

## Superintendent's Message

June 2013

Dear Parents and Students:

This booklet has been prepared to help you choose books to read during the summer months ahead. The books on the list are not an assignment that must be finished, but the beginning of a life long adventure in reading.

Reading is an important part of your education as it opens doors to all other subjects. We believe it is beneficial to all student learning and academic performance to read throughout the summer.

It is our expectation that you join in the fun and choose books from this booklet to enjoy reading and all the adventures it has to offer.

Lexile ratings, where available, accompany each of the selections. These ratings can be matched to the Lexile range indicated on your child's MAP report. You may also visit the website <http://www.lexile.com> and use the Lexile Framework for Reading to match your child's interests and Lexile ranges to find appropriate reading materials that are both interesting and accessible.

I would like to thank the reading teachers and librarians in the elementary schools for their efforts in putting this booklet together.

On behalf of the Board of Education, the faculty and staff of the Hicksville Public Schools, I offer best wishes for a happy, relaxing, and book-filled summer.

Sincerely yours,

Maureen K. Bright  
Superintendent of Schools

## A Note on Lexiles

Some of the selections in this year's reading list are accompanied by Lexile measures, also known simply as Lexiles. Lexiles are indicators of readability, of how easy or difficult it is to read a particular text, and are based on two factors: word frequency and sentence length. Lexiles increase with the level of reading skills required to comprehend the text; the higher the Lexile measure, the more difficult the text.

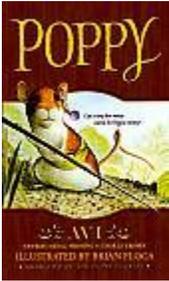
Lexile measures are calculated from a reading test or program. The Lexile measures shown in the chart at the end of this booklet correspond to the RIT scores that your child received on the Reading section of the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test that your child took most recently in the spring.

You will note that the Lexile Measures are shown in ranges. The bottom of each range represents approximately 100 points below your child's actual Lexile measure; the upper part of the range is set at approximately 50 points above that measure. Books at the lower end of the range should be readily accessible to the reader, while those at the top of the range will be more challenging and will allow your child to stretch his or her skills.

You can find additional Lexile ratings for other books for your child using the book locator that can be found at <http://lexile.com>. The book locator will allow you to specify authors, areas of interest, and Lexile ranges to develop a list of books that are both interesting and accessible to your child. **Please note: lexile.com does not screen for content or age-appropriateness of material: it only provides measures of readability.** You should, as always, assist your child in making appropriate choices for his or her reading material.

Also, parents should understand that while Lexiles are a helpful tool for helping children succeed at reading and improve their skills, they are just that – a tool. They are not a substitute for interest or enthusiasm, and children of all ages should be encouraged at times to just pick up a book that looks interesting, open the cover, and read.

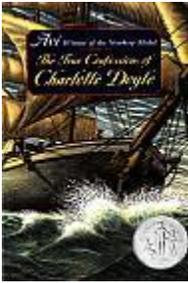
## ADVENTURE



Avi

### **Poppy**

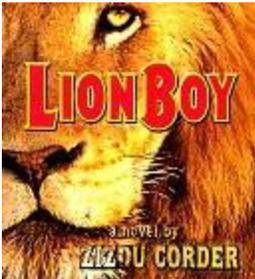
Poppy, a deer mouse, urges her family to move next to a field of corn big enough to feed them all forever, but Mr. Oax, a terrifying owl, has other ideas. (Lexile = 620)



Avi

### **The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle**

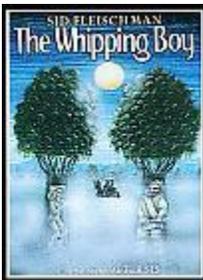
Thirteen-year-old Charlotte Doyle, the only passenger aboard a ship on a transatlantic voyage from England to America in 1832, becomes caught up in a feud between the murderous captain and his mutinous crew. (Lexile = 740)



Corder, Zizou

### **Lion Boy: The First Book in a Trilogy**

In the near future, a boy with the ability to speak the language of cats sets out from London to seek his kidnapped parents and finds himself on a Paris-bound circus ship learning to train lions. (Lexile = 850)



