

Need suggestions for beach reading or books to bring to summer camp? We've handpicked some new favorites, all published 2012–2013, that are ideal for the season.

## **Picture Books (Fiction and Nonfiction)**

Suggested grade level listed with each entry

#### Island: A Story of the Galápagos by Jason Chin (Porter/Roaring Brook)

Witness the six-million-year evolution of the Galápagos, from "birth" through "childhood" to "old age" and beyond. Gorgeous illustrations include sweeping double-page spreads and panels arranged to show dynamic changes. Grade level: K–3. 32 pages.

#### This Is Not My Hat by Jon Klassen (Candlewick)

In this 2013 Caldecott Award winner, a guilty-looking little fish has taken a tiny bowler hat from the head of a large sleeping fish. He explains why he won't be caught, but every claim he makes is belied by the darkly humorous pictures. Grade level: K–3. 40 pages.

#### Everyone Can Learn to Ride a Bicycle by Chris Raschka (Schwartz & Wade/Random)

A young girl's perseverance allows her to triumph over her two-wheeled vehicle. A grandfatherly figure's encouragement makes up the second-person text; loose watercolors bespeak protection, urging, assistance, and commiseration (after a fall). Grade level: PS, K–3. 32 pages.

#### That Is NOT a Good Idea! by Mo Willems (Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins)

Smarmy Mr. Fox asks an innocent-seeming goose to accompany him on a walk. As the fox lures the goose into his lair and closer to his cook pot, a chorus of goslings warns, "That is NOT a good idea!" The unexpected denouement comes with a flourish. Grade level: PS. 48 pages.

















## **Early Readers and Younger Fiction**

Suggested grade level listed with each entry

## *The No. One Car Spotter and the Firebird* written by Atinuke; illus. by Warwick Johnson Cadwell (Kane Miller)

Car-spotting champion Oluwalase Babatunde Benson is also number one at solving problems. And there are all kinds of problems to be solved in and around his African village, as described in four accessible chapters. Grade level: 1–3. 96 pages.

#### A Pet Named Sneaker [Beginner Books] by Joan Heilbroner; illus. by Pascal Lemaitre (Random)

Sneaker, a pet shop snake, really wants a home; he suffers considerable rejection until a boy named Pete chooses him. Sneaker is not only good for playing games like "I Am a Necktie" and "I Am Handcuffs" but is also incredibly smart and heroic. Grade level: K–2. 48 pages.

#### Penny and Her Marble by Kevin Henkes (Greenwillow)

In mouse Penny's third outing, she spies a marble on a neighbor's lawn and takes it—even though she knows she shouldn't. That night, Penny has bad dreams about the imagined consequences of this furtive act, but is unwilling to confess to her parents; she finds her own resolution. Grade level: K–2. 48 pages.

## *Like Bug Juice on a Burger* by Julie Sternberg; illus. by Matthew Cordell (Amulet/Abrams)

Eleanor *wants* to like Camp Wallumwahpuck, but is homesick and anxious. Just as Eleanor has sent a coded letter to her parents saying she wants to come home, she begins to find activities she enjoys. Grade level: 1–3. 172 pages.



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# **Intermediate Fiction and Nonfiction**

Suggested grade level for all entries: 4-6

#### The One and Only Ivan written by Katherine Applegate; illus. by Patricia Castelao (Harper/HarperCollins)

In this 2013 Newbery Award winner, Ivan is a gorilla who lives in a circus mall. When a new baby elephant arrives, Ivan taps into his creative side to help them both escape captivity. 307 pages.

#### Look Up! Bird-Watching in Your Own Backyard by Annette LeBlanc Cate (Candlewick)

In this delightful introduction to bird-watching, author/illustrator Cate and birds (all portrayed in cartoonlike illustrations with speech balloons) poke fun at themselves and one another while teaching the basics of bird identification: color, shapes, behaviors, songs, habitat, range, and migration. 64 pages.

