

Summer 2008 Reading List S.C.A.P.A. Rising Fifth Graders

Students are required to read a total of three books during the summer. Within two weeks of returning to school, students will be required to take Accelerated Reader (A.R.) tests on all of the books. The books listed below can be found at the Lexington Public Library and at local or on-line book stores. S.C.A.P.A. Library will also be open Wednesday mornings June 18 through August 6 from 10:00 to 12:00.

1. **Anne of Green Gables** by L.M. Montgomery. One thing's for certain, no house that Anne's in will ever be dull." That's what Marilla Cuthbert says about Anne, the lively red-headed orphan she and her brother Matthew adopt. For decades, girls have agreed, eagerly reading every book in Lucy Maud Montgomery's series that chronicles Anne's coming of age. (May read any of the five books in this series (7.5-7.7 B.L.)
2. **The Bronze Bow** by Elizabeth George Speare. In this Newbery Medal-winning novel, Daniel bar Jamin is fired by only one passion: to avenge his father's death by crucifixion by driving the Roman legions from his land of Israel. He joins an outlaw band and leads a dangerous life of spying, plotting, and impatiently waiting to seek revenge. (5.9 B.L.)
3. **Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court** Satirical novel by Mark Twain published in 1889. It is the tale of a commonsensical Yankee who is carried back in time to Britain in the Dark Ages, and it celebrates homespun ingenuity and democratic values in contrast to the superstitious ineptitude of a feudal monarchy. (6.9 B.L.)
4. **The Dark is Rising** by Susan Cooper. On his eleventh birthday, Will Stanton discovers he is the last of the Old Ones, dedicated to fighting the forces of evil. Will searches for the six magical signs that will be needed for the battle between the Dark and the Light. (6.9 B.L.)
5. Dark Materials Trilogy by Philip Pullman. In **The Golden Compass** (7.1 B.L.), **The Subtle Knife** (6.2 B.L.), and **The Amber Spyglass** (6.7 B.L.), Dæmons and winged creatures live side by side with humans, and a mysterious entity called Dust just might have the power to unite the universes--if it isn't destroyed first. Join Lyra, Pantalaimon, Will, and the rest as they embark on the most breathtaking, heartbreaking adventure of their lives. The fate of the universe is in their hands.
6. **Dacey's Song** by Cynthia Voigt. Now that the four abandoned Tillerman children are settled in with their grandmother, Dacey finds that their new beginnings require love, trust, humor, and courage. This is the sequel to **Homecoming** and is the winner of the winner of the Newberry Award. (5.8 B.L.)
7. **Dragon Gate** by Lawrence Yep. This 1994 Newbery Honor Book, a prequel to **Dragonwings**, tells of 14-year-old Otter's 1865 emigration from China and subsequent travails in California. (7.1 B.L.)
8. **The Eye, the Ear, and the Arm** by Nancy Farmer. Even readers who don't like sci-fi will be drawn to a hero who has a sense of humor about his serious mission. In Zimbabwe in the year 2194, the military ruler's 13-year-old son and his younger brother and sister leave their technologically over controlled home and find themselves on a series of perilous adventures. (7.4 B.L.)
9. **A Girl Named Disaster** by Nancy Farmer. While fleeing from Mozambique to Zimbabwe to escape an unwanted marriage, Nhomo, an eleven-year-old Shona girl, struggles to escape drowning and starvation and in so doing comes close to the luminous world of the African spirits. (5.6 B.L.)
10. **Goose Girl** by Shannon Hale. On her way to marry a prince she's never met, Princess Anidori is betrayed by her guards and her lady-in-waiting and must become a goose girl to survive until she can reveal her true identity and reclaim the crown that is rightfully hers. (5.9 B.L.)
11. **Homesick: My Own Story** by Jean Fritz. Fritz's Newbery Honor-winning memoir of growing up during a turbulent time in China's history is "rich in the telling observations of sights, sounds and people," said Publishers Weekly. (5.9 B.L.)
12. **House of the Scorpion** by Nancy Farmer. *Booklist*, starred review this is a powerful, ultimately hopeful story that builds on today's sociopolitical, ethical, and scientific issues and prognosticates a compelling picture of what the future could bring. All of these serious issues are held together by a remarkable coming-of-age story. (5.6 B.L.)
13. **Incident at Hawks Hill** by Allan W. Eckert. A shy, lonely six-year-old wanders into the Canadian prairie and spends a summer under the protection of a badger. (7.5 B.L.)
14. **Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy** by Gary D. Schmidt. Turner, the rigid minister's son, doesn't fit in when his family moves from Boston to the small town of Phippsburg on the coast of Maine in 1912. It's not only that Maine baseball is different from the game he knows; he's just plain miserable. Then he makes friends with a smart, lively young teen, Lizzie Griffin, living in a small, impoverished community founded by former slaves on nearby Malaga Island. "A powerful tale of friendship and coming-of-age, adding a lyrical sense of the coastal landscape." *Booklist* (5.9 B.L.)

