

Assembly Member O'Donnell &  
The New York Public Library

*present*



*The 12th Annual  
Community Reading Challenge*

*Spring 2015*



Dear Families,

Welcome to my Twelfth Annual Community Reading Challenge! This year's theme was taken from one of my favorite childhood books, *The Three Musketeers*, a story of adventure and friendship. Living by the motto, "All for One, One for All," the characters demonstrate the true meaning of friendship by supporting each other as a group and as individuals. As a community, I

hope we can strive to live by this motto as well. In order to create a stronger community as one, we need to foster the qualities that make us unique, because each and every one of us has so much to offer.

Among the books in this reading list, you will find a variety of stories about characters coming to understand and value their unique qualities, in addition to the remarkable friendships that are formed when differences are set aside. I hope that with this list, you will have the chance to experience the stories of characters who are dealing with some familiar difficulties that face most of us, and some more unfamiliar troubles. We all experience challenges in life, and by learning more about the challenges that others face, we can gain strength to confront our own problems and understanding that will help forge us into a more unified and welcoming community.

In this booklet, in addition to the reading list, you will find a reading log, suggested activities, and tips for parents and guardians to encourage reading at home. The book list includes recommendations for Pre-K through eighth grade reading levels, along with some suggestions for readers at a more advanced level. I like to think there are great books at every level, so I hope you'll check out the books that look intriguing to you, regardless of reading level! Book Festivals will mark the end of the Community Reading Challenge, and give you an opportunity to celebrate your involvement—information about the parties can be found at the bottom of this page. The Festivals will feature guest author readings, activities, free books, food, prizes, and certificates for readers from the New York State Assembly!

I am kicking off my Community Reading Challenge on May 6th and the Book Festivals will run from May 21st–June 12th. If you have any questions about this year's Challenge or any other community issue, please don't hesitate to visit any of the participating libraries or call my Community Office at (212) 866-3970.

Very truly yours,

Daniel O'Donnell  
Assembly Member

# Let's Get Started!

Estimadas familias:

¡Bienvenidos a mi Duodécimo Reto Anual de Lecturas de la Comunidad! El tema del reto de este año fue tomado de uno de mis libros infantiles favoritos, *Los tres mosqueteros*, una historia de aventura y amistad. Viviendo bajo la consigna, "Todos para uno y uno para todos," los personajes demuestran el verdadero significado de la amistad apoyándose el uno al otro en equipo y como individuos. Como comunidad, espero que nosotros también nos esforcemos por vivir bajo esta consigna. Para poder crear una comunidad más fuerte y unida, necesitamos celebrar las cualidades que nos hacen a todos personas únicas, porque cada uno de nosotros tiene mucho que ofrecer.

En los libros de esta lista de lecturas, encontrarán una variedad de historias sobre personajes que logran entender y valorar sus cualidades únicas, además de las grandes amistades que establecen al hacer las diferencias a un lado. Espero que con esta lista de lecturas, tengan la oportunidad de experimentar las historias de personajes que están enfrentando dificultades similares a las que la mayoría de nosotros enfrentamos, y algunos otros problemas menos comunes. Todos experimentamos retos en la vida, y al aprender más sobre los retos que otras personas enfrentan, podemos obtener fortaleza para afrontar nuestros propios problemas y un entendimiento que nos ayudará a formar una comunidad más unida y acogedora.

Además de la lista de lecturas, en este folleto encontrarán una página para anotar los libros leídos, actividades y eventos sugeridos, y consejos para padres y guardianes para estimular la lectura en el hogar. La lista de libros incluye recomendaciones para los niveles de lectura de prekínder a octavo grado, junto con algunas sugerencias para los lectores de un nivel muy avanzado. Considero que hay excelentes libros para todos los niveles de lectura, así que espero que les den un vistazo a los libros que les parezcan interesantes, independientemente de su nivel de lectura. Los Festivales de Libros marcarán el final del Reto de Lecturas de la Comunidad y les ofrecerán una oportunidad para celebrar su participación –la información sobre las fiestas está disponible en la parte inferior de esta página. ¡Los Festivales incluirán tiempo de lectura con autores invitados, actividades, libros gratis, comida, premios y certificados de la Asamblea del Estado de Nueva York para los lectores!

Iniciaré el Reto de Lecturas de la Comunidad el 6 de mayo y los Festivales de Libros se celebrarán del 21 de mayo al 12 de junio. Si tienen alguna pregunta sobre el Reto de Lecturas de este año o sobre cualquier otro asunto de la comunidad, por favor no dejen de visitar cualquiera de las bibliotecas participantes o llamen a mi oficina de la comunidad al (212) 866-3970.

Cordialmente,

Daniel O'Donnell  
Miembro de la Asamblea



## Book Festivals Fechas de los Festivales de Libros

**Thursday, May 21st**  
**Jueves 21 de mayo de 2015**  
**4:00 p.m.**

George Bruce Library  
Biblioteca George Bruce

**Thursday, June 4th**  
**Jueves 4 de junio de 2015**  
**2:30 p.m.**

Morningside Heights Library  
Biblioteca de Morningside Heights

**Friday, June 12th**  
**Viernes 12 de junio de 2015**  
**3:30 p.m.**

Bloomington Library  
Biblioteca de Bloomington

\*Bilingual – English and Spanish

\*\*Also available in Spanish

†Great for reluctant readers

## Pre-K - Kindergarten

\*Bilingüe – inglés y español

\*\*También disponible en español

†Excelente para los lectores renuentes

J PIC B

†**Virgil & Owen** By Paulette Bogan

When Virgil the penguin finds a polar bear, he wants him all to himself. But Owen wants to play with everyone! Can Virgil learn that things are a lot more fun when you share your friends?

J PIC M

**A Perfectly Messed-Up Story**

By Patrick McDonnell

Louie becomes angry when the story in which he appears is ruined by messes from jelly, peanut butter, and other things that do not belong in books.

J PIC S

**Beautiful Oops!** By Barney Saltzberg

A little alligator demonstrates the many ways that torn, crinkled, and smudged bits of paper can be transformed into various shapes and images.

J PIC W

**Susan Laughs** By Jeanne Willis

Rhyming couplets describe a wide range of common emotions and activities experienced by a little girl who uses a wheelchair.

J PIC C / J-Spa PIC C

\*\***The Very Hungry Caterpillar**

By Eric Carle

Due to constant eating, caterpillar gets sick and then becomes a butterfly.

J PIC K

**The Carrot Seed** By Ruth Krauss

A little boy plants a carrot seed and waits patiently for the carrot he knows will grow.

J PIC J

**Harold and the Purple Crayon**

By Crockett Johnson

Harold creates a world of his own by using a purple crayon.

J PIC R

**Bear Flies High** By Michael Rosen

Bear dreams of flying high.

J PIC R

**Red Ted and the Lost Things**

By Michael Rosen

Bear is lost and gets placed in various places, determined to find his owner.

### All New Book Ideas

J PIC B

**Howard B. Wigglebottom  
Listens to His Heart**

By Howard Binkow

When the children at school laugh at him, Howard the rabbit decides to stop dancing even though he loves it, until he realizes his dancing is what makes him unique.

J PIC H / J-Spa PIC H

\*\***Chrysanthemum** By Kevin Hinkes

Chrysanthemum loves her name, until she starts going to school and the other children make fun of it.

J PIC F / J-Spa PIC F

\*\***Corduroy** By Don Freeman

Teddy Bear is on a journey to find his missing button.

J PIC R

**The Complete Adventures of  
Curious George** By Margret Rey

A monkey named George takes an adventure with a man in a yellow hat.

