

## IMC Recommended List K-6 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](mailto:dford@sandi.net).

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

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11 Birthdays -- Mass, Wendy. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Scholastic Press, 2009., RL 3.9, 267p  
After celebrating their first nine same-day birthdays together, Amanda and Leo, having fallen out on their tenth and not speaking to each other for the last year, 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.

Alcatraz Versus the Scrivener's Bones -- Sanderson, Brandon. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Scholastic Press, 2008., RL 5.3, 322p

Thirteen-year-old Alcatraz Smedry and his companions seek Al's father and grandfather in the Great Library of Alexandria, where they face undead, soul-stealing wraiths called the Curators of Alexandria, and one of the Scrivener's Bones, a part-human, part-machine mercenary. Sequel to Alcatraz versus the Evil Librarians.

Astronaut Handbook -- McCarthy, Meghan. {IL K-3, 629.45} -- Knopf, 2008., RL 2.8, 32p  
Illustrations and simple text describe how astronauts prepare for their first mission into space and what it is like to live in outer space.

Barack -- Winter, Jonah. {IL K-3, 973.932} -- Collins, 2008., RL 3.3, 32p  
An illustrated biography of President Barack Obama that focuses on his family origins and childhood.

Baron von Baddie and the Ice Ray Incident -- McClements, George. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Harcourt, 2008., RL 2.9, 34p

Baron von Baddie, having defeated his nemesis, Captain Kapow, discovers that it is not as much fun to create chaos and engage in bad behavior if no one tries to stop him.

Before John Was a Jazz Giant : a Song of John Coltrane -- Weatherford, Carole Boston. {IL K-3, 788.7} -- Henry Holt, 2008., RL 3.8, 26p

A biography of John Coltrane that focuses on his childhood and adolescent years and discusses his inspirations, influences, family, the development of his musical talent, and more.

Benny and Penny in Just Pretend : a Toon Book -- Hayes, Geoffrey. {IL K-3, 741.5} -- Little Lit Library, 2008., RL 1.5, 32p

Annoyed with his little sister who always wants to play pretend with him, Benny intentionally loses her, but soon feels bad after she is gone.

Birds -- Henkes, Kevin. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Greenwillow Books, 2009., RL 2.1, 32p  
Fascinated by the colors, shapes, sounds, and movements of the many different birds she sees through her window, a little girl is happy to discover that she and they have something in common.

Bring Me Some Apples and I'll Make You a Pie : a Story About Edna Lewis -- Gourley, Robbin. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Clarion Books, 2009., RL 3.9, 44p  
Edna and members of her family gather fruits, berries, and vegetables on their Virginia farm and turn them into wonderful meals. Includes five recipes and facts about the life of Edna Lewis, a descendant of slaves who grew up to be a famous chef.

Buffalo Music -- Fern, Tracey E. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Clarion Books, 2008., RL 3, 31p  
After hunters kill off the buffalo around her Texas ranch, a woman begins raising orphan buffalo calves and eventually ships four members of her small herd to Yellowstone National Park, where they form the beginnings of newly thriving buffalo herds. Based on the true story of Mary Ann Goodnight and her husband Charles.

Bugs in My Hair?! -- Stier, Catherine. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Albert Whitman, 2008., RL 2.2, 32p  
When immaculately groomed Ellie gets head lice she is terribly upset, but once she learns some facts about the creatures, she calms down and figures out a way to help her classmates.

Carolina Harmony -- McDowell, Marilyn Taylor. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Delacorte Press, 2009., RL 4.7, 323p  
Carolina, having escaped from a foster home and living with Mr. Ray and Miss Latah on Harmony Farm, refuses to talk about the events surrounding the deaths of her parents and younger brother, and befriends a troubled runaway whom she secretly feeds and takes the blame for his pranks.

The Chicken of the Family -- Amato, Mary. {IL K-3, -E-} -- G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2008., RL 2.5, 32p  
Henrietta's two older sisters try to convince her she is really a chicken, so Henrietta sets off for the farm to find her real family, and discovers how much fun being a chicken can be.

A Child's Day : an Alphabet of Play -- Pearle, Ida. {IL K-3, 428.1} -- Harcourt, 2008., 32p  
Cut-paper images of children at play introduce the letters of the alphabet.

Christmas Farm -- Ray, Mary Lyn. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Harcourt, 2008., RL 3.5, 40p  
Wilma decides to plant Christmas trees with the help of her young neighbor, Parker.

The Composer is Dead -- Snicket, Lemony. {IL K-3, -E-} -- HarperCollins, 2009., RL 3.1, 36p  
An inspector seeks to solve a murder mystery at the symphony by questioning each of the musical instruments. Includes audio CD.

