



## *“Starship Adventure at Your Library 2009”*

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Summer vacation is here and so is the NPS Summer Reading List 2009, designed to make reading an activity children will enjoy during the summer. As the Elementary Library Teachers develop they list they select titles to appeal to a wide range of reading interests and abilities and to serve as a guide for you to include reading as part of your child’s summer fun. Our hope is that it will lead children to discover the enjoyment of reading a new genre, a new author, a new subject, but most of all to keep reading. Putting books into the hands of children and including reading as a summer activity helps to stem the “summer slide” children can experience when they are away from school for several months.

This voluntary list of suggested reading titles is developed each year by the NPS elementary school library teachers. In creating the 2009 reading list, the elementary library teachers have chosen recently published titles and tried to include something for everyone. The annotations following each title are from our web-based automated system, *Destiny*. A suggested grade level, or a range of grade levels, follows each title. In assigning grade levels we consider reading ability and the interest level for children. In addition to encouraging reading during the summer months, this list serves as an update to the comprehensive recommended reading list created in 2004. Printing costs are such that we are unable to provide a printed copy of this year’s list. The 2009 PDF summer reading list is available on the school web site, [http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Technology/library\\_media/index.html](http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Technology/library_media/index.html) . It can also be found in PDF format on each individual NPS school library web page. If you are unable to access the list electronically, please see your school library teacher for a copy.

“*Starship Adventure at Your Library*” is a Statewide Reading Program sponsored in part by the Newton Free Library. Printed copies of the 2009 NPS recommended summer reading list are available in the children’s room (and local bookstores) to view as you browse. Registration for the Newton Free Library (NFL) summer reading program begins Wednesday, June 24, 2009. There are many great books and activities occurring at the NFL this summer! The staff at the children’s room is happy to guide you through the reading list as well as recommend a few of their own favorite books for your reading enjoyment!

The “unstructured school days” of summer provide a perfect opportunity to share books. Have books available all summer long so that your child will have an opportunity to read whenever he or she chooses. Pack a book to take to the beach or in the car for a road trip. Visit the public library to browse or have your children participate in summer reading activities. Children love to talk about the books they have read. Engage them in a dialogue about the characters in the story or the illustrations in a nonfiction book. Read aloud or have your child read to you. Most of all, partner with us this summer in encouraging and sharing the habit and joy of reading.

Shelley Chamberlain

*Director of Information Technology*

Chris Swerling

*Coordinator of Libraries, K-12*

### *Elementary Library Teachers*

Erin Broderick

Alison Dinsmore

Erin Drew

Lani Gerson

Diane Holzheimer

Patricia Karam

Cheryl Kosmo

Jamie Lightfoot

Rachael Lundquist

Donna Mason

Laura Mayer

Sheila Packard

Jennifer Reed

Ann Ritchie

Heather Weiner

### *Contributors*

Jean Holmblad,

Newton Free Library

*Children’s Librarian*

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## PICTURE BOOKS

Agee, Jon. **The Retired Kid.** Hyperion Books for Children, 2008. (K-3)

Although he enjoys some aspects of his retirement, eight-year-old Brian gains a new perspective on his job of being a child after spending time in Florida's Happy Sunset Retirement Community.

Ahlberg, Allan. **The Pencil.** Candlewick Press, 2008. (K-3)

A lonely pencil draws Banjo, and also a dog, a cat, and other people. When the characters start complaining about their appearance, the writing instrument draws an eraser, which starts to create chaos.

Banks, Kate. **Max's Dragon.** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. (K-2)

Many unusual and unexpected things happen while Max plays with his invisible dragon, who only responds to rhymes.

Becker, Bonny. **A Visitor for Bear.** Candlewick Press, 2008. (K-3)

Bear's efforts to keep out visitors to his house are undermined by a very persistent mouse.

Breathed, Berkeley. **Pete & Pickles.** Philomel Books, 2008. (2-5)

Pete is a perfectly predictable, practical, uncomplicated pig. At least, he was . . . before a runaway circus elephant named Pickles stampeded into his life, needing a friend. Pickles is larger than life and overflowing with imagination.

Cottin, Menena. **The Black Book of Colors.** House of Anansi Press, 2008. (K-4)

Raised black line drawings on black pages encourage people to use their other senses to experience art, helping them understand what it is like to be blind.

DiCamillo, Kate. **Louise, The Adventures of a Chicken.** HarperCollins, 2008. (K-3)

Longing for adventure, intrepid Louise leaves her comfortable nest and goes to sea.

Dorros, Arthur. **Papa and Me.** Rayo, 2008. (K-3)

A bilingual boy and his father, who only speaks Spanish, spend a day together.

Fern, Tracey E. **Buffalo Music.** Clarion Books, 2008. (K-2)

After hunters kill off the buffalo around her Texas ranch, a woman begins raising orphan buffalo calves and eventually ships four members of her small herd to Yellowstone National Park. The story is based on the life of Mary Ann Goodnight and her husband Charles.

Fleming, Denise. **Buster Goes to Cowboy Camp.** Henry Holt, 2008. (K-3)

When Buster the dog's owner goes away for a few days, he sends Buster to Sagebrush Kennels for Cowboy Camp. Buster is homesick, but then has fun herding balls into the corral, gathering sticks for a campfire, and making wanted posters with his paw prints.

**PICTURE BOOKS**

Foreman, Michael. **Mia's Story: A Sketchbook of Hopes and Dreams.** Candlewick Press, 2006. (2-4)

While looking for her beloved puppy, Poco, one winter day, young Mia discovers how beautiful the world can be, as well as a way to make her own village of Campamento San Francisco more lovely and her family's life easier.

Frazer, Marla. **A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever.** Harcourt, 2008. (K-3)

Friends James and Eamon enjoy a wonderful week at the home of Eamon's grandparents during summer vacation.

Graham, Bob. **How to Heal a Broken Wing.** Candlewick Press, 2008. (K-1)

When Will finds a bird with a broken wing, he takes it home and cares for it, hoping in time it will be able to return to the sky.

Grey, Mini. **Traction Man Meets Turbodog.** Alfred A. Knopf, 2008. (K-2)

Traction Man braves the evil bin things in order to save Scrubbing Brush, who had been thrown away by the little boy's father and replaced with a battery-operated dog.