J PIC C / J-Spa PIC C

\*\***I Like Me** By Nancy Carlson

By admiring her finer points and showing that she can take care of herself and have fun even when there's no one else around, a charming pig proves the best friend you can have is yourself.

J PICT

**The Crown on Your Head**

By Nancy Tillman

A story in rhyme lovingly expresses that every child is born with a crown of features that gives them unique value as they grow.

J PIC H

**Ellie Bean the Drama Queen**

By Jennie Harding

Ellie Bean's "dramatic" behaviors—including her sensitivity to noise and displeasure over simple activities—lead her mother to bring Ellie to a specialist, who determines Ellie has sensory issues and teaches her family how to care for them.

J PIC M

**Insects Are My Life**

By Megan McDonald

No one at home or school understands Amanda Frankenstein's devotion to insects until she meets Maggie.

J PIC M

**The Three Little Aliens and the  
Big Bad Robot**

By Margaret McNamara

Three aliens set off to find a new planet for themselves but soon Bork and Gork have forgotten all of their mother's good advice and only Nklxwcyz builds a home safe enough to withstand the Big Bad Robot in this story reminiscent of "The Three Little Pigs."

J PIC H

**Not Yet, Rose**

By Susanna Leonard Hill

While impatiently waiting for the birth of a new baby brother or sister, Rose imagines the things they will do together and how her life will change.

J PIC KANTOROVITZ

**Zig and the Magic Umbrella**

By Sylvie Kantorovitz

Zig, a small, blue creature who lives in a rainy, gray world, grabs hold of a red umbrella and is carried away to a colorful forest where he becomes a hero—and a friend.

J PIC W

**Harry & Hopper** By Margaret Wild

One day when Harry comes home from school, his faithful companion Hopper isn't there to greet him. This is a touching story about the process of healing after losing a beloved pet.

J PIC H

**Titch** By Pat Hutchins

Titch feels left out because he is so much smaller than his brother and sister until he gets a little seed that grows bigger than anything they have.

J PIC K

**Whose Mouse Are You?**

By Robert Kraus

A lonely little mouse has to be resourceful in order to bring his family back together.

## Pre-K - Kindergarten *Suggested Reading Lists Continued*

J PIC B

### **A Splendid Friend, Indeed**

By Suzanne Bloom

Bear wants to read and write and think. Goose wants to talk and talk and talk. Can Bear and Goose be friends?

J PIC M

### **\*\*The Paper Bag Princess**

By Robert Munsch

The Princess Elizabeth is slated to marry Prince Ronald when a dragon attacks the castle and kidnaps Ronald. In resourceful and humorous fashion, Elizabeth finds the dragon, outsmarts him, and rescues Ronald—who is less than pleased at her un-princess-like appearance.

J PIC M

### **Just For You** By Mercer Mayer

Little Critter tries very hard to be a good helper. But when he tries to dry dishes for his mother, they grow slippery. When he makes an effort not to splash water out of the tub, a storm comes up. Something always seems to get in his way!

J PIC S

### **Duck on a Bike** By David Shannon

A duck decides to ride a bike and soon influences all the other animals on the farm to ride bikes too.

J PIC L/ J-Spa PIC L

### **\*\*A Color of His Own** By Leo Lionni

A little chameleon is distressed that he doesn't have his own color like other animals.

J PIC M

### **The New Baby** By Mercer Mayer

Little Critter has to get used to a new baby sister. What a problem. The baby doesn't pay attention

when Little Critter reads to her. She cries when he makes silly faces. And she can't understand the jokes he tells. It seems like an impossible task, but Little Critter finally figures out what you CAN do with a new baby—and becomes a very good brother.

J PIC P

### **I Don't Want to Be A Frog**

By Dev Petty

A frog who yearns to be any animal that's cute and warm discovers that being wet, slimy, and full of bugs has its advantages.

J PIC A

### **Giraffes Can't Dance**

By Giles Andreae

Gerald the giraffe wants nothing more than to dance. With crooked knees and thin legs, it's harder for a giraffe than you would think. Gerald is finally able to dance to his own tune when he gets some encouraging words from an unlikely friend.

J PIC D

### **The Pout-Pout Fish**

By Deborah Diesen

The pout-pout fish believes he only knows how to frown, even though many of his friends suggest ways to change his expression, until one day a fish comes along that shows him otherwise.

J PIC S

### **\*\*The Little Blue Truck**

By Alice Schertle

Meet Blue. A muddy country road is no match for this little pick up—that is, until he gets stuck while pushing a dump truck out of the muck.

Luckily, Blue has made a pack of farm animal friends along his route. And they're willing to do whatever it takes to get their pal back on the road. Filled with truck sounds and animals noises, here is a rollicking homage to the power of friendship and the rewards of helping others.

J PIC B

### **Happy Hippo, Angry Duck**

By Sandra Boynton

In a book about moods, clever animals exemplify a wide range of emotions in this hilarious story about different feelings.

J PIC G

### **Fish Had A Wish** By Michael Garland

Fish wishes to be all sorts of animals because each one is special, then realizes there is something good about being a fish, too.

J PIC B

### **Just A Duck?** By Carin Bramsen

An innocent little duck wants to be a cat, just like his new feline friend. Emulating his friend's slinking ability and hoping to grow ears and claws, he realizes that he can't do anything Cat can. When Duck comes to Cat's rescue, Cat thinks Duck is a real hero, and Duck decides that it's perfectly OK to be "just a duck."

J PIC K

### **You Be You** By Linda Kranz

After exploring his ocean home and seeing many different types of sea life, a young fish named Adri talks to his parents and learns that differences make the world colorful and beautiful.

\*Bilingual – English and Spanish

\*\*Also available in Spanish

\*Great for reluctant readers

## Grades 1 - 2

\*Bilingüe – inglés y español

\*\*También disponible en español

\*Excelente para los lectores renuentes

PIC B

### **Rosie Revere, Engineer**

By Andrea Beaty

A young aspiring engineer must first conquer her fear of failure.

J PIC S

### **The Quiet Place** By Sarah Stewart

A little girl moves to the United States from Mexico with her family and writes letters to her aunt in Mexico about her new life.

JYR FIC P / J-Spa FIC P

### **\*\*Amelia Bedelia** By Peggy Parish

A housekeeper, who doesn't know how to follow directions, ends up taking her instructions literally.

JYR FIC L

### **Ruby Lu, Empress of Everything**

By Lenore Look

After Ruby Lu's deaf cousin, Flying Duck, and her parents come from China to live with her, Ruby finds life challenging as she adjusts to her new family, tries to mend her rocky relationship with her friend Emma, and faces various adventures in summer school.

J PIC B

### **My Three Best Friends and Me, Zulay** By Cari Best

Zulay and her three best friends are all in the same first grade class and study the same things, even though Zulay is blind. When their teacher asks her students what activity they want to do on Field Day, Zulay surprises everyone when she says she wants to run a race. With the help of a special aide and the support of her friends, Zulay does just that.

J HOLIDAY PIC V

### **The Polar Express** By Chris Van Allsburg

A young boy takes a journey through the polar express, learning that anything is possible if you just believe.



All New Book Ideas

## Grades 1 - 2 Suggested Reading Lists Continued

J PIC R

### **Two of a Kind**

By Jacqui Robbins and Matt Phelan

When Anna abandons her best friend, Julisa, to spend time with popular girls Kayla and Melanie, she soon learns that she has little in common with her new friends.

