



READING LIST

Grades
6-8

BOOKS

ALL THE BLUES IN THE SKY

BY RENÉE WATSON

BLOOMSBURY, 2025
ISBN: 9781547605897

After losing her best friend on her thirteenth birthday, Sage navigates grief and guilt in this moving novel in verse.

THE ATLAS OBSCURA EXPLORER'S GUIDE TO INVENTING THE WORLD

BY DYLAN THURAS AND JENNIFER SWANSON, ILLUS. BY RUBY FRESSON

WORKMAN, 2025
ISBN: 9781523516889

Journey through time in this enjoyable look at inventions from around the world. The book is organized into categories, from fire, ancient renewables, binary numbers, and so many more, all the way to AI. For example, readers discover that the earliest found lens is 2,700 years old, and from there, learn about lenses in telescopes and microscopes. Longitude and latitude are included for each invention, which can be put into an online map to see where it occurred.

BLOOD IN THE WATER

BY TIFFANY D. JACKSON

SCHOLASTIC, 2025
ISBN: 9781338849912

When a popular local teen is found dead during her summer on Martha's Vineyard, twelve-year-old Kaylani turns amateur sleuth to uncover the truth in this gripping mystery.

A DANGEROUS IDEA: THE SCOPES TRIAL, THE ORIGINAL FIGHT OVER SCIENCE IN SCHOOLS

BY DEBBIE LEVY

BLOOMSBURY, 2025
ISBN: 9781547612215

In 1925, Tennessee lawmakers banned the teaching of evolution in their classrooms.

John Scopes mentioned the theory in passing during science class, thus starting a nationwide conversation about what should or shouldn't be taught to our nation's youth during the famous Scopes Monkey Trial. Author Levy shows why that conversation happened and why it is still occurring today, one hundred years later.

THE FORGOTTEN SUMMER OF SENECA

BY CAMRYN GARRETT

ABRAMS/AMULET, 2025
ISBN: 9781419773334

Fantasy and history converge in this captivating coming-of-age story. Twelve-year-old budding photographer Rowan isn't looking forward to summer with her aunt in New York City, but then she steps through a portal that takes her into the city's past, launching an adventure full of friendships and discoveries she'll never forget.

HOW TO SAY GOODBYE IN CUBAN

BY DANIEL MIYARES

RANDOM/ANNE SCHWARTZ, 2025
ISBN: 9780593568293

This powerful graphic memoir recounts the experiences of Carlos, the author's father, who escaped from Cuba at age twelve during the Cuban Revolution.

THE MOON WITHOUT STARS

BY CHANEL MILLER

PHILOMEL, 2026
ISBN: 9780593624555

Middle-schooler Luna's skills in bibliotherapy and the unexpected success of her zine shift her social status in this philosophical look at friendship dynamics.

THE NEW GIRL

BY CASSANDRA CALIN

SCHOLASTIC/GRAPHIX, 2024
ISBN: 9781338762464

How does it feel to start all over in a new country? Lia leaves behind Romania and has to figure everything out in a new country, new home, new language, and even a seemingly new

body as she struggles with getting her period for the first time.

RIALTO

BY KATE MILFORD

CLARION, 2026
ISBN: 9781328466914

Two sisters struggling with their sibling dynamic spend summer vacation in a magic-tinged town where lore around an abandoned amusement park entralls them.

SCARLET MORNING

BY ND STEVENSON

HARPERCOLLINS/QUILL TREE, 2025
ISBN: 9780063210349

Viola's and Wilmur's lives are turned upside down when Captain Chase arrives at their door. They are in for the trip of a lifetime as they set sail in this funny and fast-paced fantasy pirate adventure.

A SONG FOR YOU AND I

BY K. O'NEILL

RANDOM/RH GRAPHIC, 2025
ISBN: 9780593182314

Rowan wants nothing more than to be a ranger protecting their village. But when their reckless actions lead to disaster, a surprising relationship will help Rowan appreciate a different speed of living.

SPEAK UP, SANTIAGO!

