

Grades 9-12

Compiled by Vermont-NEA member, Anna Bolognani, school librarian at Twin Valley High School in Wilmington. Contributions from Peter Jones, school librarian at BFA St. Albans and Merlyn Miller, school librarian at Burr and Burton Academy in Manchester.

* Bass, Bill and Jefferson, Jon. **DEATH'S ACRE: INSIDE THE LEGENDARY FORENSIC LAB THE BODY FARM WHERE THE DEAD DO TELL TALES.** G.P. Putnam's Sons. On a hillside in Tennessee, human bodies decompose in the open air aided by insects, bacteria, and birds. Dr. Bill Bass, master scientist, unlocks the gates of his forensics lab to reveal his most intriguing cases—"Bare Bones: Forensics 101"; "The Case of the Headless Corpse"; "The Backyard Barbeque" and more. While the grisly details may not make this a must-read for everyone, those who do pick it up will be surprised by how Bass brings death to life.

* Doug, Ivan. **THE WHISTLING SEASON.** Harcourt. Head out west to Montana in this tale of a widowed housekeeper that "can't cook, but doesn't bite." History and fiction meld together in a story about family, homesteaders and small town scandals.

* Cox, Lynne. **GRAYSON.** Knopf. Long distance swimmer Cox recalls her encounter, at 17-years-old, with an eighteen foot baby gray whale who had become separated from his mother. Swimming for hours in 55 degree water, Cox describes the suspenseful adventure of trying to reunite the whale with his mother.

* Hoffman, Alice. **THE FORETELLING.** Little Brown. In this fantasy tale, Rain is a girl of the Amazon tribe of women warriors, destined to become queen. She yearns for her mother's approval, struggles with self-doubt and questions her role and the future of the Amazonian way of life.

* Horowitz, Anthony. **EVILSTAR.** Scholastic. Fast-paced, action-packed adventure. Matt, against his will, is summoned by the Nexus Group to fight the evil of the Old Ones. The gate is about to open and unleash the horror and evil into the world. It must be stopped. Will Matt be able to find the gate in time? Is he powerful enough? Readers will also enjoy Raven's Gate, book one of the series.

* Patterson, James. **SCHOOLS'S OUT—FOREVER.** Little, Brown. Max and her flock are back. Fang is so seriously injured in a fight that the flock takes him to a hospital. It's obvious he's not a normal human (having wings and avian DNA), so it isn't long before the FBI shows up. Can they manage to survive? A thriller with touches of humor make this a great summer read.

* Sagan, Nick. **IDLEWILD.** Bantam. A teen named Halloween, attending an exclusive Virtual Reality boarding school, awakens with amnesia and must discover who he is amidst murder, mystery and robotics in this sci-fi thriller.

* Salbi, Zainab. **BETWEEN TWO WORLDS: ESCAPE FROM TYRANNY: GROWING UP IN THE SHADOW OF SADDAM.** Gotham. Salbi was eleven years old when her father was chosen to be Saddam Hussein's personal pilot. In this memoir, she describes her life inside the palace, her arranged marriage and her eventual founding of an organization that assists women victimized by war.

* Setterfield, Diane. **THE THIRTEENTH TALE: A NOVEL.** Atria Books. Margaret Lea is summoned to the home of Vida Winter, England's most popular novelist, and commanded to write her biography. Murder, insanity, decaying mansions, and family secrets fill Margaret's pages of Vida's life in this gothic classic.

* Shakur, Tupac. **THE ROSE THAT GREW FROM THE CONCRETE.** Simon and Schuster. A book of poetry from rapper and Renaissance man Tupac Shakur. A decade after his death Tupac remains as vital as ever. This collection of poems in his own handwriting will draw you in and hold you with him as he writes about love, life and his own death.

* Welsch, T.K. **THE UNRESOLVED.** Dutton. Mallory, 15, boards the General Slocum steamship. The year is 1904. And within an hour, thanks to the only boy she's ever loved, she'll be dead. She lingers on as a ghost unable to leave her grieving family. She seeks justice and revenge on those responsible for this awful tragedy.

* Werlin, Nancy. **THE RULES OF SURVIVAL.** Dial. 17-year-old Matthew recounts his attempts, starting at a young age, to free himself and his sisters from vicious treatment at the hands of Nikki, their beautiful but unpredictable, psychotic mother. Narrated by Matthew in a letter to his youngest sister, readers will empathize with these siblings in this fast-paced psychological thriller.