J PIC R

### **I'm Here** By Peter Reynolds

In a crowded park, a boy makes an airplane out of a piece of paper carried to him by a gentle breeze, sends it on its way, and watches a new friend bring it back to him.

JJ PIC W

### **Each Kindness** By Jacqueline Woodson

When Ms. Albert teaches a lesson on kindness, Chloe realizes that she and her friends have been wrong in making fun of new student Maya's shabby clothes and refusing to play with her.

J PIC E

### **Just Because** By Rebecca Elliot

A younger brother describes all the fun he has with the big sister he loves so much—just because, in this heartwarming picture book about being perfectly loved, no matter what. Only as his tale unfolds does the reader begin to realize that his sister has special needs—and by then the reader just accepts, as he does, all the wonderful things about her.

J PIC B

### **We'll Paint the Octopus Red**

By S.A. Bodeen

Emma and her father discuss what they will do when the new baby arrives, both before and after they learn he has been born with Down Syndrome.

J FIC D / J-Spa FIC D

### **\*Matilda** By Roald Dahl

Six-year-old sweetheart, Matilda, is sent to a school run by the evil Miss Trunchbull. Her parents and principal might not appreciate her, but her new teacher Miss Honey does, and helps her discover her unique abilities.

J GRAPHIC GN FIC H

### **†Squish** By Jennifer & Matthew Holm

Squish, a meek amoeba who loves the comic book exploits of his favorite hero, "Super Amoeba," tries to emulate him when his best friend is threatened by a bully.

J PIC P / J-Spa PIC P

### **\*\*Thank You, Mr. Falker**

By Patricia Polacco

At first, Trisha loves school, but her difficulty learning to read makes her feel dumb, until, in the fifth grade, a new teacher helps her understand and overcome her problem.

J PIC P

### **The Junkyard Wonders**

By Patricia Polacco

Inspired by a teacher who believes each of them is a genius, a class of special-needs students invents something that could convince the whole school they are justifiably proud to be "Junkyard Wonders."

J PIC S

### **A Bad Case of Stripes**

By David Shannon

In order to ensure her popularity, Camilla Cream always does what is expected of her, until the day arrives when she no longer recognizes herself.

J PIC K

### **Big Mean Mike** By Michelle Knudsen

Mike is proud to be the biggest, toughest dog in the neighborhood, so when tiny, fuzzy bunnies start showing up in his big, mean car he sees them only as a threat to his reputation, no matter how adorable they are.

J PIC K

### **Argus** By Michelle Knudsen

Sallie's class is supposed to be raising chicks as a science project. Although Argus, the large, green, scaly creature that hatches from her egg, causes all sorts of trouble she worries about him when he disappears.

J PIC H

### **April Fool, Phyllis!**

By Susanna Leonard Hill

When Punxsutawney Phyllis forecasts a blizzard on April Fools' Day—the same day as the Spring Treasure Hunt—the other groundhogs are convinced that Phyllis is pulling a prank. Includes information of the origins of April Fools' Day and how it is celebrated around the world.

J PIC K

### **The Very Tiny Baby**

By Sylvie Kantorovitz

A very young boy tells his teddy bear about his mixed feelings over the premature birth of his new sibling, and his guilty resentment at the adult's preoccupation with the tiny baby.

JYR FIC

### **Heidi Heckelbeck Gets Glasses**

By Wanda Coven

When her friend Lucy Lancaster gets glasses, Heidi notices all the attention Lucy gets and decides that she, too, needs a new look. In order to get glasses, Heidi pretends that she has trouble seeing. All goes as planned and Heidi gets a cool pair of glasses—but when she puts them on there's just one problem: She can't see a thing! Heidi walks around with fuzzy vision and makes many messes until she realizes that she doesn't need a pair of glasses to make her special.

J PIC B/J-Spa PIC B

### **\*\*Madeline** By Ludwig Bemelmans

Madeline, a young girl who lives in a home with eleven other girls in Paris, France is not afraid of anything. However, when she needs to go to the hospital to get her appendix removed, she may find there's something she is afraid of after all.

J FIC S

### **Loser** By Jerry Spinelli

Even though his classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and a loser, Daniel Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.

J PIC S

### **Henny** By Elizabeth Rose Stanton

Henny is a chick who's just a little different from everyone else in the barn. Henny doesn't look like any other chicken she knows. Instead of wings, she has arms! Sometimes Henny likes being different, but sometimes she just wants to do things the same way as the other chickens. However, doing the same things as everyone else is overrated and Henny comes to realize in this warmhearted story, celebrating the individuality in everyone.

J PIC B

### **Not Your Typical Dragon**

By Dan Bar-el

Everybody knows your typical dragon breathes fire. But when Crispin tries to breathe fire on his seventh birthday, fire doesn't come out, just a host of unusual things! Crispin wonders if he'll ever find his inner fire. But when a family emergency breaks out, it takes a little dragon with not-so-typical abilities to save the day.

J PIC M

### **Freckleface Strawberry**

By Julianne Moore

Freckleface Strawberry is just like everyone else, except that she has red hair and freckles. When she tries to hide who she is, she learns about true friendship and accepting yourself just as you are.

J PIC C

### **The Patch** By Justina Chen

At first upset about having to wear glasses and an eye patch to correct her lazy eye, five-year-old Becca soon discovers that her new accessories allow her to take on such roles as a ballerina-pirate and a private eye.

J E L

### **Frog and Toad are Friends**

By Arnold Lobel

From writing letters to going swimming, telling stories to finding lost buttons, Frog and Toad are always there for each other—just as best friends should be.

J FIC G

## **The Thing About Georgie**

By Lisa Graff

Georgie's dwarfism causes problems, but he could always rely on his parents, his best friend, and classmate Jeanie the Meanie's teasing, until a surprising announcement, a new boy in school, and a class project shake things up.

J PIC M

## **My Name is Bilal**

By Asma Mobin-Uddin

When Bilal and his sister transfer to a school where they are the only Muslims, they must learn how to fit in while staying true to their beliefs and heritage.

J FIC D

## **Dovey Coe**

By Francis O'Roark Dowell

When accused of murder in her North Carolina mountain town in 1928, Dovey Coe, a strong-willed twelve-year-old girl, comes to a new understanding of others, including her deaf brother.

J FIC G

## **Temple Grandin, How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World**

By Sy Montgomery

An authorized portrait about Grandin's life with autism and her groundbreaking work as a scientist and designer of cruelty-free livestock facilities describes how she overcame key disabilities through education and the support of her mother.

J FIC L

## **Drita, My Homegirl**

By Jenny Lombard

When ten-year-old Drita and her family, refugees from Kosovo, move to New York, Drita is teased about not speaking English well, but after a popular student named Maxie is forced to learn about Kosovo as a punishment for teasing Drita, the two girls soon bond.

J FIC J

## **Odd, Weird, & Little**

By Patrick Jennings

Befriending a very strange new student, Toulouse, helps outsider Woodrow stand up to the class bullies who have been picking on them both.

J PIC R / J-Spa FIC S

## **Holes** By Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats is sent to a juvenile detention center named Camp Green Lake after being accused of stealing a pair of shoes.

## All New Book Ideas

J FIC D / J-Spa FIC D

## **The Tale of Despereaux**

By Kate DiCamillo

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

J FIC W

## **A Brand-New Me!** By Henry Winkler

As he is preparing to attend middle school, Hank, who has learning differences and academic difficulties, gets an unexpected opportunity to audition for a performing arts school where his creativity and humor will be appreciated.

