

# **SUMMER READING 2010**

*Cynthia Barry, Librarian*



## **Websites:**

[www.soemadison.wisc.edu/ccbc](http://www.soemadison.wisc.edu/ccbc) Cooperative Children's Book Center, Univ. of Wisconsin

<http://alexia.lis.uiuc.edu/puboff/bccb/> The Center for Children's Books, Univ. of Illinois

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/alscresources/summerreading> Assoc. for Library Service to Children

[http://www.maslmd.org/awards\\_winners.php](http://www.maslmd.org/awards_winners.php) Maryland Assoc. of School Librarians, Maryland

[www.lettersaboutliterature.org](http://www.lettersaboutliterature.org) Letters about Literature

[www.hbook.com/booklists/summer.asp](http://www.hbook.com/booklists/summer.asp) The Horn Book Magazine site (below:)

## **PICTURE BOOKS**

Suggested grade level listed with each entry

### ***Orangutan Tongs: Poems to Tangle Your Tongue* written and illustrated by Jon Agee (Hyperion)**

Ever-effervescent Agee fashions thirty-four comic tongue-twisting verses, each featuring daft characters and a succinct scenario. Grade level: 1–4. 48 pages.

### ***The Pencil* written by Allan Ahlberg, illustrated by Bruce Ingman (Candlewick)**

After a pencil draws a world into existence, it's threatened by a thuggish eraser run amok in this wry, madcap, loving story of the power of artistic expression. Grade level: K–3. 48 pages.

### ***There's a Wolf at the Door* retold by Zoe B. Alley, illustrated by R. W. Alley (Porter/Roaring Brook)**

Five interlinked and thoroughly retold tales, compiled in an oversized format and presented in engaging panel illustrations, all end with the wolf foiled. Grade level: 1–4. 40 pages.

### ***Don't Look Now!* written and illustrated by Ed Briant (Porter/Roaring Brook)**

When the ground opens up and swallows two squabbling brothers, depositing them in a jungle, the two must use their combined wiles to escape. Grade level: K–3. 32 pages.

### ***Wolfsnail: A Backyard Predator* written by Sarah C. Campbell, illustrated with photos by Sarah C. Campbell and Richard P. Campbell (Boyd's Mills)**

Close-up photography and spare text graphically convey a predatory wolfsnail's single-minded pursuit of an unlucky garden snail; information on wolfsnail habits and life cycle is appended. Grade level: Preschool–2. 32 pages.

### ***Redwoods* written and illustrated by Jason Chin (Porter/Flash Point/Roaring Brook)**

As a young boy on the subway reads about redwood trees, he becomes so engrossed that he finds himself in the middle of a redwood forest, learning all manner of things about them. Grade level: 2–5. 40 pages.

***Carl's Summer Vacation* written and illustrated by Alexandra Day (Farrar)**

At the family's cabin, Rottweiler Carl and his charge Madeleine are supposed to be taking a nap; instead, they go canoeing, visit a playground, and surreptitiously feast on somebody else's picnic. Grade level: Preschool. 32 pages.

***Louise, the Adventures of a Chicken* written by Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Harry Bliss (Cotler/HarperCollins)**

Longing for adventure, barnyard hen Louise leaves home and is subsequently captured by pirates, chased by a lion, and kidnapped at a bazaar before returning home to tell her tales. Grade level: 1–4. 56 pages.

***Chicken Little* written and illustrated by Rebecca Emberley and Ed Emberley (Porter/Roaring Brook)**

The Emberleys' irreverent re-visioning of the classic folktale plays up the bird-braininess of the participants in Chicken Little's ill-informed sky-is-falling crusade. Grade level: Preschool–2. 32 pages.

***Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11* written and illustrated by Brian Floca (Jackson/Atheneum)**

Floca selects the exact details to transform science into relatable experience in this artistic history of the *Apollo 11* moon landing. Grade level: 1–4. 48 pages.

***The Nine Lives of Rotten Ralph* written by Jack Gantos, illustrated by Nicole Rubel (Houghton)**

Sarah's incorrigible cat discovers that he has misbehaved his way through eight of his nine lives. Grade level: K–3. 32 pages.

***Birds* written by Kevin Henkes, illustrated by Laura Dronzek (Greenwillow)**

A young child muses on birds, their colors and sizes, their movements and mysteries; Dronzek's acrylic paintings are an inviting accompaniment to Henkes's simple text. Grade level: Preschool. 32 pages.

