

## IMC Recommended List K-6 March 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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Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek : a Tall, Thin Tale (introducing his forgotten frontier friend) -- Hopkinson, Deborah. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Schwartz & Wade Books, 2008., RL 3.4, 36p  
In Knob Creek, Kentucky, in 1816, seven-year-old Abe Lincoln falls into a creek and is rescued by his best friend, Austin Gollaher.

Art From Her Heart : Folk Artist Clementine Hunter -- Whitehead, Kathy. {IL K-3, 759.13} -  
- G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2008., RL 4.2, 32p  
Tells the story of Clementine Hunter, an African-American folk artist from Louisiana who decided in her middle years to become a painter, documenting scenes from her life, and attracting a great following, even though she was sometimes not allowed in the galleries to view her own exhibits.

Art's Supplies -- Tougas, Chris. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Orca Book Publishers, 2008., RL 2.2, 32p  
Things get totally out of control when Art's art supplies decide to throw a party.

Bear's Picture -- Pinkwater, Daniel Manus, 1941- {IL K-3, -E-} -- Houghton Mifflin Company, 2008, 1972., RL 2, 32p  
A bear continues to paint what he likes despite the criticism of two passing gentlemen who believe that bears cannot be artists. New illustrations modernize this familiar story.

Bees, Snails, & Peacock Tails : Patterns & Shapes-- Naturally -- Franco, Betsy. {IL K-3, 811}  
-- Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2008., RL 5.4, 32p  
Rhyming text and illustrations depict the science and geometrical patterns of various animals, such as starfish, peacocks, diamondback snakes, and spiders.

Bird -- Elliott, Zetta. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Lee & Low Books, 2008., RL 4, 42p  
Bird, an artistic young African American boy, expresses himself through drawing as he struggles to understand his older brother's drug addiction and death, while a family friend, Uncle Son, provides guidance and understanding.

Birds on a Wire : a Renga 'round Town -- Lewis, J. Patrick. {IL K-3, 811} -- Wordsong, 2008., RL 4.3, 32p  
Describes daily life in a small, American town through linked verses written by various authors.

A Birthday for Cow! -- Thomas, Jan. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Harcourt, 2008., RL 1.6, 34p  
Pig and Mouse work together to make Cow the best birthday cake ever, despite Duck's unconventional cooking methods.

The Black Book of Colors -- Cottin, Menena. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, 2008., RL 3.6, 24p

Raised black line drawings on black pages encourage people to use their other senses to experience art, helping them understand what it is like to be blind.

Boy, Were We Wrong About the Solar System! -- Kudlinski, Kathleen V. {IL K-3, 523.2} -- Dutton Children's Books, 2008., RL 4, 32p

Looks at scientific discovery as a process of mistakes, mishaps, and enlightenment, and discusses how theories have changed throughout the history of research into the solar system.

Bringing in the New Year -- Lin, Grace. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Knopf, 2008., RL 1.6, 28p

A Chinese American family prepares for and celebrates the Lunar New Year. Includes endnotes that discuss the customs and traditions of Chinese New Year.

The Butter Man -- Alalou, Elizabeth. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Charlesbridge, 2008., RL 3.2, 32p

While Nora waits for the couscous her father is cooking to be finished, he tells her a story about his youth in the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco.

The Cardboard Piano -- Perkins, Lynne Rae. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Greenwillow Books, 2008., RL 3.4, 32p

After Debbie tries to interest Tina in playing the piano by creating a cardboard keyboard, they discover that it does not have the same appeal, and come to realize that best friends do not have to share everything. Includes a DVD.

The Day Leo Said I Hate You! -- Harris, Robie H. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Little, Brown, 2008., RL 2.2, 32p

Leo, upset that he has been hearing the word "no" all day, lets three words slip out that he wishes he could take back.

Dirty Joe, the Pirate : a True Story -- Harley, Bill, 1954 {IL K-3, -E-} - HarperCollins Publishers, 2008., RL 3.3, 32p

Dirty Joe and his pirate crew terrorize the seven seas in their quest for dirty socks, but they meet their match in Stinky Annie, whose favorite loot is pilfered underwear.

The Dog Who Loved the Moon -- Garcia, Cristina, 1958- {IL K-3, -E-} -- Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008., RL 2.7, 32p

When her dog becomes lovesick for the moon, a young Cuban girl and her uncle call the moon down to give the dog a kiss, with surprising results.

