing green projects worldwide, and how to turn waste into something useful. The tiniest everyday changes can make all the difference to ensure our beautiful planet stays lush and teeming with life.
930 	11-13	<i>Human body: A Book with Guts</i> by Dan Green	Meet the characters and processes that that keep the human body chugging along. From the basic building blocks like Cell, DNA, and Protein, to Bones, Muscles, and all of the fun-loving Organs, readers will cozy up with the guys on the inside. Trust us-Liver has never looked better!

940 	8-10	<i>Rocket to the Moon!</i> <i>Big Ideas That</i> <i>Changed the World # 1</i> by Don Brown	<p>On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong took “one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind” when the Apollo 11 landed on the moon. But it wasn’t just one man who got us to the moon. <i>The Moon Landing</i> explores the people and technology that made the moon landing possible. Instead of examining one person’s life, it focuses on the moon landing itself, showing the events leading up to it and how it changed the world. The book takes readers through the history of rocket building: from ancient Chinese rockets, to “bombs bursting in air” during the War of 1812, to Russia’s Sputnik program, to the moon landing.</p>
1110 	8-12	<i>Engineered!:</i> <i>Engineering Design at</i> <i>Work</i> byShannon Hunt	<p>How do you land a rover on Mars, resolve a perpetual traffic jam or save a herd of caribou from potential extinction? Ask an engineer! Author Shannon Hunt presents nine real-life problems for which engineers designed inventive (and even crazy!) solutions. Each was solved using a different field of engineering --- from aerospace and mechanical to the new field of geomatics. A helpful seven-step flowchart of the engineering design process is also featured: define the problem, investigate the requirements, develop solutions, design a prototype, test it, improve it and share the idea.</p>