

Portsmouth Christian Academy Lower School

Recommended Summer Reading and Activities

Grades 3-4

Summer 2019



Great Books!

PCA's library recommends the following books for your child's summer reading enjoyment and to help them preserve their reading skills. You'll find something for every reading interest and level, so enjoy! Readers may also wish to consult the reading list for Grades K-2 and 5-8. Note: different books are appropriate for and appeal to different ages, reading levels, personalities and parents' preferences. As always, please use your discretion in helping your child choose what to read.

A WORD ABOUT LEXILE MEASURES

Lexile measures quantify the difficulty of a piece of text OR a student's reading ability level. Where available, they have been provided in the following list.

Note that an 'AD' Lexile code preceding the measure indicates "adult directed". Many picture books receive this code because they are typically read by adults to children, but can be complex in language and sentence structure. Therefore, independent readers can also enjoy these books and improve their reading skills at the same time. As with any book, adults can help their children to decipher long sentences and sound out unfamiliar words. The "GN" code means Graphic Novel.

2019

Burgis, Stephanie. *The Dragon With a Chocolate Heart*. Adventurine wants to explore the world but she is tricked into drinking enchanted hot chocolate and is transformed into a puny human girl.

Cameron, W. Bruce. *Max's Story: A Dog's Purpose Puppy Tale*. "I knew the girl was mine. The one I had been waiting for. But this girl, the right girl, somehow didn't hear me. My barks were not loud enough to reach her. I was not big enough to jump the fence and race to her. She walked steadily on with the three dogs on the leashes, and Gail reached down into the pen. "My goodness, Max, what is all the racket about?" she asked, lifting me up. "Careful, now! You'll make me drop you!" I wiggled and whined in her hands, frustrated and unhappy. She needed to let me down! I had to chase after that girl!"

Cameron, W. Bruce. *Shelby's Story: A Dog's Way Home Tale*. On her journey from rescue dog to movie star, the greatest gift Shelby receives is the love and affection from the people around her.

Cole, Henry. *Another Quest for Celeste: A Story about Abe Lincoln, Honesty, and the Power of Friendship*. Celeste is hundreds of miles from home following an unexpected journey aboard a Mississippi steamboat. After mishaps and disasters, she finds herself on the frontier in southern Indiana. It's 1822, and Celeste meets a tall, lanky boy wielding an ax: a young Abraham Lincoln.

Creech, Sharon. *Saving Winslow*. Through vignettes of sparse text, this story follows 10-year-old Louie as he takes on the challenge of saving a fragile, newborn mini-donkey that has been rejected by its mother.

Johnson, Terry Lynn. *Falcon Wild*. "Thirteen-year-old Karma lives with her family at their raptor conservation center in Montana. When she has to take her beloved bird, Stark, the gyrfalcon she rescued, back to its owner, she's sorely disappointed. But things get worse when a car accident leaves her father and brother trapped. It's up to Karma--and a runaway boy named Cooper who ends up by her side--to survive the wilderness and find a way to rescue them".

Kendall, Jodi. *Dog Days in the City*. Josie Shilling's family is too big, their cramped city house is too small, and she feels like no one's ever on her side. She volunteers at the local animal clinic to help her feel like herself but when a box full of puppies is dropped off, Josie is tasked with finding homes for them.

Kensky, Jessica. *Rescue & Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship*. When he is paired with a girl who has lost her legs, Rescue worries that he isn't up to the task of being her service dog.

Klimo, Kate. *Stubby*. Stubby the war dog narrates the story of his life, from his birth on the streets of New Haven, Connecticut, through his time spent in Europe with the American Expeditionary Force, to his eventual hero's welcome back in the U.S."

Kuhlmann, Torben. Edison: *The Mystery of the Missing Mouse Treasure*. Naturalistic illustrations enhance this story of an intrepid mouse, who builds a submersible and makes a surprising deep-sea discovery. (Batchelder Honor Book).

Leonard, Dion. *Finding Gobi: The True Story of One Little Dog's Big Journey*. This is the incredible true story of Dion Leonard, an athlete who was befriended by a stray dog while running an ultramarathon through the Gobi Desert. Named for the desert in which he found her, Gobi became Dion's closest companion throughout the 80-mile race across China. The scrappy little pup ran mile after mile alongside Dion, through treacherous conditions and across raging rivers. He let her sleep in his tent and share his food, and eventually, his focus shifted from winning to the newfound friendship he and Gobi shared. They crossed the finish line together--not first, but together--and Dion decided to bring Gobi home to Scotland. Just before they were about to leave, however, Gobi disappeared, setting off a worldwide search for the stray. In a town of more than 3 million people, the search seemed hopeless, but this tale of friendship will surprise and delight you as you find out what happens! Join the almost too-good-to-be-true story of hope, friendship, and beating incredible odds.

Miles, Ellen. Cuddles. *Lizzie Meets Cuddles*. A lonely pup, who is alone all day and could use some extra attention.

Moss, Marissa. *The Eye that Never Sleeps: How Detective Pinkerton Saved President Lincoln*. Modern illustrations and lively text combine to relate the early history of the Pinkerton Detective Agency and how they thwarted an attempt to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln.

Newman, Robert. *The Boy Who Could Fly*. Mark grows concerned for his younger brother Joey in their new school, as he fears people will discover Joey is no ordinary genius but has acute powers of extrasensory perception and even the ability to fly if he so desires.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg. *Short*. "Very short for her age, Julia grows into her sense of self while playing a munchkin in a summer regional theater production of The Wizard of Oz"-

Books

Abbott, Tony. *The Hidden Stairs and the Magic Carpet*. (*The Secrets of Droon* series). 380L A hidden door. A magical staircase. Eric, Julie, and Neal have just found -- a staircase to another world -- in Eric's basement! The world of Droon is amazing - full of magic, flying lizards, and fun, furry creatures. But how will Eric, Julie, and Neal find their way home?

Applegate, Katherine. *The One and Only Ivan*. 570L 2013 Newbery winner. Heartbreaking and heartwarming, this tale of Ivan the Shopping Mall Gorilla is based on a true story. Don't miss it!

Arenstam, Peter. *Nicholas* series. (*A New Hampshire Tale, A Maine Tale, A Vermont Tale, A Massachusetts Tale*.) Enjoy the journeys of Nicholas the Mouse and learn about the New England States in the process.

Atwater, Richard and Florence. *Mr. Popper's Penguins*. 910L Mr. Popper is worried. It's hard for him to make enough money to feed himself, Mrs. Popper, Bill and Janie Popper

– and 12 penguins! Read on to find out why 12 penguins are living with the Poppers, and how their talents make them stars of the stage!