Doggone Dogs! -- Beaumont, Karen. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Dial Books for Young Readers, 2008., RL 1.7, 40p

Ten unruly dogs get loose at obedience school, and when they are captured by the dog-catcher, they work together to effect their escape and return home.

Duel! : Burr and Hamilton's Deadly War of Words -- Fradin, Dennis. {IL 3-6, 973.4} -- Walker & Co., 2008., RL 5.7, 36p

Examines the Burr-Hamilton duel which occurred on July 11, 1804, in which vice-president

Aaron Burr and the secretary of treasury, Alexander Hamilton, used dueling pistols to settle their political grievances.

Elizabeth Leads the Way : Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote -- Stone, Tanya Lee. {IL K-3, 305.42} -- Henry Holt, 2008., RL 3.1, 32p

A brief biography of the life and achievements of nineteenth-century women's rights activist, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who fought for a woman's right to vote.

Grace for President -- DiPucchio, Kelly S. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Hyperion Books for Children, 2008., RL 2, 36p

After finding out there has never been a female U.S. president, Grace decides to run in her school's mock election, where she learns about the American electoral system and sets out to be the best person for the job even though her opponent, Thomas, seems to be winning all the boys' votes.

Gran, You've Got Mail! -- Hoestlandt, Jou. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Delacorte Press, 2008., RL 5, 112p

Lively letters between a self-centered young girl and her wise great-grandmother reveal generational differences and a deep affection for each other.

Hate That Cat -- Creech, Sharon. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Joanna Cotler Books, 2008., RL 5.2, 153p  
Jack is studying poetry again in school, and he continues to write poems reflecting his understanding of famous works and how they relate to his life. Sequel to Love That Dog.

Hogwash -- Geisert, Arthur. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Houghton Mifflin, 2008., 32p

Illustrations without words depict the enormous and complicated contraption that Mama Pig uses to get her little piglets clean.

Hooray for Fly Guy! -- Arnold, Tedd. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Scholastic, 2008., RL 1.4, 30p

Fly Guy joins Buzz's football team, despite Coach's misgivings, and hits the field for a special, secret play.

How I Learned Geography -- Shulevitz, Uri. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Farrar Straus Giroux, 2008., RL 2.7, 32p

As he spends hours studying his father's world map, a young boy escapes the hunger and misery of refugee life. Based on the author's childhood in Kazakhstan, where he lived as a Polish refugee during World War II.

How to Heal a Broken Wing -- Graham, Bob. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Candlewick Press, 2008., RL 2.1, 40p

When Will finds a bird with a broken wing, he takes it home and cares for it, hoping in time it will be able to return to the sky.

Humpty Dumpty Climbs Again -- Horowitz, Dave. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Putnams, 2008., RL 2.8, 32p

Humpty Dumpty has not climbed a single wall since his great fall, despite the urging of friends and teasing of others, but when one of the king's horses is stuck he finds the courage--and the proper climbing equipment--to help out.

I Feel a Foot! -- Rinck, Maranke. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Lemniscaat, 2008., RL 2.1, 34p

Five animal friends, awakened by a strange noise, discover a creature in the dark that seems to be a giant-sized version of each of them.

Jack's House -- Beil, Karen Magnuson. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Holiday House, 2008., RL 2.4, 32p  
Cumulative text reveals who was really responsible for the house that Jack claims to have built, and describes all of the trucks involved, from the bulldozer used to clear the land to the van that brought a hammock for the back yard.

Jack the Tripper -- Barretta, Gene. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Harcourt, 2008., RL 2.4, 38p  
Someone is tripping students at Benjamin Dizzy Elementary School and taking their candy and homework, but the resulting nervousness does not quell people's excitement over the upcoming Dizzy Day Parade, when the rule is "anything goes."

Jeremy Cabbage and the Living Museum of Human Oddballs and Quadruped Delights -- Elliott, David. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Alfred A. Knopf, 2008., RL 5.6, 307p  
While searching for a loving family, orphaned Jeremy becomes entangled in a conflict between his city's arrogant and oppressive leader, the Baron von Strompie, and a group of outlandish people called the "cloons."