J FIC C

## **A Nest for Celeste** By Henry Cole

Celeste, a mouse longing for a real home, becomes a source of inspiration to teenaged Joseph, assistant to the artist and naturalist John James Audubon, at a New Orleans, Louisiana, plantation in 1821.

J FIC L

## **Rules** By Cynthia Lord

Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic.

J FIC C

## **McKenna** By Mary Casanova

Seattle fourth-grader McKenna Brooks, who lives for gymnastics, struggles with school work until Josie, a tutor confined to a wheelchair, helps her with reading comprehension and much more.

J FIC G

## **What Would Joey Do?**

By Jack Gantos

Joey tries to keep his life from degenerating into total chaos when his mother sends him to be home-schooled with a hostile blind girl, his divorced parents cannot stop fighting, and his grandmother is dying of emphysema.

J FIC L / J-Spa FIC L

## **A Dog Called Homeless**

By Sarah Lean

Fifth-grader Cally Louise Fisher stops talking, partly because her father and brother never speak of her mother who died a year earlier, but visions

of her mother, friendships with a homeless man and a disabled boy, and a huge dog ensure that she still communicates.

J FIC W

## **Hank Zipzer:**

## **Niagara Falls, or Does It?**

By Henry Winkler and Lin Oliver†

Hank loves science, but he hates writing reports. The words don't come easily to him. So instead of writing a five-paragraph essay on his summer vacation, he decides to build a model of Niagara Falls to bring into the classroom! Which works great until it springs a leak...

J GRAPHIC GN FIC H

## **Babymouse: Queen of the World!**

By Jennifer Holm and Matthew Holm

Babymouse dreams of big things, the biggest thing, being queen of the world! But she'll settle for an invitation to the most popular mouse's slumber party.

J FIC O

## **My Big Fat Zombie Goldfish**

By Mo O'Hara

Tom's big brother is an evil scientist. When he does an experiment on Tom's goldfish Frank, dropping him into a pile of toxic sludge, Tom jolts him with a battery to bring him back to life! But Frank is a little different now than he was before...

J FIC G

## **The Honest Truth** By Dan Gemeinhart

A boy named Mark, tired of being sick with cancer, conceives a plan to climb Mount Rainier, and runs away from home with his dog, Beau—but with over two hundred miles between him and his goal, and only anger at his situation to drive him on, nothing will be easy, and only his best friend, Jessie, suspects where he is heading.

J GRAPHIC GN FIC B

## **El Deafo** By Cece Bell

Going to school and making new friends is already tough, even without wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest. In this funny memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful—and very awkward—hearing aid.

J PIC S

## **Oliver** By Birgitta Sif

Using his rich imagination while playing with favorite toys, Oliver, a little boy who does not quite fit in with other children, enjoys creative adventures before wondering if he needs another kind of companion.

## Grades 3 - 4 Suggested Reading Lists Continued

### J YR FIC L

**My Happy Life** By Rose Lagercrantz  
Dani is happy to be starting school and she is even happier when she meets a girl named Ella who becomes her best friend. All of a sudden when Ella has to move away with her family, Dani who is no stranger to loss, succumbs to depression. While new friends help a little, she awaits the promise of a visit.

### J FIC S

**Maniac Magee** By Jerry Spinelli  
Jeffrey Lionel "Maniac" Magee might have lived a normal life if a freak accident hadn't made him an orphan. After living with his unhappy and uptight aunt and uncle for eight years, he decides to run—and not just run away, but run. This is where the myth of Maniac Magee begins, as he changes the lives of a racially divided small town with his amazing and legendary feats.

### J FIC W / J-Spa FIC W

**Charlotte's Web** By E.B. White  
A young girl named Fern Arable cares for a piglet after finding out the pig was in jeopardy of being slaughtered.

### J PIC L

**The Invisible Boy** By Trudy Ludwig  
Meet Brian, the invisible boy. Nobody ever seems to notice him or think to include him in their group, game, or birthday party...until, that is, a new kid comes to class. When Justin, the new boy, arrives, Brian is the first to make him feel welcome. And when Brian and Justin team up to work on a class project together, Brian finds a way to shine.

### J FIC W

**Stuart Little** By E.B. White  
Stuart Little is no ordinary mouse. Born to a family of humans, he lives in New York City with his parents, his older brother George, and Snowbell the cat. Though he's shy and thoughtful, he's also a true lover of adventure. Stuart's greatest adventure comes when his best friend, a beautiful little bird named Margalo, disappears from her nest.

### J FIC N

**The Railway Children** By E. Nesbit  
When their father is sent away to prison, three London children move to the country where they keep busy preventing accidents on the nearby

railway, making many new friends, and generally learning a good deal about themselves.

### J FIC A

**The One and Only Ivan**  
By Katherine Applegate  
Having spent twenty-seven years behind the glass walls of his enclosure in a shopping mall, Ivan has grown accustomed to humans watching him. He hardly ever thinks about his life in the jungle. Instead, Ivan occupies himself with television, his friends Stella and Bob, and painting. But when he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from the wild, he is forced to see their home, and his art, through new eyes, and strives to find her a new home.

### J FIC F

**The Man in the Ceiling**  
By Jules Feiffer  
Although not very good at sports or in his schoolwork, Jimmy can draw and dreams of being a great cartoonist; that dream seems within reach when star athlete Charley Beemer suggests they create comics together.

\*Bilingual – English and Spanish

\*\*Also available in Spanish

†Great for reluctant readers

## Grades 5 - 6

\*Bilingüe – inglés y español

\*\*También disponible en español

†Excelente para los lectores renuentes

### J FIC M

**Rain Reign** By Ann M. Martin  
Struggling with Asperger's, Rose shares a bond with her beloved dog. When the dog goes missing during a storm, Rose is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels, even if it means leaving her routines in order to search for her pet.

One copy of *Rain Reign* will be raffled off at each Book Festival!

### J FIC L

**Mirror, Mirror** By Gregory Maguire  
A retelling of "Snow White" set in Renaissance Italy draws a link between the original fairy tale and the Borgia family's infamous practice of poisoning its enemies.

### J FIC L

**Million-Dollar Throw**  
By Mike Lupica  
Eighth-grade star quarterback Nate Brodie's family is feeling the stress of the troubled economy, and Nate is frantic because his best friend Abby is going blind, so when he gets a chance to win a million dollars if he can complete a pass during the halftime of a New England Patriot's game, he is nearly overwhelmed by the pressure to succeed.

### J FIC B

**Tangerine**  
By Edward Bloor  
Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness, and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

### J FIC B

**The War That Saved My Life**  
By Kimberly Bradley  
A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

### J FIC V

**The Running Dream**  
By Wendelin van Draanen  
When a school bus accident leaves sixteen-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb, and her track team finds a way to help rekindle her dream of running again.

### J FIC K

**Out of My Mind** By Sharon Draper  
Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

### J FIC B

**Because of Mr. Terrupt**  
By Rob Buyea  
Seven fifth-graders at Snow Hill School in Connecticut relate how their lives are changed for the better by "rookie teacher" Mr. Terrupt.

### J FIC K

**Ungifted** By Gordon Korman  
Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at his middle school.



## Grades 5 - 6 Suggested Reading Lists Continued

### J FIC L

#### **Love, Aubrey** By Suzanne LaFleur

While living with her Gram in Vermont, eleven-year-old Aubrey writes letters as a way of dealing with losing her father and sister in a car accident, and then being abandoned by her grief-stricken mother.

### J FIC L / Spa FIC L

#### \*\***The Giver** By Lois Lowry

A young boy named Jonas grows up in a society where everything is planned so that life would remain as pleasant as possible.

