

SLU Lab School  
Summer Reading List  
Grades 5 Through 8

**Students enrolled at Southeastern Lab School for the 2009-2010 school year are REQUIRED to read two (2) of the books from this list this summer. During the first week of school, each child will take an Accelerated Reader test on the books he or she has read. These two tests will be counted as grades in reading for the first six weeks grading period.**

**It is recommended that children not begin reading the books that they will test on until mid July, as this will allow them to better remember details in order to do well on the test for each book.**

**Choose two of these specific titles:**

***Skulduggery Pleasant*** by Derek Landy

Stephanie's uncle dies, leaving his estate to her. A storm results in the 12-year-old staying alone overnight in her uncle's empty house, where she meets and joins forces with strange skeleton detective, Skulduggery Pleasant. Action abounds in this wacky fantasy.

***Found*** by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Thirteen years ago, 36 babies landed at an airport under mysterious circumstances. Now they are all teenagers who have no idea that their lives are in serious danger until two of them begin to piece together the surprising truth about their pasts.

***Bearwalker*** by Joseph Bruchac

Baron knows that the "Bearwalker" is a half-human, half-animal beast that appears in tales told by his Mohawk people. When a school camping trip goes wrong, however, he finds himself facing a real, live monster who is just as deadly and dangerous as the creature from the legend.

***The London Eye Mystery*** by Siobhan Dowd

When Ted's cousin, Salim, disappears while riding the London Eye, it's up to Ted and his sister, Kat, to figure out what has happened. Ted comes up with many interesting theories. Will one of these theories solve the mystery?

***The Graveyard Book*** by Neil Gaiman

Although the book opens with a scary scene, the story quickly moves into more child-friendly storytelling. The sole survivor of the attack opening attach, an 18-month-old baby, escapes his crib and his house, and toddles to a nearby graveyard. Quickly recognizing that the baby is orphaned, the graveyard's ghostly residents adopt him, name him Nobody ("Bod"), and allow him to live in their tomb. The story follows Bod's progress as he grows from baby to teen, learning life's lessons amid a cadre of the long-dead, ghouls, witches, intermittent human interlopers.

***The Book of Three*** by Lloyd Alexander

An assistant pig-keeper who longs for adventure gets more than he bargained for when his pig runs away. As he pursues her through the magical land of Prydain, he encounters an evil enchantress, deathless warrior, and the mysterious, masked Horned King.

***Anne of Green Gables*** by L. M. Montgomery

The adventures of an 11-year-old orphan girl starts off a classic series. The story is at times funny, at times sad, and always intriguing.

\*See back of this page.

***Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything in It*** by Sundee T. Frazier

Brendan has a notebook full of questions, and he hopes to find all the answers during his summer vacation. Then, he meets the grandfather he never knew about, and new questions need to be answered: Does his grandpa want him around? And, if not, does it have anything to do with the color of Brendan's skin?

***Igraine the Brave*** by Cornelia Funke

The daughter of two magicians, Igraine wants to be a knight. When their castle is attacked by a treacherous neighbor, Igraine proves her bravery.

***Cracker: The Best Dog in Vietnam*** by Cynthia Kadohata

A German shepherd must leave his boy to join a military canine unit stationed in wartime Vietnam. His new job: using his acute sense of smell to sniff out deadly booby traps. A first-rate tale for readers who like animals and adventure.

***Savvy*** by Ingrid Law

Mibs can't wait for her 13th birthday; in her family, that's when one's "savvy" or extraordinary talent appears. When her father is terribly injured just prior to her birthday, she is certain that her savvy can save him and embarks upon an odyssey full of quirky characters and colorful events.

***The Willoughbys*** by Lois Lowry

Orphans, neglectful parents, a baby on the doorstep and a lonely billionaire are some classic themes in children's literature that receive a humorous twist in this delightful, slim volume.

***The Homework Machine*** by Dan Gutman

Fifth-grader Brenton is a computer genius, but the other three members of his work group think he's a nerd. So, when he tells them that he has invented a machine that does homework, they taunt him until he agrees to demonstrate. The machine actually works, and Kelsey, Sam, and Judy convince him to let them use it.

***We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*** by Kadir Nelson

From 1920 to 1945, some of the roughest, fastest and most amazing baseball games took place in the Negro Leagues. Magnificent paintings and fascinating anecdotes introduce Rube Foster, Oscar Charleston and many other unsung heroes of the sport.

***Keeping Score*** by Linda Sue Park

Maggie knows everything there is to know about the sport of baseball and her favorite team, the Brooklyn Dodgers. She makes friends with a firefighter who shares her interest (even though he's a Giants fan), but their relationship changes when he is shipped off to fight in the Korean War.

***Billy Creekmore: A Novel*** by Tracey Porter

In 1905, 10-year-old Billy, storyteller extraordinaire, is rescued from an orphanage by his aunt and uncle. His life continues to take on many twists and turns, from the West Virginia mines to the circus, and he discovers much about himself along the way in this fast-paced, Dickensian-style novel.

***Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree*** by Lauren Tarshis

Quirky Emma-Jean loves to observe her fellow seventh graders' behavior from afar. When she decides to help a few classmates with their problems, tension and humor ensues.

***Nurk: The Strange, Surprising Adventures of a (Somewhat) Brave Shrew*** by Ursula Vernon

In this animal fantasy, Nurk, a shrew who likes clean socks, sets out hoping (sort of) for adventure. Inspired by his famous and heroic grandmother, he paddles down a stream in a boat he made from a snail shell. He rescues a dragonfly princess from the stream and becomes a reluctant hero who is happy to return to his quiet life at home.

***The Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary school*** by Candice Fleming.

A wish comes true for the principal of Aesop Elementary School when Mr. Jupiter arrives to take over a class with a reputation. Each of the short chapters describes familiar scenarios: lunchroom antics, name-calling, learning the Dewey Decimal system, and the all-important standardized-testing month. There is plenty of humor here.

***No Talking*** by Andrew Clements

Dave Packer's fifth-grade classmates are so boisterous and difficult to quiet down that the teachers have dubbed them "The Unshushables." Dave has just read about Mahatma Gandhi and learned that the man practiced silence one day a week to bring order to his mind. Though Dave likes to talk nonstop, he's determined to give the idea a try. An encounter with Lynsey, another chatterbox, sparks the boys and girls into challenging each other to a no-talking contest for 48 hours.

***Stumptown Kid*** by Carol Gorman

Charlie Nebras, 11, misses his father, who died in the Korean War; dislikes his mother's domineering, prejudiced boyfriend, Vern; and loves baseball but is cut from the premier Wildcats team. Into his life walks Luther Peale, a former Negro Leagues player who is on the run after a wild pitch accidentally killed a white batter. Luther serves up baseball expertise and kindness, and Charlie becomes his friend, inviting the young man home for dinner and helping him find a job. When Luther agrees to coach Charlie's "Stumptown" team in a game against the Wildcats, wary parents and townspeople become more accepting. His fugitive past is revealed, however, and a harrowing chase pits Charlie and Luther against the vengeful, murderous brother of the dead batter. Readers will enjoy this winning mix of sports, suspense, and heroism, and delight in the baseball wit and wisdom.

***The Intelligencer*** by Leslie Silbert

Private eye Kate Morgan is called in to investigate when one of her firm's top clients, a London-based financier, discovers a mysterious manuscript that has been buried for centuries and seems to hold a secret that could drive someone to murder.

Thanks to *School Library Journal*, *Booklist*, *AR BookFinder*, *Amazon.com*, and several book list sites on the Internet for help in creating this list.