



The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge

Reading List

The following book list has been compiled from iRead bibliographies. The content in these books and the books themselves should not be construed as an endorsement by the Connecticut State Department of Education or the State of Connecticut. To learn more about these books, ask your public librarian for assistance.

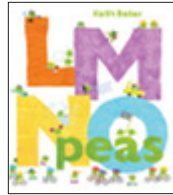


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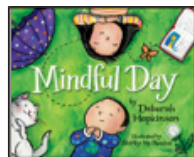
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Preschool



LMNO Peas by Keith Baker

Not all peas are alike in this cleverly written ABC book; they are plumbers, voters, gigglers, and even zoologists. Pea protagonists are distinctive from page to page, and letter to letter, through changing backdrops, attire, and props.



Mindful Day by Deborah Hopkinson and Shirley Ng-Benitez

When we slow down and pay close attention, we learn what it means to be mindful. In *Mindful Day*, early readers follow along as a young girl brings this special kind of attention to the various activities of her day with her family.



To Change a Planet by Christina Soontornvat and Rahele Jomepour Bell

Spare, poetic text and breathtaking pictures invite readers on a stirring journey that gently illuminates the causes of climate change, and how our individual and collective actions can improve the world.



One Little Bag by Henry Cole

From a tall tree growing in the forest—to the checkout counter at the grocery store—one little bag finds its way into the hands of a young boy on the eve of his first day of school.



Rainbow Weaver/Tejedora del Arcoíris by Linda Elovitz Marshall and Elisa Chavarri

Ixchel longs to weave beautiful fabric like her mother and the other women of their Guatemalan mountain home. There's not enough thread to spare for practice, so innovative Ixchel turns to alternative materials around her.

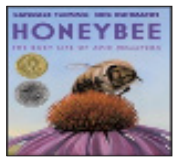
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Grades K-1



The Secret Garden of George Washington Carver by Gene Barretta and Frank Morrison

When George Washington Carver was just a young child, he had a secret: his garden. In his garden, he rolled dirt between his fingers to check if plants needed more rain or sun. He trimmed flowers, spread soil, and studied the life cycles.



Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera by Candace Fleming and Eric Rohmann

Drawing on the innate drama of the natural world, Fleming and Rohmann recreate the life cycle of a single honeybee from the moment she emerges from the egg to her death 35 days later.



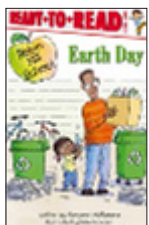
Raindrops Roll by April Pulley Sayre

Discover the wonder of water in this refreshingly fun and fascinating exploration of rain, raindrops, and the water cycle.



Jane Goodall by Sarah Albee and Gustavo Mazali

Learn about the life of Jane Goodall, a pioneering scientist who became the world expert on chimpanzees, in this early reader biography.



Earth Day by Margaret McNamara and Mike Gordon

The kids in Mrs. Connor's class are celebrating Earth Day, and everyone has many ideas on saving the Earth . . . except Emma. Emma is worried that her ideas are not good enough. With the help of her dad and Mrs. Connor, Emma learns that her small ideas can have big results!



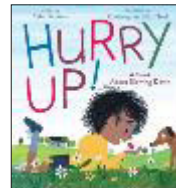
Cooking with the Lorax by Sonali Fry

In this simple rhymed story, the Lorax picks fresh fruit and vegetables from his garden and prepares a delicious, healthy salad for lunch.



Plants by Kathryn Williams

Adult and child readers will together, learn about plants in this new co-reader from National Geographic Kids. Find out how plants grow and the different parts of plants, seeds, and flowers.



Hurry Up! A Book about Slowing Down by Dopirak Silas Neal

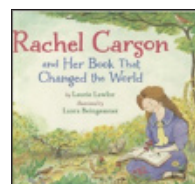
A child learns to change the pace in this playful picture book. A brown-skinned child with energetic, straight hair wakes to "hurry up," flies down the stairs, backpack in tow, and out the door to the school bus.

Grades 2-3



The Vast Wonder of the World by Mélina Mangal and Luisa Uribe

From childhood on Ernest Everett Just observed his world, learning from what he saw: in the natural world, through his microscope, and in the racist practices prevalent in the social and professional culture of the early 19th-century United States. Confronted with financial, health, and family challenges, Ernest persevered to graduate from Dartmouth College and become a biology professor at Howard University.



Rachel Carson and Her Book That Changed the World by Laurie Lawlor and Laura Beingessner

A biography of the pioneering scientist and environmentalist,

continued ►

Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring*. "Once you are aware of the wonder and beauty of earth, you will want to learn about it," wrote Rachel Carson. Determined and curious even as a child, Rachel Carson's fascination with the natural world led her to study biology, and pursue a career in science at a time when very few women worked in the field.



