The Smythe Gambrell Library
Suggestions for Summer Reading
for Students in Fourth Grade

Dear Parents and Students,

Summer is a great time for reading! There are many excellent children’s books available, including the titles we’ve recommended on this reading list. This booklet is just one resource for locating great books. The public library and many local bookstores are also excellent sources of information and will be delighted to help you fill your summer with wonderful books. We ask that your child read one book from each of the six categories listed on our bibliography. The books listed are suggested titles, and we have tried to include books for the varied reading levels in fourth grade. Also, please note that any additional book by one of the authors listed here may be read, too.

The Twelve Rules of Summer Reading:
Read…Read again…Read some more…Read anything…Read about everything…Read enjoyable things…Read things you yourself enjoy…Read and discuss it…Read carefully some things…Read on the run, many things…Don’t think about reading, but…Just read!

Realistic Fiction

Arnold, Elana. A Boy Called Bat. When his veterinarian mom brings home a stray baby skunk that needs rehabilitation before it can be placed in a wild animal shelter, Bat, who has autism, resolves to prove that he is up to the challenge of caring for the skunk permanently. (Fic Arn)

Baskin, Nora. Basketball (or something like it). Hank, Nathan, Jeremy, and Anabel deal with the realities of middle school basketball, including family pressure, a series of coaches with very different personalities and agendas, and what it means to be a team—and a friend. (Fic Bas)

Blume, Judy. Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing. Peter finds his demanding two-year-old brother an ever increasing problem. Series (Fic Blu)
Carey, Elizabeth. **Keeping Cool.** The twelve-year-old Callahan cousins are staying at their grandmother’s rambling seaside estate for a whole summer without parents, but when the usually shy Kate tries to become the “cool” girl in town, her antics threaten to pull the cousins apart. Series (Fic Car)

Clements, Andrew. **The Report Card.** Fifth grader Nora Rowley has always hidden the fact that she is a genius from everyone because all she wants is to be normal, but when she comes up with a plan to prove that grades are not important, things begin to get out of control. (Fic Cle)

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

Fleming, Candace. **Lowji Discovers America.** A nine-year-old East Indian boy tries to adjust to his new life in suburban America. (Fic Fle)

Fitzhugh, Louise. **Harriet the Spy.** Harriet, a sixth grader who lives on Manhattan’s upper east side, has two loves – her nursemaid, and her notebook packed full of insights on the people in her life. (Fic Fit) Sequels: **Harriet Spies Again** by Helen Ericson. (Fic Eri) and **Harriet the Spy, Double Agent** by Maya Gold (Fic Gol)

Haddix, Margaret Petereson. **Dexter the Tough.** A sympathetic teacher and her writing assignment help fourth-grader Dexter deal with being the new kid in school after he punches a kid on the first day. (Fic Had)

Hurwitz, Johanna. **Hot and Cold Summer.** Two inseparable ten-year-old boys discover there is room in their friendship for another person and it really doesn’t matter that she is a girl. Series (Fic Hur)

Klise, Kate. **Letters from Camp.** Sent to Camp Happy Harmony to learn how to get along with each other, pairs of brothers and sisters chronicle in letters home how they come to suspect the intentions of the singing family running the camp. (Fic Kli)

Konigsberg, E.L. **The View from Saturday.** Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth grade class in the Academic Bowl competition. (Fic Kon)

Lay, Kathryn. **Crown Me!** As part of an experiment in a social studies class, fifth graders Justin and Andrea are declared king and queen for two weeks, but they soon learn that royal life is a royal pain as their classmates revolt. (Fic Lay)
Lowry, Lois. **Anastasia Krupnik.** Anastasia’s tenth year has some good things like falling in love and really getting to know her grandmother and some bad things like finding out about an impending baby brother. Series (Fic Low)

Park, Barbara. **Mick Harte was Here.** Thirteen-year-old Phoebe recalls her younger brother Mick and his death in a bicycle accident. (Fic Par)

