

## Summer Book-Bag: Stories That Spotlight Social and Emotional Themes

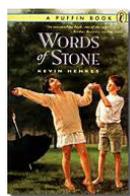
Shifting alliances, overwhelming emotions, challenging life circumstances, comforting friendships, self-discovery, acts of courage: These are some of the themes in the books listed below—books that are worth spending time with this summer.

The settings in these books range from India to Indiana; New Orleans to New York City. Although readers may not share the same background or circumstances as the characters in these stories, children will undoubtedly connect to what is at the core of each plot: navigating relationships, handling conflicts and dealing with strong emotions—challenges we share as human beings.

### NOVELS

*Curtis, Christopher Paul. **The Mighty Miss Malone.** Random House, 2012.* Deza and her family face the challenges of the Great Depression.

*Ellis, Deborah. **No Ordinary Day.** Groundwood Books, 2011.* Valli, a courageous, resourceful child, lives on the streets of Kolkata, India.



*Henkes, Kevin. **Words of Stone.** Greenwillow, 1992.* An unlikely friendship enriches the lives of two young people.



*Lai, Thanna. **Inside Out and Back Again.** Harper, 2011.* Hà adjusts to life in Alabama after leaving her home in Saigon, Vietnam.

*Lord, Cynthia. **Touch Blue.** Scholastic, 2012.* Tess and her family take in a foster child in order to save their tiny island school.

*Partridge, Elizabeth. **Dog Tag Summer.** Bloomsbury, 2011.* As an adopted child from Vietnam, Tracy discovers the truth about her past.

*Rhodes, Jewell Parker. **Ninth Ward.** Atheneum, 2009.* One family's story of Hurricane Katrina.



*Tooke, Wes. **King of the Mound: My Summer with Satchel Paige.** Simon and Schuster, 2012.* After recovering from Polio, Nick spends the summer learning from a champion.

### Picture Books

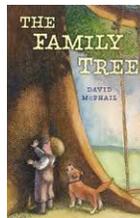


*Cecil, Randy. **Horsefly and Honeybee.** Henry Holt, 2012.* Two rivals work together to survive the clutches of a hungry frog.

*Compestine, Ying Chang. **Crouching Tiger.** Candlewick, 2011.* A boy learns a new form of Martial Arts from his grandfather.

*Kostecki-Shaw, Jenny Sue. **Same, Same but Different.** Henry Holt, 2011.* Pen pals from America and India learn how much they have in common.

*McDonnell, Patrick. **Me . . . Jane.** Little Brown, 2011.* How Jane Goddall's childhood interests led her to a ground-breaking career.



*McPhail, David, **Family Tree.** Henry Holt, 2012.* A little boy takes a stand against the destruction of a tree that obstructs a planned highway.

*Rockliff, Mara. **My Heart Will Not Sit Down.** Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2012.* Villagers in Cameroon collect money for Depression-stricken residents of New York City.

## TOP OF THE LIST



Palacio, R.J. *Wonder*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2012.

When Auggie Pullman enters fifth grade at Beecher Prep most people can't see beyond his severe facial deformity.

Auggie's family and a few special friends see him as a boy who loves Xbox, ice cream, bike-riding, and baseball. More challenging than enduring multiple surgeries, the inability to eat or hear normally, Auggie must cope with the social nightmare of trying to fit in when all he does is stand out. His goal is to be accepted for who he is. His challenge is finding classmates who see past his face.

Auggie's story is about courage, empathy, hope, and respecting and accepting differences.

Download this full literature list at [www.open-circle.org/literature](http://www.open-circle.org/literature).