Hole, Stian. **Garmann's Summer.** Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2008. (1-3)

As the summer ends, six-year-old Garmann's three ancient aunts visit and they all talk about the things that scare them.

Hopkinson, Deborah. **Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek: A Tall, Thin Tale (introducing his forgotten frontier friend).** Schwartz & Wade Books, 2008. (K-3)

In 1816, seven-year-old Abe Lincoln falls into a creek and is rescued by his best friend.

Horowitz, Dave. **Humpty Dumpty Climbs Again.** Putnams, 2008. (K-2)

Humpty Dumpty has not climbed a single wall since his great fall, despite the urging of friends and teasing of others, but when one of the king's horses is stuck he finds the courage--and the proper climbing equipment--to help out.

Johnson, D.B. **Henry's Night.** Houghton Mifflin, 2009. (K-2)

Henry the bear begins a twilight journey that takes him into the night forest.

Juster, Norton. **Sourpuss and Sweetie Pie.** Scholastic, 2008. (K-1)

Nanna and Poppy, who are expecting their granddaughter to visit, wonder whether Sweetie Pie or Sourpuss will show up, or if it may be both at the same time.

Lachenmeyer, Nathaniel. **The Origami Master.** Albert Whitman, 2008. (K-2)

An Origami Master whose only company has been his creations captures someone who has been leaving him a magnificent origami animal each night.

Leedy, Loreen. **Crazy Like a Fox: A Simile Story.** Holiday House, 2008. (1-3)

In a story told entirely in similes, Rufus the fox is behaving strangely, but for a very good reason. Includes a definition of simile and suggestions for writing a simile story.

## PICTURE BOOKS

Lies, Brian. **Bats at the Library.** Houghton Mifflin, 2008. (K-3)

Bat discover an open library window and flies in.

Liwska, Renata. **Little Panda.** Houghton Mifflin, 2008. (K-1)

A grandfather tells his grandson an unlikely story about a panda.

McDonald, Megan. **The Hinky Pink: An Old Tale.** Atheneum, 2008. (K-3)

Anabel is delighted to be summoned to the Great Castle to create a special dress for Princess Isabella but becomes discouraged when her efforts are continually subverted..

McPhail, David. **NO!** Roaring Brook Press, 2009. (K-5)

The word “No” repeated three times is the only thing as a boy sets out to deliver a letter and witnesses acts of war both on the personal level, and on a world-wide scale.

Otoshi, Kathryn. **One.** KO Kids Books, 2008. (K-5)

Blue is a quiet color. Red’s a hothead who likes to pick on Blue. Yellow, Orange, Green, and Purple don’t like what they see, but what can they do?

Perkins, Lynne Rae. **The Cardboard Piano.** Greenwillow Books, 2008. (K-1)

After Debbie tries to interest Tina in playing the piano by creating a cardboard keyboard, they discover that it does not have the same appeal, and come to realize that best friends do not have to share everything.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. **Fishing Day.** Jump at the Sun/Hyperion, 2003. (K-4)

In the Jim Crow South, a young African-American girl decides to share the secret of her and her mother's fishing success with their needy white neighbors.

Rex, Michael. **Goodnight Goon: A Petrifying Parody.** G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2008. (K-4)

A parody of Margaret Brown's "Goodnight Moon" in which a little werewolf must banish all the frightening things in his bedroom before he can get to sleep.

Rinck, Maranke. **I Feel a Foot!** Lemniscaat, 2008. (K-2)

Five animal friends, awakened by a strange noise, discover a creature in the dark.

Say, Allen. **Erika-san.** Houghton Mifflin, 2009. (2-5)

After falling in love with Japan as a little girl, Erika becomes a teacher and fulfills her childhood dream by moving to a remote Japanese island.

Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. **One Boy.** Roaring Brook Press, 2008. (K-3)

A boy creates ten paintings in this counting book of words within words.

Tafolla, Carmen. **What Can You Do With a Rebozo?** Tricycle Press, 2008. (K-2)

A cradle for a baby, a superhero’s cape, a warm blanket on a cool night—  
There are so many things you can do with a rebozo!

Wells, Rosemary. **Yoko Writes her Name.** Hyperion Books, 2008. (K-1)

Kindergartner Yoko learns to write her letters and numbers in English and shows her teacher and fellow students how to write their names using Japanese calligraphy.

## EARLY READERS

- Adler, David A. **Bones and the Math Test Mystery.** Viking, 2008. (K-2)  
Detective Jeffrey Bones hates taking math tests, especially one he has forgotten to study for, so when his test paper goes missing he must make a choice--retake the test and try to do better, or find the missing paper.
- Campbell, Sarah C. **Wolfsnail: A Backyard Predator.** Boyds Mills Press, 2008. (K-2)  
Photographs and simple text describe how a wolf snail hunts, attacks, and eats its prey.
- Capucilli, Alyssa Satin. **Biscuit and the Little Pup.** HarperCollins, 2008. (K-1)  
Biscuit tries to coax a little puppy to come out and play.
- George, Jean Craighead. **Goose and Duck.** Laura Geringer Books, 2008. (K-2)  
A young boy becomes the "mother" to a goose, who becomes "mother" to a duck, as they learn about the rhythms of nature together.
- Grant, Judyann. **Chicken said, "Cluck!"** HarperCollins, 2008. (K-2)  
Chicken wants to help Earl and Pearl plant their pumpkins, but she only manages to get in the way. When grasshoppers invade the pumpkin patch, Chicken is the only one who can stop them.
- Howe, James. **Houndsley and Catina and the Quiet Time.** Candlewick, 2008. (K-2)  
Houndsley and Catina are stuck inside after the winter's first snowfall. Houndsley enjoys the quiet time, but Catina fears her plans will be ruined, until Houndsley helps her see what fun it can be to stay indoors.
- Jacobson, Jennifer. **Andy Shane and the Queen of Egypt.** Candlewick, 2008. (K-2)  
Andy Shane selects Egypt as the topic of his first-ever Culture Fair project, but the very bossy Dolores Starbuckle declares that she is the Queen of Egypt.
- O'Connor, Jane. **Fancy Nancy and the Boy from Paris.** HarperCollins, 2008. (K-2)  
Nancy is delighted that the new boy in her class is from Paris and sets out to become his friend, then discovers that this Parisian is not quite as fancy as she had thought.
- Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. **Dog and Bear: Two's Company.** Roaring Brook, 2008. (K-2)  
Three easy-to-read stories reveal the close friendship between a dachshund named Dog and a stuffed bear.
- Willems, Mo. **Are You Ready to Play Outside?** Hyperion, 2008. (K-1)  
Elephant, who is cautious and pessimistic, and Piggie, who is optimistic and sometimes reckless, go outside to play in the sun and hope that it does not rain.