Pastis, Stephan. **Timmy Failure, No. 1, Mistakes were Made.** Resolving to earn so much money that his mother will no longer stress out over the bills, eleven-year-old Timmy Failure launches a detective business with a lazy polar bear partner named Total but finds their enterprise “Total Failure, Inc.” challenged by a college-bound spy and a four-foot-tall girl whom Timmy refuses to acknowledge. Series (Fic Pas)

Pitchford, Dean. **The Big One-oh.** Determined not to be weird all his life like his neighbor, Charley Maplewood decides to throw himself a tenth birthday party, complete with a "house of horrors" theme, but first he will have to make some friends to invite. (Fic Pit)

Roberts, Willo Davis. **Hostage.** When eleven-year-old Kaci interrupts burglars in the process of robbing her house, she and her nosy elderly neighbor Mrs. Banducci are kidnapped and held hostage by the desperate and ruthless criminals. (Fic Rob)

Ruckman, Ivy. **Night of the Twisters.** A fictional account of the night freakish and devastating tornadoes hit Grand Island, Nebraska, as experienced by a boy, his family, and his friends. (Fic Ruc)

Rylant, Cynthia. **The Van Gogh Café.** The Van Gogh Café, located in Flowers, Kansas, has magic in its walls, causing strange and mysterious events to occur there. (Fic Ryl)

Smith, Robert Kimmel. **Bobby Baseball.** Ten-year-old Bobby is passionate about baseball and convinced that he is a great player – the only problem is, can he get a chance to prove his skill, especially to his father. (Fic Smi)

Spinelli, Jerry. **Fourth Grade Rats.** Suds learns that his best friend is wrong. You don’t have to be a tough guy, a “rat,” to be a grown up fourth grader. (Fic Spi)

**Science Fiction/Fantasy**

Avi. **The Book Without Words: a Fable of Medieval Magic.** Having tried for years to unlock the secrets of the magical Book Without Words, old man Thorston dies in failure and the book is passed on to his servant, Sybil, and her magical raven who eagerly begin the process of breaking the code. (Fic Avi)
Baker, E.D. **The Frog Princess.** After reluctantly kissing a frog, an awkward, fourteen-year-old princess suddenly finds herself a frog, too, and sets off with the prince to seek the means—and the self-confidence—to become human again. Series (*Fic Bak*)

Banks, Lynn Reid. **The Indian in the Cupboard.** For his birthday, a nine-year-old boy receives a small plastic Indian that is no use to him at all, but when he places the Indian in an old metal cupboard, he finds himself involved in a dangerous and magical adventure. Series (*Fic Ban*)

Besson, Luc. **Arthur and the Minimoys.** In search of a stolen treasure and his missing grandfather, ten-year-old Arthur travels to the land of the Minimoys, a tribe of tiny people whom he must save from destruction. Series (*Fic Bes*)

Brallier, Max. **The Last Kids on Earth.** After a monster apocalypse hits town, average thirteen-year-old Jack Sullivan builds a team of friends to help slay the eerily intelligent monster known as Blarg. Series (*Fic Bra*)

Brittain, Bill. **The Wish Giver.** When a strange little man comes to the church social promising he can give people exactly what they ask for, three young believers-in-magic each make a wish that comes true in the most unexpected ways. (*Fic Bri*)

Colfer, Eoin. **Artemis Fowl.** When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll. Series (*Fic Col*)

Coville, Bruce. **The Skull of Truth.** Charlie, a sixth grader with a compulsion to tell lies, acquires a mysterious skull that forces its owner to tell only the truth, causing him some awkward moments before he understands its powers. (*Fic Cov*)

Dahl, Roald. **The BFG.** Sophie is snatched from her orphanage by a BFG (a “Big Friendly Giant”), and concocts a plan with the giant to save the world from nine other man-gobbling cannibal giants. (*Fic Dah*)

