



SUMMER READING LIST* A Universe of Stories! ~ Grades 3-4

Suggested space-themed summer reading
compiled for the Connecticut State Department of Education
by Linda Williams, Connecticut State Library

PICTURE BOOKS

Armstrong: The Adventurous Journey of a Mouse to the Moon by *Torben Kuhlmann*
A mouse decides to fly to the moon. | Lexile: 730

CHAPTER BOOKS

The Boy Who Climbed into the Moon by *David Almond*
Helped by a very long ladder, some unusual acquaintances, two rather worried parents, and a great deal of community spirit, a young English boy makes an astonishing discovery when he embarks on a mission to prove that the moon is nothing but a big hole in the sky. | *USBBY* | Lexile: 470

I Love You, Michael Collins by *Lauren Baratz-Logsted*
In 1969, as her own family is falling apart, ten-year-old Mamie finds comfort in conducting a one-sided correspondence with the least famous astronaut heading toward the moon on Apollo 11. | *NCSS* | Lexile: 800

Sputnik's Guide to Life on Earth by *Frank Cottrell Boyce*
Separated from his grandfather and placed in a foster home, Prez forges a friendship with an alien who appears as a dog to everyone else and entreats Prez to help compile a list of Earth's redeeming qualities. | Lexile: 530

Martin Bridge: Ready for Takeoff! by *Jessica Scott Kerrin*
In three short stories, Martin develops a crush on his new bus driver, takes care of his friend's hamster with tragic results, and participates in a rocket exhibition that threatens a friendship. | *ALA* | Lexile: 540

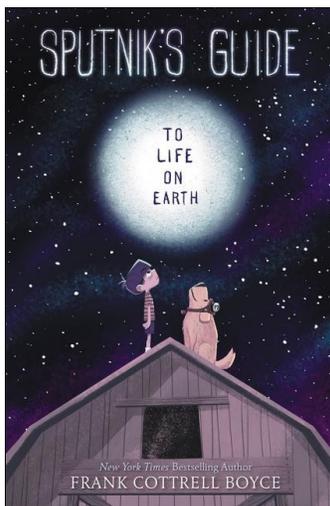
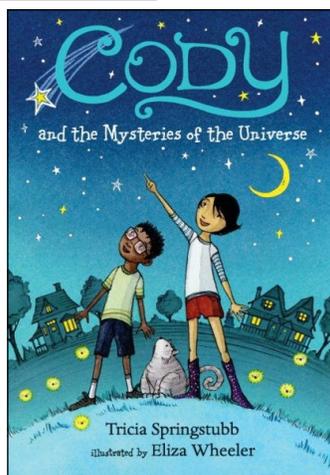
Space Taxi by *Wendy Mass & Michael Brawer*
On "Take Your Kid to Work Day," eight-year-old Archie discovers that his father drives a space taxi that shuttles aliens from one area of the universe to another. | Lexile: 460

Herbert's Wormhole by *Peter Nelson*
When almost-sixth-grader Alex, a video game fanatic, is forced on a "playdate" with his neighbor Herbert, an inventor, the two travel to the twenty-second century and face off against aliens, who are not as beneficent as most people think. | *Nutmeg 2012* | Lexile: 780

Planet Earth is Blue by *Nicole Panteleakos*
On the autism spectrum and nearly nonverbal, twelve-year-old Nova is happy in her new foster home and school, but eagerly anticipates the 1986 Challenger launch, for which her sister, Bridget, promised to return. | Lexile: 740

To the Moon! by *Paul A. Reynolds*
Twin mice Sydney and Simon compete to create the most interesting project about the Earth's moon for their elementary school, and win the first prize—a chance to meet a real astronaut.

Cody and the Mysteries of the Universe by *Tricia Springstubb*
When Cody's best friend Spencer moves to her street, an excited Cody asks for Spencer's help tackling the mystery of a neighbor who has a skull-and-crossbones sign in his window, while a new school year ushers in "new school jitters" for Spencer, and for Cody, a newly forged bond with a teacher who shares her love for Mozart. | *Nutmeg 2019* | Lexile: 460



GRAPHIC NOVELS

Jedi Academy by *Jeffrey Brown*
When Roan's application to pilot school is rejected, he finds he has been invited to study under Master Yoda at the Jedi Academy. | *ALA*, *Nutmeg 2016* | Lexile: 650

Leo Geo and the Cosmic Crisis by *Jon Chad*
Armed with his knowledge of science, Leo Geo becomes an astronaut and heads into space, where he encounters pirates and tries to stop a comet that is headed toward his brother's science laboratory on Earth.

