

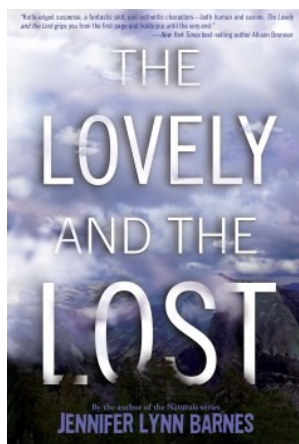
# Governor's Summer Reading Challenge Grades 7-8



## The Lovely and the Lost

by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

Kira Bennett's earliest memories are of living alone and wild in the woods. She has no idea how long she was on her own or what she had to do to survive, but she remembers the moment that Cady Bennett and one of her search-and-rescue dogs found her. Adopted into the Bennett family, and together with Cady's son, Jude, Kira works alongside Cady to train the world's most elite search-and-rescue dogs. When Cady's estranged father tracks his daughter down and asks for her help in locating a missing child the teens find themselves on the front lines sooner than they expected. | Lexile: HL710L



work with a cousin she doesn't know at a rustic team-building retreat center in the middle of nowhere. In a summer is full of challenges, she must make the toughest decision of her life: keep quiet and follow her dad's marching orders, or find the courage to stand up to him to have any hope of finding her way back home.

## The Journey Back

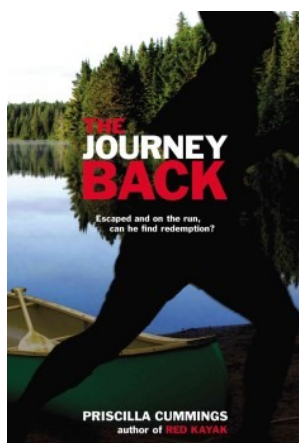
by Priscilla Cummings

His bold escape from a juvenile detention facility is almost his undoing, but soon an angry 14-year-old Digger is on the run. When injuries stop him, Digger hides at a riverside campground, where he befriends a young boy and girl. New friends and a job caring for rescue horses, make Digger realize that the journey back is not just about getting home, it's about discovering what he's really running from and how to come to terms with his troubled past.

Lexile: 810L

## The Wild Lands by Paul Greci

Natural disasters and a breakdown of civilization have cut off Alaska from the world and destroyed its landscape. Now, as food runs out and the few who remain turn on each other, Travis and his younger sister, Jess, must cross hundreds of miles in search of civilization. The wild lands around them are filled with ravenous animals and desperate survivors pushed to the edge. They will make a few friends and a lot of enemies on their terrifying journey across the ruins of today's world—they'll have to fight for what they believe in as they see how far people will go to survive.



## Dry by Neal Schusterman

The drought, or the Tap-Out, as everyone calls it, has been going on for a while now. Everyone's lives have become an endless list of don'ts: don't water the lawn, don't fill up your pool, don't take long showers. Until the taps run dry. Suddenly, Alyssa's quiet suburban street spirals into a warzone of desperation; neighbors and families turned against each other on the hunt for water. When her parents don't return, her life and her brother's are threatened. Alyssa has to make impossible choices to survive. | Lexile: 790L

## No Place Like Here by Christina June

Ashlyn Zanotti has big plans for the summer. But her life is turned upside down. Ashlyn's father sends her to

## Peak by Roland Smith

After 14-year-old Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with two choices, Juvenile Detention or go live with his long-lost father, who runs a climbing company in Thailand. He quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached. He wants his son to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit--and his motives are selfish at best and could cost Peak his life. Lexile: 760L



### **Sadia** by Colleen Selson

Fifteen-year-old Sadia Ahmadi is passionate about one thing, basketball. Her best friend Mariam, on the other hand, wants to get noticed by the popular crowd and has started de-jabbing, removing her hijab, at school every morning. When tryouts for an elite basketball team are announced, Sadia jumps at the opportunity. Her talent speaks for itself. Her head scarf, on the other hand, is a problem; especially when a discriminatory rule means she has to choose between removing her hijab and not playing. Mariam, Sadia's parents, and her teammates all have different opinions about what she should do. But it is Sadia who has to find the courage to stand up for herself and fight for what is right on and off the court.