BY JULIO ANTA, ILLUS. BY GABI MENDEZ

RANDOM/RH GRAPHIC, 2025
ISBN: 9780593651643

Santiago leaves New York City for a summer with his abuela to improve his Spanish skills. He looks forward to playing soccer with new friends, but Santi's lack of fluency makes him feel left out among the Latine community of Hillside Valley, thinking he may be a "fake" Colombian. Overwhelmed by his emotions, Santi's reactions jeopardize his relationships with friends and family.



St. Charles City-County
Library



THE TEACHER OF NOMAD LAND: A WORLD WAR II STORY

BY DANIEL NAYERI

LEVINE QUERIDO/ARTHUR A. LEVINE, 2025
ISBN: 9781646145669

Orphaned siblings navigate the perilous landscape of neutral Iran as Axis and Allied forces converge there in 1941 in this poetic and gentle World War II story.

THE TROUBLE WITH HEROES

BY KATE MESSNER

BLOOMSBURY, 2025
ISBN: 9781547616398

After damaging a tombstone, Finn must hike the forty-six Adirondack peaks, where he learns about himself and deals with the trauma of his father's death.

THE UNDEAD FOX OF DEADWOOD FOREST

BY AUBREY HARTMAN

LITTLE, BROWN, 2025
ISBN: 9780316575720

Clare ushers animal souls to their afterlives, but the arrival of stubborn badger Gingersnipes sends Clare off on a treacherous mission to find answers to questions Clare fears asking; a tender and quirky masterpiece.

THE VANISHING OF LAKE PEIGNEUR: A GRAPHIC NOVEL BASED ON A TRUE STORY

BY ALLAN WOLF,
ILLUS. BY JOSE PIMENTA

CANDLEWICK, 2025
ISBN: 9781536217438

For fans of the I Survived series by Lauren Tarshis, this tells the little-known true story of a mining disaster that caused a whole lake in Louisiana to disappear. Great for fans of both historical and environmental reads. Pair it with *Junius Leak and the Spiraling Vortex of Doom*, also by Wolf.



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.

WHALE EYES: A MEMOIR ABOUT SEEING AND BEING SEEN

BY JAMES ROBINSON,
ILLUS. BY BRIAN REA

PENGUIN WORKSHOP, 2025
ISBN: 9780593523957

James Robinson has a visible disability, exotropia, which means his eyes are not aligned. Through unconventional formatting and multimedia, readers are able to view the world as James does and to explore the power of human connection.

WINNIE NASH IS NOT YOUR SUNSHINE

BY NICOLE MELLEBY

ALGONQUIN, 2024
ISBN: 9781643753133

There's a lot on Winnie's plate this summer, from her dad's new job to her mom's post-miscarriage pregnancy. To top it all off, Winnie's parents ask her to go back into the closet while she's staying with her grandma in New Jersey. Winnie spends the summer figuring out how to be herself while doing her best to live up to expectations that don't quite fit. Winnie's challenges and hopes are handled with honesty and humor in this heartfelt tween novel about pride, community, friendship, and family.

A WORLD WITHOUT SUMMER: A VOLCANO ERUPTS, A CREATURE AWAKENS, AND THE SUN GOES OUT

BY NICHOLAS DAY,
ILLUS. BY YAS IMAMURA

RANDOM HOUSE STUDIO, 2025
ISBN: 9780593643877

This engaging nonfiction book tells the story of Mount Tambora's 1815 eruption and the "Year Without a Summer," connecting the dots by exploring

the global impact of this event on weather, society, art, and literature.

A WORLD WORTH SAVING

BY KYLE LUKOFF

DIAL, 2025
ISBN: 9780593618981

When A came out as trans, his parents were less than thrilled. Now he's stuck in an anti-trans group while his parents try to "fix" him. The problem is, not only is A in danger, but the whole world is also in peril from pain-eating demons. If A can't even get his parents to accept him as he is, how is he going to save the world?

DIGITAL

KIDSTHINKDESIGN: A KIDS DESIGN COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

kidsthinkdesign.org

This site is dedicated to the inspiration and education of future designers. Activities and resources include access to books on design, a design lab that connects kids with professionals, and a website that showcases kids' original designs and thinking.

TEDED VIDEOS

ed.ted.com

On this website, both TED talks and original animations spark middle-schoolers' curiosity in a wide range of fields.

www.ala.org/alsc

The 2026 Summer Reading 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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