Avi. *Poppy*. (*Poppy and Rye* series.) 670L Welcome to Dimwood Forest, where Ocax the Owl has promised to protect the mice living in an old farmhouse as long as they ask his permission before moving elsewhere. Poppy has always obeyed Ocax – until she sees something that changes her mind about him, and leads her on a quest and a confrontation.

Avi. *The Secret School*. Newbery Award winner. 540L Can you imagine becoming a teacher at age 14? That’s what happens to Ida Bidson when her teacher at her one-room schoolhouse has to leave due to a family illness.

Baker, E.D. *Princess Before Dawn*. 780L In Book 7 of *The Wide-Awake Princess* series, Annie, Liam and their friends are trying to stop hunters from over-running Treecrest!

Baker, E.D. *The Frog Princess Returns* (*Tales of the Frog Princess* series) Two weeks after Emma's birthday, Prince Eadric -- having been turned from a frog into a human again -- is still in Greater Greensward. One day, a beautiful princess named Adara arrives at the castle in Greater Greensward for a visit, claiming to be Emma's distant cousin. But Adara has other motives that threaten Emma and Eadric's blossoming romance. Meanwhile, crops are dying, streams are drying up, and large sections of trees in the enchanted forest are withering -- all because the Fairy Queen has disappeared. Without her, there is no peace in the magical kingdom, and dangerous foes threaten to take advantage of her absence. Only brave, tenacious Emma with her knowledge of the land can restore order . . . but first she must set out on a journey unlike any before. Enjoy all the books in the series!

Banks, Lynne Reid. *The Indian in the Cupboard*. (*Indian in the Cupboard* series.) 780L Friendship and responsibility are important themes in this classic children’s book, but there’s plenty of fast-paced excitement in this story of Omri, the boy whose plastic toy Indian turns into the real thing.

Bauer, Marion Dane. *Little Cat’s Luck*. Told as a narrative poem, this is the story of Patches the Calico Cat and her search for a ‘special place.’ Note: Parents may want to preview the scene in which Patches gives birth, to be prepared for any questions that might arise.

Beck. W.H. *Malcolm at Midnight*. 540L When Malcolm the rat arrives as the 5th-grade pet at McKenna School, everyone thinks he is a mouse because of his size. He meets the Midnight Academy, a secret society of classroom pets that keep students out of trouble. When Malcolm is unjustly accused of wrongdoing, he must clear his name and prove that even if he is a rat, he can be a ‘critter of valor and merit’.

Brown, Peter. *Wild Robot* L740 and *Wild Robot Escapes* L720. A survival story with a difference! Roz the robot opens her eyes to discover she is alone on a remote island, with no idea how she came to be there. She knows she must survive, and eventually realizes that to do so, she needs to adapt to the island environment, and to learn from the animals which inhabit the island. Can nature and technology co-exist?

Blume, Judy. *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*. 470L You'll laugh out loud at the antics of Fudge, his long-suffering older brother Peter, the rest of the Hatcher family and their neighbor Sheila Tubman in this book and the rest of the series: *Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great* 590L, *Superfudge* 560L, *Fudge-a-mania* 490L, and *Double Fudge* 450L.

Brink, Carol Ryrie. *Caddie Woodlawn*. 890L You'll love this true story about Caddie – as written by her granddaughter. Caddie Woodlawn, living in the Wisconsin woods in 1864, drives her Boston-bred mother crazy with her tomboy ways. But she's generous, brave, and no stranger to adventure!

Brockington, Drew. *Catstronauts: Mission Moon* (bk.1, Catstronauts series.) CatStro-nauts, you are needed! When the world is thrust into darkness due to a global energy shortage, the World's Best Scientist comes up with a bold plan to set up a solar power plant on the moon. But someone has to go up there to set it up, and that adventure falls to the CatStro-nauts, the best space cats on the planet! Meet the fearless commander Major Meowser, brave-but-hungry pilot Waffles, genius technician and inventor Blanket, and quick thinking science officer Pom Pom on their most important mission yet!

Buckley, Michael. *N.E.R.D.S.* series. It stands for National Espionage, Rescue and Defense Society! When international espionage meets 5th-grade awkwardness, the result is one hilarious and exciting series! A group of fifth grade 'outcasts' runs a spy network from their school, using the latest science and technology to transform their nerdiness into superpowers! And they're more than ready to take on an array of villains and their crazy diabolical plots!

Burnett, Frances Hodgson. *The Secret Garden*. 950L Did you see PCA's wonderful performance of this classic tale of love, loss, family and self-discovery? Spoiled Mary Lennox is orphaned when her parents fall victim to a cholera outbreak in India. As a result, Mary becomes the ward of an uncle in England whom she has never met. As she slowly creates a new life for herself at imposing and secluded Misselthwaite Manor, Mary befriends a high-spirited boy named Dickon and investigates a secret garden on the Manor grounds. She also discovers a sickly young cousin, Colin, who has been shut away in a hidden Manor room. Together Mary and Dickon help Colin to heal, and in the process Mary finds a new joy in living and melts the heart of her emotionally distant uncle.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson *A Little Princess*. 800L Sara Crewe is a child of wealth and privilege at her London boarding school, until tragedy strikes, and she is treated cruelly by the schoolmistress. Despite her trials, Sara still knows that "Whatever comes...cannot alter one thing. If I am a princess in rags and tatters, I can be a princess inside." This classic story illustrates the Biblical principal that true worth is a matter of the heart.

Busby, Cylin. *The Nine Lives of Jacob Tibbs*. It's 1837, and Captain Natick doesn't want an orphaned kitten on board his ship, but his daughter talks him into it. So begins Jacob Tibbs' adventures as a ship's cat! As he navigates the waves, he will also navigate storms, a mutiny, abandonment on a desert island – but also some equally tricky situations involving the crew.

Byars, Betsy, et al. *Dog Diaries: Secret Writings of the WOOF Society*. 610L These short, simple, funny stories show life through a dog's eyes. Some are set in ancient times and some explain why dogs act the way they do! And for cat fans: *Cat Diaries: Secret Writings of the MEOW Society*.

Cheney, Lynne. *An Alphabet of Amazing American Women*. AD1030L A panoply of talented women from every walk of life...as author Lynne Cheney writes, "America's amazing women have much to teach our children – and much inspiration to offer us, as well."

Chin, Jason. *Grand Canyon*. 1000L. 2018 Caldecott Honor Book. Rivers wind through earth, cutting down and eroding the soil for millions of years, creating a cavity in the ground 277 miles long, 18 miles wide, and more than a mile deep known as the Grand Canyon. Home to an astonishing variety of plants and animals that have lived and evolved within its walls for millennia, the Grand Canyon is much more than just a hole in the ground. Follow a father and daughter as they make their way through the cavernous wonder, discovering life both present and past.

