

## Summer Reading List

5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade options

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Options

1. **When Stars Are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed.** A stunning graphic novel about life in a refugee camp in Somalia. This book stayed with me a long time, and would be a great choice for parents and students to read together.
2. **A Boy Called Bat by Elana K. Arnold.** The first in a three-book series about an autistic young boy, Bixby Alexander Tam, aka Bat, and his world.
3. **One Good Thing about America by Ruth Freeman** A book about a nine-year-old girl named Anais who immigrates to America. The story is told through letters she writes to her grandmother, Oma.
4. **Count Me In by Varsha Bajaj** A book about bullying and the power of social media. When a young boy's father is the victim of a hate crime, the boy turns to social media to create a powerful anti-bullying campaign.
5. **We are Here to Stay: Voices of Undocumented Adults by Susan Kuklin** The stories of nine undocumented adults, who tell their perspective and their history in their own voices. A good choice for parents and kids to read together.
6. **Hoot by Carl Hiaasen** A mystery novel about a group of kids who work together to stop the construction of a pancake house, which would disrupt the habitat of owls.
7. **Wonder by R.J. Palacio** A moving novel about a young boy with a medical condition and the challenges he faces. It was also made into a film.
8. **Save Me a Seat by Gina Weeks and Gita Varadarajan** A book about friendship that switches between the perspective of two students, Ravi, a new student, and Joe, who struggles with sensory processing.
9. **Number the Stars by Lois Lowry** A historical fiction book about a Jewish family escaping from Denmark during World War II. The story's protagonist is 10-year-old Annemarie Johansen. I read this book in fifth grade, along with *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank, another stellar option.
10. **The Night Gardener: A Scary Story by Jonathan Auxier** A story about two orphans who travel to England for work, the creepy house they find and its cast of interesting characters, including a mysterious stranger.

## Sixth Grade Reading List

- 1. Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank.** The classic, moving story of a young Jewish girl in hiding with her family during World War II.
- 2. New Kid by Jerry Craft.** A graphic novel about seventh grader Jerry Banks. Instead of attending the art school of his dreams, his parent send him to an elite private school instead. Jerry is split between two places: his home in Washington Heights and his new school, and is having a hard time fitting in either place.
- 3. Pashmina by Nidhi Chanani.** A graphic novel about Priyanka, a teenage girl yearning to learn her immigrant mother’s stories of her home in India, but her mother doesn’t want to share. A magical pashmina transports her to India, and she begins to see her relationship with her mother in a new way.
- 4. Coralline by Neil Gaiman and P. Craig Russell.** The novel that inspired the film, about a little girl, a magical house that is slightly different from her home, and a new set of parents that never want to let her go.
- 5. A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramee.** The story of twelve-year-old Shayla, who is “allergic” to breaking rules. That is, until she attends a Black Lives Matter protest and learns some rules are worth breaking.
- 6. The Sun is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon.** A diverse love story about two teenagers, Natasha and Daniel, Andrew, and about how small changes can change your life. This story kept me up at night reading. It is also a film, available to rent on Apple TV, YouTube and other streaming services.
- 7. Ways to Live Forever by Sally Nichols.** A story about an eleven year old boy named Sam. Sam loves facts and trivia. He wants to know about UFOs, and ghosts and science. Sam is also dying-he has leukemia. This novel is powerful and so uplifting. I’m reading it right now and I can’t put it down.
- 8. Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins.** A fantasy novel about what happens when Gregor follows his little sister down the laundry chute in his New York City apartment, only to find themselves in Underland, an underground world where people live among giant rats and spiders.
- 9. The President Has Been Shot! by Rebecca C. Jones.** A historical presentation on the 10 assassination attempts made on United States Presidents. This book would be great for kids who like history and interesting facts. The book includes news events of the experiences and quotes from people that were present.
- 10. Hello from Renn Lake by Michelle Weber Hurwitz.** Annalise’s family runs a lakeside cabin retreat in Wisconsin. At three years old, Annalise discovers she can sense what the lake is thinking and feeling. But this summer, when a small patch of algae grows larger, Annalise can no longer hear the lake and must race to save it.

## Seventh Grade Reading List

- 1. When Stars are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed.** A graphic novel about two Somali boys in a Kenyan refugee camp and their eventual move to the United States. I read this book months ago and still think about it. It is a beautiful, heart wrenching true story.
- 2. They Called Us Enemy by George Takei.** The actor, author, and activist's debut graphic novel about his childhood in an American internment camp for Japanese people. Takei is an outspoken activist against this practice, and this novel is a deep, intelligent look into his memories of that time.
- 3. Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes.** After seventh grade student Jerome is shot by police, he observes the aftermath of his death and the changes in his community. He also meets historic victims of racial violence in the afterlife, like Emmett Till. This is a moving story that will stick with you. I'm reading it right now and I can't put it down.
- 4. They Both Die at the End by Adam Silvera.** An adventurous novel about two young men, Mateo and Rufus. Both receive phone calls from Death-Cast, a service that lets subscribers know when they only have 24 hours left to live. The story chronicles their End Days, and shows readers the power of truly living.
- 5. Ghost Squad by Claribel A. Ortega.** Described as a cross between Stranger Things and Disney's Coco, the story follows Lucely Luna, whose family business is...ghosts and hauntings. When Lucely mistakenly awakens a malicious ghost during Halloween, she and her family must work to stop the ghost from wreaking havoc on their town.
- 6. Aru Shah and the End of Time by Roshani Choksi.** One of TIME's "100 Best Fantasy Books of All Time," this book is the first in a five-part adventure series based on Hindu mythology. When Aru lies to fit in at school, she ends up lighting a magical lamp and releasing The Sleeper, an ancient demon. Her fellow students and family become frozen in time, and it's up to Aru to save the day, with the help of characters from the Hindu epic poem, The Mahabharata.
- 7. Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon.** The debut novel from Jamaican-American author Nicola Yoon, this story focuses on Madeline Whittier, a teen girl who has a condition known as "bubble baby disease." She cannot leave her home, which is hermetically sealed for her protection, but she still develops a relationship with Olly, the boy next door. The book is also a film, available to watch on streaming services like Netflix or Amazon Prime.
- 8. Escape from Mr. Limoncello's Library by Chris Grabenstein.** The world's most famous game maker, Luigi Limoncello, creates the city's new library, and is hosting an invitation-only lock in on opening night! But in the morning, the doors stay locked. Kyle and his friends must solve puzzles and find clues to find the escape route out of the library.
- 9. Dear Poet: Notes to a Young Writer by Charles Ghinga.** A small book of poems dedicated to young writers, readers, artists and dreamers alike, for inspiration and ideas. This book is a great read for those who want to one day write books, or anyone who wants to pursue a creative path.
- 10. Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson.** A novel told entirely in poems, the book tells the story of the author's childhood, growing up as an African American in 1960s South Carolina and New York.