

IMC Recommended List K-6 September 2008

These titles have been recommended for purchase by San Diego Unified School District book reviewers. Use this list to purchase titles for your school or classroom library. Many of these are also available for teacher check out at the IMC. Questions may be directed to Deborah B. Ford, IMC Resource Librarian at (858) 496-8442 or dford@sandi.net.

Title - Author - {Interest Level, Dewey} --Publisher : Year, Reading Level, Number of Pages

The Adventures of Sir Lancelot the Great, -- Morris, Gerald. {IL 3-6, 398.2}
-- Houghton Mifflin, 2008., RL 5.7, 92p

Sir Lancelot arrives in King Arthur's court and has many grand adventures after becoming the king's bravest and greatest knight.

Animals Robert Scott Saw : an Adventure in Antarctica -- Markle, Sandra.
{IL 3-6, 919.8} -- Chronicle Books, 2008., RL 6.2, 45p

Presents the animals Robert Scott saw during his two years of study and exploration of Antarctica in the early 1900s, including penguins, whales, birds, and small, previously undiscovered sea creatures, derived from writings and sketches he left behind.

Bats at the Library -- Lies, Brian. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Houghton Mifflin, 2008,
RL 2.7, 32p

Bored with another normal, inky evening, bats discover an open library window and fly in to enjoy the photocopier, water fountain, and especially the books and stories found there.

Bear Feels Scared -- Wilson, Karma. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Margaret K. McElderry
Books, 2008, RL 3, 32p

Bear's animal friends come to his rescue when he becomes lost and frightened in the woods.

Beware of the Frog -- Bee, William. {IL 1-3, -E-} -- Candlewick Press, 2008,
RL 2.2, 42p

Sweet old Mrs. Collywobbles lives on the edge of a big, dark, scary wood, but has a pet frog to protect her from greedy goblins, smelly trolls, and hungry ogres.

The Blacker the Berry, : Poems -- Thomas, Joyce Carol. {IL K-3, 811} --
Joanna Cotler Books, 2008, RL 2.9, 32p

A collection of poems, including "Golden Goodness," "Cranberry Red," and "Biscuit Brown," celebrating individuality and Afro-American identity.

Boo, Bunny! -- Galbraith, Kathryn Osebold. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Harcourt, 2008., RL 1, 32p
Two small bunnies face their fears while trick-or-treating on Halloween night.

Born to Read -- Sierra, Judy. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Alfred A. Knopf, 2008., RL 3.1, 34p

A little boy named Sam discovers the many unexpected ways in which a love of reading can come in handy, and sometimes even save the day.

A Boy Named Beckoning : the True Story of Dr. Carlos Montezuma, Native American Hero -- Capaldi, Gina. {IL 3-6, 970.004} -- Carolrhoda Books, 2008., RL 5.6, 32p

An illustrated exploration of the life of Carlos Montezuma which chronicles his childhood, in which he was kidnapped, sold into slavery, and adopted by an Italian photographer; relates what he learned when he set out to uncover his family's past; discusses his work as a doctor; and includes photographs.

Chicken Feathers -- Cowley, Joy. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Philomel Books, 2008., RL 5.8, 149p

Relates the story of the summer Josh spends while his mother is in the hospital awaiting the birth of his baby sister, and his pet chicken Semolina, who talks but only to him, is almost killed by a red fox.

Cottonball Colin -- Willis, Jeanne. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2008., RL 2.2, 26p

Afraid that her smallest child, Colin, will be hurt if he goes outside or plays, a mother mouse insists that he sit quietly indoors until his grandmother suggests wrapping him in cotton wool, which proves to be effective, but in a most unexpected way.

Dark Day in the Deep Sea -- Osborne, Mary Pope. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Random House, 2008., RL 3.8, 106p

Eight-year-old Jack and his seven-year-old sister, Annie, learn about the ocean, solve the mystery of its fabled sea monster, and gain compassion for their fellow creatures after joining a group of nineteenth-century explorers aboard the H.M.S. "Challenger."

De colores = Bright with colors -- {IL K-3, 782.42} -- Marshall Cavendish Children, 2008., RL 2.3, 24p

Presents a bilingual folksong written in both English and Spanish, that celebrates the colors of the world.

The Discovery and Mystery of a Dinosaur Named Jane -- Williams, Judith (Judith A.) {IL 3-6, 567.912} -- Enslow Publishers, 2008., RL 5.2, 48p
Tells the story of the tyrannosaur Jane, from her discovery and excavation in the badlands of Montana to her display at the Burpee Museum in Rockford, Illinois, and explores the mysteries of her life millions of years ago.