### J FIC S

#### †**Wonderstruck** By Brian Selznick

Having lost his mother and his hearing in a short time, twelve-year-old Ben leaves his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he never knew in New York City, and meets there Rose, who is also longing for something missing from her life. Ben's story is told in words; Rose's in pictures.

### J FIC D / J-Spa FIC D

#### \*\***Because of Winn-Dixie**

#### **Gracias a 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 a big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

### J FIC L

#### **Touch Blue** By Cynthia Lord

The state of Maine plans to shut down her island's schoolhouse, which would force Tess's family to move to the mainland—and Tess to leave the only home she has ever known. Fortunately, the islanders have a plan too: increase the numbers of students by having several families take in foster children. So now Tess and her family are taking a chance on Aaron, a thirteen-year-old trumpet player who has been bounced from home to home.

### J FIC P / J-Spa FIC P

#### \*\***Wonder** By R.J. Palacio

August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face.

### J FIC S / J-Spa FIC S

#### †\*\***The Invention of Hugo Cabret**

By Brian Selznick

Part picture book, part novel; orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toymaker and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

### FIC G

#### **A Thunderous Whisper**

By Christina Gonzalez

Ani, a twelve-year-old Basque girl, and Mathias, a fourteen-year-old German Jew, become friends and then spies in the weeks leading up to the bombing of Guernica in April 1937.

### J FIC R

#### \*\***Riding Freedom!**

#### **Un caballo llamado Libertad**

By Pam Muñoz Ryan

A fictionalized account of Charley (Charlotte) Parkhurst who ran away from an orphanage, posed as a boy, moved to California, and fooled everyone by her appearance.

### J FIC B

#### \*\***The Secret Garden**

#### **El jardín secreto**

By Frances Hodgson Burnett

Ten-year-old Mary comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors and discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.

### J FIC P/Spa FIC P

#### †**Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were**

#### **Made/ De Sastre & Total**

#### **Agencia de detectives No. 1**

By Stephan Pastis

Meet Timmy Failure and his friend, the 1500-pound polar bear Total. They are starting a detective agency in this funny graphic novel.

### J FIC F

#### †**The Girl Who Could Fly**

By Victoria Forester

When Piper McCloud reveals she can fly, she can't stay on her small farm in her small farm town anymore. She is quickly whisked off to a government school where children with exceptional talents are trained. But is that really what they're doing at this school?

### J FIC P

#### **Slob** By Ellen Potter

Picked on, overweight genius Owen tries to invent a television that can see the past to find out what happened the day his parents were killed.

### J FIC M

#### **The Brilliant Fall of Gianna Z**

By Kate Messner

Gianna has less than one week to complete her leaf project if she wants to compete in the upcoming cross-country sectionals, but issues like procrastination, disorganization—and her grandmother's declining health—seem destined to keep her from finishing.

### J FIC M

#### **Camo Girl** By Kekla Magoon

Ella, a biracial girl with a patchy and uneven skin tone, and her friend Z, a boy who is very different, have been on the bottom of the social order at Caldera Junior High School in Las Vegas, but when the only other African-American student enters their sixth grade class, Ella longs to be friends with him and join the popular group, but does not want to leave Z all alone.

### J FIC R / J-Spa FIC R

#### \*\***The Red Pyramid**

#### **La pirámide roja** By Rick Riordan

After their father's research experiment at the British Museum unleashes the Egyptian god Set, Carter and Sadie Kane embark on a dangerous journey across the globe—a quest which brings them ever closer to the truth about their family, and their links to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs.

### J FIC E

#### **The Absolute Value of Mike**

By Kathryn Erskine

Mike wants to please his father, but the only language his dad seems to speak is calculus. Mike's math learning disability makes this even more difficult. When he's sent to live with relatives in rural Pennsylvania for the summer and work on an engineering project, Mike is desperate to prove himself. But both the project and the town are not what he expected.

### J FIC W

#### **So B. It** By Sarah Weeks

Heidi lives an unconventional lifestyle with her mentally disabled mother and their doting neighbor, Bernadette, but Heidi has a lucky streak that has a way of pointing her in the right direction. When a mysterious word in her mother's vocabulary begins to haunt her, Heidi's thirst for the truth leads her on a cross-country journey in search of the secrets of her past.

### J FIC C

#### \*\***Al Capone Does My Shirts**

By Jennifer Choldenکو

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

### J FIC F

#### **Flying Solo** By Ralph Fletcher

Rachel White has chosen to become mute after learning of the sudden death of a class mate. Six months later, Rachel and her classmates find themselves without a teacher and decide to run the class. By the end of the

## Grades 5 - 6 *Suggested Reading Lists Continued*

day, the students have learned much about themselves and one another.

J FIC H

### **The Fourteenth Goldfish**

By Jennifer Holm

Eleven-year-old Ellie has never liked change. She misses fifth grade. She misses her old best friend. She even misses her dearly departed goldfish. Then one day a strange boy shows up. He's bossy. He's cranky. And weirdly enough...he looks a lot like Ellie's grandfather, a scientist who's always been slightly obsessed with immortality. Could this pimply boy really be Grandpa Melvin? Has he finally found the secret to eternal youth?

FIC M

### **Rogue** By Lynn Miller-Lachmann

Kiara has Asperger's syndrome, and it's hard for her to make friends. So whenever her world doesn't make sense—which is often—she relies on Mr. Internet for answers. But there are some questions he can't answer, like how do kids with Asperger's syndrome make friends? Having been kicked out of school for fighting the kids who taunt her, she wishes she could be like her hero Rogue.

J FIC R

### **Clay** By Colby Rodowsky

After their parent's divorce, eleven-year-old Elsie and her younger brother Tommy, who is mentally "different," must deal with a terrible secret that

causes them and their mother to move from place to place and stay in hiding.

J FIC N

### **The Agony of Alice**

By Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Eleven-year-old, motherless Alice decides she needs a gorgeous role model who does everything right; and when placed in homely Mrs. Plotkins's class she is greatly disappointed until she discovers it is what people are inside that counts.

J FIC N

### **\*Fish in a Tree**

By Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker.

J FIC W

### **\*Brown Girl Dreaming**

By Jacqueline Woodson

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow

and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child.

J FIC G

### **The Honest Truth**

By Dan Gemeinhart

In all the ways that matter, Mark is a normal kid. He's got a dog named Beau and a best friend, Jessie. He likes to take photos and write haiku poems in his notebook. He dreams of climbing a mountain one day. But in one important way, Mark is not like other kids at all. Mark is sick. The kind of sick that means hospitals. And treatments. The kind of sick some people never get better from. So Mark runs away. He leaves home with his camera, his notebook, his dog, and a plan to reach the top of Mount Rainier--even if it's the last thing he ever does.

\*Bilingual – English and Spanish

\*\*Also available in Spanish

\*Great for reluctant readers

## Grades 7 - 8

\*Bilingüe – inglés y español

\*\*También disponible en español

\*Excelente para los lectores renuentes

FIC F

### **Sea Change** By Aimee Friedman

When her estranged grandmother dies and leaves her mother the family home on Selkie Island, seventeen-year-old Miranda meets her mother on the Georgia island, where she discovers mysterious family secrets and another side to her logical, science-loving self.

J FIC T

### **King of the Mound** By Wes Tooke

Twelve-year-old Nick loves baseball so after a year in the hospital fighting polio and with a brace on one leg, Nick takes a job with the team for which his father is catcher and gets to see the great pitcher, Satchel Paige, play during the 1935 season.