Fleischman, Sid

### **The Whipping Boy**

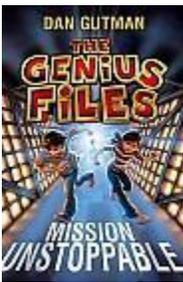
A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws. (Lexile = 570)



Gutman, Dan

**Never say genius**

As their cross-country journey with their parents continues through the Midwest, twins Coke and Pepsi, now thirteen, again face strange assassins at such places as the first McDonald's restaurant and Cedar Point amusement park. (No lexile available)

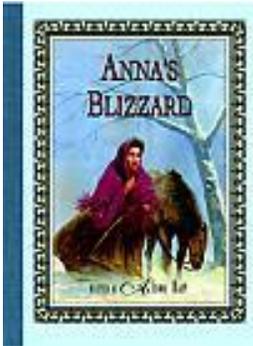


Gutman, Dan

**Mission unstoppable**

On a cross-country vacation with their parents, twins Coke and Pepsi, soon to be thirteen, fend off strange assassins as they try to come to terms with their being part of a top-secret government organization known as The Genius Files.

(Lexile Measure: 730)



Hart, Alison

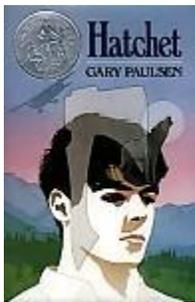
**Anna's Blizzard**

Includes bibliographical references. Having never excelled at schoolwork, twelve-year old Anna discovers that she may know a few things about survival when she and her classmates become trapped in their Nebraska schoolhouse in a storm that comes to be known as the Children's Blizzard of 1888. (Lexile = 570)



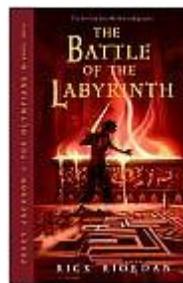
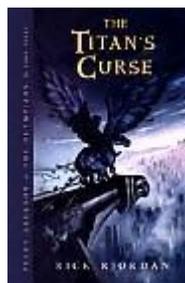
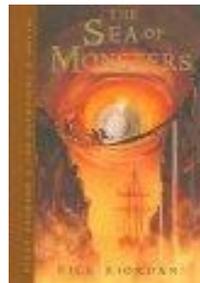
Mass, Wendy  
**11 Birthdays**

After celebrating their first nine same-day birthdays together, Amanda and Leo have not spoken to each other for the last year. They prepare to celebrate their eleventh birthday separately but peculiar things begin to happen as the day of their birthday begins to repeat itself over and over again. (Lexile = 650)



Paulsen, Gary  
**Hatchet**

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother. He learns also to survive his parents' divorce. (Lexile = 1020)

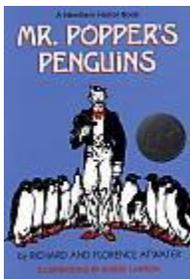


Riordan, Rick

### **Percy Jackson and the Olympians Series**

Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god, Poseidon. He is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and the demigod daughter of Athena who join him in a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war. (Lexile = 620-740, depending upon title)

## ANIMAL STORIES



Atwater, Richard

### **Mr. Popper's Penguins**

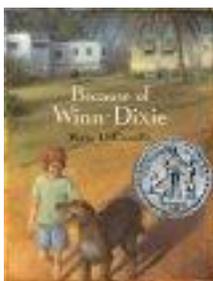
Mr. Popper starts out with one penguin in his house, but before he knows it there are twelve. (Lexile = 910)



Byars, Betsy Cromer

### **Tornado**

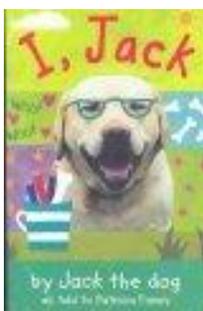
As they wait out a tornado in their storm cellar, a family listens to their farmhand tell stories about the dog that was blown into his life by another tornado when he was a boy. (Lexile = 500)



DiCamillo, Kate

### **Because of Winn-Dixie**

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her dog, Winn-Dixie. (Lexile = 610)



