



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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## **Department of Education releases summer reading list** *Summer reading key to students being academically ready to start school in the fall*

Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Suellen Reed is encouraging Hoosier students to continue reading when school lets out this year with the release of the 2008 Summer Reading List. Studies show summer reading improves students' academic performance in reading and other school subjects.

"Students need to know that reading isn't just something you do in school," Reed said. "Summer vacation is a great time for students to have fun reading while helping make sure they are ready for school this fall. We also hope that student enthusiasm will encourage adults to read, too."

### **2008 Summer Reading List**

Available online at [www.doe.in.gov/summerreading](http://www.doe.in.gov/summerreading), the 2008 Summer Reading List features 100 book titles compiled by the Indiana Department of Education based on input from local educators, school media specialists and professional education associations. The list is divided into four categories: primary (grades K-2), intermediate (grades 3-5), middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12, adults), with 25 books per category.

Each category focuses on reading across all content levels with consideration placed on the following:

- Balancing English/language arts, math, science, social studies, the arts, world languages (including bilingual titles) and health/physical education
- Representing both fiction and nonfiction titles
- Featuring a title at each level on Abraham Lincoln in preparation for the bicentennial celebration in February 2009 (see [www.in.gov/lincoln](http://www.in.gov/lincoln) or [www.lincolnbicentennial.gov](http://www.lincolnbicentennial.gov))
- Highlighting current events (i.e., Summer Olympics, Presidential history)
- Including titles with a "green" focus in honor of the Department of Education's year-long Learn Green, Live Green initiative (see [www.doe.in.gov/green](http://www.doe.in.gov/green))

Parents and families are encouraged to ask teachers what level of reading material their student might need for the summer and to preview every title for appropriateness of content, interest and reading level before giving the book to the child.

### **Facts on reading & literacy**

Reading studies by the National Coalition for Literacy have shown that a more literate America means stronger families, and parents with strong literacy skills help their children succeed in school. Among the Coalition's findings:

- As the education level of the mother increases, so does the literacy level of the child.
- Families who participate in family literacy programs showed a dramatic increase in the children's school attendance during and after the program.

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- Oral communication prepares children to learn to read. When adults use a larger vocabulary, it affects their children and their ability to learn.

"We as adults must serve as role models for our children, so they know that reading is an important – and enjoyable – activity at any age," Reed said.

The severity of the literacy problem in America was made evident by a study conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics demonstrating that 13 percent of all adults in the U.S. had Below Basic prose literacy. This translates to 30 million Americans who are unable to meet the lowest levels of literacy performance, such as signing a form or adding the amounts on a bank deposit slip. The study also found an association between levels of literacy, employment and earnings. At each increasing level of prose literacy, more adults were employed full-time and median weekly earnings increased with each level of literacy. The complete study is available at [www.nces.ed.gov/NAAL](http://www.nces.ed.gov/NAAL).

### **Additional student reading**

Individuals interested in finding more age-appropriate reading materials for students may access the Indiana Reading List at [www.doe.in.gov/readinglist](http://www.doe.in.gov/readinglist). Designed as a companion piece to Indiana's academic standards for English/language arts, the selections in the Indiana Reading List illustrate the quality and approximate complexity of the materials to be read by students at each grade span. Local libraries and schools are encouraged to use the Indiana Reading List in developing local reading selections, but the list is not required reading for students nor is it meant to be all-inclusive.

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CONTACTS: Donna Smith, 317.232.9190, [dosmith@doe.in.gov](mailto:dosmith@doe.in.gov)  
Lynelle A. Miller, 317.232.6614, [lamiller@doe.in.gov](mailto:lamiller@doe.in.gov)

### **Related story ideas:**

- Check with your local public library for summer reading programs.
- Examine the reading literacy programs in your county that address adult literacy problems and see what links there are to the childhood reading recommendations mentioned here.
- What differences do school or public librarians see in the genre preferences of boys versus girls – there is a difference. Do boys have an adequate selection of their preferences?
- Talk to area employers about the literacy issues in the community and the links to workforce-readiness.
- Many school libraries have computer-based self-testing programs that rank books by reading ability. Examine what is in use at your schools and how parents can find out what books might be appropriate selections for the summer.



## 2008 Summer Reading List

Summer offers a perfect time to read for pleasure whether relaxing at home or on vacation. Research shows that students who read for enjoyment become better readers in many different ways. This list provides lots of great choices for summer reading across the curriculum for every grade level. There is something here for everyone, but it is not an all-inclusive list. Parents and families will want to preview every title for appropriateness of content, interest and reading level before selecting it for summer reading for their children.

