

night. Jasper takes him to his secret glade, where Charlie witnesses Jasper's horrible discovery. With his secret like a brick in his belly, Charlie is pushed and pulled by a town closing in on itself in fear and suspicion. For mature middle school readers.

◆ Sonnenblick, Jordan. **CURVEBALL: THE YEAR I LOST MY GRIP**. Scholastic. Meet Peter Friedman, high school freshman. Talented photographer. Former baseball star. When a freakish injury ends his pitching career, Peter has some major things to figure out. Is there life after sports? Why has his grandfather suddenly given him thousands of dollars worth of camera equipment? And is it his imagination, or is the super-hot star of the girls' swim team flirting with him, right in front of the amazing new girl in his photography class? Sometimes, the greatest comebacks take place far away from the ball field.

◆ Uehashi, Nahoko. **MORIBITO: GUARDIAN OF THE SPIRIT**. Scholastic. Balsa was a wanderer and warrior for hire. Then she rescued a boy flung into a raging river, and at that moment, her destiny changed. Now Balsa must protect the boy, the Prince Chagum, on his quest to deliver the great egg of the water spirit to its source in the sea. As they travel across the land of Yogo and discover the truth about the spirit, they find themselves hunted by two deadly enemies: the egg-eating monster Rarunga . . . and the prince's own father.

## Grades 9-12

◆ Amir and Kahlil. **ZAHRA'S PARADISE**. First Second Books. Set in the aftermath of Iran's fraudulent elections of 2009, *Zahra's Paradise* is a graphic novel depiction of the search for Mehdi, a young protestor who has vanished into an extrajudicial twilight zone. What's keeping his memory from being obliterated is not the law. It is the grit and guts of his mother, who refuses to surrender her son to fate, and the tenacity of his brother, a blogger, who fuses tradition and technology to explore and explode the void in which Mehdi has vanished.

◆ Brosgal, Vera. **ANYA'S GHOST**. First Second Books. Anya could really use a friend. But her new BFF isn't kidding about the "forever" part... Of all the things Anya expected to find at the bottom of an old well, a new friend was not one of them, especially not a new friend who's been dead for a century. Falling down a well is bad enough, but Anya's normal life might actually be worse. She's embarrassed by her family, self-conscious about her body, and she's pretty much given up on fitting in at school. A new friend, even a ghost, is just what she needs. Or so she thinks. Graphic Novel format.

◆ Carson, Rae. **THE GIRL OF FIRE AND THORNS**. Greenwillow Books. Once a century, one person is chosen for greatness. Elisa is the chosen one. But she is also the younger of two princesses. The one who has never done

anything remarkable, and can't see how she ever will. But the king needs her. And he's not the only one who seeks her. Savage enemies, seething with dark magic, are hunting her; a daring, determined revolutionary, too. Elisa could be everything to those who need her most. If the prophecy is fulfilled. If she finds the power deep within herself. If she doesn't die young. Most of the chosen do.

◆ Cohen, Joshua. **LEVERAGE**. Dutton Books. A timely book about bullies, their victims, and a high school football team where winning is the only thing that matters. This intense sports novel will strike a chord with those who followed the tragic football stories that broke in 2011. At Oregrove High, there's an extraordinary price for victory, paid both on and off the football field, and it claims its victims without mercy. When the unthinkable happens, an unlikely friendship is at the heart of an increasingly violent, steroid-infused power struggle. This is a book that will stay with readers long after they turn the last page.

◆ King, A.S. **EVERYBODY SEES THE ANTS**. Little, Brown. Lucky Linderman didn't ask for his life. He didn't ask his grandfather not to come home from the Vietnam War. He didn't ask for a father who never got over it. He didn't ask for a mother who keeps pretending their dysfunctional family is fine. And he didn't ask to be the target of Nader McMillan's relentless bullying, which has finally gone too far. But Lucky has a secret, one that helps him wade through the daily mundane torture of his life. A powerful novel about learning to cope with the shrapnel life throws at you and taking a stand against it.

