

A Community of Readers: NMS Book List 2016

Reading Levels

A=accessible

I=intermediate

C=challenging

A Note to Parents: Teachers collaborated to determine reading levels based on Lexile level, sentence complexity, book length, publication date, and content. The reading levels are meant only as a guide. Ultimately, it is up to you, the parent, to determine the “just right” book for your child. When helping your student to select a book, please carefully consider your student’s reading ability and maturity-level, as some books have themes that may not be appropriate for all students. If you need assistance in making an informed decision, please visit www.commonensemedia.org or search Amazon for reviews.

<p><i>Among the Hidden</i> Margaret Patterson</p> <p>Genre: Science Fiction Dystopia</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Mrs. Langieri</p> <p>Reading Level: A</p>	<p>In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke, an illegal third child, has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm in this start to the Shadow Children series. Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party, or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend. Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. Then, one day Luke sees a girl's face in the window of a house where he knows two other children already live. Finally, he's met a shadow child like himself. Jen is willing to risk everything to come out of the shadows—does Luke dare to become involved in her dangerous plan? Can he afford not to?</p>
<p><i>And Then There Were None</i> Agatha Christie</p> <p>Genre: Mystery</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Mrs. Schott Ms. Kocal Mrs. Belden</p> <p>Reading Level: C</p>	<p>Considered the best mystery novel ever written by many readers, <i>And Then There Were None</i> is the story of 10 strangers, each lured to Indian Island by a mysterious host. Once his guests have arrived, the host accuses each person of murder. Unable to leave the island, the guests begin to share their darkest secrets—until they begin to die.</p>
<p><i>Bread and Roses, Too</i> Katherine Paterson</p> <p>Genre: Historical Fiction</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Mrs. Preye Mrs. Mullett Mrs. Niedel</p> <p>Reading Level: I</p>	<p>Rosa’s mother is singing again, for the first time since Papa died in an accident in the mills. But instead of filling their cramped tenement apartment with Italian lullabies, Mamma is out on the streets singing union songs, and Rosa is terrified that her mother and older sister, Anna, are endangering their lives by marching against the corrupt mill owners. After all, didn’t Miss Finch tell the class that the strikers are nothing but rabble-rousers—an uneducated, violent mob? Suppose Mamma and Anna are jailed or, worse, killed? What will happen to Rosa and little Ricci? When Rosa is sent to Vermont with other children to live with strangers until the strike is over, she fears she will never see her family again. Then, on the train, a boy begs her to pretend that he is her brother. Alone and far from home, she agrees to protect him . . . even though she suspects that he is hiding some terrible secret. From a beloved, award-winning author, here is a moving story based on real events surrounding an infamous 1912 strike. <i>Bread and Roses, Too</i> is the recipient of the 2013 Laura Ingalls Wilder Award.</p>
<p><i>Courage for Beginners</i> Karen Harrington</p> <p>Genre: Fiction</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Mrs. Ouimet Ms. E. Dion Ms. Doiran</p> <p>Reading Level: A</p>	<p>Twelve-year-old Mysti Murphy wishes she were a character in a book. If her life were fictional, she'd magically know how to deal with the fact that her best friend, Anibal Gomez, has abandoned her in favor of being a "hipster." She'd be able to take care of everyone when her dad has to spend time in the hospital. And she'd certainly be able to change her family's secret. Seventh grade is not turning out the way Mysti had planned. With the help of a hot-hair balloon, her new friend Rama Khan—and maybe even the heroes of the Texas Revolution—can she find the courage to change?</p>
<p><i>Divergent</i> Veronica Wroth</p> <p>Genre: Science Fiction Dystopia</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Mrs. Fydenkevez</p> <p>Reading Level: I Mature Themes</p>	<p><i>One choice can transform you.</i> Beatrice Prior's society is divided into five factions—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). Beatrice must choose between staying with her Abnegation family and transferring factions. Her choice will shock her community and herself. But the newly christened Tris also has a secret, one she's determined to keep hidden, because in this world, <i>what makes you different makes you dangerous.</i></p>
<p><i>Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library</i></p>	<p>Sponsored by: Mrs. Skorupski Ms. Lynch</p>	<p>Kyle Keeley is the class clown and a huge fan of all games—board games, word games, and particularly video games. His hero, Luigi Lemoncello, the most notorious and creative gamemaker in the world, just so happens to be the genius behind the</p>

