

Summer Reading Suggestions

Adapted from The American Library Association

Grades 6-8

All's Faire in Middle School by Victoria Jamieson

Have the lessons she has learned growing up in the Renaissance Faire prepared Imogene for her most difficult quest yet....starting middle school?

Amina's Voice by Hena Khan

Among prejudice and change, how do you stay true to yourself and blend in to a new community simultaneously?

As Brave as You by Jason Reynolds

Being sent to the country for the summer is culture shock for Genie and his older brother but an opportunity to get to know Grandpop and some dark family secrets.

Ashes to Asheville by Sarah Dooley

Fella and her sister Zany take their deceased mother's ashes and run away to Asheville - the last place they were happy as a family - where they hope to scatter them as per her wishes.

Beyond the Bright Sea by Lauren Wolk

Orphaned and determined to uncover her past, Crow sets sail on a journey of self-discovery.

Blood, Bullets, and Bones: The Story of Forensic Science from Sherlock Holmes to DNA by Bridget Heos

A gruesome and fascinating account of the indispensable role forensic science plays in our criminal justice system.

Booked by Kwame Alexander

The thrill of a soccer tournament, the pressure of family expectations, the social minefield of crushes and bullies, and the beauty of words are all explored in this exciting, extraordinary novel in verse.

The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora by Pablo Cartaya

A shady real estate developer threatens Arturo's Miami community. Can he help the neighborhood and stop being so awkward around his cute neighbor Carmen? Maybe Jose Marti can help.

Eyes of the World: Robert Capa, Gerda Taro, and the Invention of Modern Photojournalism by Marc Aronson and Marina Budhos

Two young photographers set out to change the world with their photo story in the 1930s.

The First Rule of Punk by Celia C. Perez

Malu struggles to pull together all the different threads of her life (her love of punk rock, her Mexican heritage, her dislike of cilantro) into an identity all her own.

Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Ally struggles to hide her dyslexia by continually getting in trouble, until a substitute teacher discovers what she is really hiding.

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill

Luna, having been turned into a witch as a young girl, discovers the magic within her while facing an evil force.

Greetings from Witness Protection! by Jake Burt

Streetwise Nikki is plucked from foster care to help a family in trouble stay hidden; how far will she go to protect her newfound home?

Grounded: The Adventures of Rapunzel by Megan Morrison

After leaving her tower for the first time, Rapunzel joins Jack Beanstalker on a perilous journey through the lands of Tyme. First in a series.

In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse by Joseph Marshall III

Jimmy McClean and his grandfather go on a road trip together in order for the boy to learn about his Lakota heritage.

The Inquisitor's Tale by Adam Gidwitz

Three travelers unite in a journey through medieval France to escape persecution and save their land.

It All Comes Down to This by Karen English

In Los Angeles during the summer of 1965, Sophie, an upper middle class African American girl, learns some hard truths about her family, about friendship, and about racism.

Love, Ish by Karen Rivers

Mischa "Ish" Love's dreams of escaping life in her small town and living on Mars one day are threatened by a sudden illness.

Listen, Slowly by Thanhà Lai

Mai must spend her summer vacation in Vietnam with her Grandmother (Ba). While there, Mai learns more about her family, while Ba learns what happened to her husband during the war.

Lucky Broken Girl by Ruth Behar

After a move from Cuba to New York City, an unexpected accident traps Ruthy in a body cast for months, cutting her off from friends, school and fun, leading her to explore her world through art.

Me & Miranda Mullaly by Jake Gerhardt

Three boys all trying to gain the attention of the same girl become rivals in this hilarious tale of misunderstandings.

Norse Myths: Tales of Odin, Thor, and Loki by Kevin Crossley-Holland

"Marvel" at 20 thrilling tales of bravery, deceit, trickery and treasure in which Viking gods and magical beings struggle for power.

Piecing Me Together by Renee Watson

Set in present day, rapidly gentrifying Portland, Oregon, Jade struggles to find her voice amid conflicting pressures. Literary allusions of collage art and the themes of making yourself out of the pieces of your life elevate this coming of age story.

Rhythm Ride: A Road Trip Through the Motown Sound by Andrea David Pinkney

A narrative history of the Motown record label: the business, the music, the people, and the historical, political, and cultural context of its times.

Samurai Rising by Pamela S. Turner

An epic tale of warriors and rebellion reveals how Minamoto Yoshitsune became the greatest samurai in Japanese history.

The War that Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Like many other city children during World War II, Ada and Jamie are being evacuated to live with strangers in the countryside, away from the bombings. They are leaving their mother and all they have ever known. How could this be possibly the best thing that could ever have happened to them?

Summer Reading Suggestions Adapted from The Horn Book, Inc.

Grades 7-8

Hurricane Child by Kheryn Callender

With “the darkest skin and the thickest hair in the whole Catholic school,” Caroline is bullied by classmates and teachers alike. Things change for the better when new student Kalinda arrives in St. Thomas from Barbados.