Duane, Diane. **So You Want to Be a Wizard?** Thirteen-year-old Nita, tormented by a gang of bullies because she won’t fight back, finds the help she needs in a library book on wizardry which guides her into another dimension. Series (*Fic Dua*)

Eager, Edward. **Half Magic.** Four children spending their summer in the city enjoy a series of fantastic adventures by double-wishing on an ancient coin. Series (*Fic Eag*)

Evans, Paul. **Michael Vey: Prisoner of Cell 25.** To everyone at Meridian High School, fourteen-year-old Michael Vey is nothing special, just the kid who has Tourette's syndrome. But in truth, Michael is extremely special—he has electric powers. Michael thinks he is unique until he discovers that a cheerleader named Taylor has the same mysterious powers. With the help of Michael's friend, Ostin, the three of them set out to discover how Michael and Taylor ended up with their abilities, and their investigation soon brings them to the
attention of a powerful group who wants to control the electric teens--and through them, the world. Series (Fic Eva)

Fox, Helen. Eager. Unlike Grumps, their old-fashioned robot, the Bell family’s new robot, Eager, is programmed to not merely obey but to question, reason, and exercise free will. (Fic Fox)

Gutman, Dan. The Homework Machine. Four fifth-grade students—a geek, a class clown, a teacher’s pet, and a slacker—as well as their teacher and mothers, each relate events surrounding a computer programmed to complete homework assignments. Series (Fic Gut)

Ibbotson, Eve. The Secret of Platform 13. Odge Gribble, a young hag, accompanies an old wizard, a gentle fey, and a giant ogre on their mission through a magical tunnel from their Island to London to rescue their King and Queen’s son, who had been stolen as an infant. (Fic Ibb)

Juster, Norton. The Phantom Tollbooth. A journey through a land where Milo learns the importance of words and numbers thus providing a cure for his boredom. (Fic Jus)

Lewis, C.S. The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. Four children 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. Series (Fic Lew)

Maguire, Gregory. Seven Spiders Spinning. Seven prehistoric spiders that had been trapped in ice for thousands of years bring excitement to rural Vermont and briefly unite two rival clubs at a local elementary school. Series (Fic Mag)

Mlynowski, Sarah. Fairest of Them All. After moving to a new house, ten-year-old Abby and her younger brother Jonah discover an antique mirror that transports them into the Snow White fairy tale. Series (Fic Mly)

Nimmo, Jenny. Midnight for Charlie Bone. Charlie Bone’s life with his widowed mother and two grandmothers undergoes a dramatic change when he discovers that he can hear people in photographs talking. (Fic Nim)

Norton, Mary. The Borrowers. What happens when a human boy befriends one of the people in a fascinating world where the inhabitants – no taller than a pencil, live in a quiet old house and skillfully borrow what they need? Series (Fic Nor)

Ogilvy, Ian. Measle and Wrathmonk. Twelve-year-old orphan Measle Stubbs is shrunk down to half an inch tall and placed in a toy train set by his evil guardian, the Wrathmonk. (Fic Ogi)
Riley, James. **Story Thieves.** Owen's boring life is turned on its head when he sees classmate Bethany climb out of a book in the school library and learns that the half-fictional girl has been searching every book for her missing father, a fictional character. Series (Fic Ril)

Riordan, Rick. **The Lightning Thief.** After learning that he is the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea, twelve-year-old Percy is sent to a summer camp for demigods like himself, and joins his new friends on a quest to prevent a war between the gods. Series (Fic Rio)

Travers, P.L. **Mary Poppins.** An extraordinary English nanny blows in on the East Wind with her parrot-headed umbrella and magic carpetbag and introduces her charges, Jane and Michael, to some delightful people and experiences. Series (Fic Tra)

Ullman, Barb. **The Fairies of Nutfolk Wood.** After her parents divorce and she moves to the country with her mother, fourth-grader Willa Jane, anxious and unhappy with the changes in her life, discovers a world of little people called Nutfolk living in the woods around her new home. (Fic Ull)

