

# The Mini Page

**Next Week:**  
Our states:  
Montana

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Founded by Betty Debnam



## Summer Reading

photo courtesy Christchurch City Libraries

Now is a great time to put together a list of books you'd like to read this summer! The Mini Page is happy to help with some fresh suggestions.

• If you're looking for a summer reset before school starts again, try **"Inspiring Stories for Amazing Boys"** by Amelia Kinsley. This book about self-confidence, friendship and courage shares stories from everyday kids, reminding readers that everyone faces challenges sometimes.

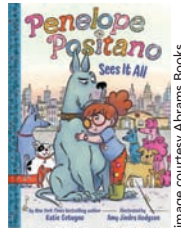


• Summer is a terrific time to take on a project, and actor/woodworker Nick Offerman wants to help! **"Little Woodchucks: Offerman Woodshop's Guide to Tools and Tomfoolery"** presents 12 projects that kids and adults can tackle, from toast tongs to a hayloft bench.

• For a story you can sink your teeth into, check out **"The Forgotten Summer of Seneca"** by Camryn Garrett. Rowan, 12, has lost her dad and is spending the summer with her aunt in New York City. While exploring Central Park, she finds a world out of place and time.



• You might not think having to wear an eye patch could give you a superpower — but you'd be wrong! In **"Penelope Positano Sees It All,"** Penelope's family is looking for a new dog, and they can't agree on what kind of dog to get. When she's wearing her eye patch, Penelope sees things others don't — like the perfect pet.



• Kestrel, who's named for a bird of prey, isn't too happy when her mom relocates them to Montana. She's afraid of the dogs her mom is working with and mad about her life being upended. In **"Kestrel Takes Flight"** by Joy McCullough, her story of overcoming life's complications is told in verse.



• Those looking to explore poetry might want to look for **"Melodies of the Weary Blues,"** with poems by Langston Hughes and artwork by well-known Black illustrators.

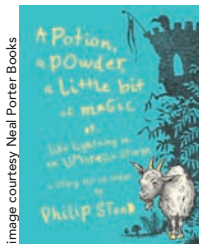


Langston Hughes (1901-1967) was a poet, novelist and social activist who was born in Joplin, Missouri. His first published poem was called "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" (1921). To learn more about him, read "Who Was Langston Hughes?" by Billy Merrell.

• Did you know that washing our hands is a relatively new practice? **"Keep It Clean!"** by Don Brown is a colorful graphic novel that explores the idea of public health — using cleanliness to help prevent the spread of illness.



• **"A Potion, a Powder, a Little Bit of Magic: Or, Like Lightning in an Umbrella Storm"** by Philip Stead might be a challenge, but its creative telling is part of the entertainment. With out-of-order chapters, Latin phrases and moral highlights, Stead's book makes for memorable reading.



• As Finn Connelly, 13, struggles at school and copes with the loss of his father, he gets a challenge: Hike all 46 Adirondack High Peaks. **"The Trouble With Heroes"** by Kate Messner tells Finn's story in verse as he goes "climbing out of trouble."



### Share your list

What's on your reading list for summer? Write down some titles, and share your choices with friends. Don't forget to reserve your favorites at the library!

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of summer reading are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



AUTHOR, BLUES, BOOKS, CHALLENGE, DOGS, EMPATHY, FOCUS, HEALTH, HIKE, HUGHES, LIBRARY, LIST, PARK, POETRY, PROJECT, READING, RESERVE, SUMMER, VERSE.

J P Y S G O D L L D F O C U S  
 E R B L Y D E G N E L L A H C  
 V O V I P R E A D I N G I U B  
 R J L I B R A R Y Y Q K C A L  
 E E H Y Y H T A P M E Y J U I  
 S C U R D E S R E V V S K T S  
 E T G T Q S U S U M M E R H T  
 R D H E H T L A E H N C A O W  
 F X E O Y T C M W C O R P R E  
 O E S P A S E U L B O O K S S

## Cook's Corner

### Ants in a Boat

**You'll need:**

- 1 medium apple
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons whipped cream cheese

- honey to drizzle
- 24 to 32 raisins



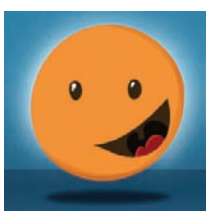
**What to do:**

1. Core apple and cut into 8 wedges.
2. Brush lemon juice on cut surfaces of apple wedges to keep them from turning brown.
3. Spread cream cheese evenly on top of apple wedges.
4. Lightly drizzle honey on cream cheese. Arrange 3 to 4 raisin "ants" on top. Serves 2.

\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

## 7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.



1. shellfish with big claws (7) \_\_\_\_\_
2. "wordy" board game (7) \_\_\_\_\_
3. dad (6) \_\_\_\_\_
4. country "Down Under" (9) \_\_\_\_\_
5. spread for bread (6) \_\_\_\_\_
6. reflected sound waves (4) \_\_\_\_\_
7. give up (9) \_\_\_\_\_

HO	SUR	FAT	EC
TRA	BBLE	TER	LIA
HER	TER	REN	SCRA
DER	LOBS	AUS	BUT

Answers: lobster, Scrabble, Australia, father, Australia, butter, echo, surrender.

## Mini Jokes



**Benny:** What's a librarian's favorite food?

**Billy:** Sssshushi!

**Brianna:** Why does Bilbo Baggins always have his lunch at noon?

**Bekka:** Because he's a creature of Hobbit!

## Eco Note



Mexico's overwintering population of monarch butterflies increased by 64% this year, covering about 7.24 acres of forest — the largest area since 2018. The annual survey by WWF Mexico measured the extent of forest occupied by the insects rather than counting individual butterflies. But monarch numbers remain well under the 15 acres scientists say are needed for long-term survival. Monarchs occupied more than 45 acres of forest in 1995. Habitat loss from deforestation, climate change and herbicide use that kills milkweed continue to threaten the species' epic migrations.

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## For later:

Look in your local newspaper for items about summer reading programs at libraries or community centers.

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