### **Sisters of the Neversea**

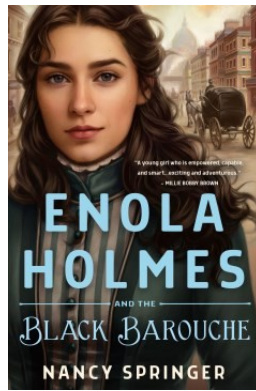
by Cynthia Leitich Smith

Lily and Wendy have been best friends since they became stepsisters. But with their feuding parents planning to spend the summer apart, what will become of their family and their friendship? Little do they know that a mysterious boy has been watching them from the oak tree outside their window. A boy intends to take them away from home for good, to an island of wild animals, Merfolk, Fairies, and kidnapped children, to a sea of merfolk, pirates, and a giant crocodile; a boy who calls himself Peter Pan.

### **Enola Holmes and the Black Barouche** by Nancy Springer

Enola Holmes is the much younger sister of her more famous brothers, Sherlock and Mycroft. At fifteen, she's an independent young woman and living on her own in London. When a young professional woman, Miss Letitia Glover, shows up on Sherlock's doorstep, it is Enola who steps up. It seems her sister, the former Felicity Glover, has died according to her husband the Earl of Dunhench.

But Letitia Glover is convinced this isn't the truth, and that she'd feel if her twin had died. The Earl's note is suspicious and the death certificate is even more dubious. The only way forward is for Enola to go undercover.



## **Nonfiction**

### **Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart** by Candace Fleming

On May 21, 1937, the most famous female pilot of all time, Amelia Earhart, set out to do the impossible—circumnavigate the globe at its widest point, 27,000 miles in all. Just six weeks later, she disappeared over the Pacific Ocean. Eighty years have passed since that fateful flight, and still, Amelia's plane has

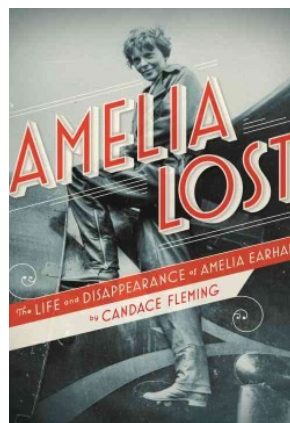
never been found. Discover the thrilling life and tragic end of America's most famous trailblazing flier with this impeccably researched and masterfully crafted book from acclaimed author Candace Fleming. | Lexile: 930L

## **Graphic Novels**

### **Diary of a Tokyo Teen: A Japanese-American Girl Travels to the Land of Trendy Fashion, High-tech Toilets and Maid Cafes**

by Christine Mari Inzer

Born in Tokyo to a Japanese mother and an American father in 1997, Christine Mari Inzer spent her early years in Japan and relocated to the United States in 2003. The summer before she turned sixteen, she returned to Tokyo, making a solo journey to get reacquainted with her birthplace. Through illustrations, photos, and musings, Inzer documented her journey.



Many of the listed books were recognized as exemplary books by one or more of the following organizations: *American Library Association (ALA)*, *Children's Literature & Reading and Special Interest Group (CL/R SIG)*, *Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP)*, *American Indian Library Association (AILA)*, *International Literacy Association (ILA)*, *National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)*, *National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)*, *National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)*, *National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)*, *American Association of the Advancement of Science (AAAS)*, *United States Board on Books for Young People (USBYP)*. Other awards as noted.



**Lorien Lawrence**



Lorien Lawrence is a writer and middle school English teacher from Connecticut. She has creative writing degrees from Wheaton College and Bath Spa University in Bath, England. When she's not reading or

writing, she can be found hunting ghosts with her family.

**The Stickers (Fright Watch #1)**

Lexile: 670L

**The Collectors (Fright Watch #2)**

**Unmasked (Fright Watch #3)**

**Sarah Albee**



Sarah lives in Connecticut with her husband, who is a high school history teacher and administrator. They have three grown kids, and a dog, Rosie. Prior to becoming a full-time writer, she worked at Children's Television Workshop

(producers of Sesame Street) for nine years. She played basketball in college, and a year of semi-professional women's basketball in Cairo, Egypt. She especially loves writing about topics where history and science connect.