Chris Grabenstein Genre: Fiction	Ms. J. Pierce Reading Level: A	construction of the new town library. Lucky Kyle wins a coveted spot as one of twelve kids invited for an overnight sleepover in the library, hosted by Mr. Lemoncello and riddled with lots and lots of games. But when morning comes, the doors stay locked. Kyle and the other kids must solve every clue and figure out every secret puzzle to find the hidden escape route!
<i>Fairy Ring, The: Or Elsie and Frances Fool the World</i> Mary Losure Genre: Non-Fiction	Sponsored by: Mrs. Mahoney Mrs. Mentos Reading Level: A	Frances was nine when she first saw the fairies. They were tiny men, dressed all in green. Nobody but Frances saw them, so her cousin Elsie painted paper fairies and took photographs of them "dancing" around Frances to make the grown-ups stop teasing. The girls promised each other they would never, ever tell that the photos weren't real. But how were Frances and Elsie supposed to know that their photographs would fall into the hands of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle? And who would have dreamed that the man who created the famous detective Sherlock Holmes believed ardently in fairies— and wanted very much to see one? Mary Losure presents this enthralling true story as a fanciful narrative featuring the original Cottingley fairy photos and previously unpublished drawings and images from the family's archives. A delight for everyone with a fondness for fairies, and for anyone who has ever started something that spun out of control.
<i>Freak the Mighty</i> Rodman Philbrick Genre: Fiction	Sponsored by: Mr. Wroth Reading Level: A	Two boys – a slow learner stuck in the body of a teenage giant and a tiny Einstein in leg braces – forge a unique friendship when they pair up to create one formidable human force. A wonderful story of triumph over imperfection, shame, and loss.
<i>Freedom Writers Diary, The</i> Erin Gruwell Genre: Diary	Sponsored by: Mrs. Daponde Reading Level: C Mature Themes	Shocked by the teenage violence she witnessed during the Rodney King riots in Los Angeles, Erin Gruwell became a teacher at a high school rampant with hostility and racial intolerance. For many of these students—whose ranks included substance abusers, gang members, the homeless, and victims of abuse—Gruwell was the first person to treat them with dignity, to believe in their potential and help them see it themselves. Soon, their loyalty towards their teacher and burning enthusiasm to help end violence and intolerance became a force of its own. The students began a joint diary of their inner-city upbringings. Told through anonymous entries to protect their identities and allow for complete candor, <i>The Freedom Writers Diary</i> is filled with astounding vignettes from 150 students who, like civil rights activist Rosa Parks and the Freedom Riders, heard society tell them where to go—and refused to listen.
<i>Girl, Stolen</i> April Henry Genre: Fiction	Sponsored by: Mrs. C'Miel Reading Level: I	Sixteen-year-old Cheyenne Wilder is sleeping in the back of a car while her mom fills her prescription for antibiotics. Before Cheyenne realizes what's happening, their car is being stolen. Griffin hadn't meant to kidnap Cheyenne, but once his dad finds out that Cheyenne's father is the president of a powerful corporation, everything changes--now there's a reason to keep her. How will Cheyenne survive this nightmare? Because she's not only sick with pneumonia—she's also blind.
<i>Lord of the Flies</i> William Golding Genre: Fiction Allegory	Sponsored by: Mr. Buoniconti Mrs. Tesko Mr. Baker Reading Level: C Mature Themes	William Golding's compelling story about a group of very ordinary small boys marooned on a coral island has become a modern classic. At first it seems as though it is all going to be great fun; but the fun before long becomes furious and life on the island turns into a nightmare of panic and death. As ordinary standards of behavior collapse, the whole world the boys know collapses with them—the world of cricket and homework and adventure stories—and another world is revealed beneath, primitive and terrible. Labeled a parable, an allegory, a myth, a morality tale, a parody, a political treatise, even a vision of the apocalypse, <i>Lord of the Flies</i> has established itself as a true classic.
<i>Maus, Volume 1: My Father Bleeds History</i> Art Spiegelman Genre: Graphic Novel	Sponsored by: Mr. Gelinas Mr. Harlow Ms. Costello Reading Level: C Mature Themes	Art Spiegelman interviewed his father, Vladek, a Holocaust survivor living outside New York City, about his experiences. The artist then translated that story into a graphic novel. By portraying a true story of the Holocaust in comic form--the Jews are mice, the Germans cats, the Poles pigs, the French frogs, and the Americans dogs--Spiegelman compels the reader to <i>imagine</i> the action, to fill in the blanks that are so often shied away from. Reading <i>Maus</i> , you are forced to examine the Holocaust anew. This is neither easy nor pleasant. However, Vladek Spiegelman and his wife Anna are resourceful heroes, and enough acts of kindness and decency appear in the tale to spur the reader onward (we also know that the protagonists survive). This first volume introduces Vladek as a happy young man on the make in pre-war Poland. With outside

