detecting, inspecting, and connecting the dots of forensic science. Investigating rates of human decomposition; find out what makes fingerprints unique; identify handwriting traits; and discover the secrets of paper fiber analysis.

Grades 9-12
Compiled by Vermont NEA member Barbara Marvin, Colchester High School Library

Ali, Nujood. I AM NUJOOD, AGE 10 AND DIVORCED. Three Rivers Press. Nujood Ali was a Yemeni child bride in an arranged marriage who was beaten and raped by her much-older husband in 2008. She made her way to a judge, and luckily she found people to protect her. This story of courage is told through the eyes and innocence of a ten-year-old girl. She is the first child bride in Yemen to win a divorce.

Brandt, Anthony. THE MAN WHO ATE HIS BOOTS: THE TRAGIC HISTORY OF THE SEARCH FOR THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE. Knopf. In search of the Northwest Passage to Asia, 19th century British expeditions were doomed from the start due to the year-round, icebound Arctic Ocean. But the explorers (including Sir John Barrow, Sir William Edward Parry, and Sir John Franklin) didn’t know that. This is a history of the quest, and a story of adventure, disappointment, and the fight to survive.

Cashore, Kristin. GRACELING (a fantasy published in 2008). Dial Books. Fire, a beautiful monster-woman, strives to use her powers for good. This is a simple story for young and old that invites the reader to think.

Coelho, Paulo. THE ALCHEMIST. HarperCollins. First published in the U.S. in 1989, Brazilian Coelho’s story of the human spirit has been called a fable and been compared to Saint-Exupéry’s The Little Prince. A shepherd boy named Santiago leaves Spain for Egypt in search of treasure. On his journey he meets key figures, including an alchemist, and learns about the world and himself. At its heart, this is a story about middle-class white women and their struggles between good and evil. This is the prequel to Graceling (a fantasy published in 2008).

de la Pena, Matt. MEXICAN WHITEBOY. Delacorte Press. Sixteen-year-old, biracial Danny Lopez feels like he is a stranger in his own neighborhood. This is a story about a boy who loves baseball figuring out who he is.

Dessen, Sarah. ALONG FOR THE RIDE: A NOVEL. Viking. The summer before college, Auden leaves her mother’s house to live with her father, his wife, and her newborn half-sister. Auden finds romance, learns to make new friends, discovers how to ride a bike—and tries other childhood activities she missed. Dessen creates characters with depth who face realistic teen choices and challenges.

Ollestad, Norman. CRAZY FOR THE STORM: A MEMOIR OF SURVIVAL. Ecco. At eleven-years-old in February of 1979, Ollestad survives a plane crash in the San Gabriel Mountains. The dangerous trip down the mountain is interspersed with flashbacks of time spent with his father, who died in the crash. A page-turning, coming-of-age story.

Parks, Lara. WHEN YOU REACH ME. Delacourte Press. First published in 2007, this is a riveting eye-opener—and funny—novel, told in turns by a favorite uncle. Randy Pausch died in 2008 of pancreatic cancer, but his words and zest for life live on.

Pausch, Randy. THE LAST LECTURE. Hyperion. Think of this little book as advice and funny stories on how to live, shared by a favorite uncle. Randy Pausch died in 2008 of pancreatic cancer, but his words and zest for life live on.

Picoult, Jodi. HANDLE WITH CARE: A NOVEL. Atria Books. Picoult, as she’s done in her other books, balances family relationships, medical situations, ethical issues, and the law in a thoughtful, compassionate manner. And she keeps the action moving! A child with ‘brittle bone’ disease is the focal point of this book.

Power, Linda. BOOTS: THE TRAGIC HISTORY OF THE SEARCH FOR THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE. Little-Brown. Max and her Flock (of human children who were genetically altered to fly) are on a relief mission getting food to Africa when they discover an evil doer. Can they stop him? This is the sixth installment in the series that begins with Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment. Manga versions of some books in the series are also available.

Patterson, James. FANS: A MAXIMUM RIDE NOVEL. Little-Brown. Max and her Flock (of human children who were genetically altered to fly) are on a relief mission getting food to Africa when they discover an evil doer. Can they stop him? This is the sixth installment in the series that begins with Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment. Manga versions of some books in the series are also available.

Pausch, Randy. THE LAST LECTURE. Hyperion. Think of this little book as advice and funny stories on how to live, shared by a favorite uncle. Randy Pausch died in 2008 of pancreatic cancer, but his words and zest for life live on.