***Tacky Goes to Camp* written by Helen Lester, illustrated by Lynn Munsinger (Houghton)**

Tacky is a happy camper, but of course not a typical one, at the Nice Icy Land's summer camp, where he manages to inadvertently save the day against a campsite-raiding bear. Grade level: K–3. 32 pages.

***Bubble Trouble* written by Margaret Mahy, illustrated by Polly Dunbar (Clarion)**

When Mabel blows a bubble, it surrounds Baby and takes him on an adventure of amazing heights, causing no small amount of commotion. Grade level: Preschool–2.

***Who Made This Cake?* written by Chihiro Nakagawa, illustrated by Junji Koyose (Front Street)**

Miniature workers use tiny construction vehicles to mix, bake, and decorate a giant cake,

after which a (normal-size) boy's mother carries it to the table. Grade level: Preschool. 40 pages.

***Higher! Higher!* written and illustrated by Leslie Patricelli (Candlewick)**

Each time a smiling dad pushes a little girl on a swing, she goes successively higher, meeting a giraffe, a mountain climber, airplane passengers, and finally a little green alien at the apex of his own flying swing. Grade level: Preschool. 32 pages.

***Button Up!: Wrinkled Rhymes* written by Alice Schertle, illustrated by Petra Mathers (Harcourt)**

Fifteen adroitly phrased rhymes, voiced by pieces of clothing, reflect children's amiable relationship with these intimate possessions. Grade level: K-3. 40 pages.

## **EARLY READERS**

Suggested grade level listed with each entry

***Ivy and Bean Take Care of the Babysitter* written by Annie Barrows, illustrated by Sophie Blackall (Chronicle)**

***Ivy and Bean Bound to Be Bad* written by Annie Barrows, illustrated by Sophie Blackall (Chronicle)**

In their fourth and fifth books, friends Ivy and Bean make the best of a bad situation when left in the care of Bean's older sister, then resolve (and fail) to be so good that animals will flock to them a la Saint Francis of Assisi. Grade level: 1-3. 123 and 121 pages.

***Paddington Here and Now* written by Michael Bond, illustrated by R. W. Alley (HarperCollins)**

Fans will be relieved to know that in this fiftieth-anniversary offering of new stories nothing has changed: Paddington gets into trouble, usually because of a misunderstanding, always ending in a glorious muddle. Grade level: 1-3. 170 pages.

***Snake and Lizard* written by Joy Cowley, illustrated by Gavin Bishop (Kane/Miller)**

In fifteen episodes, Snake and Lizard meet, bicker, and form an unlikely friendship marked by comical repartee. Grade level: K-2. 85 pages.

***Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa: Rain or Shine* written by Erica Silverman, illustrated by Betsy Lewin (Harcourt)**

Cowgirl Kate and cowhorse Cocoa return in four rainy-day adventures that highlight the close friendship between girl and horse. Grade level: 1-3. 44 pages.

***Are You Ready to Play Outside?* written and illustrated by Mo Willems (Hyperion)**

Piggie is miserable when one drop of rain threatens his outside plans; Gerald, his

elephant friend, tries to steady the mood; and two worms remind Piggie that rain doesn't mean the end of play. Grade level: K–2. 57 pages.

## **INTERMEDIATE**

Suggested grade level for each entry: 4–6

### ***The Penderwicks on Gardam Street* by Jeanne Birdsall (Knopf)**

Life for the four Penderwick sisters is going along as it should...until their father contemplates dating, prompting his panicked daughters to concoct a "Save-Daddy Plan." 308 pages.

### ***Paleo Bugs: Survival of the Creepiest* written and illustrated by Timothy J. Bradley (Chronicle)**

Bradley uses crisp graphics to trace the evolution of anthropods from 530 million years ago to the present. 48 pages.

### ***The Diamond of Darkhold* by Jeanne Duprau (Random)**

Lina and Doon (first introduced in *The City of Ember*) return to the underground city to retrieve supplies, but instead encounter hostile new inhabitants. 387 pages.

### ***Dinothesaurus* written and illustrated by Douglas Florian (Atheneum)**

Beginning by defining "The Age of Dinosaurs" and ending with their demise, Florian rounds up the usual prehistoric suspects and presents them in poems characterized by wordplay, mixed-media illustrations, and a scientific fact or two. 48 pages.

### ***Well Witched* by Frances Hardinge (HarperCollins)**

Three children fall under the power of an elemental divinity after stealing coins from a wishing well in this deliciously creepy tale. 390 pages.

### ***Piper Reed: The Great Gypsy* written by Kimberly Willis Holt, illustrated by Christine Davenier (Holt)**

In her second book, Navy brat Piper's optimistic outlook never flags, even with changes afoot. 152 pages.