J FIC P

### **Freak the Mighty** By W.R. Philbrick

At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.

## All New Book Ideas

J FIC R

### **The Schwa Was Here**

By Neal Shusterman

A Brooklyn eighth-grader nicknamed Antsy befriends the Schwa, an "invisible-ish" boy who is tired of blending into his surroundings and going unnoticed by nearly everyone.

J FIC D

### **The Door in the Wall**

By Marguerite De Angeli

A boy in fourteenth-century England proves his courage and earns recognition from the King.

FIC D

### **Missing Sisters** By Gregory Maguire

Twelve-year-old Alice, an orphan who has never been adopted because of her physical handicap and difficult personality, is shocked to discover she has an identical twin sister living nearby.

FIC S / Spa FIC S

### **\*\*Marcelo in the Real World/**

### **Marcelo en el mundo real**

By Francisco Stork

Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy on the high-functioning end of the autistic spectrum, faces new challenges, including romance.

J B FRANK F / J-Spa B Frank F

### **\*\*The Diary of A Young Girl**

By Anne Frank

The Autobiography of Anne Frank and her experience hiding from the Nazis during the Holocaust.

## Grades 7 - 8 Suggested Reading Lists Continued

FIC G

### †**An Abundance of Katherines** By John Green

Having been recently dumped for the nineteenth time by a girl named Katherine, recent high school graduate and former child prodigy Colin sets off on a road trip with his best friend to try to find some new direction in life while also trying to create a mathematical formula to explain his relationships.

FIC G

### **Like No Other** By Una LaMarche

Though their relationship is strictly forbidden, Deborah and Jax arrange secret meetings and risk everything to be together. But how far can they possibly go? Just how much are they willing to give up?

J FIC V

### **Paperboy** By Vance Vawter

Little Man throws the meanest fastball in town. But talking is a whole different ball game. He can barely say a word without stuttering—not even his own name. So when he takes over his best friend's paper route for the month of July, he's not exactly looking forward to interacting with the customers. But it's the neighborhood junkman, a bully and thief, who stirs up real trouble in Little Man's life.

J FIC S

### †**Counting by 7s** By Holly Sloan

Gifted twelve-year-old Willow has never fit in. When her adopted parents are killed in a car accident and she becomes an orphan again, she is taken in by a Vietnamese-American family and surprised to find herself becoming more than just an "outside observer" to them.

FIC H/Spa FIC H

### \*\***The Outsiders/Rebeldes**

By S.E. Hinton

Rivalry between rich and poor gangs in 1960s Oklahoma leads to the deaths of three teenagers and intense soul-searching for one of the kids involved, a sensitive fourteen-year-old writer named Ponyboy.

FIC A

### **Thirteen Reasons Why**

By Jay Asher

When Clay Jenkins receives a box containing thirteen cassette tapes recorded by his classmate Hannah, who committed suicide, he spends the night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death.

J FIC S

### **Okay for Now** By Gary Schmidt

Doug struggles to be more than the "skinny thug" that some people think him to be. He finds an unlikely ally in Lil Spicer, who gives him the strength to endure an abusive father, the suspicions of a town, and the return of his oldest brother, forever scarred, from

Vietnam. Schmidt expertly weaves multiple themes of loss and recovery in a story teeming with distinctive, unusual characters and invaluable lessons about love, creativity, and survival.

FIC S

### †**Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie** By Jordan Sonnenblick

When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen-year-old Stephen turns to drumming to deal with his complicated feelings.

J FIC D/ Spa FIC D

### \*\***The City of Ember!**

#### **La ciudad de la oscuridad**

By Jeanne DuPrau

Doon and Lina live in the underground city that was built as a last refuge for the human race. For over 200 years the storerooms have been full and the lamps have come on every day for twelve hours, and no one has had any reason to leave the city and venture into the dark Unknown Regions. But the storerooms are emptying, the lights are flickering, and only Doon and Lina seem to care.

J FIC F

### **Hidden** By Helen Frost

When eight-year-old Darra's father steals a van, he doesn't know that Wren is hiding in the back. When they are both fourteen, Darra and Wren meet at summer camp, and have to choose whether to confront the difficult past they share. This book is told in poems from both young women's perspectives.

FIC S

### **The Riverman** By Aaron Starmer

Alistair is good at keeping secrets. When Fiona comes to him and asks him to help write her memoir, he thinks he'll be able to keep hers too. But then she begins to tell him about the dangerous Riverman in Aquavania, a parallel universe where stories are born and children's souls are being stolen. Is Fiona in danger? Is she crazy? What should Alistair do? In this dark story about nightmares and human nature, there are no easy answers.

FIC A

### **Tunnel Vision** By Susan Adrian

When Jake Lukin, eighteen, reveals his psychic ability, he's forced to become a government asset in order to keep his mother and sister safe, but Rachel, the girl he likes, tries to help him live his own life instead of tunneling through others.

FIC C

### **Parched** By Georgia Clark

Feeling guilty after her mother's accidental death, sixteen-year-old Tessendra Rockwood leaves the abundance of Eden to fight for survival in the drought-devastated Badlands, but when she joins

the rebel group, Kudzu, to fight the tyranny of Eden's government, she is in for some big surprises.

Spa FIC A

### **Antes de ser libres**

Por Julia Álvarez

En la República Dominicana en los años sesenta, Anita de la Torre, una niña de 12 años, descubre que su familia está involucrada en la resistencia contra el dictador Trujillo.

FIC TOTEN

### **The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B**

By Teresa Toten

Adam not only is trying to understand his OCD, while trying to balance his relationship with his divorced parents, but he's also trying to navigate through the issues that teenagers normally face, namely the perils of young love.

FIC S

### **Positively** By Courtney Sheinmel

Thirteen-year-old Emmy, grieving over her mother who died of AIDS, resentful of having to live with her father and pregnant stepmother, and despairing about her future, finds hope at a summer camp for HIV-positive girls like herself.

J FIC D

### **Livvie Owen Lived Here**

By Sarah Dooley

Fourteen-year-old Livvie Owen, who has autism, and her family have been forced to move frequently because of her outbursts, but when they face eviction again, Livvie is convinced she has a way to get back to a house where they were all happy, once.

FIC S

### **Unwind** By Neil Shusterman

In a future world where those between the ages of thirteen and eighteen can have their lives "unwound" and their body parts harvested for use by others, three teens go to extreme lengths to survive until they turn eighteen.

FIC W

### **Uglies** By Scott Westerfeld

Just before their sixteenth birthdays, when they will be transformed into beauties whose only job is to have a great time, Tally's best friend runs away and Tally must find her and turn her in, or never become pretty at all.

FIC D/ Spa-FIC D

### \*\***The Maze Runner/Correr o morir** By James Dashner

Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.

## Grades 7 - 8 Suggested Reading Lists Continued

J FIC B

### **Anything but Typical**

By Nora Raleigh Baskin

Jason Blake is an autistic 12-year-old living in a neurotypical world. Jason, who aspires to become a writer, finds a glimmer of understanding when he comes across PhoenixBird, who posts stories to the same online site as he does. Jason can be himself when he writes and he thinks that PhoenixBird—her name is Rebecca—could be his first real friend. But as desperate as Jason is to meet her, he's terrified that if they do meet, Rebecca will only see his autism and not who Jason really is.

J FIC P

### **Gracefully Grayson**

By Ami Polonsky

Grayson Sender has been holding onto a secret for what seems like forever: "he" is a girl on the inside, stuck in the wrong gender's body. The weight of this secret is crushing, but sharing it would mean facing ridicule, scorn, rejection,

or worse. Despite the risks, Grayson's true self itches to break free. Will new strength from an unexpected friendship and a caring teacher's wisdom be enough to help Grayson step into the spotlight she was born to inhabit?