Dodger and Me -- Sonnenblick, Jordan. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Feiwel and Friends, 2008., RL 4.3, 171p

Miserable because his only friend moved away and he has once again caused his baseball team to lose a game, fifth-grader Willy Ryan's life suddenly becomes a lot more interesting when he finds Dodger, a furry, blue chimpanzee that only he can see, and he has to decide what he really wishes for in life.

The Dog Who Saved Santa, -- Kelley, True. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Holiday House, 2008., RL 2.4, 32p

With the help of his take-charge dog Rodney and a self-help video, young Santa Claus mends his lazy and irresponsible ways.

The Donkey of Gallipoli : a True Story of Courage in World War I, -- Greenwood, Mark, {IL 3-6, 940.4} -- Candlewick Press, 2008., RL 5, 32p
Jack, a soldier serving as a stretcher bearer in Gallipoli, Turkey, during World War I, enlists the help of a donkey named Duffy to carry wounded soldiers off the battlefield.

Elephants never forget! -- Ravishankar, Anushka. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Houghton Mifflin, 2008, 2007., RL 2.2, 40p

A lonely elephant meets a herd of buffaloes and decides to stay with them, but when they meet up with some elephants, he must make an important decision.

Everybody Bonjourns! -- Kimmelman, Leslie. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Knopf, 2008., RL .9, 34p

Describes in rhymed text the many ways to use the greeting "Bonjour" when visiting Paris.

Fanny -- Hobbie, Holly. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Little, Brown, 2008., RL 3.6, 32p
Fanny asks for a Connie doll like those of her friends, and when her mother says no, Fanny tries to make one for herself.

Farmer George Plants a Nation -- Thomas, Peggy. {IL 3-6, 973.4} -- Calkins Creek, 2008., RL 6.3, 40p

Describes how George Washington built his farm at Mount Vernon, discussing his experiments with seeds, fertilizers, and tools and presenting related letters and diary entries.

Finding Home -- Markle, Sandra. {IL K-3, 599.2} -- Charlesbridge, 2008., RL 1.7, 32p

A mother koala bear and her baby leave their home range after a fire, coming close to the world of humans in their search for a new home.

Go, Go America -- Yaccarino, Dan. {IL 3-6, 973} -- Scholastic Press, 2008., RL 5.9, 71p

Presents hundreds of unique facts about each of the states, describing strange festivals, traditions, contests, laws, people, and landmarks across the country.

Goose and Duck -- George, Jean Craighead, {IL K-3, -E-} -- Laura Geringer Books, 2008., RL 1.7, 48p

A young boy becomes the "mother" to a goose, who becomes "mother" to a duck, as they learn about the rhythms of nature together.

The Grasshopper's Song : an Aesop's Fable Revisited, -- Giovanni, Nikki. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Candlewick Press, 2008., RL 3.9, 50p

Angry that his singing is unappreciated by the Ants who relied on his music to make their summer work easier, Jimmy Grasshopper decides to sue them for lacking respect and not acknowledging his usefulness in their lives.

Halloween Night -- Murray, Marjorie Dennis. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Greenwillow Books, 2008., RL 3.1, 32p

A rhyming story that tells of a group of animals, monsters, and witches who prepare such a frightening Halloween party that their expected trick-or-treaters all run away.

Helen Keller : the World in Her Heart -- Cline-Ransome, Lesa. {IL K-3, 362.4} -- Collins, 2008., RL 3.5, 32p

Describes how Helen Keller used her working senses, including touch and smell, to explore the world around her.

Hogwood Steps Out : a Good, Good Pig Story -- Mansfield, Howard. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Roaring Brook Press, 2008., RL 2.7, 32p

Hogwood the pig escapes from his pen and enjoys a spring day exploring neighborhood gardens.

Horse Song : the Naadam of Mongolia -- Lewin, Ted. {IL 3-6, 306} -- Lee & Low Books, 2008., RL 5.6, 48p

Ted and Betsy Lewin describe the landscapes, people, and activities they encounter during a trip to Mongolia for Naadam, the annual summer festival where child jockeys ride half-wild horses for miles across the Mongolian steppe.

The House in the Night, -- Swanson, Susan Marie. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Houghton Mifflin, 2008., RL 1.7, 40p

Illustrations and easy-to-read text explore the light that makes a house in the night a home filled with light.

I Love My New Toy! -- Willems, Mo. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Hyperion Books for Children, 2008., RL .6, 57p

Gerald and Piggie have a misunderstanding over Piggie's new toy, but soon realize friends are more fun to play with than toys.