## MOVING INTO CHAPTERS

- Byars, Betsy. **Dog Diaries: Secret Writings of the WOOF Society.** Holt, 2007. (1-4)  
At the first annual meeting of WOOF--Words of Our Friends--assorted dogs preserve their heritage by sharing tales of canines throughout history, including Abu, who ruled all of Egypt except for one pesky cat, and Zippy, who simply must find the squeaky toy.
- Hannigan, Katherine. **Emmaline and the Bunny.** Greenwillow, 2009. (1-3)  
Everyone and everything in the town of Neatasapin is tidy, except Emmaline who likes to dig dirt and jump in puddles, and wants to adopt an untidy bunny.
- McDonald, Megan. **Stink and the Great Guinea Pig Express.** Candlewick, 2008. (1-3)  
Stink Moody, friends Webster and Sophie, and Mrs. Birdwistle visit tourist attractions in Virginia as they try to give away 101 guinea pigs rescued from a laboratory, although Stink is very reluctant to relinquish his favorite, Astro.
- Mills, Claudia. **How Oliver Olson Changed the World.** Farrar, Straus and Girous, 2009. (2-4)  
Afraid he will always be an outsider like ex-planet Pluto, nine-year-old Oliver finally shows his extremely overprotective parents that he is capable of doing great things without their help while his class is studying the solar system.
- Napoli, Donna Jo. **Sly the Sleuth and the Sports Mysteries.** Dial Books, 2006. (1-3)  
Sly uses her detective skills to help her friends solve the case of the soccer switch, the kick craze and the basketball blues.
- Pennypacker, Sara. **Clementine's Letter.** Hyperion, 2008. (2-4)  
After learning that her favorite teacher will be leaving for a trip to Egypt and will be absent for the remainder of the year, Clementine devises a plan to get rid of the substitute and get Mr. D'Matz to stay.
- Riddell, Chris. **Ottoline and the Yellow Cat.** HarperCollins, 2008. (2-4)  
Ottoline and Mr. Munroe investigate a string of burglaries and the disappearance of several lapdogs.
- Ries, Lori. **Aggie and Ben: Three Stories.** Charlesbridge, 2006. (1-3)  
After choosing a new dog, Ben describes what the pet Aggie can do and should not do around the house.
- Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman. **Olivia Sharp: the Pizza Monster.** Yearling, 2005. (1-3)  
Olivia Sharp, child detective, takes on her first case, helping her friend Duncan, who believes the world is coming to an end.
- Thomson, Melissa. **Keena Ford and the Second Grade Mix-Up.** Dial, 2008. (1-3)  
Keena Ford chronicles her many mishaps as she begins second grade.

## FICTION

- Balliett, Blue. **The Calder game**. Scholastic, 2008. (4+)  
When seventh-grader Calder Pillay disappears from a remote English village--along with an Alexander Calder sculpture to which he has felt strangely drawn--his friends Petra and Tommy fly from Chicago to help his father find him. Gr. 4+
- Birdsall, Jeanne. **The Penderwicks on Gardam Street**. Knopf, 2008 (3+)  
The four Penderwick sisters are faced with the unimaginable prospect of their widowed father dating, and they hatch a plot to stop him.
- Broach, Elise. **Masterpiece**. Holt, 2008. (5+)  
After Marvin, a beetle, makes a miniature drawing as an eleventh birthday gift for James, a human with whom he shares a house, the two new friends work together to help recover a Durer drawing stolen from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.
- Clements, Andrew. **Lost and Found**. Atheneum, 2008. (4+)  
Twin brothers Jay and Ray Grayson learn about friendship, honesty, and themselves after taking advantage of a clerical oversight in which their new school thinks there is only one Grayson boy.
- Creech, Sharon. **Hate that cat**. Joanna Cotler Books, 2008. (4+)  
Jack is studying poetry again in school, and he continues to write poems reflecting his understanding of famous works and how they relate to his life
- Davies, Jacqueline. **The lemonade war**. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2007. (3+)  
Evan and his younger sister, Jesse, react very differently to the news that they will be in the same class for fourth grade and as the end of summer approaches, they battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn 100 dollars. Includes mathematical calculations and tips for running a successful lemonade stand.
- Dowd, Siobhan. **The London Eye mystery**. David Fickling Books, 2007. (5+)  
When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.
- Fleming, Candace. **The fabled fourth graders of Aesop Elementary School**. Schwartz & Wade Books, 2007. ( 4+)  
An unlikely teacher takes over the disorderly fourth-grade class of Aesop Elementary School with surprising results.
- Gifford, Peggy Elizabeth. **Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Stuart Little**. Yearling, 2007. (3+)  
With summer coming to an end, about-to-be-fourth-grader Moxy Maxwell does a hundred different things to avoid reading her assigned summer reading book.
- Haddix, Margaret Peterson. **Found**. Simon & Schuster, 2008. (5+)  
When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.

## FICTION

Hiaasen, Carl. **Scat**. Knopf, 2009. (5+)

Nick and Marta are both suspicious when their biology teacher, the feared Mrs. Bunny Starch, disappears, and try to uncover the truth despite the police and headmaster's insistence that nothing is wrong.

Jenkins, Emily. **Toy Dance Party : Being the Further Adventures of a Bossyboots Stingray, a Courageous Buffalo, and a Hopeful Round Someone Called Plastic**. Schwartz & Wade Books, 2008. (1-4)

Six stories relate further adventures of three best friends, who happen to be toys, as they encounter a fearsome creature, , enjoy a dance party, and deal with rejection by The Girl, who is growing up.

