Imagine Your Story

The Imaginary by A. F. Harrold
No one can see Amanda’s imaginary friend Rudger. When an evil imaginary hunter arrives at Amanda’s door, she and Rudger must run for their lives. | Lexile: 720L

Super Turbo Saves the Day! by Lee Kirby
When the final school bell rings, Super Turbo prepares to fight Elementary school evil such as flying ninja squirrels, evil rats, and more. | Lexile: 560L

Space Taxi: Archie Takes Flight by Wendy Mass
It’s midnight on Take Your Child to Work day and Archie gets to go to work with his dad in an intergalactic space taxi! Together, they shuttle aliens, fly into wormholes, and evade an evil mastermind. | Lexile (estimated): 685L-725L

Love Sugar Magic: A Dash of Trouble by Anna Meriano
Leonora Logroño learns that she is a part of a long line of brujas running a magical bakery. When her best friend, Caroline, has a problem, Leo takes the opportunity to try out her craft and use her magic. What could possibly go wrong? | Lexile: 850L

The Adventures of Sir Lancelot the Great by Gerald Morris
Lancelot is said to have been one of the most fearless and honorable of the Knights of the Roundtable. He’ll defend and protect, as long as he gets his nap! | Lexile: 830L

Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale by John Steptoe
When the King needs to take a wife, Mufaro brings both of his daughters, even though one is selfish, bad-tempered, and unworthy. Which will the king choose? | ALA | Lexile: AD790L

Picture Books

Even Superheroes Have Bad Days by Shelly Becker
Sometimes kids have trouble getting a hold of their emotions, but did you know that superheroes struggle as well? Superheroes feel sad, mad, and even afraid. | CSLP | Lexile: AD640L

Gondra’s Treasure by Linda Sue Park
Gondra, a little dragon, celebrates her uniqueness while talking with her parents about differences between her father’s homeland in the East, and her mother’s in the West. CSLP | Lexile: 540L

Princess Cora and the Crocodile by Laura Amy Schlitz
Princess Cora is sick and tired of boring lessons, too many baths, and not enough fun. When she writes a letter to her fairy godmother for help, the most unlikely creature, a crocodile, arrives. | ALA Notable | Lexile: 590L

Chapter Books

Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster by Jonathan Auxier
Nan, orphaned and alone, spends her days working for a ruthless chimney sweep. Her job is thankless and dangerous. When Nan thinks that her luck has finally run out and the dangers of her job have caught up with her, she awakens unharmed and finds a creature huddled in the corner made from soot and ash. | NCTE, Sydney Taylor Award Winner | Lexile: 630L

The BFG by Roald Dahl
Captured by a giant, Sophie is lucky that he’s big and friendly. Together with the BFG, Sophie plans to save the children from the mean giants that surround them. | CSLP | Lexile: 720L
Garvey’s Choice by Nikki Grimes
Garvey has a lot to handle. His father is always disappointed and he’s made fun of at school. When Garvey meets Manny, he finds a friend and learns about himself as well. | ALA Notable, ILA Lexile: 620L

The Quest of Theseus: An Interactive Mythological Adventure
by Blake Hoena
A choose your own adventure that takes readers through the same journey as Theseus, an ancient Greek hero. | CSLP | Lexile: 640L

Zeus and the Thunderbolt of Doom
by Joan Holub
Ten year old Zeus, while fascinated by the fact that he gets struck by lightning every single year, is mostly bored with life and wishes for adventure. However, he gets more than he hopes for when he’s kidnapped by dangerous Titans. When Zeus pulls an actual thunderbolt from a stone to defend himself, he sets off on a quest to rescue his fellow Olympians. Lexile: 570L

We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices by Wade Hudson
Readers will experience poems, letters, personal essays, and other forms of art and literature about diverse experiences. Authors that contributed to this book include Jacqueline Woodson, Kwame Alexander, Sharon Draper, Rita Williams-Garcia, and more. | Jane Addams Honor, NCSS Lexile: 850

Grilled Cheese and Dragons
by Nancy Krulik
Princess Serena would much rather be a knight than a princess. Her father, King Alexander, insists that she must go on a “Quest of Kindness,” performing good deeds to prove that she is deserving of attending knight school. | Lexile: 550

