

## **CIS 2018 Summer Reading – Recommended Books**

### **Grade 4**

#### **All the Answers by Kate Messner**

What if your pencil had all the answers? Would you ace every test? Would you know what your teachers were thinking? When Ava Anderson finds a scratched up pencil she doodles like she would with any other pencil. But when she writes a question in the margin of her math quiz, she hears a clear answer in a voice no one else seems to hear.

**After the Fall: How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again by Dan Santat** Everyone knows that when Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. But what happened after? Humpty is an avid bird watcher whose favorite place to be is high up on the city wall--that is, until after his famous fall. Now terrified of heights, Humpty can no longer do many of the things he loves most. Will he summon the courage to face his fear?

#### **Town is by the Sea by Joanne Schwartz**

A young boy wakes up to the sound of the sea, visits his grandfather's grave after lunch and comes home to a simple family dinner, but all the while his mind strays to his father digging for coal deep down under the sea.

#### **Bronze and Sunflower by Cao Wenxuan**

Sunflower is an only child, and when her father is sent to the rural Cadre School, she has to go with him, but she is lonely and longs to play with the local children in the village across the river. When her father tragically drowns, Sunflower is taken in by the poorest family in the village, a family with a son named Bronze. Until Sunflower joins his family, Bronze was an only child, too, and hasn't spoken a word since he was traumatized by a terrible fire. Bronze and Sunflower become inseparable, understanding each other as only the closest friends can.

#### **Bears of the Ice: The Quest of the Cubs by Kathryn Lasky**

It is a time of trouble in the Northern Kingdoms because a group of power-hungry polar bears called Roguers has been snatching cubs from their mothers and killing those who resist; but Svenna is not about to relinquish her two cubs to that fate, so she agrees to go with the Roguers and serve Mistress of the Hands if her cubs, who have special powers, are allowed to stay with her cousin--but nobody is truly safe when a way of life is collapsing around them.

#### **Pashmina by Nidhi Chanani**

Priyanka Das has so many unanswered questions: Why did her mother abandon her home in India years ago? What was it like there? And most importantly, who is her father, and why did her mom leave him behind? But Pri's mom avoids these questions--the topic of India is permanently closed. That is, until she finds a mysterious pashmina tucked away in a forgotten suitcase.

#### **The Poet's Dog**

A dog with unusual communication talents loses his poet owner before rescuing two children trapped in a snowstorm and leading them to the poet's cabin, where the children explore the memories that the poet has left behind.

#### **The Explorer by Katherine Rundell**

Fred, Con, Lila, and Max are on their way back to England from Manaus when the plane they're on crashes and the pilot dies upon landing. For days they survive alone, until Fred finds a map that leads them to a ruined city, and to a secret.

#### **The Vanishing Coin by Kate Egan**

Fourth grade was supposed to be a fresh start, but Mike's already back in the principal's office. He's not a bad kid. He just can't sit still. And now, his parents won't let him play soccer anymore; instead he has to hang out with his new neighbor Nora, who is good at everything!

Then, Mike and Nora discover the White Rabbit. It's an odd shop--with a special secret inside. Its owner, Mr. Zerlin, is a magician, and, amazingly, he believes Mike could be a magician, too. Has Mike finally found something he's good at?

#### **Waylon! One Awesome Thing by Sara Pennypacker**

Waylon has lots of ideas for making life more awesome through science, like teleportation, human gills and attracting cupcakes by controlling gravity. But it's impossible for him to concentrate on his inventions when he's experiencing his own personal Big Bang. Arlo Brody is dividing the his year group into two groups. Waylon would rather be friends with everyone. Just when it looks as

though Waylon's universe is exploding, something happens to bring it all together again, and it is, without a doubt, One Awesome Thing.

### Wishing Day by Lauren Myracle

On the third night of the third month after a girl's thirteenth birthday, every girl in the town of Willow Hill makes three wishes. The first wish is an impossible wish. The second is a wish she can make come true herself. And the third is the deepest wish of her secret heart. So Natasha goes to the willow tree at the top of the hill on her Wishing Day, and she makes three wishes. What unfolds is beyond anything she could have imagined.