Jenkins, Emily, 1967-. **Toys Go Out : Being the Adventures of a Knowledgeable Stingray, a Toughy Little Buffalo, and Someone Called Plastic**. Schwartz & Wade, 2006. (1-4).

Six stories relate the adventures of three best friends, who happen to be toys.

Korman, Gordon. **Swindle**. Scholastic Press, 2008. (3+)

After unscrupulous collector cons Griffin out of a valuable baseball card and he puts together a band of misfits to break into Palomino's heavily guarded store and steal the card back, planning to use the money to finance his father's failing invention.

Law, Ingrid. **Savvy**. Dial, 2008. (4+)

Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy"--a magical power unique to each member of her family--just as her father is injured in a terrible accident.

Look, Lenore. **Alvin Ho : allergic to girls, school, and other scary things**. Schwartz & Wade Books, 2008. (3+)

A young boy who loves superheroes and comes from a long line of brave Chinese farmer-warriors, wants to make friends, but first he must overcome his fears.

Lowry, Lois. **The Willoughbys**. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. (3+)

The four Willoughby children set out to become "deserving orphans" after their neglectful parents embark on an around-the-world adventure, leaving them in the care of an odious nanny.

Martin, Ann M. **The runaway dolls**. Hyperion Books for Children, 2008. (3+)

Best friends Annabelle and Tiffany risk placing all of dollkind in danger when they run away while trying to prevent Tilly from being sent back to London before they can determine if she is Annabelle's long-lost baby sister.

Stewart, Trenton Lee. **The mysterious Benedict Society and the perilous journey**. 1st ed. Boston : Little, Brown, 2008. (4+)

Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance, all graduates of the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened and members of the Benedict Society, embark on a scavenger hunt that turns into a desperate search for the missing Mr. Benedict.

## GRAPHIC NOVELS

Coelfer, Eoin. *Artemis Fowl: The Graphic Novel*. Hyperion, 2007. (4+)

A graphic novel adaptation of Eoin Colfer's novel in which a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold; but the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll.

Cosentino, Ralph. **Batman: The Story of the Dark Night**. Viking, 2008. (1-3)

Wealthy Bruce Wayne relates how he became the costumed avenger known as Batman.

Hale, Shannon and Dean. **Rapunzel's Revenge**. Bloomsbury, 2008. (5+)

Rapunzel, having grown up in a lovely castle with the woman she thought was her mother, is placed in a very tall hollow tree as punishment after her curiosity prompts her to climb the castle wall. She is able to escape and with the help of Jack and embarks on a plan to free the land from the grip of the witch.

Holm, Jennifer L. **Babymouse**. Random House, 2007. (2-4)

Baby Mouse is excited to be going to Camp Wild Whiskers for two weeks, but she soon discovers that camping is not as easy as it seems.

Lynch, Jay. **Otto's Orange Day: A Toon Book**. Little Lit Library, 2008. (K-2)

Otto meets a magical genie who grants his wish to make the whole world orange, but Otto soon realizes orange isn't the best color for everything, especially spinach.

Morse, Scott. **Magic Pickle**. Graphix, 2008. (3+)

The Magic Pickle, a secret weapon created in a special lab under the floor of Jo Jo Wigman's bedroom, and Jo Jo set out to stop the Brotherhood of the Evil Produce. Presented in graphic novel form.

Runton, Andy. **Owly**. Top Shelf, 2004. (2-5)

A kind, lonely little owl tries to earn an earthworm's trust and struggles with the knowledge that his new friends, a group of hummingbirds, must depart for the winter.

Varon, Sara. **Robot Dreams**. First Second, 2007. (3-5)

The enduring friendship between a dog and a robot is portrayed in this wordless graphic novel.

## POETRY

Agee, Jon. **Orangutan Tongs: Poems to Tangle Your Tongue.** Hyperion, 2009. (3-5)  
Presents a humorous collection of poems and tricky tongue twisters.

**The Bill Martin, Jr. Big Book of Poetry.** Simon & Schuster, 2008. (K-5)  
An illustrated collection of poems for children, featuring the writings of a wide variety of poets, selected as favorites by Bill Martin, Jr.

**Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat.** Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, 2008. (3-5)  
A collection of fifty-one children's poems that features selections from Nikki Giovanni, Queen Latifah, and the Sugarhill Gang; and contains an audio CD with thirty performances.

Florian, Douglas. **Dinothesaurus: Prehistoric Poems and Paintings.** Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2009. (K-3)  
Presents illustrated verse about various carnivorous and herbivorous dinosaurs, including the Iguanodon, Spinosaurus, and long-necked plesiosaurs.

Franco, Betsy. **Bees, Snails, & Peacock Tails: Patterns & Shapes--Naturally.** Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2008. (K-3)  
Rhyming text and illustrations depict the science and geometrical patterns of various animals, such as starfish, peacocks, diamondback snakes, and spiders.

Hughes, Langston. **My People.** Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2009. (K-5)  
Sepia toned photographs by Charles R. Smith, Jr. accompany Langston Hughes' classic poem "My People" and celebrate the African-American community.

Katz, Susan. **Oh, Theodore! Guinea Pig Poems.** Clarion Books, 2007. (K-3)  
A collection of poems that describes the behaviors and care of a pet guinea pig.

Kornberg, Arthur. **Germ Stories.** University Science Books, 2007. (3-5)  
Contains poems about both helpful and harmful germs, each followed by facts about the featured germ and an electron micrograph.

Lewis, J. Patrick. **Birds on a Wire: A Renga 'Round Town.** Wordsong, 2008. (3-5)  
Verses on daily life in a small, American town written by various authors.

Rosen, Michael J. **The Cuckoo's Haiku.** Candlewick Press, 2009. (3-5)  
A watercolor-illustrated collection of haiku in which the author describes the characteristics of over twenty common North American birds.

Thomas, Joyce Carol. **The Blacker the Berry: Poems.** Joanna Cotler Books, 2008. (K-3)  
A collection of poems, including "Golden Goodness," "Cranberry Red," and "Biscuit Brown," celebrating individuality and African-American identity.