#### "Who Could That Be at This Hour?" [All the Wrong Questions] by Lemony Snicket; illus. by Seth (Little, Brown)

Young Lemony Snicket, a detective apprentice in the Sam Spade mode, investigates the theft of a black wooden statue. In a style both deadpan and nutty, Snicket demonstrates his gift for metaphor, and illustrations by cartoonist Seth are a perfect match. 261 pages.

#### P.S. Be Eleven by Rita Williams-Garcia (Amistad/HarperCollins)

In this sequel to *One Crazy* Summer, eleven-year-old Delphine navigates changes in her family dynamics (her father's new "lady friend," her uncle's return from Vietnam, her relationship with her previously absent mother) in late-sixties Bed-Stuy, New York. 276 pages.



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## Middle School Fiction and Nonfiction

Suggested grade level for all entries: 6–8

#### The Raft by S. A. Bodeen (Feiwel)

When the small plane carrying fifteenyear-old Robie goes down over open ocean, she seems doomed. The pilot is dead, the co-pilot is unconscious, and no one knows she was on the flight. A good old-fashioned survival adventure story. 240 pages.

## *Seraphina* by Rachel Hartman (Random)

The royal court of Goredd celebrates a

forty-year (uneasy) peace with dragonkind, but events take a dark turn when Prince Rufus is found murdered. Seraphina tries to unmask the killer, while concealing her own relationship with dragons. 476 pages.

#### *Hand in Hand: Ten Black Men Who Changed America* by Andrea Davis Pinkney; illus. by Brian Pinkney (Jump at the Sun/Disney)

Ten profiles of African American males, from Benjamin Banneker to Barack Obama, tell a story of triumph spanning American history. Each comprehensive profile includes a poem and a watercolor portrait. 243 pages.

#### Dodger by Terry Pratchett (Harper/HarperCollins)

In early-Victorian London, street urchin Dodger rescues a young woman. This sets in motion Pratchett's rewardingly complex story line, with a cast ranging from Queen Victoria to Dickens himself. Dodger is a wonderful guide through this tale of espionage, romance, and heroism. 360 pages.









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# **High School Fiction and Nonfiction**

Suggested grade level for all entries: 9 and up

#### The Infects by Sean Beaudoin (Candlewick)

After seventeen-year-old Nick accidentally-on-purpose causes a major meat-factory contamination, he's sentenced to a juvie camp—and then finds himself confronted with a full-blown zombie outbreak. This blackly comedic tale takes zombie lore to new territory. 374 pages.

#### Homeland by Cory Doctorow (Tor Teen)

Three years after the events of *Little Brother*, hacker Marcus drops out of Berkeley, struggles to find a job, and attends Burning Man. There he runs into former nemesis Masha, who entrusts him with hundreds of thousands of files documenting government corruption. 396 pages.

#### Team Human by Justine Larbalestier and Sarah Rees Brennan (HarperTeen)

In this vampire story with a twist, Mel investigates the suspicious disappearance of her best friend's father. Retaining the essential elements of romance, suspense, and danger, the book is also stamped with the protagonist's distinct brand of sarcastic humor. 348 pages.

#### Every Day by David Leviathan (Knopf)

Gender-neutral protagonist "A" wakes up in a different sixteen-year-old's body every morning. Before meeting Rhiannon, A tried not to disrupt his/her host bodies' lives but now, everything has changed. 325 pages.

#### Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell (St. Martin's Griffin)

Eleanor is the new girl in town, an ostracized, bullied "big girl"; Park is a skinny half-Korean townie who tries to stay out of the spotlight. Their slowly evolving but intense relationship is authentic in its awkwardness—and life-changing for them both. 328 pages.

#### Days of Blood & Starlight by Laini Taylor (Little, Brown)

In the renewed war between chimaera and seraphim, human Karou (*Daughter of Smoke & Bone*), a resurrectionist, repopulates the chimaera, while her star-crossed lover Akiva takes a lead role in the seraphim army. 517 pages.





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