

# South Orange Maplewood School District 2009 Summer Reading Suggestions for Intermediate Grades: Grades 3 – 5

The South Orange and Maplewood elementary school librarians and public librarians worked together in creating this listing of suggested summer reading. Feel free to choose books from any of our lists – Primary, Intermediate, or the Middle School "Choices" list.

We suggest you make frequent virtual and physical visits to your public libraries this summer. Their addresses and web sites are:

Maplewood Memorial Library  
[www.maplewoodlibrary.org](http://www.maplewoodlibrary.org)  
51 Baker Street, Maplewood  
(973) 762-1622 ext 5005

South Orange Public Library  
[www.sopl.org](http://www.sopl.org)  
65 Scotland Road, South Orange  
(973) 762-0230

Maplewood Library's Hilton Branch  
1688 Springfield Ave., Maplewood  
(973) 762-1688

**This list is available online at the public library sites, as well as at**  
<http://www.somds.k12.nj.us>

**We have served up a generous helping of wonderful works of fiction, but, don't forget, you can enjoy the wealth of information available to you in nonfiction. Nic Bishop, Seymour Simon, Gail Gibbons, and Bobbie Kalman are just a few authors who are masters in writing engaging works of nonfiction just for kids. Why not use the summer to develop a subject specialty? Just for fun, jot down that Dewey Decimal number that corresponds to your subject. You can return to school next September and ask your classmates, "Do you know what my Dewey number is?" Tell them, and let them find out what your area of expertise is!**

ARONSON, MARC. *Ain't Nothing but a Man: My Quest to Find the Real John Henry*  
also: *The World Made New*

If you like history mysteries, you'll love these books. The author lives in Maplewood!

AVI. *Iron thunder: the Battle between the Monitor & the Merrimac : a Civil War Novel*  
Thirteen-year-old Tom Carroll takes his place as head of the family after his father dies fighting for the Union; but his job at the local ironworks, where he helps build an iron ship for the Union army, and his loyalty come into question when he is approached by Confederate spies to sell secrets about the ship to the South.

BARBER, TIKI. *Kickoff*

Twelve-year-olds Tiki and Ronde tryout for the junior high football team and hope to not only get a spot but also to be a part of the starting lineup.

also: *By My Brother's Side, Go Long, Teammates, Game Day*

BROACH, ELISE. *Masterpiece*

After Marvin, a beetle, makes a miniature drawing as an eleventh birthday gift for James, the two new friends work together to help recover a drawing stolen from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

BRYANT, JEN. *A River of Words, the Story of William Carlos Williams*

A picture book biography of American poet William Carlos Williams, who studied to become a doctor, but still found time to write poetry.

BUCHANAN, ANDREA J. *Daring Book for Girls*

Jam-packed with information on how to do almost anything.

CARBONE, ELISA LYNN. *Night Running: How James Escaped with the Help of his Faithful Dog*

A runaway slave makes a daring escape to freedom. Based on the true story of James Smith's journey from Virginia to Ohio in the mid-1800s.

CHANG, ANDREA. *Honeysuckle House*

An all-American girl with Chinese ancestors and a new immigrant from China find little in common when they meet in their fourth grade classroom, but they are both missing their best friends and soon discover other connections.

CLEMENTS, ANDREW. *Lost and Found*

Twin brothers Jay and Ray Grayson learn about friendship, honesty, and themselves after taking advantage of a clerical oversight in which their new school thinks there is only one Grayson boy.

COLLINS, ROSS. *Medusa Jones*

In ancient Greece, Medusa Jones, a gorgon, and her friends, a minotaur and a centaur, are mocked and sneered at by the other Acropolis Academy children whose parents are kings and gods, but when they go on a school camping trip together, the "freaks" become true heroes.

COOK, SALLY. *Hey Batta Batta Swing: The Wild Old Days of Baseball*

A look at baseball from its beginnings to today.

DOWD, SIOBHAN. *London Eye Mystery*

When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

DURAND, HALLIE. *Dessert First*

Third-grader Dessert's love of treats leads to a change in her large family's dinner routine, then an awful mistake, and later a true sacrifice after her teacher, Mrs. Howdy Doody, urges students to march to the beat of their own drums. The author lives in Maplewood!

ENGLISH, KAREN. *Nikki and Deja*

When an arrogant new girl comes to school, third-graders and best friends Nikki and Deja decide to form a club that would exclude her but find the results not what they expected.