SUMMER READING LIST*

Zita the Spacegirl: Far From Home by Ben Hatke

Zita rushes to the rescue after her best friend is abducted by an alien doomsday cult, and, before long, finds herself hailed as an intergalactic hero. | *ALA, Nutmeg 2015* | Lexile: 310

Hilo: The Boy Who Crashed to Earth by Judd Winick

When a mysterious boy falls from the sky, friends D.J. and Gina must discover the secrets of his identity and help him save the world. | *Nutmeg 2017* | Lexile: 460

POETRY

The Day the Universe Exploded My Head by Allan Wolf

With poetry that is equal parts accurate and entertaining, accompanied by lively, whimsical and energetic illustrations, amateur stargazers and budding astrophysicists will be enthralled by the many wonders of the universe as presented in this picture book that includes notes about the poems, a glossary and a list of resources.

NONFICTION

Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11 by Brian Floca

Here is the story of the Apollo 11 mission to the Moon -- a story of leaving and returning during the summer of 1969, and a story of home, seen whole, from far away by steady astronauts in their great machines. | *ALA, NCTE* | Lexile: 830

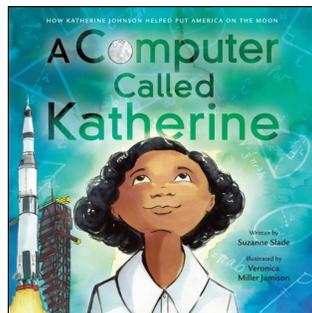
Impact!: Asteroids and the Science of Saving the World by Elizabeth

Rusch

Asteroids come in all shapes and sizes--and hit our planet in them, too. But what happens if a catastrophically large one approaches earth? By looking on the ground at historical asteroid craters and present-day falls, and up into space for the big ones yet to come, a wide variety of scientists are trying to figure out how to track asteroids--and how to avoid devastating impacts in the future. | *ALA* | Lexile: 1070

Exoplanets by Seymour Simon

Introduces exoplanets, examining the planets outside of our solar system, discussing what makes them habitable, and exploring the efforts to discover new life. | *NSTA*



BIOGRAPHY

Look Up!: Henrietta Leavitt, Pioneering Woman Astronomer by Robert Burleigh

An illustrated portrait of astronomer Henrietta Swan Leavitt traces the years she spent measuring stars from her position at the Harvard College Observatory and her important discoveries that enabled the scientific community to gain a fuller understanding of the universe's vast size. | *NCSS* | Lexile: 600

Mission to Space by John B. Herrington

Chickasaw astronaut, John Herrington, shares his flight on the space shuttle Endeavour and his thirteen-day mission to the international Space Station. | *ALA*

Fascinating: The Life of Leonard Nimoy by Richard Michelson

An uplifting picture book portrait of the late actor best known as Spock from *Star Trek* describes his upbringing as the child of immigrant parents, his early dreams of becoming an entertainer and the ways his famous character reflected his experiences of being different. | *NCSS* | Lexile: 920

Starry Messenger: A Book Depicting the Life of a Famous Scientist, Mathematician,

Astronomer, Philosopher, Physicist, Galileo Galilei by Peter Sis

Describes the life and work of the courageous man who changed the way people saw the galaxy, by offering objective evidence that the earth was not the fixed center of the universe. | *ALA, NCTE* | Lexile: 830

A Computer Called Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Helped Put America on the Moon by Suzanne

Slade

Shares the story of the pioneering African American mathematician, Katherine Johnson, who helped calculate America's first manned flight into space, its first manned orbit of Earth, and the world's first trip to the moon.

To the Stars!: The First American Woman to Walk in Space by Carmella Van Vleet

Shares the story of renowned astronaut and distinguished scientist Kathryn Sullivan, describing how she defied the conventions of her childhood to pursue interests previously limited to boys and how she became the first woman to walk in space. | *NCSS* | Lexile: 680

*Many of the listed books were selected as exemplary books by one or more of the following organizations: the *American Library Association* (ALA), the *International Literacy Association* (ILA), the *National Council for the Social Studies* (NCSS), the *National Council of Teachers of English* (NCTE), the *National Council of Teachers of Mathematics* (NCTM), the *National Science Teachers Association* (NSTA), the *American Association for the Advancement of Science* (AAAS) or the *United States Board on Books for Young People* (USBBY). Other awards as noted.



SUMMER READING

New Favorites & Classics

For Grades 3-4

READ NUTMEG AWARD NOMINEES!

