

**FICTION FOR OLDER KIDS
GRADES 4-7
SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2005
*SPLISH—SPLASH: READ!***

ATLANTIS

Child of Atlantis by Robert D. San Souci. Random House, 2002. During the reign of the wicked King Atlas, the last ruler of Atlantis, the sea god Poseidon watches over a developing rivalry between the sons of a fisherman and a nobleman.

Looking for Atlantis by Colin Thompson. Random House, 1997. After his grandfather's death, a young boy learns to see the wonders of the world through the old man's eyes.

BOATS AND SHIPS

Abigail Takes the Wheel (I Can Read Chapter Book) by Avi. Illustrated by Don Bolognese. HarperCollins, 1999. Two young sailors aboard a small freight ship go on a riveting voyage on the dangerous and crowded New York Harbor.

Amy's Eyes by Richard Kennedy. Illustrated by Richard Egielski. HarperCollins, 1988. Amy's doll, Captain, comes alive and runs away to sea. Amy herself changes into a doll and the Captain takes her with him for a journey of high adventure.

By the Great Horn Spoon by Sid Fleischman. Little, Brown, 1988. Jack and the butler stow away on a side-wheeler bound for California where they join the Gold Rush of 1849 in order to help his aunt pay her debts.

The Captain's Hat by Anita Williams. A young Brazilian boy, Pedro (who dreams of becoming a sea captain) and his American friend, Spud, explore the Big River, romp through the tangled green jungle and discover a huge dark ship in the sand.

Ghost Canoe by Will Hobbs. Fourteen-year-old Nathan discovers a ghostly canoe and a skeleton that may unlock the mystery of ancient treasure, betrayal and murder on the Pacific Northwest coast.

If Ever I Return Again by Corinne Demas. HarperCollins, 2000. In 1856 12-year-old Celia sets sail with her parents on her father's whaling ship and writes about her adventures to her cousin Abigail.

Rosemary at Sea: Back to 1919 (Hourglass Adventure series) by Barbara Robertson. Magically transported back in time to 1919, ten-year-old Rosemary shares an adventure with her great-grandmother aboard the luxury ocean liner Mauretania.

Stowaway by Karen Hesse. Follow Nick's momentous voyage as a stowaway on James Cook's ship the H.M.S. Endeavour.

Tonight by Sea by Frances Temple. This is the harrowing account of a family's escape from political persecution in Haiti.

Tonight on the Titanic (Magic Tree House series) by Mary Pope Osborne. The Magic Tree House whisks Jack and Annie off to the decks of that ill-fated ship, the Titanic. There, they must help two children find their way to a lifeboat—all the while they themselves are in danger of becoming victims of that tragic night.

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi. As the only passenger, and the only female, on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, thirteen-year-old Charlotte Doyle finds herself caught between a murderous captain and a mutinous crew.

Viking Ships at Sunrise (Magic Tree House series) by Mary Pope Osborne. Random House, 1998. Their Magic Tree House takes Jack and Annie back to a monastery in medieval Ireland, where they try to retrieve a lost book while being menaced by Viking raiders.

The Voyage of the Dawn Treader by C S Lewis. Book Three of the Chronicles of Narnia is an exciting fantasy adventure aboard the ship the Dawn Treader.

Voyage of the Frog by Gary Paulsen. This is an intense sea survival story about a boy alone on a small boat.

The Wanderer by Sharon Creech. Illustrated by David Diaz. HarperCollins, 2000. Thirteen-year-old Sophie and her cousin Cody record their transatlantic crossing aboard the Wanderer, a sailboat en route to England.

DOLPHINS

Dolphin Named Bob by Twig C. George. Illustrated by Christine Herman. HarperCollins, 1996. A sick dolphin is nursed back to health by the staff of a marine aquarium in this fictionalized account of the life cycle of a dolphin at the Maryland State Aquarium.

How to Speak Dolphin in Three Easy Lessons by Dan Greenburg. When Zack goes to Florida to visit Mel & Shirley's Wonderful World of Dolphins, he is surprised to discover that he can understand and speak to dolphins, which enables him to solve a kidnapping.