* Zailckas, Koren. **SMASHED: STORY OF A DRUNKEN GIRLHOOD.** Penguin. For all those that think one little sip won't hurt. That they can stop at any time. And, that they are always in control. Smashed is the eye-opening account of how one stiff sip of Southern Comfort at the age of 14 led to years of blackouts and smashups. A sober tale of hiding behind substances and eventually learning to live and face life without the buzz of alcohol.

*This booklist was edited by Shannon Walters, librarian at C.P. Smith Elementary School in Burlington, and published as a public service by the Vermont-National Education Association
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Summer Reading for Kids - 2007

These books have been selected by Vermont public school librarians, and are recommended for summer reading for children and young adults. For more, see your school or public librarian.

2007 Award Winning Books

Caldecott Award

Wiesner, David. **FLOTSAM.** Clarion.

Newbery Award

Patron, Susan. **THE HIGHER POWER OF LUCKY.** Simon & Schuster.

Coretta Scott King Author Award

Draper, Sharon. **COPPER SUN.** Simon & Schuster.

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award

Weatherford, Carole Boston. **MOSES: WHEN HARRIET TUBMAN LED HER PEOPLE TO FREEDOM.** Illustrated by Kadir Nelson. Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books.

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award

Kvasnosky, Laura McGee. **ZELDA AND IVY: THE RUNAWAYS.** Candlewick

Michael L. Printz Award

Yang, Gene Luen. **AMERICAN BORN CHINESE.** Roaring Brook Press

Robert F. Sibert Award

Thimmesh, Catherine. **TEAM MOON: HOW 400,000 PEOPLE LANDED APOLLO 11 ON THE MOON.** Houghton.

Grades K-4

Compiled by Vermont-NEA member Catherine Kidder, school librarian at Newbury Elementary School.

* **Armstrong, Jennifer. THE AMERICAN STORY: 100 TRUE TALES FROM AMERICAN HISTORY.** Knopf.

History buffs young and old will revel in these well-illustrated tales about the weighty and light-hearted in our heritage, from 1565 to 2000. Told chronologically by a historian with a gift for story telling.

* **Banks, Kate. MAX'S WORDS.** Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Max's brothers are collectors but when Max asks for a stamp or a coin, they say, "No!" So Max fetches his scissors and starts to collect words, little ones at first, then bigger, and he finds out that they behave differently if they are in different order—in fact, they become a story that Max's brothers are eager to share.

* **Cunnane, Kelly. FOR YOU ARE A KENYAN CHILD.** Atheneum. Sent to the hills to guard Grandfather's cows, a young child is waylaid by the attractions of his village—Mzee the chief who hunted lion, Wini who watches dung beetles, Grandmother who offers milk fresh from a gourd, a black monkey. This is a child-size window into an African village.

* **Dendy, Leslie and Mel Boring. GUINEA PIG SCIENTISTS: BOLD SELF-EXPERIMENTATORS IN SCIENCE AND MEDICINE.** Henry Holt. What happens when you're a scientist with a theory and no one to test it on? You use yourself! This book visits ten scientists, in different times and places, who staked their lives on discovering new knowledge about our bodies and our world.

* **DiCamillo, Kate. THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE.** Candlewick. Abilene Tulane, age 10, loves Edward, her china rabbit. She doesn't see his vanity and coldness, but, through a series of astonishing adventures and great misfortunes, Edward comes to value being loved, and learns how to love.

* **Lubber, William Captain. PIRATEOLOGY: THE PIRATE HUNTER'S COMPANION.** Candlewick. Buccaneers, jump aboard with the good Captain William Lubber on his voyage over the seven seas to capture the infamous pirate, Arabella Drummond. The ship's log is full of information on sailing, navigation, sea battles, and pirate lore. The parchment-like log serves as Lubber's scrapbook, wherein are tucked maps, gold dust—treasures galore to take out and explore.

* **Manushkin, Fran. THE SHIVERS IN THE FRIDGE.** Dutton. Children will recognize the setting but the stalwart Shivers family, marooned in a dark and chilly box, surrounded by geographic foodstuffs, is clueless. The blinding light and mighty "PHOOMPH" every time the "giants" remove a family member add to the mystery. Common household items, refrigerator magnets to be exact, have never suffered so magnificently.

* **Osborne, Mary Pope. POMPEII, LOST & FOUND.** Alfred A. Knopf. Preserved for centuries under the ashes of Vesuvius, Pompeii—a city frozen in time on August 24, AD 79—springs back to life in this retelling, replete with handsome frescoes and archaeological finds.