Coraline -- Russell, P. Craig. {IL 3-6, 741.5} -- HarperCollins, 2008., RL 5.8, 186p  
Coraline, who lives with her parents and some other people in a strange old house, explores the garden, grounds and eventually the inside of the mansion, where a door leads her to another universe that darkly mirrors the one she arrived from. Graphic novel adaptation.

Coretta Scott -- Shange, Ntozake. {IL 3-6, 323} -- Amistad/Katherine Tegen Books, 2009., RL 4.4, 32p

An illustrated biography of Coretta Scott King, describing her childhood in the segregated South, her marriage to Martin Luther King, Jr., and her civil rights work.

The Cow That Was the Best Moo-ther -- Cutbill, Andy. {IL K-3, -E-} - HarperCollins Publishers, 2009., RL 3.3, 32p

Although her baby hatched from an egg and looks suspiciously like a chick, Marjorie the cow proudly enters her in the "beautiful baby cow" contest.

Crazy Like a Fox : a Simile Story -- Leedy, Loreen. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Holiday House, 2008., RL 2.1, 32p

In a story told entirely in similes, Rufus the fox is behaving strangely, but for a very good reason. Includes a definition of simile and suggestions for writing a simile story.

A Day with Dad -- Holmberg, Bo R. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Candlewick Press, 2008., RL 1.9, 32p

Tim waits with excitement for a train to bring his father, who lives in another town, then spends an entire day with him, doing all of their favorite things, until it is time for Dad to catch the train home.

Dinosaur vs. Bedtime -- Shea, Bob. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Hyperion Books for Children, 2008., RL 1.6, 32p

Little Dinosaur roars his way through a number of daily challenges, but he cannot seem to defeat bedtime.

The Doghouse -- Thomas, Jan. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Harcourt, 2008., RL 1.4, 36p

Cow, Pig, Duck, and Mouse are afraid to retrieve their ball when it goes into the dog's house, but when they do go in they are pleasantly surprised.

Dolphins on the Sand -- Arnosky, Jim. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Putnam's, 2008., RL 4, 32p

A dozen dolphins, led by their eldest member and her youngster, become stranded on a sandbar and must be helped to safety by humans.

Duck and Cover -- Urbanovic, Jackie. {IL K-3, -E-} -- HarperCollins, 2009., RL 1.6, 32p

Irene and her menagerie of pets, including Max the duck, take in an alligator who has run away from the zoo, in spite of grave concerns about his voracious appetite.

Duck! Rabbit! -- Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Chronicle Books, 2009., RL 1.4, 34p

Two unseen characters argue about whether the creature they are looking at is a rabbit or a duck.

Dwarf Planets : Pluto, Charon, Ceres, and Eris -- Loewen, Nancy. {IL K-3, 523.4}-- Picture Window Books, 2008., RL 2.9, 24p

Describes the dwarf planets--Pluto, Charon, Ceres, and Eris--covering their orbits, moons, size, surfaces, and other characteristics.

Eleanor, Quiet No More : the Life of Eleanor Roosevelt -- Rappaport, Doreen. {IL 3-6, 973.917} -- Disney/Hyperion Books, 2009., RL 4.1, 40p

A biographical tribute to the upbringing and career of Eleanor Roosevelt, who taught children in poor neighborhoods in New York City and worked as an ambassador, activist, and champion of civil rights.

The Elephant Wish -- Berger, Lou. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Schwartz & Wade Books, 2008., RL 5, 42p

Soon after wishing that an elephant will come and take her away from her too-busy parents, Eliza's fondest desire comes true but her journey is observed by ninety-seven-year-old Adelle, who once made the same wish.

Elephants of Africa -- Gibbons, Gail. {IL K-3, 599.67} -- Holiday House, 2008., RL 2.8, 32p  
Presents facts about the behaviors, habitats, diet, physical characteristics and abilities, socialization, and other aspects of African elephants.

Fly, Monarch! Fly! -- Wallace, Nancy Elizabeth. {IL K-3, 595.78} -- Marshall Cavendish Children, 2008., RL 2.6, 40p

Minna, Pip, Mom, and Dad choose a blue-sky day to visit the Butterfly Place where they observe all the stages in a butterfly's life, and get to see monarch butterflies in action.

Hank Finds Inspiration -- Frazier, Craig. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Roaring Brook Press, 2008., RL 2.9, 32p

Hank the snake follows his friend Stanley into the city when Stanley goes off in search for inspiration, but after Hank looks and can not seem to find any, until he returns home.