Stockett, Kathryn. THE HELP. G.P. Putnam’s Sons. This is a story about middle-class white women and their attitudes toward the help who raise their children in 1950-60s Jackson, Mississippi. It’s also about the changes in society, work, and family due to the Civil Rights Movement. A riveting eye-opener—and funny—novel, told in turns by three intriguing and likeable women: one white (Skeeter) and two black (Aibileen and Minny).

Yost, Christopher. ENDER’S GAME: BATTLE SCHOOL. Marvel. This is the well-done graphic version of Orson Scott Card’s classic science fiction series about Ender Wiggin, whose first journey takes him to Battle School and learning to fight. This is the starting point for the series whether it’s read in graphic format as future volumes are published—or in Card’s original novels. In the Ender Saga, the next books are Speaker for the Dead, Xenocide, and Children of the Mind—for starters.

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

2010 Award Winners
Newbery Award: Steed, Rebecca. WHEN YOU REACH ME. Wendy Lamb Books.
Coretta Scott King Author Award: Stoney Lee. ALMOST ASTRONAUTS: 13 WOMEN WHO DARED TO DREAM. Candlewick.
Geisel Award: Hayes, Geoffrey. BENNY AND PENNY IN THE BIS NO-NON RAW Junor.
Michael L. Printz Award: Bray, Libba. GOING BOVINE. Delacourte Press.
Vermont Red Clover Award Books:
Picture Books and Easy Readers for Grades K-4

Compiled by Vermont NEA member Deborah Chamberlin, school librarian at Addison and Ferrisburgh Central Schools.

Baker, Keith. LIMONPEAS. Beach Lane Books. This alphabet book is populated with tiny pea-people, each carrying on an occupation. Each pea is a detailed representation of a worker, such as scientist, teacher, vet, and even volunteer. White backgrounds set off the bold four inch letters, while on each page the pea-eater offers clear details.

Christiansen, Bonnie. DJANGO: WORLD'S GREATEST JAZZ GUITARIST. Beach Lane Books. An inspired account of a Gypsy boy who overcame tragedy has been illustrated by the author with lush oil paintings. Young Django was a gifted youngster who was able to catch trout with his hands. Though he played at a boy in Paris club, he was seriously burned in a fire but did not give up the dream of playing again, in this story of tenacity and courage.

Cousins, Lucy. YUMMY: EIGHT FAVORITE FAIRY TALES. Candlewick. Cousins’s wildly bold artwork in array of bright colors complements the memorable characters in this tasty collection of beloved tales. There are no cultural or historical clues in the pictures, yet the pictures are a delight, especially for younger wanna be artists. The villains definitely receive their due.

Davis, Jacqueline. TRICKING THE TALLYMAN. Knopf. In 1790 in Tunbridge, Vermont an attempt was made by the government to count the residents. This laugh and lightly historical account of the first U.S. Census portrays Vermonters as suspicious and clever at eluding outsiders. Subtle colors infuse the cover to such an extent the richness of the illustrations while carrying the story along.

Gravett, Emily. DOGS. S & S. A happy hound illustrates the cover of this captivating picture book which is narrated by a cat. Many different dog breeds walk and run through the creamy pages written in a rhyming text, which concludes in a unique way. Each page is filled with small penciled and colored pencil and watercolor carry the story along as the reader learns about spotty, tough and soft dogs.

Henkes, Kevin. MY GARDEN. Greenwillow. A child’s imaginary garden complete with jelly bean bushes and beach ball sized tomatoes takes root before the eyes of the reader. Even the bunnies in the garden are all chocolate, no threat to the lettuce patch. Bright pastels with bold outlines illustrate the seasonal and magical changes in the garden.

Krall, Kathleen. THE BOY WHO INVENTED TV: THE STORY OF PHIL FARNsworth. Knopf. Although it is difficult for some young people to imagine how life was before television, there are some who may take a moment without "screens." Young Farnsworth learned about inventors through reading books, but was inspired while working in a farm field by the parallel rows of crops. Thinking about the lines as a model for transmitting electric signals, Phil was an imaginative and creative individual. Glowing Acrylic wash and colored pencil renderings illuminate the text perfectly.

Long, Loren. OTIS. Philomel. The nostalgic colors used by Long to illustrate "Otis" bring into mind Burton’s classic “Mike Mulligan.” Otis is a tractor with an engine that purrs a frightened calf to sleep. When a shiny new yellow tractor comes to the farm, Otis is retired to the back of the barn. All ends well when Otis is given a new role on the farm. An inspiring story.