**Historical Fiction**

Brink, Carol. **Caddie Woodlawn.** The adventures of an eleven-year-old tomboy growing up on the Wisconsin frontier in the mid-nineteenth century. (Fic Bri)

Burch, Robert. **Ida Early Comes Over the Mountain.** Tough times in rural Georgia during the Depression take a lively turn when spirited Ida arrives to keep house for the Suttons. Sequel: *Christmas with Ida Early.* (Fic Bur)

Byars, Betsy. **Trouble River.** When he builds his raft, a twelve-year-old boy never dreams that it will serve as the sole means of escape for himself and his grandmother when hostile Indians threaten their prairie cabin. (Fic Bya)

Crisp, Marty. **White Star: A Dog on the Titanic.** Twelve-year-old Sam, a passenger on the Titanic’s maiden sea voyage, volunteers to help care for the dogs in the ocean liner’s kennel and becomes fast friends with the Irish setter of J. Bruce Ismay, the ship’s owner. (Fic Cri)

Enright, Elizabeth. **Gone-Away Lake.** Portia and Julian have an unforgettable vacation when they discover an abandoned summer colony. Sequel: *Return to Gone-Away.* (Fic Enr)

Fisher, Dorothy. **Understood Betsy.** Timid and small for her age, nine-year-old Elizabeth Ann discovers her own abilities and gains a new perception of the world around her when she goes to live with relatives on a farm in Vermont. (Fic Fis)
Gutman, Dan. **Babe and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure.** With their ability to travel through time using vintage baseball cards, Joe and his father have the opportunity to find out whether Babe Ruth really did call his shot when he hit that home run in the third game of the 1932 World Series against the Chicago Cubs. Series *(Fic Gut)*

Hill, Kirkpatrick. **The Year of Miss Agnes.** In 1948, ten-year-old Fred (short for Frederika), narrates a story of school and village life when Miss Agnes arrived as the new teacher. *(Fic Hil)*

Lenski, Lois. **Indian Captive: the Story of Mary Jemison.** Reconstructs the story of a white girl's life with the Seneca Indians after her captivity on April 5, 1758. *(Fic Len)*

Lord, Bette. **In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson.** In 1947, a Chinese child comes to Brooklyn where she becomes Americanized at school and discovers her love for baseball. *(Fic Lor)*

McSwigan, Marie. **Snow Treasure.** Based on a true World War II story, this is an account of how a group of Norwegian children fool the German Nazis by taking their country’s gold away right under the guards’ noses. *(Fic McS)*

Park, Linda Sue. **A Single Shard.** Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potter’s village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself. *(Fic Par)*

Pausen, Gary. **Soldier’s Heart.** Eager to enlist, fifteen-year-old Charley has a change of heart after experiencing both the physical horrors and mental anguish of Civil War combat. *(Fic Pau)*

Peck, Richard. **Long Way from Chicago: A Novel in Stories.** A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother. Series *(Fic Pec)*

Peck, Robert Newton. **Soup.** The adventures and misadventures of two boys growing up in a small Vermont town. Series. *(Fic Pec)*

Stolz, Mary. **A Ballad of the Civil War.** Weary of the war, a Union lieutenant recalls his life with his twin brother on their family’s Virginia plantation. *(Fic Sto)*
Tarshis, Lauren. I Survived the Great Chicago Fire. Originally not wanting to come to Chicago, young Oscar Starling finds himself not only in the middle of the city, but trying to survive when the town is ablaze. Series (Fic Tar)

Williams, Barbara. Titanic Crossing. In 1912, thirteen-year-old Albert considers his younger sister a pest, but things change when they travel with their mother and uncle aboard the Titanic and are caught up in its tragic sinking. (Fic Wil)

Adventures/Mysteries

Avi. Who Stole the Wizard of Oz? Becky and her brother use some ingenious clues to identify the person who stole five children’s books from the town’s library. (Fic Avi)

