

Summer Reading for Kids 2011

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.

2011 Award Winners

Caldecott Award: Stead, Philip C. *AA SICK DAY FOR AMOS MCGEE*. Illustrated by Erin E. Stead, written by Philip C. Stead. A Neal Porter Book, published by Roaring Brook Press

Newbery Award: Vanderpool, Clare. *MOON OVER MANIFEST*. Delacorte Press.

Robert F. Sibert Award: Montgomery, sY. *KAKAPO RESCUE: SAVING THE WORLD'S STRANGEST PARROT*. Houghton Mifflin.

Coretta Scott King Author Award: Williams-Garcia, Rita. *ONE CRAZY SUMMER*. One Crazy Summer. Amistad,

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award: Hill, Laban Carrick. *DAVE THE POTTER: ARTIST, POET, SLAVE*. Little, Brown

Geisel Award: DiCamillo, Kate and McGee, Alison. *BINK AND GOLLIE*. Candlewick Press.

Michael L. Printz Award: Bacigalupi, Paolo. *SHIP BREAKER*. Little, Brown.

Vermont Red Clover Award Books:

2011-2012 Master list available at: http://www.mothersgooseprograms.org/lit_red_clover_nominees.php

Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fisher (DCF) Award: 2011-2012 Master list available at:

<http://www.dcfaward.org/lists/dcfmasterlist11-12.pdf>

Green Mountain Book Award: 2011-2012 Master list available:

<http://libraries.vermont.gov/sites/libraries/files/gmba/gmbamasterlist11-12withimages.pdf>

Picture Books, Easy Readers and Middle Readers for Grades K-4

Compiled by Vermont NEA member Kelly Wood, School Librarian at Champlain Elementary School, Burlington

Picture Books and Easy Readers

Arnold, Tedd. **BUZZ BOY AND FLY GUY**. Scholastic. In Fly Guy's latest adventure, Buzz writes a book called *The Amazing Adventures of Buzz Boy and Fly Guy*. In this story-within-a-story, the two discover that their house has been stolen by pirates and taken to the cave of a dragon. Are their superpowers enough to save the day?

Fleming, Candace. **CLEVER JACK TAKES THE CAKE**. Schwartz & Wade Books. From the creators of *Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!*, comes an original fairy tale. Jack is excited to receive an invitation to the princess' birthday party, but has no money to buy a present. He trades for the ingredients to make a cake, and tops it with the "reddest, juiciest" strawberry in the land. However, on his way to the castle, Jack encounters several problems, eventually arriving at the party with only the strawberry, to which the princess is allergic. Even though Jack only has his story to offer as a gift, the princess is delighted with the tale.

Goodrich, Carter. **SAY HELLO TO ZORRO!** Simon & Schuster.

Mr. Bud has a pretty comfortable life for a dog. When his daily routine is suddenly interrupted by a new housemate, Mr. Bud is not very happy. He and Zorro are very different dogs...how can they possibly get along? But when the dogs realize that they actually have a lot in common, they form an instant friendship and can't imagine life apart.

Knudsen, Michelle. **ARGUS.** Candlewick Press. "Don't be difficult." This is Mrs. Henshaw's standard answer every time Sally points out that her science experiment does not look like the other students'. Then, Sally notices that her science lesson egg is green with polka-dots and is much bigger than the others. Sally's egg produces a green, dragon-like creature, which she names Argus. [Next, Argus grows to an enormous size and threatens to eat all of the other chicks. When Argus goes missing, instead of feeling relieved, Sally realizes that she misses Argus, despite his being different.](#)

Lichtenheld, Tom. **CLOUDETTE.** Henry Holt. Although Cloulette likes being a small cloud, she sometimes wishes she had the power to conjure up weather like the big clouds. When a storm blows her away from her neighborhood, she suddenly doesn't know where she belongs. Cloulette meets a frog in a dried-up pond and wants to help. Even though she has never made rain before, she summons up all her energy to create rain to fill the pond. A sunny story about believing in yourself.

