



# READING LIST

Grades  
6—8



St. Charles City-County  
**Library**

stchlibrary.org

## BOOKS

### BARELY FLOATING

BY LILLIAM RIVERA

KOKILA, 2023  
ISBN: 9780593323120

A great addition to a summer reading list, this story follows Nat as she falls in love with and tries out for the L.A. Mermaids, a synchronized swimming group. Over the summer, she learns how good it feels to surround herself with people who lift her up and how to let herself shine, even when it gets tough.

### CATCH A CRAYFISH, COUNT THE STARS: FUN PROJECTS, SKILLS, AND ADVENTURES FOR OUTDOOR KIDS

BY STEVEN RINELLA,  
ILLUSTRATED BY MAX TEMESCU

RANDOM HOUSE, 2023  
ISBN: 9780593448977

Written by the host of the Netflix show *MeatEater*, this book is full of fun activities to do in the summer. The activities range from making a sun compass to becoming a bike mechanic, pickling a cucumber, and birdwatching.

### THE FIREFLY SUMMER

BY MORGAN MATSON

SIMON & SCHUSTER, 2023  
ISBN: 9781534493353

A girl is sent to meet her extended family at their lakeside retreat. There she learns how to embrace her family's changes and cope with grief.

### A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING

BY DAN SANTAT

FIRST SECOND, 2023  
ISBN: 9781626724150

From discovering punk music and Fanta to sneaking into Wimbledon, this graphic memoir is the story of how one class trip to Europe changed a middle schooler's life forever.

### HALF MOON SUMMER

BY ELAINE VICKERS

PEACHTREE, 2023  
ISBN: 9781682635391

Seventh-graders Mia and Drew spend their summer running together as they train for a half marathon and face challenges within their families.

### HEROES: A NOVEL OF PEARL HARBOR

BY ALAN GRATZ

SCHOLASTIC, 2024  
ISBN: 9781338736076

December 7, 1941—the world changes for Frank and Stanley. Caught on a battleship when the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor, the two friends endure frightening moments that test their friendship as everything around them is destroyed. Includes a graphic novel of the original ideas and moments the boys shared during their ordeal.

### THE LABORS OF HERCULES BEAL

BY GARY D. SCHMIDT

CLARION, 2023  
ISBN: 9780358659631

Hercules knows he's no hero—even though he's named after one. Assigned a Herculean task by his teacher, Herc, over the course of a year, helps out in the family nursery, with all that entails, and learns to accept the death of his parents and to trust and bond with those around him.

### THE LOST YEAR

BY KATHERINE MARSH

ROARING BROOK, 2023  
ISBN: 9781250313607

During the COVID pandemic, thirteen-year-old Matthew discovers a photo of his great-grandmother and a family secret that is connected to the Holodomor—a famine that killed millions of Ukrainians in 1930s Soviet Union.

### THE MANY ASSASSINATIONS OF SAMIR, THE SELLER OF DREAMS

BY DANIEL NAYERI,  
ILLUSTRATED BY DANIEL MIYARES

LEVINE QUERIDO, 2023  
ISBN: 9781646143030

Determined to save his new master's life, a young orphan must face various assassins as he and the "Seller of Dreams" travel the Silk Road.

### MEXIKID: A GRAPHIC MEMOIR

BY PEDRO MARTIN

DIAL, 2023  
ISBN: 9780593462287

Pedro and his large family take an epic road trip to Mexico to bring his abuelito back to America. This hilarious graphic novel memoir has a lot of heart and will keep kids laughing.

### THE MISFITS: A ROYAL CONUNDRUM

BY LISA YEE,  
ILLUSTRATED BY DAN SANTAT

RANDOM HOUSE, 2024  
ISBN: 9781984830296

High jinks, heists, and humor! Before departing on another last-minute business trip, Olive Cobin Zang's parents deposit her at the Reforming Arts School (RASCH), a boarding school at a former prison, where she is soon secretly enrolled in undercover agent training.

### THE MONA LISA VANISHES: A LEGENDARY PAINTER, A SHOCKING HEIST, AND THE BIRTH OF A GLOBAL CELEBRITY

BY NICHOLAS DAY,  
ILLUSTRATED BY BRETT HELQUIST

RANDOM HOUSE STUDIO, 2023  
ISBN: 9780593643846

A rollicking true tale of the improbable theft of the Mona Lisa from the Louvre in 1911, set alongside the equally improbable story of its creation and the life of its painter, Leonardo da Vinci.



