



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. To access eBooks and audiobooks, go to <https://iconnct.rbdigital.com>.



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 www.ct.gov/sde.**



IMAGINE YOUR STORY

Connecticut Reads 2020
The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge



Title of Book

1. _____
2. _____
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29. _____
30. _____

Total Number of Books Read: _____

Grades K-2 IMAGINE YOUR STORY

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Picture Books

Bowwow Powwow

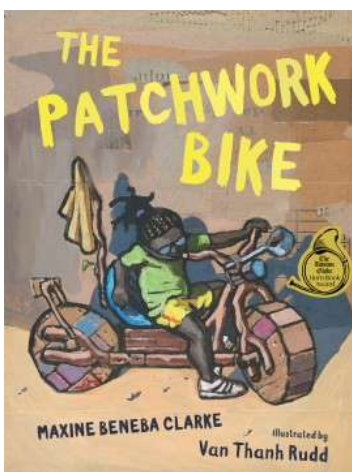
by *Brenda J. Child*

When Wendy Girl attends a powwow, she watches dancers, eats tasty food, and falls asleep under the stars. While asleep Wendy Girl dreams fantastical dreams of magical scenes. AILA, ALA Notable | Lexile: BR160L-425L

The Patchwork Bike

by *Maxine Beneba Clarke*

Readers will follow a child and their brothers as the children use an old milk pot, a used flour sack, and other random items to make the most spectacular bike. | ALA Notable, NCSS
Lexile: BR160L-425L



Yummy: Eight Favorite Fairy Tales

by *Lucy Cousins*

The creator of *Maisy* brings readers eight classic fairy tales in their own unique style, retaining all of the emotion and humor of the original fairy tales. ALA Notable | Lexile: BR160L-425L

Bloom by *Doreen Cronin*

Banished for the trails of mud and dirt that she can't help but leave behind, the Mud Fairy, Bloom, is nowhere to be found when she's desperately needed by the King and Queen, who live in the glass castle. | Amelia Bloomer Award
Lexile: 720L

The Spiffiest Giant in Town

by *Julia Donaldson*

George the Giant buys himself a great new set of clothes and looks forward to showing them off. When he encounters a group of animals in need of assistance, George is only happy to help. | CSLP | Lexile: AD600L

How to Code a Sandcastle

by *Josh Funk*

When a girl realized how difficult it may be to build the perfect sandcastle, she decides to break the big task into manageable pieces. | ILA | Lexile: AD530L

Do Not Bring Your Dragon to the Library by *Julie Gassman*

Have you ever thought about bringing your dragon to the library? Don't do it! The dragons will cause nothing but trouble. | CSLP
Lexile: AD560L

Julián is a Mermaid

by *Jessica Love*

When Julián notices three women dressed up, he begins to day dream about dressing up like the ladies. He then dresses up in a mermaid costume of his very own! ILA, ALA Notable | Lexile: 190L

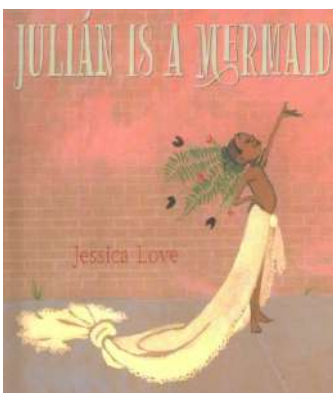
Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story by *Kevin Noble Maillard*

An intergenerational group of Native Americans gather to make fry bread. Readers learn not only about food, but also about Native communities. | AILA, ALA, CL/R SIG
Lexile: BR160L-425L

Alma and How She Got Her Name

by *Juana Martinez-Neal*

Alma Sofia Esperanza José Pura Candela thinks she has too many names. Alma turns to her dad for answers. | ALA Notable, ILA, NCSS
Lexile: 490



Doña Flor by *Pat Mora*

As the giant woman of the community, Doña Flor lives a happy life in her quiet Puebla. When a puma comes calling, Doña Flor refuses to let the unwanted creature disturb their world, so she heads out to resolve the problem. | ALA Notable | Lexile: AD650L

The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family by *Ibtihaj Muhammad*

Faizah knows the first day of school is going to be special. It's her older sister Asiya's first day of hijab. | Lexile: 500L

Perfectly Norman by *Tom Percival*

Norman was perfectly normal until he grew a pair of wings. Norman loved his new wings, but was very

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Picture Books

Mommy's Khimar

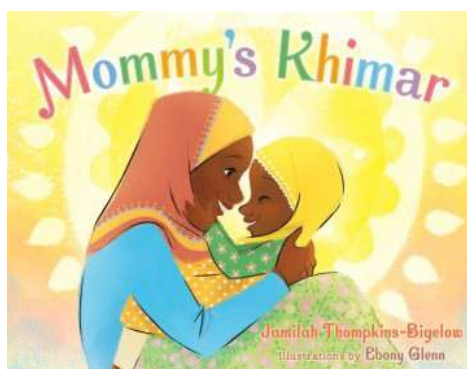
by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow

A young Muslim girl spends a busy day wrapped up in her mother's colorful headscarf in this sweet and fanciful picture book. | Booklist Editors Choice, NCSS
Lexile: AD560L

This Book is Gray

by Lindsay Ward

Gray is never included, he's not even in the rainbow. Gray has decided to make up a great story about a kitten, a wolf, and a hippo in a world where everything and everyone is gray! However, the primary colors begin to show up, and cause some upset. Lexile: 550L



The Day You Began

by Jacqueline Woodson

Children compare themselves to the others around them. Once they are able to set aside their nerves and uncertainties, they realize that what they have in common is more important than their differences. ALA Notable, ILA | Lexile: AD980L

Early Readers

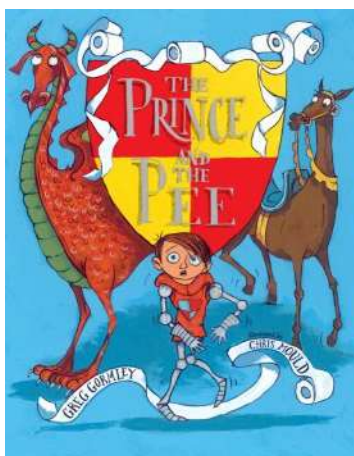
A Friend for Dragon

by Dav Pilkey
Lonely, Dragon has made a new friend! When Dragons friend appears to be sick, Dragon demonstrates what it means to be a true friend. | Lexile: 460L