Spires, Ashley. **SMALL SAUL.** Kids Can Press. [What is a summer reading list without a pirate story?](#) Small Saul is too short to join the navy, but is in love with the sea. After graduating from Pirate College, Small Saul can't find work except on a run-down ship named The Rusty Squid. Saul's efforts to improve the ship by redecorating, handing out breath mints, and baking sweets does not sit well with the other pirates. [To try to prove his toughness, Saul gets a tattoo...but his choice of a bunny still doesn't win over the crew. After the Captain tosses Saul overboard, the crew soon realizes that all his homey touches were a nice change, and they go back to rescue Saul.](#)

Stein, David Ezra. **INTERRUPTING CHICKEN.** Candlewick Press. Little Red Chicken can't help herself from interrupting. So when Papa sits down to read a bedtime story, he must remind her not to interrupt. Several failed attempts later, Papa gives up and Little Red Chicken decides to tell him a bedtime story instead. She soon finds out what it feels like to be interrupted (even if Papa does it in his own way). A sweet story that will entertain parents as well as kids.

Wadham, Tim. **THE QUEEN OF FRANCE.** Candlewick Press. [When Rose awakens one morning, she feels "royal."](#) A trip to the make-believe basket transforms Rose into the Queen of France. Playing the role of the queen, she travels around the yard in search of Rose, questioning Rose's parents, but is informed that they have not seen her. Rose's parents play along, but ask the queen to give Rose messages, as they miss her. Over tea, the queen suggests to Rose's mom that she and Rose trade places. Mom explains that she would miss Rose terribly, and so the queen is faced with a difficult decision. [A charming story with an ending that will bring a smile.](#)

Willems, Mo. **I BROKE MY TRUNK.** Hyperion Books. Elephant and Piggie are back to entertain young readers with a "long, crazy story". When Gerald shows up with his trunk

bandaged, Piggie wants to know what has happened. Gerald's unbelievable tale takes a funny twist when Piggie gets involved.

Middle Readers:

Bildner, Phil. **THE UNFORGETTABLE SEASON: THE STORY OF JOE DIMAGGIO, TED WILLIAMS, AND THE RECORD-SETTING SUMMER OF '41.** G.P. Putnam's Sons. The 1941 baseball season was a remarkable year. Alternating between the nonfiction stories of the Yankees' Joe DiMaggio and Boston's Ted Williams, the author builds suspense by describing critical moments of the games and captures the excitement of the ballpark. Bildner weaves facts and statistics throughout. Baseball fans young and old will love this book.

Cronin, Doreen. **THE TROUBLE WITH CHICKENS.** Balzer & Bray. Retired search-and-rescue dog, J.J. Tully, finds himself back on the job when two baby chicks disappear from the farm on which they all live. J.J. agrees to help the annoying mama chick, Mildred (a.k.a. Moosh), but only after Moosh promises to provide a cheeseburger in exchange for his help. The plot thickens when the clues lead to the jealous house dog named "Vince the Funnel" (he wears a plastic cone on his head due to an ear infection). This quirky detective tale is filled with silly antics and charming characters that will keep readers laughing.

DiCamillo, Kate. **THE MAGICIAN'S ELEPHANT.** Candlewick Press. 10-year-old Peter, an orphan living with a friend of his late father, is determined to find out the fate of his younger sister. Desperate for answers, Peter seeks the advice of fortune teller who tells him that his sister is alive and that an elephant will lead him to her. The wintery, Old World city where Peter lives is the last place you would expect to find an elephant. But a series of unlikely events and fantastic dreams makes the impossible suddenly come true. An emotional story of hope and love told through lyrical text.

McDonald, Megan. **STINK AND THE ULTIMATE THUMB-WRESTLING SMACKDOWN.** candlewick Press. While Stink is very proud of his good grades in most subjects, his report card reveals that he is failing Phys. Ed. Determined to find a sport that he likes, Stink tries thumb wrestling, but may be better suited for karate. A fun addition to the series.

Spires, Ashley. **BINKY TO THE RESCUE.** Kids Can Press. In the second graphic novel of this series, we find Binky, a loveable house cat who believes he is a Space Cat, on another wild adventure. While chasing invaders (bugs) from the space station (the house), Binky and his stuffed mouse Ted fall through a porthole (bathroom window) and find themselves in a very dangerous place – "outer space" (the backyard). Although Binky is quickly rescued by his human, Ted is not so lucky. Can Binky escape the space station once more to rescue his friend from certain danger?

Sternberg, Julie. **LIKE PICKLE JUICE ON A COOKIE.** Amulet Books. Eleanor had a bad August, "as bad as pickle juice on a cookie." Her longtime babysitter, Bibi, moved to Florida and Eleanor is devastated. Reminders of Bibi are everywhere and the thought of having a new babysitter is unthinkable. Despite Eleanor's protest, the new sitter, Natalie, arrives. Slowly, the two discover new activities and Natalie helps Eleanor prepare for 3rd grade.