◆ Myracle, Lauren. **SHINE**. Amulet Books. When her best guy friend Patrick is savagely beaten and left for dead, victim of a vicious hate crime, sixteen-year-old Cat sets out to discover who in her small town is responsible. This atmospheric mystery mines the secrets of a tightly knit Southern community and examines the strength of will it takes to go against everyone you know in the name of justice. Kirkus Reviews calls this gritty novel "raw, realistic and compelling." For mature readers.

◆ Ness, Patrick. **A MONSTER CALLS**. Candlewick Press. At seven minutes past midnight, thirteen-year-old Conor wakes to find a monster outside his bedroom window. But it isn't the monster Conor's been expecting. He's been expecting the one from his nightmare, the nightmare he's had nearly every night since his mother started her cancer treatments. The monster in his backyard is different. It's ancient. And wild. And it wants something from Conor. Something terrible and dangerous. It wants the truth.

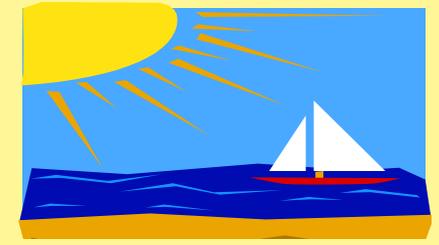
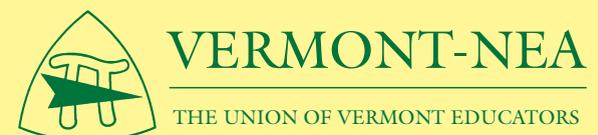
◆ Stiefvater, Maggie. **THE SCORPIO RACES**. Scholastic Press. Some race to win. Others race to survive. It happens at the start of every November: the Scorpio Races. Riders attempt to keep hold of their water horses long enough to make it to the finish line. Some riders live. Others die. Sean is the returning champion. He is a young man of few words,

and if he has any fears, he keeps them buried deep, where no one else can see them. Puck Connolly is different. She never meant to ride in the Scorpio Races. But fate hasn't given her much of a choice. So she enters the competition, the first girl ever to do so. She is in no way prepared for what is going to happen.

◆ Taylor, Laini. **DAUGHTER OF SMOKE AND BONE**. Little, Brown. Around the world, black handprints are appearing on doorways, scorched there by winged strangers who have crept through a slit in the sky. In a dark and dusty shop, a devil's supply of human teeth grows dangerously low. And in the tangled lanes of Prague, a young art student is about to be caught up in a brutal otherworldly war. Meet Karou. She fills her sketchbooks with monsters that may or may not be real; she's prone to disappearing on mysterious "errands"; she speaks many languages- not all of them human. Who is she? That is the question that haunts her, and she's about to find out.

◆ Wilson, Daniel H. **ROBOPOCALYPSE: A NOVEL**. Doubleday. Not far into our future, the dazzling technology that runs our world turns against us. Controlled by a childlike-yet massively powerful-artificial intelligence known as Archos, the global network of machines on which our world has grown dependent suddenly becomes an implacable, deadly foe. What will happen at Zero Hour, when the robots attack?

*This booklist was edited by Shannon Walters, Teacher Librarian at C. P. Smith Elementary School in Burlington, and published as a public service by the Vermont-National Education Association, 10 Wheelock Street, Montpelier, VT 05602*



# Summer Reading for Kids 2012

These books have been selected by Vermont public school librarians, and are recommended for summer reading for children and young adults. For more recommendations, see your school or public librarian.

## 2012 Award Winners

Caldecott Award: Raschka, Chris. **A BALL FOR DAISY**. Random House.

Newbery Award: Gantos, Jack. **DEAD END IN NORVELT**. Farrar Straus Giroux.

Robert F. Sibert Award: Sweet, Melissa. **BALLOONS OVER BROADWAY: THE TRUE STORY OF THE PUPPETEER OF MACY'S PARADE**. Houghton Mifflin.

