

# Governor's Summer Reading Challenge Grades 3-4

## READ BEYOND THE BEATEN PATH



### Ivy + Bean Make the Rules

by Annie Barrows

Bean's older sister, Nancy, is going to Girl Power 4-Ever Camp, where she will do Crafts and Music and First Aid and other secret things that Bean will never know about because girls have to be eleven. Bean doesn't care. She doesn't want to go to camp. Wait a second! Bean and Ivy can make their own camp, their own better camp: Camp Flaming Arrow, where counselors Ivy and Bean will give a whole new meaning to Crafts, Music, First Aid, and hands-on learning! Lexile: 530L

### Alone in the Woods

by Rebecca Behrens

Jocelyn and Alex have always been best friends...until they aren't. When the girls' tube tears during a rafting trip, it leaves them stranded and alone. And before they know it, the two are hopelessly lost. Wearing swimsuits and water shoes and with only the contents of their wet backpack, the girls face threats from the elements. And as they spend days and nights lost in the wilderness, they'll have to overcome their fractured friendship to make it out of the woods alive. | Lexile: 810L

### The Young Adventurer's Guide to Almost Everything

by Ben Hewitt

Calling all adventurers! Want to know how to build a fort from nothing but sticks? Or find your way through the forest? This survival guide is your ticket to getting down and dirty in nature and learning to make the coolest things with your own two hands.

### Summer in the City

by Fracaswell Hyman

Where Mango goes, drama is sure to follow! When she runs into her drama teacher, she learns their middle school play *Yo, Romeo!* is headed to the stage in NYC, and he wants Mango for the lead role! Mango goes off to Brooklyn to stay with her Aunt Zendaya and prepare for her theatrical debut. Soon Mango must confront homesickness, insecurity, and what it means to be a good friend, especially when you're far away from the people you love. | Lexile: 770L

### Camp

by Kayla Miller

Olive is sure she'll have the best time at summer camp with her friend Willow, but while Olive makes quick friends with the other campers, Willow struggles to form connections and latches on to the only person she knows, Olive. It's *s'more* than Olive can handle! Will the two be able to patch things up before the final lights out? | Lexile: GN440L

### Camp Time in California

by Mary Pope Osborne

Jack and his sister, Annie, must go to California! They must look at nature! They must save the wilderness! Save it from what, exactly? That's what Jack and Annie must find out when the magic tree house lands in the tallest tree on earth. The nature around them is so grand and peaceful--is it really in danger? Two travelers, two sketchbooks, and one grizzly bear will show Jack and Annie that danger isn't always seen with the eyes. Sometimes it's felt with the heart.

### Camp Midnight

by Steven Seagle

Reluctant Skye is accidentally sent to the wrong summer camp. Not wanting to please her "step monster," Skye is dead-set on not fitting in. That won't be a problem, as everyone at Camp Midnight--with the exception of fellow camper and fast-friend

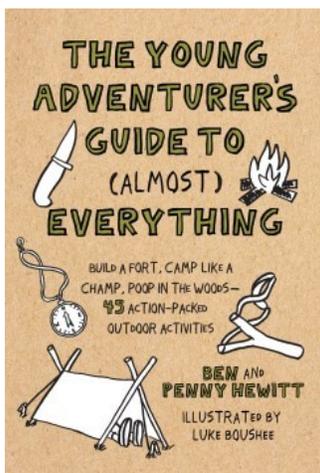
Mia--is a full-fledged monster! | Lexile: GN250L

### Mystery on Pine Lake

by Tamra Wight

Cooper thought living at a campground would be cool. But ever since his parents bought the lakeside campground, he's had more chores and less time to explore. Cooper's only bright spot this summer is his new friend, Packrat. But trouble has come to the Wilder Family Campground and Pine Lake. First, someone dams up the lake and floods the nest. Then, when Cooper and Packrat build a raft it gets destroyed by someone with big footprints. It's up to the boys to figure out who, why, and how to stop the culprit--before it's too late.

Lexile: 700L



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## Fiction

### J.D. and the Great Barber Battle

By J. Dillard

J.D. has a big problem--it's the night before the start of third grade and his mom has just given him his first and worst home haircut. He takes matters into his own hands and discovers that, unlike his mom, he's a genius with the clippers. His work makes him the talk of the town and brings him enough hair business to open a barbershop from his bedroom. When Henry Jr. realizes he's losing clients to J.D., he tries to shut him down for good.

### Jo Jo Makoons: The Used-to-be-Best-Friends

by Dawn Quigley

Jo Jo Makoons Azure is a spirited seven-year-old who lives on her Ojibwe reservation. It always seems like her mom, her kokum (grandma), and her teacher have a lot to learn about how good Jo Jo is at cleaning up, what makes a good rhyme, and what it means to be *friendly*. Even though she's worried that she needs to figure out how to make more friends, because Fern, her best friend at school, may not *want* to be friends anymore.