Wong, Janet S. **Twist: yoga poems.** Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2007. (3-5)  
A collection of sixteen yoga poems along with illustrations that depict various yoga positions.

## FOLKLORE

Alley, Zoe B. **There's a Wolf at the Door.** Roaring Brook Press, 2008. (2-5)

As his plans are spoiled over and over again, the wolf keeps trying to find his dinner, in this retelling of five well-known stories and fables.

Climo, Shirley. **Tuko and the Birds: A Tale from the Philippines.** Holt, 2002. (1-4)

When Tuko the gecko moves in with the birds on Mount Pinatubo, they stop singing and the people in the village below become disoriented about time.

Ensor, Barbara. **Thumbelina: Tiny Little Runaway Bride.** Schwartz & Wade, 2008. (3-5)

A tiny girl, no bigger than a thumb, records her feelings in a diary as she gains self-reliance and searches for someone to love.

Forest, Heather. **The Contest Between the Sun and the Wind: An Aesop's Fable.**

August House Little Folk, 2008. (K-3)

The sun and the wind test their strength by seeing which of them can cause a man to remove his coat, demonstrating the value of using gentle persuasion rather than force as a means of achieving a goal.

Hale, Bruce. **Snoring Beauty.** Harcourt, 2008. (K-3)

An adaptation of the traditional tale, featuring a snoring princess who is rescued by a prince after being cursed by a bad fairy.

Hamilton, Martha. **The Ghost Catcher: A Bengali Folktale.** August House, 2008. (2-5)

A retelling of a traditional Bengali tale in which a kind and generous Indian barber, cleverly persuades a ghost to bring him riches.

Isadora, Rachel. **The Fisherman and His Wife.** Putnam, 2008. (K-4)

The fisherman's greedy wife is never satisfied with the wishes granted her by an enchanted fish.

Kimmel, Eric A. **Anansi's Party Time.** Holiday House, 2008. (K-3)

When Anansi the spider invites Turtle to a party just to play a trick on him, Turtle gets revenge at a party of his own.

Kimmel, Eric A. **The Fisherman and the Turtle.** Cavendish, 2008. (K-3)

A retelling of the Grimm tale about the fisherman's greedy wife set in the land of the Aztecs.

Kimmel, Eric A. **The Three Cabritos.** Cavendish Children, 2007. (K-4)

A southwestern retelling of the traditional tale about three billy goat brothers who trick a beast that lives under the bridge.

Krensky, Stephen. **Anansi and the Box of Stories: A West African Folktale.** Millbrook Press, 2008. (2-5)

The sky god, Nyame keeps all stories to himself, but when Anansi asks their price, Nyame agrees to trade his stories if Anansi can perform four seemingly impossible tasks.

## FOLKLORE

Matthews, John. **Trick of the Tale: A Collection of Trickster Tales.** Candlewick Press, 2008. (4+)  
Presents folktales from around the world in which trickster hares, foxes, crows and other animals use their wiles to try to nab their next meal or another prize.

Morales, Yuyi. **Just in Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book.** Roaring Brook, 2008. (K-3)  
As Senor Calavera prepares for Grandma Beetle's birthday, he finds an alphabetical assortment of unusual presents, and with the help of Zelmiro the Ghost, he finds the best gift of all.

Morris, Gerald. **The Adventures of Sir Lancelot the Great.** Houghton Mifflin, 2008. (3+)  
Sir Lancelot arrives in King Arthur's court and has many grand adventures after becoming the king's bravest and greatest knight.

Pinkney, Jerry. **Little Red Riding Hood.** Little, Brown, 2007. (1-4)  
A sweet little girl meets a hungry wolf in the forest while on her way to visit her grandmother.

Yep, Laurence. **Auntie Tiger.** Harper, 2009. (K-3)  
A retelling of the classic fairy tale, "Little Red Riding Hood," in which Big Sister sets aside her differences with Little Sister to rescue her from a tiger in disguise.

## GENERAL NONFICTION

Berman, Len. **And Nobody Got Hurt 2! The World's Weirdest, Wackiest and Most Amazing True Sports Stories.** Little, Brown, 2007. (3+)

A collection of strange and funny stories from the world of sports.

Boursin, Didier. **Folding for Fun: Origami for ages 4 and up.** Firefly Books, 2007. (1+)

Provides instructions for sixteen paper folding projects.

Dodge, Alison. **Around the World Cookbook.** DK, 2008. (3+)

Features more than fifty easy-to-prepare dishes for children that use accessible equipment and ingredients, accompanied by information on regional specialties.

Farndon, John. **Do Not Open.** DK, 2007. (4+)

Provides information on a variety of unbelievable topics and mysterious places; including the history of Area 51 and hidden secrets in the Mona Lisa.

McKay, Kim. **True Green Kids: 100 Things You Can Do to Save the Planet.** National Geographic, 2008. (5+)

One hundred projects for children to help improve the environment.

Menzel, Peter. **What the World Eats.** Tricycle Press, 2008. (4+)

A collection of photographs depicting twenty-five families from twenty-one different countries, describing the cost of a week's worth of food, and other cultural information.

Mortenseon, Greg and Susan L. Roth. **Listen To The Wind: The Story of Dr. Greg Mortenson and Three Cups of Tea.** Dial, 2009. (3+)

A children's book that tells the story of Dr. Greg Mortenson's promise to build a school in a remote Himalayan village after the villagers saved his life.

Nelson, Kadir. **We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball.** Jump at the Sun/Hyperion, 2008. (3+)

Explores the history of Negro League baseball teams.

Raczka, Bob. **Art Is--.** Millbrook Press, 2003. (1+)

Rhyming text and photographs show that art is much more than just what can be hung on a wall or set on a pedestal.

Rumford, James. **Chee-lin: A Giraffe's Journey.** Houghton Mifflin, 2008. (2-4)

Details the experiences of Tweega, an African giraffe who was captured and brought to China in 1414, where he was gifted to the emperor.

Walsh, Melanie. **10 Things I Can Do to Help My World: Fun and Easy Eco-Tips.** Candlewick Press, 2008. (K+)

Simple text and die-cut illustrations describe ten ways children can help the environment, such as turning the water off when they brush their teeth and using both sides of a piece of paper.

