**Summer Reading List**

*A Universe of Stories!* ~ Grades 5-6

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

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**FICTION**

**Cosmic** by Frank Cottrell Boyce  
Super-sized twelve-year-old Liam makes a giant leap for boy-kind by competing with a group of adults for the chance to go into space. | Lexile: 670

**Shooting the Moon** by Frances O’Roark Dowell  
When her brother is sent to fight in Vietnam, twelve-year-old Jamie begins to reconsider the army world that she has grown up in. | Lexile: 890

**The Jamie Drake Equation** by Christopher Edge  
Jamie has a close encounter with an alien who tells him his father, an astronaut on a mission at the International Space Station, is in trouble and needs Jamie's help. | Lexile: 960

**Last Day on Mars** by Kevin Emerson  
While waiting to leave Mars before it burns up just like the Earth before it, Liam and his friend Phoebe discover some facts about time and space and realize that the human race is just one of the races trying to survive in space.

**Full Cicada Moon** by Marilyn Hilton  
In 1969 twelve-year-old Mimi and her family move to an all-white town in Vermont, where Mimi's mixed-race background and interest in "boyish" topics like astronomy make her feel like an outsider. | ALA, NCSS, Nutmeg 2018 | Lexile: 790

**Unidentified Suburban Object** by Mike Jung  
Chloe Cho is a Korean American seventh-grader who would like to get in touch with many of the aspects of her heritage, but her parents are unwilling to talk about it—then when a class assignment forces Chloe to confront them directly, they finally tell her the truth about her family, which may just be too much for one girl to handle. | Lexile: 830

**Dragon Pearl** by Yoon Ha Lee  
Min, a thirteen-year-old girl with fox-magic, stows away on a battle cruiser and impersonates a cadet in order to solve the mystery of what happened to her older brother in the Thousand World Space Forces. | Lexile: 780

**Love, Ish** by Karen Rivers  
Twelve year old Mischa "Ish" Love's longtime dream has been to someday live on Mars, but when she collapses on the first day of seventh grade, Ish receives a diagnosis which threatens her future plans. | ILA | Lexile: 640

**We're Not From Here** by Geoff Rodkey  
The award-winning author of the Chronicles of Egg series finds the narrator, a Mars colonist, relocating in the aftermath of Earth's mysterious demise to the planet Choom, where the mosquito-like inhabitants dislike human singing, jokes and emotions so much that they are outlawed. | Lexile: 740

**A Problematic Paradox** by Eliot Sappingfield  
Thirteen-year-old Nikola's world is turned upside down when her father is abducted by aliens and she is transported to a boarding school for geniuses, but things get stranger when she realizes she has certain abilities that put her school in danger. | Lexile: 850

**The Truth About Martians** by Melissa Savage  
When a flying saucer crash-lands next to Mylo's Roswell, New Mexico, ranch in 1947, he and his friends Dibs and Gracie set out to find and help the Martians. | Lexile: 650

**The Countdown Conspiracy** by Katie Slivensky  
Miranda, one of six elite kids training for the world's first-ever mission to Mars, begins receiving death threats from hatemongers who do not consider her worthy, until a terror attack on the training base places the team and mission in Miranda's hands. | Lexile: 700

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April 2019
**SUMMER READING LIST**

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**GRAPHIC NOVELS**

**Sanity & Tallulah** by Molly Brooks
Sanity and Tallulah live in a space station at the end of the galaxy. When Sanity's illegally created three-headed kitten escapes, the girls have to turn their home upside down to find her in this graphic novel. | **ALA** | Lexile: 530

**Rocket to the Moon!** by Don Brown
Presents a history of rocket technology, from ancient Chinese rockets, the “bombs bursting in air” during the War of 1812, and Russia's Sputnik program.

**One Trick Pony** by Nathan Hale
In a future where alien beings consume technology as a few humans try to preserve it, Strata, her brother, and a friend are separated from their caravan and, with a wonderful robotic horse, must fight their way back. | **ALA** | Lexile: 260

**Cleopatra in Space #1: Target Practice** by Mike Mathack
When a young Cleopatra finds a mysterious tablet that zaps her to the far, REALLY far future, she learns of an ancient prophecy that says she is destined to save the galaxy from the tyrannical rule of the evil Xaius Octavian. | **ALA, ILA** | Lexile: 430

**Red's Planet** by Eddie Pittman
The story of headstrong 10-year-old foster child Red, who stows away on an alien spaceship and is marooned on a deserted planet with a menagerie of misfit aliens. | **ILA** | Lexile: 350

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**NONFICTION**

**Seven Wonders of the Solar System** by David A Aguilar
Explores seven extraordinary celestial wonders, from our close neighbor Mars to mysterious Planet 9. | **NSTA** | Lexile: 1070

**American Moonshot** (Young Readers' Edition) by Douglas Brinkley
A young readers' edition of the award-winning historian's 50th anniversary account of America's race to the moon shares behind-the-scenes insights into the heroic achievements of the Apollo 11 team and why the mission was so important.