Holes in the Sky by Patricia Polacco
When Trisha’s grandmother passes away, Trisha doesn’t think she’ll ever get over the hurt. When her family moves to California and Trisha meets Miss Eula, Trisha learns that her grandmother will never truly leave her. ILA | Lexile: 730

The Boy Who Grew Dragons
by Andy Shepherd
When Tomas leaves his grandparents garden with a piece of dragon fruit, he’s shocked when a tiny dragon hatched from it! Tomas learns that while dragons can be fun, they also set fire to important objects and cause a ruckus. | Lexile: 410L-600L

Graphic Novels

Sparks! by Ian Boothby
Two cats in a powerful mechanical dog suit attempt to thwart an evil princess. She may look like a cute baby in a diaper, but the evil princess is clever and ruthless. | ALSC | Lexile: GN200L

Mighty Jack by Ben Hatke
When Jack trades his mother’s car keys for a pack of seeds while at the flea market, his world changes forever. The seeds grow into a magical garden that leads to a dangerous new world. ALSC | Lexile: GN490L

Giants Beware!
by Jorge Aguirre
Claudette desperately wants to slay a giant, but her village is quiet and safe. One day, Claudette, her brother, and best friend embark on a journey to find a giant so they can slay it. But hopefully they can complete their mission before their parents find out. Lexile: GN240L

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), Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP), 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.
Nonfiction

Let the Children March  
by Monica Clark-Robinson  
In 1963, thousands of African-American children volunteered to march alongside adults for civil rights. The civil rights peaceful protest changed the world, protesting the laws that kept black people separate from white people. | ALA Notable | Lexile: 650L

Can I Touch You Hair?: Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship  
by Irene Latham & Charles Waters  
Irene Latham, who is white and Charles Waters, who is black, present paired poems about topics including family dinners, sports, recess, and more. | ALA Notable, NCTE | Lexile: NP

Cook me a Story: A Treasury of Stories and Recipes Inspired by Classic Fairy Tales  
by Bryan Kozlowski  
Everyone’s favorite fairy tales are retold with recipes for the whole family. Enjoy the magic of storytelling and cooking combined. | NSTA | Lexile: 930L

Sewing the Rainbow: The Story of Gilbert Baker and the Rainbow Flag  
by Gayle E. Pitman  
Readers will learn the story of Gilbert Baker and his creation of the rainbow flag. Readers will follow Gilbert from his small hometown, sewing with his grandmother, to his time in the military, and finally, to San Francisco. | NCSS | Lexile: 800L

The Very Short, Entirely True History of Unicorns  
by Sarah Laskow  
Have you ever had questions about unicorns? Why do some unicorns have wings and why don’t others? What is the history of unicorns? Are there unicorns in every country or just some of them? This book has your answers. | CSLP | Lexile: 980L

Zeus: King of the Gods, God of Sky and Storm (Series)  
by Teri Temple  
Readers are introduced to Zeus, the Greek god of thunder. Books in the series include maps, charts, informational sidebars, and sources for additional reading. | CSLP | Lexile: 770L

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

Perfectly Peculiar Plants  
by Chris Thorogood  
From sea beans to Venus flytraps, learn about the planets most peculiar plants. | NSTA | Lexile: 870L

Book Series

Amber Brown by Paula Danziger  
Babymouse by Jennifer L. Holm  
Bink & Gollie by Kate DiCamillo  
Bunnicula by James Howe  
Calvin Coconut by Graham Salisbury  
Clementine by Sara Pennypacker  
Commander Toad by Jane Yolen  
EllRay Jakes by Sally Warner  
Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel  
Gooney Bird by Lois Lowry  
Junie B. Jones by Barbara Park  
Lulu by Hilary McKay  
Magic Treehouse by Mary Pope Osborne  
Nikki and Deja by Karen English  
Ramona by Beverly Cleary  
Sassy by Sharon Draper  
The Time Warp Trio by Jon Scieszka

Nutmeg Award Nominees

Find the Nutmeg lists at https://www.nutmegaward.org/.
Classics and Popular Titles

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbit
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 with water that prevents one from ever growing any older. | ALA | Lexile: 770L

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: AD680L

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: 790L-870L

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: 670L

My Father’s Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett
A young boy is determined 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: 990L

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

Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein
A boy 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. | Lexile: NP

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

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: 660L