



# Saint Ann's School, 2009 Suggested Summer Reading List

for students entering **fifth & sixth** grades

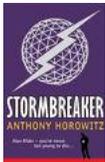


Here are some great books for summer. Read them on the beach, in your room, on the plane—anywhere you can hold a book. When you come back to school in the fall, visit the Saint Ann's Library and let us know which of them you enjoyed most.

—With love from your librarians: *Denise, Ragan, Maria, and Eva*

**FYI:** This list is divided into five sections—Series, Classic Fiction, Newer Fiction, Nonfiction, Graphic Novels, and Hands-On.

## Series



**Alex Rider** by Anthony Horowitz

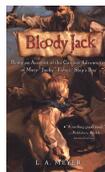
Following the untimely death of the uncle who was raising him, teenager Alex Rider is recruited into a shocking family business—spying for the British government.

**The Series:** *Stormbreaker, Point Blank, Skeleton Key, Eagle Strike, Scorpio, Ark Angel*



**Artemis Fowl** by Eoin Colfer

When a twelve-year-old criminal mastermind tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the little people fight back with magic, technology, and a very nasty troll. **The Series:** *Artemis Fowl, The Arctic Incident, The Eternity Code, The Opal Deception, The Lost Colony, The Time Paradox*



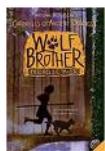
**Bloody Jack** by L.A. Meyer

Jacky Farber loves being a ship's boy aboard the HMS Dolphin. It's a vast improvement over Jacky's previous life—scavenging for food with other orphans on the dangerous streets of 18th Century London. There's just one catch: Jacky is a girl. **The Series:** *Bloody Jack, in Curse of the Blue Tattoo, Under the Jolly Roger, In the Belly of the Bloodhound, Mississippi Jack, and My Bonny Light Horseman*



**The Chronicles of Narnia** by C.S. Lewis

Siblings enter an ordinary looking closet (a wardrobe), and magic happens. You haven't read it yet? Do it this summer! **The Series:** *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe, Prince Caspian, The Voyage of the Dawn Treader, The Silver Chair, The Horse and His Boy, The Magician's Nephew, The Last Battle*



**Chronicles of Ancient Darkness** by Michelle Paver

This series takes you way back into time—6,000 years ago, to a world of spirits and mysticism. Torak, raised by his father in the forest, is secluded from the people of the clans. But when his father is killed by a demon-possessed bear, Torak finds himself alone. He will survive—but survival is only the beginning. **The Series:** *Wolf Brother, Spirit Walker, Soul Eater, Outcast*



**The Enchanted Forest Chronicles** by Patricia C. Wrede

Bored with traditional palace life, Princess Cimorene runs away to live with dragons. Soon, she finds herself leading a battle to save the dragon kingdom from a band of wicked wizards. **The Series:** *Dealing With Dragons, Searching for Dragons, Calling on Dragons, Talking to Dragons*



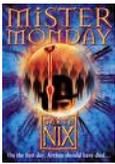
**Fudge** by Judy Blume

About a typical New York kid named Peter Hatcher and his annoyingly cute little brother whose nickname is Fudge. Is it the best kids' series ever? You be the judge. **The Series:** *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great, Superfudge, Fudge-a-Mania, Double Fudge*



**The Great Brain** by John D. Fitzgerald

Hilarious and historically fascinating—the ongoing exploits of a Catholic boy growing up in mostly-Mormon Utah at the turn of the last century. Meet his clever and tricky older brother (“The Great Brain”), his newspaper-publisher dad, and other wild characters including robbers, traveling salesmen, and a cute orphan. **The Series:** *The Great Brain, More Adventures of the Great Brain, Me and My Little Brain, The Great Brain At The Academy, The Great Brain Reforms, The Return of the Great Brain, The Great Brain Does It Again, The Great Brain Is Back*



**The Keys to the Kingdom** by Garth Nix

Arthur Penhaligon is not supposed to be a hero. He is supposed to die an early death. But his life is saved by a key shaped like the minute hand of a clock—and the adventure begins. **The Series:** *Mister Monday, Grim Tuesday, Drowned Wednesday, Sir Thursday, Lady Friday, Superior Saturday*