		events growing ever more ominous, we watch his marriage to Anna, his enlistment in the Polish army after the outbreak of hostilities, his and Anna's life in the ghetto, and then their flight into hiding as the Final Solution is put into effect.
<i>Me Before You</i> JoJo Meyers Genre: Fiction	Sponsored by: Mrs. Oleksak Mrs. Guyott Mrs. Johnson Reading Level: C Mature Themes	They had nothing in common until love gave them everything to lose. Louisa Clark is an ordinary girl living an exceedingly ordinary life—steady boyfriend, close family—who has barely been farther afield than their tiny village. She takes a badly needed job working for ex–Master of the Universe Will Traynor, who is wheelchair bound after an accident. Will has always lived a huge life—big deals, extreme sports, worldwide travel—and now he’s pretty sure he cannot live the way he is. Will is sarcastic, moody, bossy—but Lou refuses to treat him with kid gloves, and soon his happiness means more to her than she expected. When she learns that Will has shocking plans of his own, she sets out to show him that life is still worth living.
<i>No Summit Out of Sight</i> Jordan Romero & Linda LeBlanc Genre: Young Adult Memoir	Sponsored by: Mr. Chretien Ms. Elder Mrs. Sweigard Reading Level: I	Jordan Romero climbed Mount Everest at age thirteen—and he didn’t stop there. In this inspiring young adult memoir that includes color photos, he tells how he achieved such great heights. On May 22, 2010, at the age of thirteen, American teenager Jordan Romero became the youngest person to climb to the summit of Mount Everest. At fifteen, he became the youngest person to reach the summits of the tallest mountains on each of the seven continents. In this energizing memoir for young adults, Jordan, recounts his experience, which started as a spark of an idea at the age of nine and, many years of training and hard work later, turned into a dream come true.
<i>One and Only Ivan, The</i> Katherine Applegate Genre: Fiction	Sponsored by: Mrs. L. Pierce Mrs. Groom Reading Level: A	Winner of the 2013 Newbery Medal and a #1 <i>New York Times</i> bestseller, this stirring and unforgettable novel from renowned author Katherine Applegate celebrates the transformative power of unexpected friendship. Inspired by the true story of a captive gorilla known as Ivan, this illustrated novel is told from the point of view of Ivan himself. Having spent twenty-seven years behind the glass walls of his enclosure in a shopping mall, Ivan has grown accustomed to humans watching him. He hardly ever thinks about his life in the jungle. Instead, Ivan occupies himself with television, his friends Stella and Bob, and painting. But when he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from the wild, he is forced to see their home, and his art, through new eyes.
<i>Only Game, The</i> Mike Lupica Genre: Fiction	Sponsored by: Mrs. Schabowski Ms. R. Wood Reading Level: A	Jack Callahan is the star of his baseball team and seventh grade is supposed to be his year. Undefeated season. Records shattered. Little League World Series. The works. That is, until he up and quits. Jack’s best friend Gus can’t understand how Jack could leave a game that means more to them than anything else. But Jack is done. Jack’s brother has passed away, and though his family and friends and the whole town of Walton thinks baseball is just the thing he needs to move on, Jack feels it’s anything but. In comes Cassie Bennett, star softball player, and the only person who seems to think Jack shouldn’t play if he doesn’t want to. As Jack and Cassie’s friendship deepens, their circle expands to include Teddy, a guy who’s been bullied because of his weight. Jack discovers sometimes it’s more than just the love of the game that keeps us moving forward—and he might just be able to find his way back to <i>The Only Game</i> , after all.
<i>Regarding the Fountain</i> Kate Klise Genre: Fiction	Sponsored by: Mrs. O’Neill Mrs. Miller Mrs. Sullivan Reading Level: A	The Dry Creek Middle School drinking fountain has sprung a leak, so principal Walter Russ dashes off a request to Flowing Waters Fountains, Etc.: “We need a new drinking fountain. Please send a catalog.” Designer Flo Waters responds: "I'd be delighted...but please understand that all of my fountains are custom-made." Soon the fountain project takes on a life of its own, one chronicled in letters, postcards, memos, transcripts, and official documents. The school board president is up in arms. So is Dee Eel, of the water-supply company. A scandal is brewing, and Mr. Sam N.'s fifth grade class is turning up a host of hilarious secrets buried deep beneath the fountain.
<i>Smile</i> Raina Telgemeier Genre: Graphic Novel	Sponsored by: Mr. Brady Reading Level: A	Raina just wants to be a normal sixth grader. But one night after Girl Scouts she trips and falls, severely injuring her two front teeth. What follows is a long and frustrating journey with on-again, off-again braces, surgery, embarrassing headgear, and even a retainer with fake teeth attached. And on top of all that, there's still more to deal with: a major earthquake, boy confusion, and friends who turn out to be not so friendly.
<i>Stormbreaker</i>	Sponsored by: Mrs. J. Dion	Alex Rider's world is turned upside down when he discovers that his uncle and guardian has been murdered. The 14-year-old makes one discovery after another until he is