Just in Case : a Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book -- Morales, Yuyi. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Roaring Brook Press, 2008., RL 2.3, 34p  
As Senor Calavera prepares for Grandma Beetle's birthday he finds an alphabetical assortment of unusual presents, but with the help of Zelmiro the Ghost, he finds the best gift of all.

Little Blue Truck -- Schertle, Alice. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Harcourt, 2008., RL 1.5, 40p  
A small blue truck finds his way out of a jam, with a little help from his friends.

Little Britches and the Rattlers -- Kimmel, Eric A. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Marshall Cavendish Children, 2008., RL 2.4, 30p  
As Little Britches, in her best attire, starts for the rodeo in town, she is waylaid by several rattlesnakes wanting to do her harm, but with some quick thinking she finds a way to outsmart them all.

Little Red Bird -- Bruel, Nick. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Roaring Brook Press, 2008., RL 2.4, 32p  
After escaping from her cage to see the world, a little red bird finds it difficult to decide whether to stay free or to go home and never fly again.

The Little Yellow Leaf -- Berger, Carin. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Greenwillow Books, 2008., RL 4.9, 31p  
A yellow leaf is not ready to fall from the tree when autumn comes, but finally, after finding another leaf still on the tree, the two let go together.

The London Eye Mystery -- Dowd, Siobhan. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- David Fickling Books, 2008, 2007., RL 6.1, 322p  
When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye Ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

Look Out, Suzy Goose -- Horacek, Petr. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Candlewick Press, 2008., RL 1.7, 34p  
Susy sets off into the woods to find some peace and quiet, unaware she is being followed by a group of hungry animals.

A Man For All Seasons : the Life of George Washington Carver -- Krensky, Stephen. {IL K-3, 630} -- Amistad, 2008., RL 4.8, 32p

Profiles the African American scientist George Washington Carver, who not only put the peanut on the map, but was also one of the first advocates of recycling.

Margaret Chase Smith : a Woman for President : a Time Line Biography -- Plourde, Lynn. {IL 3-6, 328.73} -- Charlesbridge, 2008., RL 6.7, 30p

Offers a brief overview of the life and political career of Margaret Chase Smith, discussing her childhood, schooling, marriage, years in Congress and the Senate, presidential campaign, and impact on American history.

The Maze of Bones -- Riordan, Rick. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Scholastic, 2008., RL 4.5, 220p  
Amy and Dan, members of the powerful Cahill family, try to uncover the thirty-nine clues which will reveal the secrets of their lineage and find out what really happened to their parents.

The Moon Over Star -- Aston, Dianna Hutts. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Dial Books for Young Readers, 2008., RL 4.8, 32p

On her family's farm in the town of Star, eight-year-old Mae eagerly follows the progress of the 1969 Apollo 11 flight and moon landing and dreams that she might one day be an astronaut, too.

Mr. Lincoln's Boys : Being the Mostly True Adventures of Abraham Lincoln's Trouble-making Sons, Tad and Willie -- Rabin, Staton. {IL K-3, 973.7} -- Viking, 2008., RL 3.8, 36p

An illustrated story recounting the adventures of Abraham Lincoln and his two sons that focuses on the years Lincoln was President.

Mr. Putter & Tabby Run the Race -- Rylant, Cynthia. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Harcourt, 2008., RL 1.4, 44p

Mr. Putter, a senior who does not like to run, makes a goal to place second in a marathon so he can win a train set.

My Heart Glow : Alice Cogswell, Thomas Gallaudet, and the Birth of American Sign Language -- McCully, Emily Arnold. {IL K-3, 371} -- Hyperion Books for Children, 2008., RL 2.8, 32p

Describes the history of the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, Connecticut, and the invention of American Sign Language, and includes biographical information on the school's founder, Thomas Gallaudet, and Alice Cogswell, the young girl who inspired the creation.

My One Hundred Adventures -- Horvath, Polly. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Schwartz & Wade Books, 2008., RL 5.2, 260p

Twelve-year-old Jane, who lives at the beach in a run-down old house with her mother, two brothers, and sister, has an eventful summer accompanying her pastor on Bible deliveries, meeting former boyfriends of her mother's, and being coerced into babysitting for a family of ill-mannered children.

The Mystery -- Eaton, Maxwell. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Knopf, 2008., RL 1.6, 38p

Max and Pinky spend the day painting their barn a nice red, but wake up the next morning to find it has turned pink, and when the color changes again the following day, the pair sets out to solve the mystery.