The Hanukkah Mice -- Kroll, Steven. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Marshall Cavendish Children, 2008., RL 3.5, 40p

A family of mice enjoys the doll house and furnishings that Rachel receives as gifts on the eight nights of Hanukkah.

Happy School Year! -- Milord, Susan. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Scholastic Press, 2008., RL 2.8, 40p  
Children gather for a first day of school celebration that calms their worries about the day. Includes note about the history of such celebrations, and a related website.

How Many Ways--Can You Catch a Fly? -- Jenkins, Steve. {IL K-3, 591.5} -- Houghton Mifflin, 2008., RL 4.1, 32p

Looks at how different animals, such as a rainbow trout, chimney swift, and slender loris, approach the challenges of catching flies, digging holes, eating clams, and hatching eggs.

Hurry! Hurry! Have You Heard? -- Melmed, Laura Krauss. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Chronicle Books, 2008., RL 3.2, 30p

A small bird, her heart filled with love, hurries from her perch above the manger to spread the news to creatures of the field and forest that a child, to whom all are precious, has been born.

I Completely Know About Guinea Pigs -- Child, Lauren. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Dial Books for Young Readers, 2008., RL 2, 30p

Lola brings the class guinea pig, Bert, home during summer vacation, and when she and her brother Charlie build a guinea pig run, he escapes, causing them to search everywhere until they find that Bert has surprisingly given birth to babies.

In a Blue Room -- Averbeck, Jim. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Harcourt, 2008., RL 1.9, 32p  
Alice wants everything in her bedroom to be blue before she falls asleep.

Into the Volcano : a Graphic Novel -- Wood, Don. {IL 3-6, 741.5} -- Blue Sky Press, 2008., RL 5.9, 174p

While their parents are away doing research, brothers Duffy and Sumo Pugg go with their cousin, Mister Come-and-Go, to Kokalaha Island, where they meet Aunt Lulu and become trapped in an erupting volcano.

Kitchen Dance -- Manning, Maurie. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Clarion Books, 2008., RL 2.6, 30p  
Two sleepy children sneak out of their beds to watch as their parents, who love each other very much, break into a dance while washing the dishes.

Little Chick -- Hest, Amy. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Candlewick, 2009., RL 1.6, 50p  
A collection of three stories in which Little Chick learns how to deal with life's disappointments with the help of his beloved auntie.

The Magic Pillow -- Demi. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2008., RL 3.7, 32p  
A poor young boy in China yearns for wealth and power, until a magician gives him a magic pillow that brings dreams of what would happen if his wishes came true.

March On! : The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World -- Farris, Christine King. {IL 3-6, 323} -- Scholastic Press, 2008., RL 3.7, 32p  
Christine King Farris describes how her brother, Martin Luther King, Jr., prepared for his legendary "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C.

Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed -- Willems, Mo. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Hyperion Books for Children, 2009., RL 2.9, 36p  
Wilbur is the only naked mole rat in his colony who enjoys wearing clothes, and when Grandpah, the oldest and most naked mole rat, discovers his secret, Wilbur fears he will be ostracized from the colony.

Night of the Moon -- Khan, Hena. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Chronicle Books, 2008., RL 3.9, 30p  
Yasmeen has a wonderful time celebrating the Muslim holy month of Ramadan with her family and friends.

Nit-pickin' -- Van Laan, Nancy. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008., RL 2.8, 32p  
Family members go to great lengths to rid their child of head lice.

The North Star -- Reynolds, Peter H. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Candlewick, 2009.  
Curious about many of the things around him, a young boy goes off to discover the more about himself and his world.

Oggie Cooder -- Weeks, Sarah. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Scholastic Press, 2008., RL 6.2, 172p  
Quirky fourth-grader Oggie Cooder goes from being shunned to everyone's best friend when his uncanny ability to chew slices of cheese into the shapes of states wins him a slot on a popular television talent show, but he soon learns the perils of being a celebrity--and having a neighbor girl as his manager.

The One and Only Marigold -- Heide, Florence Parry. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Schwartz & Wade Books, 2009., RL 2.1, 34p  
Relates the misadventures of Marigold, who does not agree with anyone, as she shops with her mother for a coat, becomes interested in a new hobby, finds a way to "bug" her best friend, Maxine, and imaginatively copes with finding the right outfit for the first day of school.

One False Note -- Korman, Gordon. - {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Scholastic, 2008., RL 4.2, 174p  
Amy and Dan Cahill are in the lead to find thirty-nine clues that safeguard a great power, and are in possession of a coded sheet of Mozart's music that will help them find the next clue while their relatives follow in close pursuit. Book Two of the 39 Clues series.