**Molly Moon** by Georgia Byng

Molly has spent her entire life in a horrible orphanage, but when she finds a mysterious book and learns to hypnotize people, good things start to happen. And, just to keep it interesting, some bad things happen too. **The Series:** *Molly Moon and the Incredible Book of Hypnotism, Molly Moon Stops the World, Molly Moon's Hypnotic Time Traveling Adventure, Molly Moon, Micky Minus and the Mind Machine*



**Percy Jackson and the Olympians** by Rick Riordan

Twelve-year-old Perseus “Percy” Jackson is stunned to learn that he is Poseidon’s son, and that he must join in the battles of the gods. **The Series:** *The Lightning Thief, The Sea of Monsters, The Titan’s Curse, The Battle of the Labyrinth, The Last Olympian*



**Redwall** by Brian Jacques

The adventures of the woodland creatures (mice, badgers, hares) that populate the abbey at Redwall, and their epic battles with the vermin (rats, cats, ferrets) that threaten them. Very British. Very medieval. **The Series:** *Lord Brocktree, Martin the Warrior, Mossflower, The Legend of Luke: Outcast of Redwall, Mariel of Redwall, The Bellmaker, Salamandastron, Redwall, Mattimeo, The Pearls of Lutra, The Long Patrol, Marfox, The Taggerung, Triss, Loambedge Rakkety Tam, Eulalia!*



**The Sisters Grimm** by Michael Buckley

Sabrina and Daphne Grimm discover that they're descendants of the Brothers Grimm, that the famous fairy tales are actually case files, and that it's their destiny to become fairy-tale detectives—solving mysteries in the magical world. **The Series:** *The Fairy-Tale Detectives, The Unusual Suspects, The Problem Child, Once Upon a Crime, Magic and Other Misdemeanors, Tales from the Hood, The Everafter War*



**The Wednesday Tales** by Jon Berkeley

In a world of talking tigers, laughing potions, and sinister clowns, a runaway orphan meets up with an angel and they set out on a quest to find the angel's brother. **The Series:** *Palace of Laughter, The Tiger's Egg, The Lightning Key*

## Classics



**The 101 Dalmatians** by Dodie Smith

A wonderful British adventure story starring brave and noble dogs. FYI—*much* more mature than the movie versions.



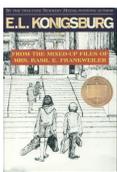
**Anne of Green Gables** by L.M. Montgomery

Crusty, silent old Matthew Cuthbert and his strict, starchy sister decide to adopt a boy to help out around their farm in Canada. Instead, the orphanage sends them super-chatty Anne. Culture clash!



**Flatland: A Romance in Many Dimensions** by Edwin Abbott

An exciting book starring geometric shapes. Read it, and you'll never again take being three dimensional for granted.



**From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler** by E.L. Konigsberg

Claudia runs away from her annoying Connecticut life, and takes her little brother with her. They secretly spend their days and nights in the Metropolitan Museum of Art—and get involved in a mystery that could change the face of art history.



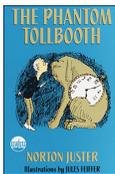
**Gone Away Lake** by Elizabeth Enright

Imagine visiting your cousin's country house for the summer and discovering an almost-lost world on the other side of the woods. Well, you don't have to—it's all right here in this magical (but not supernatural) book. If you love it, a sequel awaits.



**Old Yeller** by Fred Gipson

The classic dog book. A stray dog name Old Yeller wanders into the life of a boy named Travis in 1800s Texas. At first Travis can't stand the hound—then Old Yeller saves his life. Heartwarming and **sad!**



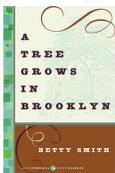
**The Phantom Tollbooth** by Norton Juster

“It seems to me that almost everything is a waste of time,” says Milo, the main character. He is *so* wrong. If you haven't read this one-of-a-kind book, do it this summer. Guaranteed to keep you out of the doldrums.



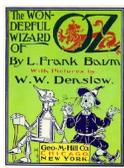
**Treasure Island** by Robert Louis Stevenson

Sorting through the belongings of a guest who died at his mother's inn, Jim finds a mysterious treasure map. Long John Silver comes into the story, and things really start to swashbuckle. The perfect pirate tale.