Finney, Patricia

### **I, Jack**

Jack, a Labrador Retriever, tells about his daily life of food, walks, and the "ape-dogs" and "funny-looking dogs" (cats) in his pack, as well as how everything changes when a pretty girl dog moves into the neighborhood. (Lexile = 540)



Hesse, Karen

**The Music of Dolphins**

Using sophisticated computer technology, a fifteen-year-old girl, who has been raised by dolphins, records her thoughts about her reintroduction to the human world. (Lexile = 560)

**FANTASY / SCIENCE FICTION**



Banks, Lynne Reid

**The Indian in the Cupboard**

A nine-year-old boy receives a plastic Indian, a cupboard, and a little key for his birthday. He finds himself involved in adventure when the Indian comes to life in the cupboard and befriends him. (Lexile = 780)



Colfer, Eoin

**Artemis Fowl (series)**

When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll. (Lexile = 610-780, depending on title)



Coville Bruce

**My Teacher Is an Alien**

After Susan sees Mr. Smith, the substitute teacher, peel off his face, she knows he's an alien. Only Peter believes her; together they work to save the class from Mr. Smith's horrible plans. (Lexile = 650)

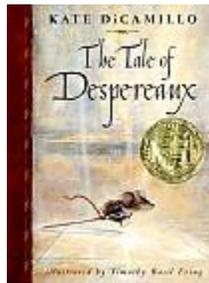


Dahl, Roald

**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**

Five children are lucky enough to discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory. Only one is lucky enough to win!

(Lexile = 810)



DiCamillo, Kate

**The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread**

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin. (Lexile = 670)



DiTerlizzi, Tony

**The Spiderwick Chronicles (series)**

Chronicles the adventures of the Grace children after they go to stay at their Great-Aunt Lucinda's worn Victorian house and discover a field guide to fairies and other magical creatures. (Lexile = 560-740, depending on title)



Funke, Cornelia Caroline

**Dragon Rider**

After learning that humans are headed toward his hidden home, Firedrake, a silver dragon, is joined by a brownie and an orphan boy in a quest to find a legendary valley.

(Lexile = 710)

## MYSTERY



Dixon, Franklin W.

### **The Hardy Boys: The Apeman's Secret (series)**

In this Hardy Boys' book, Frank and Joe do some sleuthing on a "monster" who terrorizes Bayport and a girl who runs away to join a cult.

(Lexile = 620-840, depending on title)

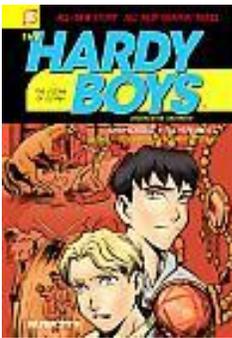


Keene, Carolyn

### **The Clue in the Crumbling Wall (series)**

Nancy Drew finds a clue leading to the solution of a mystery while trying to locate a missing dancer who is about to gain a large inheritance.

(Lexile = 380-720, depending on title)

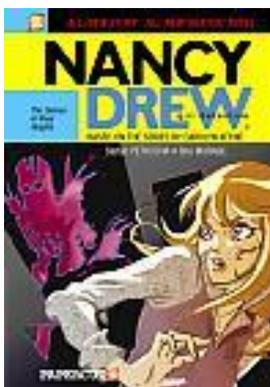


Lobdell, Scott

### **The Hardy Boys, Undercover Brothers. #1, The Ocean of Osyria (series)**

Based on the series by Franklin W. Dixon. A graphic novel in which Frank and Joe Hardy, Callie, and Iola must recover the Ocean of Osyria, an art treasure taken from a Middle Eastern museum, in order to save their best friend, Chet, who has been accused of stealing it.

(Lexile = 620-840, depending on title)



Petrucha, Stefan

### **Nancy Drew, Girl Detective. #1, The Demon of River Heights (series)**

Based on the series by Carolyn Keene. A graphic novel in which teen sleuth Nancy Drew, and her friends George and Bess, search for missing student film-makers and, in the process, discover the secret behind the local urban myth known as "The Demon of River Heights." (No Lexile avail.)