The Origami Master -- Lachenmeyer, Nathaniel. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Albert Whitman, 2008., RL 3.8, 32p

An Origami Master whose only company has been his creations captures someone who has been leaving him a magnificent origami animal each night.

Otto Runs for President -- Wells, Rosemary. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Scholastic Press, 2008., RL 2.4, 32p

While the popular Tiffany and athletic Charles make increasingly outrageous promises in their campaigns for President of Canine Country Day School, Otto quietly enters the race, vowing only to try to do what students really want.

Otto's Orange Day : a Toon Book -- Lynch, Jay. {IL K-3, 741.5} -- Little Lit Library, 2008., RL 1.4, 40p

Otto meets a magical genie who grants his wish to make the whole world orange, but Otto soon realizes orange isn't the best color for everything, especially spinach.

A Penguin Story -- Portis, Antoinette. {IL K-3, -E-} -- HarperCollins, 2009., RL 1.4, 34p  
Edna the penguin tries to find something in her surroundings that is not black, white, or blue.

Pizza, Pigs, and Poetry : How to Write a Poem -- Prelutsky, Jack. {IL 3-6, 811} -- Greenwillow Books, 2008., RL 4.9, 191p

Explains to kids how to write poems about everyday subjects from their lives, such as experiences with their family, friends, and pets, providing tips, example poems, and exercises.

Princess K.I.M. and the Lie That Grew -- Cocca-Leffler, Maryann. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Albert Whitman & Co., 2009., RL 2.3, 32p

In an attempt to impress her new classmates, Kim lies about her name and claims that she comes from a royal family, but she gets herself into real trouble after her classmates beg to meet Kim's grandmother--the Queen.

The Road to Oz : Twists, Turns, Bumps, and Triumphs in the Life of L. Frank Baum -- Krull, Kathleen. {IL 3-6, 813} -- Alfred A. Knopf, 2008., RL 6.4, 36p

An illustrated biography of L. Frank Baum that discusses his childhood, failed occupations, success as a children's author, and other related topics.

Santa Duck -- Milgrim, David. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Putnam's, 2008., RL 2.2, 32p

While wearing a Santa hat and coat that he found on his doorstep, Nicholas Duck goes off in search of the real Santa Claus, but when his neighbors see him, they mistake him for the real thing.

The Scrambled States of America : Talent Show -- Keller, Laurie. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Henry Holt, 2008., RL 4, 36p

The states decide to get together and put on a show featuring their particular talents. Also includes facts about the history and geography of the states.

Smelly Locker : Silly Dilly School Songs -- Katz, Alan. {IL K-3, 782.42} -- Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2008., RL 2.5, 32p

Well-known songs, including "Oh Susannah" and "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," are

presented with new words and titles, such as "Heavy Backpack!" and "I Don't Want to Do Homework!"

Soup for Breakfast : Poems and Pictures -- Brown, Calef. {IL K-3, 811} -- Houghton Mifflin, 2008., RL 2.9, 32p

An illustrated collection of poems for children by American writer Calef Brown.

The Storyteller's Candle -- Gonzalez, Lucia M. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Children's Book Press, 2008., RL 2.6, 30p

During the early days of the Great Depression, New York City's first Puerto Rican librarian, Pura Belpre, introduces the public library to immigrants living in El Barrio and hosts the neighborhood's first Three Kings' Day fiesta. Presented in English and Spanish.

Teeth -- Collard, Sneed B. {IL K-3, 591.4} -- Charlesbridge, 2008., RL 3.9, 32p

Offers detailed information about how people and various species of animals use their teeth.

There's a Wolf at the Door -- Alley, Zoe B. {IL K-3, 398.2} -- Roaring Brook Press, 2008., RL 3.5, 34p

As his plans are spoiled over and over again, the wolf keeps trying to find his dinner, in this retelling of five well-known stories and fables.

This Is Your Life Cycle -- Miller, Heather. {IL K-3, 595.7} -- Clarion Books, 2008., RL 4.2, 32p

Bob Beetle follows the life of Dahlia Dragonfly, providing information on the different stages in the life of a dragonfly, predators they face, what they eat, and other topics.

Turtle Girl -- Crowe, Carole. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Boyds Mills Press, 2008., RL 3.7, 32p

As her grandmother taught her, Magdalena continues to protect the sea turtles that nest near her home even after Grandma's death.

Twelve Terrible Things -- Kelley, Marty. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Tricycle Press, 2008., RL 1.4, 28p  
Grownups who wax nostalgic about their youth are given a visual tour through twelve terrible experiences of childhood, including bedtime monsters and "atomic wedgies."