Nightmare at the Book Fair -- Gutman, Dan. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2008., RL 3.3, 230p

On his way to lacrosse tryouts, the president of the PTA asks Trip Dinkelman to help her with the book fair, resulting in Trip sustaining a head injury which causes him temporary amnesia and makes for an interesting journey home.

One Boy -- Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Roaring Brook Press, 2008., 42p  
A boy creates ten paintings in this counting book that also explores the relationship of words within words.

Papa and Me -- Dorros, Arthur. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Rayo, 2008., RL 2, 25p  
A bilingual boy and his father, who only speaks Spanish, spend a day together.

The Pencil -- Ahlberg, Allan {IL K-3, -E-} -- Candlewick Press, 2008., RL 2.9, 48p  
A lonely pencil draws Banjo, and also a dog, a cat, and other people, but when the characters start complaining about their appearance, the writing instrument draws an eraser, which starts to create chaos.

Phineas L. MacGuire-- Blasts Off! -- Dowell, Frances O'Roark. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008., RL 4.6, 188p  
Hoping to earn money to attend Space Camp, fourth-grade science whiz Phineas MacGuire gets a job as a dog walker, then enlists the aid of his friends Ben and Aretha to help with experiments using the dog's "slobber."

Potato Joe -- Baker, Keith. {IL K-3, 811} -- Harcourt, 2008., RL 1.3, 40p  
Potato Joe leads the other spuds from the familiar nursery rhyme, "One Potato, Two Potato," in various activities, from a game of tic-tac-toe to a rodeo.

Presidents' Day -- Rockwell, Anne F. {IL K-3, -E-} -- HarperCollins, 2008., RL 2.7, 34p  
Mrs. Madoff's preschool class learns about President's Day and puts on a play about the men who inspired the holiday, particularly those featured on Mount Rushmore.

Princess Peepers -- Calvert, Pam. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Marshall Cavendish Children, 2008., RL 3.7, 32p  
Princess Peepers decides to shed her glasses after the other princesses make fun of her; but after several mishaps during the course of the day, she has to admit that she really does need her glasses.

The Queen of Style -- Buehner, Caralyn. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Dial Books for Young Readers, 2008., RL 3.4, 34p  
Queen Sophie, bored with her life as ruler of a kingdom of peaceful, happy farmers, decides to take the Royal College of Beauty correspondence course and soon manages to cause an uproar among her subjects with her demands that they appear before her for new hairdos.

Rex Zero, King of Nothing -- Wynne-Jones, Tim. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008., RL 4.6, 217p  
Rex-Norton-Norton, an eleven-year-old boy living in Ottawa in 1962, faces several confusing mysteries, including his father's troubling secrets from World War II, the problems of a beautiful but unhappy woman named Natasha, what to do about his mean and vindictive teacher, and whether or not he should even be concerned about such things.

A River of Words : the Story of William Carlos Williams -- Bryant, Jennifer. {IL 3-6, 811} -  
- Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2008., RL 5, 34p

Presents a picture book biography of American poet William Carlos Williams, who studied to become a doctor, but still found time to write poetry.

Sandy's Circus : a Story About Alexander Calder -- Stone, Tanya Lee. {IL K-3, 730} -- Viking, 2008., RL 3.6, 32p

An illustrated account of American mobile artist Alexander Calder's creation of a miniature circus from wire, string, rubber, cloth, and other found objects, which grew to fill multiple suitcases.

Sharks : Biggest! Littlest! -- Markle, Sandra. {IL K-3, 597.3} -- Boyds Mills Press, 2008., RL 3.7, 32p

Introduces young readers to the many sharks that swim in the oceans, and describes the unique characteristics of both big and small sharks, including the great whites and cookie-cutter sharks.

Silly Lilly and the Four Seasons : a Toon Book -- Rosenstiehl, Agnes. {IL K-3, 741.5} -- Little Lit Library, 2008., RL .8, 36p

Presents five short adventures in which a spunky young girl named Lilly enjoys spring, summer, fall, winter, and spring again.

Simms Taback's Great Big Book of Spacey, Snakey, Buggy Riddles -- Hall, Katy. {IL K-3, 818} -- Viking, 2008., RL 3.9

An illustrated collection of easy-to-read riddles for young readers that features riddles about bugs, snakes, and outer space.