Snicket, Lemony

**The Bad Beginning (A Series of Unfortunate Events)**

After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune. (Lexile = 1010)

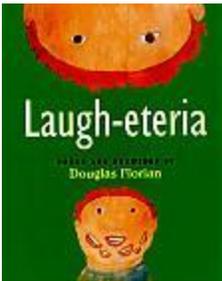


Stilton, Geronimo

**Geronimo Stilton, Secret Agent (series)**

Geronimo Stilton, editor of The Rodent's Gazette, goes on an investigative, underground adventure through New Mouse City to find a missing document. (Lexile = 410-810, depending on title)

## POETRY



Florian, Douglas

**Laugh-eteria: Poems And Drawings**

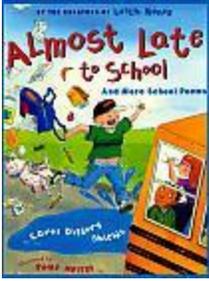
A collection of more than 100 humorous poems on such topics as ogres, pizza, fear, school, dragons, trees, and hair. (no Lexile available)



Prelutsky, Jack

**A Pizza the Size of the Sun: Poems**

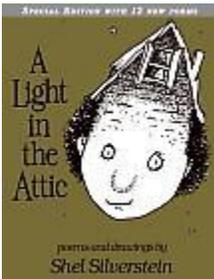
A collection of humorous poetry on a variety of topics. (no Lexile available)



Shields, Carol Diggory

**Almost Late for School: and more school poems**

An illustrated collection of twenty-two poems about the ups and downs of life in school. (no Lexile available)

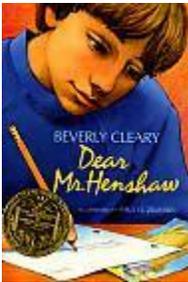


Silverstein, Shel.

**Light in the Attic**

A collection of humorous poems and drawings. (no Lexile available)

## REALISTIC FICTION



Cleary, Beverly

**Dear Mr. Henshaw**

In his letters to his favorite author, ten-year-old Leigh reveals his problems in coping with his parents' divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world. (Lexile = 910)



Codell, Esme Raji

**Sahara Special**

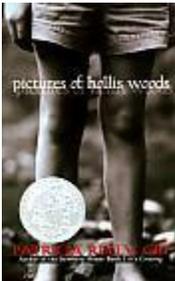
Struggling with school and her feelings since her father left, Sahara gets a fresh start with a new and unique teacher who supports her writing talents and the individuality of each of her classmates. (Lexile = 660)



DiCamillo, Kate

**The Magician's Elephant**

When 10 year old orphan Peter Augustus Duchene encounters a fortune teller in the marketplace one day and she tells him that his sister, who is presumed dead, is in fact alive, he embarks on a remarkable series of adventures as he desperately tries to find her. (Lexile = 730)



Giff, Patricia Reilly

**Pictures of Hollis Woods**

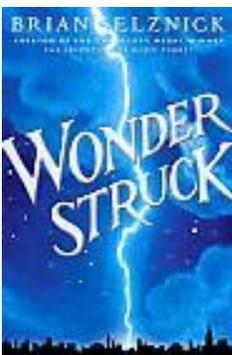
A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her. (Lexile = 650)



Kowitt, Holly

**Loser List**

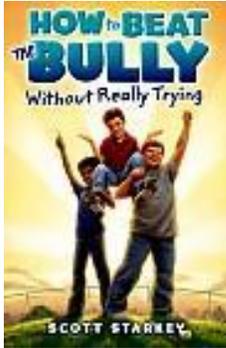
When Danny gets caught trying to cross his name of the “Geek” list in the girls’ bathroom, he’s sent to detention. Bullies torment him mercilessly – until they discover that Danny can draw. He enjoys his new “bad boy” status, until he is unknowingly drawn into a theft. Can he make everything right again? (Lexile = 480)



Selznick, Brian

**Wonderstruck: a novel in words and pictures**

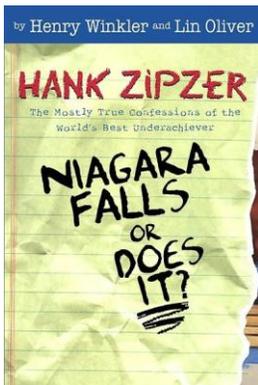
Relates the stories of twelve-year-old Ben, who loses his mother and his hearing in a short time frame and decides to leave his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he has never known in New York City; and Rose, who lives with her father but feels compelled to search for what is missing in her life. Ben's story is told in words; Rose's in pictures. (Lexile = 830)