## SCIENCE AND MATH 2009

Ablow, Gail. **A Horse in the House: And Other Strange But True Animal Stories.** Candlewick Press, 2007. (2-5)

An illustrated collection of strange but true animal stories.

Arnosky, Jim. **The Brook Book: Exploring the Smallest Streams.** Dutton, 2008. (K-3)

Describes the many types of plants, fish, and animals that live in or near streams.

Becker, Helaine. **Science on the Loose: Amazing Activities and Science Facts You'll Never Believe.** Maple Tree Press, 2008. (3+)

Presents facts and scientific activities for children to do at home using household materials, featuring explanations of the underlying science on topics of chemistry, climate change, genes, the senses, photosynthesis, and scientific method in general.

Berne, Jennifer. **Manfish: A Story of Jacques Cousteau.** Chronicle Books, 2008. (K-3)

An illustrated biography of Jacques Cousteau, discussing how his youthful fascinations with filming and underwater exploration translated into his life's work.

Bishop, Nic. **Frogs.** Scholastic, 2008. (K-3)

Describes frogs, discussing their habitat, the difference between them and toads, physical characteristics, diet, different types, defenses, calls, and life cycle, and includes close-up photographs of an array of diverse frogs.

Bradley, Timothy. **Paleo Bugs: Survival of the Creepiest.** Chronicle Books, 2008. (K-3)

Contains illustrations and descriptions of selected prehistoric insects, based on fossil evidence, and looks at their modern-day counterparts.

Cherry, Lynne. **How We Know What We Know About Our Changing Climate: Scientists and Kids Explore Global Warming.** Dawn Publications, 2008. (4+)

Describes how and where scientists find evidence of climate change and offers advice to students on how to make a positive impact on the environment.

Chrustowski, Rick. **Turtle Crossing.** Henry Holt, 2006. (K-3)

Text and pictures introduce children to the life cycle of the painted turtle.

Collard, Sneed B. **Wings.** Charlesbridge, 2008. (K-3)

Explores the versatility of bird, insect, and mammal wings, revealing how these appendages help them to find food, provide camouflage, and evade predators.

Davies, Nicola. **What's Eating You? Parasites--The Inside Story.** Candlewick, 2007. (3+)

Offers information on various types of parasites.

Gerber, Carole. **Winter Trees.** Charlesbridge, 2008. (K+)

A boy and his dog use sight and touch to point out seven different types of snow-covered trees while walking through a forest during the winter.

## SCIENCE AND MATH 2009

- Goodman, Susan E. **Saving the Whooping Crane.** Millbrook Press, 2008.  
Describes efforts by scientists to re-establish a whooping crane flock that would spend summers in Wisconsin and winters in Florida.
- Jenkins, Steve. **How Many Ways Can You Catch a Fly?** Houghton Mifflin, 2008. (K-3)  
Looks at how different animals approach the challenges of catching flies, digging holes, eating clams, and hatching eggs.
- Jenkins, Steve. **Sisters & Brothers: Sibling Relationships in the Animal World.** Houghton Mifflin, 2008. (K-3)  
A picture book that investigates sibling relationships within the animal kingdom.
- Kortenkamp, Steve. **Why isn't Pluto a Planet? A Book About Planets.** Capstone 2007.(K-3)  
Explains what makes a planet a planet and why Pluto is no longer considered one.
- Kudlinski, Kathleen. **Boy, Were We Wrong About the Solar System!** Dutton, 2008. (2-5)  
Looks at scientific discovery as a process of mistakes, mishaps, and enlightenment, and how theories have changed during the history of research into the solar system.
- Lasky, Kathryn. **One Beetle Too Many: The Extraordinary Adventures of Charles Darwin.** Candlewick Press, 2009. (3+)  
The life and work of the renowned nineteenth-century biologist.
- Leedy, Loreen. **It's Probably Penny.** Holt, 2007. (K-3)  
After learning about probability at school, Lisa has to complete an assignment and find things that fit into the categories of will, might, and cannot happen.
- Leedy, Loreen. **Missing Math: A Number Mystery.** Marshall Cavendish, 2008. (K-3)  
A numerical mystery ensues when the numbers all over town suddenly disappear.
- McCarthy, Meghan. **Astronaut Handbook.** Knopf, 2008. (K-3)  
Illustrations and simple text describe how astronauts prepare for their first mission into space and what it is like to live in outer space.
- Singer, Marilyn. **Eggs.** Holiday House, 2008. (K-3)  
Explains the varieties, functions, and characteristics of the eggs of a multitude of creatures, including insects, birds, and reptiles.
- Siy, Alexandra. **Sneeze!** Charlesbridge, 2007. (3+)  
Explains some of the reasons why people sneeze, featuring color micrographs of the air-pollen, dust mites, mold spores, dust and other allergens that provoke sneezing.
- Strauss, Rochelle. **One Well: The Story of Water on Earth.** Kids Can Press, 2007. (3-5)  
Tells the story of Earth's water, discussing the importance of water to survival of plants, animals, and people, recycling, access to water, pollution, and conservation.

## HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

Anderson, Laurie Halse. **Independent Dames: What You Never Knew About the Women and Girls of the American Revolution.** Simon & Schuster, 2008. (4+)

Describes the role women and young girls played in the American Revolution, highlighting the contributions and exploits of women who had a significant impact on the colonists' fight for freedom.

Aronson, Marc. **The World Made New: Why the Age of Exploration Happened & How It Changed the World.** National Geographic, 2007. (4+)

Examines the history and effects of the age of exploration and how those events changed the world.

Beccia, Carlyn. **The Raucous Royals: Test Your Royal Wits: Crack Codes, Solve Mysteries, and Deduce Which Royal Rumors Are True.** Houghton, 2008. (4+)

Combines elements of nonfiction picturebooks, graphic novels, and tabloid magazines in a look at how rumors get started and how they become distorted over time as they are passed from ear to ear.