## Grade 5

### Dash by Kirby Lawson

When her family is forced into an internment camp, Mitsi Kashino is separated from her home, her classmates, and her beloved dog Dash; and as her family begins to come apart around her, Mitsi clings to her one connection to the outer world--the letters from the kindly neighbor who is caring for Dash.

### The Quilt Walk by Sandra Dallas

Emmy Blue is only ten when her father announces that they'll be leaving Illinois to travel in a covered wagon to Golden, Colorado. As a gift, her grandmother gives her a bag of fabric pieces to make her first quilt. As she walks and quilts, Emmy faces the dangers of the trail and makes her own journey toward womanhood.

### Caleb and Kit by Beth Vrabel

Twelve-year-old Caleb, who has cystic fibrosis, is shorter, frailer, and more protected than most kids his age. Caleb tries not to let his disorder define him, but it can be hard with an overprotective mom and a perfect big brother. Then Caleb meets Kit--a vibrant, independent, and free girl--and his world changes instantly. Her magic is contagious, making Caleb question the rules and order in his life. But being Kit's friend means embracing deception and danger, and soon Caleb will have to decide if his friendship with Kit is really what's best for him--or her.

### Laugh Out Loud by James Patterson

Jimmy loves reading so much that he's inspired to start a book company for kids--run by kids. It's a big dream for a twelve-year-old boy--some would even say it's laugh-out-loud ridiculous! But that doesn't stop Jimmy from dreaming even bigger. His company will be as imaginative and fun as Willy Wonka's chocolate factory...with a Ferris wheel instead of an elevator, a bowling alley in the break room, and a river filled with floating books! He just has to believe in himself and his idea. (And maybe win the Lotto.)

### Wishtree by Katherine Applegate

Red is an oak tree who is many rings old. Red is the neighborhood "wishtree"--people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches. Along with her crow friend Bongo and other animals who seek refuge in Red's hollows, this "wishtree" watches over the neighborhood. You might say Red has seen it all. Until a new family moves in. Not everyone is welcoming, and Red's experiences as a wishtree are more important than ever.

### You Go First by Erin Entrada Kelly

Twelve-year-old Charlotte Lockard and eleven-year-old Ben Boxer are separated by more than a thousand miles and connected only by an online Scrabble game. On the surface, their lives seem vastly different--Charlotte lives near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, while Ben is in the small town of Lanester, Louisiana. Charlotte wants to be a geologist and keeps a rock collection in her room. Ben is obsessed with Harry Potter, presidential history, and recycling. But the two have more in common than they think. They're both highly gifted. They're both experiencing family turmoil. And they both sit alone at lunch.

### Amina's Voice by Hena Kahn

A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community.

### The First Rule of Punk by Celia Perez

There are no shortcuts to surviving your first day at a new school--you can't fix it with duct tape like you would your Chuck Taylors. On Day One, twelve-year-old Malu (Maria Luisa, if you want to annoy her) inadvertently upsets Posada Middle School's queen bee,

violates the school's dress code with her punk rock look, and disappoints her college-professor mom in the process. Her dad, who now lives a thousand miles away, says things will get better as long as she remembers the first rule of punk: be yourself.

The real Malu loves rock music, skateboarding, zines, and Soyrizo (hold the cilantro, please). And when she assembles a group of like-minded misfits at school and starts a band, Malu finally begins to feel at home. She'll do anything to preserve this, which includes standing up to an anti-punk school administration to fight for her right to express herself!

### Chester and Gus by Cammie McGovern

Chester hopes to follow in his mother's paw prints and become a service dog, but when a family with an autistic son adopts him, it's not exactly what Chester imagined, but he'll do whatever he can to prove he's the right dog for the job.

### Lemons by Melissa Savage

Middle schooler Natalie's year-long assignment to answer a question using the scientific process leads to truths about her mother's depression and her own cultural identity.

### Fourteenth Goldfish by Jennifer Holm

Eleven-year-old Ellie has never liked change. She misses fifth grade. She misses her old best friend. She even misses her dearly departed goldfish. Then one day a strange boy shows up. He's bossy. He's cranky. And weirdly enough . . . he looks a lot like Ellie's grandfather, a scientist who's always been slightly obsessed with immortality. Could this pimply boy really be Grandpa Melvin? Has he finally found the secret to eternal youth?