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**BIOGRAPHY**

**Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream** by Tanya Lee Stone
Presents the story of the thirteen women connected with NASA's Mercury 13 space mission, who braved prejudice and jealousy to make their mark and open the door for the female pilots and space commanders that would soon follow. | **ALA, NCTE, NSTA** | Lexile: 980

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*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.*
Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster* by Jonathan Auxier
In nineteenth-century England, after her father's disappearance Nan Sparrow, ten, works as a "climbing boy," aiding chimney sweeps, but when her most treasured possessions end up in a fireplace, she unwittingly creates a golem. | Lexile: 630

Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh
Eleven-year-old Harriet, who is a spy and plans to be an author keeps a secret notebook filled with thoughts and notes on her schoolmates and people she observes on her afterschool spy route, but when some of her classmates read the notebook, they seek revenge. | Lexile: 760

The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill
Luna, whose magical abilities are emerging, was raised in the forest by a witch, a swamp monster, and a dragon, but when a young man from the Protectorate is determined to kill the witch, Luna must use her magic to protect her family. | ALA | Lexile: 760

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
A ten-year-old orphan comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors where she discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden. | Lexile: 970

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis
Four English schoolchildren find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter. | Lexile: 940

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis. | ALA | Lexile: 670

Merci Suárez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina
Merci Suárez begins the sixth grade and knows things will change, but she did not count on her grandfather acting strangely, not fitting in at her private school, and dealing with Edna Santos' jealousy. | ALA | Lexile: 670

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: 850

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 himself. | Lexile: 920
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: 810

Tom's Midnight Garden by Philippa Pearce
While staying with his aunt and uncle, Tom discovers a beautiful garden that is visible only at night and meets a little girl from the Victorian era with whom he travels back in time. | Lexile: 860

Ninth Ward by Jewell Parker Rhodes
In New Orleans' Ninth Ward, twelve-year-old Lanesha, 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. | ALA | Lexile: 470

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, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression. | ALA | Lexile: 750

Amal Unbound* by Aisha Saeed
In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family. | ALA | Lexile: 600

The Marvels* by Brian Selznick
In 1766, a boy, Billy Marvel, is shipwrecked, rescued, and goes on to found a brilliant family of actors that flourishes in London until 1900--and nearly a century later, Joseph Jervis, runs away from home, seeking refuge with his uncle in London, and is captivated by the Marvel house, with its portraits and ghostly presences. | ALA, NCTE | Lexile: 770

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia
In the summer of 1968, after travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp. | ALA, NBA | Lexile: 750

Beyond the Bright Sea* by Lauren Wolk
Twelve-year-old orphan Crow embarks on a journey to discover who her parents were and why they abandoned her as an infant. | ALA | Lexile: 770

Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson
In vivid poems that reflect the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, an award-winning author shares what it was like to grow up in the 1960s and 1970s in both the North and the South. | ALA, NBA, NCTE | Lexile: 990

Front Desk* by Kelly Yang
After emigrating from China, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel, despite the nasty owner, Mr. Yao, who exploits them, while she works the front desk and tries to cope with fitting in at her school. | ALA | Lexile: 640

The Chronicles of Prydain by Lloyd Alexander
Crispin trilogy by Avi
Poppy by Avi
John Bellairs Mysteries by John Bellairs
The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall
The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper
The Unicorn Chronicles by Bruce Coville
The Moffats by Eleanor Estes
Joey Pigza by Jack Gantos
Shadow Children by Margaret Peterson Haddix
Redwall by Brian Jacques
Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

Regarding the... by Kate Klise
Dog Friday trilogy by Hilary McKay
Percy Jackson & the Olympians by Rick Riordan
Harry Potter by J. K. Rowling
Septimus Heap by Angie Sage
Enola Holmes Mysteries by Nancy Springer
The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart
Sammy Keyes by Wendelin Van Draanen
Adam Canfield by Michael Winrip
Enchanted Forest Chronicles by Patricia Wrede
Dear America by various authors