I Will Surprise My Friend! -- Willems, Mo. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Hyperion Books for Children, 2008., RL 1.2, 57p

Gerald the elephant and Piggie, who are best friends, play a game to surprise each other by a big rock and their fun takes a strange turn when Gerald gets worried.

If You're Reading This, It's Too Late -- Bosch, Pseudonymous. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Little, Brown Books for Young People, 2009.

Cass and Max-Ernest discover the Museum of Magic, unscramble more coded messages, and solve new mysteries in their attempt to thwart the Terces Society's ambitions of discovering immortality.

Imaginary Menagerie : a Book of Curious Creatures -- Larios, Julie Hofstrand, {IL 3-6, 811} -- Harcourt, 2008., RL 1.9, 32p

Poems and vivid illustrations present fourteen mythical creatures, including a dragon, a centaur, a gargoyle, and a sphinx.

John Patrick Norman McHennessy : the boy who was always late -- Burningham, John. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Knopf, 2008, 1987., RL 3.4, 32p

John Patrick Norman McHennessy sets out every morning for school, but every day something happens to make him late. A Reissue.

Julia Gillian (and the Art of Knowing) -- McGhee, Alison, {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Scholastic Press, 2008., RL 5.5, 280p

Nine-year-old Julia Gillian learns a lot about facing fear as she and her St. Bernard, Bigfoot, take long walks through their Minneapolis neighborhood

one hot summer, and she seeks the courage to finish a book that could have an unhappy ending.

Kiss! Kiss! Yuck! Yuck! -- Mewburn, Kyle. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Peachtree, 2008, 2006., RL 1.8, 32p

Every time Aunty Elsie comes to visit, she finds Andy wherever he is hiding and gives him sloppy kisses on both cheeks.

Lost and Found -- Clements, Andrew, {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008., RL 5.9, 161p

Twin brothers Jay and Ray Grayson learn about friendship, honesty, and themselves after taking advantage of a clerical oversight in which their new school thinks there is only one Grayson boy.

Madam President -- Smith, Lane. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Hyperion Books for Children, 2008., RL 3.6, 32p

A little girl imagines what her day would be like if she were President of the United States.

Metal Man -- Reynolds, Aaron, {IL K-3, -E-} -- Charlesbridge, 2008., RL 2.9, 32p

One hot summer day, a man who makes sculpture out of junk helps a boy create what he sees in his mind's eye.

Missing Math : a Number Mystery -- Leedy, Loreen. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Marshall Cavendish, 2008., RL 2.8, 32p

A numerical mystery ensues when the numbers all over town suddenly disappear bringing a halt to everyday activities.

Mouse Island -- Bunting, Eve, {IL K-3, -E-} -- Boyds Mills Press, 2008., RL 3.1, 32p

Mouse enjoys living on his island but feels that something is missing from his life until the day he performs a daring rescue and acquires an unlikely friend.

Moving Day -- Cabot, Meg. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Scholastic Press, 2008., RL 5.4, 228p

Nine-year-old Allie Finkle has rules for everything and is even writing her own rule book, but her world is turned upside-down when she learns that her family is moving across town, which will mean a new house, school, best friend, and plenty of new rules.

Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Writing Thank-You Notes -- Gifford, Peggy Elizabeth. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Schwartz & Wade Books, 2008., RL 5.1, 159p

Ten-year-old Moxy Maxwell has promised to write twelve thank-you notes by the day after Christmas so that she and her twin brother Mark can go to Hollywood to visit their father, but all her brilliant ideas to help finish the task more efficiently end up creating chaos in the house.

My Friend, the Starfinder -- Lyon, George Ella, {IL K-3, -E-} -- Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008., RL 2.9, 32p

A child relates some of the wondrous tales told by an old man who once found a falling star and stood at the end of a rainbow.

The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey, -- Stewart, Trenton Lee. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Little, Brown, 2008., RL 6.8, 440p

Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance, all graduates of the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened and members of the Benedict Society, embark on a scavenger hunt that turns into a desperate search for the missing Mr. Benedict.

Night Running : How James Escaped With the Help of His Faithful Dog -- Carbone, Elisa Lynn. {IL 3-6, -E-} -- Knopf, 2008., RL 3.3, 32p

A runaway slave makes a daring escape to freedom with the help of his faithful hunting dog, Zeus. Based on the true story of James Smith's journey from Virginia to Ohio in the mid-1800s.

