



ARCHDIOCESAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS Recommended Reading 2022

Dear Administrators, Librarians and Teachers,

Following is the list of recommended books for the 2022-2023 school year. This list includes titles and descriptions of books approved for summer reading and for reading during the school year. Teachers should not assign books for a class to read unless they are listed on this document or a previous listing of approved books.

The titles on this list will also be used for the Diocesan Reading Olympics next year. We are providing the lists at this time so that students can begin their reading during the summer.

It is important to remember that, when selecting titles from the recommended list, teachers should please pre read books before assigning them to students. Some books may be better suited as directed or guided reading and not read alone. While every effort has been made to recommend quality literature, it is important that a teacher is prepared to respond to any questions that may arise.

You should inform parents that all books are available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Books a Million stores

We are most grateful to the Media Arts Committee for their time and effort in preparing this document and to this committee and the ELA committee who are preparing the Reading Olympics. If you are interested in assisting in this activity, please let me know.

Know we are grateful for all you do. God bless you!

Sister Edward Williams, FSC

Recommended Reading 2022

PRE-K ENTERING KINDERGARTEN

***Everywhere Wonder* by Matthew Swanson** The imagination of a young boy—who explores everything from the pyramids of Egypt to a dusty footprint on the moon—and then back out again to the wonderful world right in front of him. ©2017 Grade Level K-1

***If You Ever Want to Bring a Circus to the Library, Don't* by Elise Parsley** If you see a poster that says "You Can Do Anything at the Library!", it is NOT giving you permission to put on a circus! But Magnolia doesn't see any problem with setting up her own big top. She's got a lot of gusto and one mean human cannonball routine. ©2017 Grade Level K-1

***If You Ever Want to Bring a Circus to the Library, Don't* by Elise Parsley** If you see a poster that says "You Can Do Anything at the Library!", it is NOT giving you permission to put on a circus! But Magnolia doesn't see any problem with setting up her own big top. She's got a lot of gusto and one mean human cannonball routine. ©2017 Grade Level K-1

***Good Day, Good Night* by Margaret Wise Brown** Reminiscent of the author's beloved Goodnight Moon, this shares a day—and night—in the life of a busy little bunny. ©2017 Grade Level K-1

***Green* by Laura Vaccaro Seeger** How many kinds of green are there? There's the lush green of a forest on a late spring day, the fresh, juicy green of a just-cut lime, the incandescent green of a firefly, and the vivid aquamarine of a tropical sea. 2013 Caldecott Honor Book, Geisel Honor Book, *Kirkus Reviews* Best Children's Book of ©2012 Grade Level Preschool-1

***Hello Lighthouse* by Sophie Blackall** Tells the story of life in a lighthouse. Told through full page illustrations, this fascinating picture book tells the story of a dedicated lighthouse keeper and his growing family. ©2018 Grade Level Preschool-3, 2019 Caldecott Medal

***Mae Jamison: A Kid's Book About Reaching Your Dreams* by Mary Nhin** Mini Movers and Shakers children's book series comes with a cast of characters who have failed, yet succeeded despite overwhelming obstacles. In the fourth volume, we meet Mae Jamison. Find out what happens in this kids book about reaching your dreams. ©2020 Grade Level K-1

***Nerdy Birdy* by Aaron Reynolds and Matt Davies** Nerdy Birdy likes reading, video games, and reading about video games, which immediately disqualifies him for membership in the cool crowd. One thing is clear: being a nerdy birdy is a lonely lifestyle. When he's at his lowest point, Nerdy Birdy meets a flock just like him. He has friends and discovers that there are far more nerdy birdies than cool birdies in the sky. @2015 Grade Level Preschool-2

***Not Friends* by Rebecca Bender** Giraffe and Bird are not friends. After all, they fight all the time. But when they go their separate ways and a scary storm strikes, they both realize they might be better off together—even if they are still not friends. ©2017 Grade Level K-1

***One-osaurus, Two-osaurus* by Kim Norman** A counting book and dinosaurs celebrating make an entertaining book about numbers and counting. Ending has a Funny twist and shows how a child uses their imagination. ©2021 Grade Level Preschool-2

***The Panda Problem* by Deborah Underwood** Every story needs a problem. But Panda doesn't have a problem. Unless . . . Panda is the problem. Just who is the main character of this story? A funny book about how books work. ©2019 Grade Level Preschool-2

***Robinson* by Peter Sís** Illustrated by the author Exquisite art and a heartfelt story of adventure and friendship come together in this imaginative, magical book. ©2017 Grade Level K-2

***They All Saw a Cat* by Brendan Wenzel** The cat walked through the world, with its whiskers, ears, and paws . . . In this glorious celebration of observation, curiosity, and imagination, Brendan Wenzel shows us the many lives of one cat, and how perspective shapes what we see. When you see a cat, what do you see? 2017 Caldecott Honor Book ©2016 Grade Level Preschool-K

Recommended Reading 2022

***Time for Kenny* by Brian Pinkey** First, Kenny must get dressed. Maybe he can wear his mom's shoes? And his grandpa's hat seems to fit perfectly on his head. Luckily, with the help of his family, Kenny is finally set to go. Then he must overcome his fear of the monstrous vacuum cleaner, learn to play soccer with his big sister, and—after all that fun—get ready for bedtime. ©2021 Grade Level K-1

Recommended Reading 2022

KINDERGARTEN ENTERING FIRST GRADE

***Alma and How She Got Her Name* by Juana Martinez-Neal** When Alma's father shares family stories about the origins of her long beautiful name, she gains an appreciation for its uniqueness and connection to her history. Martinez-Neal uses smudgy graphite and colored pencil to convey a soft palette that gently transports readers into Alma's rich ancestral past. **2019 Caldecott Honor Book ©2018 Grade Level K-3**

***Blue Sky White Stars* by Sarvinder Naberhaus** In this text, the same words describe both the fabric of America and the Star-Spangled Banner. Beautiful illustrations coupled with sparse text make this seemingly simple book meaningful and thought-provoking as readers weave their way through the history of the nation and its flag. **©2017 Grade Level K-2**

***Changes: A Child's First Poetry Collection* by Charlotte Zolotow** As the seasons change, there is new beauty waiting to be discovered. Charlotte Zolotow's classic poems paired with Tiphonie Beeke's lovely illustrations make for a perfect poetry collection for every child. **©2015 Grade Level 1-2**