Bo's Magical New Friend

by Rebecca Elliott

In this new Unicorn Diaries series, Bo is a Unicorn with the power to grant wishes. But the one thing Bo wishes for more than anything, is a new friend. | Lexile: 540L



Retellings

The Princess and the Pit Stop

by Tom Angleberger

When a Princess learns from her Fairy Godmother that she is in last place in a car race against such fairy tale notables as Humpty Dumpty, the Three Bears, and Rumpelstiltskin, she boldly rebuffs defeat and steps on the gas. | ILA
Lexile: AD630L

Sword in the Stove

by Frank Dormer

Two knights have their dinner plans derailed as they discover various objects in their stove. | CSLP | Lexile: AD260L

La Princesa and the Pea

by Susan Middleton Elya

When El Príncipe meets a girl, he knows that she's the one for him, but his mother disagrees. The queen has a test to see if the girl is truly worthy. ALA Notable, NCTE | Lexile: AD530L

The Prince and the Pee

by Greg Gormley
Prince Freddie is off to save the castle from a ferocious dragon, but then, he realizes that he really, really, really, needs to pee. But what scary ogres, damsels in distress, and impossibly long lines for the only bathroom in the forest! | CSLP
Lexile: AD530L

Interstellar Cinderella

by Deborah Underwood

In this outer space adaptation of the fairy tale in rhyme, Cinderella dreams of becoming a spaceship mechanic. | Amelia Bloomer Award
Lexile: AD630L

Rapunzel

by Bethan Woollvin

A wicked witch has Rapunzel trapped in a tower, but Rapunzel isn't afraid, she has a plan. | Lexile: AD700L

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* (USBBY). Other awards as noted.

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Graphic Novels

Noodleheads See the Future by Ted Arnold

Mac and Mac are absolutely certain Mom will bake them a cake if they gather some firewood for her.

Lexile: GN400L

Super Narwhal and Jelly Jolt

by Ben Clanton

Happy-go-lucky Narwhal and nonsense Jelly fish find their inner super heroes in the three new under-the-sea adventures. | CSLP

Lexile: GN510L

Where's Halmoni? By Julie Kim

Two children pay a visit to their grandmother only to discover she's not home. As they search for her, they crawl through a window and discover a fantastical world. | Capitol Choices Award | Lexile: GN320L

John Ronald's Dragon: The Story of J. R. R. Tolkien by Caroline McAlister

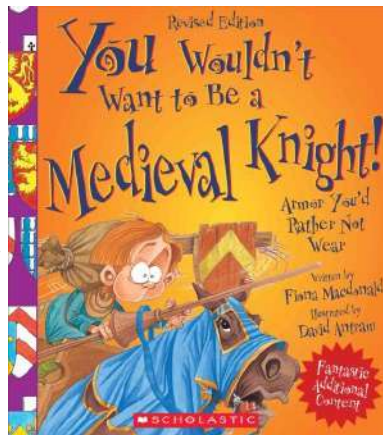
The author presents a picture book biography of the creator of "The Hobbit," relating how he imagined dragons as a boy when life got difficult, and how he manifested them in his writing as an adult. | NCSS

Lexile: IG425L-570L

You Wouldn't Want to Be a Medieval Knight

by Fiona MacDonald

Become the main character and experience the gory, dark side of life throughout the middle ages. | CSLP | Lexile: IG910L



Folklore

You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Tall Tales to Read Together by Mary Ann Hoberman

Readers will relish these new twists on familiar folklore characters, including Johnny Appleseed, Annie Oakley, Paul Bunyan, John Henry, and many more! | CSLP | Lexile: NP

Cactus Soup by Eric Kimmel

When a troop of hungry soldiers stop in a town during the Mexican revolution, they charm the townspeople into helping them make cactus soup! | Lexile: AD580L

Nonfiction

Fly Guy Presents Castles

by Tedd Arnold

Fly Guy and Buzz learn all about castles, from drawbridges to dungeons. | Lexile: 680L

Forest Has a Song: Poems

by Amy Ludwig Vanderwater

Explore a variety of poems that invite young readers to explore the outdoors every season. | Lexile: NP

Favorite Authors

Byron Barton
Margaret Wise Brown
Anthony Browne
Eric Carle
Donald Crews
Tomie de Paola

P.D. Eastman
Ed Emberley
Mem Fox
Ezra Jack Keats
Jon Klassen
James Marshall

Robert McCloskey
Jon Muth
Jerry Pinkney
Peggy Rathmann
Maurice Sendak
Dr. Seuss

Davis Shannon
Williams Steig
David Wiesner
Mo Willems
Karma Wilson
Jacqueline Woodson

IMAGINE YOUR STORY

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Classics and Popular Titles

Ten, Nine, Eight by Molly Bang

Numbers from ten to one are part of this lullaby which observes the room of a little girl going to bed. | ALA Lexile: NP500L

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs by Judi Barrett

Life is delicious in the town of Chewandswallow where it rains soup and juice, snows mashed potatoes, and blows storms of hamburgers, until the weather takes a turn for the worse. | Lexile: AD730L

Goodnight Moon

by Margaret Wise Brown

Goodnight to each of the objects in the great green room: goodnight chairs, goodnight comb, goodnight air. | Lexile AD360L

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do You See? by Eric Carle

Children see a variety of animals, each one a different color, and a teacher looking at them. | Lexile AD200L

Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin

When Farmer Brown's cows find a typewriter in the barn, they start making demands and go on strike when the farmer refuses to give them what they want. | ALA | Lexile: AD470L

Maria Had a Little Llama/María Tenía una Llamita by Angela Dominguez

In this bilingual version of the classic rhyme set in Peru, Maria takes her llama to school one day. | ALA | Lexile: AD530L

Abuela by Arthur Dorros

While riding on a bus with her grandmother, a little girl imagines that they are carried up into the sky and fly over the sights of new York City. | ALA | Lexile: 510L



Harold and the Purple Crayon

by Crockett Johnson

Harold goes for an adventurous walk in the moonlight with his purple crayon. | Lexile AD490L

George and Martha by James Marshall

This popular book relates several episodes in the friendship of two hippopotamuses. | ALA Lexile: AD530L

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

by Bill Martin

An Alphabet rhyme/chant that relates what happens when the whole alphabet tries to climb a coconut tree. | ALA | Lexile: AD530L