15. **A Mango Shaped Space** by Wendy Moss. Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the loss of something very important to her. (4.7 B.L.)
16. **Maniac Magee** by Jerry Spinelli. Winner of the Newbery Medal, this humorous yet poignant tall tale concerns a super-athletic teenager who bridges his town's racial gap. (6.1 B.L.)
17. **M.C. Higgins, the Great** by Virginia Hamilton. This rare book winner of the Newbery Medal tells of a young boy's fighting chance to save his family's home. (5.9 B.L.)
18. **Old Yeller** by Fred Gipson. At first, Travis couldn't stand the sight of Old Yeller. The stray dog was ugly, and a thieving rascal, too. But he sure was clever, and a smart dog could be a big help on the wild Texas frontier, especially with Papa away on a long cattle drive up to Abilene. Strong and courageous, Old Yeller proved that he could protect Travis's family from any sort of danger. But can Travis do the same for Old Yeller? (5.8 B.L.)
19. **Out of the Dust** by Karen Hesse. In a starred review of the 1998 Newbery Medal winner, set during the Depression, PW said, "This intimate novel, written in stanza form, poetically conveys the heat, dust and wind of Oklahoma. With each meticulously arranged entry Hesse paints a vivid picture of her heroine's emotions." (5.8 B.L.)
20. **Redwall** by Brian Jacques. When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy. (6.8 B.L.) You may read another book (5.2-6.7 B.L.) from this series if you have already read Redwall.
21. **Rifles for Waite** by Harold Keith. This is a rich and sweeping novel-rich in its panorama of history; in its details so clear that the reader never doubts for a moment that he is there; in its dozens of different people, each one fully realized and wholly recognizable. It is a story of a lesser -- known part of the Civil War, the Western campaign, a part different in its issues and its problems, and fought with a different savagery. Inexorably it moves to a dramatic climax, evoking a brilliant picture of a war and the men of both sides who fought in it. (7.3 B.L.)
22. **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** by Mildred Taylor. The story of one African American family fighting to stay together and strong in the face of brutal racist attacks, illness, poverty, and betrayal in the Deep South of the 1930s "Vivid--complex--powerful--convincing--The novel shows the rich inner rewards of black pride, love, and independence." (7.1 B.L.)
23. **Scorpions** by Walter Dean Meyers. Jamal, who is pressured to become leader of the Scorpions gang, worries about school, family, and the rough kids on the street. When a fellow gang member gives him a gun, Jamal suddenly gains a new level of respect from his enemies. A realistic look at a boy who wants to do the right thing but gets caught up in the culture of violence. A Newbery Honor selection. (5.0 B.L.)
24. **The Secret Garden** by Frances Hodgson Burnett. "Neglected Colin lives the life of a spoilt and incurable invalid until the arrival of an orphaned cousin, Mary. The two children secretly combine to restore his mother's locked garden and Colin to health and his father's affection." (7.5 B.L.)
25. **A Series of Unfortunate Events** by Lemony Snicket. From THE BAD BEGINNING to The End, Lemony Snicket has consistently suggested that we avoid the saga of the unbelievably unhappy and unfortunate lives of the Baudelaire children. His deliciously downbeat introduction is full of dire warnings that ensure that children, attracted to things they are warned against, will tune in. Read any one of the 13 books in this series. (6.2-7.1 B.L.)
26. **The Slave Dancer** by Paula Fox. Snatched from the docks of New Orleans, 13-year-old Jessie is thrown aboard a slave ship where he is sickened by the horrible practices of the slave business. But they are nothing compared to the one final horror that Jessie will witness. Can the cruelty be stopped before it's too late? (7.0 B.L.)
27. **Souder** by William H. Armstrong. This Newbery Award-winning novel quickly became a classic as a moving portrayal of resilience and hope in the face of profound human tragedy. Decades later, the bittersweet story still rings true, as strong-spirited individuals continue to battle the evil of prejudice. (6.9 B.L.)
28. **The Thief** by Megan Whalen Turner. After Gen's bragging lands him in the king's prison, the chances of escape look slim. Then the king's scholar, the magus, needs the thief's skill for a seemingly impossible task -- to steal a hidden treasure from another land. To the magus, Gen is just a tool. But Gen is a trickster and a survivor with a plan of his own. Newbury Honor winner (5.5 B.L.)
29. **The Westing Game** by Ellen Raskin. The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance. A super sharp mystery...Confoundingly clever, and very funny. (6.3 B.L.)
30. **Westmark** by Lloyd Alexander. A boy fleeing from criminal charges falls in with a charlatan, his dwarf attendant, and an urchin girl, travels with them about the kingdom of Westmark, and ultimately arrives at the palace where the king is grieving over the loss of his daughter. (5.6 B.L.)