* **Pennypacker, Sara. CLEMENTINE.** Hyperion Books for Children. "Spectacularful ideas are always sproinging up in my brain," says Clementine, an irrepressible 3rd grader. But sometimes adults don't get it: if your best friend's hair is covered with glue you just cut it, then draw "a giant tattoo of tangled worms" on her head with a Flaming Sunset permanent marker. What is the problem?

* **Rylant, Cynthia. THE JOURNEY: STORIES OF MIGRATION.** Scholastic. "One of the most wonderful mysteries on this earth is the migration of its creatures. That they understand when to travel and where to go and how to get there is one of the planet's marvels," writes the author. Join these "remarkable travelers" on their journeys—the monarch butterfly, desert locust, gray whale, American silver eel, caribou and Arctic tern.

* **Schaefer, Lola M. AN ISLAND GROWS.** Harper Collins. "Deep, deep beneath the sea... stone breaks. Water quakes. Magma glows. Volcano blows." From its birth above the seas, to seeds taking root, birds arriving, sailors, ships, settlers, farms and markets springing up, exuberant collages trace a "busy island in the sea, where only water used to be."

Grades 4-8

Compiled by Vermont-NEA member, Kelly Wood, school librarian at Charlotte Central School. Contributions from Karen Hennig, school librarian at Williston Central School.

* **Jones, Kimberly. SAND DOLLAR SUMMER.** McElderry Books. 12-year-old Lise watches her safe world fall apart when her mom is injured in a car accident. To recuperate, Mom takes Lise and her little brother to live in Maine for the summer—Lise's first experience with the ocean. She's terrified by what may be lurking in the cold depths and confused by her changing mother. Lise will have to learn to go with the flow—or risk falling apart—in this tender, funny, and wise first novel by a Vermont author.

* **LaFevers, R.L. THEODOSIA AND THE SERPENTS OF CHAOS.** Houghton Mifflin. 11-year-old Theo Throckmorton has her hands full at the Museum of Legends and Antiquities in London. Her father may be head curator, but it is Theo who is able to see the black magic and ancient curses that cling to the artifacts. Then the museum receives the Heart of Egypt—inscribed with a curse so black and vile that it threatens to crumble the British Empire from within and start a war too terrible to imagine. A surefire hit for Harry Potter fans.

* **Lupica, Mike. HEAT.** Philomel. Michael Arroyo has a pitching arm that throws serious heat. But his firepower is

nothing compared to the heat Michael faces in his day-to-day life. He is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old; and he has no parents to offer them proof.

* **McCaughrean, Geraldine. THE WHITE DARKNESS.** HarperTeen. Sym is not your average teenage girl. She is obsessed with the Antarctic and the brave, romantic figure of Captain Oates from Scott's doomed expedition to the South Pole. Sym's uncle Victor is even more obsessed—and when he takes her on a dream trip into the bleak Antarctic wilderness, it turns into a nightmarish struggle for survival that will challenge everything she knows and loves. A spellbinding journey into the frozen heart of darkness.

* **Riordan, Rick. THE TITAN'S CURSE.** Miramax/Hyperion. Join the adventures of Percy Jackson and his modern demigod friends in their third battle with mythological monsters and the dark forces of the titan lord Kronos. The fun begins with The Lightning Thief and continues in The Sea of Monsters and The Titan's Curse.

* **Selznick, Brian. THE INVENTION OF HUGO CABRET.** Scholastic. Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. A cryptic drawing, a treasured notebook, a stolen key, a mechanical man, and a hidden message from Hugo's dead father form the backbone of this intricate, tender, and spellbinding mystery.

* **Schmidt, Gary D. THE WEDNESDAY WARS.** Clarion. How can seventh-grader Holling stay out of trouble when he has so much to deal with? A bully demanding cream puffs; angry rats; and a baseball hero signing autographs the very same night he has to appear in a play in yellow tights! As fate sneaks up on him again and again, Holling musters up the courage to embrace his destiny, in spite of himself.

* **Thompson, Kate. THE NEW POLICEMAN.** HarperTeen. When J.J.'s mother says that what she really wants for her birthday is more time in her day, J.J. decides to find her some. But how can he find time for her, when he barely has enough time to keep up with school and his music? And where will he get time to find out if the shocking rumor is true—that his great-grandfather was a murderer? But then a secret is revealed—there is a place where time stands still. And J.J. realizes he's the only person who can make the journey...

* **Wynne-Jones, Tim. REX ZERO AND THE END OF THE WORLD.** Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Why does everyone seem so scared? That's what the new boy in town Rex Zero wonders. Is it spies? Kidnappers? Or is it because of the shadowy creature some say is stalking Adams Park? One thing is certain in this summer of 1962 as the Cold War heats up: nothing is quite what it seems.

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