***Eyes That Kiss in the Corners* by Joanna Ho** A young Asian girl notices that her eyes look different from her peers'. They have big, round eyes and long lashes. She realizes that her eyes are like her mother's, her grandmother's, and her little sister's. They have eyes that kiss in the corners and glow like warm tea, crinkle into crescent moons, and are filled with stories of the past and hope for the future. **©2019 Grade Level K-2**

***Hello Ruby, Adventures in Coding* by Linda Kiukas** Without requiring a computer, Hello Ruby introduces kids to a girl, Ruby, who is determined to solve any puzzle. Ruby makes friends with foxes, robots, and leopards as she strives to break down big problems into small ones. After each chapter, kids are prompted to help Ruby solve problems by applying computational thinking. **©2015 Grade Level 1-3**

***If You Were the Moon* by Laura Purdie Salas** If you were the moon, what would you do? You'd spin like a twilight ballerina and play dodgeball with space rocks! And more. **©2017 Grade Level 1-3**

***Katherine Johnson (You Should Meet)* by Thea Feldman** About a brilliant mathematician who worked at NASA in the early 1950s until retiring in 1986. Katherine's unparalleled calculations (done by hand) helped plan the trajectories for NASA's Mercury and Apollo missions (including the **Apollo 11 moon landing**). **She is said to be one of the greatest American minds of all time.** **©2017 Grade Level 1-3**

***Nana in the City* by Lauren Castillo** A young boy spends an overnight visit with his nana and is frightened to find that the city where she lives is filled with noise and crowds and scary things. But then Nana makes him a special cape to help him be brave, and soon the everyday sights, sounds, and smells of the city are not scary—but wonderful. **2015 Caldecott Honor Book ©2014 Grade Level 1-3**

***Nerdy Birdy* by Aaron Reynolds and Matt Davies** Nerdy Birdy likes reading, video games, and reading about video games, which immediately disqualifies him for membership in the cool crowd. One thing is clear: being a nerdy birdy is a lonely lifestyle. When he's at his lowest point, Nerdy Birdy meets a flock just like him. He has friends and discovers that there are far more nerdy birdies than cool birdies in the sky. **@2015 Grade Level 1-2**

***Outside Inside* by LeUyen Pham** From Caldecott honoree LeUyen Pham, *Outside, Inside* is a moving picture book that captures the unforgettable moment during the pandemic when people all over the world came together. It celebrates the essential workers, frontline workers, and communities that worked with each other to protect our loved ones. **@2021 Grade Level K-2**

***Panda-monium at Peek Zoo* by Kevin Waldron** Peek Zoo is holding an animal parade to celebrate the birth of their baby panda. But when the day arrives, nothing is ready. As Mr. Peek races around preparing, he leaves a trail of chaos — including an escaped baby panda heading for the lion's den! Thank goodness Mr. Peek's son, Jimmy, is there to save the day and ensure the crowd gets the best animal parade ever — marching proudly across a huge gatefold! **@2014 Grade Level K-1**

***Paper Son: The Inspiring Story of Tyrus Wong, Immigrant and Artist* by Julie Leung** Once in America, Tyrus seized every opportunity to make art, eventually enrolling at an art institute in Los Angeles. Working as a janitor at night, his mop twirled like a paintbrush in his hands. Eventually, he was given the opportunity of a lifetime--and using sparse brushstrokes and soft watercolors, Tyrus created the iconic backgrounds of Bambi. **©2019 Grade Level 1-2 American Library Association's 2021 Asian/Pacific American Award**

Recommended Reading 2022

***The Proudest Blue* by Ibtihaj Muhammad** With her new backpack and light-up shoes, Faizah knows the first day of school is going to be special. It's the start of a brand new year and, best of all, it's her older sister Asiya's first day of hijab—a hijab of beautiful blue fabric, like the ocean waving to the sky. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful, and in the face of hurtful, confusing words, Faizah will find new ways to be strong. ©2019 Grade Level 1-3

***School's First Day of School* by Adam Rex** It's the first day of school at Frederick Douglass Elementary and everyone's just a little bit nervous, especially the school itself. What will the children do once they come? Will they like the school? Will they be nice to him? The school has a rough start, but as the day goes on, he soon recovers when he sees that he's not the only one going through first-day jitters. @2016 Grade Level 1-2

***Thank You, Omu!* by Oge Mora** Everyone in the neighborhood dreams of a taste of Omu's delicious stew! One by one, they follow their noses toward the scrumptious scent. And one by one, Omu offers a portion of her meal. Soon the pot is empty. 2019 Caldecott Honor Book ©2018 Grade Level K-3

***The Little Red Fort (Little Ruby's Big Ideas)* by Brenda Maier** Ruby's mind is always full of ideas. One day, she finds some old boards and decides to build something. She invites her brothers to help, but they just laugh and tell her she doesn't know how to build. "Then I'll learn," she says. And she does! When she creates a dazzling fort that they all want to play in, it is Ruby who has the last laugh. @2018 Grade Level K-3

***Thunder Boy Jr.* by Sherman Alexie** Thunder Boy Jr. is named after his dad, but he wants a name that's all his own. Just because people call his dad Big Thunder doesn't mean he wants to be Little Thunder. He wants a name that celebrates something cool he's done, like Touch the Clouds, Not Afraid of Ten Thousand Teeth, or Full of Wonder. *New York Times* Notable Children's Book of the Year ©2016 Grade Level 1-3

***Truman* by Jean Reidy** Truman the tortoise lives with his Sarah, high above the taxis and the trash trucks and the number eleven bus, which travels south. He never worries about the world below...until one day, when Sarah straps on a big backpack and does something Truman has never seen before. ©2019 Grade Level 1-2

***Water is Water* by Miranda Paul** Drip. Sip. Pour me a cup. Water is water unless it heats up. Whirl. Swirl. Watch it curl by. Steam is steam unless it cools high. ©2015 Grade Level 1-2

***When Green Becomes Tomatoes* by Julie Fogiano** Flowers blooming in sheets of snow make way for happy frogs dancing in the rain. Summer swims move over for autumn sweaters until the snow comes back again. Starting and ending with March 20, the vernal equinox, the author marks randomly chosen days with short, free verse observations. ©2016 Grade Level 1-3

***When Grandma Gives You a Lemon Tree* by Jamie L. B. Deenihan** When Grandma gives you a lemon tree, definitely *don't* make a face! Care for the tree, and you might be surprised at how new things, and new ideas, bloom. ©2019 Grade Level 1-2