## THE PLOT TO KILL A QUEEN

BY DEBORAH HOPKINSON

SCHOLASTIC, 2023  
ISBN: 9781338660586

Emilia Bassano meets Will Shakespeare and then Mary Queen of Scots in this imaginative story for those who love music, writing, theater, spycraft, and historical fiction!

## REMEMBER US

BY JACQUELINE WOODSON

NANCY PAULSEN BOOKS, 2023  
ISBN: 9780399545467

Twelve-year-old Sage experiences a summer of self-discovery as she spends her days playing basketball and watching fires overtake the beloved Bushwick neighborhood where she lives in this novel set in the 1970s.

## SHAKTI

BY S. J. SINDU,  
ILLUSTRATED BY NABI H. ALI

HARPERALLEY, 2023  
ISBN: 9780063090132

A fantasy graphic novel about a twelve-year-old Indian American girl learning to use her powers for good.

## SIMON SORT OF SAYS

BY ERIN BOW

DISNEY-HYPERION, 2023  
ISBN: 9781368082853

In this story filled with quirky characters, Simon learns that life is full of tragedy, sensitive moments, and most importantly, humanity. Humor abounds as Simon learns the true meaning of letting go of the past and facing his future as only a middle schooler can do.

## SUNSHINE

BY JARRETT J. KROSOCZKA

GRAPHIX, 2023  
ISBN: 9781338356328

This graphic novel tells the story of a summer camp for seriously ill children and their families. Sixteen-year-old Jarrett is worried that working with sick kids will be too depressing, but he quickly learns how to connect and empathize with the kids and their families.



ALSC reading lists are created by children's librarians as a resource to share with patrons. These titles 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.

## TEGAN AND SARA: JUNIOR HIGH

BY SARA QUIN AND TEGAN QUIN,  
ILLUSTRATED BY TILLIE WALDEN

FARRAR, STRAUS AND GIROUX, 2023  
ISBN: 9780374313012

Twin sisters Tegan and Sara are growing up—and growing apart—as they face the challenges of junior high, crushes, and friend drama. They find a way to reconnect through their love of making music in this semi-autobiographical graphic novel.

## TWO TRIBES

BY EMILY BOWEN COHEN

HEARTDRUM, 2023  
ISBN: 9780062983596

Raised by her Jewish mother and stepfather, Mia yearns to know more about her father, a member of the Muscogee Nation, so she runs away to Oklahoma to discover more about her family—and her own identity.

## WHERE THE WATER TAKES US

BY ALAN BARILLARO

CANDLEWICK, 2023  
ISBN: 9781536224542

A girl spends her summer at her grandfather's lake house and befriends a neighbor boy who teaches her how to cope with complex emotions. The illustrations double as a flip-book.

## YOU ARE HERE: CONNECTING FLIGHTS

EDITED BY ELLEN OH

ALLIDA, 2023  
ISBN: 9780063239081

Interconnected short stories told by twelve authors feature East and Southeast Asian American characters stuck together at a Chicago airport.

## DIGITAL

### CHROME MUSIC LAB

<https://musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/>

This engaging website makes learning music fun with hands-on experiments and activities that cover rhythm, harmonics, oscillators, and more.

### THE KID SHOULD SEE THIS

<https://thekidshouldseethis.com/>

This Webby Award-winning site offers a well-organized collection of more than 6,000 thought-provoking, kid-accessible, all-ages videos on a range of topics. Ten to fifteen new videos added weekly.

### LEGO BUILDER

<https://www.lego.com/en-us/builder-app>

This free app has digital building instructions for LEGO sets from 2006 to today. Some instructions are available in 3-D, and you can zoom and rotate instructions.

### TED-ED

<https://ed.ted.com/>

TED's youth and education initiative, TED-Ed is a website that presents video shorts on diverse, stimulating topics, supplemented with discussion questions and resources for deeper dives.

[www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc)

The 2024 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.

For more booklists, please visit [www.ala.org/alsc/booklists](http://www.ala.org/alsc/booklists).

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