### Primary (Kindergarten - Grade 2)

*10 Little Rubber Ducks* – Eric Carle  
*Arrorro Mi Nino: Latino Lullabies and Gentle Games* (Bilingual edition) – Lulu Delacre  
*Bottle Houses: The Creative World of Grandma Prisbrey* – Melissa Eskridge Slaymaker  
*Boundless Grace* – Mary Hoffman  
*Don't Bump the Glump: And Other Fantasies* – Shel Silverstein  
*Evie Finds Her Family Tree* – Ashley Ransburg  
*Fancy Nancy/Nancy la Elegante* (Spanish edition) – Jane O'Connor  
*From the Bellybutton of the Moon: And Other Summer Poems/Del Ombligo de la Luna: Y Otros Poemas de Verano* (Bilingual edition) – Francisco Alarcon  
*Good Sports: Rhymes about Running, Jumping, Throwing, and More* – Jack Prelutsky  
*Grandpa Gazillion's Number Yard* – Laurie Keller  
*Greedy Triangle* – Marilyn Burns  
*Horton Hears a Who* – Dr. Seuss  
*I Know a Shy Fellow Who Swallowed a Cello* – Barbara Garriel  
*Karate Hour* – Carol Nevius  
*Math Fables* – Greg Tang  
*Max's Words* – Kate Banks  
*Moon Rope/Un lazo a la luna* (Bilingual edition) – Amy Prince, Lois Ehlert  
*On Meadowview Street* – Henry Cole  
*Open Wide: Tooth School Inside* – Laurie Keller  
*Pigs in the Pantry: Fun with Math and Cooking* – Amy Axelrod  
*Stand Tall, Abe Lincoln* – Judith St. George  
*Wheels on the Bus* – Paul Zelinsky  
*When Stories Fell Like Shooting Stars* – Valiska Gregory  
*Winston of Churchill – One Bear's Battle Against Global Warming* – Jean Davies Okimoto  
*You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Mother Goose Tales to Read Together* – Mary Ann Hoberman

#### **K-2 Spanish selections:**

*Arrorro Mi Nino: Latino Lullabies and Gentle Games* (Bilingual edition) – Lulu Delacre  
*Fancy Nancy/Nancy la Elegante* (Spanish edition) – Jane O'connor  
*From the Bellybutton of the Moon: And Other Summer Poems/Del Ombligo de la Luna: Y Otros Poemas de Verano* (Bilingual edition) – Francisco Alarcon  
*Moon Rope/Un lazo a la luna* (Bilingual edition) – Amy Prince, Lois Ehlert

## Intermediate (Grades 3-5)

*A Child's Introduction to Ballet: The Stories, Music, and Magic of Classical Dance* – Laura Lee  
*A Gift from Papá Diego/Un regalo de papá Diego* (Bilingual edition) – Benjamin Alire Senz  
*Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audubon* – Jacqueline Davies  
*D is for Democracy: A Citizen's Alphabet* – Elissa Grodin  
*Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* – Jeff Kinney  
*Dog Diaries: Secret Writings of the WOOF Society* – Betsy Byars  
*For the Love of Animals: Rhyme and Reason With Animals* – Craig Gosling  
*From Sea to Shining Sea: A Treasury of American Folklore and Folk Songs* – Amy Cohn  
*George vs. George: The American Revolution As Seen From Both Sides* – Rosalyn Schanzer  
*Librarian Who Measured the Earth* – Kathryn Lasky  
*Math Rashes* – Douglas Evans  
*Math-terpieces* – Greg Tang  
*My Diary from Here to There/Mi diario de aqui hasta alla* (Bilingual edition) – Amada Irma Perez  
*Olympic Dream* – Matt Christopher  
*Rockwell: A Boy and His Dog* – Loren Spiotta DiMare  
*Sir Cumference and the Isle of the Immeter* – Cindy Neuschwander  
*Six Innings* – James Preller  
*Space* (Insiders series) – Alan Dyer  
*Sports Illustrated for Kids: The Amazing World of Sports* – Editors of Sports Illustrated  
*Storyteller's Candle/La velita de los cuentos* (Bilingual edition) – Lucia Gonzalez  
*Tiger Math: Learning to Graph from a Baby Tiger* – Ann Whitehead Nagda  
*Weird Weather: Everything You Didn't Want to Know About Climate Change But Probably Should Find Out* – Kate Evans  
*When Harriet Met Sojourner* – Catherine Clinton  
*Who Won the War* (Boy/Girl Battle Series) – Phyllis Reynolds Naylor  
*Young Abe Lincoln: The Frontier Days, 1809-1837* – Cheryl Harness

