

Governor's Summer Reading Challenge Grades 5-6



iREADPROGRAM.ORG

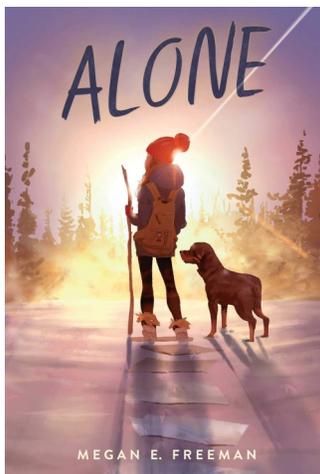
A Week in the Woods by Andrew Clements

Trying to prove himself while on a camping trip in the New Hampshire woods with a teacher who doesn't like him, Mark gets in trouble for something he didn't do and so sneaks away in protest. Yet, his teacher soon finds him and a lesson is learned for both after they must rely on one another to get back safely.

Lexile: 820L

Alone by Megan E. Freeman

When twelve-year-old Maddie hatches a scheme for a secret sleepover with her two best friends, she ends up waking up to a nightmare. She's alone, and left behind in a town that has been mysteriously evacuated and abandoned. With no one to rely on, no power, or internet access, Maddie learns to survive on her own. Her only companions are a Rottweiler named George and all the books she can read. As months pass, she escapes natural disasters, looters, and wild animals. But Maddie's most formidable enemy is the crushing loneliness she faces every day. Can Maddie's stubborn will to survive carry her through the most frightening experience of her life? | Lexile: 690L



Lumberjanes, Vol. 1: Beware the Kitten Holy by Noelle Stevenson

Friendship to the max! Jo, April, Mal, Molly, and Ripley are five best pals determined to have an awesome summer together...and they're not gonna let any insane quest or an array of supernatural critters get in their way! Lexile: 390L

You Choose: Can You Survive Collection

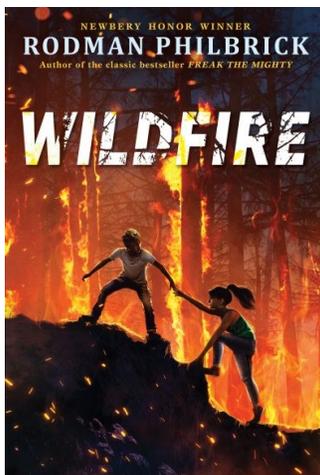
by Allison Lassieur, Matt Doeden, Rachael Hanel

Your survival depends on making the right choices in key moments. Which path to take? Readers use their wits and knowledge, learning about survival skills in various settings, and making choices that will lead to either survival or doom.

Wildfire by W.R. Philbrick

Flames race toward Sam Castine's summer camp as evacuation buses are loading, but Sam runs back to get his phone. Now a wall of fire separates Sam from

his bus, and there's only one thing to do, run for his life. Then, when he least expects it, he encounters Delphy, an older girl who is also lost. Their unlikely friendship grows as they join forces to find civilization. | Lexile: 700L



Three Bird Summer

by Sara St. Antoine

For as long as he can remember, Adam and his parents have spent their summers at his grandmother's rustic cabin on Three Bird Lake. This year, the lake will belong just to Adam... and, apparently, Alice, the girl next door. Alice seems to want Adam's friendship, but she looks just like the aloof, popular girls back home — what could they possibly have in common? When Adam's grandma starts to leave strange notes in his room — notes that hint at a hidden treasure somewhere at the lake and a love from long ago — Alice is the one person he can rely on to help solve the mysteries of Three Bird Lake. | Lexile: 720L

Healer of the Water Monster

by Brian Young

When Nathan goes to visit his grandma, Nali, at her mobile summer home on the Navajo reservation, he knows he's in for a pretty uneventful summer, with no electricity or cell service. Still, he loves spending time with Nali and with his uncle Jet, though it's clear when Jet arrives that he brings his problems with him. One night, while lost in the nearby desert, Nathan finds someone extraordinary; a Holy

Being from the Navajo Creation Story 'a Water Monster' in need of help. Now, Nathan must summon all his courage to save his new friend.



Fiction

Efrén Divided by Ernesto Cisneros
Efrén Nava's Amá (Mom) is his Superwoman or Soperwoman. Both Amá and Apá work hard all day making sopos to provide for the family. But Efrén worries about his parents; they're undocumented. His worst nightmare comes true one day when Amá doesn't return from work and is deported to Tijuana, México. Now more than ever, Efrén must channel his inner Soperboy to help take care of and reunite his family. | Lexile: 710L

Finding Junie Kim by Ellen Oh
Junie Kim just wants to fit in. So she keeps her head down and tries not to draw attention to herself. When Junie's history teacher assigns a project, she interviews her grandparents and learns about their unbelievable experiences as kids during the Korean War. Junie comes to admire her grandma's fierce determination to overcome impossible odds, and her grandpa's unwavering compassion during wartime.