FIC P

### **Huge** By Sasha Paley

When Wilhelmina and April find themselves roommates at a fat camp, both with very different goals, they find they have very little in common until they are both humiliated by the same person.

FIC M

### **Marco Impossible**

By Hannah Mosckowitz

Eighth-graders Stephen and Marco, who came out in the seventh grade, have been best friends and co-schemers in elaborate "heists" since elementary school. As they inch toward high school, when Marco will take off for a private school, a new weight is placed on their friendship. An imperfect plan for one last heist and some tense and very real

confrontations with a school bully bring out issues in the boys' friendship that have been simmering below the surface.

FIC P

### **The Bees** By Laline Paull

Flora 717 is a sanitation worker, a member of the lowest caste in her orchard hive where work and sacrifice are the highest virtues and worship of the beloved Queen the only religion. But Flora is not like other bees. With circumstances threatening the hive's survival, her curiosity is regarded as a dangerous flaw but her courage and strength are an asset. Daring to challenge the Queen's fertility and therefore the strict social hierarchy, her deepest instincts to serve and sacrifice are now overshadowed by an even deeper desire, a fierce maternal love that will bring her into conflict with her conscience, her heart, her society—and lead her to unthinkable deeds.

\*Bilingual – English and Spanish

\*\*Also available in Spanish

\*Great for reluctant readers

## Advanced Readers

\*Bilingüe – inglés y español

\*\*También disponible en español

\*Excelente para los lectores renuentes

FIC G

### **Blind** By Rachel DeWoskin

After a horrific accident leaves her blind, fifteen-year-old Emma, one of seven children, eagerly starts high school as a sophomore, and finds that nearly everything has changed—sometimes for the better.

FIC G

### **The Beginning of Everything**

By Robyn Schneider

An engrossing romance in which tragedy brings two teens together, then threatens to tear them apart.

FIC R

### **Dr. Bird's Advice for Sad Poets**

By Evan Roskos

A sixteen-year-old boy wrestling with depression and anxiety tries to cope by writing poems, reciting Walt Whitman, hugging trees, and figuring out why his sister has been kicked out of the house.

FIC W

### **Where Things Come Back**

By John Whaley

Seventeen-year-old Cullen's summer in Lily, Arkansas, is marked by his cousin's death by overdose, an alleged spotting of a woodpecker thought to be extinct, failed romances, and his younger brother's sudden disappearance.

## All New Book Ideas

FIC M

### **Say What You Will**

By Cammie McGovern

Born with cerebral palsy, Amy can't walk without a walker, talk without a voice box, or even fully control her facial expressions. Plagued by obsessive-compulsive disorder, Matthew is consumed with repeated thoughts, neurotic rituals, and crippling fear. Both in desperate need of someone to help them reach out to the world, Amy and Matthew are more alike than either ever realized.

CLASSICS FIC O/ Spa FIC O

\*\*1984 By George Orwell

Big Brother is always watching in this early dystopian novel about a totalitarian government and the one London man who wants to resist.

FIC D

### **Big Girl Small** By Rachel DeWoskin

Sixteen-year-old Judy Lohden finds her three feet nine inches tall, incredibly talented self in the middle of a scandal, with the national media on her trail and the students at Darcy Academy, a local performing arts high school, involved in the mayhem.

FIC S

### **Hungry** By Heather Swain

In Thalia's world there is no more food and no need for food, as everyone takes medication to ward off hunger. But when she meets a boy who is part of an underground movement to bring food back, she realizes that the meds are not working.

B Lawson L

### **Let's Pretend This Never**

**Happened** By Jenny Lawson

A memoir about growing up poor in rural Texas and learning to live with mental illness doesn't sound like a laugh-out-loud read, but Lawson, better known online as The Bloggess, has a way with gallows humor and a knack for providing nontreaty support to anyone struggling with loneliness, anxiety, chronic pain, or depression.

814 Sedaris

### **Me Talk Pretty One Day**

By David Sedaris

In a collection of essays, observations, and commentaries, the humorist describes his recent move to Paris, life as an American in Paris, his struggle to learn French, his family, and restaurant meals.

# Advanced Readers *Suggested Reading Lists Continued*

941.084 L

## **The King's Speech**

By Mark Logue

Presents the life of the Australian speech therapist who helped the English king, George VI, overcome a lifelong speech disorder and become an eloquent leader of his people during the difficult days of World War II.

FICT

## **Joy Luck Club** By Amy Tan

In 1949, four Chinese women—drawn together by the shadows of their pasts—begin meeting in San Francisco to play mah jong, invest in stocks and “say” stories. They call their gathering the Joy Luck Club—and forge a relationship that binds them for more than three decades.

FIC Z / Spa FIC Z

## **\*\*The Book Thief/**

## **La ladrona de libros**

By Markus Zusak

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel—a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors

FIC N / Spa FIC N

## **\*\*The Sky is Everywhere/**

## **El cielo está en cualquier lugar**

By Jandy Nelson

In the months after her sister dies, seventeen-year-old Lennie falls into a love triangle and discovers the strength to follow her dream of becoming a musician.

FIC C

## **The Perks of Being a Wallflower**

By Stephen Chbosky

A haunting coming of age novel told in a series of letters to an unknown correspondent reveals the life of Charlie, shy and intelligent freshman in high school as he navigates new friends, family drama, and growing up.

FIC D

## **I'll Meet You There**

By Heather Demetrios

Skylar Evans, seventeen, yearns to escape Creek View by attending art school, but after her mother's job loss puts her dream at risk, a rekindled friendship with Josh, who joined the Marines to get away then lost a leg in Afghanistan, and her job at the Paradise motel lead her to appreciate her home town.

FIC G

## **†Girls Like Us** By Gail Giles

Graduating from their school's special education program, Quincy and Biddy are placed together in their first independent apartment and discover unexpected things they have in common in the face of past challenges and a harrowing trauma.

SCI-FI A

## **Half a King** By Joe Abercrombie

Prince Yarvi has vowed to regain a throne he never wanted. But first he must survive cruelty, chains, and the bitter waters of the Shattered Sea. And he must do it all with only one good hand. He cannot grip a shield or swing an axe, so he must sharpen his mind to a deadly edge. Gathering a strange fellowship of the outcast and the lost, he finds they can do more to help him become the man he needs to be than any court of nobles could.

FIC H

## **Girl Stolen** By April Henry

When an impulsive carjacking turns into a kidnapping, Griffin, a high school dropout, finds himself more in sympathy with his wealthy, blind victim, sixteen-year-old Cheyenne, than with his greedy father.

FIC V

## **Find Me** By Laura van den Berg

When a sickness that begins with memory loss and ends with death sweeps the country, Joy finds herself immune. Determined to find her birth mother, the woman who abandoned her, she embarks on a mysterious journey, forcing her to confront her own damaged memory and the secrets she has been keeping from herself.

FIC S

## **A Thousand Acres**

By Jane Smiley

On a prosperous Iowa farm in the 1970s, wealthy farmer Lawrence Cook announces his intentions to divide the farm among his daughters, setting off a family crisis reminiscent of Shakespeare's “King Lear.”

FIC B

## **Perfect Escape**

By Jennifer Brown

Seventeen-year-old Kendra, living in the shadow of her brother's obsessive-compulsive disorder, takes a life-changing road trip with him.