Christopher, Matt. *The Dog That Stole Home* 590L, *The Dog That Pitched a No-Hitter* 570L, *The Dog That Stole Football Plays* and many other fast-paced, action-oriented sports novels that cover hockey, baseball, soccer, basketball, football, track and dirt-bike racing.

Cleary, Beverly. *Dear Mr. Henshaw*. 910L Back in second grade, Leigh wrote to an author he liked. Four years later, he is still writing to Mr. Henshaw (in one form or another) about the loss of his dog, the hassles of being the new kid, about his parents' divorce, and other troubles.

Clements, Andrew. *No Talking*. 820L Are you an Unshushable too? The boys and girls of an especially talkative 5th grade class challenge each other to a no-talking contest for 48 hours! Other than giving three-word answers to questions from adults, silence is the name of the game! Who wins? Enjoy Andrew Clements' many other great books about the ups and downs and craziness of school life: *Landry News*, *School Story*, *The Report Card*, *Lunch Money*, and *Extra Credit*.

Clements, Andrew. *Trouble-Maker*. 730L Clay is a mischief-maker, but tries to mend his ways when his brother Mitchell gets into some serious trouble.

Clinton, Chelsea. *She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World*. This book is a compilation of 13 short inspirational profiles of American women who persisted despite obstacles. It includes famous figures as well as relatively unsung women. You'll read about women of various races from different eras and a wide span of professions, as well as one woman with a disability. The book encourages girls to "remember these women. They persisted and so should you."

Colfer, Chris. *Worlds Collide. The Land of Stories*, Bk.6 (11 July 2017) In the conclusion to the Land of Stories series, Conner and Alex must brave the impossible. All of the Land of Stories fairy tale characters--heroes and villains--are no longer confined within their world! With mayhem brewing in New York City, Conner and Alex will have to win their

biggest battle yet. Can the twins restore order between the human and fairy tale world? Enjoy *The Land of Stories* series, beginning with *The Wishing Spell*.

Collins, Suzanne. *Gregor the Overlander*. (#1 in *Gregor the Overlander* series) 630L Since his father's disappearance from their New York City home, 11-year-old Gregor has been taking care of his little sisters, especially two-year-old Boots. When Boots tumbles down an air chute in their apartment building, Gregor goes after her. The two are taken by giant cockroaches to the Underland Queen, who tells Gregor of a strange prophecy. In the company of bats, cockroaches, spinners (giant spiders), a rat, and two of the royal Underlanders, Gregor goes on a quest to find his father, and also save the Underlanders' kingdom.

Cronin, Doreen. *The Trouble with Chickens*. (*A J.J. Tully Mystery* series.) 570L J.J. Tully, a former search-and-rescue dog, is just trying to enjoy his retirement after years of rescue missions, when two chicks and their chicken mom show up wanting his help to find their missing siblings. Driven by the promise of a cheeseburger, J.J. begins to track down clues. Are there dark forces at work—or is J.J. not smelling the evidence that's right in front of him?

Dahl, Roald. *The BFG*. 720L The giant who snatched Sophie out of her bed in the middle of the night was the one and only Big Friendly Giant in Giant Country. But how will Sophie and the BFG rid the world of the man-eating giants? Also – why not enjoy Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory!* 810L

Dalgliesh, Alice. *The Courage of Sarah Noble*. 610L A true story about Sarah Noble, a brave 8-year-old pioneer child, who must leave her mother and siblings to accompany her father to the wilds of Connecticut while he builds a house for their family. Is Sarah brave enough to face the dangers of life in the wilderness?

Davies, Jacqueline. *The Lemonade War*. 670L Evan and his sister Jessie get along pretty well. Jessie is smarter than Evan in school, but doesn't have as many friends as Evan does. Their relationship is challenged when they find out Jessie will be skipping a grade and will actually be in Evan's class! Their new rivalry erupts into the Lemonade War, as they compete to see who can make the most money in the last week before school. It's funny, but also includes real-world problems related to math and marketing, and touches on 'getting along' issues, hurt pride, and knowing right from wrong. You might also enjoy *The Lemonade Crime* 670L, *The Bell Bandit* 730L, *The Magic Trap* 680L and *The Candy Smash* 730L.

DiCamillo, Kate. *Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventure*. 520L The 2014 Newbery Award winner! Flora, who is obsessed with superhero comics, finds her own superhero when she rescues a squirrel that, after a near-fatal brush with a vacuum cleaner, develops the ability to fly and type poetry. You'll enjoy their adventures and also seeing the world from the point of view of Ulysses the supersquirrel!

DiCamillo, Kate. *The Magician's Elephant*. 730L Marvel at the story of Peter Augustus Duchene, a ten-year-old orphan trying desperately to find his sister. Peter learns from a fortuneteller that an elephant will lead him to her. When a magician's trick mistakenly conjures up an elephant...the impossible seems possible.

DiCamillo, Kate. *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. 700L Edward Tulane is a vain, cold-hearted china rabbit, whose loving owner is 10-year-old Abilene Tulane. Edward's journey toward understanding the power of love begins when he falls overboard, sinks to the bottom of the sea, and then begins a series of encounters and experiences that eventually teach him what it is to love.

DiCamillo, Kate. *The Tale of Despereaux: being the story of a mouse, a princess, some soup, and a spool of thread*. 670L Cheer on the adventures of tiny Despereaux Tilling, the unlikely mouse hero of Kate DiCamillo's charming tale!

DiCamillo, Kate. *Because of Winn-Dixie*. 610L The stray dog found in a grocery store has an amazing ability to bring together a motley collection of lonely people.

Duncan, Lois. *Hotel for Dogs*. 730L Dog fans will enjoy this tale of a brother and sister who, out of their love for dogs, turn an abandoned house into a hotel for strays.

Estes, Eleanor. *The Hundred Dresses*. 870L In this much-loved story, Wanda Petronski, an immigrant girl in an American school, is teased for wearing the same old blue dress every day. When she tells her classmates that she has one hundred dresses at home, she sparks a game of teasing that eventually ends in a lesson for all.

Ferris, Jean. *Once Upon a Marigold*. 840L The commoner, Christian, is in love with Princess Marigold, but her mother wants to take over the kingdom. Follow their lighthearted adventures with *Twice Upon a Marigold* 800L.

Fitzgerald, John D. *The Great Brain* series. Funny, fast-paced semi-autobiographical entertainment, amusing situations, a look at life a century ago, and a subtle life lesson as Tom (The Great Brain) eventually learns that his intelligence can be used for something more than relieving his friends of their possessions.

Fitzhugh, Louise. *Harriet the Spy*. 760L Harriet is determined to become a famous author. In the meantime, she practices by following a regular spy routine each day and writing down everything she sees and hears in her secret notebook. Trouble follows when her classmates find her notebook and read it aloud!