The Music of Dolphins by Karen Hesse. Scholastic, 1998. When the Coast Guard finds a girl lost at sea, they think she is a mermaid, but later realize she is a human who has been raised by dolphins.

The Rainbow Bridge: Inspired by a Chumash Tale by Audrey Wood. Illustrated by Robert Florczak. Harcourt, 1995. This contemporary story, based on the Chumash Indian legend about the origin of dolphins, describes how Hutash, the earth goddess, created a rainbow bridge and saved her people from drowning by turning them into dolphins when they became too numerous for her island.

Wild about Dolphins by Nicola Davies. Candlewick, 2001. A zoologist shares her knowledge of dolphins in a first-person narrative that chronicles her expeditions to Newfoundland and the Indian Ocean to study dolphins.

ISLANDS

Abel's Island by William Steig. Farrar, 1985. A storm sweeps Abel the mouse away from his new bride, Amanda, to a deserted island, where he develops a talent for sculpting.

Call It Courage by Armstrong Sperry. Simon & Schuster, 1968. Maftu, a young boy was afraid of the sea, but to prove his bravery he goes off in his canoe with his dog and pet albatross, survives a storm and becomes stranded on a desert island. Newbery Medal 1941.

The Cay by Theodore Taylor. Random House, 2003. When the freighter he has taken to escape the Germans is torpedoed, Phillip becomes blinded and stranded on an island with an old West Indian man.

High Tide in Hawaii (Magic Tree House series) by Mary Pope Osborne. Random House, 2003. Jack and Annie travel in their Magic Tree House back to a Hawaiian island of long ago where they make friends, learn how to surf, and encounter a tsunami.

The Hurricane Mystery (Boxcar Children series) Gertrude Warner. Whitman, 1996. While visiting a friend of their grandfather on an island off the coast of South Carolina, the children encounter mysterious activities related to rumors of a buried pirate treasure.

Island of the Aunts by Eve Ibbotson. Three eccentric women living on a mysterious island in the Atlantic kidnap some children to help them care for a magical menagerie of exotic animals.

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell. Left alone on a beautiful but isolated island off the coast of California, a young Indian girl spends eighteen years, not only merely surviving through her enormous courage and self-reliance, but also finding a measure of happiness in her solitary life. Newbery Medal 1961.

My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett. This charming story is about a young boy's adventure on Wild Island. He rescues a poor baby dragon, who is being used by a group of lazy wild animals to ferry them across the river.

Nightbirds on Nantucket by Joan Aiken. Two girls become involved in a mystery when a ship drops them off in Nantucket for a series of adventures.

Pippi in the South Seas by Astrid Lindgren. Pippi, the strongest girl in the world, takes her two friends with her when she travels from Sweden to visit her father, king of an island in the South Seas.

Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe. This classic island survival story is too long and difficult for most children, but it should be mentioned.

Storm Warriors by Ella Carbone. This book is about post-Civil War adventures of an African-American boy as he begins a new life on a North Carolina island.

Swiss Family Robinson by Johann D. Wyss. This classic story of a shipwrecked family is an adult book, but it should be mentioned.

Timothy of the Cay by Theodore Taylor. This companion book to *The Cay* leads up to the wreck of the Hato in the Caribbean during World War II and Phillip's journey back to civilization after his rescue from the island.

Nim's Island by Wendy Orr. Nim lives on an island with her father, Jack, some pets and a satellite dish for her e-mail. When Jack disappears in his sailing boat, Nim must be braver than she's ever been.

LAKES

Gone-Away Lake by Elizabeth Enright. Harcourt, 2000. Portia and her cousin Julian discover adventure in a ghostly lakeside resort in this reissue of a classic book.

The Mystery of the Lake Monster (Boxcar Children series) by Gertrude Chandler Warner. The children, who are in the Adirondack Mountains, hear a tale of a monster that lives in the lake and they begin to see giant footprints.