The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora by Pablo Cartaya

When a scheming real-estate developer threatens their restaurant, Arturo Zamora’s large, extended Cuban American family mobilizes to save it. Arturo narrates his story with liberal doses of Spanish.

Votes for Women!: American Suffragists and the Battle for the Ballot by Winifred Conkling

Conkling’s fascinating account of the bumpy road to women’s suffrage begins with the Women’s Rights Convention in 1848 and culminates with the Nineteenth Amendment. Over half the book focuses on Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony; coverage of the movement’s “second wave of suffragists” is no less compelling.

The Journey of Little Charlie by Christopher Paul Curtis

In 1858, Charlie is forced to travel North to help capture “thieves” — or so he thinks. White, ignorant Charlie is a product of his circumstances, but finds his conscience. Curtis seamlessly intertwines humor and tragedy in this companion to *Elijah of Buxton* and *The Madman of Piney Woods*. 247 pages.

All’s Faire in Middle School by Victoria Jamieson

Ren Faire meets *Roller Girl* in Jamieson’s read-alike graphic novel. Homeschooled Imogene Vega — squire-in-training at the Renaissance Faire where her family works — starts middle school, with hilariously embarrassing results. Energetic, expressive illustrations let plot and characterization shine. 248 pages.

The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson

Johnson’s *Westing Game*-inspired tale is a tangled historical mystery, satisfying multigenerational family story, and exploration of race and racism. Chapters alternate between present and past, when a secret, integrated high school tennis match led to violence. Johnson’s narrative revels in its puzzle-story elements.

The Magician and the Spirits: Harry Houdini and the Curious Pastime of Communicating with the Dead by Deborah Noyes

Noyes uses Houdini’s attempts to discredit the late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century Spiritualist movement as her entry point into the intriguing phenomenon. She provides historical context and relates incidents from Houdini’s life, including his friendship with staunch believer Arthur Conan Doyle and the magician’s attempts to unmask “flimflammers.”

Miles Morales: Spider-Man by Jason Reynolds

In this series starter, based on a 2011 Marvel comic, sixteen-year-old Miles Morales, who is black and Puerto Rican, is also Spider-Man. The novel has its fair share of action-adventure (surrounding a white supremacist organization led by a centuries-old villain), and is also a well-spun tale of identity.

Ascent by Roland Smith

In this third installment, teenage mountaineer Peak Marcello (*Peak; The Edge*) is preparing to climb Hkakabo Razi in Myanmar. Sure enough, disaster strikes. Smith knows how to develop suspense, and this tale has two parts — a perilous journey through the rainforest and the ascent of Hkakabo Razi itself.

Piecing Me Together by Renée Watson

At her mother's relentless prodding, African American teen Jade takes every opportunity offered to her, including joining a mentoring group with a clueless, careless mentor. This involving, thought-provoking novel is a multifaceted and clear-eyed exploration of race, class, and gender.

Summer Reading Suggestions **Adapted from Scholastic, Inc.**

Grades 7-8

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

Jacqueline Woodson tells the moving story of her childhood. Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights Movement.

Echo by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Lost and alone in the forbidden Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica.

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, Parts One and Two by Jack Thorne, John Tiffany, J.K. Rowling

The eighth story, nineteen years later...It was difficult being Harry Potter and it is not much easier now that he is an overworked employee of the Ministry of Magic, a husband, and a father of three school-aged children. While Harry grapples with a past that refuses to stay where it belongs, his youngest son, Albus, must struggle with the weight of a family legacy he never wanted. As past and present fuse ominously, both father and son learn the uncomfortable truth: sometimes, darkness comes from unexpected places.

The Bronze Key by Cassandra Clare, Holly Black

After the shocking death of a classmate, Call, Tamara, and Aaron risk their own lives to track down a sinister killer.

One True Way by Shannon Hitcock

Allie and Sam are classmates at Daniel Boone Middle School. Allie and Sam are friends. Allie and Sam are girls. Allie and Sam are falling for each other.

The Sword of Summer by Rick Riordan

Magnus Chase has always been a troubled kid. Since his mother's mysterious death, he's lived alone on the streets of Boston, surviving by his wits, keeping one step ahead of the police and the truant officers. One day, he's tracked down by an uncle he barely knows, a man his mother claimed was dangerous. Uncle Randolph tells him an

impossible secret: Magnus is the son of a Norse god. The Viking myths are true. The gods of Asgard are preparing for war. To prevent the doomsday battle, Magnus must search the Nine Worlds for a weapon that has been lost for thousands of years. When an attack by fire giants forces him to choose between his own safety and the lives of hundreds of innocents, Magnus makes a fateful decision. Sometimes, the only way to start a new life is to die.

It is recommended that parents/guardians review and approve any selections prior to student reading. There are many websites available recommending and suggesting a variety of books for children of all ages.