Floca, Brian. *Locomotive*. 840L Winner of the 2014 Caldecott Medal, this book will appear to mid- elementary children and especially to train enthusiasts! A family's 1869 journey from Omaha to Sacramento via the newly completed Transcontinental Railroad is Floca's stunning vehicle for exploring all things locomotive - the crew, the machinery and the look, feel and experience of early railway travel.

Gaiman, Neil. *Fortunately, the Milk*. 680L Mom's away, and despite her advance warning, the family has no milk for cereal and tea, so Dad takes a trip to the store to get some. What adventures he faced while trying to make it back home! Time-traveling hot-air balloon ride with a stegosaurus, pirates, aliens, wumpires, and a volcano god! Have fun with this wacky tall tale!

George, Jean Craighead. *My Side of the Mountain* 810L, *On the Far Side of the Mountain* 760L, *Frightful's Mountain*. Longing for adventure, Sam Gribley runs away and spends a whole year living alone in the Catskill Mountains, learning to survive in his hollowed-out tree, making animal friends, living by his wits and ultimately realizing he needs human company, too. In the sequel, *On the Far Side of the Mountain*, Sam's sister is with him, but a conservation officer has taken his falcon, Frightful! The third book in the trilogy, *Frightful's Mountain* 640L, follows Frightful's efforts to depend on her own instincts in a world of many dangers.

George, Jean Craighead. *Julie of the Wolves* 860L, *Julie* 700L, *Julie and the Wolf Pack* 950L. Julie Edwards Miyax Kapugen, 13, runs away from home to avoid an arranged marriage, but becomes lost in Alaska's tundra country. To survive, she must win the trust of some real Alaskan survivors - a pack of wolves. The sequel, *Julie*, follows the Eskimo girl's effort to save her wolf pack, and her conflict between modern ways and traditional Eskimo culture. *Julie's Wolf Pack* continues the wolves' adventures – from their perspective.

George, Jessica Day. *Dragon Slippers*. 850L Orphaned after a fever epidemic, Creel befriends a dragon and unknowingly inherits an object that can either save or destroy her kingdom.

George, Jessica Day. *Tuesdays at the Castle*. 860L Tuesdays at Castle Glower are Princess Celie's favorite days. That's because on Tuesdays the castle adds a new room, a turret, or sometimes even an entire wing. No one ever knows what the castle will do next, and no one other than Celie, that is-takes the time to map out the new additions. But when King and Queen Glower are ambushed and their fate is unknown, it's up to Celie, with her secret knowledge of the castle's never-ending twists and turns, to protect their home and save their kingdom. Enjoy the rest of the series (Tuesday through Saturday) as well!

Gerstein, Mordichai. *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers*. AD480L The amazing and true tale of Philippe Petit's 1974 tightrope walk between the World Trade Center towers.

Grabowski, Chris. *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*. 720L Discover the absolute coolest library in the world! Kyle Keeley is the class clown and a huge fan of all games—board games, word games, and particularly video games. His hero, Luigi Lemoncello, the most notorious and creative gamemaker in the world, just so happens to be the genius behind the construction of the new town library. Lucky Kyle wins a coveted spot as one of twelve kids invited for an overnight sleepover in the library, hosted by Mr. Lemoncello and riddled with lots and lots of games. But when morning comes, the doors stay locked. Kyle and the other kids must solve every clue and figure out every secret puzzle to find the hidden escape route! Enjoy more Lemoncello adventures in *Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics* and *Mr. Lemoncello's Great Library Race*.

Griffiths, Andy. *The 13-Story Treehouse*, Bk.1. 560L Andy and Terry live in a treehouse. But it's not just any old treehouse, it's the most amazing treehouse in the world! This treehouse has thirteen stories (and growing...), a bowling alley, a see-through swimming pool, a secret underground laboratory, and a marshmallow machine that follows you

around and automatically shoots marshmallows into your mouth whenever you are hungry. Life would be perfect for Andy and Terry if it wasn't for the fact that they have to write their next book, which is almost impossible because there are just so many distractions, including thirteen flying cats, giant bananas, mermaids, a sea monsters pretending to be mermaids, enormous gorillas, and dangerous burp gas-bubblegum bubbles!

Gutman, Dan. *Genius Files* series. Follow twelve-year-old twins Coke and Pepsi McDonald in this great series that combines geography and fun.! In Book One, join them on a wild family vacation, featuring weird-but-true American tourist destinations. Coke and Pepsi dodge nefarious villains from the Pez museum in California all the way to the Infinity Room in Wisconsin. Black-and-white photographs and maps put young readers right into the action. If you like Dan Gutman, try his *Million Dollar* series!

Gutman, Dan. *The Kid Who Ran for President* 730L and *The Kid Who Became President*. Students should enjoy Gutman's improbable plots, but will also learn quite a bit about the electoral process.

Henry, Marguerite. *Misty of Chincoteague*. 750L This Newbery-winner and classic tells a story of the centuries-old band of wild ponies that live on Assateague Island off the coasts of Virginia and Maryland. Wildest of all is the mare Phantom. She has evaded all efforts to capture her-- until a brother and sister see her and are determined to own and tame her. Even when captured, Phantom remains a free spirit - but her gentle colt Misty has a different nature.

Henkes, Kevin. *The Year of Billy Miller*. 620L 2014 Newbery Honor Book. Henkes introduces second-grader Billy Miller in this funny look at friendship, sibling rivalry, and elementary school...a short, entertaining read for fans of Andrew Clements' books, the *Ramona* books, and Sara Pennypacker's *Clementine* series.

Herlong, M.H. *Buddy*. 670L Tyrone "Li'l T" is crazy about his dog buddy – and when he loses him during Hurricane Katrina, he is determined to find Buddy and help his friends and family rebuild they shattered lives.

Howe, Deborah and James. *Bunnacula: A Rabbit-Tale of Mystery*. 700L Before it's too late, Harold the dog and Chester the Cat must find out the truth about the newest pet in the Monroe family – a suspicious-looking bunny with unusual habits – and fangs! Enjoy the series!

Jennings, Patrick. *Guinea Dog*. 600L Meet the Guinea Pig that Thinks She's a Dog. She barks. She bites. She'll eat your homework.

Juster, Norton. *The Phantom Tollbooth*. 1000L Milo is so BORED until, suddenly, a tollbooth mysteriously appears in his bedroom. Milo finds his toy car, pays the toll, and drives through.... and that's just the beginning of a wild and crazy journey toward Dictionopolis, full of adventures and odd characters. Clever, crazy fun!

Kaye, M.M. *The Ordinary Princess*. 1090L A princess gets the gift of being ordinary – for her, the best gift of all.

