Mini Fact: Find a summer reading log here: bit.ly/1g1mqlp and win books!

In “The Mechanical Mind of John Coggin” by Elinor Teele and illustrated by Ben Whitehouse, John and his little sister, Page, escape a future of making coffins in the family business by running away with an amazing group of strangers.

For grades 1-3
• “EllRay Jakes Stands Tall” by Sally Warner and illustrated by Brian Biggs is the final book in a series about a third-grader. EllRay wants to play basketball. But to get noticed, he has to come up with a daring plan.

• “Mister Cleghorn’s Seal” by Judith Kerr is the first illustrated novel from this writer in 37 years! It follows the adventure of a quiet man who unexpectedly becomes the caretaker of an orphaned seal pup.

• “Nice Work, Franklin!” by Suzanne Tripp Jurmain and illustrated by Tad Carpenter stirs up suspensions, syrups and marangues with delicious results.

• In “Mrs. Ravenbach’s Way” by William M. Akers and illustrated by Anna Wilkenfeld, a strict German teacher and her new student, Toby, clash in the most hilarious way. “Mrs. Ravenbach’s Way” is the fifth book in a series, “The Amazing Escapades of Toby Wilcox.”

For grades 3-7
• “Raymie Nightingale” by Kate DiCamillo tells the story of a 12-year-old Raymie, who thinks if she wins a contest, she can lure her dad home.

• “How to Win a War” by Carl Hiaasen and illustrated by Larry Day comes up with a daring plan. EllRay wants to play basketball. But to get noticed, he has to come up with a daring plan.

• “Science Experiments You Can Eat!” by Vicki Cobb and illustrated by Tad Carpenter stirs up suspensions, syrups and marangues with delicious results.

• “The Girl Who Could Not Dream” by Sarah Beth Durst is about a 12-year-old named Sophie. Her parents own a bookstore with a secret shop below, but when they disappear, Sophie sets out to find them.

• “Diana’s White House Garden” by Elisa Carbone and illustrated by Jen Hill recalls the true story of Diana Hopkins, who lived in the White House in 1943. When President Franklin D. Roosevelt introduced the idea of Victory Gardens, Diana started one on the White House lawn, with the help of Mrs. Roosevelt and the White House gardener.

• In “From Wolf to Wool” written and illustrated by Hudson Talbott, we learn the story of how wolves came to be tamed and eventually evolved into the dogs we love today.

• “Insects” by Seymour Simon starts out by explaining the difference between insects and bugs. Then it goes on to introduce kids to all kinds of creepy crawlies with big, colorful photographs.

Try ‘n’ Find
Words that remind us of books in our list are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:


Cook’s Corner
Asian Pasta

You’ll need:
• 1 (8-ounce) box whole-wheat thin spaghetti
• 2 tablespoons canola oil
• 1 teaspoon sugar
• 6 tablespoons soy sauce

What to do:
1. Break spaghetti into shorter pieces and cook according to directions. 2. Drain spaghetti pieces and mix in canola oil. 3. Combine sugar, soy sauce and vinegar. Pour over spaghetti and mix well. 4. Add snow peas, ham, cucumber and water chestnuts. 5. Serve warm or cold. Serves 8 to 10.

Puzzling
Unscramble the words below that remind us of summer.
atocavni
mcpa
rsopls
angidre

Resources
On the Web:
• bibliomuseum.com
• ala.org/alsc/2015-summer-reading-list
• summerroadtrip.scholastic.com
At the library:
• “Wild About Books” by Judy Sierra
• “Library Lion” by Michelle Knudsen

Mini Jokes

Alan: What is a chicken’s favorite vegetable? Allie: Spinach.
Bobby: What do you call a llama bean’s favorite hat? Bob: A llama beanie!

Eco Note
Researchers from McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, have found that birds from urban environments are smarter and even healthier than their country cousins. The scientists found big differences, especially when it comes to problem-solving and temperament. They say city birds are far bolder.

For later:
Make a list of your top five books to read this summer. Compare your list with a classmate’s.

Teachers:
For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching_guides.html

Books from The Mini Page are wonderful resources and make great gifts! See all of our Mini Page products at MiniPageBooks.com, or call 844-426-1596 for more information. Mail payment to: Universal Uclick, Mini Page Books, 1360 Waukegan Rd., Skokie, IL 60076. Include $4.00 shipping and handling per order.

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

Bb’s Summer Reading Challenge

For grades 1-3

• “Nice Work, Franklin!” by Suzanne Tripp Jurmain and illustrated by Tad Carpenter stirs up suspensions, syrups and marangues with delicious results.

• “The Girl Who Could Not Dream” by Sarah Beth Durst is about a 12-year-old named Sophie. Her parents own a bookstore with a secret shop below, but when they disappear, Sophie sets out to find them.