Recommended Reading 2022

FIRST GRADE ENTERING SECOND GRADE

***Billy Miller Makes a Wish* by Kevin Henkes** As Billy blows out the candles on his birthday cake, an ambulance rushes down the street. Could his wish for some excitement have caused a dear neighbor friend to become ill? ©2021 Grade Level 2-3

***A Bike Like Sergio's* by Maribeth Boelts** Ruben feels like he is the only kid without a bike. His friend Sergio reminds him that his birthday is coming, but Ruben knows that the kinds of birthday gifts he and Sergio receive are not the same. After all, when Ruben's mom sends him to Sonny's corner store for groceries, sometimes she doesn't have enough money for everything on the list. ©2016 Grade Level 2-3

***Blue Sky White Stars* by Sarvinder Naberhaus** An inspiring and patriotic tribute to the beauty of the American flag, a symbol of America's history, landscape, and people. ©2017 Grade Level 2-3

***Caroline's Comets: A True Story* by Emily Arnold McCully** Caroline Herschel (1750–1848) was not only one of the greatest astronomers who ever lived but also the first woman to be paid for her scientific work. ©2017 Grade Level 1-3

***Dory Fantasmagory* by Abby Hanlon** Dory has her first loose tooth, and, with her usual over-the-top excitement, she cannot stop talking about the tooth fairy. Naturally, this drives her brother and sister crazy. ©2018 Grade Level 1-3

***A Flicker of Hope* by Julian Cook** Sometimes the dark clouds overhead seem too heavy and you feel like giving up. Little candle knows all about this. Bad grades, blasted on social media, worried about making the team, and wondering who her real friends are so many hard things to deal with! All she can see is darkness. ©2018 Grade Level 2-3

***The Girl With a Mind for Math* by Julia Finley Mosca** Meet Raye Montague—the hidden mastermind who made waves in the U.S. Navy! After touring a German submarine in the early 1940s, young Raye set her sights on becoming an engineer. Little did she know sexism and racial inequality would challenge that dream every step of the way, even keeping her greatest career accomplishment a secret for decades. ©2018 NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Book 2019, NSTA Best STEM Trade Books for Students K-12 2019, 2019 Amelia Bloomer List, and 2019 Mathical Honor Book Grade Level 2-4

***The Gravity Tree: The True Story of a Tree That Inspired the World* by Anna Crowley Redding** “A tree may seem like an *ordinary* thing. But hundreds of years ago, a tree was about to embark on an *extraordinary* journey.” Sir Isaac Newton sat under that tree and came up with the theory of gravity, a tree and an idea that has continued to inspire other scientists and people all over the world. ©2021 Grade Level 2-3

***The Kid from Diamond Street* by Audrey Vernick** Beginning in 1922, when Edith Houghton was only ten years old, she tried out for a women's professional baseball team, the Philadelphia Bobbies. ©2016 Grade Level K-3

***Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Pena** Every Sunday after church, CJ and his grandma ride the bus across town. But today, CJ wonders why they don't own a car like his friend Colby. Why doesn't he have an iPod like the boys on the bus? How come they always have to get off in the dirty part of town? 2016 Newbery Medal, 2016 Caldecott Honor Book and Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book ©2015 Grade Level K-2

***Margaret and the Moon* by Dean Robbins** A true story from one of the Women of NASA! Margaret Hamilton loved numbers as a young girl. She knew how many miles it was to the moon (and how many back). She loved studying algebra and geometry and calculus and using math to solve problems in the outside world. ©2017 Grade Level 2-3

***Mars Is: Stark Slopes, Silvery Snow, and Startling Surprises* by Suzanne Slade** Information and a lyrical text combined with astonishing, textured photographs for a look at the mysterious red planet for a book that can be read, viewed, and enjoyed in several ways. ©2021 Grade Level 2-3

***Play It Again, Grandpa* by Jennifer Hunsicker** A young boy and his grandfather spend front-porch time playing music and learning from each other. Their music draws in family, friends, and neighbors for enjoyment, dancing, singing, and playing a variety of bluegrass instruments. A picture glossary of the instruments is included in the back as well as a brief history and explanation of bluegrass music. ©2021 Grade Level 1-3

Recommended Reading 2022

***The Rough Patch* by Brian Lies** Evan, a fox, and his dog are best friends and in a series of acrylic, oil, and colored pencil vignettes, they are shown attending a fair, playing games, and, most important, working in Evan's meticulously groomed garden. These loving scenes are abruptly cut short by a large spread of white space with spare text stating: "But one day, the unthinkable happened." On the opposing page, white space surrounds a grieving Evan as he mourns the loss of his dog. ©2019 Caldecott Honor Book ©2018 Grade Level 1-3

***Spoon* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal** He's always been a happy little utensil. But lately, he feels like life as a spoon just isn't cutting it. He thinks Fork, Knife, and The Chopsticks all have it so much better than him. But do they? ©2009 Grade Level 1-2

***Spring According to Humphrey* by Betty G. Birney** Spring has sprung and everyone at Longfellow School, including Ms. Brisbane's class, are HAPPY-HAPPY-HAPPY! It also means Family Fun Night is coming up and all the students' families are involved in making amazing circus activities. ©2017 Grade Level 2-4

***What's Your Favorite Color?* by Eric Carle** Fifteen beloved children's book artists draw their favorite colors and explain why they love them. This personal collection will undoubtedly inspire readers to create favorite color drawings and stories of their own! ©2017 Grade Level 2-3

***The Whisper in the Ruins (Chime Travelers)* by Lisa Hendey** Somebody is angry, and they're taking it out on St. Anne's. Patrick and his twin sister Katie are shocked when they learn that someone threw a brick through the St. Francis of Assisi stained glass window at St. Anne's. What would make someone angry enough to damage the beautiful old window? ©2016 Grade Level 2-5

Recommended Reading 2022

SECOND GRADE ENTERING THIRD GRADE

***All That's Missing* by Sarah Sullivan** Secretly providing for himself and a beloved grandfather who is succumbing to dementia, young Arlo is placed in the care of a social worker and runs away to find and connect with his only other family member. ©2013 Grade Level 3-7

***Bad Bella* by Ali Standish** All Bella wants is a family who loves her for the dog she is. And perhaps some popcorn now and then (with extra butter). But with Christmas growing nearer and a new baby on the way, her adopted family finds that they have little patience and even less time for a dog. ©2019 Grade Level 3-4

