

Summer Reading List

Grades 6—8

AIN'T BURNED ALL THE BRIGHT

BY JASON REYNOLDS, ILLUSTRATED BY JASON GRIFFIN

CAITLYN DLOUHY BOOKS, 2022
ISBN: 9781534439467

Over three "breaths," a boy reflects on current social events from within his home, where his father isolates, sick, in a spare and powerfully illustrated blend of mixed-media collage and poetry.

ART OF PROTEST: CREATING, DISCOVERING, AND ACTIVATING ART FOR YOUR REVOLUTION

BY DE NICHOLS, ILLUSTRATED BY VARIOUS ARTISTS

BIG PICTURE, 2021
ISBN: 9781536223255

Explore the art of the past to inform the revolutionary work of now! In addition to highlighting familiar works, this title also features pieces by young activist artists.

AVIVA VS. THE DYBBUK

BY MARI LOWE

LEVINE QUERIDO, 2022
ISBN: 9781646141258

An isolated tween, haunted by a dybbuk (a restless ghost), navigates continued struggles at home and at school following her father's murder, a hate crime, years before.

BOUNCE BACK

BY MISAKO ROCKS!

FEIWEL & FRIENDS, 2021
ISBN: 9781250768452

Lilico moves from Japan to the U.S. and, despite a bully, manages to make friends, play basketball, and get a magical talking cat in this light and easy read for fans of graphic novels and manga.

BOY, EVERYWHERE

BY A. M. DASSU

TU BOOKS, 2021
ISBN: 9781643791968

When the Syrian civil war hits too close to home, 13-year-old Sami must flee his idyllic life in Damascus, after which he endures a harrowing journey to England, the guilt of putting his family's lives in danger, and questions about his identity as a refugee.

CITY OF THIEVES (BATTLE DRAGONS #1)

BY ALEX LONDON

SCHOLASTIC, 2021
ISBN: 9781338716542

In a world where domesticated dragons are

used for everything from transportation to sanitation, feuding bands of thieves engage in dangerous dragon battles over the city, and young Abel must protect his friends and family.

THE CURSE OF THE MUMMY

BY CANDACE FLEMING

SCHOLASTIC FOCUS, 2021
ISBN: 9781338596618

Thieves, archaeologists, and rich, snobbish (and racist) Europeans play parts in this captivating book that combines history about Egyptian tombs with the tales of those who disturbed the ancient dead and were believed to be cursed.

THE DEADLIEST DISEASES THEN AND NOW

BY DEBORAH HOPKINSON

SCHOLASTIC FOCUS, 2021
ISBN: 9781338360202

From the Middle Ages to today, a fascinating look at plagues and pandemics, how each began, and how they impacted the world.

THE DIRE DAYS OF WILLOWWEEP MANOR

BY SHAENON K. GARRITY, ILLUSTRATED BY CHRISTOPHER BALDWIN

MARGARET K. MCELDERY BOOKS, 2021
ISBN: 9781534460874

A fan of gothic romance novels finds herself in one, but there's something a bit odd about the three handsome brothers, their manor, and its surroundings. A graphic novel with a humorous mix of romance and sci-fi.

DREAM, ANNIE, DREAM

BY WAKA T. BROWN

QUILL TREE BOOKS, 2022
ISBN: 9780063017160

Daughter of immigrants, Annie Inoue has big dreams to be a star. When she gets a lead role in *The King and I*, her classmates suggest she only got the part because of her race.

FALLOUT: SPIES, SUPERBOMBS, AND THE ULTIMATE COLD WAR SHOWDOWN

BY STEVE SHEINKIN

ROARING BROOK, 2021
ISBN: 9781250149015

This narrative nonfiction, mixed with recollections and factual information, will take readers back to post-World War II when the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics were in conflict with each other.

FRANKIE & BUG

BY GAYLE FORMAN

ALADDIN, 2021
ISBN: 9781534482531

Bug is convinced her summer is ruined, until a neighbor's nephew, Frankie, arrives. A story about friendship, identity, and family (the one you're born to and the one you choose).

THE GENIUS UNDER THE TABLE: GROWING UP BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

BY EUGENE YELCHIN

CANDLEWICK, 2021
ISBN: 9781536215526

A noted children's book creator recounts growing up in Soviet Russia in a humorous and heartbreaking illustrated novel.

HOW TO CHANGE EVERYTHING: THE YOUNG HUMAN'S GUIDE TO PROTECTING THE PLANET AND EACH OTHER

BY NAOMI KLEIN, ADAPTED BY REBECCA STEFOFF

ATHENEUM, 2021
ISBN: 9781534474529

An adaptation of earlier works for adults merged for a younger audience, this nonfiction title focuses mainly on climate change and the disastrous effects, but it also shines a light on what young people are doing to combat it.

HOW TO FIND WHAT YOU'RE NOT LOOKING FOR

BY VEERA HIRANANDANI

KOKILA, 2021
ISBN: 9780525555032

Sixth-grader Ariel Goldberg is surprised by her parents' negative reaction when her older sister marries a man from India who doesn't share their Jewish faith. Set in 1967 Connecticut, this historical novel tackles racism, anti-Semitism, learning differences, and family strife.