**A Tree Grows in Brooklyn** by Betty Smith

Eleven-year-old Francie lives in a cramped apartment in turn-of-the-century Brooklyn where she joyfully strives to rise above poverty and family tragedy. You will love her and feel sad to say goodbye when you turn the last page.



**The Wizard of Oz** by L. Frank Baum

Fun and quick to read. Decide which you like better—the book or movie. See how the filmmakers changed the ending, changed the shoes, and left out some of the quirky characters.

## Newer Fiction



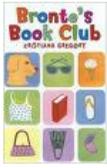
**The Big Field** by Mike Lupica

You live for baseball and shortstop is *your* position. Then a hot-shot named D-Will turns up and steals your spot—bouncing you to second. Just when you thought things couldn't get any worse, you arrive at practice to find your dad giving fielding tips to D-Will. That's the setup for this exciting, heartwarming novel by the award-winning an *Daily News* sports columnist.



**The Big Splash** by Jack Ferraiolo

“Once you're convicted by a jury of your peers, it's hard to get a new trial, ” observes Matt Stevens, Middle School Private Eye. Matt narrates this hard-boiled mystery about a fateful incident at Franklin Middle School, where bullies rule. (The author visited Saint Ann's this school year and spoke to the fifth grade in the library.)



***Bronte's Book Club*** by Kristiana Gregory

Bronte, who just moved to California from New Mexico, starts a book club to make new friends, but gossip and secrets threaten the group. (Check out the instructions in back for starting your own book club, and the author's note about the book club she was in as a kid.)



***Brooklyn Bridge*** by Karen Hesse

What was it like to be a kid in Brooklyn in 1903? Find out in this fascinating, detail-packed novel featuring a 14-year-old son of immigrants, whose family runs a toy shop (and invents a toy you know very well). How does this boy's life connect up with homeless kids who find shelter under the bridge? Read and learn!



***Click Here to Find Out How I Survived the Seventh Grade*** by Denise Vega

What if your secret blog was accidentally posted on the school web site? Check it out.



***The Compound*** by S.A. Bodeen

Nuclear war has ravaged earth. Fifteen-year-old Eli lives in an underground compound built by his billionaire father—but their food stores are running out. When Eli learns that his father is hatching a horrible plan to bring in more supplies, he decides there are things more important than his own survival.



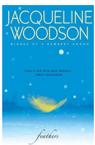
***Esperanza Rising*** by Pam Munoz Ryan

When her father dies, Esperanza has to leave her comfortable, middle-class life in Mexico for a tough California migrant camp.



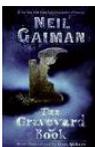
***Everlost*** by Neal Shusterman

Nick and Allie die in a horrible car crash, but their souls don't make it all the way to the other side. They're trapped in Everlost—a limbo between life and death filled with the souls of kids. Can they get out? Should they?



***Feathers*** by Jacqueline Woodson

A white boy joins an all-black classroom. The narrator, a girl named Frannie, describes what happens afterwards, and how everyone in the class learns a lesson about how deceptive appearances can be.



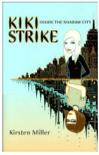
***The Graveyard Book*** by Neil Gaiman

Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a normal boy—except that he lives in a graveyard, and is being raised by ghosts. Why doesn't Bod leave? There's the little matter of Jack—who has already killed Bod's family and is now after him.



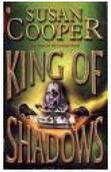
***How to Steal a Dog*** by Barbara O'Connor

Georgina's father abandons the family, and she winds up homeless—living in a car with her mom and brother. How to cope? Georgina decides to contribute by stealing a dog and then collecting the reward money. Hmmm... (FYI: The dog does *not* die at the end!)



***KiKi Strike: Inside the Shadow City*** by Kirsten Miller

What if you discovered a hidden city under Manhattan and you started to explore it with some strangely talented girls (think forgery and safe-cracking)? Of course, interesting things would start happening. The sequel: *KiKi Strike: The Empress's Tomb*.



***King of Shadows*** by Susan Cooper

While in London preparing to perform in a replica of Shakespeare's famous Globe Theatre, Nat Field suddenly finds himself transported back to 1599—to the original theater under the direction of the bard himself. Nat has recently suffered a terrible loss, and Shakespeare and his new play *A Midsummer Night's Dream* helps him find peace.