Keller, Laurie. *Scrambled States of America*. AD510L A crazy fun story of mixed-up geography! It starts when Kansas announces to his neighbor Nebraska that "All day long we just sit here in the middle of the country. We never GO anywhere. We never DO anything, and we NEVER meet any NEW states!" Nebraska helps to organize a party for all the states. It's a blast, and leads to the idea that all the states should change places. Then the real craziness begins! The fun carries on with *Scrambled States of America Talent Show*.

Kessler, Liz. *Emily Windsnap series*. Adventure always follows Emily the half-mermaid and her friends Aaron and Shona, even when they travel to a tropical island for a no-adventure (Emily promises), fun vacation in the latest book, *Emily Windsnap and the Falls of Forgotten Island*. L550

King-Smith, Dick. *Babe the Gallant Pig*. 1040L Babe, Farmer Hoggett's new piglet, is 'adopted' by Fly, the farm sheepdog. Not surprisingly, Babe becomes interested in becoming a 'sheep-pig' himself! Maybe the idea isn't as crazy as everyone thinks...

Klise, Kate. *Regarding the Fountain: A Tale, in letters, of liars and leaks*. 830L Dry Creek Middle School's drinking fountain is leaking, so Principal Wally Russ writes Flowing Waters Fountains, Etc. to ask for a catalog. President Flo Waters writes back to say she'd be delighted, "...but please understand that all my fountains are custom-made." The fountain project gets bigger...more complicated...the whole school and town are involved – and a scandal is brewing! What kind of secret is buried deep beneath the fountain? Mr. Sam N.'s fifth-grade class is on the trail! Read this funny, punny mystery told in a series of letters, postcards, news articles, and memos– and find out what's fishy in Dry Creek! Enjoy more pun fun with other titles in this series.

Korman, Gordon. *Framed*. 730L First there was *Swindle 710L*, then *Zoobreak 700L*, and now *Framed*, where Griffin Bing's reputation has followed him – and also his unfortunate habit of landing in trouble! A valuable Super Bowl ring has been stolen from his school. Griffin didn't steal it – but all the evidence points his way!

Lawson, Robert. *Ben and Me: An Astonishing Life of Benjamin Franklin by His Good Mouse Amos*. 1010L Did you know the great inventor Benjamin Franklin got his best ideas from a mouse named Amos? Read this funny, wise tale (tail?) and you'll get a whole new view of Ben Franklin and American history.

Leedy, Loreen. *Mapping Penny's World*. AD640L Lisa is learning about maps and their parts (like the key and symbols, labels, and scale.) She decides to make a map of her dog Penny's favorite places: her room, her yard, the neighborhood and the park. As Lisa makes her maps, she explains what she is doing and includes a 3-D map and many drawings.

Levine, Gail. *Ella Enchanted*. 640L At birth, a well-meaning fairy gave Ella of Frell the gift of obedience. However, it's more like a curse, for she must obey even the simplest request, whether it's to skip around the room or jump off a cliff. How can anyone live with that? Ella resolves to break the curse no matter what, and while on her quest, she deals with a whole host of characters, including princes, ogres, giants, wicked stepsisters,

and fairy godmothers. If you enjoy this story, try the humorous retellings of classic fairy tales in *Princess Tales Vols. I and II*.

Lewis, C.S. *Chronicles of Narnia* series. If you haven't read them all – do yourself a favor and take a trip to Narnia this summer!

Lin, Grace. *Where The Mountain Meets the Moon*. 810L Newbery Honor book. Minli lives in a simple hut with her parents, who are poor. In the evenings, her father tells old Chinese folktales of the Jade Dragon and the Old Man on the Moon, who knows all the answers to life's questions. Minli sets off on a journey to find the Old Man on the Moon to ask him how she can change her family's fortune. She encounters an amazing cast of characters and creatures along the way, including a dragon that can't fly!

Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*. 670L Based on a true story of bravery during World War II! At great danger to themselves, ten-year-old Annemarie Johanssen's family hides her best friend, Ellen Rosen, from the Nazis, and then smuggles Ellen's family, who are Jews, out of Denmark to safety in Sweden. The characters are fictional but the event is real: in 1943, the Danish resistance discovered that Jews were to be arrested and then sent to the death camps. In an incredibly brave act of defiance, the Danes managed to transport 7,000 Jews to Sweden. Enjoy this heart-thumping and heartening story of courage and friendship!

MacLachlan, Patricia. *Sarah, Plain and Tall*. 560L Anna tells the story of how Sarah from Maine comes to live with her, her brother and her widowed father – and a family is born.

Martin, Ann and Godwin, Laura. *The Doll People*. 570L A family of porcelain dolls that have lived in the same house for one hundred years doesn't know what to make of the new family of plastic dolls that have moved in. Worse still, they don't follow the Doll Code of Honor! If you like this book, you might like to read its sequels.

Martin, Ann. *A Dog's Life: Autobiography of a Stray*. 870L This story chronicles the difficult life and struggles of a stray dog, as seen from the point of view of Squirrel the stray. *Warning: this may be a difficult read for very sensitive children.*

Martin, Ann. *Main Street* series. A popular series from the author of *The Doll People*. In Book One, *Welcome to Camden Falls*, you'll meet recently-orphaned sisters Flora and Ruby, who have come to live in Camden Falls, MA, with their grandmother, Min. It's a sad time, but the girls make friends, meet the town's many unique residents, and encounter a number of modern-day issues and problems. *Note: this series touches on issues like Alzheimer's, Down Syndrome, domestic abuse and poverty, and is an opportunity for some great discussions of these topics.*

McCloskey, Robert. *Homer Price*. 1000L Enjoy these amusing takes of Homer and his friends and relatives in mid-Western America!

McGovern, Ann. *The Secret Soldier: The Story of Deborah Sampson*. L590 True story! Deborah Sampson's desire for adventure led her to do an amazing thing for a woman of her time – she disguised herself and served as a soldier in the Continental Army.

Melvin, Leland. *Chasing Space: Young Reader's Edition*. When the former Detroit Lion's football career was cut short by an injury, Leland Melvin did not waste time mourning his broken dream. Instead, he found a new one. He joined NASA, braved an injury that nearly left him permanently deaf, and still managed to muster the courage and resolve to travel to space on the shuttle Atlantis to help build the International Space Station. Melvin's problem-solving methods and can-do attitude turned his impossible-seeming dream into reality. Melvin leans on his supportive family and his Christian faith and looks to both as sources of inspiration. His story introduces readers to the fascinating creative and scientific challenges he had to deal with in space and will encourage the next generation of can-do scientists to dare to follow their dreams. Contains do-it-yourself experiments in the back of the book.