Springtime Blossoms by Jerdine Nolen and Michelle Henninger

CHIRP! CHIRP! CHIRP! It's springtime on Bradford Street. Jada and Jamal are searching for signs of spring. So are their best friends, Carlita Garcia and Josh Cornell. But the most surprising sign of spring awaits them at school the next day . . . a surprise that blossoms into a colorful plan to beautify the schoolyard just in time for Earth Day.



Willodeen by Katherine Applegate

Eleven-year-old Willodeen adores creatures of all kinds, but her favorites are the most unlovable beasts in the land: strange beasts known as "screechers." The villagers of Perchance call them pests, even monsters, but Willodeen believes the animals serve a vital role in the complicated web of nature.



Not Your Typical Book about the Environment by Elin Kelsey and Clayton Hanmer

We live in a time of heightened environmental awareness, and this knowledge is creating a generation of children with feelings of eco-anxiety — the world is doomed, isn't it? Maybe not. *Not Your Typical Book about the Environment* allays kids' fears by showing how all is not lost.



How to Find a Fox by Kate Gardner and Ossi Saarinen

Taking kids on an imaginary trek through different landscapes and seasons, *How to Find a Fox* celebrates one of our planet's most graceful and enchanting creatures: the red fox.



Sir Ladybug by Corey R. Tabor

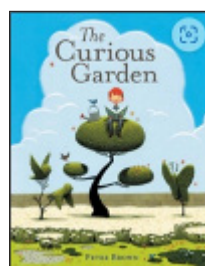
Sir Ladybug never shies away from a quest, even when he'd rather be playing a video game or baking a cake. So when a caterpillar needs rescuing from a "monster" (a hungry chickadee), Sir Ladybug and his trusty friends—his herald, a roly-poly named Pell, and his squire, a snail named Sterling—hatch the perfect (delicious) plan.

Grades 4-5



Harriet's Ruffled Feathers by Joy McCullough and Romina Galotta

Meet the inspiring woman whose love of fashion led her to start a conservation movement and found the Massachusetts Audubon Society in this lively picture book biography. Harriet Lawrence Hemenway loved hats. She loved them with ribbons and flowers, embroidery, and pearls. And feathers! What was better than a hat with grand, glorious feathers? But then Harriet discovered that millions of birds died so that she and her friends could soar at the height of style. A passion for fashion was one thing, but this was feather-brained!



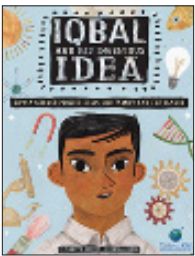
The Curious Garden by Peter Brown

While out exploring one day, a little boy named Liam discovers a struggling garden and decides to take care of it. As time passes, the garden spreads throughout the dark, gray city, transforming it into a lush, green world.



Recyclo-Gami by Laurie Goldrich Wolf and Bruce Wolf

What can you make from your old bits of paper, leftover pieces of yarn, or not-so-brand-new cartons and containers? Craft your purse using playing cards, whip up a scrapbook using cereal boxes, or a dollhouse from an empty juice carton! Tweens and teens can start crafting using the easy-to-follow instructions and photographic directions.



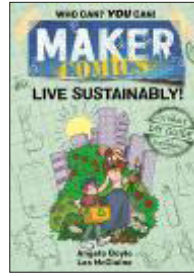
Iqbal and His Ingenious Idea by Elizabeth Suneby and Rebecca Green

It's monsoon season in Bangladesh, which means Iqbal's mother must cook the family's meals indoors, over an open fire. The smoke from the fire makes breathing difficult for his mother and baby sister, and it's even making them sick. Hearing them coughing at night worries Iqbal. So when he learns that his school's upcoming science fair has the theme of sustainability, Iqbal comes up with the perfect idea for his entry: he'll design a stove that doesn't produce smoke!



The Accidental Apprentice by Amanda Foody

As an apprentice to the town's mushroom farmer, Barclay need only work hard and follow the rules to one day become the head mushroom farmer himself. No danger required. But then Barclay accidentally breaks his town's most sacred rule: never ever EVER stray into the Woods, for within the Woods lurk vicious magical Beasts.



Live Sustainably! by Angela Boyle and Les McClaine

Maker Comics: Live Sustainably! is a step-by-step DIY guide that will help kids roll up their sleeves and get making with confidence! Inside this graphic novel you'll find instructions for eight sustainability projects.

Middle School



Consider the Octopus by Nora Raleigh Baskin and Gae Polisner

When chance, or fate, throws two twelve-year-olds together on board a scientific research ship at the edge of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, it's not all smooth sailing!