Make Way for Ducklings

by Robert McCloskey

Mr. and Mrs. Mallard proudly return to their home in the Boston Public Garden with their eight offspring. ALA Lexile: AD710L

Henry and Mudge: The First Book of Their Adventures by Cynthia Rylant

Feeling lonely, Henry, who lives in a house on a street without any other children, finds companionship and love in a big named Mudge. Lexile: 460L

The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka

The wolf gives his own outlandish version of what *really* happened when he tangled with the three little pigs. | ALA | Lexile: AD510L

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina

A band of mischievous monkeys steal every one of a peddler's caps while he takes a nap under a tree. | Lexile: AD480L

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!

by Mo Willems

When a bus driver takes a break from his route, a very unlikely volunteer springs up to take his place. | ALA Lexile: 280L



Grades 3-4 Imagine Your Story



Imagine Your Story

The Imaginary by A. F. Harrold

No one can see Amanda's imaginary friend Rudger. When an evil imaginary hunter arrives at Amanda's door, she and Rudger must run for their lives. | Lexile: 720L

Super Turbo Saves the Day!

by Lee Kirby

When the final school bell rings, Super Turbo prepares to fight Elementary school evil such as flying ninja squirrels, evil rats, and more. | Lexile: 560L

Space Taxi: Archie Takes Flight

by Wendy Mass

It's midnight on Take Your Child to Work day and Archie gets to go to work with his dad in an intergalactic space taxi! Together, they shuttle aliens, fly into wormholes, and evade an evil mastermind.

Lexile (estimated): 685L-725L

Love Sugar Magic: A Dash of Trouble

by Anna Meriano

Leonora Logroño learns that she is a part of a long line of brujas running a magical bakery. When her best friend, Caroline, has a problem, Leo takes the opportunity to try out her craft and use her magic. What could possibly go wrong?

Lexile: 850L

The Adventures of Sir Lancelot the Great by Gerald Morris

Lancelot is said to have been one of the most fearless and honorable of the Knights of the Roundtable. He'll defend and protect, as long as he gets his nap!

Lexile: 830L

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale by John Steptoe

When the King needs to take a wife, Mufaro brings both of his daughters, even though one is selfish, bad-tempered, and unworthy. Which will the king choose? | ALA | Lexile: AD790L



Even Superheroes Have Bad Days

by Shelly Becker

Sometimes kids have trouble getting a hold of their emotions, but did you know that superheroes struggle as well? Superheroes feel sad, mad, and even afraid. | CSLP

Lexile: AD640L

Gondra's Treasure

by Linda Sue Park

Gondra, a little dragon, celebrates her uniqueness while talking with her parents about differences between her father's homeland in the East, and her mother's in the West. CSLP Lexile: 540L

Princess Cora and the Crocodile

by Laura Amy Schlitz

Princess Cora is sick and tired of boring lessons, too many baths, and not enough fun. When she writes a letter to her fairy godmother for help, the most unlikely creature, a crocodile, arrives. | ALA Notable

Lexile: 590L

Chapter Books

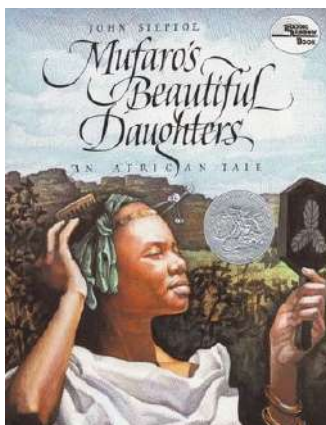
Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster By Jonathan Auxier

Nan, orphaned and alone, spends her days working for a ruthless chimney sweep. Her job is thankless and dangerous. When Nan thinks that her luck has finally run out and the dangers of her job have caught up with her, she awakens unharmed and finds a creature huddled in the corner made from soot and ash. | NCTE, Sydney Taylor Award Winner

Lexile: 630L

The BFG by Roald Dahl

Captured by a giant, Sophie is lucky that he's big and friendly. Together with the BFG, Sophie plans to save the children from the mean giants that surround them. | CSLP | Lexile: 720L



Imagine Your Story



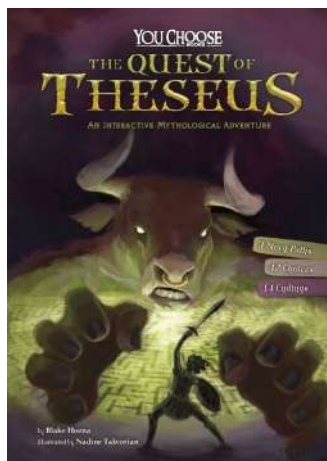
Garvey's Choice by Nikki Grimes

Garvey has a lot to handle. His father is always disappointed and he's made fun of at school. When Garvey meets Manny, he finds a friend and learns about himself as well. | ALA Notable, ILA Lexile: 620L

The Quest of Theseus: An Interactive Mythological Adventure

by Blake Hoena

A choose your own adventure that takes readers through the same journey as Theseus, an ancient Greek hero. | CSLP | Lexile: 640L



Zeus and the Thunderbolt of Doom

by Joan Holub

Ten year old Zeus, while fascinated by the fact that he gets struck by lightning every single year, is mostly bored with life and wishes for adventure. However, he gets more than he wishes for when he's kidnapped by dangerous Titans. When Zeus pulls an actual thunderbolt from a stone to defend himself, he sets off on a quest to rescue his fellow Olympians. Lexile: 570L

We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices by Wade Hudson

Readers will experience poems, letters, personal essays, and other forms of art and literature about diverse experiences. Authors that contributed to this book include Jacqueline Woodson, Kwame Alexander, Sharon Draper, Rita Williams-Garcia, and more. | Jane Addams Honor, NCSS Lexile: 850

Grilled Cheese and Dragons

by Nancy Krulik

Princess Serena would much rather be a knight than a princess. Her father, King Alexander, insists that she must go on a "Quest of Kindness," performing good deeds to prove that she is deserving of attending knight school. | Lexile: 550

Holes in the Sky by Patricia Polacco

When Trisha's grandmother passes away, Trisha doesn't think she'll ever get over the hurt. When her family moves to California and Trisha meets Miss Eula, Trisha learns that her grandmother will never truly leave her. ILA | Lexile: 730