Someday When My Cat Can Talk -- Lazo, Caroline Evensen. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Schwartz & Wade Books, 2008., RL 2.9, 34p

A girl imagines what her cat would tell her about its exotic travels to such places as the foggy English coast, Spanish bullfights, and an art gallery in Monmartre, France. Includes facts about the places mentioned.

Someone for Mr. Sussman -- Polacco, Patricia. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Philomel Books, 2008., RL 2.3, 40p

Although she is the best matchmaker in the neighborhood, Jerome's Bubbie has a hard time finding a match for the fussy Mr. Sussman.

Spuds -- Hesse, Karen. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Scholastic Press, 2008., RL 4.2, 32p

Maybelle, Jack, and Eddie want to help Ma by putting something extra on the table, so they set out in the dark to take potatoes from a nearby field, but when they arrive home and empty their potato sacks, they are surprised by what they see.

Swindle -- Korman, Gordon. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Scholastic Press, 2008., RL 5.9, 252p

After unscrupulous collector S. Wendell Palamino cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of misfits to break into Palamino's heavily guarded store and steal the card back, planning to use the money to finance his father's failing invention, the Smart Pick fruit picker.

Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes -- Fox, Mem. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Harcourt, 2008., RL 3.2, 40p

Rhyming text compares babies who, although born in different places and in different circumstances, each have ten little fingers and ten little toes.

Too Many Toys -- Shannon, David. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Blue Sky Press, 2008., RL 3, 32p  
After he finally concedes that he has far too many toys, Spencer agrees to give many of them away, but realizes that there is one special toy that he absolutely cannot part with.

Toy Dance Party : Being the Further Adventures of a Bossyboots Stingray, a Courageous Buffalo, and a Hopeful Round Someone Called Plastic -- Jenkins, Emily. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Schwartz & Wade Books, 2008., RL 4.5, 159p  
Six stories relate further adventures of three best friends, who happen to be toys, as they encounter a fearsome--possible--shark, enjoy a dance party, and deal with rejection by The Girl, who is growing up.

Traction Man Meets Turbodog -- Grey, Mini. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Alfred A. Knopf, 2008., RL 3.4, 32p  
Traction Man braves the evil bin things in order to save Scrubbing Brush, who had been thrown away by the little boy's father and replaced with a battery-operated dog.

Wabi Sabi -- Reibstein, Mark. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2008., RL 2.8, 36p  
Wabi Sabi, a cat living in the city of Kyoto, learns about the Japanese concept of beauty through simplicity as she asks various animals she meets about the meaning of her name.

Wangari's Trees of Peace : a True Story of Africa -- Winter, Jeanette. {IL K-3, 333.72} -- Harcourt, 2008., RL 3.5, 32p  
Tells the story of Wangari Maathai, a Nobel Prize-winning environmentalist who, shocked to see entire forests being cut down in her native country of Kenya, decides to take action, beginning with the planting of nine seedlings in her own backyard.

We're Going on a Book Hunt -- Miller Pat. {IL PF, 372.4} -- Upstart Books, 2008.  
A rhyming picture book featuring forest animals as they take a trip to the library and learn proper library skills; and includes library lesson guide.

When the Sergeant Came Marching Home -- Lemna, Don. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Holiday House, 2008., RL 5.7, 215p  
When his father returns from the war in 1946, a ten year old boy and his family move from their home in a Montana town to an old, run-down farm in the middle of nowhere where they work hard trying to make ends meet.

The Wolves Are Back -- George, Jean Craighead. {IL K-3, 599.773} -- Dutton Childrens Books, 2008., RL 2.5, 32p  
Describes the ecological benefits brought about by the reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone National Park.

Yoko Writes Her Name -- Wells, Rosemary. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Hyperion Books for Children, 2008., RL 2.1, 24p  
Kindergartner Yoko not only learns to write her letters and numbers in English, she shows her teacher and fellow students how to write their names using Japanese calligraphy.

You Can't Do That, Amelia! -- Klier, Kimberly. {IL K-3, 629.13} -- Calkins Creek, 2008., RL 3.1, 32p  
Describes Amelia Earhart's determination and efforts to become one of the world's first female pilots.