Starkey, Scott

**How to Beat the Bully Without Really Trying**

Rodney, an admitted coward, moves to Ohio, where the middle school bully immediately singles him out, but when a stray baseball knocks the bully out just as he is about to beat Rodney up, Rodney gains an undeserved reputation as a tough guy. (Lexile = 690)



Winkler, Henry

**Niagara Falls or Does It? (Hank Zipzer series)**

Fearing that he may be failing fourth grade, Hank enlists the help of his friends, and even his annoying younger sister, in an effort to prevent his parents from attending a parent-teacher conference. (Lexile = 610)

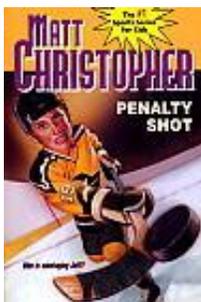
**SPORTS**



Bowen, Fred

**Playoff Dreams**

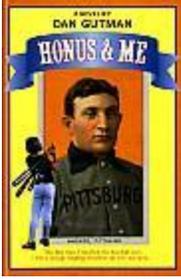
Brendan, the best player on a losing baseball team, learns a lesson from a Chicago Cubs all-star about the true value of the game. (Lexile = 580)



Christopher, Matt

**Penalty Shot**

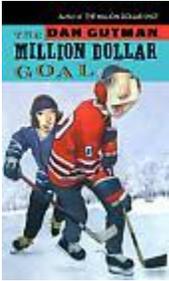
Jeff, already worried about losing his place on the hockey team because of low grades, suddenly finds himself the victim of sabotage in the form of forged papers. This is one of many sports stories by this author. (Lexile = 690)



Gutman, Dan

**Honus and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure**

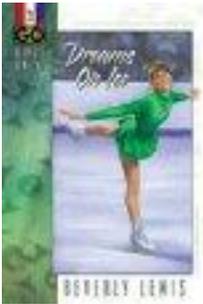
Joey, who loves baseball but is not very good at it, finds a valuable 1909 Honus Wagner card and travels back in time to meet Honus. (Lexile = 690)



Gutman, Dan

**The Million Dollar Goal**

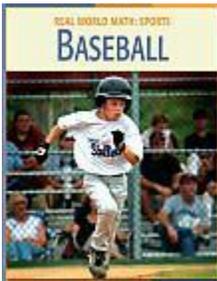
Twins Dawn and Dusk learn to admire their crotchety old grandmother when they take on the task of training her to play hockey. (Lexile = 720)



Lewis, Beverly

**Dreams on Ice**

Olivia Hudson's dream of becoming an Olympic skater seems to be ruined when her father moves to Alpine Lake, Colorado. (no Lexile available)

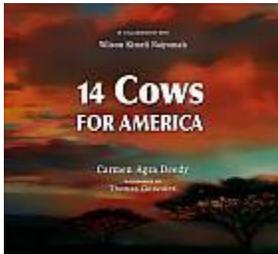


Minden, Cecilia

**Baseball**

Explore the fascinating connection between math and baseball.  
(no Lexile available)

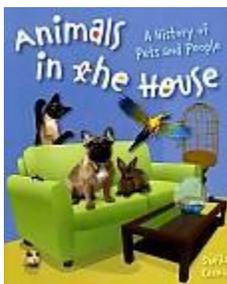
## HISTORY



Deedy, Carmen

### **14 Cows for America**

An illustrated tale of a gift of fourteen cows, given by the Maasai people of Kenya to the U.S., as a gesture of comfort and friendship in the wake of the attacks of September 11, 2001. (Lexile = 540)



Keenan, Sheila

### **Animals in the House: A History of Pets and People**

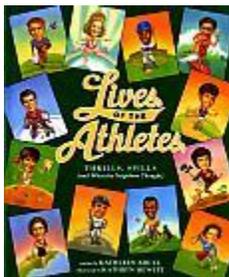
Fascinating facts, historical details, endearing animal photographs and some famous people with their pets are presented in a colorful format that provides many reasons why pet lovers love pets. (Lexile = 1000)