Off to First Grade -- Borden, Louise. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2008., RL 2, 36p

Each member of a first grade class, as well as their teacher, principal, and a bus driver, expresses excitement, worry, or hope as the first day of school begins.

Oh, Brother! -- Grimes, Nikki. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Amistad/Greenwillow Books, 2008., RL 2.9, 32p

Xavier is unhappy when his mother remarries and he suddenly has a new stepbrother, as well as a stepfather, in his home.

One is a Feast for Mouse : a Thanksgiving Tale -- Cox, Judy. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Holiday House, 2008., RL 3.5, 32p

On Thanksgiving Day while everyone naps, Mouse spots one pea, a perfect feast, but he cannot help adding all of the fixings--until Cat spots him.

Oodles of Animals -- Ehlert, Lois. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Harcourt, 2008., RL 2.7, 52p

Short, easy to read rhymes reveal what is unique about various animals, from ape to wolf.

Piano Starts Here : the Young Art Tatum -- Parker, Robert Andrew. {IL 3-6, 786.2} -- Schwartz & Wade Books, 2008., RL 2.2, 34p

Explores early nineteenth-century jazz pianist and virtuoso Art Tatum's passion and talent for playing the instrument, and includes illustrations and biographical information.

The Pigeon Wants a Puppy!, -- Willems, Mo. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Hyperion Books for Children, 2008., RL 1.2, 34p

The pigeon really, really wants a puppy, but when a puppy arrives the pigeon changes its mind.

President Pennybaker -- Feiffer, Kate. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2008., RL 2.9, 32p

Tired of the unfairness of life, young Luke Pennybaker decides to run for president, with his dog Lily as his running mate.

Rabbit & Squirrel : a Tale of War & Peas -- LaReau, Kara. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Harcourt, 2008., RL 1.8, 32p

Rabbit and Squirrel are neighbors who never even say hello until someone starts damaging their gardens, and then they blame one another and start a fight that continues even after they meet the real culprit.

The Retired Kid, -- Agee, Jon. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Hyperion Books for Children, 2008., RL 2.6, 32p

Although he enjoys some aspects of his retirement, eight-year-old Brian gains a new perspective on his job of being a child after spending time in Florida's Happy Sunset Retirement Community.

Roadwork -- Sutton, Sally {IL K-3, -E-} -- Candlewick Press, 2008., RL 2.4, 32p

Rhyming text and illustrations show how a road is made, from planning to moving dirt, laying asphalt, putting up signs, and landscaping.

Scoot! -- Falwell, Cathryn. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Greenwillow Books, 2008., RL 2, 32p

Six silent turtles sit still as stones on a log, as energetic movement by the other animals in the pond happens all around them.

The Searcher and Old Tree, -- McPhail, David, {IL K-3, -E-} -- Charlesbridge, 2008., RL 2.1, 32p

A raccoon forages for food at night and at dawn returns to its home in a strong, old tree, which safely shelters the raccoon through wild winds and ferocious rain so that it can go out searching for food again.

The Seldom-Ever-Shady Glades : Poems and Quilts, -- Van Wassenhove, Sue, {IL 3-6, 811} -- Wordsong, 2008., RL 4.9, 32p

Presents seventeen poems that explore creatures of the Florida Everglades, including such birds as herons, cormorants, and snowy egrets, and features quilts as illustrations.

The Serpent on My Skin, -- Ben Kemoun, Hubert, {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Stone Arch Books, 2008., RL 3.6, 57p

Sam finds the great magic cobra tattoo in his cereal and, after it leaves his arm, realizes it isn't an ordinary tattoo and he must help it find freedom.

Silent Letters Loud and Clear -- Pulver, Robin. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Holiday House, 2008., RL 2.8, 32p

When Mr. Wright's students express a dislike for silent letters, the offended letters decide to teach them a lesson by going on strike.

Silent Music : a Story of Baghdad -- Rumford, James, {IL 3-6, -E-} -- Roaring Brook Press, 2008., RL 5.6, 32p

As bombs and missiles fall on Baghdad in 2003, a young boy uses the art of calligraphy to distance himself from the horror of war.

Sisters & Brothers : Sibling Relationships in the Animal World -- Jenkins, Steve, {IL K-3, 591.56} -- Houghton Mifflin, 2008., RL 3.2, 32p

An illustrated picture book that investigates sibling relationships within the animal kingdom.

Snoring Beauty -- Hale, Bruce. {IL K-3, 398.2} -- Harcourt, 2008., RL 2.9, 44p

An adaptation of the traditional tale, featuring a sleeping, snoring princess who is rescued by a prince after being cursed by a bad fairy.