***A Boy Called Bat* by Elana K. Arnold** Bixby Alexander Tam (nicknamed Bat), life tends to be full of surprises—some of them good, some not so good. Today, though, is a good-surprise day. Bat's mom, a veterinarian, has brought home a baby skunk, which she needs to take care of until she can hand him over to a wild-animal shelter. ©2018 Grade Level: 3-5

***Dragons in a Bag* by Zetta Elliot** When Jaxon is sent to spend the day with a mean old lady his mother calls Ma, he finds out she's not his grandmother—but she is a witch! She needs his help delivering baby dragons to a magical world where they'll be safe. There are two rules when it comes to the dragons: don't let them out of the bag, and don't feed them anything sweet. ©2018 Grade Level 3-4

***Grand Canyon* by Jason Chin** Rivers wind through earth, cutting down and eroding the soil for millions of years, creating a cavity in the ground 277 miles long, 18 miles wide, and more than a mile deep known as the Grand Canyon. 2018 Caldecott Honor Book, Sibert Honor Book ©2017 Grade Level 3-5

***The Hero Two Doors Down* by Sharon Robinson** Based on the true story of a boy in Brooklyn who became neighbors and friends with his hero, Jackie Robinson. ©2017 Grade Level 4-5

***John Lincoln Clem: a Civil War Drummer Boy* by E. F. Abbott** Do you have what it takes to run off and join the army, leaving your family behind? That's what John Lincoln Clem, a nine-year-old boy living in Ohio, does as the American Civil War rages on. ©2017 Grade Level 3-4

***Rocket to the Moon* by Don Brown** On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong took “one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind” when Apollo 11 landed on the moon. But it wasn't just one man who got us to the moon. ©2019 Grade Level 3-4

***St. John Bosco and His Big Gray Dog* by Hayley Medeiros** It is hard to believe that anyone would have ever wanted to hurt good Father John Bosco. He helped so many people. But there were times when his life was in danger. During those times, a very special guardian would appear to protect him. ©2015 Grade Level 2-4

***The Seashore Book* by Charlotte Zolotow** Hunting for seashells and building sandcastles, this tribute to the power of imagination and the tenderness of a mother-child connection is also a sweet ode to summer's greatest pastimes. ©2015 Grade Level 2-3

***Separate is Never Equal* by Duncan Tonatiuh** Seven years before Brown v. Board of Education, the Mendez family fought to end segregation in California schools. ©2014 Grade Level 3-4 Jane Addams Award

***Sergeant Reckless: The True Story of the Little Horse Who Became a Hero* by Patricia McCormick** When a group of US Marines fighting in the Korean War found a bedraggled mare, they wondered if she could be trained to a packhorse. ©2017 Grade Level 1-5

***Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille* by Jen Bryant** Louis Braille was just five years old when he lost his sight. He was a clever boy, determined to live like everyone else, and what he wanted more than anything was to be able to read. ©2016 Grade Level 2-4

***The Sign of the Carved Cross* by Lisa M. Hendey** Katie joins her friends in being mean to the new girl, Lily. But suddenly, Katie becomes the new girl—in 1675! She has no idea how she traveled in time to a Native American village, but she's hoping the young woman she meets will be nicer to her than Katie was to Lily. ©2015 Grade Level 3-5

Recommended Reading 2022

***Stargazing* by Jen Wang** Moon is everything Christine isn't. She's confident, impulsive, artistic and though they both grew up in the same Chinese-American suburb, Moon is somehow unlike anyone Christine has ever known. ©2019 **Grade Level 3-4**

The Undeclared by Kwame Alexander This poem is a love letter to black life in the United States. It highlights the unspeakable trauma of slavery, the faith and fire of the civil rights movement, and the grit, passion, and perseverance of some of the world's greatest heroes. ©2019 **Grade Level 3-4 Caldecott Medal, Newbery Honor Book, and Coretta Scott King**

***Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement* by Carole Boston Weatherford** Despite fierce prejudice and abuse, even being beaten to within an inch of her life, Fannie Lou Hamer was a champion of civil rights from the 1950s until her death in 1977. Integral to the Freedom Summer of 1964. ©2015 **Grade Level 3-6, 2016 Caldecott Honor Book, Robert F. Sibert Honor Book, and John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award**

***The Whisper in the Ruins (Chime Travelers)* by Lisa M. Hendey** Somebody is angry, and they're taking it out on St. Anne's. Patrick and his twin sister Katie are shocked when they learn that someone threw a brick through the St. Francis of Assisi stained glass window at St. Anne's. What would make someone angry enough to damage the beautiful old window? ©2016 **Grade Level 2-5**

***Wish* by Barbara O'Connor** "A story about a girl who, with the help of the dog of her dreams, discovers that family doesn't always have to be related--they are simply people who love you for who you are." ©2016 **Grade Level 3-5**

Recommended Reading 2022

THIRD GRADE ENTERING FOURTH GRADE

***Best Year Ever* by Barbara Robinson** One day the teachers ask all the students to think of compliments for their classmates, and Beth Bradley picks Imogene Herdman's name. At first, Beth can't think of anything good, but soon she begins to see Imogene in a new light.

©2011 Grade Level 4-6

***The Boy in the Back of the Class* by Onjali Q. Rauf** There used to be an empty chair at the back of Mrs. Khan's classroom, but on the third Tuesday of the school year a new kid fills it: nine-year-old Ahmet, a Syrian refugee.

©2019 Grade Level 4-5 CLIP Carnegie Medal Children's Book Award Nominee

***Brave Like My Brother* by Marc Tyler Nobleman** When Charlie's brother, Joe, is called up to fight in World War II, he promises to write letters to ten-year-old Charlie as often as he can. It won't make up for not being there to help Charlie out with the neighborhood bullies, but it's all Joe can do. ©2016 Grade Level 4-5

***The Chestertons and the Golden Key* by Nancy Carpentier Brown** Summer vacation turns into an adventure for the three Nicholl sisters when Mr. Gilbert Chesterton and his wife come to town. Eleven-year-old Clare hopes to write a detective story. Eight-year-old Cece wants to be a champion roller-skater. And ten-year-old Joan just wants to learn how to play the locked piano in the family living room. But as they befriend the Chestertons, skating accidents, surprising friendships, puppet shows, and mystery solving ensue! ©2016 Grade Level 4-5

***Counting Thyme* by Melania Conklin** When eleven-year-old Thyme Owens' little brother, Val, is accepted into a new cancer drug trial, it's just the second chance that he needs. But it also means the Owens family has to move to New York, thousands of miles away from Thyme's best friend and everything she knows and loves. ©2016 Grade Level 4-7

***The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Perez** There are no shortcuts to surviving your first day at a new school—you can't fix it with duct tape like you would your Chuck Taylors. On Day One, twelve-year-old Malú (María Luisa, if you want to annoy her) inadvertently upsets Posada Middle School's queen bee, violates the school's dress code with her punk rock look, and disappoints her college-professor mom in the process.