### The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson

Twelve-year-old Candice Miller is spending the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, in the old house that belonged to her grandmother, who died after being dismissed as city manager for having the city tennis courts dug up looking for buried treasure--but when she finds the letter that sent her grandmother on the treasure hunt, she finds herself caught up in the mystery and, with the help of her new friend and fellow bookworm, Brandon, she sets out to find the inheritance, exonerate her grandmother, and expose an injustice once committed against an African American family in Lambert.

## Grade 6

### Science of Breakable Things by Tae Keller

Middle schooler Natalie's year-long assignment to answer a question using the scientific process leads to truths about her mother's depression and her own cultural identity.

### Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls by Elena Favilli and Francesca Cavallo

This book is packed with 100 stories about the life of 100 extraordinary women from the past and the present, illustrated by 60 female artists from all over the world. Each woman's story is written in the style of a fairy tale. Each story has a full page, full color portrait that captures the spirit of the portrayed hero.

### Connect the Stars by Marisa De los Santos and David Teague

Audrey Alcott knows when someone is lying. Every time. This ability has made middle school miserable, but when her best friend betrays her, Audrey hits her breaking point. Aaron Archer is the equivalent of a walking encyclopedia. Anything he's ever read or heard gets filed away in his brain, word for word. But while he can recite all the facts and figures, he's not always sure how to put the pieces together. Audrey and Aaron end up at the same wilderness camp, and when the unthinkable happens, it'll take everything Audrey and Aaron have got to survive. Somewhere along the way, Audrey and Aaron begin to see that sometimes facts don't tell the whole story . . . and sometimes, to find the truth, you have to look beyond the lies.

### The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street by Karina Yan Glaser

The Vanderbeekers have always lived in the brownstone on 141st Street. It's practically another member of the family. So when their reclusive, curmudgeonly landlord decides not to renew their lease, the five siblings have eleven days to do whatever it takes to stay in their beloved home and convince the dreaded Beiderman just how wonderful they are. And all is fair in love and war when it comes to keeping their home.

Wolf Hollow by Lauren Walk

### The Thing About Jellyfish by Ali Benjamin

Everyone says that it was an accident... that sometimes things "just happen". But Suzy won't believe it. Ever. After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy was a rare jellyfish sting. Retreating into a silent world of imagination, she crafts a plan to prove her theory--even if it means traveling the globe, alone.

### Insignificant Events In Life of Cactus by Dusti Bowling

Aven Green loves to tell people that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match, or a wildfire in Tanzania, but the truth is she was born without them. And when her parents take a job running Stagecoach Pass, a rundown western theme park in Arizona, Aven moves with them across the country knowing that she'll have to answer the question over and over again. Her new life takes an unexpected turn when she bonds with Connor, a classmate who also feels isolated because of his own disability, and they discover a room at Stagecoach Pass that holds bigger secrets than Aven ever could have imagined. It's hard to solve a mystery, help a friend, and face your worst fears. But Aven's about to discover she can do it all . . . even without arms.

### Soar by Joan Bauer

Moving to Hillcrest, Ohio, when his adoptive father accepts a temporary job, twelve-year-old Jeremiah, a heart transplant recipient, has sixty days to find a baseball team to coach.

### Flying Lessons and Other Stories

Whether it is basketball dreams, family fiasco's, first crushes, or new neighborhoods, this bold anthology--written by the best children's authors including Kwame Alexander, Soman Chainani, Jacqueline Woodson, and many more--celebrates the uniqueness and universality in all of us.

### Forget Me Not by Ellie Terry

When her mother breaks up with yet another boyfriend, Calliope meets Jinsong at her latest middle school, who becomes her friend despite her Tourette Syndrome and the embarrassment it can cause.

## Non-fiction

### Cabinet of Curiosities by Grice I

Women Who Launched the Computer Age by Laurie Ralkhoven  
A picture book biography of Ada Lovelace, a woman who saw the potential of the ENIAC, part of a secret World War II code-breaking project. Her work laid the foundation for modern computers. Her story is a testament to the power of imagination and the pursuit of knowledge.

