

Summer Reading Suggestions

Please note that you are not limited to this list. These are suggestions only.

Any books by these authors:

Barron, T. A.	
McCaffrey, Anne	
Peck, Richard	*Newbery Winning Author
Philbrick, W. R.	
Pierce, Tamora	
Sachar, Louis	*Newbery Winning Author
Voigt, Cynthia	*Newbery Winning Author

Biography

Freedman, Russell Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery
A photobiography of the first wife of a president to have a public life and career of her own.

Giblin, James Charles A. Lindbergh: A Human Hero
A biography of the pilot whose life was full of controversy and tragedy, but also fulfilling achievements.

Lobel, Anita No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War
The author, known as an illustrator of children's books, describes her experiences as a Polish Jew during World War II and for years in Sweden afterwards.

McKissack, Patricia C. Young, Black, and Determined: A Biography of Lorraine Hansberry
A biography of the black playwright who received great recognition for her work at an early age.

Meltzer, Milton Langston Hughes
Tells the story of a leading poet of the Harlem Renaissance during the 1920s who devoted his life to writing about the black experience in America.

Nelson, Marilyn Carver, A Life in Poems *2002 Newbery Honor Winner
African American Poetry

Reef, Catherine John Steinbeck
An introduction to the life and most significant works of American author John Steinbeck.

Classics

Austen, Jane Sense and Sensibility
Two sisters, one practical and conventional and the other emotional and sentimental, find that only through compromise of their mutual differences can they get along.

Dickens, Charles Great Expectations
This is a great story but any one of Dickens' classics will do.

Doyle, Arthur Conan, Sir. The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes
Mystery stories about Sherlock Holmes and his friend, Dr. Watson.

Sewall, Anna Black Beauty
The most famous horse story ever written. It is the fascinating story of the life of a horse a hundred years ago, when horses were a part of everyone's life.

Stevenson, Robert Louis Treasure Island
While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of the inn and her son find a treasure map that leads them to a pirate's fortune.

Verne, Jules 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea
Sea adventures of Captain Nemo on his pursuit of the narwhal.

Contemporary

Andersen, Laurie Speak
A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

Avi What Do Fish Have to Do with Anything? Short Stories
Seven thoughtful tales. Avi's taut style and snip-snap dialogue zero in on a variety of ways in which adolescents realize their own power to effect a course of action.

Bauer, Joan Rules of the Road
Sixteen-year-old Jenna gets a job driving the elderly owner of a chain of shoe stores from Chicago to Texas to confront the son who wants her to retire.

Brashares, Ann Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants
Four best girlfriends spend the biggest summer of their lives enchanted by a magical pair of pants.

Creech, Sharon Love That Dog *Newbery Winning Author
A young boy learns that poetry gives him a voice to express his feelings about a tragic event in his life. (Or any other books by this author)

Dowell, Frances O'Roark Dovey Coe
When accused of murder in her North Carolina mountain town in 1928, Dovey Coe, a strong-willed twelve-year-old girl, comes to a new understanding of others, including her deaf brother.

Fleischman, Paul Seek *Newbery Winning Author
Rob becomes obsessed with searching the airwaves for his long-gone father, a radio announcer. (Or any other books by this author)

Horvath, Polly Everything on a Waffle *2002 Newbery Honor Winner
Eleven-year-old Primrose, living in a small fishing village in British Columbia, recounts her experiences and all that she learns about human nature and the unpredictability of life in the months after her parents are lost at sea.

Konigsburg, E. L. Silent to the Bone *Two Time Newbery Winning Author
When he is wrongly accused of gravely injuring his baby half-sister, thirteen-year-old Branwell loses his power of speech and only his friend Connor is able to reach him and uncover the truth about what really happened.

Myers, Walter Dean Slam
Sixteen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently.

Spinelli, Jerry Stargirl *Newbery Winning Author
In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever. (Or any other books by this author)

Staples, Suzanne Fisher Dangerous Skies
Hypocrisy and prejudice twist events in such a way as to implicate two children, one from a prominent white family and the other an African American, in a murder.

Wolff, Virginia Euwer True Believer
Living in the inner city amidst guns and poverty, fifteen-year-old LaVaughn learns from old and new friends, and inspiring mentors, that life is what you make it--an occasion to rise to. Sequel to Make Lemonade.

Historical Fiction

Cushman, Karen Matilda Bone *Newbery Winning Author
Fourteen-year-old Matilda, an apprentice bonesetter and practitioner of medicine in a village in medieval England, tries to reconcile the various aspects of her life, both spiritual and practical.

Geras, AdeleTroy

Told from the point of view of the women of Troy, this story portrays the last weeks of the Trojan War, when women are sick of tending the wounded, men are tired of fighting, and bored gods and goddesses find ways to stir things up.

Hesse, KarenStowaway

*Newbery Winning Author

A fictionalized journal relates the experiences of a young stowaway from 1768 to 1771 aboard the Endeavor which sailed around the world under Captain James Cook. (Or any other books by this author)

Rinaldi, AnnAn Acquaintance with Darkness

When her mother dies and her best friend's family is implicated in the assassination of President Lincoln, fourteen-year-old Emily Pigbush must go live with an uncle she suspects of being involved in stealing bodies for medical research.