©2017 Grade Level 4-6, 2018 Pura Belpré Author Honor Book

***Flashback Four #1: The Lincoln Project* by Dan Gutman** Four very different kids are picked by a mysterious billionaire to travel through time and photograph some of history's most important events. This time, the four friends are headed to 1863 to catch Abraham Lincoln delivering his famous Gettysburg Address. ©2017 Grade Level 4-7

***George Washington's Spy* by Elvira Woodruff** Ten-year-old Matt Carlton and six friends are accidentally swept back in time--to Boston in 1776! The British now occupy the city, and redcoat guards are everywhere! While the boys are being held captive by a den of Patriot spies, the girls have been taken in by a wealthy Tory family. ©2012 Grade Level 4-5

***Katerina's Wish* by Jeannie Mobley** Thirteen-year-old Trina's family left Bohemia for a Colorado coal town to earn money to buy a farm, but by 1901 she doubts that either hard work or hoping will be enough, even after a strange fish seems to grant her sisters' wishes. ©2012 Grade Level 4-7

***Lifeboat 12* by Susan Hood** With Nazis bombing London every night, it's time for thirteen-year-old Ken to escape. He suspects his stepmother is glad to see him go, but his dad says he's one of the lucky ones—one of ninety boys and girls to ship out aboard the SS City of Benares to safety in Canada. ©2019 Grade Level 4-6, 2019 Golden Kite Middle Grade Fiction Award Winner, 2019 ALSC Notable Children's Book

***Lincoln and Kennedy: A Pair to Compare* by Gene Barretta** President Abraham Lincoln grew up in a one-room log cabin. President John F. Kennedy was raised in the lap of luxury. One was a Republican and one a Democrat. They lived and served a hundred years apart. ©2016 Grade Level 2-5

***Martin de Porres: The Rose in the Desert* by Gary D. Schmidt** As the illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman and a former slave, Martin de Porres was born into extreme poverty. Even so, his mother begged the church fathers to allow him into the priesthood. Instead, Martin was accepted as a servant boy. But soon, the young man was performing miracles. 2013 Pura Belpré Award for Illustration ©2012 Grade Level 3-5

Recommended Reading 2022

***The Mouse with the Question Mark Tail* by Richard Peck** The tiniest mouse in the Royal Mews is such a mystery he doesn't even know his own name! He scampers off on an epic adventure in and around Buckingham Palace with a plan to seek the advice of Queen Victoria. The exhilarating journey takes him to strange and wonderful places, but will it help him discover who he is and where he came from?

©2014 Grade Level 4-5

***Pieces and Players* by Blue Balliett** The kids have been drawn in by the very mysterious Mrs. Sharpe, who may be playing her own kind of game with the clues. And it's not just Mrs. Sharpe who's acting suspiciously -- there's a ghost who mingles with the guards in the museum, a cat who acts like a spy, and bystanders in black jackets who keep popping up. ©2016 Grade Level 4-6

***Raffie on the Run* by Jacqueline Resnick** Raffie Lipton lives a rat's dream life. In his family's subway station home, he has all the food he can forage from the treasure chests humans call trash cans, and the perfect shoebox bed for telling his brother his famous adventure stories. ©2018 Grade Level 3-6

***Trapped in a Video Game* by Dustin Brady** Jesse hates video games - and for good reason. You see, a video game character is trying to kill him. After getting sucked into the new game *Full Blast* with his best friend, Eric, Jesse quickly discovers that he's being followed by a mysterious figure. If he doesn't figure out what's going on fast, he'll be trapped for good! ©2018 Grade Level 4-5

***Wish Girl* by Nikki Loftin** Peter Stone's parents and siblings are extroverts, musicians, and yellers—and the louder they get, the less Peter talks, or even moves, until he practically fits his last name. When his family moves to the Texas Hill Country, though, Peter finds a tranquil, natural valley where he can, at last, hear himself think. ©2016 Grade Level 4-6

Recommended Reading 2022

FOURTH GRADE ENTERING FIFTH GRADE

27 Magic Words by Sharelle Byars Morganville Although Kobi's parents sailed into a storm five years ago, she believes they are alive, and when she is sent from her grandmother's luxurious Paris apartment to live with an uncle in Iowa, Kobi tells lies that soon catch up with her. ©2016 Grade Level 5–7

Aim by Joyce Moyer Hostetter As World War II threatens the United States in 1941, fourteen-year-old Junior Bledsoe fights his own battles at home. Junior struggles with school and with anger—at his father, his insufferable granddaddy, his neighbors, and himself—as he desperately tries to understand himself and find his own aim in life. ©2016 Grade Level 5–7

Because of Mr. Terupt by Rob Buyea It's the start of fifth grade for seven kids at Snow Hill School. There's Jessica, the new girl, smart and perceptive, who's having a hard time fitting in; Alexia, a bully, your friend one second, your enemy the next; Peter, class prankster and troublemaker; Luke, the brain; Danielle, who never stands up for herself; shy Anna, whose home situation makes her an outcast; and Jeffrey, who hates school. ©2011 Grade Level 4–6

Bob by Wendy Mass It's been five years since Livy and her family have visited Livy's grandmother in Australia. Now that she's back, Livy has the feeling she's forgotten something really, really important about Gran's house. ©2019 Grade Level 5–6

The First Rule of Punk by Celia C. Pérez There are no shortcuts to surviving your first day at a new school—you can't fix it with duct tape like you would your Chuck Taylors. On Day One, twelve-year-old Malú (María Luisa, if you want to annoy her) inadvertently upsets Posada Middle School's queen bee, violates the school's dress code with her punk rock look, and disappoints her college-professor mom in the process. 2018 Pura Belpré Author Honor Book ©2018 Grade Level 5–7

Girls Who Code: Learn to Code and Change the World by Reshma Saujani The world's first coders were women. Pioneers such as Grace Hopper and Ada Lovelace helped shape the programming landscape as we know it today — and yet, according to recent research from Stack Overflow, only 7.7 percent of developers in the United States are women. ©2017 Grade Level 5–6