<p>Anthony Horowitz</p> <p>Genre: Adventure Fiction Thriller</p>	<p>Reading Level: A</p>	<p>sucked into his uncle's undercover world. The Special Operations Division of M16, his uncle's real employer, blackmails the teen into serving England. After two short weeks of training, Alex is equipped with several special toys like a Game Boy with unique cartridges that allow it to scan, fax, and emit smoke bombs. Alex's mission is to complete his uncle's last assignment, to discover the secret that Herod Sayle is hiding behind his generous donation of one of his supercomputers to every school in the country. When Alex enters Sayle's compound in Port Tallon, he discovers a strange world of secrets and villains including Mr. Grin, an ex-circus knife catcher, and Yassen Gregorovich, professional hit man. The novel provides bang after bang as Alex experiences and survives unbelievably dangerous episodes and eventually crashes through the roof of the Science Museum to save the day. Alex is a strong, smart hero. If readers consider luck the ruling factor in his universe, they will love this James Bond-style adventure. With short cliff-hanger chapters and its breathless pace, it is an excellent choice for reluctant readers.</p>
<p><i>The 13 ½ Lives of Captain Bluebear</i> Walter Moers</p> <p>Genre: Fantasy</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Mr. Dearborn</p> <p>Reading Level: C</p>	<p>"A bluebear has twenty-seven lives. I shall recount thirteen and a half of them in this book but keep quiet about the rest," says the narrator of Walter Moers's epic adventure. "What about the Minipirates? What about the Hobgoblins, the Spiderwitch, the Babbling Billows, the Troglotroll, the Mountain Maggot...Mine is a tale of mortal danger and eternal love, of hair's breadth, last-minute escapes." Welcome to the fantastic world of Zamonia, populated by all manner of extraordinary characters. It's a land of imaginative lunacy and supreme adventure, wicked satire and epic fantasy, all mixed together, turned on its head, and lavishly illustrated by the author.</p>
<p><i>Thing About Jelly Fish, The</i> Ali Benjamin</p> <p>Genre: Fiction</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Mrs. Cartee Mrs. Malone</p> <p>Reading Level: A</p>	<p>After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy must have been a rare jellyfish sting--things don't just happen for no reason. Retreating into a silent world of imagination, she crafts a plan to prove her theory--even if it means traveling the globe, alone. Suzy's achingly heartfelt journey explores life, death, the astonishing wonder of the universe...and the potential for love and hope right next door. <i>The Thing about Jelly Fish</i> was a 2015 National Book Award Finalist.</p>
<p>Title and Author: <i>Tangerine</i> Edward Bloor</p> <p>Genre: Fiction</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Mrs. Plante</p> <p>Reading Level: I</p>	<p>Paul Fisher sees the world from behind glasses so thick he looks like a bug-eyed alien. But he's not so blind that he can't see there are some <i>very</i> unusual things about his family's new home in Tangerine County, Florida. Where else does a sinkhole swallow the local school, fire burn underground for years, and lightning strike at the same time every day? The chaos is compounded by constant harassment from his football--star brother, and adjusting to life in Tangerine isn't easy for Paul--until he joins the soccer team at his middle school. With the help of his new teammates, Paul begins to discover what lies beneath the surface of his strange new hometown. And he also gains the courage to face up to some secrets his family has been keeping from him for far too long. In Tangerine, it seems, <i>anything</i> is possible.</p>
<p><i>Unbroken</i> (young adult adaptation) Laura Hillenbrand</p> <p>Genre: Historical Fiction</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Mr. Saczawa</p> <p>Reading Level: I</p>	<p>On a May afternoon in 1943, an American military plane crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane's bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. So began one of the most extraordinary sagas of the Second World War.</p>