Salisbury, GrahamUnder the Blood-Red Sun

Tomikazu Nakaji's biggest concerns are baseball, homework, and a local bully, until life with his Japanese family in Hawaii changes drastically after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

Humor**Danziger, Paula**Make Like a Tree and Leave

The same things are still driving Matthew Martin nuts: his bossy sister, his mother the health food freak, and Vanessa, who has never forgiven him for living.

Gantos, JackJoey Pigza Loses Control

Joey, who is still taking medication to keep him from getting too wired, goes to spend the summer with the hard-drinking father he has never known and tries to help the baseball team he coaches win the championship. Sequel to Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key.

Ibbotson, EvaWhich Witch

Deciding that he must sire a child to carry on his tradition of "Loathing Light" and "Blighting the Beautiful," the Great Wizard Arriman announces a competition among the witches of Todcaster, one of whom will marry him.

Lowry, LoisYour Move, J.P.

*Two Time Newbery Winning Author

J.P. Tate is suddenly walking into walls, tripping over his feet, using deodorant, and forgetting all about class. Could he be in love with Angela, the new girl with the terrific British accent?

Multicultural**Curtis, Christopher Paul**Bud, Not Buddy

*2000 Newbery Award Winner

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H. E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

Mah, Adeline YenChinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter

After her mother dies giving birth to her, Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck. Adeline tells the story of her painful childhood and her courage and ultimate triumph over despair.

Park, Linda SueA Single Shard

*2002 Newbery Award Winner

Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.

Ryan, Pam MunozEsperanza Rising

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh conditions facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

Taylor, Mildred D.The Land

*Coretta Scott King Award

*Newbery Winning Author

After the Civil War Paul, the son of a white father and a black mother, finds himself caught between the two worlds of colored folks and white folks as he pursues his dream of owning land of his own. Prequel to Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry.

Whelan, GloriaHomeless Bird

When thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's tradition or find the courage to oppose it.

Non-Fiction

Jiang, Ji-li

[Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution](#)

Autobiographical story of a twelve-year-old girl's experiences during Mao's Cultural Revolution and the effect it had on her family's life.

Kimmel, Elizabeth Cody

[Ice Story: Shackleton's Lost Expedition](#)

Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition, when the ship the Endurance was crushed in a frozen sea and made the perilous journey across ice and stormy seas to reach inhabited land.

Krakauer, Jon

[Into Thin Air](#)

A personal account of the deadliest season in the history of Everest. Jon Krakauer takes the reader step-by-step from Katmandu to the mountain's deadly pinnacle.

McKissack, Patricia C.

[Black Diamond: The Story of the Negro Baseball Leagues](#)

Many photos of players and teams illustrate this history of the Negro Baseball Leagues, celebrating the lives and accomplishments of many of the great players long denied their proper place in baseball history.

Murphy, Jim

[Blizzard](#)

Presents a history, based on personal accounts and newspaper articles, of the massive snow storm that hit the Northeast in 1888, focusing on the events in New York City.

Pellowski, Michael

[The Art of Making Comic Books](#)

Discusses how to make comic books including developing characters, plot story lines, and comic book art.

Science Fiction/Fantasy

Adams, Douglas

[The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy](#)

The first volume of the series, in which the destruction of the Earth turns homebody Arthur Dent into a hitchhiker in the galaxy.

Alexander, Lloyd

[The High King](#)

*1969 Newbery Award Winner

The sword of Drnwyn has fallen into the hands of Arawn-Death-Lord. After a winter march filled with danger, Taran and his army finally arrive at Arawn's stronghold and, ultimately, to a decision for Taran that is the most crucial of his life. This book is the fifth and final adventure of Taran, begun in [The Book of Three](#).

Bradbury, Ray

[The Illustrated Man](#)

Eighteen science fiction stories, including "The Other Foot", "Zero Hour," and "The Exiles."

Card, Orson Scott

[Ender's Shadow](#)

The story of brilliant children being trained in the orbiting Battle School to lead humanity's fleets in the final war against alien invaders known as the Buggers. This book is a parallel novel to Card's [Ender's Game](#).

Cooper, Susan

[King of Shadows](#)

*Newbery Winning Author

While in London as part of an all-boy acting company preparing to perform in a replica of the famous Globe Theatre, Nat Field suddenly finds himself transported back to 1599 and performing in the original theater under the tutelage of Shakespeare himself.

Jacques, Brian

[Castaways of the Flying Dutchman](#)

In 1620, a boy and his dog are rescued from the doomed ship, Flying Dutchman, by an angel who guides them in traveling the world, eternally helping those in great need. (Or any other books by this author)

Levine, Gail Carson

[The Two Princesses of Bamarre](#)

With her adventurous sister, Meryl, suffering from the Grey death, meek and timid Princess Addie sets out to find a cure.

Oppel, Kenneth

[Silverwing](#)

When a newborn bat named Shade but sometimes called "Runt" becomes separated from his colony during migration, he grows in ways that prepare him for even greater journeys.

Pullman, Philip

[The Amber Spyglass](#)

Lyra and Will find themselves at the center of a battle between the forces of the Authority and those gathered by Lyra's father, Lord Asriel. Final book in the trilogy which includes [The Subtle Knife](#) and [The Golden Compass](#).