Look Both Ways by Jason Reynolds
This story was going to begin like all the best stories. With a school bus falling from the sky. But no one saw it happen. They were all too busy... making jokes, skateboarding, finding comfort and more. What happens after the dismissal bell rings? | Lexile: 750L

One Kids Trash by Jamie Sumner
Hugo is *not* happy about being dragged halfway across the state of Colorado. It'd be different if Hugo weren't so tiny, but here he is, the tiny new kid on his first day of middle school. When his fellow students discover his remarkable talent for garbology, the science of studying trash to tell you anything you could ever want to know about a person, Hugo becomes the cool kid for the first time in his life. | Lexile: 700L

Non Fiction

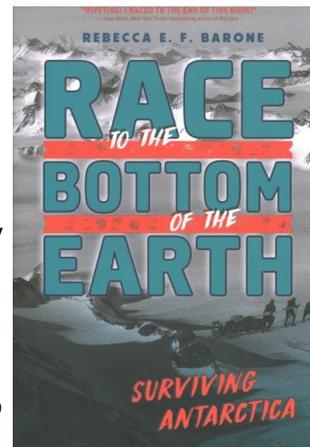
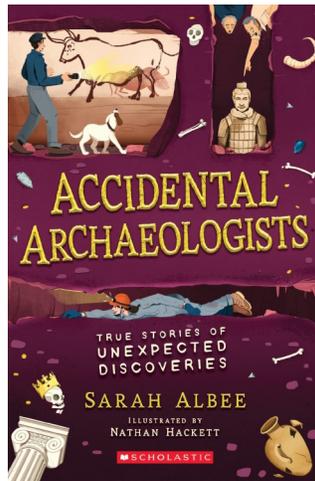
Accidental Archaeologists: True Stories of Unexpected Discoveries by Sarah Albee
Secret treasures are buried all around us—you just have to look for them! *Accidental Archaeologists* takes you on an adventure through time to relive some of the coolest surprise discoveries by totally ordinary people all over the world. | Lexile: 990L

Race to the Bottom of the Earth by Rebecca E. F. Barone
In 1910, Captain Robert Scott prepared his crew for a trip that no one had ever completed: a journey to the South Pole. He vowed to get there any way he could. Then, not long before he set out, another intrepid explorer, Roald Amundsen, set his sights on the same goal.

Graphic Novels

Treasure in the Lake by Jason Pamment
Grand adventures stories often begin where you least expect them! Iris knows this because she's read them all. When Iris and her best friend, Sam, stumble upon an unusually dry river on the outskirts of town, they're led to a discovery beyond anything Iris has ever read about.

Brain Camp by Susan Kim
Neither artistic Jenna nor surly Lucas expected to find themselves at an invitation-only summer camp. And yet, here they both are at Camp Fielding. But strange disappearances, spooky lights in the woods, and a chilling alteration that turns the rowdiest campers into zombie Einsteins, have Jenna and Lucas feeling more than a little suspicious...and a lot afraid.



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)*, *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 (USBYP)*. Other awards as noted.



Featured Connecticut Authors



Susan Ross

A former trustee of the Westport Connecticut Library, Susan Ross divides her time between Westport, and her childhood home of Lewiston-Auburn, Maine. Susan began her working career as a lawyer, and upon leaving law, began teaching legal writing in Brooklyn and creative writing in Connecticut.

Kiki and Jacques | Lexile: 640L
Searching for Lottie



Jerry Craft

Jerry Craft is a Connecticut author, a *New York Times* bestseller, and winner of the Newbery Medal. Craft is also the creator of the award winning comic strip, *Mama's Boyz*, which won the African American Literary Award five times. Craft's graphic novel,

New Kid, was the 2020 Connecticut Book Award winner in the young readers fiction category.

New Kid | Lexile: 320L
Class Act | Lexile: 340L
The Offenders: Saving the World, While Serving Detention!



Sarah Albee

Sarah lives in Connecticut with her husband, who is a high school history teacher and administrator. They have three grown kids, and a dog, Rosie. Prior to becoming a full-time writer, she worked at Children's Television Workshop (producers of *Sesame*

Street) for nine years. She played basketball in college, and a year of semi-professional women's basketball in Cairo, Egypt. She especially loves writing about topics where history and science connect.

Poison: Deadly Deeds, Perilous Professions, and Murderous Medicines | Lexile: 1080L
Accidental Archaeologist | Lexile: 990L



Michaela MacColl

Michaela grew up in upstate New York. She studied Russian and Soviet history at Vassar College and Yale University. She lived in the south of France for several years before settling in Connecticut.

Her first book, *Prisoners in the Palace*, was published in 2010. She has four enormous black cats who are very hard to tell apart from each other.

View from Pagoda Hill | Lexile Level: 660L
Rory's Promise | Lexile: 630L
Promise the Night



Nutmegs

What are the Nutmeg Book Awards?

The CT Nutmeg Book Award encourages children in grades 2-12 to read quality literature and to choose their favorite from a list of nominated titles. Jointly sponsored by the Connecticut Library Association and the Connecticut Association of School Librarians, the Nutmeg Committee is comprised of children's librarians and school library media specialists who are members of sponsoring organizations, as well as students.

For more information, visit www.nutmegaward.org

Finding Langston
by Lesa Cline-Ransome

Saving Winslow by Sharon Creech

The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez
by Adrianna Cuevas

A Galaxy of Sea Stars
by Jeanne Zulick Ferruolo

The Silver Arrow by Lev Grossman

When Stars Are Scattered
by Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed

From the Desk of Zoe Washington
by Janae Marks

Just Like Jackie by Lindsey Stoddard

Katie the Catsitter by Colleen AF Venable

Nightbooks by J. A. White

Classics and Popular Titles

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

A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park
Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, 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

Ninth Ward by Jewell Parker Rhodes
In New Orleans' Ninth ward, twelve-year-old Laneshia, who can see spirits, and her adopted grandmother, have no choice but to stay and weather the storm as Hurricane Katrina bears down upon them. | Lexile: HL470L

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. | 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. | Lexile: 750L

