

Get Ready for Summer Reading!

Academic research studies have shown that students who participate in summer reading programs, or engage in free voluntary reading during the summer, return to school in September ahead of those students who don't participate in these activities. Don't let your child fall victim to the "summer slide!" How can you help?

- Encourage your child to spend time reading for pleasure during the summer. There's no better way to spend a hot afternoon than curled up in a cool spot with a great book.
- Sign your child up for one of the great summer reading programs sponsored by the Cranford Public Library. Programs are available for children of all ages.
- Model reading for pleasure in your home. Make a variety of materials (books, magazines, newspapers, comic books) available and let your child see you enjoying them. There's no better endorsement than your example.

To help you get started, take a look at some of the books featured below. Summer reading lists are also available at the Cranford Public Library.

Have a great summer filled with great reading!

Grades 5 and 6

The Seer of Shadows by Avi. In 1872 New York City, a struggling photographer involves his unwitting apprentice in a get rich quick scheme to photograph spirits.

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd. Two siblings with different abilities team together to find their cousin who disappeared right before their eyes on a popular tourist ride.

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman. After the loss of his family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the inhabitants take him under their care and decide to raise him. This book is the winner of this year's Newbery Medal.

Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman by Marc Tyler Nobleman. Comic book fans will be fascinated by the story of the Depression-era friends who created Clark Kent and his counterpart, Superman.

The Porcupine Year by Louise Erdrich. In this sequel to *The Birchbark House* and *The Game of Silence*, twelve-year-old Omakayas, an Ojibwe girl, draws strength from the land and spirits as she and her family endure numerous hardships in their search for a new home in northern Minnesota in 1852.

Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories about Growing Up by Jon Scieszka. The first ever Ambassador of Children's Literature offers a hilarious memoir of his childhood. Don't try any of his adventures at home!

The Desperado who Stole Baseball by John H. Ritter. In 1881, the scrappy, rough-and-tumble baseball team in a California mining town enlists the help of a quick-witted twelve-year-old orphan and the notorious outlaw Billy the Kid to win a big game against the National League Champion Chicago White Stockings.

Eleven by Patricia Reilly Giff. Just before his eleventh birthday, Sam finds a newspaper clipping poking out of a locked box in the attic. Below the word missing is an image of a small child, who, Sam realizes with astonishment, is him. In this satisfying mystery, Sam enlists a new friend to help him solve the mystery of who he is.

Scat by Carl Hiassen. Nick and Marta are both suspicious when their biology teacher, the feared Mrs. Bunny Starch, disappears, and try to uncover the truth despite the police and headmaster's insistence that nothing is wrong.

The Underneath by Kathi Appelt. An old hound that has been chained up at his owner's run-down shack, and two kittens born underneath the house, endure separation, danger, and many other tribulations in their quest to be reunited and free.

Lawn Boy by Gary Paulsen. Things get out of hand for a twelve-year-old boy when a neighbor convinces him to expand his summer lawn mowing business.

We Are The Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball by Kadir Nelson. This beautifully illustrated book tells the story of the men who played the game they loved in spite of the obstacles put in their way.

The Penderwicks on Gardam Street by Jeanne Birdsall. In this sequel to "The Penderwicks", the four Penderwick sisters are faced with the unimaginable prospect of their widowed father dating, and they hatch a plot to stop him.

Savvy by Ingrid Law. (2009 Newbery Honor Book) 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 serious accident.

Silverwing by Kenneth Oppel. When a newborn bat named Shade becomes separated from his colony during migration, he begins the journey of a lifetime. (This book is the first in a series.)