This list is a *suggested* reading list for all grade levels. Of course, reading is the key, and if your student is reading other books that entertain, challenge, and inspire, then by all means, encourage them to continue! The only suggestion we would make is to have students fluctuate up and down the Lexile scale. Studies have shown that it is best for students to read some books on their level, some below, and some above their level, and not to read only at one level.

We have included descriptions of some of the books below. Others can be looked up on Amazon to see a synopsis of the books contents. We have also included the Lexile scores of the books that had one available (Example: 770L). You can see a description of Lexile scores under the link, *Summer Reading News You Can Use to Help Your Student*.

**Non-Fiction**

*Suzanne Collins* By Jill C. Wheeler 770L  
*Spilling Ink: A Young Writer’s Handbook* by Ellen Potter, Anne Mazer and Matt Phelan 830L  
*Three Cups of Tea: Young Reader’s Addition* by Greg Mortenson 910L  
*On the Court with Lebron James* by Matt Christopher 990L  
*Colvin Claudette* by Phillip Loose 1000L  
*Before Columbus* by Charles C. Mann 1080L  
*Sjourner Truth: Ain’t I a Woman?* By Pat McKissack 960L  
*Superstars* by David Aguilar 1160L  
*Titanic: Voices from the Disaster* by Deborah Hopkinson 1040L

Through his illustrations, Fink interprets the meaning of each line of this founding document.

This richly illustrated book tells the story of the events that led to the colonists’ declaration and highlights the meaning of its famous words.

*We the People: The Constitution of the United States of America*, by Peter Spier (Garden City, NH: Doubleday, 1987).  
Spier illustrates every phrase in the Preamble to the Constitution in a way that makes its meaning come alive. For example, for the phrase “insure domestic tranquility,” Spier presents 16 drawings illustrating how the government protects the safety of Americans past and present. A good way to introduce the Preamble.
**Landmark Supreme Court Cases** (Springfield, NJ: Enslow, various dates).
1460L
This series provides background on key cases, arguments on both sides, the Court’s decision, and a description of the impact of the decision. “Questions to Think About” are included in each book. Cases covered include Brown v. Board of Education, Ferrell v. Dallas I.S.D., Dred Scott, Cruzan v. Missouri, Cherokee Nation v. Georgia, and Engel v. Vitale.

560L
Thomas has collected poems and prose written by ten well-known children’s authors, who reflect on the person impact of the Brown v. Board of Education decision.

760L
Levine presents oral histories from 30 African Americans who were active as young people in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Their experiences stand as evidence that young people can make a difference.

Short poems honor people who give back to the community, from such well-known people as Helen Keller and Roberto Clemente to everyday heroes like an elementary school teacher and a firefighter.

840L
The author provides profiles of 13 individuals and three groups of young people working for causes larger than themselves, as well as a handbook of strategies for working for change.

1110L
The book tells of the work done by Daisy Bates to further the cause of racial integration.

**Fiction**

**Gregor the Overlander** by Suzanne Collins 630L

**Matched** by Ally Condie 680L

**Dark Life** by Kat Falls 690L

**I am Number Four** by Pittacus Lore 700L

**Fablehaven** by Brandon Mull 700L

**A World Without Heros** by Brandon Mull 710L

**Legend** by Marie Lu 710L

**Eragon** by Christopher Paolini 710L

**Schooled** by Gordon Korman 740L
**Eustis Middle School**  
**Suggested Reading List for Summer 2014**

*The Circle Trilogy* by Ted Dekker  
*When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead 750L  
*Peter and the Starcatchers* by David Barry 770L  
*Life As We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer 770L  
*The Maze Runner* by James Dashner 770L  
*Partials* by Dan Wells 810L  
*True Legend* by Mike Lupica 850L  
*Game Changers* by Mike Lupica 870L  
*The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks* by E. Lockhart 890L  
*The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel* by Michael Scott 890L  
*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros 800-890L  
*Absolutely Normal Chaos* by Sharon Creech 900L  
*Second Stringer* by Thomas Dygard 900L  
*Deeper* by Gordon Williams 950L  
*The River* by Gary Paulson 960L  
*Bad Boy: A Memoir* by Walter Dean Myers 970L  
*QB 1* by Mike Lupica 990L  
*Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O’Dell 1000L  
*Begging for Change* by Sharon Flake 1060L  
*Blur* by Steven James  
*The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis  
*Lord of the Rings* by J. R. R. Tolkien

Sixth-grader Jeremy Bluett runs for student representative on the school board—and wins! Germy discovers the limits on power when he finds himself unable to deliver on his campaign promises. Through a variety of mishaps, he learns a great deal about the responsibilities of holding public office.