FLORIAN, DOUGLAS. *Dinothesaurus: Prehistoric Poems and Paintings*

Presents illustrated verse about various carnivorous and herbivorous dinosaurs, including the Iguanodon, Spinosaurus, and long-necked plesiosaurs.

GERAS, ADELE. *Cleopatra*

Cleopatra comes to life through fictional journal entries written by her young handmaid.

GIOVANNI, NIKKI ed. *Hip Hop Speaks to Children: a Celebration of Poetry with a Beat*

A collection of fifty-one children's poems that features selections from Nikki Giovanni, Queen Latifah, and the Sugarhill Gang; and contains an audio CD with thirty performances.

GONYEA, MARK. *Another Book About Design: Complicated Doesn't Make it Bad*

Simple text and colorful illustrations explain design concepts, including foreground, positive and negative space, shapes, lines, and more.

also: *A Book About Design*

GUTMAN, DAN. *Nightmare at the Book Fair*

On his way to lacrosse tryouts, the president of the PTA asks Trip Dinkelman to help her with the book fair, resulting in Trip sustaining a head injury which causes him temporary amnesia and makes for an interesting journey home.

GUTMAN, DAN. *Return of the Homework Machine*

After discarding their infamous homework machine, four friends, now in sixth grade, find themselves once again at the police station, this time giving testimony about an incident involving a powerful computer chip, a Grand Canyon treasure, and a dead body.

HARPER, CHARISE. *Fashion Kitty*

After a stack of fashion magazines falls on her head, Kiki turns into Fashion Kitty, a feline superhero who saves other kitties from fashion disaster. Graphic Novel.

HOROWITZ, ANTHONY. *Public Enemy Number Two: A Diamond Brothers Mystery*

Nick Diamond is framed for a jewelry robbery, and shares a cell with Johnny Powers, who is a notorious criminal, and it is up to Nick's older half-witted brother, Tim, to break them out of jail so he can diffuse a time bomb.

IGGULDEN, CONN. *Dangerous Book for Boys*

An adventure guide for boys.

JENKINS, EMILY. *Toy Dance Party: Being the Further Adventures of a Bossyboots Stingray, a Courageous Buffalo, and a Hopeful Round Someone Called Plastic*

Six stories relate further adventures of three best friends, who happen to be toys.

also: *Toys Go Out*

KELLER, LAURIE. *Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners*

Mr. Rabbit wonders if he will be able to get along with his new neighbors, who are otters, until he is reminded of the golden rule.

KIMMEL, ERIC. *A Horn for Louis*

A biography of the great jazz musician – Louis Armstrong. A Stepping Stones chapter book.

LASKY, KATHRYN. *One Beetle Too Many: the Extraordinary Adventures of Charles Darwin*

Describes the life and work of the renowned nineteenth-century biologist who transformed conventional Western thought with his theory of natural evolution.

LAW, INGRID. *Savvy*

Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy"--a magical power unique to each member of her family--just as her father is injured in a terrible accident.

LOOK, LENORE. *Alvin Ho Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things*

A young boy in Concord, Massachusetts, who loves superheroes and comes from a long line of brave Chinese farmer-warriors, wants to make friends, but first he must overcome his fear of everything.

LOWRY, LOIS. *The Willoughbys*

In this tongue-in-cheek take on classic themes in children's literature, the four Willoughby children set about 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.

LUCKE, DEB. *The Book of Time Outs: a Mostly True History of the World's Biggest Troublemakers*

Tells about some interesting characters through history. Sometimes it's good to be bad.

MACLACHAN, PATRICIA. *Once I Ate a Pie*

A collection of fourteen poetic examples of a dog's life from the perspective of the animals.

MARKEL, MICHELLE. *Dreamer from the Village: The Story of Marc Chagall*

Chronicles the life of Marc Chagall, a celebrated twentieth-century artist who was born in Russia.

MARTIN, ANN. *Runaway Dolls*

Best friends Annabelle and Tiffany risk placing all of dollkind in danger when they run away while trying to prevent Tilly from being sent back to London before they can determine if she is Annabelle's long-lost baby sister.

MCCARTHY, MEGHAN. *Strong Man: the Story of Charles Atlas*

You've seen him in the back of comic books. Now meet the original 90 pound weakling.

MCKISSACK, PAT. *Song for Harlem*

In the summer of 1928, Lilly Belle Turner participates in a young author's writing program, taught by Zora Neale Hurston and hosted by A'Leia Walker in her Harlem teahouse at the height of the Harlem Renaissance.