***The Mysterious Benedict Society*** by Trenton Lee Stewart

An ad in the paper seeks “gifted children looking for special opportunities.” A lonely orphan named Reynie Muldoon responds, and he winds up awash in mystery, danger, adventure and friendship. The sequel: *The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey*.



***Masterpiece*** by Elise Broach

An artistic beetle who craves adventure teams up with a lonely 11-year-old boy. Together, they track down the thief who has stolen a priceless Albrecht Durer painting from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



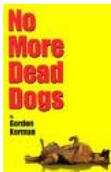
***The Name of this Book is Secret*** by Pseudonymous Bosch

We could tell you more, but then we'd have to kill you. (And then you'd miss out on the sequel, *If You're Reading This, It's Too Late*.)



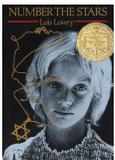
***Nick of Time*** by Ted Bell

Nick, the son of a lighthouse owner, survives a near-fatal sailing accident, then finds a strange, glowing globe inside an ancient sea chest. Next thing you know, Nick is traveling through time, fighting pirates, armies, and other assorted bad guys. Lots of great battles!



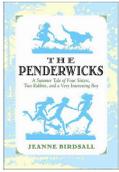
***No More Dead Dogs*** by Gordon Korman

If you're reading a kids' book about a dog, you can be pretty sure the dog is going to wind up dead in the end. Star high school football player Wallace Wallace makes that point in a damning book report about the classic dog story *Old Shep, My Pal*—which winds him in detention, off the football team, and stuck watching rehearsals of the theatrical version of *Old Shep, My Pal* that his teacher is directing. And there he'll stay until ...



***Number the Stars*** by Lois Lowry

It's Denmark during World War II, and the Nazis are coming after the country's Jews. Annemarie isn't Jewish, but her best friend is. Can she find the courage to save her?



***The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy*** by Jeanne Birdsall

If you liked *Gone Away Lake* (it's listed in the classics section, above), you'll love this book about sisters who spend a revealing and adventurous summer in a country house with their spacey father. Already read it? Try the sequel, *The Penderwicks on Gardam Street*.



***Rules*** by Cynthia Lord

Catherine loves her autistic brother, but he embarrasses her and drives her nuts. So, she starts making a list of “rules” to help him navigate the world. (Hugging Mom? OK. Hugging the video store clerk? Not.) A funny and heartbreaking book about being different, feeling different, and finding peace with it all.



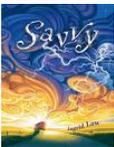
***Slipping*** by Cathleen Davitt Bell

Michael's grandfather cut himself off from the family years ago. But when he dies, odd things start to happen: Michael craves things his grandfather liked—cigars and creamed spinach. Then he starts having his grandfather's memories. Is Michael slipping into the river of the dead? (The author visited Saint Ann's and spoke to fourth graders in the library this year.)



***Swindle*** by Gordon Korman

Sixth-grader Griffin Bing finds a Babe Ruth baseball card that is worth millions. When a local card dealer steals it, Griffin concocts a wild scheme to get the card back.



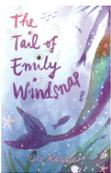
***Savvy*** by Ingrid Law

When you turn 13 in Mibs Beaumont's family, you get a special supernatural ability called a savvy. Mibs's savvy hasn't totally kicked in yet, but when her father lands in the hospital after a terrible accident, she sets off on a wild journey to his bedside, hoping her savvy will save his life.



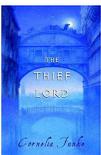
***Scat*** by Carl Hiaasen

When strange, mean biology teacher Miss Starch disappears after a field trip to black vine swamp, Nick and Marta wing into action. Another great ecological comic thriller by the author of *Hoot* and *Flush*.



***The Tail of Emily Windsnap*** by Sarah Gibb

After finally persuading her mother to let her take swimming lessons, Emily discovers a wild and secret side to herself. (Want a hint about the secret? Read the second word of the title very carefully.)



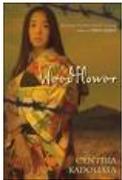
***The Thief Lord*** by Cornelia Funke

Two orphaned brothers are dumped into the care of a cruel aunt, then run away to Venice—a city their mother had loved. There, they fall in with a band of street kids headed by “The Thief Lord” and get caught up in a magical mystery.