### **3-5 Spanish selections:**

*A Gift from Papá Diego/Un regalo de papá Diego* (Bilingual edition) – Benjamin Alire Senz  
*My Diary from Here to There/Mi diario de aqui hasta alla* (Bilingual edition) – Amada Irma Perez  
*Storyteller's Candle/La velita de los cuentos* (Bilingual edition) – Lucia Gonzalez

## **Middle School** **(Grades 6-8)**

*A House of Tailors* – Patricia Reilly Giff  
*Abraham Lincoln: From Pioneer to President* – Ellen Blue Phillips  
*All of the Above* – Shelley Pearsall  
*Bodies from the Ash: Life and Death in Ancient Pompeii* – James Deem  
*Children of Willesden Lane: Beyond the Kindertransport: A Memoir of Music, Love, and Survival* – Mona Golabek, Lee Cohen  
*Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* – Jordan Sonnenblick  
*Esperanza Rising/Esperanza Renace* (Spanish edition) – Pam Munoz Ryan  
*Eye of the Crow: The Boy Sherlock Holmes, His First Case* – Shane Peacock  
*Firegirl* – Tony Abbott  
*G is for Googol: A Math Alphabet Book* – David Schwartz  
*Girls Got Game: Sports Stories and Poems* – Sue Macy  
*Guys Write for Guys Read* – Jon Scieszka  
*Magical Life of Long Tack Sam* – Ann Marie Fleming  
*Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller* – Sarah Miller  
*Oh, Yuck! The Encyclopedia of Everything Nasty* – Joy Masoff  
*Stargirl/Stargirl* (Spanish edition) – Jerry Spinelli  
*Summer Olympics: The Definitive Guide to the World's Greatest Sports Celebration* - Clive Gifford  
*Team Moon* – Catherine Thimmesh  
*The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain* – Peter Sis  
*Throwing Stones* – Kristi Collier  
*Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion* – Loree Griffin Burns  
*Waiting for Normal* – Leslie Connor  
*Wednesday Wars* – Gary Schmidt  
*What's Your Angle, Pythagoras?* – Julie Ellis  
*Wild Wheels* – Harrod Blank

### **6-8 Spanish selections:**

*Esperanza Rising/Esperanza Renace* (Spanish edition) – Pam Munoz Ryan  
*Stargirl/Stargirl* (Spanish edition) – Jerry Spinelli

## **High School** **(Grades 9-12, adults)**

*7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* – Sean Covey  
*Amazing Gracie: A Dog's Tale* – Dan Dye  
*An Abundance of Katherines* – John Green  
*Candle in the Darkness* (series) – Lynn Austin  
*Code Orange* – Caroline Cooney  
*Dairy Queen* – Catherine Murdock  
*Dreaming in Color: A Story of One Girl's Triumph Over Blindness* – Claudia Muttart Hammonds  
*Eggs* – Jerry Spinelli  
*Found (The Missing)* – Margaret Peterson Haddix  
*Game* – Walter Dean Myers  
*Hattie Big Sky* – Kirby Larson  
*Imponderables: Science* (series) – David Feldman  
*In the Time of the Butterflies/En el tiempo de las mariposas* (Spanish edition) – Julia Alvarez  
*In Code: A Mathematical Journey* – Sarah Flannery  
*Indiana Legends: Famous Hoosiers from Johnny Appleseed to David Letterman* – Nelson Price  
*Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery* (series) – John Feinstein  
*Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis* – Pete Nelson  
*President's House: 1800 to the Present, The Secrets and History of the World's Most Famous Home* – Margaret Truman  
*Quiet Strength: The Principles, Practices, and Priorities of a Winning Life* – Tony Dungy  
*The River Between Us* – Richard Peck  
*Swifter, Higher, Stronger: A Photographic History of the Summer Olympics* – Sue Macy  
*Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* – Doris Kearns Goodwin  
*Under the Same Sky* – Cynthia DeFelice  
*Walt Disney's Nine Old Men and the Art of Animation* – John Canemaker  
*When I Was Puerto Rican/Cuando era puertorriquena* (Spanish Edition) – Esmeralda Santiago

### **9-Adult Spanish selections:**

*In the Time of the Butterflies/En el tiempo de las mariposas* (Spanish edition) – Julia Alvarez  
*When I Was Puerto Rican/Cuando era puertorriquena* (Spanish edition) – Esmeralda Santiago