

IMC Recommended List 6-12 April 2009

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 titles 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

Bodies From the Ice : Melting Glaciers and the Rediscovery of the Past -- Deem, James M. {IL 5-8, 599.9} -- Houghton Mifflin, 2008., RL 8.6, 58p

Examines the science of glaciers and looks at some of the discoveries of the past that have been made as the ice masses move and melt, including the preserved frozen remains of Otzi, the oldest human mummy ever found in ice, believed to be at least 5,300 years old.

Bog Child -- Dowd, Siobhan. {IL YA, -Fic-} -- David Fickling Books, 2008., 321p

In 1981, the height of Ireland's "Troubles," eighteen-year-old Fergus is distracted from his upcoming A-level exams by his imprisoned brother's hunger strike, the stress of being a courier for Sinn Fein, and dreams of a murdered girl whose body he discovered in a bog.

Chasing Lincoln's Killer -- Swanson, James L. {IL YA, 973.7} -- Scholastic Press, 2009., 194p
Recounts the twelve-day pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth, covering the chase through Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, with a discussion of Abraham Lincoln as a father, husband, and friend that examines the impact of his death on those close to him.

Deeper -- Gordon, Roderick. {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Chicken House, 2009., RL 7.3, 643p

Boy archaeologist Will Burrows wanders the caverns beneath the Colony with his best friend Chester and brother Cal, falls upon the Styx's plan to get rid of Topsoilers with a deadly plague, and risks his life to foil their plot while wondering if his killer stepsister is still on the loose.

The Forest of Hands and Teeth -- Ryan, Carrie. {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Delacorte Press, 2009., 310p

Through twists and turns of fate, orphaned Mary seeks knowledge of life, love, and especially what lies beyond her walled village and the surrounding forest, where dwell the Unconsecrated, aggressive flesh-eating people who were once dead.

Go Big or Go Home -- Hobbs, Will. {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- HarperCollins, 2008., RL 5.6, 185p

Fourteen-year-old Brady and his cousin Quinn love extreme sports, but nothing could prepare them for the aftermath of Brady's close encounter with a meteorite after it crashes into his Black Hills, South Dakota, bedroom.

Helen's Eyes : a Photobiography of Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's Teacher -- Delano, Marfe Ferguson. {IL 5-8, 371.91} -- National Geographic, 2008., RL 6.5, 63p

Photographs, illustrations, and text chronicle the life of Helen Keller's tutor, Annie Sullivan.

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Here Lies Arthur -- Reeve, Philip. {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Scholastic Press, 2008, RL 5.7 339p
Gwynn is forced to flee her village, but when she is discovered hiding in the woods by Myrddin, a bard, he swears to protect her as long as she agrees to bind herself to his service while he transforms young Arthur into a heroic king.

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Honeybee : Poems & Short Prose -- Nye, Naomi Shihab. {IL 5-8, 811} -- Greenwillow Books, 2008., RL 5.8, 164p

A collection of poems and short prose pieces in which Naomi Shihab Nye reflects on the topics that are most important to people, including love, memories, war, and the planet.

Impossible : a Novel! -- Werlin, Nancy. {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Dial Books, 2008., 376p

When seventeen-year-old Lucy discovers her family is under an ancient curse by an evil Elfin Knight, she realizes that she must perform three impossible tasks before her daughter is born to break the curse and to save them both.

Keeping the Night Watch -- Smith, Hope Anita. {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Henry Holt, 2008., RL 3.4, 73p

A thirteen-year-old African American boy chronicles what happens to his family when his father, who temporarily left, returns home and they all must deal with their feelings of anger, hope, abandonment, and fear.

Scat -- Hiaasen, Carl. {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Knopf, 2009., RL 6, 371p

Nick and Marta are both suspicious when their biology teacher, the feared Mrs. Bunny Starch, disappears, and try to uncover the truth despite the police and headmaster's insistence that nothing is wrong.

Science Fair : a Story of Mystery, Danger, International Suspense, and a Very Nervous Frog -- Barry, Dave. {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Disney Editions, 2008., RL 6.1, 394p

The president of Kprshtskan is plotting to infiltrate the science fair at Hubble Middle School in Maryland in order to take over the United States government, but when Toby Harbinger, an ordinary student, makes up his mind finally to win the fair, the terrorists' plans go awry.

She Touched the World : Laura Bridgman, Deaf-blind Pioneer -- Alexander, Sally Hobart. {IL 5-8, 362.4} -- Clarion Books, 2008., RL 8.3, 100p

Chronicles the life of Laura Bridgman, who, at the age of five, became both deaf and blind, and recounts how she learned to communicate with the world around her and became one of the most famous people in the world.

The Surrender Tree : Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom -- Engle, Margarita. {IL YA, 811} -- Henry Holt, 2008., 169p

A collection of poems in which Rosa, a healer, describes her experiences trying to help Cuban peasants who have been forced to leave their farms and villages in 1896 and given eight days to find their way to "reconcentration camps" or be killed.

Tender Morsels -- Lanagan, Margo. {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Alfred A. Knopf, 2008., 436p

A young woman who has endured unspeakable cruelties is magically granted a safe haven apart from the real world and allowed to raise her two daughters in this alternate reality, until the barrier between her world and the real one begins to break down. [This powerful novel is for the mature reader.](#)

A Thousand Never Evers -- Burg, Shana. {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Delacorte Press, 2008., RL 5.6, 301p

As the civil rights movement in the South gains momentum in 1963 and violence against African-Americans intensifies, residents of the small town of Kuckachoo, Mississippi, including seventh-grader Addie Ann Pickett, begin their own courageous struggle for racial justice.