Their cautious and heartwarming friendship helps Eleanor realize that she can enjoy being with Natalie, even though she still cherishes Bibi. Eleanor's charming narration adds a touch of humor to this sweet story.

Grades 5-8

Allison, Jennifer. **GILDA JOYCE, PSYCHIC INVESTIGATOR.** Puffin.

Gilda Joyce is thirteen years old and interested in all things psychic. After her dad died she has been determined to contact the "other side". She finds a relative in San Francisco and invents a way to get away from her boring town for the summer. When she finds out that someone had died she researches and solves her first psychic investigator work. Mystery Detective.

Bell, Hilari. **SWORD OF WATERS.** Aladdin.

Arisa is the daughter of the notorious Falcon, former robber but now commander of the Kings Army and Navy. Can she trust her mother to be loyal to the crown or is this just another way to gain control. Arisa makes friends with Weasel former pick pocket and as the plot thickens they become more confused about who they should trust. This is the second in the series : *The Shield, the Sword and the Crown.* Fantasy Adventure.

Bosch, Pseudonymous. **THE NAME OF THIS BOOK IS SECRET.**

Cassandra and Max find a missing magician's notebook and start to investigate the fire which burnt down his house and his mysterious "symphony of smells." This is an awesome book for anyone who loves secrets, mysteries and lots of mysterious happenings.

Carman, Patrick. **THE DARK HILLS DIVIDE.**

The first book in the *Land of Elyon* series. Young Alexa feels stifled within the city limits surrounded by a fortress that keeps everyone in. Alexa escapes to find talking animals and enchanted stones and hidden lands filled with danger. This is a book for anyone who loves fantasy.

Craig, Coleen. **AFRIKA.**

This story is about thirteen year old Kim who is suddenly taken from the comfort of her Canadian home to accompany her mother on an investigative assignment to her mother's birthplace, Africa. Kim is brought into her mother's past and into the history of the politics of Africa Apartheid and the present day violence. She is confronted with the truth of her father and the reason her mother fled to Canada.

Funke, Cornelia Caroline. **RECKLESS.**

This is an intense adventure about searching for family and keeping those left behind safe even if it means one follows a dangerous path to do it.

Hegamin, Tonya. **PEMBA'S SONG: A GHOST STORY.**

Interspersed with poetry and prose, 15 yr. old Pemba shares her anger at being forced to move from her life and friends in Brooklyn, NY to an old Colonial house in Colchester, CT. When an

18th Century slave girl, shows herself to Pemba, both girls are transformed, through poetry, in ways neither expected. Based on the real history of Colchester, CT and a chance meeting with a history buff Abraham Hajj who appears in the story.

Horowitz, Anthony. **SCORPIA.**

After being told that his father was an assassin for a criminal organization, fourteen-year-old Alex goes to Italy to find out more and becomes involved in a plan to kill thousands of English schoolchildren. A series you won't be able to put down.

Jonell, Lynne. **EMMY AND THE HOME FOR TROUBLED GIRLS.**

Emmy was just an ordinary girl or she wanted to be, that is if you can count talking to rodents and having them talk back to you, an ordinary ability. This is a continuing story about Emmy and her adventures.

Kehret, Peg. **RUNAWAY TWIN.**

All is not what it seems to be. Some things just don't end the way you want them. Sunny is in another foster home. This one is better than the others but in her dreams she is reunited with her twin sister who she was separated from when both her mother and grandmother were killed in a car accident when she was just 3 years old, ten years ago. Sunny encounters life-threatening obstacles to find the sister of her heart, which ends in the ultimate challenge.

Klise, Kate. **REGARDING THE BEES: A LESSON IN LETTERS ON HONEY, DATING AND OTHER STICKY SUBJECTS.**

The seventh graders at Geyser Creek Middle School are preparing for a spelling bee and a horrible standardized test called the BEE, and try to smuggle their mascot--a bee that spells--into the local spelling competition. A great series to get hooked on.

Korman, Gordon. **THE ABDUCTION: KIDNAPPED.**

While Aiden and his sister are walking home, his sister is kidnapped. This is a fast paced story of terrorists, intrigue and government espionage. Book one in this series.

Korman, Gordon. **THE SURVIVAL: SHIPWRECK.**

Six kids are shipwrecked and stranded on a desert island. They have no food, no one knows they are lost and no one even knows the island exists. At first they think their island is safe, but they have a run in with poachers, then find a deserted WW2 bunker and discover a discarded atomic bomb. Now what do they do? Where can they go to be safe? Book 2 in the Series.