JUST LIKE THAT

BY GARY D. SCHMIDT

CLARION, 2021
ISBN: 9780544084773

Set in the 1960s, the separate stories of Meryl Lee Kowalski and Matt Coffin weave together as they work to overcome grief and loneliness.



ALSC reading lists are created by children's librarians as a resource to share with patrons, and may also be available in ebook, audio book, braille, and large print formats. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to explore this list to find resources that may match or spark their child's interest. Connect with your local library to find out what's happening this summer.

KALEIDOSCOPE

BY BRIAN SELZNICK

SCHOLASTIC, 2021
ISBN: 9781338777246

A multi-genre series of short stories interweave to connect two characters through time, interspersed with Selznick's complex, signature pencil illustrations.

A KIND OF SPARK

BY ELLE MCNICOLL

CROWN, 2021
ISBN: 9780593374269

Addie wants to memorialize the women once tried as witches in her small town, hoping to change the opinions people have of them, as well as the opinions they have about her autism.

LAST GAMER STANDING

BY KATIE ZHAO

SCHOLASTIC PAPERBACKS, 2021
ISBN: 9781338741506

In the near future, Reyna Cheng studies at an elite academy dedicated to virtual reality gaming. Secretly playing under a tough male avatar to avoid misogynistic harassment, she attempts to win it all at the Junior Dayhold Tournament.

MELTDOWN: EARTHQUAKE, TSUNAMI, AND NUCLEAR DISASTER IN FUKUSHIMA

BY DEIRDRE LANGELAND

ROARING BROOK, 2021
ISBN: 9781626727007

This engaging nonfiction read chronicles the disaster of the Fukushima nuclear meltdown in 2011, including images and first-person accounts.

NOTABLE NATIVE PEOPLE: 50 INDIGENOUS LEADERS, DREAMERS, AND CHANGEMAKERS FROM PAST AND PRESENT

BY ADRIENNE KEENE, ILLUSTRATED BY CIARA SANA

TEN SPEED PRESS, 2021
ISBN: 9781984857941

Short biographies present some of the most influential Native activists, entertainers, and artisans throughout history, with vibrant portraits of each. Also includes information about colonialism, land rights, and the importance of representation.

PARTLY CLOUDY

BY TANITA S. DAVIS

KATHERINE TEGEN BOOKS, 2021
ISBN: 9780062937001

As the only Black student in her new class, middle-schooler Madalyn wrestles with questions about friendship, deeply ingrained assumptions, and unacknowledged prejudices among different races, all against the backdrop of the threat of California's wildfires.

PONY

BY R. J. PALACIO

KNOPF, 2021
ISBN: 9780553508116

Young adult Silas recounts an epic journey tracking his kidnapped father with the help of Silas's ghostly companion, Mittenwool, a fearsome Arabian horse, and a cantankerous U.S. marshal in a genre-defying saga set in 1860s Ohio. Also an excellent audiobook.

RACE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE EARTH: SURVIVING ANTARCTICA

BY REBECCA E. F. BARONE

HENRY HOLT, 2021
ISBN: 9781250257802

This gripping piece of nonfiction looks at two hazardous expeditions to the South Pole, adventures that take place a century apart, that each set records and risked lives.

RHINOS IN NEBRASKA: THE AMAZING DISCOVERY OF THE ASHFALL FOSSIL BEDS

BY ALISON PEARCE STEVENS, ILLUSTRATED BY MATT HUYNH

HENRY HOLT, 2021
ISBN: 9781250266576

A look at the Ashfall Fossil Beds in Nebraska, where fossils from twelve million years ago were found, when rhinos, elephants, and camels roamed North America.

TOO BRIGHT TO SEE

BY KYLE LUKOFF

DIAL, 2021
ISBN: 9780593111154

Bug lives in a haunted house and must figure out not only what their uncle's ghost is trying to say but also how to get others to accept the revelation.

WE BELONG

BY COOKIE HIPONIA EVERMAN, ILLUSTRATED ABIGAIL DELA CRUZ

DIAL, 2021
ISBN: 9780593112205

A mother tells her daughters two tales—one of her immigration and the other about the daughter of a Pilipino god—in this novel in verse.

THE WOMAN ALL SPIES FEAR: CODE BREAKER ELIZEBETH SMITH FRIEDMAN AND HER HIDDEN LIFE

BY AMY BUTLER GREENFIELD

RANDOM HOUSE, 2021
ISBN: 9780593127193

An engrossing biography of expert code breaker Elizebeth Smith Friedman's life and achievements.

WORSER

BY JENNIFER ZIEGLER

MARGARET FERGUSON BOOKS, 2022
ISBN: 9780823449569

Socially awkward and word-obsessed Will falls in with a group of fellow linguists who help him find a new normal in the wake of his mother's stroke.

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The 2022 Summer Reading Book List was created by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). Titles on this list were selected by members of ALSC's Quicklists Consulting Committee.

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