

## Summer Reading Suggestions

Please note that you are not limited to this list. These are suggestions only.  
(Note: YA = young adult title, best for more mature readers.)

### Any books by these authors:

**Joan Bauer, Sharon Creech, Will Hobbs, Lois Lowry, Walter Dean Myers, Jerry Spinelli, Jacqueline Woodson, and Paul Zindel**

### Biography

**Freedman, Russell**

Confucius: The Golden Rule

An illustrated introduction to the life and teachings of Chinese philosopher Confucius.

**Giblin, James**

Life and Death of Adolf Hitler \*2003 Robert F. Sibert Award Winner

Chronicles the life of Adolf Hitler.

**Myers, Walter Dean**

The Greatest, Muhammad Ali

An introduction to Ali's life, from his childhood to the present day, focusing on his career and the controversies surrounding him.

**Spinelli, Jerry**

Knots in My Yoyo String

The Italian-American Newbery Medalist presents a humorous account of his childhood and youth in Norristown, Pennsylvania.

**Stanley, Diane**

Saladin: Noble Prince of Islam

A biography of the Moslem leader who opposed the crusaders under King Richard the Lionheart.

**Zindel, Paul**

The Pigman and Me

An account of Paul Zindel's teenage years on Staten Island, when his life was enriched by finding his own personal pigman, or mentor.

**Fleischman, Sid**

The Abracadabra Kid: A Writer's Life

The autobiography of the Newbery award-winning children's author who set out from childhood to be a magician.

### Classics

**DuMaurier, Daphne**

Rebecca

With a husband she barely knows, the second Mrs. Maxim de Winter is drawn into the life of the first Mrs. de Winter, Rebecca, dead but never forgotten....

**Wells, H. G.**

War of the Worlds

Tells what happened when Martians armed with death-rays invaded the Earth.

**Saint-Exupery, Antoine de**

The Little Prince

An aviator whose plane is forced down in the Sahara Desert encounters a little prince from a small planet who relates his adventures.

**Orwell, George**

Animal Farm

A satire on communism in which the animals revolt against their master, and the pigs become the leaders.

**Lewis, C. S.**

Tales of Narnia (includes The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe)

Four English school children enter the magic land of Narnia through the back of a wardrobe and assist Aslan, the golden lion, in defeating the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter.

**Dickens, Charles**

David Copperfield

A classic story of growing up, an enchanting story of a gentle orphan discovering life and love in an indifferent adult world.

**Bagnold, Enid**

National Velvet

A fourteen-year-old English girl wins a horse in a raffle, trains it, and rides it in the Grand National Steeplechase.

**Mitchell, Margaret**

Gone with the Wind (YA)

After the Civil War sweeps away the genteel life to which she has been accustomed, Scarlett O'Hara sets about to salvage her plantation home.

### Contemporary

**Martin, Ann**

Corner of the Universe \*2003 Newbery Honor Winner

The summer that Hattie turns twelve, she meets the childlike uncle she never knew, and becomes friends with a girl who works at a carnival that comes to her small town.

- Giff, Patricia**                      Pictures of Hollis Woods    \*2003 Newbery Honor Winner  
A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.
- Wittlinger, Ellen**                      Razzle (YA)  
When his retired parents buy a group of tourist cabins on Cape Cod, fifteen-year-old Kenyon Baker's days are filled with repair work, until he becomes friends with an eccentric girl and makes her the subject of a series of photographs.
- White, Ruth**                              Belle Prater's Boy  
When Woodrow's mother suddenly disappears, he moves to his grandparent's home in a small Virginia town, where he befriends his cousin. Together they face the terrible losses and fears in their lives.
- Van Draanen, Wendelin**              Flipped  
In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.
- Tolan, Stephanie**                      Surviving the Applewhites    \*2003 Newbery Honor Winner  
Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.
- Corbett, Sue**                              12 Again  
Bernadette, having wished on the eve of her 40th birthday to be young again, wakes up the next morning as a 12-year-old, and enrolls in her son Patrick's class in hopes of somehow enlisting his help in returning to her old self.
- Hiaasen, Carl**                              Hoot    \*2003 Newbery Honor Winner  
Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.
- Gantos, Jack**                              What Would Joey Do?  
Joey tries to keep his life from becoming total chaos when his mother sends him to be home schooled with a hostile blind girl, his divorced parents cannot stop fighting, and his grandmother is dying of emphysema.
- Creech, Sharon**                              Ruby Holler  
Thirteen-year-old fraternal twins Dallas and Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage, but their lives change when an eccentric but sweet older couple invites them each on an adventure, beginning in an almost magical place called Ruby Holler.
- Horowitz, Anthony**                      Stormbreaker (or second in the series) Point Blank  
Adventures of fourteen-year-old British spy, Alex Rider.
- Howe, Norma**                              The Adventures of Blue Avenger (any of the three)  
On his 16th birthday, coping with the unexpected death of his father, David Schumacher decides - or does he? - to change his name to Blue Avenger, to find a way to make a difference in his Oakland neighborhood, and in the world.