Paddle-to-the-Sea by Holling C. Holling. A toy canoe with a seated Indian figure is launched in Lake Nipigon by the Indian boy who carved it and in four years travels through all the Great Lakes. This classic is a must-read.

Summer of the Sea Serpent (Magic Tree House series) by Mary Pope Osborne. Random House, 2004. Jack and Annie travel in their magical tree house to the land of the mystical selkies to seek a magical sword for Merlin.

MERMAIDS

The Fish in Room 11 by Heather Dyer. Illustrated by Peter Bailey. Scholastic, 2004. The Flots, a family of mermaids who are marooned under the pier, and Toby, a little boy found in a room at a hotel, plan how to help each other find some buried treasure and outwit Mr. Harris, the mean-minded hotel proprietor.

The Islander by Cynthia Rylant. A young man remembers the summer when a mermaid befriended him and gave him a magic key that transformed his life in this allegorical novel set on the coast of British Columbia.

The Mermaid's Muse: The Legend of the Dragon Boats by David Bouchard. Raincoast, 2000. This dramatic retelling is about Qu Yuan, a celebrated poet of ancient China, who is wrongfully exiled to a remote island and befriends a sea dragon disguised as a mermaid.

Tail of Emily Windsnap by Liz Kessler. Candlewick Press, 2004. When she finally convinces her mother to let her take swimming lessons, Emily grows a tail, makes friends with a mermaid and learns that her father was a merman.

PIRATES

The 13th Floor by Sid Fleischmann. Illustrated by Peter Sis. Greenwillow, 1995. In this comic novel Bud travels back in time to help a ghost who lived in the 17th century. He finds himself transported onto a leaking pirate ship in a howling storm.

The Barefoot Book of Pirates by Richard Walker. Illustrated by Olwyn Whelan. Barefoot Books, 1998. Dramatic pirate tales.

The Book of Pirates by Michael Hague. HarperCollins, 2001. This is a collection of 11 classic stories and poems about pirates by such masters as Robert Louis Stevenson, Arthur Conan Doyle and others.

Captain Grey by Avi. In 1783, young Kevin Cartwright is kidnapped by a mysterious band of pirates after they kill Kevin's family.

Captain Kidd's Cat by Robert Lawson. Little, Brown, 1984. McDermot the cat sails aboard the Adventure with the infamous pirate Captain Kidd and his crew.

Dark Frigate by Charles Boardman Hawes. In 17th-century England, an accident forces an orphan boy to flee London on a ship bound for Newfoundland, but his sea adventure is interrupted by a pirate attack. Newbery Medal 1924.

The Ghost in the Noonday Sun by Sid Fleischman. Illustrated by Peter Sis. Greenwillow, 1989. Pirates kidnap Oliver Finch in the hope that he will be able to see the ghost of Gentleman Jim, guardian of buried treasure.

A Ghost of a Chance by Joan Davenport Carris. Coastal Carolina Press, 2003. Punch and his friends spend a summer in North Carolina looking at dolphins, hunting for Blackbeard's buried treasure and watching out for the famed pirate's ghost.

Gift of the Pirate Queen by Patricia Giff. Illustrated by Jenny Rutherford. Dell, 1983. Grace has difficulty adjusting to Fiona's arrival from Ireland until Fiona tells her the story of the brave pirate queen named Grace O'Malley.

Kingfisher Treasury of Pirate Stories by Tony Bradman. This swashbuckling collection of pirate stories includes stories by Jon Scieszka, J. M. Barrie and Robert Louis Stevenson.

Little Wolf, Terror of the Shivery Sea by Ian Whybrow. Illustrated by Tony Ross. Lerner, 2004. In a series of letters to his parents, Little Wolf tells of setting sail to find the lost treasure of his legendary ancestor, Blackfur the Pirate.

Mariel of Redwall by Brian Jacques. Illustrated by Gary Chalk. Philomel, 1992. The mousemaid Mariel achieves victory at sea for the animals of Redwall Abbey, fighting the savage pirate rat Gabool the Wild.