The Boy Who Grew Dragons

by Andy Shepherd

When Tomas leaves his grandfathers garden with a piece of dragon fruit, he's shocked when a tiny dragon hatched from it! Tomas learns that while dragons can be fun, they also set fire to important objects and cause a ruckus. | Lexile: 410L-600L

Graphic Novels

Sparks! by Ian Boothby

Two cats in a powerful mechanical dog suit attempt to thwart an evil princess. She may look like a cute baby in a diaper, but the evil princess is clever and ruthless. | ALSC | Lexile: GN200L

Mighty Jack by Ben Hatke

When Jack trades his mother's car keys for a pack of seeds while at the flea market, his world changes forever. The seeds grow into a magical garden that leads to a dangerous new world. ALSC | Lexile: GN490L

Giants Beware! By Jorge Aguirre

Claudette desperately wants to slay a giant, but her village is quiet and safe. One day, Claudette, her brother, and best friend embark on a journey to find a giant so they can slay it. But hopefully they can complete their mission before their parents find out. Lexile: GN240L



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Nonfiction

Let the Children March

by *Monica Clark-Robinson*

In 1963, thousands of African-American children volunteered to march alongside adults for civil rights. The civil rights peaceful protest changed the world, protesting the laws that kept black people separate from white people. | ALA Notable | Lexile: 650L

Cook me a Story: A Treasury of Stories and Recipes Inspired by Classic Fairy Tales

by *Bryan Kozlowski*

Everyone's favorite fairy tales are retold with recipes for the whole family. Enjoy the magic of storytelling and cooking combined.

NSTA | Lexile: 930L

The Very Short, Entirely True History of Unicorns

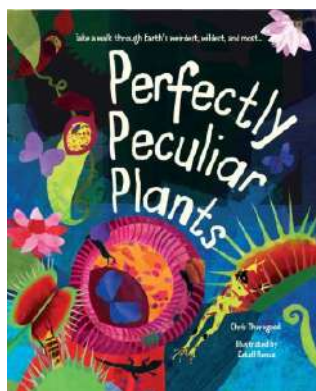
by *Sarah Laskow*

Have you ever had questions about unicorns? Why do some unicorns have wings and why don't others? What is the history of unicorns? Are there unicorns in every country or just some of them? This book has your answers. | CSLP | Lexile: 980L

Perfectly Peculiar Plants

by *Chris Thorogood*

From sea beans to Venus flytraps, learn about the planets most peculiar plants. | NSTA | Lexile: 870L



Can I Touch Your Hair?: Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship

by *Irene Latham & Charles Waters*

Irene Latham, who is white and Charles Waters, who is black, present paired poems about topics including family dinners, sports, recess, and more. | ALA Notable, NCTE | Lexile: NP

Sewing the Rainbow: The Story of Gilbert Baker and the Rainbow Flag

by *Gayle E. Pitman*

Readers will learn the story of Gilbert Baker and his creation of the rainbow flag. Readers will follow Gilbert from his small hometown, sewing with his grandmother, to his time in the military, and finally, to San Francisco.

NCSS | Lexile: 800L

Zeus: King of the Gods, God of Sky and Storm (Series)

by *Teri Temple*

Readers are introduced to Zeus, the Greek god of thunder. Books in the series include maps, charts, informational sidebars, and sources for additional reading. | CSLP | Lexile: 770L

Lon Po Po

by *Ed Young*

Three sisters staying home alone are endangered by a hungry wolf who is disguised as their grandmother.

Lexile: 670L

Book Series

Amber Brown by Paula Danziger
Babymouse by Jennifer L. Holm
Bink & Gollie by Kate DiCamillo
Bunnicula by James Howe
Calvin Coconut by Graham Salisbury
Clementine by Sara Pennypacker
Commander Toad by Jane Yolen
EllRay Jakes by Sally Warner

Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel
Gooney Bird by Lois Lowry
Junie B. Jones by Barbara Park
Lulu by Hilary McKay
Magic Treehouse by Mary Pope Osborne
Nikki and Deja by Karen English
Ramona by Beverly Cleary
Sassy by Sharon Draper
The Time Warp Trio by Jon Scieszka

Nutmeg Award Nominees

Find the Nutmeg lists at <https://www.nutmegaward.org/>.



Classics and Popular Titles

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt

The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring with water that prevents one from ever growing any older. | ALA | Lexile: 770L

Madeline by Ludwig Bemelmans

Madeline, smallest and naughtiest of the twelve little charges of Miss Clavel, wakes up one night with an attack of appendicitis. | ALA | Lexile: AD680L

James and the Giant Peach

by Roald Dahl

Wonderful adventures abound after James escapes from his fearful aunts by rolling away inside a giant peach. | Lexile: 790L-870L

Because of Winn-Dixie

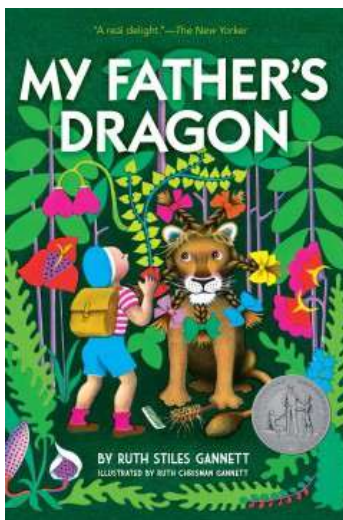
by Kate DiCamillo

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie. | ALA
Lexile: 670L

My Father's Dragon

by Ruth Stiles Gannett

A young boy is determined to rescue a poor baby dragon who is being used by a group of lazy wild animals to ferry them across the river on Wild Island. ALA | Lexile: 990L



The Story of Ferdinand by Munro Leaf

Ferdinand likes to sit quietly and smell the flowers, but one day, he gets stung by a bee and his snorting and stomping convinces everyone that he is the fiercest of bulls. | Lexile: AD760L

Pippi Longstocking by Astrid Lindgren

Readers will follow the escapades of a lucky little girl who lives with a horse and a monkey, but without any parents, at the edge of a Swedish village. | Lexile: 870L

Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco

Curtis describes his meeting with Pinkus Aylee, a black soldier, during the Civil War, and their capture by Southern troops. Based on a true story about the author's great-great-grandfather. | Lexile: 660L