Twenty-odd Ducks : Why, Every Punctuation Mark Counts! -- Truss, Lynne. {IL K-3, 428.2} -  
- G.P. Putman's Sons, 2008., RL 1.7, 32p

Explains the importance of punctuation for conveying specific meaning in a written sentence, and describes, with illustrations, how changing punctuation can drastically change the meaning of what is being communicated.

Two Bobbies : a True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival -- Larson, Kirby. {IL K-3, 636.08} -- Walker, 2008., RL 2.2, 32p

Tells the true story of Bobbie the dog and Bob Cat, two pets who bonded together and were able to survive the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Walking to School -- Bunting, Eve. {IL 3-6, -E-} -- Clarion Books, 2008., RL 2.9, 32p

When the path to eight-year-old Allison's Catholic school goes through hostile Protestant territory in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Allison finds she is not alone in her loathing of the situation.

Wanda Gag : the Creator of Millions of Cats : the Girl Who Lived to Draw -- Ray, Deborah Kogan. {IL K-3, 741.6} -- Viking, 2008., RL 5.9, 40p

A biography of children's book illustrator Wanda Gag, discussing her introduction to art, her struggles to help support her family after the death of her beloved father, and her determination to pursue her dream of becoming an artist.

Washington at Valley Forge -- Freedman, Russell. {IL 3-6, 973.3} -- Holiday House, 2008., RL 7.2, 100p

Provides an account of the six months during which the soldiers in George Washington's command camped at Valley Forge, enduring the harsh winter of 1777-78 without adequate food, clothing, or blankets.

Watch Me Throw the Ball! -- Willems, Mo. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Hyperion Books for Children, 2009., RL 1.3, 57p

Gerald gets serious about teaching Piggie to throw a ball, but Piggie, as usual, just wants to have fun.

Ways to Live Forever -- Nicholls, Sally. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Arthur A. Levine Books, 2008., RL 4, 212p

Eleven-year-old Sam McQueen, who has leukemia, writes a book during the last three months of his life, in which he tells about what he would like to accomplish, how he feels, and things that have happened to him.

We Are the Ship : the Story of Negro League Baseball -- Nelson, Kadir. {IL 3-6, 796.357} - - Jump at the Sun/Hyperion, 2008., RL 6, 88p

Explores the history of Negro League baseball teams, discussing owners, players, hardships, wins, and losses; and including illustrations.

We're Off to Look for Aliens -- McNaughton, Colin. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Candlewick Press, 2008., RL 2.1, 40p

A man who writes children's books presents his latest book, which is about aliens, to his family to read.

What Can You Do With a Rebozo? -- Tafolla, Carmen. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Tricycle Press, 2008., RL 2.9, 25p

A spunky, young Mexican American girl explains the many uses of her mother's red rebozo, or long scarf.

Wild Tracks! : a Guide to Nature's Footprints -- Arnosky, Jim. {IL 3-6, 591.47} -- Sterling, 2008., RL 5.9, 32p

Presents detailed illustrations of life-size paw, claw, and hoof prints; and explains how to identify tracks and how fast the animal might be traveling.

Willie and the All-Stars -- Cooper, Floyd. {IL 3-6, -E-} -- Philomel Books, 2008., RL 3.3, 32p

Willie, a boy growing up on the north side of Chicago in 1942, is disheartened when a neighbor tells him his skin color prohibits him from ever realizing his dream of playing professional baseball, but his hopes are revived when he sees an exhibition game at Wrigley Field between an astonishing Negro League team and players from the Major Leagues.

Wings -- Collard, Sneed B. {IL K-3, 591.47} -- Charlesbridge, 2008., RL 3.2, 31p  
Colorful illustrations and simple text describe the mechanics of flight and how various animals can fly.

Wolfsnail : a Backyard Predator -- Campbell, Sarah C. {IL K-3, 594} -- Boyds Mills Press, 2008., RL 4.4, 32p  
Close-up photographs and simple text describe how a wolf snail hunts, attacks, and eats its prey.

Woolbur -- Helakoski, Leslie. {IL K-3, -E-} -- HarperCollinsPublishers, 2008., RL 2.3, 31p  
Woolbur, a young sheep who thinks differently than the others, worries his mother and father with his free-spiritedness, but his grandfather thinks he will be fine.

The Year the Swallows Came Early -- Fitzmaurice, Kathryn. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Bowen Press, 2009., RL 5.9, 277p  
After her father is sent to jail, eleven-year-old Groovy Robinson must decide if she can forgive the failings of someone she loves.