The Not-So-Jolly Roger by Jon Scieszka. Illustrated by Lane Smith. Penguin Group (Viking), 1991. The three Knights of the Kitchen Table become prisoners of the evil pirate Blackbeard.

Peter Pan by J. M. Barrie. This masterpiece of imaginative literature originally published in 1904 includes the adventures of the Darling children when they fly to Never-Neverland with Peter Pan and meet the dreadful Captain Hook and the mischievous Tinker Bell.

Pieces of Eight by Charles Johnson. Illustrated by Jennie A Nelson. Discovery, 1989. David and Mitchell rouse a sea captain's ghost, who transports them to 1716 where they meet Blackbeard the pirate.

The Pirate Queen by Emily Arnold McCully. This dramatic and beautifully illustrated story (for children in grades 2-5) about the famous Irish pirate Grania O'Malley combines legend and history.

Pirate Uncle by Margaret Mahy. Overlook, 1994. Nick and his sister Caroline try to reform their pirate uncle when they spend a holiday at his New Zealand beach home.

Pirates Past Noon (Magic Tree House series) by Mary Pope Osborne. Random House, 1994. Jack and Annie are in deep trouble when they go back to the days of desert islands, secret maps, hidden gold and ruthless pirates.

Pirate's Promise by Clyde Robert Bulla. Illustrated by Peter Burchard. Harper Trophy, 1994. The young orphan Tom is sold into slavery by his uncle to a captain of a ship bound for America. When a pirate's ship captures him, Tom's life is changed forever.

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson. While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owes them money, the mistress of the inn and her son find a treasure map that leads them to a pirate's fortune.

The Twins, the Pirates, and the Battle of New Orleans by Harriete Gillem Robinet. Simon & Schuster, 2001. The twins try to rescue their mother and sister from being sold into slavery in the midst of the Battle of New Orleans where soldiers and pirates are fighting.

RIVERS

Race for Freedom (Riverboat Adventures series) by Lois Walfrid Johnson. Bethany House, 1996. In 1857, while helping to conceal a runaway slave on her father's Mississippi River steamboat, 12-year-old Libby wants to join the Underground Railroad. (Other titles in the Riverboat Adventure series about Libby are: **Midnight Rescue**, **Swindler's Treasure**, **Mysterious Signal** and **The Fiddler's Secret**.)

White Water by P.J. Petersen. After his father is bitten by a rattlesnake, Gregg finds himself in charge of their river rafting wilderness adventure.

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame. This timeless classic tells of the adventures of a group of animal friends who live on the banks of a river.

SEASHORE

Eyes of the Amaryllis by Natalie Babbitt. Jenny's grandmother sends her to the beach each day to watch for a sign from her grandfather who drowned many years ago in the wreck of the Amaryllis.

Worst Witch at Sea by Jill Murphy. In the 4th book in the humorous series about the Worst Witch the class flies off for a week at the seaside and Mildred smuggles her cat along.

UNDERSEA ADVENTURE

Evil Under the Sea: A Miss Mallard Mystery by Robert Quackenbush. In this early chapter book Miss Mallard goes to Australia's Great Barrier Reef where someone is destroying the coral.

Twenty-Thousand Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne. This classic science fiction undersea adventure is an adult book but should be mentioned.

WATER

Regarding the Fountain: A Tale, in Letters, of Liars and Leaks by Kate Klise. Illustrated by M. Sarah Klise. Harper Trophy, 1999. In this hilarious story a scandal brews over acquiring a drinking fountain for Dry Creek Middle School. Mr. Sam's fifth grade class discovers secrets buried beneath the fountain.

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt. The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from growing older.

The Well: David's Story by Mildred Taylor. Dial, 1995. In Mississippi in the early 1900s ten-year-old David's family generously shares their well water with both white and black neighbors in an atmosphere of potential racial violence.

Well Wished by Franny Billingsley. Illustrated by Leonid Gore. Simon & Schuster, 2000. In the village of Bishop Mayne there is a magical Wishing Well where a person may make one wish in a lifetime. But the Well can create problems for those who use its power, for wishes often go wrong.