Grandfather's Journey by Allen Say

A Japanese-American man recounts his grandfather's journey to America, which he also undertakes later, and the feelings of being torn by a love for two different countries. | Lexile: AD650L

Where the Sidewalk Ends

by Shel Silverstein

A boy turns into a TV set and a girl who eats a whale, are only two of the characters in this collection of humorous poetry illustrated with the author's own drawings. | Lexile: NP

All-of-a-Kind-Family

by Sydney Taylor

Follow the adventures of five sisters growing up in a Jewish family in New York in the early twentieth century. | Lexile: 750L

Charlotte's Web by E. B. White

Wilbur the pig, is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be the farmer's Christmas dinner until his spider friend, Charlotte, decides to help him. | Lexile: 680L

The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams

By the time the Velveteen Rabbit is dirty, worn out, and about to be burned, he has almost given up hope of ever finding the magic called Real. | Lexile: AD820L

Rumplestiltskin by Paul O. Zelinsky

A strange little man helps the miller's daughter spin straw into gold for the king on the condition that she will give him her first-born child. | Lexile: 660L



Imagine Your Story

A Royal Guide to Monster Slaying

by Kelley Armstrong

As the oldest child, twelve-year-old Rowan is destined to be Queen, while her twin brother, Rhydd, the Royal Monster Hunter. Rowan would give anything to switch places. | Lexile: HL610L

The Storm Runner

by J. C. Cervantes

Zane has always enjoyed exploring the dormant volcano near his home in New Mexico, even though hiking it is challenging. He'd much rather hang out there with his dog, Rosie, than go to middle school where kids make fun of him for his one good leg. What Zane doesn't know is that the volcano is a gateway to another world. | CSLP
Lexile: 600L

Her Stories: African American Folktales, Fairy tales, and True Tales

by Virginia Hamilton

A collection of twenty-five African-American folktales focuses on strong female characters and includes "Little Girl and Bruh Rabbit," "Catskinella," and "Annie Christmas." | ALA, CSLP
Lexile: 960L

Dragon Pearl by Yoon Ha Lee

Thirteen-year-old Min, comes from a long line of fox spirits. To keep the family safe, Min's mother insists that none of them use any fox-magic, such as Charm or shape-shifting. They must appear human at all times. Lexile: 780L

Public School Superhero

by James Patterson

Inner city middle school student Kenny Wright imagines himself as a superhero. But when he faces peer pressure and bullying, can he find his strength in real life? CSLP | Lexile: 560L

Fiction

I Can Make This Promise by Christine Day

Edie has always been curious about her Native American heritage, but since her mother was adopted by a white couple, she assumed that history was lost to her. When Edie and her friends discovered a photo of a woman who looks just like her, Edie has a flurry of questions. | ALA, NCTE
Lexile: HL610L



Blended by Sharon Draper

One week, she's Isabella living with her dad, and one of the only black families in their neighborhood. The next week she's Izzy living with her mom and her mom's boyfriend in a small house that's cozy and beloved. As her parents' arguing escalates, Isabella feels pulled in two. | NCSS | Lexile:610L

Hour of the Bees

by Lindsay Eagar

Carolina (Carol) will be spending her summer helping her parents move her grandfather into a home for people with dementia while her friends attend pool parties. As the summer carries on, Carol begins to see past her grandfathers gruff exterior and finds herself drawn to his seemingly crazy stories. As the end of the summer draws near, Carol must decide what it means to be true to your family history. ILA | Lexile: 670L

The Last Last-Day-Of-Summer

by Lamar Giles

Cousins Otto and Sheed are on the hunt to solve one last mystery before summer ends and the school bell rings. When a mysterious man who can freeze time appears, Otto and Sheed set their bickering aside and work together to save their small Virginian town before time stops for good. | Lexile: 740L



Fiction

For Black Girls Like Me

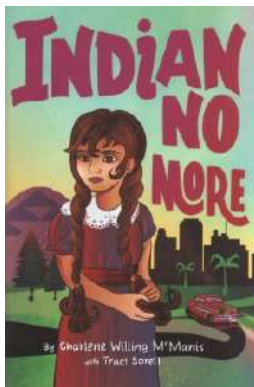
by Mariama J. Lockington

Makeda Kirkland is eleven year old, black, and was adopted by white parents. While Makeda knows that her family loves her, she often feels left out and different. When Makeda's family moves, she is forced to leave her friend Lena, the only other black girl adopted by a white family that she knows. As Makeda tries to adjust to her new home and the changes in her family dynamic, she can't help but wonder what it would be like to grow up in a family where everyone looks like her. Lexile: HL500L

Indian No More

by Charlene Willing McManis
with Traci Sorell

Regina's family must relocate from Oregon to Los Angeles due to a federal law that says her Umpqua tribe no longer exists. She then goes on a quest to understand her identity. | ALA, CL/R SIG Lexile: 720L



A Blind Guide to Stinkville

by Beth Vrabel

When she lived in Seattle, Alice didn't think about her albinism or her visual impairment. However, when her family moves to Sinkville, or Stinkville as it's called, it's the first time she feels different. Her brother wants to move back to Seattle, her mother is sinking into a depression, and Alice's parents want to ship her away to school for the blind. Alice is determined to prove that her blindness is just a part of who she is, but not all of who she is. | ILA, CT Author Lexile: 670L

Other Words for Home

by Jasmine Warga

As the unrest in Syria grows, Jude and her mother leave their home and journey to American to live with relatives. As she begins to learn English, making friends grows easier, but the ugliness of Islamophobia makes an appearance forcing Jude to question the strength she holds to face this new challenge. ALA, CL/R SIG, NCTE | Lexile: 930L

A Good Kind of Trouble

by Lisa Moore Ramee

Shayla does her best to stay out of trouble, but her best friends begin to change before her very eyes. Her stomach turns when people at school says she's not black enough, and as she finally begins to understand the importance of the Black Lives Matter movement and wears an armband in support the of the movement, trouble seems to be everywhere. | Lexile: 720L

Ghost Boys

by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by police when they mistake his toy gun for a real one. As a ghost, Jerome meets another ghost, Emmett Till. Emmett helps Jerome by taking him on a journey towards an understanding of the historical racism that may have lead to his death. | ALA, NCTE, Walter Award, Jane Addams Award | Lexile: HL360L