Brown, Don. **All Stations! Distress! April 15, 1912, The Day the Titanic Sank.** Roaring Brook Press, 2008. (3+)

Presents an illustrated account of the Titanic's deadly voyage on April 12, 1912, when two thousand passengers, rich and poor alike, fought to survive the tragedy while partially filled lifeboats launched into the night with seven hundred people as some family members stayed behind.

Fradin, Dennis B. **Duel! Burr and Hamilton's Deadly War of Words.** Walker 2008. (3+)

Examines the Burr-Hamilton duel which occurred on July 11, 1804, in which Vice-president Aaron Burr and the secretary of treasury, Alexander Hamilton, used dueling pistols to settle their political grievances.

Judge, Lita. **One Thousand Tracings: Healing the Wounds of World War II.** Hyperion, 2007. (K-3)

The author relates the story of her grandparents' efforts after World War II to send packages of food, clothing, and shoes to their friends in Germany and others in Europe who suffered from the after-effects of the war.

Ljungkvist, Laura. **Follow the Line Around the World.** Viking, 2008. (K-3)

Presents animals in their natural habitats, going around the world with informative facts and a message oriented toward environmental stewardship.

**Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out.** Candlewick Press, 2008. (4+)

A collection of essays, personal accounts, historical fiction, and poetry that traces the history of the White House through the eyes of the children who have lived and visited there.

## HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

Platt, Richard. **Pompeii**. Kingfisher, 2007. (3+)

Traces the rise and fall of the city of Pompeii, describing the daily lives of the city's people, as well as their culture, beliefs, working lives, historical significance, and devastating end.

Priceman, Marjorie. **How to Make a Cherry Pie and See the U.S.A.** Knopf, 2008. (K-3)

A young baker sets off on a journey across the United States to gather all the things she will need to bake a cherry pie, including coal for the oven, cherries for the pie, and glass for the measuring cup.

Rabbin, Staton. **Mr. Lincoln's Boys : Being the Mostly True Adventures Of Abraham Lincoln's Truble-Making Sons, Tad and Willie**. Viking, 2008. (3+)

Tad and Willie Lincoln are the sons of Abraham Lincoln who treat the White House like a playground, aggravating everyone except their indulgent father.

Rappaport, Doreen. **Lady Liberty: A Biography**. Candlewick Press, 2008. (3+)

Presents an illustrated biography of the Statue of Liberty, describing who designed it and why, and how it came to become a symbol of the United States.

Talbott, Hudson. **United Tweets of America**. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2008. (K+)

A collection of detailed illustrations of state birds from all fifty United States.

Tanaka, Shirley. **The Legend of the Lost Aviator**. Abrams, 2008. (4+)

Presents the story of the legendary aviator, Amelia Earhart, from her childhood until her final flight in 1937.

Winters, Kay. **Colonial Voices: Hear Them Speak**. Dutton Children's Books, 2008. (4+)

Ethan, a printer's errand boy, must deliver an important message to the Patriots, and as he makes his way through the streets of his city, he witnesses the daily events and practices of diverse groups of people.

Yaccarino, Dan. **Go, Go America**. Scholastic Press, 2008. (K+)

Presents hundreds of unique facts about each of the states, describing strange festivals, traditions, contests, laws, people, and landmarks across the country.

## BIOGRAPHY

Bryant, Jennifer. **A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams.** Eerdmans Books, 2008. (2-4)

Presents a picture book biography of American poet William Carlos Williams, who studied to become a doctor, but still found time to write poetry.

Nobleman, Marc Tyler. **Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman.** Knopf, 2008. (3+)

Relates the story of Cleveland teenagers Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster's creation of Superman.

Parker, Robert Andrew. **Piano Starts Here: The Young Art Tatum.** Schwartz & Wade Books, 2008. (K-3)

Explores early twentieth-century jazz pianist and virtuoso Art Tatum's passion and talent for playing the instrument, and includes illustrations and biographical information.

Rappaport, Doreen. **Abe's Honest Words: The Life of Abraham Lincoln.** Hyperion Books for Children, 2008. (3+)

An illustrated biography of Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth president of the United States and the man responsible for seeing the country through the Civil War.

Rappaport, Doreen. **Eleanor, Quiet No More: The Life of Eleanor Roosevelt.** Hyperion, 2009. (3+)

A biographical tribute to the upbringing and career of Eleanor Roosevelt, who taught children in poor neighborhoods in New York City and worked as an ambassador, activist, and champion of civil rights.

Shange, Ntozake. **Coretta Scott.** Amistad/Katherine Tegen Books, 2009. (K+)

An illustrated biography of Coretta Scott King, describing her childhood in the segregated South, her marriage to Martin Luther King, Jr., and her civil rights work.

Stone, Tanya Lee. **Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote.** Henry Holt, 2008. (1-3)

A brief biography of the life and achievements of nineteenth-century women's rights activist, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who fought for a woman's right to vote.

Winter, Jeanette. **Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story of Africa.** Harcourt, 2008. (1-3)

Tells the story of Wangari Maathai, a Nobel Prize-winning environmentalist who, shocked to see entire forests being cut down in her native country of Kenya, decides to take action, beginning with the planting of nine seedlings in her own backyard.

Winter, Jonah. **You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?!** Schwartz & Wade Books, 2009. (1-5)

Offers a brief overview of the life of Sandy Koufax, discussing the obstacles and physical challenges he faced, his successful career, his retirement, and other related topics.

## **WEBSITES TO KEEP YOU READING, LEARNING, AND HAVING FUN**

### **ALA Great Websites for Kids**

<http://www.ala.org/gwstemplate.cfm?section=greatwebsites&template=/cfapps/gws/default.cfm>

A searchable database of sites recommended by the American Library Association.

### **Berit's Best Sites for Kids** <http://www.beritsbest.com/>

Thousands of top notch fun and educational sites for kids, maintained by a librarian.

### **International Children's Digital Library** <http://www.icdlbooks.org/>

An online library of children's books from around the world.

### **Jack Prelutsky** <http://www.jackprelutsky.com>

Jack Prelutsky has delighted children with his humorous poetry for thirty years and was named the first Children's Poet Laureate in 2006. His highly interactive website will delight all who visit and foster a love of poetry.

### **Kidsites.com** <http://kidsites.com>

Organized by subject, each topic lists well-chosen sites for children to explore.