Gone Crazy in Alabama by Rita Williams-Garcia Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern are off to Alabama to visit their grandmother Big Ma and her mother, Ma Charles. Across the way lives Ma Charles's half-sister, Miss Trotter. The two half-sisters haven't spoken in years. As Delphine hears about her family history, she uncovers the surprising truth that's been keeping the sisters apart. Coretta Scott King Award ©2016 Grade Level 5–7

The Last Fifth Grade of Emerson Elementary by Laura Shovan Emerson Elementary is closing its doors and is due to be replaced by a shopping mall. Not everyone in this multiracial fifth-grade class feels the same about the school's imminent closure. The variety of expressive writing styles for each character makes this book unique. ©2016 Grade Level 5–7

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia Eleven-year-old Delphine is like a mother to her two younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern. She's had to be, ever since their mother, Cecile, left them seven years ago for a radical new life in California. ©2011 Grade Level 5–7, 2012 Newbery Honor Book, Scott O'Dell Award, and Coretta Scott King Award

Prairie Lotus by Linda Sue Park A girl determined to fit in and realize her dreams: getting an education, becoming a dressmaker in her father's shop, and making at least one friend. Hanna, a half-Asian girl in a small town in America's heartland, lives in 1880. Hanna's adjustment to her new surroundings, and the townspeople's prejudice against Asians, is at the heart of the story. ©2020 Grade Level 5–6

Saving Winslow by Sharon Creech Louie doesn't have the best luck when it comes to nurturing small creatures. So when his father brings home a sickly newborn mini donkey, he's determined to save him. He names him Winslow. ©2019 Grade Level 5–7 ALA Notable Children's Book, Texas Bluebonnet Award Winner

Serafina and the Black Cloak Robert Beatty The story of a brave and unusual girl who lives secretly in the basement of the grand Biltmore Estate amidst the splendor of the Gilded Age and the rugged beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Serafina and her friend Braeden Vanderbilt must work together to solve a dark and dangerous mystery. ©2015 Grade Level 5–7, New York Times Bestseller, 2016 Pat Conroy Southern Book Prize

Recommended Reading 2022

***Stella by Starlight* by Sharon M. Draper** Stella lives in the segregated South—in Bumblebee, North Carolina, to be exact about it. Some stores she can go into. Some stores she can't. Some folks are right, pleasant. Others are a lot less so. To Stella, it sort of evens out, and heck, the Klan hasn't bothered them for years. ©2016 **Grade Level 5-8**

***When You Trap a Tiger* by Tae Keller** When Lily and her family move in with her sick grandmother, a magical tiger straight out of her halmoni's Korean folktales arrives, prompting Lily to unravel a secret family history. ©2020 **Grade Level 4-5, Newbery Medal and Asian/Pacific American Award**

***The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley** Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So, when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him. 2016 Newbery Honor Book and 2016 Schneider Family Book Award ©2016 **Grade Level 5-6**

Recommended Reading 2022

FIFTH GRADE ENTERING SIXTH GRADE

A.K.A. Genius by Marilee Haynes "When standardized test scores identify seventh-grader Gabe Carpenter as St. Jude's resident genius, he wonders what it means to have brains when he can't even manage to open his own locker." ©2013 Grade Level 5-7

Almost Home by Joan Bauer Sixth-grader Sugar and her mother lose their beloved house and experience the harsh world of homelessness. ©2012 Grade Level 5-8

Amina Voice by Hena Khan Amina has never been comfortable in the spotlight. She is happy just hanging out with her best friend, Soojin. Except now that she's in middle school everything feels different. Soojin is suddenly hanging out with Emily, one of the "cool" girls in the class, and even talking about changing her name to something more "American." Does Amina need to start changing too? ©2017 Grade Level 6-8

The Dreamer by Pam Munoz Ryan A fictionalized biography of the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who grew up a painfully shy child, ridiculed by his overbearing father, but who became one of the most widely-read poets in the world. Includes author's notes about the poet. ©2012 Grade Level 5-9, Pura Belpré Award Winner

Finding Langston by Lisa Cline-Ransome It's 1946. Langston's mother has just died, and now they're leaving the rest of his family and friends. He misses everything-- Grandma's Sunday suppers, the red dirt roads, and the magnolia trees his mother loved. ©2018 Grade Level 5-7, Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book, Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Regan Barnhill Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch in the Forest, Xan, is kind. ©2016 Grade Level 6-8, 2017 Newbery Medal Book

A Handful of Stars by Cynthia Lord When Lily's blind dog, Lucky, slips his collar and runs away across the wide-open blueberry barrens of eastern Maine, it's Salma Santiago who manages to catch him. ©2017 Grade Level 5-7

Hour of the Bees by Lindsay Eagar While her friends are spending their summers having pool parties and sleepovers, twelve-year-old Carolina — Carol — is spending hers in the middle of the New Mexico desert, helping her parents move the grandfather she's never met into a home for people with dementia. ©2016 Grade Level 5-8

I Can Make This Promise by Christine Day All her life, Edie has known that her mom was adopted by a white couple. So, no matter how curious she might be about her Native American heritage, Edie is sure her family doesn't have any answers. ©2019 Grade Level 7-8, American Indian Youth Literature Award for Best Middle School Book, Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award Nominee

I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives by Caitlin Alifirenka
It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place. ©2015 Grade Level 6-8

Isabel Feeney, Star Reporter by Beth Fantaskey It's 1920s Chicago—the guns-and-gangster era of Al Capone—and it's unusual for a girl to be selling the *Tribune* on the street corner. But ten-year-old Isabel Feeney is unusually obsessed with being a news reporter. ©2017 Grade Level 5-7

Merci Suarez Changes Gears by Meg Medina Merci Suarez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just *how* different. For starters, Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. ©2018 Grade Level 5-7, 2019 Newbery Medal

The Unexpected Life of Oliver Cromwell Pitts by Avi Oliver is left on his own after a terrible storm hits his English community in 1724. High adventure and near disasters meet Oliver as he tries to make his way to London to find his sister, Charity. Once in London and reunited with Charity, life does not calm down. Avi leaves readers hanging—will they survive? ©2017 Grade Level 6-8

Recommended Reading 2022

***The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown** Though Roz, a robot, is initially viewed with suspicion when she finds herself on an isolated island, she soon becomes part of the natural order, parenting an orphaned gosling and providing shelter for the animals. But is there really a place for her within this ecosystem? ©2016 **Grade Level 5-7**