Graphic Novels

Brave by Svetlana Chmakova

In his daydreams, Jensen is a hero and the best in every way. In reality, he struggles. Jensen struggles with friends, class work, and he's always picked last. While Jensen only wants to live in his daydreams, real life is about to come crashing in. Lexile: GN360

All's Faire in Middle School

by Victoria Jamieson

Imogene (Impy) can't wait to begin training as a squire for the Renaissance Faire. To prove her bravery, she'll be going to a public school for the first time! | ALA Notable | Lexile: GN460

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Nonfiction

Martin & Anne, The Kindred Spirits of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Anne Frank

by *Nancy Churnin*

Martin Luther King and Anne Frank were born in the same year worlds apart. Both countered prejudice and hatred with love and faith. | ALA Notable, Children's Literature Assembly Lexile: 800L

foraged paths that will have impacted generations to come. Women portrayed in this book include Shirley Chisholm, Ellen DeGeneres, Carrie Fisher, Dolly Parton, Sojourner Truth, and many more. | NCSS | Lexile: 900L

Dreams from Many Rivers: A Hispanic History of the United States Told in Poems by *Margarita Engle*

Various people from eighteenth century slaves to present day students depict their experiences as Latinos in the United States. | ILA | Lexile: NP

Bubonic Panic: When Plague Invaded America by *Gail Jarrow*

In March of 1900 San Francisco's China Town was struck by what came to be known as the Bubonic Plague. Doctor's were desperate to fight it and politicians were desperate to hide it. NCSS, NSTA | Lexile: 1000L



Big Top Burning: The True Story of an Arsonist, a Missing Girl, and the Greatest Show on Earth

by *Laura Woollett*

This nonfiction novel takes readers through the true story of the 1944 Hartford, Connecticut circus fire. As readers journey through this historical account of the circus fire, readers will wonder if it was an act of arson. | ILA, Eureka Children's Book Honor | Lexile: 810L-1000L

Bound by Ice: A True North Pole Survival Story

by *Sandra Neil Wallace*

Readers will follow the journey of George Washington De Long and his crew on the USS *Jeannette* to the North Pole. When his ship became locked in ice, they drifted for nearly two years. | NCSS | Lexile: 1050L

Free Lunch by *Rex Ogle*

This biography tells the story of a middle school student who wore secondhand clothes, didn't have the necessary school supplies, and was a recipient of his school's free lunch program. Rex lived with the shame of hunger, especially for that of his parents' love and care. | ALA | Lexile: HL540L

Orphan Train: Taking the Rails to a New Life by *Rebecca Langston-George*

Readers will be taken through the account of seven children and their lives and experience on an orphan train. NCSS | Lexile: 850L

Limitless: 24 Remarkable American Women of Vision, Grit, and Guts by *Leah Tinari*

Readers will learn about a list of female trailblazers who

Book Series

Dale & Mo Mysteries by Sheila Turnage
Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney
Enchanted Forest Chronicles by Patricia Wrede
John Bellairs Mysteries by John Bellairs
Percy Jackson & the Olympians by Rick Riordan
Redwall by Brian Jacques
Shadow Children by Margaret Peterson Haddix

The Baby-Sitters Club by Raina Telgemeier
The Chronicles of Prydain by Lloyd Alexander
The Dark is Rising by Susan Copper
The Moffats by Eleanor Estes
The Unicorn Chronicles by Bruce Coville
Track Series by Jason Reynolds

Nutmeg Award Nominees

Find the Nutmeg lists at <https://www.nutmegaward.org/>.



Classics and Popular Titles

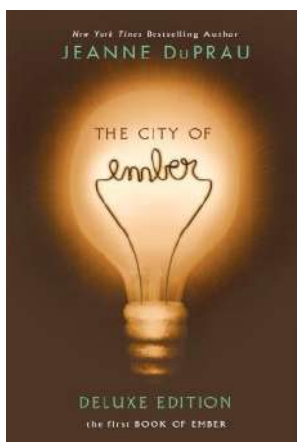
The Secret Garden

by *Frances Hodgson Burnett*

A ten-year-old orphan comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors where she discovers the mysteries of a locked walled garden. | Lexile: 970L

The City of Ember by *Jeanne DuPrau*

In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to and becomes a messenger, running to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions. ALA | Lexile: 680L



lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics. | Lexile: 920L

Bridge to Terabithia

by *Katherine Paterson*

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm. | Lexile: 810L

Tom's Midnight Garden

by *Philippa Pearce*

While staying with his aunt and uncle, Tom discovers a beautiful garden that is visible only at night where he meets a little girl from the Victorian era with whom he travels back in time. | Lexile: 860L

The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm

by *Nancy Farmer*

In the year 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine, while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them. | ALA | Lexile: 660L

Harriet the Spy by *Louise Fitzhugh*

Eleven-year-old Harriet, who is a spy and plans to be an author, keeps a secret notebook filled with thoughts and notes on her schoolmates and people she observes on her afterschool spy route. When some of her classmates read the notebook, they seek revenge. | Lexile: 760L

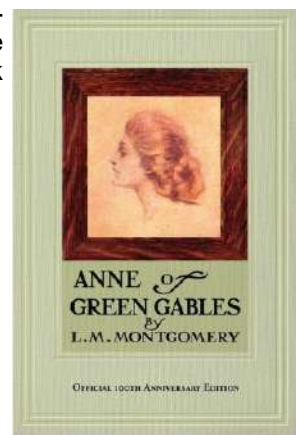
Number the Stars by *Lois Lowry*

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friends from the Nazis. ALA | Lexile: 670L

Anne of Green Gables

by *L. M. Montgomery*

Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her. Lexile: 550L



Esperanza Rising

by *Pam Muñoz Ryan*

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California. They must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers during the Great Depression. | ALA | Lexile: 750L

One Crazy Summer

by *Rita Williams-Garcia*

In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn, New York to Oakland, California to spend time with their mother, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome. Their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, would rather send the girls to a nearby Black Panther summer camp. | ALA | Lexile: 750L

A Single Shard by *Linda Sue Park*

Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea,



Grades 7-8 IMAGINE YOUR STORY

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Imagine Your Story

The Goose Girl by Shannon Hale

Ani, skilled in animal speech, feels more comfortable around animals than she does around people. When she's sent to marry a man she's never met, Ani knows she's in trouble. Now Ani must hide in plain sight while she works to discover her true power. | Josette Frank Award, Bank Street Award | Lexile: 870L