### Fearless Flyer by Heather Lang

On November 19, 1916, at 8:25 a.m., Ruth Law took off on a flight that aviation experts thought was doomed. She set off to fly nonstop from Chicago to New York City. Sitting at the controls of her small biplane, exposed to the elements, Law battled fierce winds and numbing cold. When her engine ran out of fuel, she glided for two miles and landed at Hornell, New York. Even though she fell short of her goal, she had broken the existing cross-country distance record. And with her plane refueled, she got back in the air and headed for New York City where crowds waited to greet her. In this well-researched, action-packed picture book, Heather Lang and Raúl Colón recreate a thrilling moment in aviation history. Includes an afterword with archival photographs.

### Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World by Rachel Ignotofsky

A charmingly illustrated and educational book, *New York Times* best seller *Women in Science* highlights the contributions of fifty notable women to the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) from the ancient to the modern world. Full of striking, singular art, this fascinating collection also contains infographics about relevant topics such as lab equipment, rates of women currently working in STEM fields, and an illustrated scientific glossary. The trailblazing women profiled include well-known figures like primatologist Jane Goodall, as well as lesser-known pioneers such as Katherine Johnson, the African-American physicist and mathematician who calculated the trajectory of the 1969 Apollo 11 mission to the moon.

### Solving the Puzzle Under the Sea by Robert Burleigh

Filled with gorgeous illustrations by acclaimed artist Raúl Colón, this illustrated biography shares the story of female scientist, Marie Tharp, a pioneering woman scientist and the first person to ever successfully map the ocean floor.

## 2019 Nutmeg Nominees

### Awkward by Svetlana Chmakova

From the first day of middle school, Penelope wants to fit in so badly that she shuns Jaime, the school nerd. Things get awkward when Penelope's art club and Jaime's science club have to compete for school support.

### The Best Man by Richard Peck

Archer McGill has a pretty awesome family. His architect grandfather designed his school, his dad restores classic cars, and his Uncle Paul has a sweet job with connections to the Chicago Cubs. These three men help Archie navigate through some embarrassing and challenging experiences, but which one is the best?

### The Blood Guard by Carter Roy

Ronan just thought his mom was overscheduling him, signing him up for every possible activity. Then his dad disappears and Ronan and his mom are being chased by people who want to capture them. Hopefully he has learned enough skills to survive!

### Fuzzy Mud by Louis Sachar

Marshall and Tamaya take a shortcut through the woods and encounter a mysterious, bubbling puddle, which could put them in more danger than the bully they were trying to avoid.

### A Handful of Stars by Cynthia Lord

When Lily's blind dog, Lucky, slips his collar and runs away across the wide-open blueberry barrens of eastern Maine, it's Salma Santiago who manages to catch him. Salma, the daughter of migrant workers, is in the small town with her family for the blueberry-picking season.

Salma's friendship transforms Lily's summer. But when Salma decides to run in the upcoming Blueberry Queen pageant, they'll have to face some tough truths about friendship and belonging. Should an outsider like Salma really participate in the pageant-and possibly win?

### The Hero Two Doors Down by Sharon Robinson

It's every kid's dream to meet a famous baseball player, let alone live next door to one. This dream comes true for eight-year-old Steven Satlow, when none other than Jackie Robinson moves into his neighborhood. Jackie breaks the color barrier on the field, as well as in Steven's neighborhood.

### Loot: How to Steal a Fortune by Jude Watson

One night the infamous cat burglar Alfie McQuinn falls from a rooftop to the pavement below, and with his last breath he utters the words, "Find jewels..." to his young son March. March sets out to solve the mystery and finds out that the jewels may not be the glittery gems he expected.

### Ms. Bixby's Last Day by John David Anderson

Have you ever had a teacher who moved you to make sacrifices you wouldn't normally make? Meet Ms. Bixby - an amazing teacher who has this kind of impact on her students. A trio of boys embark on a quest to make sure that their teacher knows how special she is.

### Nine, Ten: A September 11 Story by Nora Raleigh Baskin

On September 9, 2001, four kids from different parts of the country cross paths for an instant. They have no idea that two days later their lives will change forever.

### Seven Dead Pirates by Linda Bailey

When Lewis' family moves into his great-grandfather's seaside mansion, he realizes he has a problem -- or actually, seven problems. Seven dead pirates are living in his bedroom! Can Lewis conquer his fears to help get this rowdy but funny crew back where they belong?