The Wondrous Workings of Planet Earth: Understanding Our World and Its Ecosystems by Rachel Ignatofsky

Making earth science accessible and entertaining through art, maps, and infographics, *The Wondrous Workings of Planet Earth* explains how our planet works—and how we can protect it—from its diverse ecosystems and their inhabitants to the levels of ecology, the importance of biodiversity, the cycles of nature, and more. Science- and nature-loving readers of all ages will delight in this utterly charming guide to our amazing home.



Rewilding: Bringing Wildlife Back Where It Belongs by David A. Steen, Chiara Fedele, and Neon Squid

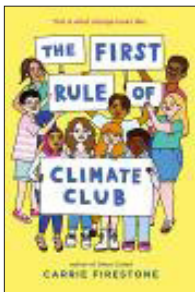
Rewilding means returning animals or plants to places where they used to live. In this book, acclaimed conservation biologist and science communicator David A. Steen introduces children to the scientists determined to turn back

the hands of time to create a greener future. Read about awe-inspiring rewilding projects.



Scarlet and the Ring by Elspeth Rae, Rowena Rae, and Elisa Gutiérrez

A decodable book featuring four phonics stories specially designed to help children with dyslexia or other language-based learning difficulties find reading success. While Meg and Greg are visiting Greg's family on Stardust Island they find themselves searching for on lost or missing item after another! Join Meg, Greg, cousin Martha and a puppy named Scarlet as they discover the thief who took off with a precious garnet ring at a farmers' market, find and catch a horse named Popcorn who got lost in a forest, save a surfer who fell from his board and got badly hurt and chase an escaped teddy bear dangling from a helium balloon at a fun fair.



The First Rule of Climate Club by Firestone

When Mary Kate Murphy joins a special science pilot program focused on climate change, the class opens her eyes to lots of things she never noticed before about her small suburban town: Kids waste tons of food at school without a second thought. Parents leave their cars running in the pick-up lane all the time. People buy lots of clothes they don't really need. Some of her friends who live in the city and are bused to her school don't always feel included. And the mayor isn't willing to listen to new ideas for fixing it all. Mary Kate and her friends have big plans to bring lasting change to their community and beyond.

High School



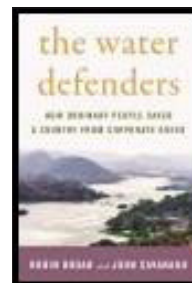
Edward Lorenz and the Chaotic Butterflies by Robert Black

Most people have heard of the Butterfly Effect, although not everyone fully understands the concept behind the now-famous quote about a butterfly flapping its wings in Brazil and subsequently setting off a tornado in Texas. Tiny changes in a system dramatically affecting the course of much larger events was demonstrated by a mathematician and meteorologist named Edward Lorenz.



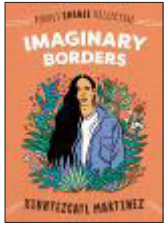
No Planet B: A Teen Vogue Guide to the Climate Crisis by Lucy Diavolo

An urgent call for climate justice from Teen Vogue, one of this generation's leading voices, using an intersectional lens — with critical feminist, indigenous, antiracist, and internationalist perspectives. As the political classes watch our world burn, a new movement of young people is rising to meet the challenge of climate catastrophe. This book is a guide, a toolkit, a warning, and a cause for hope.



The Water Defenders: How Ordinary People Saved a Country from Corporate Greed by Robin Broad and John Cavanagh

At a time when countless communities are resisting powerful corporations—from Flint, Michigan, to the Standing Rock Reservation, to Didipio in the Philippines, to the Gualcarque River in Honduras—*The Water Defenders* is the inspirational story of a community that took on an international mining corporation at seemingly insurmountable odds and won not one but two historic victories.



Imaginary Borders by Xiuhtezcatl Martinez and Ashley Lukashevsky

In this personal, moving essay, environmental activist and hip-hop artist Xiuhtezcatl Martinez uses his art and his activism to show that climate change is a human issue that can't be ignored.



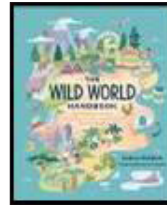
Better Than We Found It by Frederick Joseph and Porsche Joseph

In *Better Than We Found It*, best-selling author Frederick Joseph and debut author Porsche Joseph make the case for addressing some of the biggest issues of our day. Featuring more than two dozen interviews with prominent activists, authors, actors, and politicians, this is a resource for those who want to make the world better than we found it.



The Light in the Lake by Sarah R. Baughman

Go on a journey of discovery, magic, science, and hope with this remarkable debut novel about a girl's powerful connection to a mysterious lake.



The Wild World Handbook: How Adventurers, Artists, Scientists — and You — Can Protect Earth's Habitats by Debbink Orlando

Packed with real-life tales of adventure, breathtaking illustrations, and hands-on STEAM activities, this handbook is an inspiring guide for the next generation of climate activists, conservationists, and nature lovers.