Coretta Scott King Author Award: Nelson, Kadir. **HEART AND SOUL: THE STORY OF AMERICA AND AFRICAN AMERICANS**. Balzer and Bray/HarperCollins.

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award: Evans, Shane W. **UNDERGROUND: FINDING THE LIGHT TO FREEDOM**. Roaring Brook Press.

Geisel Award: Schneider, Josh. **TALES FOR VERY PICKY EATERS**. Houghton Mifflin.

Michael L. Printz Award: Whaley, John Corey. **WHERE THINGS COME BACK**. Atheneum Books.

**Vermont Red Clover Award Books:** 2012-2013 Master list of 10 titles available at: [http://www.mothergooseprograms.org/lit\\_red\\_clover\\_nominees.php](http://www.mothergooseprograms.org/lit_red_clover_nominees.php)

**Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fisher (DCF) Award:** 2012-2013 Master list of 30 titles available at: <http://www.dcfaward.org/lists/dcfmasterlist12-13.pdf>

**Green Mountain Book Award:** 2012-2013 Master list available at: <http://libraries.vermont.gov/libraries/gmba>

## Picture Books and Easy Readers for Grades K-4

◆ Bently, Peter. ***KING JACK AND THE DRAGON***. Dial Books. Jack, Zack, and Caspar build a castle fort, then spend a day fighting dragons and beasts. But when Sir Zack and Caspar are taken inside for bed, King Jack, alone on his throne, finds himself feeling a bit less brave . . . especially when he hears a “thing” approaching.

◆ Chin, Jason. ***CORAL REEFS***. Roaring Brook Press. During an ordinary visit to the library, a girl pulls a not-so-ordinary book from the shelves. As she turns the pages in this book about coral reefs, the city around her slips away and she finds herself surrounded by the coral cities of the sea and the mysterious plants and animals that live, hunt, and hide there. Vermont author Jason Chin’s follow-up to *Redwoods* is a bold and beautiful picture storybook filled to the brim with fascinating facts about the coral reefs.

◆ Henkes, Kevin. ***PENNY AND HER SONG***. Greenwillow Books. When Penny comes home from school, she is ready to sing her song. But the babies are sleeping, and Mama and Papa are worried that Penny will wake them up. Oh, but it is a good song, a really wonderful song . . . and Penny wants more than anything to sing it. What do you think will happen?

◆ Jenkins, Steve. ***JUST A SECOND***. Houghton Mifflin. What can happen in just a second, a minute, or an hour? How can we measure time? The flap of a vulture’s wing. A crocodile’s heartbeat. The weight of a baby blue whale. The life of a mayfly. These increments of time may sound a bit strange, but they are all fascinating ways in which we can think about time. But what exactly is time? Unique ways to think about time beyond the hands we see every day on a ticking clock.

◆ Klassen, Jon. ***I WANT MY HAT BACK***. Candlewick. A cumulative tale with a mischievous twist... The bear’s hat is gone, and he wants it back. Patiently and politely, he asks the animals he comes across, one by one, whether they have seen it. Each animal says no, some more elaborately than others. But just as the bear begins to despair, a deer comes by and asks a simple question that sparks the bear’s memory and renews his search with a vengeance.

◆ Meisel, Paul. ***SEE ME RUN***. Holiday House. Happiness is a day in the park for this pack of joyful canines. They run, chase, jump in mud, go for a swim, and dig, dig, dig! Their doggy day becomes even more wonderful when they discover a mother lode of bones! But when the bones magically arrange themselves as a T-Rex, the dogs find themselves running once again, this time away from the giant skeleton!

◆ Ray, Mary Lyn. ***STARS***. Beach Lane Books. “A star is how you know it’s almost night. As soon as you see one, there’s another, and another. And the dark that comes doesn’t feel so dark. What if you could have a star?” A quiet exploration of stars both near and far.