Meyer, L. A. **BLOODY JACK: BEING AN ACCOUNT OF THE CURIOUS ADVENTURES OF MARY "JACKY" FABER, SHIP'S BOY.**

High adventure story of a young orphan girl left on the streets of London to die. Mary is resourceful and becomes part of a homeless gang that steals to survive while trying to keep from being bullied and killed by other gangs more dangerous. Seeing no way out for herself, she disguises herself as a young boy and becomes a ship's boy in this first book of the series. This is just the beginning of her adventures.

Park, Linda Sue **A LONG WALK TO WATER, A NOVEL: BASED ON A TRUE STORY.**

This is the heart-wrenching story of a Lost Boy who finds himself living in America after a long and dangerous journey through Africa.

Sensel, Joni. **HUMMING OF NUMBERS.**

This book gives a fantastic reflection on what a boy growing up in the Middle Ages has to go through in order to learn how to read and write. It's a great adventure and love story. His experiences trying to become a monk are eye opening.

Tanner, Lian. **MUSEUM OF THIEVES.** Delacorte.

"Welcome to the tyrannical City of Jewel, where impatience is a sin and boldness is a crime!" The story is filled with mystery and intrigue and is memorable for the images of children chained to their parents in order to protect them from harm. Goldie is strong willed and courageous and is willing to be in harm's way in order to have individual freedom. Intriguing adventure.

Umansky, Kaye. **THE SILVER SPOON OF SOLOMON SNOW.**

Ten-year-old Solomon Snow, an orphan who was discovered with a distinctive silver spoon in his mouth, sets out to find his parents and receives help along the way from an aspiring writer, a young circus performer and several other orphans. The first in a series of adventure and mayhem.

Wallace, Rich. **ONE GOOD PUNCH.**

Making any decision has consequences. Michael has everything going for him until he seals his fate by not telling the whole truth. He makes a decision based on a friendship that changes his life. It's hard to think he would give up his dreams for a friend who set him up for a fall.

Yolen, Jane. **PRINCE ACROSS THE WATER.**

The bloodiest battle in all of Scotland's history - a story of betrayal and of lost friendship. In 1746, a year after the Scottish clans have rallied to the call of their exiled prince, Charles Stuart, to take up arms against England's tyranny, fourteen-year-old, epileptic Duncan MacDonald and his cousin, Ewan, run away to join the fight at Culloden and discover the harsh reality of war.

Grades 9-12

B., David. **THE LITTLEST PIRATE KING.** Fantagraphics Books.

A ship manned by dead pirates rescue a baby, lone survivor of a pirate raid in this “charmingly creepy” graphic novel by David B, adapted from a short story by Orlan. Opting to keep the child alive has unexpected consequences for the pirates, desperate to make their “final port of call.” Nightmarish and compelling.

Bacigalupi, Paolo. **SHIP BREAKER.** Little, Brown Books.

A thrilling, fast-paced adventure. Nailer, a teenage scavenger, works to take apart ancient oil tankers for copper wiring just to make quota--and hopefully live to see another day. But when, by luck or chance, he discovers an exquisite clipper ship beached during a recent hurricane, Nailer faces the most important decision of his life: Strip the ship for all it's worth or rescue its lone survivor, a beautiful and wealthy girl who could lead him to a better life.

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. **THEY CALLED THEMSELVES THE KKK: THE BIRTH OF AN AMERICAN TERRORIST GROUP.** Houghton Mifflin. “*Boys, let us get up a club.*”

With those words, six restless young men raided the linens at a friend's mansion, pulled pillowcases over their heads, hopped on horses, and cavorted through the streets of Pulaski, Tennessee. The six friends named their club the Ku Klux Klan; their club grew into the self-proclaimed Invisible Empire with secret dens spread across the South. This is the story of how a secret terrorist group took root in America's democracy. Filled with chilling and vivid personal accounts unearthed from oral histories, congressional documents, and diaries, it is a book to read and remember.

Calame, Don. **BEAT THE BAND.** Candlewick.

It's the beginning of the school year, and the tenth-grade health class must work in pairs on semester-long projects. Coop is matched with the infamous “Hot Dog” Helen for a presentation on safe sex. The only way to escape this social death sentence is to win “The Battle of the Bands” with his group, “Arnold Murphy's Bologna Dare.” There's just one problem: none of the guys actually plays an instrument. Will Coop regain his “cool” before it's too late? Or will the forced one-on-one time with Helen teach him a lesson about social status he never saw coming? With ribald humor and a few sweet notes, Calame hits all the right chords in this hilarious stand-alone sequel to *Swim the Fly*,

Henry, April. **GIRL, STOLEN.** Henry Holt.