Baccalario, Pierdomenico. The Door to Time. After moving from London to an old mansion on the English coast, eleven-year-old twins Jason and Julia discover that their new home has twisting tunnels, strange artifacts from around the world, and a mysterious, locked door. (Fic Bac)

Brink, Carol. Baby Island. Twelve-year-old Mary Wallace and her ten-year-old sister Jean survive the wreck of an ocean liner on its way to Australia and manage to make it to a seemingly deserted island in a lifeboat with four babies. (Fic Bri)

Clements, Andrew. Room One: a Mystery or Two. Ted Hammond, the only sixth grader in his small Nebraska town’s one-room schoolhouse, searches for clues to the disappearance of a homeless family. (Fic Cle)

Grabenstein, Chris. Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library. Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous game maker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students, but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape. Series (Fic Gra)

Gutman, Dan. Flashback Four, The Lincoln Project. Invited by billionaire Miss Z to travel through time and photograph some of history's most important events, Luke, Isabel, David, and Julia are sent to the year 1863 to capture Abraham Lincoln delivering the Gettysburg Address. Series (Fic Gut)

Gutman, Dan. Nightmare at the Bookfair. When fifth-grader Trip Kindleman, who does not like to read very much, is hit on the head by a heavy box and becomes a character in a series of different books--from a sports story to a science fiction novel to an adventure tale--his view of reading is changed forever. (Fic Gut)

Hahn, Mary Downing. The Doll in the Garden. After Ashley and Kristi find an antique doll buried in old Miss Cooper’s garden, they discover that they can enter a ghostly turn-of-the-century world by going through a hole in the hedge. (Fic Hah)
Kehret, Peg. **Abduction!** Thirteen-year-old Bonnie becomes involved in a major search effort, as well as a frightening adventure when her six-year-old brother Matt and their dog Pookie are abducted. (Fic Keh)

Kehret, Peg. **Earthquake Terror.** When an earthquake hits an island in California where his family had been camping, twelve-year-old Jonathan must find a way to keep himself alive. (Fic Keh)

Korman, Gordon. **Island Trilogy.** Six kids, Nick, J.J., Will, Lyssa, Charla, and Ian, are thrown together against their will on a small boat that will make a one-month journey on the Pacific Ocean. Follow the adventures of these six children as they fight for survival, and ultimate escape, from the island they crash on. Series (Fic Kor)

Lowry, Lois. **The Willoughbys.** A tongue-in-cheek take on classic themes in children's literature, in which the four Willoughby children set out to become "deserving orphans" after their neglectful parents embark on a treacherous around-the-world adventure, leaving them in the care of an odious nanny. (Fic Low)

McKissack, Patricia. **The Dark Thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural.** A collection of ghost stories with African-American themes, designed to be told during the “Dark Thirty” – the half hour before sunset – when ghosts seem all too believable. (SC McK)

Parish, Peggy. **Haunted House.** Three children are uneasy when they learn their parents have bought a reputedly haunted house. Series (Fic Par)

Petersen, P.J. **White Water.** Greg confronts his own fears and assumes a leadership role when his father is bitten by a rattlesnake during a white-water rafting trip. (Fic Pet)

Primavera, Elise. **The Secret Order of the Gumm Street Girls.** In order to save the town of Sherbert, four girls with very little in common become involved with some people and events that seem to bear a resemblance to “The Wizard of Oz.” (Fic Pri)

Snyder, Zilpha Keatley. **The Egypt Game.** A group of children, entranced with the study of Egypt, play a game, are visited by a secret oracle, become involved in a murder, and befriend a professor before they move on to new interest, such as Gypsies. Sequel: **The Gypsy Game.** (Fic Sny)