Messner, Kate, and Kelly McMorris. *Ranger in Time* series. For history fans, dog lovers and anyone who loves the Magic Tree House series too! Ranger is a golden retriever, trained as a search-and-rescue dog. In *Ranger on the Oregon Trail*, the first book in the series, Ranger unearths a buried first-aid kit which transports him back in time to Independence, Missouri, 1850. Ranger meets the Abbott family, who are travelling the difficult Oregon Trail. Ranger takes on the challenge of taking care of the Abbots and warning them of dangers along the trail. Enjoy the action, the historical details, and the illustrations, and check out the author's note at the end! You might also want to follow Ranger on his many adventures. Watch for #8, *Hurricane Katrina Rescue*.

L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time*. 1963 Newbery Award. Did you see the movie? Be sure to read the book, and this amazing story of adventures in space and time of Meg, her brother Charles Wallace, and their friend Calvin as they search for Meg's father, a scientist studying tesseracts.

Mlynowski, Sarah. *Fairest of All* (*Whatever After* series, Bk.1. 400L. There's "once upon a time" and "happily ever after," but what happens when the story "gets all tangled up" in the middle? That's the question in this fairy-tale-themed series. Ten-year-old Abby and her seven-year-old brother, Jonah, are living a normal life in a new town until they discover the mirror in the basement. When they knock on its surface three times, they're whizzed away to fairy-tale land and find themselves at the home of Snow (yes, White). Just as Evil Evelyn, her wicked stepmother, is about to hand over the infamous poison apple, Jonah intervenes. But if Snow doesn't eat the poison apple, then the prince can't save her, and that means Snow's love life is ruined!. There are lots of laughs and 'twists' here along plenty of girl power.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *The Grand Escape*. 810L Cat brothers Marco and Polo aren't allowed outdoors – so they leave their comfortable home in search of adventure – and find it, along with new cat characters – the charming Carlotta and "The Cat Supreme" himself - Texas Jake. Follow their adventures with the sequels: *The Healing of Texas Jake* 880L, *Carlotta's Kittens: And the Club of Mysteries*, and *Polo's Mother* 960L.

Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux. *Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshal*. 860L Great story of Bass Reeves, the first African-American deputy U.S. Marshal. This former slave, turned lawman, was a man to be respected and feared, using his wits, his courage and character and his skill as a marksman to bring more than 3000 criminals to justice in his career.

Norton, Mary. *The Borrowers* series. Ever wonder why you can never find a safety pin when you need one? Perhaps there are Borrowers like Pod, Homily and Arrietty Clock living under the floorboards of YOUR kitchen. Better read this book and find out more about these amazing little people and their relationship with “human beans.”

O’Brien, Robert C. *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*. 790L Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse with four small children, must move her family to their summer quarters immediately, or face almost certain death. But Timothy, her youngest, is very ill and must not be moved. Desperate, Mrs. Frisby meets the rats of NIMH, a breed of highly intelligent rats, who come up with the perfect plan. Read this extraordinary book and you’ll gain a new respect for rodents – and the power of love.

Oppel, Kenneth. *Silverwing: How One Small Bat Became a Noble Hero*. 660L When Shade the young bat is separated from his flock on their migration, he meets with adventure, suspense and a cast of remarkable character as he searches for a way to rejoin his family. Followed by *Sunwing* and *Firewing*.

Penner, Lucille Recht. *Liberty! How The Revolutionary War Began*. Each double-page spread covers one aspect of the American Revolution, breaking it into small, easy-to-understand sections. Illustrations help tell the story.

Peterson, John. *The Littles* series. Enjoy the adventures of the pint-sized family that always ends up in giant-sized trouble! If you like these 'little people' stories, check out *The Borrowers* by Mary Norton as well.

Phi, Bao. *A Different Pond*. 2018 Caldecott Honor Book This semi-autobiographical story focuses on a father/son fishing trip, as told from the boy's perspective. The two wake long before dawn to go fishing for food, not sport, and they must return home in time for the father to do to a long day’s work. During their special time together, the father talks about his past life fishing with his brother in a different pond in Vietnam, before the war and before emigrating to America. This is a special story about memories, family, and the every-day struggle of refugees.

Polacco, Patricia. *Thank You, Mr. Falker*. AD650L True story! Acclaimed author Patricia Polacco struggled through school, until the perception and assistance of a wise teacher changed her life forever.

Polacco, Patricia. *Pink and Say*. 600L This sad and serious story of the Civil War is a picture book, but for older readers. It is based on a true story from the author’s own family. Sheldon Curtis (Say), a 15-year-old white boy, is badly wounded in battle but is found and carried home by Pinkus Aylee, an African American Union soldier about Sheldon's age. An important story of the triumph of human love and friendship over war and hate.

Rawls, Wilson. *Where the Red Fern Grows*. For dog-lovers everywhere. Young Billy works for two whole years to earn the money to buy a pair of dogs for hunting raccoons. Eventually, Billy and his precious coonhound pups win the gold cup in the annual coon-

hunt contest, capture the “ghost coon,” and fight a mountain lion. Keep the tissues nearby and enjoy this beautiful story of the love between a boy and his dogs.

Riley, James. *Half Upon A Time*. 820L Jack is the son of none other than the Jack who stole the magic beans from the giant! The action begins when a "princess" lands in front of him, apparently from the land of Punk, or so it says on her t-shirt. May is from our world, and is just a bit confused to find herself in the midst of a bunch of fairy tale characters. But the two have much in common and are soon off on a hilarious and wild adventure in this first book in the Half Upon a Time series. Followed by *Twice Upon A Time* 800L and *Once Upon the End* 790L.

Rogers, Jonathan. *Bark of the Bog Owl (Wilderking Trilogy)*. Twelve-year-old Aidan Errolson comes from a long line of adventurers and warriors – yet he is only a shepherd who never has any real adventures. All that changes the day he first hears the prediction that he will one day be the Wilderking – the man who will come out of Corenwald's forests and swamps to lead the kingdom back to its former glory.

Sachar, Louis. *Wayside School* series. Starting with *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*, enjoy these crazy stories about the school that was supposed to be one story high, with 30 classrooms side by side, but instead, whoops, it was built with 30 one-classroom stories! What happens there is a bit strange too...so have fun with the kids at Wayside!

Santat, Dan. *The Adventures of Nanny Piggins*. 900L When Mr. Green plants a Nanny Wanted sign on his lawn, little does he know he will end up hiring a feisty, fabulous pig...and that his children are about to have a year of surprises, adventures and sugar highs they'll never forget!

Scieska, Jon. *The Time Warp Trio* series. Book One: *Knights of the Kitchen Table*. Zany, tongue-in-cheek fun for fans of time-travel stories (like *Magic Tree House*) and for reluctant readers. Enjoy, for example, *Summer Reading is Killing Me!*

Selznick, David. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. 820L The book is as good as or better than the movie! This fantastic story, told as much through the artwork as it is through words, is set in the early 1900s. Young Hugo Cabret tends the clocks in the Paris train station where he lives. Hugo has a dream. He owns a machine, damaged in a fire, that was once his dead father's. It is his goal to make the little machine work again. To fix the machine, Hugo has been stealing small toys from an old toyshop owner in the station. But one day the man catches Hugo in the act....