### ***Heart of a Shepherd* by Rosanne Parry (Random)**

With his four older brothers away at school or in the service and his Army-Reserve father serving an extended tour in Iraq, sixth-grader Ignatius is the only one left to help his grandparents run the family ranch. 165 pages.

### ***The Swamps of Sleethe* written by Jack Prelutsky, illustrated by Jimmy Pickering (Knopf)**

With comically creepy illustrations and flawless meter, Prelutsky's macabre poems introduce readers to planets they've never heard of and probably wouldn't want to visit. 40 pages.

***King George: What Was His Problem?* written by Steve Sheinkin, illustrated by Tim Robinson (Flash Point/Roaring Brook)**

***Two Miserable Presidents* written by Steve Sheinkin, illustrated by Tim Robinson (Flash Point/Roaring Brook)**

Sheinkin's entertaining histories cover the Revolutionary and Civil wars and include personal, frequently irreverent, accounts of the participants. 195 and 220 pages.

***Zorgamazoo* written and illustrated by Robert Paul Weston (Razorbill/Penguin)**

Human Katrina and zorgle Morty journey to the planet Graybalon-4 and back in search of the missing zorgles of Zorgamazoo in this whimsical, well-constructed story told entirely in rhymed anapestic tetrameter. 284 pages.

***Best Friends* written by Jacqueline Wilson, illustrated by Nick Sharratt (Roaring Brook)**

When Gemma's friend Alice moves to Scotland, both girls must find ways to deal with the change and remain "best friends forever" despite the distance. 229 pages.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Suggested grade level for each entry: 6–8

***3 Willows: The Sisterhood Grows* by Ann Brashares (Delacorte)**

Ama, Polly, and Jo, who sealed their friendship in third grade by planting trees, begin to reconnect during a challenging summer after drifting apart during middle school. 319 pages.

***The Girl Who Threw Butterflies* by Mick Cochrane (Knopf)**

Six months after her father's death in a car accident, Molly decides to try out for the boys' baseball team, a decision she knows her father, who taught her to throw a knuckleball, would have approved of. 177 pages.

***The Graveyard Book* written by Neil Gaiman, illustrated by Dave McKean (HarperCollins)**

After his family is killed by a sinister man named Jack, young Bod is raised in a graveyard, with ghosts as his surrogate parents, and taught otherworldly secrets. 309 pages.

***Rapunzel's Revenge* written by Shannon Hale and Dean Hale, illustrated by Nathan Hale (Bloomsbury)**

In this graphic novel, Rapunzel escapes from her fabled tower by becoming a gutsy, hair-whip-toting cowgirl, then joins with goose-stealing rascal Jack to end her stepmother's reign of terror. 144 pages.

***Phenomena: Secrets of the Senses* by Donna M. Jackson (Little)**

In this engaging work of nonfiction, Jackson moves beyond the basics of sensory

perception to explore its alluring edges — the place where our fascination with the unseen and the unexplained meets the limits of scientific explanation. 175 pages.

***One Small Step* by P. B. Kerr (McElderry)**

NASA asks thirteen-year-old Scott, son of an Air Force flight instructor, to man a pre-*Apollo 11*, top-secret spaceflight to the moon with a crew of chimpanauts. 309 pages.

***The Big Game of Everything* by Chris Lynch (HarperTeen)**

Jock has a sweet summer ahead working at his grandfather's golf course — as long as he can deal with his surly younger brother Egon, his “irregular” parents, and his grandfather's growing senility. 275 pages.

***Every Soul a Star* by Wendy Mass (Little)**

In this moving story, three middle-schoolers' lives intersect at a campground during an eclipse. 326 pages.

***Hannah's Winter* by Kierin Meehan (Kane/Miller)**

Staying with the Maekawa family after she's dragged to Japan by her mother, twelve-year-old Hannah discovers a ghost — a young boy who needs her help. 212 pages.

***Nation* by Terry Pratchett (HarperCollins)**

In an alternative nineteenth century, a tsunami shipwrecks Ermintrude on a tropical island, where she meets Mau, the only survivor of the island's nation, and the two forge a poignant friendship. 370 pages.

***Into the Volcano* written and illustrated by Don Wood (Blue Sky/Scholastic)**

In this graphic novel, two brothers embark on a seemingly harmless camping/hiking trip on a remote island that quickly turns into a dangerous game of treachery, kidnapping, double-crosses, and spectacular natural perils. 175 pages