MEBUS, SCOTT. *Gods of Manhattan*

Thirteen-year-old Rory discovers a spirit world that thrives alongside his contemporary New York City, filled with fantastical creatures and people from the city's colorful past who have become gods and goddesses and who have chosen Rory to perform a dangerous mission.

MERCADO, NANCY, editor. *Baseball Crazy*

A collection of ten short stories from popular, contemporary authors that celebrate the joys of America's favorite past time and the wonder, frustration, and delight of its fans.

MORTENSON, GREG and OLIVER RELIN. *Three Cups of Tea: Young Reader's Edition*

This young-reader's edition of the New York Times best-seller presents an abbreviated, simplified account of Mortenson's life-saving mountain rescue by Pakistani villagers that inspired his life's work: building schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

*Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out*

A collection of essays, personal accounts, historical fiction, and poetry that traces the history of the White House through the eyes of the children who have lived and visited there. Created by 108 renowned authors and illustrators and the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance.

PARKER, ROBERT ANDREW. *Piano Starts Here: The Young Art Tatum*

Explores early twentieth-century jazz pianist and virtuoso Art Tatum's passion and talent for playing the instrument, and includes illustrations and biographical information.

PRELUTSKY, JACK. *My Dog May Be a Genius*

New poems by the master of funny.

QUATTLEBAUM, MARY. *Jackson Jones and the Curse of the Outlaw Rose*

When Jackson and Reuben take a rose cutting from a graveyard for Mr. Kerring, events make them believe it is cursed and will continue to threaten anyone in its vicinity until it is returned.

REISMAN, MICHAEL. *Simon Bloom: Octopus Effect*

Twelve-year-old Simon, the official Keeper of the Order of Physics, and his friends Owen and Alysha, face extreme danger as they try to protect the Universe from destruction by evil forces.

RICHARDSON, CHARRISE K. *Real Lucky Charm*

Thinking that luck -- rather than hard work -- has helped her succeed, ten-year-old Mia panics and turns to her twin brother for help when her lucky gold basketball goes missing from her charm bracelet.

RIDDELL, CHRIS. *Ottoline and the Yellow Cat*

Ottoline and Mr. Munroe investigate a string of burglaries and the disappearance of several lapdogs.

RUBIN, SUSAN GOLDMAN. *Delicious: The Life and Art of Wayne Theibaud*

An enticing biography of the 20<sup>th</sup> century painter, famed for ordinary objects like cakes and ice cream.  
also: *Edward Hopper: painter of light and shadow*

SCIESZKA, JON. *Knucklehead*

Presents a memoir of what it was like to grow up in the 1950s and other almost true stories by American children's author Jon Scieszka.

STADLER, ALEXANDER. *Julian Rodriguez. Episode One: Trash Crisis on Earth*

Julian Rodriguez escapes from the crisis of the moment (being sent to his room for not taking out the trash) by imagining he is a space warrior.

STEWART, TRENTON LEE. *The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey*

Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance, all graduates of the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened and members of the Benedict Society, embark on a scavenger hunt that turns into a desperate search for the missing Mr. Benedict.

also: *The Mysterious Benedict Society*

### **Books in a Series:**

Here are some more books you may like:

Baratz-Logsted, Lauren. *Sisters 8 series*

Benton, Jim. *Franny K. Stein series*

Buckley, Michael. *Sisters Grimm series*

Charles, Veronika Martenova. *Easy-to-read spooky tales series*

Clements, Andrew. *Jake Drake series*

Danko, Dan. *Sidekicks series*

Deutsch, Stacia. *Blast From the Past series*

Draper, Sharon. *Ziggy and the Black Dinosaurs series*

Greenburg, Dan. *Weird Planet series*

Gutman, Dan. *My Weird School series*

Holm, Jennifer. *Babymouse series*

Hunter, Erin. *The Warriors series*

also: *The Warriors Graphic Novel series*

Jacques, Brian. *Redwall Graphic Novel series*

also: *Redwall series*

Klein, Abby. *Ready Freddy series*

Leonard, Elise. *Al's World series*

Martin, Ann. *Main Street series*

Mazer, Anne *Sister magic series*

McDonald, Megan. *Stink series*

Moore, Ulysses *Ulysses Moore series*

Rick Riordan. *Percy Jackson and the Olympians series*

Riordan, Rick. *The 39 Clues series*

Small, Charlie *Charlie Small series*

Stanley, George Edward. *Third-Grade Detectives series*

*Geronimo Stilton series*

*Twisted journeys series*

Van Draanen, Wendelin. *Shredderman series*

Wesley, Valerie. *Willimina series*

*Who was . . . ? series*