FIC S

## **Stick** By Andrew Smith

Thirteen-year-old Stark “Stick” McClellan's brother has always defended him against those who tease him for his thinness and facial deformity, so when Bosten, having admitted he is gay, must leave home and their abusive parents, Stick sets out to find him.

FIC H

## **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time**

By Mark Haddon

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years.

FIC D

## **†Room** By Emma Donoghue

A 5-year-old narrates a riveting story about his life growing up in a single room where his mother aims to protect him from the man who has held her prisoner for seven years since she was a teenager.

FIC V

## **It's Kind of a Funny Story**

By Ned Vizzini

Determined to become successful in life and get into the right college, he soon crumbles under the stress of this highly demanding school. Due to all the stress, he almost commits suicide. After checking into a psychiatric ward, there he meets an array of different people, some of which he becomes friends with and some he even develops feelings for. Over time, he learns to deal with his anxiety, and must also deal with his problems outside the ward: his family, friends, and the rumors going around school.

## *Suggested Authors for... Advanced Readers*

Edwidge Danticat  
Tennessee Williams  
Tom Wolfe  
Octavia Butler  
Vladimir Nabokov  
Ian McEwan

Tananarive Due  
Kazuo Ishiguro  
Joan Didion  
Celeste Ng  
Agatha Christie  
Jane Smiley

Jamaica Kincaid  
Abraham Verghese  
Truman Capote  
Albert Camus  
Ray Bradbury



# Reading Log



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

	Title	Author	Minutes Read
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
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24			
25			
26			

# Beyond Reading

## Más allá de la lectura

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### **Draw a picture, take a photo, write about your life...**

Draw an idea, event, character, or action from a book you read.

Take a photo or draw a picture of yourself in a setting from your favorite book or depicting experiences you had similar to those of your favorite character.

Write about your favorite book, scene, or character, or tell us about an experience you had that relates to the Challenge theme of "All for One, One for All."



### **Talk to your friends and family...**

Have a conversation about a character, idea, or setting from a book you read.

Many of the suggested books discuss a problem or hardship the characters faced. How would you behave in their place?

Write down ideas you have or decisions you make based on your conversations.



### **Take action...**

Sign up to do volunteer projects with your family at [www.newyorkcares.org](http://www.newyorkcares.org).

Find resources to be involved in/lead your own local, national or global service program at <http://www.generationon.org/kids>.

**After completing your project, turn it in at your local library or at Assembly Member O'Donnell's Community Office (245 W. 104th Street). With your permission, we'll post it on the web!**

What book will you read next?

### **Haz un dibujo, toma una foto, escribe sobre tu vida...**

Dibuja una idea, evento, personaje o acción de uno de los libros que hayas leído.

Toma una foto o haz un dibujo de ti mismo(a) en un escenario de tu libro favorito, o crea una representación de experiencias que hayas tenido similares a las de tu personaje favorito.

Escribe sobre tu libro, escena o personaje favorito, o cuéntanos de alguna experiencia que hayas tenido relacionada al tema del Reto de este año "Todos para uno y uno para todos".

### **Habla con tus amigos y familiares...**

Conversen sobre un personaje, idea o escenario de alguno de los libros que hayas leído.

Muchos de los libros sugeridos discuten algún problema o dificultad enfrentada por los personajes. ¿Cómo te hubieses comportado si estuvieses en su lugar?

Escribe ideas que tengas o decisiones que tomas basado en tus conversaciones.

### **Toma acción...**

Inscríbete para realizar trabajo voluntario con tu familia en [www.newyorkcares.org](http://www.newyorkcares.org).

Encuentra recursos en los que te puedas involucrar/ lidera tu propio programa de servicio local, nacional o global en <http://www.generationon.org/kids>.

**Después de completar tu proyecto, entrégalo en tu biblioteca local o llévalo personalmente a la oficina de la comunidad del asambleísta O'Donnell (localizada en el 245 W. 104th Street). ¡Con tu autorización, publicaremos tu proyecto en nuestra página Web!**

¿Cuál será tu próximo libro?

## Tips for helping children develop a life-long love of reading:

## Consejos para ayudar a los niños a desarrollar el amor por la lectura:

### *Excerpted from various lists on the Reading Is Fundamental website.*

1. Begin reading to your children as soon as they can sit up in your lap and continue reading to and with them even after they enter school;
2. Books with bright, attractive pictures with only a few words as well as nursery rhyme and song books are most appropriate for babies and toddlers;
3. Board books, which are made for little hands to hold and are almost indestructible, are suitable for babies and toddlers. The New York Public Library has a collection of board books to read with your child;
4. Attend toddler and preschool programs at your local branch library that include reading and singing;
5. Set aside a regular time for reading with your children every day. Twenty minutes before bed time is a good practice but the important thing is that reading becomes a daily, joyful experience;
6. Give your children books as gifts;
7. Have your children choose their own books as soon as they start to show an interest in one type of book or author;
8. Encourage your children to get their own library cards;
9. Try a book swap. Ask friends, family, and teachers what books their children have enjoyed;
10. Encourage your child to create bookmarks to include with a gift book or to mark the place in your own book where you leave off during read-aloud time;
11. Incorporate reading with your children into daily activities such as reading recipes while you cook/bake or reading instructions together;
12. See a play, a movie or visit a location based on a book that your child has read;
13. Model good reading behavior and let your child see you reading for pleasure;
14. Have fun! Show your children the joy of reading and how it can open up a brand new world!

### *Extractos literarios de varias listas encontradas en el sitio Web Reading is Fundamental.*

1. Empiecen a leerles a sus hijos tan pronto se puedan sentar en sus faldas y continúen leyendo con ellos después de que empiecen la escuela;
2. Los libros con dibujos llamativos con pocas palabras y los libros de canciones infantiles son los más apropiados para los bebés y los niños más pequeños;
3. Los libros para niños, contruidos de material de cartón, que están hechos para manos pequeñas, son prácticamente indestructibles, y son apropiados para bebés y niños pequeños. La Biblioteca Pública de Nueva York cuenta con una colección de estos libros infantiles que ustedes pueden leer con sus hijos;
4. Asistan a programas para niños pequeños y de edad preescolar en su biblioteca local que incluyan actividades para leer y cantar;
5. Destinen una hora del día para leer con sus hijos. Veinte minutos antes de dormir es una buena práctica, pero lo más importante es que la lectura se convierta en una experiencia diaria y divertida;
6. Obséquienles libros a sus hijos como regalos;
7. Permitan que sus hijos escojan sus propios libros tan pronto empiecen a demostrar un interés en algún tipo de libro o autor;
8. Animen a sus hijos a que obtengan sus propias tarjetas de la biblioteca;
9. Traten de hacer un intercambio de libros. Pregúntenles a sus amigos, familiares y maestros cuáles libros han disfrutado;
10. Estimulen a sus hijos a crear marcadores de páginas para obsequiarlos junto con algún libro o para marcar el lugar por donde van leyendo en sus propios libros;
11. Incorporen la lectura en actividades diarias con sus hijos, como leer las recetas de cocina mientras preparan la cena u hornean, o al leer instrucciones juntos;
12. Vean una obra de teatro, una película o visiten algún lugar mencionado en uno de los libros que sus hijos hayan leído;
13. Sean un buen ejemplo para sus hijos demostrándoles que ustedes leen porque disfrutan de la lectura;
14. ¡Diviértanse! Demuéstrenles a sus hijos lo entretenido que es la lectura y cómo puede abrirles las puertas a un mundo nuevo.



Assembly Member  
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