Springer, Nancy. **The Case of the Missing Marquess: an Enola Holmes Mystery.** Enola Holmes, much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, must travel to London in disguise to unravel the disappearance of her missing mother. Series (Fic Spr)
Wright, Betty Ren. **Haunted Summer.** Shy, nine-year-old Abby surprises herself, her equally timid baby-sitter, and her older brother when they are haunted by a ghost that is trying to reclaim a stolen music box. (Fic Wri)

**Animal Stories**

Auch, Mary Jane. **The Latchkey Dog.** Problems develop when Sam’s mother has to go to work and leaves their dog alone all day. (Fic Auc)

Avi. **Poppy.** Poppy the deer mouse urges her family to move next to a field of corn big enough to feed them all forever, but Mr. Ocax, a terrifying owl, has other ideas. Series (Fic Avi)

Brooke, Lauren. **Coming Home.** Until tragedy strikes, Amy and her mother run Heartland, a farm where abused horses are rehabilitated. Series (Fic Bro)

Bunting, Eve. **The Summer of Riley.** Shortly after he gets the perfect dog, Riley, eleven-year-old William must fight for his dog’s life after it is taken away because it chases and injures an elderly neighbor’s old horse. (Fic Bun)

Daley, Michael. **Space Station Rat.** A lavender rat that has escaped from a laboratory, and a lonely boy whose parents are scientists, meet on an orbiting space station, communicate by email, and ultimately find themselves in need of each other’s help and friendship. (Fic Dal)

DiCamillo, Kate. **The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane.** Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories. (Fic DiC)

Frederick, Heather. **Spy Mice: The Black Paw.** Two fifth-graders who are the targets of bullies and a mouse spy who has not only lost her job, but is also on a mobster rat’s hit list, meet at Washington D.C.’s International Spy Museum and go undercover to help each other out. Series (Fic Fre)

George, Jean Craighead. **There’s an Owl in the Shower.** Because protecting spotted owls has cost Borden’s father his job as a logger in the old growth forest of northern California, Borden intends to kill any spotted owl he sees, until he and his father find themselves taking care of a young owlet. (Fic Geo)

Henry, Marguerite. **Misty of Chincoteague.** Two youngsters’ determination to own a Chincoteague pony is greatly increased when the Phantom and her colt are among those rounded up for the annual auction. Series (Fic Hen)
Holm and Hamel. **The Postman Always Brings Mice.** A dashing British feline spy is dismayed to find himself stranded in New Jersey and adopted by a typical suburban family, until he puts his skills to good use for his new human. Series *(Fic Hol)*

King-Smith, Dick. **The School Mouse.** Flora, the world’s most educated mouse, saves her family during a crisis. *(Fic Kin)*

Oppel, Kenneth. **Silverwing.** When a newborn bat named Shade (sometimes called “Runt”) becomes separated from his colony during a migration, he grows in ways that prepare him for even greater journeys. Series *(Fic Opp)*

Reiche, Dietlof. **I, Freddy.** Freddy, a remarkably intelligent golden hamster, learns how to read and how to write on a computer and escapes captivity to become an independent and civilized creature. Series *(Fic Rei)*

Rylant, Cynthia. **Gooseberry Park.** When a storm separates Stumpy the squirrel from her newborn babies, her animal friends come to the rescue. *(Fic Ryl)*

Spearman, Andy. **Barry, Boyhound.** To the confusion of his friends and family, Barry starts chasing squirrels, eating food off the floor, and otherwise acting like a canine after a flea bite turns his human brain into that of a dog. *(Fic Spe)*

Vande Velde, Vivian. **Smart Dog.** Fifth grader Amy finds her life growing complicated when she meets and tries to hide an intelligent, talking dog who has escaped from a university lab. *(Fic Van)*

Wallace, Bill. **Beauty.** Unhappy about his parents splitting up and moving with his mother to Grandpa’s farm, eleven-year-old Luke finds comfort in riding and caring for a horse named Beauty. *(Fic Wal)*