This novel in letters is both funny and touching, chronicling a young girl’s efforts to save her community from totalitarianism. As letters fall off a local memorial, the town council bans the use of those letters. Because the author of the book also eschews those letters as they are banned, the book can be a stimulant for discussion of bad laws and clever writing.

Shirley Wong is a recent immigrant from China who loves baseball, a love that provides a bond with her new classmates. Their teacher uses baseball as an analogy for American democracy, providing a wonderful civics lesson. The book also includes a hilarious rendition of the Pledge of Allegiance, which Shirley’s emerging English skills have not yet made sense of—a version that would be an excellent stimulant for discussing the real meaning of the Pledge.

550L  
This book tells the story of a sixth-grade girl who moves from Chicago to Mississippi in 1964, as schools are being integrated in the South. As the city of Jackson experiences integration and Klan violence, young Alice faces conflicts in her efforts to be accepted by her peers while being the good person she wants to be.
The Rock and the River by Kekla Magoon
550L
In 1968 Chicago, fourteen-year-old Sam Childs is caught in a conflict between his father's nonviolent approach to seeking civil rights for African Americans and his older brother, who has joined the Black Panther Party.

In 1960s Nashville, Abby experiences segregation and decides to support the lunch counter sit-ins and boycotts that desegregated stores in her city.

Crash Coogan is a seventh-grader who uses his physical strength to intimidate classmates, including his sister Abby and neighbor Penn. However, as he observes their commitment to important values, Crash begins to change.

Somebody, Please Tell Me Who I Am by Harry Mazer and Peter Lerangis
640L
Wounded in Iraq while his Army unit is on convoy and treated for many months for traumatic brain injury, the first person Ben remembers from his earlier life is his autistic brother.

A Heart Divided, by Cherie Bennett and Jeff Gottesfeld (New York: Delacorte Books, 2004). 690L
This book deals with a high school in Tennessee whose teams are called the Rebels and play under a Confederate flag. The controversy that erupts around the issue draws in the main character, a girl who has just moved to Tennessee from New Jersey. The book is a love story, as well as the story of what happens at the school. The book deals with symbols, freedom of speech, tradition, civil rights, and more.

Ninth-grader Philip Malloy is suspended for breaking the rule requiring standing at silent, respectful attention while the national anthem is played. The reasons for the rule, the political factors that influenced how the conflict was handled, and the punishment could all be lively topics of discussion for older students.

730L
A young girl and her mother become involved in the fight for women's suffrage, even though the men in their family do not approve.

Fighting the School Board, by Gloria Velasquez (Houston, TX: Pinata Books, 1993). 740L
With the help of the school psychologist, 15-year-old Juanita fights her expulsion from school.
760L
This short novel recounts tensions between an African American family with ample water and a bigoted white family who is suffering as a result of a drought. Set in the early 1900s South, the novel provides a case study in conflict.

**Among the Hidden** by Margaret Peterson Haddix
800L
In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.

990L
Based on a historical incident, this book recounts the 1921 struggle to survive of a black community in Texas when their white neighbors decide to take the black families' land for a city park. The central character is 12-year-old Rose Lee Jefferson, who watches her brother become involved in organizing to protest the community's actions. After a march to the town square on Juneteenth, some white citizens retaliate, reminding readers of the courage required to exercise one's rights amid intolerance.

**For the Win** by Cory Doctorow
1070L
In a future where poor children and teenagers work for corrupt bosses as gold farmers, finding valuable items inside massively-multiplayer online games, a small group of teenagers work to unionize and escape this near-slavery.