**Poison: Deadly Deeds, Perilous Professions, and Murderous Medicines | Lexile: 1080L**

**Accidental Archaeologist | Lexile: 990L**

**Susan Ross**



A former trustee of the Westport Connecticut Library, Susan Ross divides her time between Westport, and her childhood home of Lewiston-Auburn, Maine. Susan began her working career as a lawyer, and upon leaving law, began teaching legal writing in

Brooklyn and creative writing in Connecticut.

**Kiki and Jacques | Lexile: 640L**  
**Searching for Lottie**

**Stacy Barnett Mozer**



Stacy Barnett Mozer started teaching in 1997. During her teacher training at NYU she was introduced to the writer's workshop style of teaching writing and started her first writer's notebook. She never expected that would lead

her to write "actual books," but every time she gave an assignment to her students, she would do it first. She used her own writing pieces as models in the classroom, enjoying writing in a way she had never remembered experiencing as a child.

**The Sweet Spot**  
**The Perfect Trip (The Sweet Spot Book 2)**

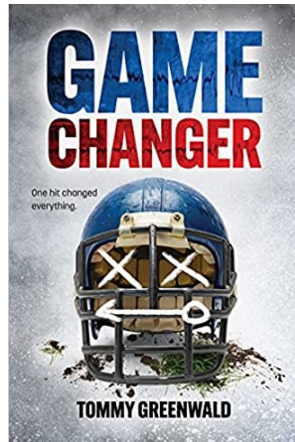


## Nutmeg

## Classics and Popular Titles

### What are the Nutmeg Book Awards?

The CT Nutmeg Book Award encourages children in grades 2-12 to read quality literature and to choose their favorite from a list of ten nominated titles. There are four divisions: Elementary (grades 2-3); Intermediate (grades 4-6); Middle School (grades 7-8); and High School (grades 9-12). Jointly sponsored by the Connecticut Library Association and the Connecticut Association of School Librarians, the Nutmeg Committee is comprised of children's librarians and school library media specialists who are members of the sponsoring organizations, as well as students. For more information visit [www.nutmegaward.org](http://www.nutmegaward.org).



**The Line Tender** by Kate Allen

**Suggested Reading** by Dave Connis

**96 Miles** by J. L. Esplin

**Game Changer** by Tommy Greenwald

**The Parker Inheritance** by Varian Johnson

**Nowhere Boy** by Katherine Marsh

**The Magic Fish** by Trung Le Nguyen

**Look Both Ways** by Jason Reynolds

**Black Brother, Black Brother**  
by Jewell Parker Rhodes

**Superman Smashed the Klan** by Gene Luen

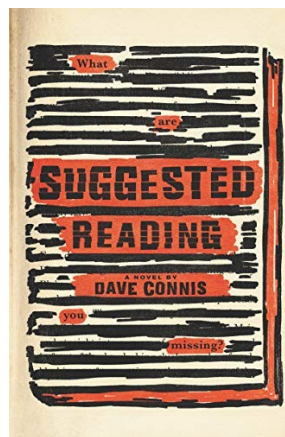
### **City of Orphans** by Avi

In 1893 New York, thirteen-year-old Maks, a newsboy, teams up with Willa, a homeless girl, to clear his older sister, Emma, from charges that she stole from the brand new Waldorf Hotel, where she works. Includes historical notes. Lexile: 570L

### **Elijah of Buxton**

by Christopher Paul Curtis

In 1859, eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, a haven for slaves fleeing the American south, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom. | Lexile: 980L



### **Standing Against the Wind**

by Traci L. Jones

As she tries to escape her poor Chicago neighborhood by winning a scholarship to a prestigious boarding school, shy and studious eighth-grader Patrice discovers that she has more options in life than she previously realized. | Lexile: 780L

### **The Giver** by Lois Lowry

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community, and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives. | Lexile: 760L

### **Hatchet** by Gary Paulsen

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the Canadian wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given to him by his mother, while learning to survive his parents' divorce. | Lexile: 1020L