Peck, Robert Newton. SOUP. Dell Yearling. Soup! Rob lives in rural Vermont in the 1930’s in this first book in a series. Haircuts cost a quarter, shoes were saved for winter, and Burlington was a big city. Classmates Jonice Riker and Norma Jean Bissel are featured in hilarious episodes and adventures.

Portis, Antoinette. A PENGUIN STORY. HarperCollins. Edna the penguin wishes for a more colorful life. She has seen only the white of snow and ice, the blue sky and black of the night sky. When a group of humans bring an expedition to world of color to change an uninhabited color. The artwork is bold and graphic, especially the penguins, so simple, yet perfectly depicted.

Ruddell, Deborah. A WHIFF OF PINE, A HINT OF SKUNK: A FOREST OF POEMS. S & S. From the heavily forested end papers to the first poem entitled “Eau de Forest” a unique and intriguing collection celebrates the natural world. Twenty poems, each written with a different tone and style, are illustrated with rich tones in watercolors. Cleverly humorous critters add to the delight.

Underwood, Deborah. THE QUIET BOOK. Houghton. Different sound effects are represented in this picture book. Beautifully drawn pencil illustrations in neutral colors are placed carefully on creamy white backgrounds “Coloring in the lines quiet, making a wish quiet,” and “best friends don’t need to talk quiet,” evoke feelings that readers of all ages can clearly understand.

Weeks, Sara. SOFTHAIR: A LOVE STORY. HarperCollins. Who says opposites can’t attract one another? When an ordan dog happens to observe a pretty cat, he’s so taken with her that he smiles, showing all of his teeth. Terrified, she hides in a tree. She can’t seem to understand when he calls out: “I love you,” since she only hears “woof, woof, woof.” Colorful collage illustrations carry this rhythmic story to a pleasing conclusion.

Yolen, Jane. ALL STAR: HONUS WAGNER AND THE MOST FAMOUS BASEBALL CARD EVER. Philomel. In 1889 when Honus Wagner of the Pittsburgh Pirates explored how young men were able to get out of mining, where most boys went after finishing the sixth grade. Wagner grew from a family of German immigrants who lived inside of Pittsburgh in the coal mining area of Pennsylvania.

Grades 5-8

Dorison, Christian. HOW THE WORLD WORKS: A HANDS-ON GUIDE TO OUR AMAZING PLANET. Templar. Answering a multitude of questions about how our world works, this fun, engaging book introduces the earth’s important cycles and offers an exciting way to learn geography and science. Jam packed with illustrations and paper fold-outs, flaps, pops, and more to boost interactive learning.

Flanagan, John. THE LONDON EYE MYSTERY. Yearling. Ted and Kat watched cousin Salim board the London Eye, but after half an hour it landed and everyone trooped off—except Salim. How on earth could he have disappeared? Ted and Kat follow a trail of clues across London in a desperate bid to find their cousin. Ultimately it comes down to Ted, whose brain works in its own very unique way, to find the key to the mystery.

Franz, John. REVENGE OF THE WITCH. Greenwillow. For years, Old Gregory has been the Spook (or as the children in the village call him, the Witch). But his time is coming to an end. But who will take over for him? Twenty-nine apprentices have tried—some floundered, some fled, some failed to stay alive. Only Thomas Ward is left. He’s the last hope; the last apprentice. First in a series of six spine-tingling tales.

Graff, Lisa. EVERY SOUL A STAR. HarperCollins. In the late 1800’s, American inventor and one-time professor of physics, George Westinghouse, joined with his partner, the English physicist William Crookes, to create a company which built the world’s first electric power plants. The book tells how they came to the United States and the difficult choices they faced to build their dream.

Hale, Shannon. CALAMITY JACK. Bloomsbury. Jack likes to think of himself as a criminal mastermind, with great right-hand men, the best in the land. But Jack has a problem: the law. When one plain Jay Jack picks a target a little more giant than the usual, he calls out: “I love you,” since she only hears “woof, woof, woof.” A cleverly humorous critters add to the delight.

Krull, Kathleen. SYORY OF PHILO FARNSWORTH. Greenwillow. Twenty-nine apprentices have tried—some floundered, some fled, some failed to stay alive. Only Thomas Ward is left. He’s the last hope; the last apprentice. First in a series of six spine-ti