The Story Blanket, -- Wolff, Ferida, {IL K-3, -E-} -- Peachtree, 2008., RL 3.9, 26p

Babba Zarrah, a beloved storyteller in a snowy mountain village, begins unraveling her story blanket to provide socks, mittens, and other items to keep the villagers warm, but when they notice her blanket is becoming smaller, they come together with a surprise for their friend.

A Taste of Colored Water, -- Faulkner, Matt. {IL 3-6, -E-} -- Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2008., RL 3.5, 42p

Young cousins Lulu and Jelly, inspired by stories told by a classmate, hitch a ride into the city hoping to take a gulp of what they imagine must be some pretty special water that comes from the "colored" drinking fountain.

To Be Like the Sun -- Swanson, Susan Marie. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Harcourt, 2008., RL 2.2, 31p

A child reflects on how a small, striped gray seed eventually becomes a strong, beautiful sunflower.

Tom Trueheart and the Land of Dark Stories -- Beck, Ian. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Greenwillow Books, 2008, 2007., RL 5.5, 369p

Twelve-year-old Tom Trueheart, accompanied by his friend Jollity the crow, must journey to the dangerous Land of Dark Stories to rescue his brothers and their princess brides, and to try to defeat the villainous Ormestone once again.

Train Stop -- Lehman, Barbara. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Houghton Mifflin, 2008., 32p
A wordless picture book in which a young girl takes a train and makes a stop at a most unusual place where she has an important task to perform.

Trick or Treat on Monster Street -- Schnitzlein, Danny. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Peachtree, 2008., RL 2.1, 32p

After being separated from his older brothers on Halloween night, a fearful boy finds himself lost on Monster Street, but is relieved when he encounters another curious trick-or-treater.

Turtle's Penguin Day -- Gorbachev, Valeri. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Alfred A. Knopf, 2008., RL 3.1, 32p

After hearing a bedtime story about penguins, Turtle dresses as one for school and soon the entire class is having a penguin day, sliding on their bellies and eating goldfish crackers.

Twenty Heartbeats -- Haseley, Dennis. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Roaring Brook Press, 2008., RL 2.9, 30p

After waiting for decades for the portrait of his prize horse to be finished, an angry rich man decides to confront the artist.

Tweedle dee dee -- Voake, Charlotte. {IL K-3, 782.42} -- Candlewick Press, 2008., RL 1.9, 28p

Illustrations of a forest in spring and simple text provide a variation on the traditional folk song, "The green leaves grew around."

Way Up and Over Everything -- McGill, Alice. {IL 3-6, 398.2} -- Houghton Mifflin, 2008., RL 4.3, 32p

In this retelling of a folktale, five Africans escape the horrors of slavery by simply disappearing into thin air.

Wee Little Chick -- Thompson, Lauren. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2008., RL 1.7, 28p

When the other barnyard animals comment on how tiny the littlest chick is, the proud little one peeps louder, stands taller, and runs faster than any of them.

What's that, Mittens? -- Schaefer, Lola M., {IL K-3, -E-} -- HarperCollins, 2008., RL 1.5, 26p

When Mittens the kitten digs a hole under the fence in the yard, he meets a new friend--Max the dog.

The Wheat Doll, -- Randall, Alison L. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Peachtree, 2008., RL 3.7, 32p

Mary Ann, a girl growing up in the Utah Territory in the late 1800s, is heartbroken when Betty, her beloved wheat-filled doll is lost during a storm, but she does not give up searching until the spring thaw reveals a surprise.

Where's my Mummy? -- Crimi, Carolyn. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Candlewick Press, 2008., RL 2.4, 26p

One deep, dark night, as all of the monsters are preparing for bed, Little Baby Mummy bravely searches for his mother until he sees a truly terrifying creature.

Winnie's Midnight Dragon -- Thomas, Valerie. {IL K-3, -E-} -- HarperCollins, 2008., RL 2.8, 26p

Winnie the Witch uses her magic to help a baby dragon find its mother and stop making a mess in her house.

Wynken, Blynken, and Nod -- Field, Eugene {IL K-3, 811} -- Schwartz & Wade Books, 2008., RL 1.6, 33p

An illustrated bedtime poem in which three fishermen in a wooden shoe catch stars in their nets of silver and gold.

Zen Ties -- Muth, Jon J. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Scholastic Press, 2008., RL 1.9, 36p

When Stillwater the panda encourages Koo, Addy, Michael, and Karl to help a grouchy neighbor, their efforts are rewarded in unexpected ways.