Selznick, David. *Wonderstruck*. 830L This amazing book is in part a tribute to the magic of museums and at the same time the story of two lonely children and their search for family. Ben longs for a father he has never known. Rose dreams of an actress whose life she chronicles in a scrapbook. Both children set out alone to find what they are missing. Ben's story, set in 1977, is told entirely with words, while Rose's story, set fifty years earlier, is told entirely with pictures...and of course, ultimately the two stories become one amazing whole.

Sepulveda, Luis. *The Story of the Seagull and the Cat Who Taught Her to Fly*. It's migration time and as a mother gull dives into the water to catch a herring she's caught in

an oil slick! Thinking of the egg she is about to lay she manages to extract herself and fly to the nearest port. Exhausted, she lands on a balcony where Zorba the cat is sunning himself. Zorba wants to get help, but the gull knows it's too late and she extracts three promises from him: 1) that he won't eat the egg, 2) that he'll care for the chick until it hatches, and 3) that he'll teach it to fly. Well the first two are hard enough, but the third one is surely impossible. Isn't it? Think of this as a feline *Horton Hatches The Egg!*

Siegel, Mark and Alexis. *The Sand Warrior: 5 Worlds, Bk.One. GN400L The Sand Warrior* is the first installment in the 5 Worlds sci-fi graphic novel series. The story follows three talented children on a quest to light five ancient beacons and save various planets from overheating. * NOTE Action and adventure includes one character losing a limb in a crash.

Smith, Dodie. *101 Dalmatians*. This is the original story – and it's way better than the Disney version!

So-Un, Kim. *Korean Children's Favorite Stories*. A readable collection of Korean folktales as handed down from generation to generation.

Soup, Dr. Cuthbert. *A Whole Nother Story*. When scientist-inventor Dr. Cheeseman builds a cool time machine, it seems that governments, super spies, and bad guys galore all want it! So the family is on the run, staying one step ahead of the bad guys thanks to their psychic and hairless dog, Pinky. It's quirky, exciting, fast-paced, and funny, and it's followed by *Another Whole Nother Story* and *A Whole Other Story*.

Speare, Elizabeth. *Sign of the Beaver*. 900L One of the best survival stories ever - as well as a great story about friendship overcoming prejudice. In the Maine wilderness, circa 1700, twelve-year-old Matt is bravely trying to survive on his own in his family's cabin until his father returns with the rest of the family. When Matt is badly stung while robbing honey from a beehive, he regains consciousness to find that he is being treated by an old Native American and his grandson. Matt spends every morning trying to teach Attean, and in the afternoons, Attean in turn teaches Matt about wilderness survival and about his tribe's customs and traditions. Mistrust turns to friendship. Will Matt decide to wait for his family or join Attean's clan and move on to new hunting grounds?

Steptoe, Javaka. *Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat*. 1050L. Jean-Michel Basquiat and his unique, collage-style paintings rocketed to fame in the 1980s as a cultural phenomenon unlike anything the art world had ever seen. But before that, he was a little boy who saw art everywhere: in poetry books and museums, in games and in the words that we speak, and in the pulsing energy of New York City. Steptoe's vivid text and bold artwork introduce young readers to the powerful message that art doesn't always have to be neat or clean--and definitely not inside the lines--to be beautiful.

Streatfeild, Noel. *Ballet Shoes*. 930L A scientist adopts three orphan girls, then heads off on expedition, leaving them with his niece and a servant. He disappears, and eventually the money he left begins to run out! The 'family' must take in boarders to make ends meet. One boarder helps by enrolling the girls in ballet school, as a way to help them

support themselves. This is the first of many wonderful 'shoe' stories, including *Theatre Shoes*, *Dancing Shoes 810L* and *Skating Shoes*.

Stewart, Trenton Lee. *The Mysterious Benedict Society 840L* and series (including the prequel, *The Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict*.) "Are you a gifted child looking for Special Opportunities?" What child could resist an ad like that? Four children answer the call, and become The Mysterious Benedict Society. After being trained by Mr. Benedict, the four travel to an isolated school where children are being trained by a criminal mastermind to help him take over the world. The MBS members need to use their special talents and abilities in order to discover Mr. Curtain's secrets, and their only chance to defeat him is through working together. Readers are part of it too, working with the Society members to solve clues and ferret out Mr. Curtain's plan.

Tarbescu, Edith. *Annuschka's Voyage*. Based on the true story of the author's mother, who made the long voyage from Russia to America. Because their mama is dead, Anya must take care of her sister on the long ship voyage from Russia to New York City. Before they leave their village, Grandma gives them each a family candlestick, which the girls use numerous times to find each other during the journey. When they get to Papa's apartment in New York City, they are finally able to light the candles for the Sabbath.

Tarshis, Lauren. *I Survived* series. This exciting historical fiction series puts boys and girls like you right in the middle of some of the most disastrous events in history, like the sinking of the Titanic, the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and in more recent history, Hurricane Katrina and the Joplin tornado disaster. Published in 2018: *I Survived the Children's Blizzard, 1888*.

Travers, P.L. *Mary Poppins* series. If you thought Mary Poppins was only a movie, then you'll be pleased to know it's one of a series of four great books about the English nanny who blows in on the east wind and takes the Banks children on many wonderful adventures.

White, E.B. *Charlotte's Web 680L*, *Stuart Little 920L*. *Trumpet of the Swan 750L*. Read or re-read all of E.B. White's wonderful stories and remember PCA's wonderful production of "Charlotte's Web" last fall!

Wilder, Laura Ingalls. *Little House on the Prairie 760L* and series. These true stories of pioneer adventure follow Laura's rich and exciting life and travels: from the 'Big Woods' of Wisconsin to homes in Kansas, Minnesota, and Dakota Territory, all the way through to her marriage to Almanzo and the birth of her own little girl! Want to read more about Laura? Read: *Laura Ingalls Wilder: A Biography 1000L* by William Anderson.

Who Is/Who Was/What Was series. From Alexander the Great and Galileo to Walt Disney, George Lucas, and Malala Yousafzai, these biographies cover major historical and modern day figures, written at an accessible level for younger readers. The *What Was* series likewise covers major events, such as D-Day and the Great Depression. Great reading for curious minds!

Yang, Gene Yuen. *Secret Coders*, Bk.1 GN380L Welcome to Stately Academy, a school crawling with mysteries to be solved! The founder of the school left many clues and

puzzles to challenge his enterprising students. Using their wits and their growing skill with coding, Hopper and her friend Eni are going to solve the mystery of Stately Academy no matter what it takes! Enjoy this entertaining new series that combines logic puzzles and basic programming instruction with a page-turning mystery plot!