## Historical Fiction

- Blackwood, Gary**                      The Year of the Hangman  
In 1777, having been kidnapped and taken forcibly from England to the American colonies, fifteen-year-old Creighton becomes part of the political unrest there that may spell defeat for the patriots and change the course of history.
- Rinaldi, Ann**                              Taking Liberty  
After serving Martha Washington loyally for 20 years, Oney Judge realizes that she is just a slave and must decide if she will run away to find true freedom.
- McCaughrean, Geraldine**              The Kite Rider  
In 13th-century China, after trying to save his widowed mother from a horrendous second marriage, twelve-year-old Haoyou has life changing adventures when he becomes a circus kite rider and meets Kublai Khan.
- Lawrence, Ian**                              Lord of the Nutcracker Men  
An English boy during WWI comes to believe that the battles he enacts with his toy soldiers control the war his father is fighting on the front.
- Avi**    Crispin: The Cross of Lead    \*2003 Newbery Winner  
Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in 14th Century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler with a dangerous secret.
- Anderson, Laurie**                      Fever 1793    \*CA Young Reader Medal nominee  
In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

**McCaffrey, Anne**Black Horses for the King

Galwyn, son of a Roman Celt, escapes from his tyrannical uncle and joins Lord Artos, later known as King Arthur, to help secure and care for the Libyan horses that Artos hopes to use in battle against the Saxons.

**Humor****Snicket, Lemony**A Series of Unfortunate Events, Volumes 1-9

After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on their wits and each other, when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian wants to get their fortune.

**Jacobsen, Anders**In Ned's Head

Eleven-year-old Ned, who prefers the name Treb, uses his diary to record his wild thoughts about romance, school, and the rest of his eventful life.

**Korman, Gordon**No More Dead Dogs \*CA Young Reader Medal Nominee

Eighth grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention, attending rehearsals of the school play, where he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes.

**Lubar, David**Dunk

Chad, hoping to work out his anger and frustrations by taking a summer job as a dunk tank Bozo on the boardwalk at the New Jersey shore, learns about himself and uses humor as he is trained in the fine art of insults.

**Sheldon, Dyer**Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen

In her first year at a suburban New Jersey high school, Mary Elizabeth Cep, calling herself "Lola" sets her sights on the lead in the annual drama production and comes in conflict with the most popular girl in school.

**Townsend, Sue**The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole (YA)

In his secret diary, British teen Adrian Mole details every morsel of his turbulent adolescence.

**Rennison, Louise**Dancing in My Nuddy-Pants: Even Further Confessions of Georgia Nicholson

This is the fourth chapter in the hilarious series of a crazy English teen, Georgia Nicholson. As always, in Georgia's life, nothing ever turns out as planned! First in the series: Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging.

**Multicultural****Cushman, Karen**Rodzina

As a passenger on the orphan train, traveling westward from Chicago, twelve-year-old Rodzina hopes to be adopted into a better life.

**Grimes, Nikki**Bronx Masquerade (YA) \*2003 Coretta Scott King Award

While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at Bronx High School read aloud poems they've written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears.

**Hesse, Karen**Witness

A series of poems express the views of various people in a small Vermont town, including a young black girl and a young Jewish girl during the 1920's when the Ku Klux Klan is trying to infiltrate the town.

**Hill, Kirkpatrick**Year of Miss Agnes

Ten-year-old Fred Frederika narrates the story of school and village life among the Athapascans in 1948 Alaska, when Miss Agnes arrives as the new teacher.

**Jiminez, Francisco**The Circuit (and its sequel) Breaking Through

Stories from the life of a migrant child.

**Levine, Gail**Dave at Night

When orphaned Dave is sent to Hebrew Home for Boys and mistreated, he sneaks out at night and is welcomed into the music-and-culture filled world of the Harlem Renaissance.

**Mead, Alice**Girl of Kosovo

Although Zana, an eleven-year-old Albanian girl, experiences the turmoil and violence of the 1999 conflict in her native Kosovo, she remembers her father's admonition not to let her heart become filled with hate.

**Park, Linda Sue**The Kite Fighters

In 1473 Korea, eleven-year-old Young-sup overcomes his rivalry with his older brother Kee-sup. They combine their kite-making and kite-flying skills in an attempt to win the New Year kite-fighting competition.

**Woodson, Jacqueline**Hush

Twelve-year-old Toswiah finds her life changed when her family enters the witness protection program.