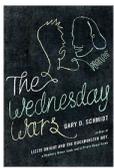
***The True Meaning of Smekday*** by Adam Rex

Gratuity Tucci's school essay, fully illustrated, about a recent space invasion in which she teamed up with a good alien to try to save the world from bad ones. Hilarious and captivating.



***Weedflower*** by Cynthia Kadohata

During World War II, the U.S. government forced Japanese Americans to leave their homes and locked them up in "relocation camps." They feared these citizens would side with Japan in the war. This book is the story of a 12-year-old girl who has to leave her family's flower farm in California, and an unlikely friendship she makes in the camp in Arizona.



***The Wednesday Wars*** by Gary D. Schmidt

Shakespeare, the 1960s, and a boy who's convinced his seventh-grade teacher hates his guts. They all come together to keep you turning pages until you finish this quirky and delightful book.



***The Westing Game*** by Ellen Raskin

Who will solve the puzzle and inherit the mysterious Mr. Westing's \$200 million fortune? All the residents of an apartment building join a befuddling, dangerous contest to become the rich man's true heir.

## Graphic Novels & Illustrated Books



***Amelia Rules: Volume 1, The Whole World's Crazy*** by Jimmy Gownley.

A hip Manhattan kid, Amelia must move to a small town in the Midwest after her parents divorce. Her friends Reggie, Rhonda, and the mysterious Pajamaman help her make it through.



***Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman*** by Marc Tyler Nobelman

The amazing true story of how two high school friends created the superhero of all superheroes. Part picture book, part graphic novel.



***The Fog Mound Travels of Thelonious*** by Susan Schade and Jon Buller

Thelonious, a talking chipmunk who inhabits a land where humans are a legend, sets out to uncover Earth's secrets and find out if humans are real. This cute yet suspenseful book alternates between graphic novel and straight text.



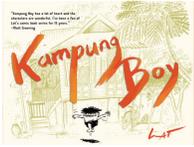
***Into the Volcano*** by Don Wood

Two brothers are sent to visit their mysterious aunt in Hawaii. Quicker than you can say igneous rock, she whisks them down into the bowels of an erupting volcano. There, trapped between rivers of lava, they begin to question her motives—and whether they'll escape alive. Scary and intense.



***The Invention of Hugo Cabret*** by Brian Selznick

An orphan in 1930s Paris lives secretly in a train station where he meets up with a mysterious toy seller. Big, beautiful black-and-white illustrations alternate with text to tell the story.



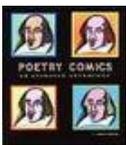
***Kampung Boy*** by Lat

The Kampung Boy series, about a Muslim boy growing up in Maylasia, has been wildly popular in Southeast Asia for years. With this book, we English speakers get the chance to read about his adventures and get a look inside a culture that is rarely written about.



***Middle School Is Worse Than Meatloaf: A Year Told through Stuff*** by Jennifer Holm

Using newspaper clippings, report cards, drawings, and notes to herself, Ginny documents the highs and lows of seventh grade.



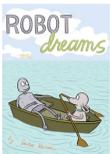
***Poetry Comics: An Animated Anthology*** by Dave Morice

Just what it sounds like. Work by poets from William Shakespeare to Emily Dickinson to John Ashbery, illustrated comic-style. It sheds a whole new light! (Don't miss the sidebar featuring Walt Whitman as a superhero: Whit-man!)



***Rapunzel's Revenge*** by Shannon and Dean Hale

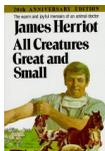
Once upon a time, in the swashbuckling wild west, lived a girl named Rapunzel who escaped the tower and used her long braids as weapons. A graphic-novel twist on the famous fairy tale.



***Robot Dreams*** by Sara Varon

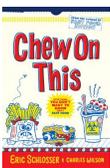
All pictures, no words. The story of a rusty robot abandoned on the beach, and his dog, who tries every way imaginable to rescue him.

## Nonfiction



***All Creatures Great and Small*** by James Herriot

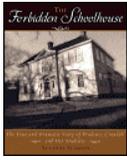
The memoir of a young vet in Yorkshire, England, who lovingly cares for pets and farm animals while getting to know their often-eccentric human owners. Starts in the 1930s.