Seraphina by Rachel Hartman

When Seraphina looks around, it appears that humans and dragons can work in peace side by side, but she knows the truth. Below the surface there is tension and hostility. Seraphina will do whatever she must to hide her secret; she's half human, half dragon. | Morris Debut Award | Lexile: 760L

Far Far Away by Tom McNeal

Jeremy Johnson Johnson hears the voice of Jacob Grimm. Jacob does his best to watch over Jeremy, but then, Jeremy's friend Ginger appears to be bewitched. Nutmeg, ALA Notable | Lexile: 790L

Beasts Made of Night by Tochi Onyebuchi

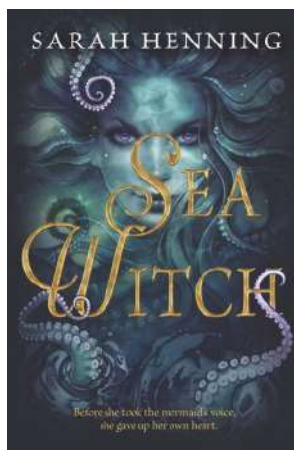
Taj is a sin-eater. He absorbs sin-beasts that spawn from feelings of guilt. When Taj eats a sin, he's left with not only a physical reminder, but a mental one as well. When Taj is called to eat the sin-beast of a member of the royal family, he discovers a dark conspiracy. | CSLP | Lexile: HL750L

The Grimm Legacy by Polly Shulman

Elizabeth's new job is at a strange and unusual library. Instead of books, the library houses magical objects from Brother's Grimm fairy tales. Nutmeg | Lexile: HL600L

The Epic Crush of Genie Lo by F. C. Yee

When Genie Lo's hometown is attacked by Hellspawn from Chinese folklore, SAT prep takes a backseat. The fate of the Bay Area now rests in her hands and she must tap into the secret of a power she never knew she possessed. | Lexile: 720L



Mechanica by Betsy Cornwell

A mechanic finds, and falls in love with her prince, and they both live happily ever after. But what is she to do when she realizes she doesn't want a traditional happily ever after? Amelia Bloomer Award | Lexile: 920L

Sea Witch by Sarah Henning

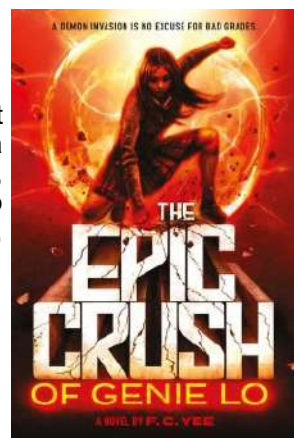
Alone and guilty in her small fishing town, Evie has been mourning the death of her best friend Anna. When a girl who looks a lot like Anna appears on the shore, Evie will do whatever she can to keep her new friend on two legs. | Lexile: 790L

A Curse So Dark and Lonely by Brigid Kemmerer

Prince Rhen is cursed to repeat his eighteenth autumn over and over again waiting for a girl who can save him only by falling in love with him. | Lexile: HL580L

Heartless by Marissa Meyer

All Catherine wants to do is open a bakeshop with her best friend, but Cath's mother wants her to marry the King of Hearts. When Cath meets a mysterious Jester, she feels love for the first time, but doesn't get a happily ever after. Instead, she becomes the terror of Wonderland. | Lexile: 780L



Frogkisser! by Garth Nix

Princess Anya is not only forced to live with her evil stepfather, but she has this unfortunate ability to break curses with the proper kiss. Anya sets off on a quest with a unique band of travelers to understand her abilities. ALA, ILA | Lexile: 840L

Sherwood by Meagan Spooner

Robin of Locksley is dead, but the people of Locksley still need a protector. Marian never intended to step into Robin's shoes, but it's time for her to become her own hero.



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Fiction

Hurricane Child by Kheryn Callender

Caroline's life is full of bad luck. She's bullied, sees things, and her mother left one day and didn't return. However, Caroline's luck begins to change when a new student named Kalinda arrives. | ALA Lexile: 1010L

The Not So Boring Letters of Private Nobody by Matthew Landis

When top student Oliver is assigned to work with slacker girl Ella, he thinks he's doomed to fail his assignment on a random soldier, Private Raymond Stone from the Civil War. Ella is different from what he expected, and so is Private Stone. There's a mystery buried in Private Stone's past. | ILA Lexile: HL580L

Batman: Nightwalker by Marie Lu

After a run-in with police, Bruce Wayne is forced to do community service at Arkham Asylum where he meets a brilliant girl, Madeline, and must play her game of intrigue and deception to locate the Nightwalkers who still roam free terrorizing Gotham City. Lexile: 800L

Resistance by Jennifer A. Nielsen

Chaya Lindner is Jewish in Nazi-occupied Poland, and hiding in plain sight. Determined to make a Difference, she smuggles food, papers, and people while working as a courier. When Chaya receives chilling news, she embarks on her largest mission yet. | Lexile: 820L

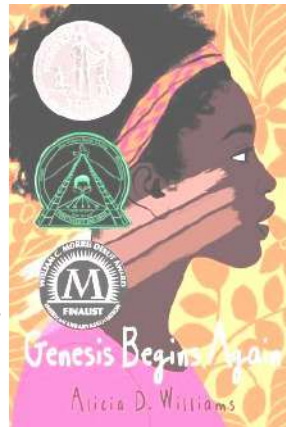
Apple in the Middle by Dawn Quigley

Apple Starkington turned her back on her Native heritage the instant she was called an ethnic slur. When her white father turns his back on her, Apple agrees to visit the home of her deceased, Native mother. As Apple makes an array of mistakes throughout the summer of her visit, she learns about her heritage and herself. | AILA | Lexile: 760L

Genesis Begins Again

by Alicia Williams

Genesis must overcome internalized racism that stems from hearing verbally abusive comments from people, even her own family, about her dark brown skin. She is so blinded by her insecurities that despite encouragement from her choir teacher and new friends, she can't imagine joining the talent show and performing in front of so many people. ALA, The Kirkus Prize Lexile: 670L