Find the Elementary (Grade 3) & Intermediate (Grade 4) Nutmeg lists at: <http://nutmegaward.org>

FAVORITES & CLASSICS

Mr. Popper's Penguins by Richard Atwater

The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Popper, a house painter obsessed by dreams of the Polar regions. | ALA | Lexile: 910

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt

The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing any older. | ALA | Lexile: 770

Madeline by Ludwig Bemelmans

Madeline, smallest and naughtiest of the twelve little charges of Miss Clavel, wakes up one night with an attack of appendicitis. | ALA | Lexile: 330

On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein* by Jennifer Berne

Follows the life of the famous physicist, from his early ideas to his groundbreaking theories. | ALA | Lexile: 680

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl

Wonderful adventures abound after James escapes from his fearful aunts by rolling away inside a giant peach. | Lexile: 870

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie. | ALA | Lexile: 670

My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett

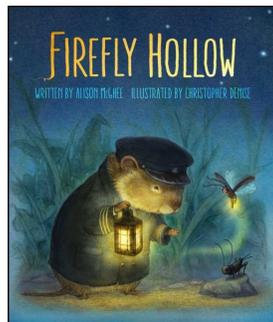
A young boy determines to rescue a poor baby dragon who is being used by a group of lazy wild animals to ferry them across the river on Wild Island. | ALA | Lexile: 970

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 convince everyone that he is the fiercest of bulls. | Lexile: 760

The Tales of Uncle Remus as told by Julius Lester

A retelling of the African American tales about the adventures and misadventures of Brer Rabbit and his friends and enemies. | ALA | Lexile: 780



Pippi Longstocking by Astrid Lindgren

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: 870

Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan

When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay. | ALA | Lexile: 660

Firefly Hollow* by Alison McGhee

Because their dreams of daring adventures go against the cautious teachings of their nations, Firefly and Cricket set out on their own, find a home with kindly Vole, and together help a grieving "miniature giant" named Peter. | Lexile: 690

Juana & Lucas* by Juana Medina

A spunky young girl from Colombia loves playing with her canine best friend and resists boring school activities, especially learning English, until her family tells her that a special trip is planned to an English-speaking place. | ALA, Nutmeg 2019 | Lexile: 870

Archer's Quest by Linda Sue Park

Twelve-year-old Kevin Kim helps Chu-mong, a legendary king of ancient Korea, return to his own time. | ALA, Nutmeg 2010 | Lexile: 690

Pax* by Sara Pennypacker

After being forced to give up his pet fox Pax, a young boy named Peter decides to leave home and get his best friend back. | ALA | Lexile: 760



SUMMER READING

New Favorites & Classics

For Grades 3-4

Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco

Say 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: 600

Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold

A young girl dreams of flying above her Harlem home, claiming all she sees for herself and her family. Based on the author's quilt painting of the same name. | ALA | Lexile: 790

The Noisy Paint Box* by Barb Rosenstock

An exuberantly illustrated introduction to the early life of abstract painter Vasya [Wassily] Kandinsky describes how his creative life was profoundly shaped by a neurological condition called "synesthesia," which caused him to experience colors as sounds, and sounds as colors. | ALA, NCTE, NCSS | Lexile: 630

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: 650

Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel

Silverstein

A boy who turns into a TV set and a girl who eats a whale are only two of the characters in this collection of humorous poetry illustrated with the author's own drawings.

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters by John

Stephoe

Mufaro's two beautiful daughters, one bad-tempered, one kind and sweet, go before the king, who is choosing a wife. | ALA | Lexile: 790

All-of-a-Kind Family by Sydney Taylor

The adventures of five sisters growing up in a Jewish family in New York in the early twentieth century. | Lexile: 750

Harriet the Invincible* by Ursula Vernon

Never a conventional princess, Harriet becomes an adventurer after learning she is cursed to fall into a deep sleep on her twelfth birthday, but after two years of slaying ogres, cliff-diving, and more with her riding quail, Mumfrey, things go awry at home and she must seek a prince to set things right. | ALA, *Nutmeg 2017* | Lexile: 810

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: 680

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: 820

Dragonwings by Lawrence Yep

In the early twentieth century a young Chinese boy joins his father in San Francisco and helps him realize his dream of making a flying machine. | Lexile: 870

Lon Po Po by Ed Young

Three sisters staying home alone are endangered by a hungry wolf who is disguised as their grandmother. | Lexile: 670

Rumpelstiltskin by Paul O. Zelinsky

A strange little man helps the miller's daughter spin straw into gold for the king on the condition that she will give him her first-born child. | Lexile: 620

SERIES

Ramona by Beverly Cleary

Amber Brown by Paula Danziger

Bink & Gollie by Kate DiCamillo

Mercy Watson by Kate DiCamillo

Sassy by Sharon Draper

Nikki and Deja by Karen English

Babymouse by Jennifer L. Holm

Bunnicula by James Howe

Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel

Gooney Bird by Lois Lowry

Lulu by Hilary McKay

Magic Treehouse by Mary Pope Osborne

Junie B. Jones by Barbara Park

Clementine by Sara Pennypacker

Calvin Coconut by Graham Salisbury

The Time Warp Trio by Jon Scieszka

EllRay Jakes by Sally Warner

Commander Toad by Jane Yolen