More recommended series (various authors)

Royal Diaries series. (Fictional diaries of real royal characters from around the world, e.g. Eleanor of Aquitaine.)

American Girl multiple series, featuring likeable and realistic girls who represent many different cultures, eras and aspects of American history, including series featuring girls of this generation.

Dear America series. (Fictional but realistic diaries of girls living at various periods in America's history.)

My America series. (Fictional but realistic diaries of young people involved in exciting historical events and time periods.)

My Name is America series. (Fictional but realistic diaries of boys living at various periods in America's history.)

Warner, Gertrude Chandler. *Boxcar Children* series. Mystery seems to follow the Alden children wherever they go – sleuth along with them!

Fun things to do this summer

PCA's Eagle Camp for children offers fun themed activities all summer long! Visit <https://pcaschool.org/summer/> for details.

Free Fun Fridays: Through this program, some 50 venues, including the Boston Children's Museum, the Eric Carle Museum, the Springfield Museums, and the MIT Museum will open the doors to some of Massachusetts' best cultural institutions at no cost to visitors on designated Fridays. For more information and schedules, visit <http://www.highlandstreet.org/>

Prescott Park Arts Festival, Portsmouth <https://www.prescottpark.org/> presents "Seussical" running throughout the summer, in addition to many other concerts and activities for children and families. Read Dr. Seuss's classic story "Horton Hears a Who" and then go see the show!

Children's Museum of New Hampshire, Dover, New Hampshire – In addition to its regular activities and interactive exhibits, the museum offers many special events for all ages and interests. Call (603)742-2002 or visit the Museum website at <https://www.childrens-museum.org/> for details!

Seacoast Science Center, Odiorne Point State Park, Rye, NH offers excellent personal learning opportunities for families and students to learn about coastal environmental history and stewardship, and offers many special events and activities, including day camp opportunities for children. For more information, call 603-436-8043 or visit <https://www.seacoastsciencecenter.org/>

Great Bay Discovery Center, Greenland, NH is the conservation and education headquarters for the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The trail and boardwalk allows visitors to explore estuarine habitats including hardwood forests, freshwater wetlands, salt marsh and mudflats. Climb aboard a 19th century gundalow replica or wander through the native gardens surrounding the center. Watch for eagles, warblers, waterfowl, and osprey. Enjoy the interactive displays and touch tank inside the Discovery Center. Summer programs for children include “Summer BayVentures”, a summer environmental education program series for children entering grades 3-6 or “Summer BayVentures, Jr.” for children entering grades 1-4. Call (603)778-0015 or visit <https://www.greatbay.org/programs/education.htm>

Butternut Farm, Farmington, NH <http://www.butternutfarm.net/home>, (603) 335-4705. A family-oriented pick-your-own-fruit farm. Check the website to see what’s ripe for the picking! Also: Emery Farm, Durham, NH. <https://emeryfarm1.godaddysites.com/>, (603) 742-8495. These and many other fine local farms provide your children with an appreciation for God’s bounty, for the work of the farmer, and for an important part of New Hampshire’s heritage.

Strawbery Banke Museum, Portsmouth. Explore four centuries of life in Portsmouth’s oldest neighborhood. Strawbery Banke Museum offers many special events and kids’ activities, particularly at the Jones Discovery Center, as well as summer camps for all ages. Call the museum at (603) 433-1100 or visit <http://www.strawberyanke.org/>

Fort Foster, Kittery, ME is a pleasant beach, picnic and day recreation park which still shows the remnants of fortifications from the period from 1873 to 1948 when it was an active military site. Calm saltwater swimming, walking trails, and an excellent view of Whaleback Light and Portsmouth Harbor from the pier. Call Fort Foster gate house at (207) 439-2182. Entry fee \$10 per vehicle, pedestrians or bicyclists \$5 adults/\$1 under 12. Open daily 10AM-8PM.

Woodman Institute Museum. 182 Central Avenue, Dover. (603) 742-7680. Students’ understanding of New Hampshire and local history will definitely benefit from a visit to this amazing collection of New Hampshire birds, insects and animals, minerals, shells, and local history, Civil War artifacts, and just plain strange and wonderful stuff. While there, don’t miss a visit to the oldest garrison house in the state, survivor of the Cochecho Massacre. Open Wednesdays through Sundays, 10am-5pm.

Farther afield...

New Hampshire Farm Museum, Milton, NH. Explore three centuries of farm life in New Hampshire at this museum, which also offers many special events and day camps for children of all ages. For more information call (603)652-7840 or visit <https://newhampshirefarmmuseum.godaddysites.com/>

SEE Science Center. 200 Bedford Street, Manchester, NH. 03101. (603) 669-0400. <http://www.see-sciencecenter.org/home.aspx> Summer camps, family workshops, and two floors of hands-on science fun! Check out the Lego Millyard Project, built with over 3 million Lego bricks!

Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum, Warner, NH. <https://www.indianmuseum.org/> (603) 456-2600. Indoor and outdoor quests help families learn about and engage with Native American culture. Enjoy the museum’s galleries, exhibits and nature trail. You might also enjoy a family picnic and hike in nearby Rollins State Park! <https://www.outdoorsy.com/guide/rollins-state-park-nh>

McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, Concord, NH. <https://www.starhop.com/> 603.271.STAR (7827). The Center's many programs, events and interactive exhibits actively engage learners of all ages in the exploration of astronomy, aviation, Earth and space science. From the planetarium theater presentations to workshops, programs, special events, and summer camps, this is a must-visit for anyone with an appreciation for God's amazing universe! CHECK OUT their summer STEM day camps for students ages 5-14!

Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, Holderness, NH. <https://www.nhnature.org/>, (603) 968-7194. Through spectacular exhibits of live animals in natural settings, education programs, and lake cruises, Squam Lakes Natural Science Center has educated visitors for over forty years about our natural world. Open meadows, mature forests, and marsh boardwalks connect interactive exhibits where native animals reside: black bears, mountain lions, raptors, river otters, bobcats, and many more. In the Gordon Children's Activity Center, visitors young and old can climb a giant spider web, crawl through an underground tunnel, hear the sounds of nocturnal animals, invent their own plant or insect, climb through a two-story learning tree, and much more! Check out the center's Summer Guided Discoveries program for children ages 4-14.

Springfield Museums and Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden, Springfield, MA. <https://springfieldmuseums.org/> or call 1-413-263-6800. Visit Dr. Seuss' birthplace, the home of five world-class museums, including the Springfield Science Museum with its Lego Brick Lab, Dinosaur Hall, the Solutia Live Animal Center and much more.

Read...relax...enjoy a great summer!