Harness, Cheryl

### **Rabble Rousers: 20 Women Who Made a Difference**

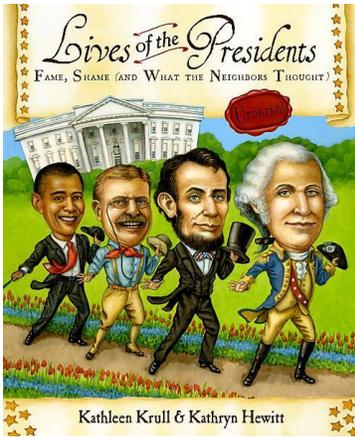
Biographies of twenty American women whose actions led to an expansion of freedom for everyone. (no Lexile available)



Krull, Kathleen

### **Lives of the Athletes: Thrills, Spills (And What the Neighbors Thought)**

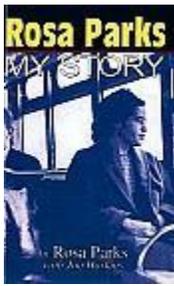
Presents biographical sketches of twenty famous athletes, emphasizing their unique personalities and the impressions they made on the people who knew them.



Krull, Kathleen

**Lives of the Presidents: Fame, Shame (And What the Neighbors Thought)**

Focuses on the lives of presidents as parents, husbands, pet-owners, and neighbors while also including humorous anecdotes about hairstyles, attitudes, diets, fears, and sleep patterns. (Lexile = 1220)



Parks, Rosa

**Rosa Parks: My Story**

Rosa Park's life story reveals the deliberate choices she made that earned her the title, "Mother to a Movement." (Lexile = 970)



Rappaport, Doreen

**Eleanor, Quiet No More: the Life of Eleanor Roosevelt**

A brief biography of Eleanor Roosevelt. The narrative quickly moves through the important moments of her life as she grew from a shy, unhappy and quiet child to a well respected leader, helping her husband, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and becoming a United Nations representative. (Lexile = 670)



Rappaport, Doreen

**John's Secret Dreams: The Life of John Lennon**

This picture book biography depicts the life and works of John Lennon. Several lyrics of his songs accompany the text. If you like the Beatles, this book is for you. (no Lexile available)

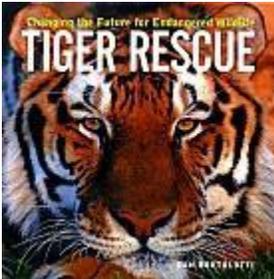


Rappaport, Doreen

**This School is not White! A True Story of the Civil Rights Movement**

In 1965, eight African-American children enrolled in an all-white school. This is the powerful story of their fight for equality. (Lexile = 850)

## SCIENCE



Bortolotti, Dan

**Tiger Rescue: Changing the Future for Endangered Wildlife**

Discusses threats to the tiger's survival and examines tiger conservation efforts around the world. (no Lexile available)



George, Jean Craighead

**The missing 'gator of Gumbo Limbo: an eco mystery**

Sixth-grader Liza Poole searches for Dajun, an alligator that helps to control the ecosystem of the Gumbo Limbo area of the Florida Everglades, against state officials who want to destroy it.

**Lexile Measure: 740**

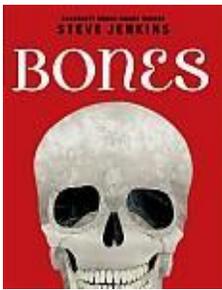


Cherry, Lynne

**A river ran wild: an environmental history**

An environmental history of the Nashua River, from its discovery by Indians through the polluting years of the Industrial Revolution to the ambitious clean-up that revitalized it.