Recommended Reading 2022

SIXTH GRADE ENTERING SEVENTH GRADE

***The Alchemist* by Paul Coelho** Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago, who travels from his homeland in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of a treasure buried near the Pyramids. ©2014 Grade Level 7-8 NBDB National Book Awards Nominee for Translation, Grand Prix des lectrices de Elle for roman, Premio Grinzane Cavour for Narrativa Straniera, Corine Internationaler Buchpreis for Belletristik

***The Candymakers* by Wendy Mass** Four children have been chosen to compete in a national competition to find the tastiest confection in the country. Who will invent a candy more delicious than the Oozing Crunchorama or the Neon Lightning Chew? ©2010 Grade Level 7-8

***Forever, or a Long, Long Time* by Caela Carter** Flora and her brother, Julian, don't believe they were born. They've lived in so many foster homes, they can't remember where they came from. And even now that they've been adopted, Flora still struggles to believe in forever. ©2017 Grade Level 7-8

***Full Cicada Moon* by Marilyn Hilton** It's 1969, and the Apollo 11 mission is getting ready to go to the moon. But for half-black, half-Japanese Mimi, moving to a predominantly white Vermont town is enough to make her feel alien. ©2015 Grade Level 5-8

***Genevieve's War* by Patricia Reilly Giff** Thirteen-year-old American girl Genevieve has spent the summer of 1939 at her grandmother's farm in Alsace, France. Then she makes an impulsive choice: to stay in France. It proves to be a dangerous decision. World War II erupts. ©2017 Grade Level 6-7

***In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse* by Joseph Marshall** Jimmy McClean is a Lakota boy—though you wouldn't guess it by his name: his father is part white and part Lakota, and his mother is Lakota. When he embarks on a journey with his grandfather, Nyles High Eagle, he learns more and more about his Lakota heritage—in particular, the story of Crazy Horse, one of the most important figures in Lakota and American history. ©2015 Grade Level 6-8

***The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog* by Adam Gidwitz** On a dark night, travelers from across France cross paths at an inn and begin to tell stories of three children. Their adventures take them on a chase through France: they are taken captive by knights, sit alongside a king, and save the land from a farting dragon. ©2016 Grade Level 6-10, 2017 Newbery Honor Book

***Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* by Gary D. Schmidt** It only takes a few hours for Turner Buckminster to start hating Phippsburg, Maine. No one in town will let him forget that he's a minister's son, even if he doesn't act like one. But then he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a smart and sassy girl from a poor nearby island community founded by former slaves. ©2013 Grade Level 6-9, 2014 Newbery Honor Book

***Loyalty* by Avi** When his father is killed by rebel vigilantes, Noah flees with his family to Boston. Intent on avenging his father, Noah becomes a spy for the British and firsthand witness to the power of partisan rumor to distort facts, the hypocrisy of men who demand freedom while enslaving others, and the human connections that bind people together regardless of stated allegiances. ©2022 Grade Level 6-7

***The Notorious Benedict Arnold* by Steve Sheinkin** Most people know that Benedict Arnold was America's first, most notorious traitor. Few know that he was also one of its greatest war heroes. This accessible biography introduces young readers to the real Arnold: reckless, heroic, and driven. ©2010 Grade Level 6-9, 2014 Newbery Honor Book Beacon of Freedom Award, YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction, Margaret A. Edwards Award

***Race to the Bottom of the Sea* by Lindsay Eagar** Merrick the Monstrous, a pirate who kidnaps Fidelia for her marine knowhow, takes her on an adventure to find a treasure lost on the ocean floor. A scientist, an inventor, a huge shark, a librarian, and the Royal Navy are all part of a story that keeps readers wondering how they are all connected and why a dying pirate is so intent on finding his lost treasure. ©2017 Grade Level 6-8

***Reaching for the Moon: The Autobiography of NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson* by Katherine Johnson** As a young girl, Katherine Johnson showed an exceptional aptitude for math. In school she quickly skipped ahead several grades and was soon studying complex equations with the support of a professor who saw great promise in her. ©2020 Grade Level 6

Recommended Reading 2022

***The Red Bandanna* by Tom Rinaldi** Welles Crowther always kept a red bandanna with him, a gift from his father. Little did he know how that bandanna would help him in a time of crisis, during the fall of the South Tower of the World Trade Center. Readers will be fascinated by the story of an ordinary man who did extraordinary work to save lives of others while sacrificing his own. ©2017 Grade Level 6–8, Winner of the Christopher Award, Notable Social Studies Book

***Riding Chance* by Christine Kendall** Troy is a kid with a passion. And dreams. And wanting to do the right thing. But after taking a wrong turn, he's forced to endure something that's worse than any juvenile detention he can imagine—he's "sentenced" to the local city stables where he's made to take care of horses. ©2016 Grade Level 6–8

***So Be It* by Sarah Weeks** She doesn't know when her birthday is or who her father is. In fact, everything about Heidi and her mentally disabled mother's past is a mystery. When a strange word in her mother's vocabulary begins to haunt her, Heidi sets out on a cross-country journey in search of the secrets of her past. ©2004 Grade Level 6–8

***Soar* by Joan Bauer** Jeremiah is the world's biggest baseball fan. He *really* loves baseball and he knows just about everything there is to know about his favorite sport. So when he's told he can't play baseball following an operation on his heart, Jeremiah decides he'll do the next best thing and become a coach. ©2017 Grade Level 6–7 Texas Bluebonnet Award Nominee, Vermont Golden Dome Book Award Nominee, William Allen White Children's Book Award Nominee, and Bluestem Book Award Nominee

***Stella by Starlight* by Sharon M. Draper** Stella lives in the segregated South; in Bumblebee, North Carolina, to be exact about it. Some stores she can go into. Some stores she can't. Some folks are right, pleasant. Others are a lot less so. S2015 Grade Level 6-8, Pennsylvania Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee, Vermont Golden Dome Book Award Nominee, Judy Lopez Memorial Award for Children's Literature Nominee, NAACP Image Award Nominee for Youth/Teens, NCTE Charlotte Huck Award, and Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award Nominee

***Strongheart Wonder Dog of the Silvre Screen* by Candace Fleming** Based on a true story, this absorbing novel from the duo behind *Giant Squid* and other books introduces Strongheart, a German shepherd that worked as a police dog in Germany until his discovery by Hollywood director Larry Trimble in the early 1920s. ©2018 Grade Level 6-7

***Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk** Growing up in the shadows cast by two world wars, Annabelle has lived a mostly quiet, steady life in her small Pennsylvania town. Until the day new student Betty Glengarry walks into her class. ©2016 Grade Level 6-8, 2017 Newbery Honor Book

Recommended Summer Reading 2022

SEVENTH GRADE ENTERING EIGHTH GRADE

***Absolutely Truly* by Heather Vogel Frederick** Truly Lovejoy is accustomed to change. Her father's military career means they move often. But the kind of change that comes when her father loses an arm in Afghanistan and decides to move the family to middle-of-nowhere Pumpkin Falls to take over the family bookstore is a little more than Truly can handle. ©2014 Grade Level 7-8

***Ali Cross* by James Patterson** Ali Cross has always looked up to his father, former detective and FBI agent Alex Cross. While solving some of the nation's most challenging crimes, his father always kept his head and did the right thing. Can Ali have the same strength and resolve? ©2019 Grade Level 7-8

***As Brave as You* by Jason Reynolds** Genie's summer is full of surprises. The first is that he and his big brother, Ernie, are leaving Brooklyn for the very first time to spend the summer with their grandparents all the way in Virginia—in the COUNTRY! **Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book, Schneider Family Book Award ©2016 Grade Level 6-8**

***The Boy in the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible...on Schindler's list* by Leon Leyson** The only memoir published by a former Schindler's list child, perfectly captures the innocence of a small boy who goes through the unthinkable. Leon Leyson (born Leib Lezjon) was only ten years old when the Nazis invaded Poland and his family was forced to relocate to the Krakow ghetto. ©2015 Grade Level 6-9

***Code Girls the True Story of the American Girls Who Broke Code in WWII* by Lizz Mundy** More than ten thousand women served as codebreakers during World War II, recruited by the U.S. Army and Navy. While their brothers and boyfriends took up arms, these women moved to the nation's capital to learn the top secret art of code breaking. ©2018 Grade Level 8–Up

***Echo* by Pam Munoz Ryan** Lost and alone in a forbidden forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. ©2014 Grade Level 6-8, 2016 Newbery Honor Book

***Endurance Young Readers Edition* by Scott Kelly** Discover the extreme challenges of long-term spaceflight, the pressures of living in close quarters with people from many countries, the extremely dangerous risk of colliding with space junk and the unnerving feeling of not being able to help if tragedy strikes at home. ©2018 Grade Level 8-9

***Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan** The novel focuses on Esperanza, the only daughter of wealthy Mexican parents, and the events that occur after her father's murder and her subsequent move to California due to the actions of Esperanza's uncles, Tio Luis and Tio Marco. ©2002 Grade Level 8-9, Jane Addams Children's Book Award for Older Children, California Young Readers Medal Nominee for Middle School/Junior High,, Judy Lopez Memorial Award for Children's Literature,, Pura Belpré Award for Narrative

***Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson** It's late summer 1793, and the streets of Philadelphia are abuzz with mosquitoes and rumors of fever. Down near the docks, many have taken ill, and the fatalities are mounting. Now they include Polly, the serving girl at the Cook Coffeehouse. ©2002 Grade Level 8-9, South Carolina Book Award Nominee for Junior Book, Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee for Sundogs, Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award Nominee

***Flygirl* by Sherri L. Smith** All Ida Mae Jones wants to do is fly. Her daddy was a pilot, and years after his death she feels closest to him when she's in the air. But as a young black woman in 1940s Louisiana, she knows the sky is off limits to her, until America enters World War II, and the Army forms the WASP-Women Airforce Service Pilots. ©2010 Grade Level 8-9

***I Kill the Mockingbird* by Paul Acampora** When Lucy, Elena, and Michael receive their summer reading list, they are excited to see *To Kill A Mockingbird* included. But not everyone in their class shares the same enthusiasm. ©2015 Grade Level 6-8

***A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story* by Linda Sue Park** The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. ©2011 Grade Level 6-8

Recommended Summer Reading 2022

***A Night Divided* by Jennifer A. Nielsen** With the rise of the Berlin Wall, Gerta finds her family suddenly divided. She, her mother, and her brother Fritz live on the eastern side, controlled by the Soviets. Her father and middle brother, who had gone west in search of work, cannot return home. Gerta knows it is dangerous to watch the wall, yet she can't help herself. ©2018 Grade Level 7–8

***The Red Bandanna* by Tom Rinaldi** Welles Crowther always kept a red bandanna with him, a gift from his father. Little did he know how that bandanna would help him in a time of crisis, during the fall of the South Tower of the World Trade Center. Readers will be fascinated by the story of an ordinary man who did extraordinary work to save lives of others while sacrificing his own. ©2017 Grade Level 6–8, Winner of the Christopher Award, Notable Social Studies Book

***Refugee* by Alan Gratz** Historical novel that braids the stories of three young refugees in three different time periods and settings: 1938 Berlin, 1994 Cuba, and 2015 Syria. The circumstances of all the kids and families are dire, and their journeys are fraught with imminent danger. ©2017 Grade Level 7-8

***Resistance* by Jennifer Nielsen** Chaya Lindner is a teenager living in Nazi-occupied Poland. Simply being Jewish places her in danger of being killed or sent to the camps. After her little sister is taken away, her younger brother disappears, and her parents all but give up hope, Chaya is determined to make a difference. ©2018 Grade Level 8-9

***Restart* by Gordon Korman** Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't, in fact, remember anything. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again. ©2017 Grade Level 7-9, South Carolina Book Award Nominee for Junior Book, Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee for Sundogs, Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award Nominee

***Terror at Bottle Creek* by Watt Key** In this gritty, realistic wilderness adventure, thirteen-year-old Cort is caught in a battle against a Gulf Coast hurricane. Cort's father is a local expert on hunting and swamp lore in lower Alabama who has been teaching his son everything he knows. But when a deadly Category 3 storm makes landfall, Cort must unexpectedly put his all skills-and bravery-to the test. ©2016 Grade Level 6-9

***You Can Fly: The Tuskegee Airmen* by Carole Brown Weatherford** *I WANT YOU!* says the poster of Uncle Sam. But if you're a young black man in 1940, he doesn't want you in the cockpit of a war plane. Yet you are determined not to let that stop your dream of flying. ©2016 Grade Level 8-10, Jane Addams Children's Book Award for Older Children, California Young Readers Medal Nominee for Middle School/Junior High,, Judy Lopez Memorial Award for Children's Literature,, Pura Belpré Award for Narrative

Recommended Summer Reading 2022