***Chew On This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food***

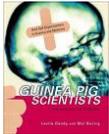
by Eric Schlosser and Charles Wilson

A single fast-food hamburger may contain meat from thousands of different cows. A can of regular soda often contains more than ten teaspoons of sugar. Read this book to learn more about fast food and how it affects you—and to meet activist kids who are trying change America's unhealthy relationship with food.



***The Forbidden Schoolhouse: The True and Dramatic Story of Prudence Crandall and Her Students*** by Suzanne Jurmain

In 1833, Crandall opened a boarding school for rich young white ladies. When an African American girl asked if she could join, Crandall, who had recently decided she opposed slavery, said yes. Protests began immediately: townspeople broke windows, dumped manure in the school's well, and more. Crandall was even put on trial. This book reads like the best fiction!



***Guinea Pig Scientists: Bold Self-Experimenters in Science and Medicine***

by Leslie Dandy and Mel Boring

Ten fascinating—and sometimes disgusting—stories of scientists who advanced knowledge by experimenting on themselves.



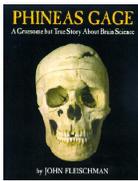
***King George: What Was His Problem? Everything Your Schoolbooks Didn't Tell You About the American Revolution*** by Scott Reynolds Nelson

A funny but factual inside look at how our nation came to be. Vivid and readable.



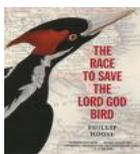
***Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Almost True Stories of Growing Up Scieszka*** by Jon Scieszka

The author of *The Stinky Cheeseman and Other Fairly Stupid Tales* (and the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature) shares hilarious stories of growing up with five brothers in the 1960s. Illustrated with family photos that will make your parents (unless they are very young parents) say things like, "I had a shirt just like that!"



***Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science*** by John Fleischman

In 1848, a 13-pound metal rod pierced Phineas's brain. The construction worker survived, but was never the same. This book explains how his strange case helped scientists understand the workings of the brain.



***The Race to Save the Lord God Bird*** by Phillip Hoose

How can an animal go extinct in this day and age? To find out, read this dramatic true story of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, and the people who tried to possess it, paint it, shoot it, sell it, and—finally—save it.



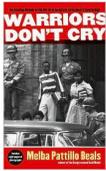
***Tarantula in My Purse*** by Jean Craighead George

Autobiographical stories about raising a houseful of kids, spiders, skunks, raccoons, and other wild creatures—by the author *Julie of the Wolves*, *My Side of the Mountain*, and other kids' classics.



***Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Journey to Change the World...One Child at a Time (Young Reader's Edition)*** by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

While climbing K-2, one of the world's most difficult mountains, the author became ill. After kind Pakistani villagers saved his life, he vowed to build a school for their children. The book describes how he did that—and much more—in the face of huge obstacles.



***Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High*** by Melba Pattillo Beals The true story of the nine brave African-American students who stood up to hate and violence to integrate Little Rock High School in 1957, told by one of the nine.

## Hands-On



***101 Dog Tricks: Step by Step Activities to Engage, Challenge, and Bond with Your Dog*** by Kyra Sundance and Chalcy  
Yes, Chalcy is a dog.



***Fanny at Chez Panisse: A Child's Restaurant Adventures with 46 Recipes*** by Alice Waters  
Make apricot jam, potatoes with garlic mayonnaise, and other fun but simple recipes—and learn what it's like to be the daughter of renowned chef Alice Waters.



***Hello Cupcake: Irresistibly Playful Creations Anyone Can Make*** by Alan Richardson and Karen Tack  
Practice making them over the summer. Then, in the fall, bring some to school and give them to your librarians.



***Magic Books & Paper Toys: Flip Books, E-Z Pop-Ups and Other Paper Playthings to Amaze and Delight*** by Esther K. Smith  
Learn to make them!



***Simple Magic Tricks: Easy To Learn Magic Tricks With Everyday Objects*** by Jon Allen  
How to perform tricks and illusions with cards, coins, and more.



***Softies: Simple Instructions for 25 Plush Pals*** by Therese Laskey  
Cute, cuter...



***Stupid Sock Creatures: Making Quirky, Lovable Figures from Cast-off Socks*** by John Murphy  
...cutest!