Graphic Novels

Wonder Woman: Warbringer

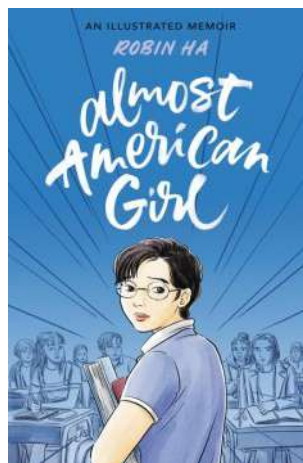
by Leigh Bardugo

Wanting only to prove herself to her warrior sisters, Diana may have ruined her chances when she breaks Amazon law to save a mortal. Lexile: 750L

Almost American Girl

by Robin Ha

When what should have been a vacation for Robin and her mom turns into a permanent relocation from Seoul, Korea to Alabama, Robin struggles to learn the language and keep up. Lexile: 925L-1185L



Cheshire Crossing by Andy Weir

After returning from Wonderland, Neverland, and Oz, our three heroines, who meet at a boarding school for girls, must learn to harness their magical powers that can take them from universe to universe. | Lexile: 1095L-1410L

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Nonfiction

#NotYourPrincess by Lisa Charleyboy

Readers of this gripping novel will encounter a collection of poems, essays, interviews, and more by women from Native American communities that share their experiences of humiliation, stereotyping, and strength. | ALA | Lexile: 910L

The Great Nijinsky: God of Dance

by Lynn Curlee

Dancer Vastav Nijinsky took the dance world by storm while remaining unencumbered by gender norms before beginning to battle mental illness. ALA | Lexile: 1095L-1295L

Bravo! Poems About Amazing Hispanics by Margarita Engle

The astounding people featured in this book hail from different countries and backgrounds, and these poems celebrate all of their accomplishments. | Lexile: NC1150L

Hey, Kiddo by Jarrett Krosoczka

Jarrett chronicles his life with a mom who's an addict, and a father who's name he doesn't know. Jarrett goes through life expressing his thoughts and feeling through art. | ALA Notable | Lexile: HL510L

Very, Very, Very Dreadful: The Influenza Pandemic of 1918

by Albert Marrin

In 1918 during World War I, a highly contagious and deadly pandemic tore through the world. NSTA, NCSS | Lexile: 1040L

The Book of Blood: From Legends and Leeches to Vampires and Veins

by H. P. Newquist

Take a deep dive into the world of blood. Learn of vampires, plagues, ancient history, and modern science. | NSTA | Lexile: 850L-1155L

It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime; Stories from a South African Childhood; Young Readers Edition

by Trevor Noah

Noah discusses growing up as a mixed-race child in South Africa during a time when his existence was illegal. His memoir mixes drama, comedy, and tragedy to explain the day-to-day challenges he surmounted, creating a promising future for himself. | Lexile: 780L

For Every One by Jason Reynolds

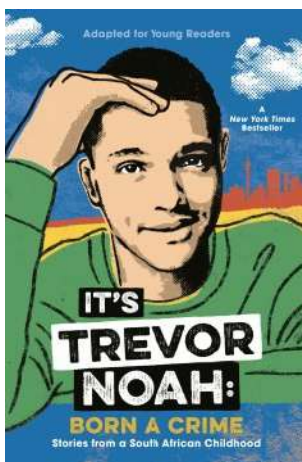
Reynolds presents us with a book of letters, poems, and dreams for everyone. While some of Reynold's dreams have been realized, others are still on the horizon. | NCSS | Lexile: 980L

Girl Rising: Changing the World One Girl at a Time by Tanya Lee Stone

Inspired by the documentary, Girl Rising, this book profiles nine girls and the barriers to their education. Lexile: 1050L

Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek by Maya Van Wagenen

Van Wagenen recounts the eighth grade when she followed a 1950s popularity guide. | ALA | Lexile: 730L



Book Series

An Ember in the Ashes by Sabaa Tahir

Divergent by Veronica Roth

Insignia by S.J. Kincaid

Legend by Marie Lu

Ranger's Apprentice by John Flanagan

Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard

Shiver by Maggie Stiefvater

The Lunar Chronicles by Marissa Meyer

The Princess Diaries by Meg Cabot

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

Nutmeg Award Nominees

Find the Nutmeg lists at <https://www.nutmegaward.org/>.



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Classics and Popular Titles

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

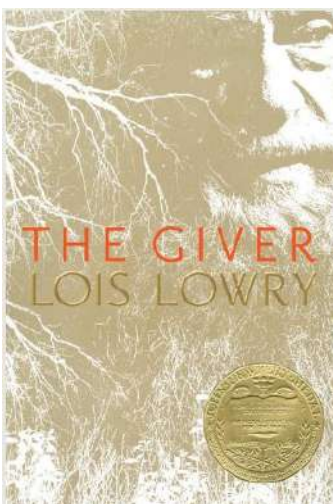
After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the Canadian wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given to him by his mother, while learning to survive his parents' divorce. Lexile: 1020L

The River Between Us by Richard Peck

During the early days of the Civil War, two mysterious young ladies who have fled New Orleans to St. Louis by steamboat, are taken in by the Pruitt family during a lengthy stopover in Illinois. | Lexile: 740L

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever. | Lexile: 590L



Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind by Suzanne Fisher Staples

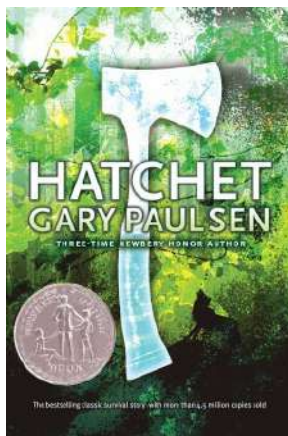
When young Shabanu, the daughter of a nomad in the Cholistan Desert of present-day Pakistan, is pledged in marriage to an older man whose money will bring prestige to the family, she must either accept the decision as is the custom, or risk the consequences of defying her father's wishes. | Lexile: 970L

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor

A black family living in the South during the 1930s is faced with prejudice and discrimination, which their children don't understand. Lexile: 920L

The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return. | Lexile: 1000L



Howl's Moving Castle by Diana Wynne Jones

In a land that is considered to be a misfortune, Sophie, the eldest of three sisters, is resigned to her fate as a hat shop apprentice until a witch turns her into an old woman and she finds herself in the castle of the greatly feared wizard Howl. | Lexile: 800L

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

This historical novel narrated by the male voice, Death, tells the story of Liesel, a young German girl coming of age in Nazi Germany during World War II, and her foster family. | Lexile: 730L