◆ Rocco, John. ***BLACKOUT***. Disney Hyperion. One hot summer night in the city, all the power goes out. The air conditioner stops. The TV shuts off; a boy wails. His sister can no longer use her phone, Mom can’t work on her computer, and Dad can’t finish cooking dinner. What’s a family to do? Going up to the roof to escape the heat, they find the lights, in stars that can be seen for a change, and so many neighbors it’s like a block party in the sky! Go off the grid, inspired by this delightful summertime- or anytime-read.

◆ Schubert, Leda. ***READING TO PEANUT***. Holiday House. From Vermont author Leda Schubert comes a fun and fabulous homage to reading. Lucy *needs* to learn to read and write. Why? It’s a secret! Mom and Dad help her make word-and-picture signs on sticky notes that she attaches to objects. That’s what her teacher does in school. For the first sign Lucy draws a picture of Dad, and Dad writes the letters. Lucy sticks the sticky note on Dad’s nose, but her dog, Peanut, chews it! Peanut chews *all* the signs- Mom, beans, peas, corn, and more. After much time, trials, and many words, Lucy reveals her secret...

◆ Wiesner, David. ***THE THREE PIGS***. Clarion. The Three Little Pigs (of straw house, stick house, and brick house fame) escape the Big, Bad Wolf by going into another world where they meet the cat and the fiddle, the cow that jumped over the moon, and a dragon. A delightful retelling of a familiar favorite.

◆ Willems, Mo. ***SHOULD I SHARE MY ICE CREAM?*** Hyperion. Best friends Gerald and Piggie are complete opposites but still manage to have tons of fun together. Gerald has a big decision to make. But will he make it in time? He thinks, “Sharing a flavor Piggie does not like would be wrong.” This series is a sure-fire hit: make it a double scoop and read Willem’s *I Broke My Trunk* or any of the others in this series too. They’re all winners.

## Middle Readers

◆ Messner, Kate. ***MARTY McGUIRE***. Scholastic. Marty McGuire would rather spend recess catching frogs in the pond than playing dress-up with the other girls in third grade. So when her teacher casts Marty as the princess in the class play, Marty’s absolutely, positively sure that there’s been a huge mistake. But after a special lesson in the art of improvisation, Marty comes up with her *own* plan to *improve* the play: Why use stuffed-animal frog onstage when a live one would be so much better? Fans of this will be eager to read the brand-new title *Marty McGuire Digs Worms!*

◆ Hunt, Elizabeth Singer. ***SECRET AGENT JACK STALWART: THE ESCAPE OF THE DEADLY DINOSAUR***. Nine-year-old secret agent Jack Stalwart travels the world in search of his lost brother as he solves thrilling international crimes. This popular series begins with a big challenge: Jack must solve the mystery of the missing Allosaurus toe. Jack’s detection leads him to a science fair experiment run amok, resulting in a gargantuan creature terrorizing New York. Can Jack stop him before he devours the animals in the Central Park zoo?

◆ Grimes, Nikki. ***RICH: A DYAMONDE DANIEL BOOK***. Putnam Juvenile. Dyamonde Daniel is excited about the local library’s poetry contest, and so is her friend Free. The prize is one hundred dollars...just think what they could buy with that much money! But when they find out that their classmate Damaris has been living in a homeless shelter, their ideas about what it means to be rich or poor start to change. And when they get to know Damaris, they realize the one who could use the prize money the most also happens to be the best poet in class.

## Grades 5-8

◆ Brimmer, Larry Dane. ***BLACK AND WHITE***. Calkins Creek. In the 1950s and early 60s, Birmingham, Alabama, became known as “Bombingham.” At the center of this violent time in the fight for civil rights, and standing at opposite ends, were Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth and Eugene Bull Connor. One man committed to ending segregation, and one just as determined to see it maintained. Relying on court documents, police and FBI reports, newspapers, interviews, and photographs, the author first covers each man’s life and then brings them together to show how their confrontation brought about significant change.