### **National Geographic for Kids** <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

Children can enjoy learning about the world of nature in a fun way by interacting with videos, games, and other activities at this site.

### **TeachingBooks.net** <http://teachingbooks.net>

A great site for information about authors, illustrators, and their books. See your school library teacher for an ID and password for home use.

### **Brain Pop and Brain Pop Jr.** <http://www.brainpop.com> ; <http://www.brainpopjr.com>

A subscription service accessible in most Newton schools for short videos on a variety of educational topics. Check out the free movie of the month at home!

### **Funology.com** <http://funology.com>

We offer tons of fun, creative activities, games, jokes, facts, recipes, and more!

### **Funbrain.com** <http://funbrain.com>

FunBrain is a great site for online educational games for kids of all ages. (math, grammar, science, spelling, history)

### **Kids Click** <http://www.kidsclick.org>

Annotated searchable directory of websites created for kids by librarians.

### **Kids.gov** <http://kids.gov>

The Official Kid's Portal to the U.S. Government with activities, games and more!

### **Cyber School Bus** <http://un.org/pubs/cyberschoolbus.com>

The United Nations Cyberschoolbus is a website about global issues and the UN, for students ages 5-18 and their teachers or parents.

## SERIES KIDS ENJOY

### Early Grades

Adler, David. **Bones**. Viking. (K-2)  
Capucilli, Alyssa. **Biscuit**. HarperTrophy. (K-1)  
Cazet, Denys. **Minnie and Moo**. HarperTrophy. (K-2)  
Chaconas, Dori. **Cork and Fuzz**. Viking. (K-1)  
DiCamillo, Kate. **Mercy Watson**. Candlewick. (1-3)  
Guest, Elissa. **Iris and Walter**. Harcourt. (K-1)  
Howe, James. **Houndsley and Catina**. Candlewick. (K-1)  
Mills, Claudia. **Gus & Grandpa**. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. (K-2)  
Rylant, Cynthia. **Henry and Mudge**. Aladdin. (K-1)  
Rylant, Cynthia. **Poppleton**. Blue Sky. (K-1)  
Sharmat, Marjorie. **Nate the Great**. Yearling. (1-3)  
Sharmat, Marjorie. **Olivia Sharp**. Yearling. (1-3)  
Silverman, Erica. **Cowgirl Kate & Cocoa**. Harcourt. (K-2)  
Willems, Mo. **Elephant and Piggie**. Hyperion. (K-2)

### Middle Grades

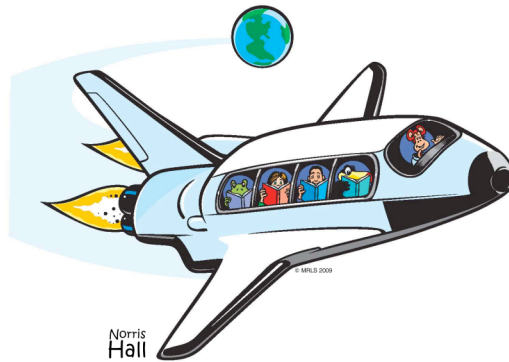
Abbott, Tony. **Secrets of Droon**. Scholastic. (2-4)  
Barrows, Annie. **Ivy and Bean**. Chronicle. (2-4)  
Clements, Andrew. **Jake Drake**. Aladdin. (2-4)  
DiTerlizzi, Tony and Holly Black. **Beyond the Spiderwick Chronicles**. Simon & Schuster. (2-4)  
Gutman, Dan. **My Weird School**. HarperCollins. (1-3)  
Jones, Marcia Thornton. **Ghostville Elementary**. Scholastic. (1-3)  
Kerrin, Jessica. **Martin Bridge**. Kids Can. (2-4)  
McDonald, Megan. **Judy Moody**. Candlewick. (2-4)  
McDonald, Megan. **Stink**. Candlewick. (1-3)

### Middle Grades Continued

Osborne, Mary Pope. **Magic Tree House**. Scholastic. (1-3)  
Ransom, Candice. **Time Spies**. Mirrorstone. (2-4)  
Roy, Ron. **Capital Mysteries**. Scholastic. (2-4)  
Stilton, Geronimo. **Geronimo Stilton**. Scholastic. (2-4)

### Upper Grades

Barry, Dave. **Peter and the Starcatchers**. Hyperion. (4-5)  
Buckley, Michael. **Sisters Grimm: Fairy Tale Detectives**. Amulet. (4-5)  
Harper, Charise Mericle. **Just Grace**. Houghton. (3-5)  
Holm, Jennifer. **Babymouse**. Random House. (2-5)  
Horowitz, Anthony. **Alex Rider**. Philomel. (4+)  
Hunter, Erin. **Warriors**. HarperCollins. (3-5)  
Kelly, Katy. **Lucy Rose**. Yearling. (3-5)  
Kinney, Jeff. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid**. Amulet. (3-5)  
Osborne, Mary Pope. **Tales from the Odyssey**. Hyperion. (3+)  
Pennypacker, Sara. **Clementine**. Hyperion. (3-5)  
Skuryznski, Gloria. **Mysteries in Our National Parks**. National Geographic. (4+)  
Smith, Jeff. **Bone**. Graphix. (3-5)  
Stewart, Paul. **Edge Chronicles**. Yearling. (4-5)  
Van Draanen, Wendelin. **Sammy Keyes Mysteries**. Yearling. (4-5).  
Various Authors. **39 Clues**. Scholastic. (4+)  
Various authors. **American Girl History Mysteries**. American Girl. (3-5)  
Winkler, Henry. **Hank Zipzer**. Grosset & Dunlap. (4+)



Hey Kids, have an out-of-this-world adventure this summer at the Newton Free Library. We have all kinds of cool events planned for this summer's reading program, *Starship Adventure at Your Library!* Registration begins on Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. Check out our new reading for charity program, *Readers Reach Out*. Our online reading program is back - to check it out, just go to <http://www.readsinma.org/newton/> and click on Children's SRP. You can keep track of your reading and write your own book reviews. Visit the library at the end of June to sign up so you can find out about the great books, programs and ice cream party that you can enjoy!