**Non-Fiction Books**

Ash, Russell. **Great Wonders of the World.** Describes the Seven Wonders of the World, providing background and related information, and surveying such modern wonders as the Channel Tunnel, Hoover Dam, Versailles, and the bullet train. *(031.02 Ash)*

Bisel, Sara. **The Secrets of Vesuvius.** By “reading” the bones of people killed in the town of Herculaneum by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, an anthropologist reconstructs their lives. *(937.7 Bis)*
Brewster, Hugh. **Anastasia’s Album: The Last Tsar’s Youngest Daughter Tells Her Own Story.** Text and photographs depict the last years of the Russian empire, through the eyes of Anastasia, daughter of Tsar Nicholas II. (B Ana)

Buczacki, Stefan. **Young Gardener.** Introduces young readers to gardening, describing how the garden is changing throughout the seasons and providing instruction on different tasks that can be done to grow and maintain healthy plants and flowers. (635 Buc)

Chippendale, Lisa. **Yo-Yo Ma: a Cello Superstar Brings Music to the World.** Tracks the life and career of violinist and cellist Yo-Yo Ma, a child prodigy who grew to become world famous for his playing ability, as well as for experimenting with different kinds of music and performance. (B Ma)

D’Amico, Joan. **The Science Chef: 100 Fun Food Experiments and Recipes for Kids.** Provides recipes and instructions on how to find answers to questions about foods and reach decisions on what foods to buy. (641.3 Dam) Companion volume: **The Science Chef Travels Around the World.** (641.5 Dam)

Davis, Kenneth. **Don’t Know Much About the Fifty States.** Provides assorted facts about each of the fifty states in a fun question and answer format. (973 Dav)

D’Harcourt, Claire. **Masterpieces up Close.** Full-color reproductions of more than twenty paintings and informative text help children learn why these paintings have intrigued art lovers for centuries and discover just what makes each work a masterpiece. (759 Dha)

DiSpezio, Michael. **How Bright is Your Brain?: Amazing Games to Play with Your Mind.** Presents a collection of brain ticks, experiments, puzzles, quizzes, and activities to explore how the brain, nerves, and senses work. (612.8 Dis)

Donegan, Patricia. **Haiku: Asian Arts and Crafts for Creative Kids.** Introduces the form of Japanese poetry known as haiku, explores the seven keys to writing haiku, and provides instructions for five haiku projects. (895.6 Don)

Goodall, Jane. **The Chimpanzees I Love: Saving Their World and Ours.** In her own words, the author brings readers into the world of the chimpanzees. (599.885 Goo)

Harman, Hollis. **Money Sense for Kids!** Explains the nature of money, the different ways in which it can be represented, and how it can be saved or invested, discussing mutual funds, the stock market, banks and inflation. (332 Har)
Hopkins, Lee Bennett. **Lives: Poems about Famous Americans.** A collection of poetic portraits of sixteen famous Americans from Paul Revere to Neil Armstrong, by such authors as Jane Yolen, Nikki Grimes, and X.J. Kennedy. (811 Hop)

Janeczko, Paul. **Top Secret: a Handbook of Codes, Ciphers, and Secret Writing.** Presents history, trivia, and code-breaking tales in a guide book to the world of secret writing that includes examples of a variety of codes and ciphers. (652 Jan)

Kajander, Ann. **Big Ideas for Growing Mathematicians.** Presents twenty activities ideal for an elementary classroom, each of which is divided into sections that summarize the mathematical concept being taught, the skills and knowledge the students will use and gain during the activity, and step-by-step instructions. (510 Kaj)

Kervin, Rosalind. **King Arthur.** A retelling of the boy fated to be the “Once and Future King,” covering his glorious reign and his tragic, yet triumphant passing. (398.2 Ker)

Lasky, Kathryn. **A Voice of Her Own: The Story of Phillis Wheatley, Slave Poet.** A biography of an African girl brought to New England as a slave in 1761 who became famous on both sides of the Atlantic as the first black poet in America. (B Whe)

