

The following titles are recommended as summer reading, both to maintain fluency and reading level and to encourage independent reading. You may find these titles at libraries and bookstores. Please select two books from this list and complete an activity of your choice for each book. Chose from the following activities:

- 1.) Personal connection: Reflect upon how this book related to your life and your experiences. Then, write a minimum of three to four paragraphs explaining how the characters or the story plot relate to your life. Please use specific examples from the book to support your response.
- 2.) Simple book report. Include a brief summary of main characters, plot, and setting.
- 3.) Complete a poster illustrating a portion of the book that influenced you most. Include a brief summary as to how it influenced you and how your illustration represents the portion you chose.
- 4.) Write a chapter summary for each chapter of the book.
- 5.) Compare and Contrast the two stories you read. How are the books similar? How are they different? Focus on characters and events.
- 6.) Imagine you are the main character of the story. Write a journal entry that would reflect a week in the life of this character.
- 7.) Create your own project. You can chose from the optional summer reading list, or dream up your very own way to best express your story.

Bruchac, Joseph. *The Boy Who Lived with the Bears and Other Iroquois Stories*.
Six Iroquois stories illustrated with dramatic scratchboard

Coville, Bruce. *Jennifer Murdley's Toad*.
Imagine owning a talking toad! Read about Jennifer's remarkable adventures after she purchases such a talented pet.

Haas, Jessie. *Uncle Daney's Way*.
Twelve-year-old Cole learns how to work with a logging horse as well as valuable lessons about life from his Uncle Daney.

McKay, Hilary. *Dog Friday*.
A boy finds himself in a series of often hilarious, occasionally dangerous scrapes when a wild and eccentric family moves next door.

Paulsen, Gary. *Brian's Winter*.
What would have happened if Brian Robeson, the subject of *Hatchet*, had not been rescued when he had? Brian must confront the Canadian winter; he scrambles to reinforce his shelter and make animal skin clothing and arrowhead tools to help him improve hunting techniques.

Paulsen, Gary. *Call Me Francis Tucket*.
In this sequel to *Mr. Tucket*, Francis feels he can handle himself in the wild. The story relates his many mishaps as he attempts to conquer the wilderness.

Rawls, Wilson. *Where The Red Fern Grows*.

A young boy living in the Ozarks works hard to fulfill his dream of purchasing two redbone hound dogs and training them to be champions.

Stevenson, James. *Sweet Corn*.

Twenty-eight short poems accompanied by creative designs that complement the text.

Taylor, Theodore. *The Cay* (and its prequel *Timothy Of The Cay*).

When the ship *Phillip* is traveling on is torpedoed during WWII, the twelve-year-old boy becomes stranded on a small island in the Caribbean, where he must rely on Timothy, an elderly island man.

Cushman: *The Ballad of Lucy Whipple* c1996 historical fiction

Lucy isn't happy when her mother moves the family from New England to California for the Gold Rush.

Di Camillo: *The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup and a Spool of Thread* c2003 fantasy Tale of a tiny mouse with huge ears, a princess that he loves, a servant girl who wishes to be a princess and a rat named Roscuro who yearns for soup.

Hesse: *Music of the Dolphins* c1996 realistic fiction

The thoughts of a young girl, who was raised by dolphins from 4 years old after a plane crash, are recorded by a scientist as she is reintroduced to a civilized way of life.

Levine: *Hana's Suitcase: A True Story* c2002 biography

The director of a newly opened Holocaust museum in Japan and her students become intrigued with a suitcase from a concentration camp found among the museum's artifacts. The story of a Czech girl, Hana Brady, a victim of the Holocaust, unfolds through the search for information about a suitcase.

Smith: *Peak* c2005 adventure, coming-of-age

Fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello's goal is to become the youngest person to reach the top of Mt. Everest.

Carson: *Gifted Hands: The Story of Ben Carson* c1990 autobiography

The inspirational story of Ben Carson, an African American pediatric neurosurgeon, who achieved his life goals in spite of the many obstacles he encountered.

DuPrau: *The City of Ember* c2003 fantasy

Twelve-year-old Lina lives in the 241 year-old ruined, underground city of Ember where she and a friend embark on a harrowing journey to find a way out of the city and save their people before it is too late.

Giblin: *Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth* c2005 collective biography

Both John Wilkes Booth and his elder brother Edwin made lasting impressions on American history. Find out how they were alike and how they were different

Patent: *Buffalo and the Indians: A Shared Destiny* c2006 nonfiction

The history of the American Indian's dependence on the bison and their relationship from prehistoric times to the present is traced. Each chapter is introduced with a legend about the buffalo from various tribes.

Guys Write for Guys Read: *Boys' Favorite Authors Write About Being Boys* (Jon Scieszka) This collection of short stories, drawings, poems & memoirs includes pieces by several writers of "guy" fiction such as Stephen King, Will Hobbs, Gary Paulsen, and others.

Bridge to Terabithia (Katherine Paterson). Two lonely fifth graders create a magical forest kingdom, a place where they can laugh, dream, and plot against the schoolmates who tease them. But one day tragedy strikes and changes things forever. Better than the movie!

Tuck Everlasting (Natalie Babbitt). Imagine living forever at the age you are now! An adventure where the protagonist is kidnapped, helps a murderer out of jail, and is offered a gift she is not sure she wants. So much better than the movie!

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, (Mildred D. Taylor). This is the story of an African-American family fighting racism, attacks, and injustice in the 1930s.

Little Women, (Louisa May Alcott). Experience the lives of four sisters—Meg, Jo, Beth, & Amy-- in Civil War era New England. This story of nineteenth century family life is one of the best loved books of all time.

Summer of the Monkeys, (Wilson Rawls). Jay Berry Lee wants nothing more than a pony and a .22 rifle. When a circus train wrecks near his home, and a reward is offered for the missing monkeys, Jay is on his way to his dream. If he can just catch those monkeys...

Copper Sun, (Sharon Draper) Two fifteen-year-old girls—one a slave and one an indentured servant escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Moses, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves.

Souder, (William Armstrong). A classic tale of a poor sharecropper family living in the Deep South during the Depression, this Newbery winner is loved by its readers. A tale of

poverty, hope, prejudice, but also a tale of survival. A story about a boy and his dog that you will remember forever!

The River Between Us, (Richard Peck) Take a peek into life during the Civil War in a small Illinois town. Experience one family's struggle to survive while their father is off fighting, and see what happens when an exotic visitor from New Orleans comes to town.

Bully for You, Teddy Roosevelt! (Jean Fritz). A biography about a colorful man who fought a war in Cuba, wrote books, studied birds, shot lions, roped steer, loved the outdoors, became governor of NY and president of the US.

Stonewall, (Jean Fritz). The biography of an odd man who ended up becoming a Civil War hero. For mature readers who like Civil War history.

The Baseball Card Adventure Series, (Dan Gutman) Travel back in time with Stosh to meet baseball greats like Mickey Mantle, Babe Ruth, Jackie Robinson, Honus Wagner, and more. A popular set of books!

Cover-up: Mystery at the Super Bowl (John Feinstein) Teen reporters Steve Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson are at it again. This time, they uncover a scandal at the Super Bowl. Part mystery, part sports, this book entertains.

Heat, (Mike Lupica). A feel good baseball story about a too-good-to-be-true athlete from Cuba with no birth certificate to prove his age so that he can play baseball here in the US.