**Lexile Measure: 670**

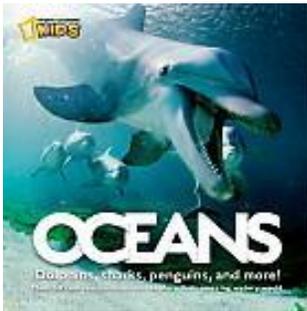


Jenkins, Steve

**Bones: skeletons and how they work**

Explores the details of human and animal bones, comparing the differences between the skeletal structure of various species, with several gatefolds that display the skeletons of many creatures

**Lexile Measure:** 980

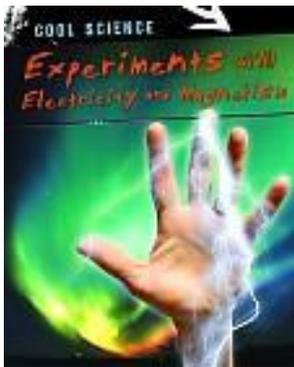


Rizzo, Johanna

**Oceans: dolphins, sharks, penguins, and more! : meet 60 cool sea creatures and explore their amazing watery world**

Photographs and fun facts explore the lives and homes of a variety of sea creatures, including sharks, dolphins, sea turtles, penguins, and many others.

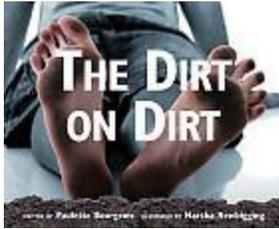
**Lexile Measure:** 1190



Woodford, Chris

**Experiments with electricity and magnetism**

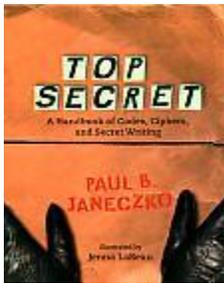
Lemon battery ~ Voltaic pile ~ Electroscope ~ Leyden jar ~ Fitting a fuse ~ Curie point ~ Motor effect ~ Changing magnetic field ~ Build an electromagnet ~ Eddy currents ~ Electroplating metals. Contains step-by-step, illustrated instructions for experiments involving principles of electricity and magnetism, with troubleshooting and safety tips. No Lexile available



Bourgeois, Paulette

### **The Dirt on Dirt**

A peek into the world of dirt and soil and sand and mattress lint and earthworms and geology, *etc.* Includes hands-on projects ranging from making a composter to a mud cake. (no Lexile available)



Janeczko, Paul B.

### **Top Secret: A Handbook of Codes, Ciphers, and Secret Writing**

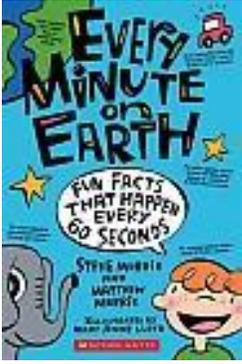
This book describes different types of codes and ciphers, discusses code breaking and concealment techniques, and includes brief stories about exciting moments in the history of the art. (no Lexile available)



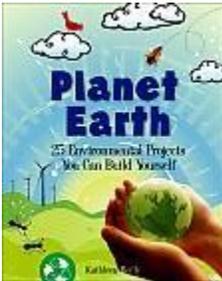
Larson, Peter L.

### **Bones Rock! Everything You Need to Know to be a Paleontologist**

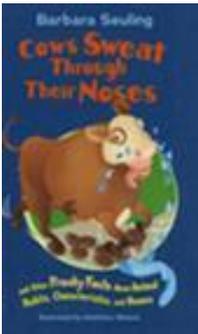
A comprehensive guide to paleontology for young readers, which explains how to dig for fossils, clean them, keep records, and develop and test theories. This book describes projects from the authors' experience, including the excavation of the Tyrannosaurus Rex. (no Lexile available)



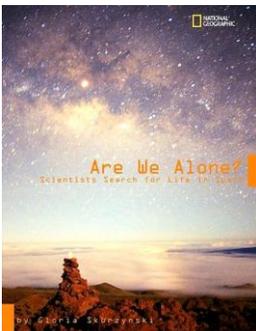
Murrie, Steve and Matthew Murrie  
**Every Minute on Earth: Fun Facts That Happen Every 60 Seconds**  
Fun facts about our planet amuse and challenge readers.  
(Lexile = 1090)