## Non Fiction

### She Persisted: Helen Keller

by Courtney Sheinmel

Helen Keller lost her sight and hearing after a childhood illness, but she didn't let that stop her from learning to read, speak, and make a difference. She was the first person who was both deaf and blind to go to and graduate from college, and she continued to write books and articles, speak in public, and stand up for the rights she believed everyone should have, inspiring others to do the same.

### Hello, Earth! Poems to Our Planet

by Joyce Sidman

We walk on Earth's surface every day, but how often do we wonder about the incredible planet around us?

From the molten cracks below to the shimmering moon above, *Hello, Earth!* explores the wonders of the natural world. | Lexile: 660L

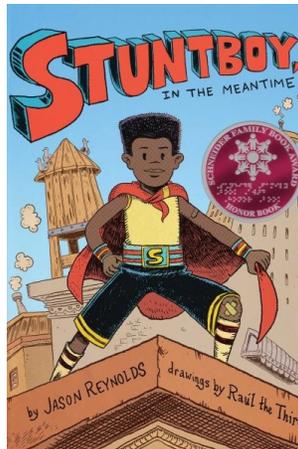


## Graphic Novels

### Stuntboy, in the Meantime

by Jason Reynolds

Portico Reeves's superpower is making sure all the other superheroes are super safe and no one in his civilian life knows he's actually... Stuntboy! But his regular Portico identity is pretty cool, too. He lives in the biggest house on the block, maybe in the whole city. All this is swell except for Portico's other secret. His parents are fighting *all* the time. They're trying to hide it. Only, all these secrets give Portico the worry wiggles, which his mom calls anxiety. Plus, like all superheroes, Portico has an arch-nemesis who is determined to prove that there is nothing *super* about Portico at all. | Lexile: 640L



### Pepper Page Saves the Universe

by Landry Walker

The year is 2421. Awkward and shy, Pepper buries herself in the universe of the classic fictional superhero Supernova. But then fate intervenes. Pepper is flung into another dimension, bringing her face to face with an order of cosmic beings who declare her to be the steward of their great power, protector of worlds present and past. Now, in the 21st Century, Pepper finds that she herself is the real Supernova. But as Pepper soon learns, escapist fantasy and reality are two very different

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 (CLR SIG)*, *iRead*, *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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## Featured Authors



### Doe Boyle

As a native of the Connecticut shoreline Doe can't remember a time when she didn't have sand between her toes and a book in her hands. It's no wonder then, as an

adult, she has turned toward the beauty and poetry of the natural world for inspiration.

#### Blink!

**Hear The Wind Blow** | Lexile: AD760L

**Heartbeat** | Lexile: AD930L



### Dori Marx

Dori Marx grew up in Australia and traveled the world several times before choosing New England as her home. Although she isn't a vet, she has a soft spot for

all animals and has even learned to coexist with the spiders in her barn.

#### Wonder World Kids Series:

**The Case of the Lost Llamas**

**The Mystery of the Dancing Horses**



### Deborah Freedman

Deborah Freedman was an architect once-upon-a-time, but now she loves to build worlds in

books. Her first picture books were tiny and hand-made over thirty years ago for her own children, and her first published book debuted in 2007. Since then, she has written and illustrated many more. Her books have been translated into nine different languages.

**Blue Chicken** | Lexile: 420L

**Shy** | Lexile: 490L

**The Story of Fish & Snail** | Lexile: 510L



### Jason Deeble

Jason Deeble is an American author/illustrator. His first picture book, *Sir Ryan's Quest*, was published by Roaring Brook Press in 2009. It was later chosen as the *One Book, Every Young Child* program of

southeastern Connecticut's official selection for 2011.

**Sir Ryan's Quest**

# READ BEYOND THE BEATEN PATH



## Nutmeg Book Awards

### What are the CT Nutmeg Book Awards?

The Nutmeg Book Award encourages children in grades 2-12 to read quality literature and to choose their favorite from a list of ten nominated titles. We have four divisions: Elementary (grades 2-3); Intermediate (grades 4-6); Middle School (grades 7-8); and High School (grades 9-12). Jointly sponsored by the Connecticut Library Association (CLA) and the Connecticut Association of School Librarians (CASL), the Nutmeg Committee is comprised of children's librarians and school library media specialists who are members of our sponsoring organizations, as well as students. For more titles visit <https://www.nutmegaward.org/>.

**Shadow Island** by Mike & Nancy Deas

**Crossings: Extraordinary Structures for Extraordinary Animals**  
by Katy S. Duffield

**Bear Goes Sugaring** by Maxwell Eaton III

**King of the Birds** by Elise Gravel

**Digging for Words: José Alberto Gutiérrez and the Library He Built**  
by Angela Burke Kunkel

**Lift** by Minh Lê

**In a Jar** by Deborah Marcero

**Salma the Syrian Chef** by Danny Ramadan

## Classics and Popular Titles

**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

**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