◆ Dashner, James. ***THE MAZE RUNNER***. Delacourt. When Thomas wakes up, the only thing he can remember is his first name. His memory is blank. But he’s not alone; Thomas finds himself surrounded by kids in The Glade, a large, open expanse surrounded by stone walls. Just like Thomas, the Gladers don’t know why or how they got to the Glade. All they know is that every morning the stone doors to the maze that surrounds them have opened; every night they’ve closed tight. Then comes a girl with a startling message; Thomas might be more important than he could ever guess. If only he could unlock the dark secrets buried within his mind. Fans of *The Hunger Games* will race through this first book in an action-packed trilogy.

◆ Dessen, Sarah. ***WHAT HAPPENED TO GOODBYE?*** Viking. Who is the real McLean? Since her parents’ bitter divorce, McLean and her dad, a restaurant consultant, have been on the move: four towns in two years. Estranged from her mother and her mother’s new family, McLean has followed her dad in leaving the unhappy past behind. And each new place gives her a chance to try out a new persona:

from cheerleader to drama diva. But now, for the first time, McLean discovers a desire to stay in one place and just be herself, whoever that is. Perhaps Dave, the guy next door, can help her find out.

◆ Ferraiolo, Jack. ***SIDEKICKS***. Amulet Books. Look up in the sky! It’s a BOLD new graphic novel about SUPERHERO PETS! Captain Amazing, superhero and savior of Metro City, is getting old. He’s out all hours battling arch-villains, catching thieves, and helping little old ladies cross the street. He doesn’t even have time for his house full of pets. He needs... a SIDEKICK! Get ready for sibling rivalry royale as pets with superpowers duke it out for the one thing they all want: to be The Sidekick.

◆ Hiaasen, Carl. ***CHOMP***. Knopf Books. Wahoo Cray lives in a zoo. His father is an animal wrangler, so he’s grown up with all manner of gators, snakes, parrots, rats, monkeys, snappers, and more in his backyard. The critters he can handle. His father is the unpredictable one. When his dad takes a job with a reality TV show called “Expedition Survival!” Wahoo figures he’ll have to do a bit of wrangling himself— to keep his dad in line. They’ve only been on location in the Everglades for a day before the star gets bitten by a bat and goes missing in a storm. It’s anyone’s guess who will *actually* survive Expedition Survival! Another laugh-out-loud hit from Hiaasen.

◆ Napoli, Donna Jo. ***TREASURY OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY: CLASSIC STORIES OF GODS, GODDESSES, HEROES AND MONSTERS***. National Geographic. Timeless stories of Greek myths, in a beautiful new volume. Zeus, Aphrodite, Apollo, and Athena and heroes and monsters such as Helen of Troy, Perseus, and Medusa will fascinate and engage imaginations. On the lighter side, mythology fans may also enjoy *Oh My Gods! A Look-it-Up Guide to the Gods of Mythology* from the Mythlopedia series.

◆ Shanzer, Rosalyn. ***WITCHES! THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE TALE OF DISASTER IN SALEM***. National Geographic. In the little colonial town of Salem Village, Massachusetts, two girls began to twitch, mumble, and contort their bodies into strange shapes. The doctor tried every remedy, but nothing cured the young Puritans. He grimly announced the dire diagnosis: the girls were bewitched! And then the accusations began. The riveting, true story of the victims, accused witches, crooked officials, and mass hysteria that turned a mysterious illness affecting two children into a witch hunt that took over a dozen people’s lives and ruined hundreds more unfolds in chilling detail.

◆ Silvey, Craig. ***JASPER JONES***. Alfred A. Knopf. Charlie Bucktin, a bookish thirteen year old, is startled one summer night by an urgent knock on his bedroom window. His visitor is Jasper Jones, an outcast in their small mining town, and he has come to ask for Charlie’s help. Terribly afraid but desperate to impress, Charlie follows him into the