Sixteen year-old Cheyenne Wilder is sleeping in the back of a car while her mom fills her prescription at the pharmacy. Before Cheyenne realizes what's happening, their car is being stolen--with her inside! Griffin hadn't meant to kidnap Cheyenne, all he needed to do was steal a car for the others. But once Griffin's dad finds out that Cheyenne's father is the president of a powerful corporation, everything changes—now there's a reason to keep her. What Griffin doesn't know is that Cheyenne is not only sick with pneumonia, she is blind. How will Cheyenne survive this nightmare, and if she does, at what price?

King, A.S. **PLEASE IGNORE VERA DIETZ.** Alfred A. Knopf.

Vera's spent her whole life secretly in love with her best friend, Charlie Kahn. And over the years she's kept a lot of his secrets. Even after he betrayed her. Even after he ruined everything. So when Charlie dies in dark circumstances, Vera knows a lot more than anyone—the kids at school, his family, even the police. But will she clear his name? Does she even want to? Vera Dietz just wants to be ignored, but the ghost of her ex-best friend won't leave her alone in this edgy comedy that examines relationships, identity, grief and flowcharts.

O'Brien, Caragh M. **BIRTHMARKED.** Roaring Brook Press.

Sixteen-year-old midwife's apprentice Gaia Stone and her mother faithfully deliver their quota of three infants every month to the city authorities "to live a better life inside the city." But when Gaia's mother is brutally taken away by the very people she serves, Gaia must question whether the Enclave deserves such loyalty. This dystopian thriller will have readers racing alongside Gaia's attempt to rescue her family, all the way to the stunning finish.

Oliver, Lauren. **BEFORE I FALL.** Harper.

What if you had only one day to live? What would you do? Who would you kiss? And how far would you go to save your own life? Samantha Kingston has it all: the boyfriend, best friends, and first pick of everything—from the best table in the cafeteria to the choicest parking spot. Friday, February 12, should be just another day in her charmed life. Instead, it turns out to be her last. Then she gets a second chance. Seven chances, in fact. Reliving her last day during one miraculous week, she will untangle the mystery surrounding her death—and discover the true value of everything she is in danger of losing.

James Patterson and Friedman, Hal. **MED HEAD: MY KNOCK-DOWN, DRAG-OUT, DRUGGED-UP BATTLE WITH MY BRAIN.** Little, Brown Books. The page-turning story of a teenager's life-or-death struggle with Tourette's Syndrome and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder—as well as depression, anxiety, and alcohol addiction. Told in Cory's voice, the story of his illness and treatment is harrowing and deeply personal. "One morning in March of 1989, just before my fifth birthday, I woke up as a normal, healthy boy. By that afternoon, I had an irresistible urge to shake my head—continually—and the course of my life changed in ways few people had ever seen or could begin to understand."

Perkins, Lynne Rae . AS EASY AS FALLING OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH. Greenwillow Books.

Sixteen-year-old Ry opens a letter en route to summer camp informing him that his program has been canceled. Hopping off the train to regroup, bad goes to worse: lost baggage, lost shoe, dying cell phone battery and a family in crisis. An entertaining (and eventful) summer road trip. Train. Car. Plane. Boat. Feet. He'll get there. Won't he?

Sachar, Louis. **THE CARDTURNER: A NOVEL ABOUT A KING, A QUEEN AND A JOKER.** Delacorte Press.

“How are we supposed to be partners? He can’t see the cards and I don’t know the rules!” The summer after junior year of high school looks bleak for Alton Richards. His girlfriend has dumped him to hook up with his best friend. He has no money and no job. His parents insist that he drive his irascible great-uncle Lester to his bridge club four times a week and be his “cardturner”—whatever that means. Alton’s uncle is old, blind, very sick, and very rich. Full of bluffs, blinds and dummies, Alton's story is just beginning.

Sedgwick, Marcus. **REVOLVER.**

A loaded gun. Stolen gold. And a menacing stranger. A taut frontier survivor story, set at the time of the Alaska gold rush. In an isolated cabin, fourteen-year-old Sig is alone with a corpse: his father, who has fallen through the ice and frozen to death only hours earlier. Then comes a stranger claiming that Sig’s father owes him a share of a horde of stolen gold. Sig’s only protection is a loaded Colt revolver hidden in the cabin’s storeroom. The question is, will Sig use the gun, and why?

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