Lattimore, Deborah. **Arabian Nights: Three Tales.** A retelling of three Arabian nights tales: Aladdin; The Queen of the Serpents; and The Lost City of Ubar. (398.22 Lat)

Levine, Shar. **Sports Science.** Activities that use both body and mind help children uncover the principles that underline the most popular sports, giving them an understanding of how the stars perform their famous moves and why some people do better than others at certain sports. (507 Lev)

MacLeod, Elizabeth. **Royal Murder: the Deadly Intrigue of Ten Sovereigns.** Profiles ten sovereigns, some who avoided death and others who caused it, who became some of the most notorious rulers of history, including Cleopatra, Vlad the Impaler, and Marie Antoinette. (364.15 Mac)

McCaughran, Geraldine. **Roman Myths.** Retellings of fifteen Roman myths chronicling the exploits of Venus, Aeneas, Romulus and Remus, Diana, and others. Companion volume: **Greek Myths.** (292 McC)

Montgomery, Sy. **The Tarantula Scientist.** Describes the research that Samuel Marshall and his students are doing on tarantulas, including the largest spider on earth, the Goliath bird-eating tarantula. (595.4 Mon)
O’Reilly, Gillian. **Slangalicious: Where We Got that Crazy Lingo.** Slang experts present the origins and meanings of more than five hundred slang words, broken out by categories such as sports, work, movies, and food. (427 Ore)

Paulsen, Gary. **My Life in Dog Years.** The author describes some of the dogs that have had special places in his life, including his first dog, Snowball, in the Philippines; Dirk, who protected him from bullies; and Cookie, who saved his life. (B Pau)

Rappaport, Doreen. **Escape from Slavery: Five Journeys to Freedom.** Five accounts of black slaves who managed to escape to freedom during the period preceding the Civil War. (301.45 Rap)

Robinson, Sharon. **Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America.** A biography of baseball legend Jackie Robinson, the first African-American to play in the major leagues, as told by his daughter. (B Rob)

Schanzer, Rosalyn. **George vs. George: the American Revolution as Seen by Both Sides.** Explores how the characters and lives of King George III of England and George Washington affected the progress and outcome of the American Revolution. (973.3 Sch)

Schlitz, Laura Amy. **Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! : voices from a medieval village.** A collection of short one-person plays featuring characters, between ten and fifteen years old, who live in or near a thirteenth-century English manor. (812.6 Sch)

Schmitt, Betsy. **Sticky Situations: 365 devotions for kids and families.** Contains 365 devotions, each of which describes a dilemma a young person might face during the course of an ordinary day, and includes a list of possible options, and guidance from Scripture on making the right choice. (249 Sch)

Schwartz, David. **G is for Googol.** Explains the meaning of mathematical terms which begin with the different letters of the alphabet from abacus, binary, and cubit to zillion. (510 Sch)

Simon, Seymour. **Out of Sight: Pictures of Hidden Worlds.** Shows pictures of objects which are too small, too far away, or too fast to see without mechanical assistance such as microscopes, telescopes, X-rays, and other techniques. (502.2 Sim)

Stanley, Diane. **Bard of Avon: The Story of William Shakespeare.** A brief biography of the world’s most famous playwright, using only historically correct information. (B Sha)
Stanley, Diane. **Leonardo DaVinci.** A biography of the Italian Renaissance artist and inventor who, at about age thirty, began writing his famous notebooks, which contain the outpourings of his amazing mind. (B Leo)

Tanaka, Shelley. **The Disaster of the Hindenburg: the Last Flight of the Greatest Airship Ever Built.** On this anniversary, the author describes the last voyage of the zeppelin, or airship, Hindenburg, which crashed in flames on a New Jersey airfield in 1937, and examines some possible causes for the disaster. (363.12 Tan)

Wulffson, Don. **The Kid Who Invented the Popsicle.** Brief factual stories about how various familiar things were invented, many by accident, from animal crackers to the zipper. (609 Wul)