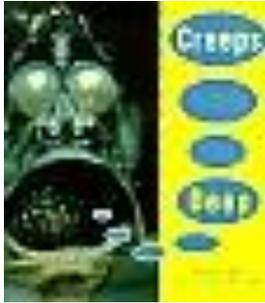
Reilly, Kathleen M.  
**Planet Earth: 25 Environmental Projects You Can Build Yourself**  
An overview of environmental issues including global warming and pollution. Provides 25 interesting projects you can do to learn about saving the environment. (no Lexile available)



Seuling, Barbara  
**Cows Sweat Through Their Noses: and Other Freaky Facts About Animal Habits, Characteristics and Homes.**  
Presents entertaining and unusual facts about animals.  
(Lexile = 920)



Skurzynski, Gloria  
**Are We Alone? Scientists Search for Life in Space**  
Presents a study of space and the possibility of extraterrestrial civilizations and discusses UFO sightings throughout the twentieth century, crop circles, and other paranormal occurrences. (Lexile = 1170)



Taylor, L. R.

### **Creeps From the Deep: Life in the Deep Sea**

In text and photographs, this book presents what is known about the deep ocean and the exotic creatures that live there. (No Lexile available)

## **Biographies**

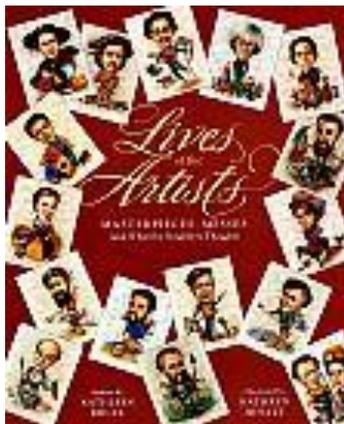


Llanas, Sheila Griffin

### **Brian Selznick**

This biography introduces readers to Brian Selznick, author and illustrator of the award-winning novel *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. Readers will learn about Selznick's childhood in New Jersey and his arrival in New York, his early interest in film and drawing, his exposure to children's publishing while working at Eeyore's Books for Children and his big break into the industry with *The Houdini Box*. Easy-

to-read text highlights Selznick's childhood, family, education and life as an illustrator, while full-color photos highlight his artistic style and beloved works, including his latest project, *Wonderstruck*. (No Lexile available)

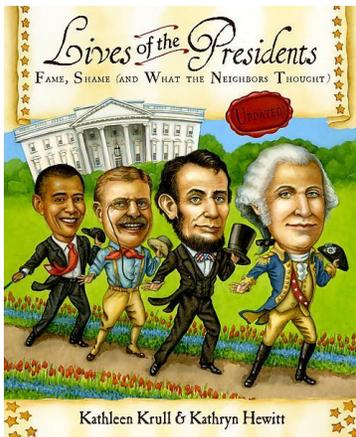


Krull, Kathleen

### **Lives of the artists : masterpieces, messes (and what the neighbors thought)**

Leonardo da Vinci ~ Candles on his head : Michelangelo Buonarroti ~ The uninvited guest : Peter Bruegel ~ She introduced laughter : Sofonisba Anguissola ~ From riches to rags : Rembrandt van Rijn ~ Old man mad about drawing : Katsushika Hokusai ~ Riding a tall horse : Mary Cassatt ~ Risking his life for art : Vincent van Gogh ~

Mountain climber, mother, and model : Kathe Kollwitz ~ King of the wild beasts : Henri Matisse ~ At the bullfights : Pablo Picasso ~ Clowning around : Marc Chagall ~ The art of chess : Marcel Duchamp ~ Skulls and flowers : Georgia O'Keefe ~ Handstands on the beach : William H. Johnson ~ How to shock the world every twenty-four hours : Salvador Dali ~ A tiger on the stairway : Isamu Noguchi ~ Frog-face and the walking flower : Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo ~ Eating the entire birthday cake : Andy Warhol. A collection of short biographical sketches of famous artists, emphasizing their unique personalities and the impressions they made on the people who knew them. (No Lexile available)



Krull, Kathleen

**Lives of the presidents: fame, shame (and what the neighbors thought)**

Explores the lives of presidents as parents, husbands, pet-owners, and neighbors while also including humorous anecdotes about hairstyles, attitudes, diets, fears, and sleep patterns (Lexile 1220)