## Non-Fiction

- Fleischman, John**                      Phineas Gage: A Gruesome But True Story about Brain Science  
The story of Phineas Gage, who in 1848 had his brain pierced by an iron rod, survived, and became a case study in how the brain functions.
- Spiegelman, Art**                        Maus: A Survivor's Tale  
An illustrated account of the Holocaust as experienced by Spiegelman's father, Vladek, a Polish Jew who survived the concentration camps of Nazi Germany.
- Philbrick, Nathaniel**                Revenge of the Whale: The True Story of the Whaleship Essex  
Recounts the 1820 sinking of the whaleship "Essex" by an enraged sperm whale, and how the crew of young men survived against impossible odds. Based on "In the Heart of the Sea."
- Pfotzer, Mark and Jack Galvin**    Within Reach - My Everest Story  
The author describes how he spent his teenage years climbing mountains in the United States, South America, Africa, and Asia, with emphasis on his two expeditions up Mount Everest.
- Greenberg, Jan**                         Heart to Heart: New Poems Inspired by 20th Century American Art  
Poems by Americans writing about American art in the 20th Century.
- Steinbeck, John**                        The Sea of Cortez  
A leisurely journal of travel and research, providing a wonderful combination of science, philosophy, and high-speed adventure.
- Blumenthal, Karen**                    Six Days in October: Stock Market Crash of 1929  
A comprehensive review of the events, personalities and mistakes behind the Stock Market Crash of 1929.
- Nye, Naomi**                             19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East  
Poems of the Middle East; a collection in which the Arab-American author examines life in the Middle East.

## Science Fiction/Fantasy

- Hoban, Russell**                        The Mouse and His Child  
A wind-up toy mouse and his child, broken and then mended, set out to find the animals and dollhouse they were with in the toy shop.
- Turner, Megan Whalen**               The Queen of Attolia  
Forsaken by the gods and left to his own devices, Eugenides, Royal Thief of Eddis, summons all his wit and wiles in an attempt to conquer the rival Queen of Attolia.
- Pierce, Tamora**                        Protector of the Small (series)  
Ten-year-old Keladry uses her wits and courage to overcome obstacles during her knight training as a page, a career reserved for boys.
- Nix, Garth**                              Sabriel (first of a trilogy)  
Sabriel, daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, must journey into the mysterious and magical Old Kingdom to rescue her father from the Land of the Dead.
- Nicholson, W.**                         The Wind Singer (first of a trilogy)  
After Kestrel Hath rebels against the stifling rules of Amaranth society and is forced to flee, she, along with her twin brother and a classmate, follow an ancient map in quest of the legendary silver voice of the wind singer.
- Lowry, Lois**                            Gathering Blue  
Lame and suddenly orphaned, Kira is mysteriously removed from her squalid village to live in the palatial Council Edifice, where she is expected to use her weaving skills to do the bidding of the all-powerful Guardians.
- Hoeye, Michael**                        Time Stops for No Mouse  
Hermux Tantamoq is a watchmaker mouse who spends quiet evenings at home. His life is changed by the appearance of Linka Perflinger, daredevil, aviatrix and adventuress. When she suddenly disappears, Hermux sets out to find her.
- Haddix, Margaret P.**                 Among the Betrayed  
Thirteen-year-old Nina is imprisoned by the Population Police, who gave her the option of helping them identify illegal "third'-born" children, or facing death.
- Farmer, Nancy**                        The House of the Scorpion    \*2003 Newbery Honor Book  
In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the US.
- Dickinson, Peter**                     The Ropemaker  
When the magic that protects their Valley starts to fail, Tilja and her companions journey into the evil Empire to find the ancient magician Faeheel, who originally cast those spells.

**Clements, Andrew**

Things Not Seen

When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he, his parents, and a blind friend try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.

**Chabon, Michael**

Summerland

Ethan Feld, the worst baseball player in history, finds himself recruited by a 100-year-old scout to help a band of fairies triumph over an ancient enemy.

**Barker, Clive**

Abarat

Candy Quackenbush, of Chickentown, Minnesota, journeys to the Arabat, and has a curious revelation; she has been here before, and she must save this mysterious place from the evil forces that threaten it.

**Barron, T.A.**

Lost Years of Merlin

A young boy who has no identity nor memory washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of adventures.

## **Suspense, Horror, Mystery**

**Nixon, Joan L.**

Nobody's There

Following an act of vandalism against her father's girlfriend, a seventeen-year-old girl is paired by the court with an eccentric senior citizen whose hobby as a sleuth turns deadly.

**Christie, Agatha**

The Body in the Library

The body of a beautiful blonde is found in the library of Gossington Hall. Jane Marple intends to find out what the young woman was doing in the quiet village of St. Mary Mead.

**Cormier, Robert**

The Rag and Bone Shop (YA)

Trent, an ace interrogator from Vermont, works to procure a confession from an introverted twelve-year-old accused of murdering his seven-year-old friend.

**DeFelice, Cynthia**

The Ghost and Mrs. Hobbs (sequel to The Ghost of Fossil Glen)

Hindered by a fight with a friend, and mysterious fires, eleven-year-old Allie investigates the fire 17 years earlier which claimed the lives of three people, among them the young man whose ghost asks Allie for help.

**Funke, Cornelia Caroline**

The Thief Lord

Two brothers, having run away from the aunt who plans to adopt the younger one, are sought by a detective, but they find shelter with, and protection from Venice's "Thief Lord"

**Gaiman, Neil**

Coraline

Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar yet disturbingly different from her own, where she must challenge a gruesome entity to save herself and others.