



2020 SUMMER READING LIST

Imagine Your Story...

In St. Louis Public Schools, we provide all students access to high-quality literature that covers a wide range of topics. We use the “windows and mirrors” approach to literature exposure. This means that we want students to read books that reflect their own cultures, personalities, identities, etc. (mirrors) and we also want students to engage with titles that allow them a glimpse into the lives and experiences of others that may not reflect their own realities (windows).

We encourage students to engage in personal reading every day for pleasure. Reading for pleasure helps students maintain and improve academic skills learned during the school year. “Most kids know that summer reading provides benefits that extend well past the summer months. Seventy-seven percent agree that reading over the summer will help them during the school year and on average, kids read nine books in the summer of 2018.” Elementary students read more than nine books because the books are shorter in length. Secondary students tend to read fewer than nine books because the books are longer.

It is recommended that each student select titles from the lists provided for summer reading. Recommendations have been made by grade level based on the reading level and content of the text, but students may choose titles from any list if they desire. All of the titles contained in this Summer Reading List were recommended by SLPS teachers and staff and have also been endorsed by a number of reputable literacy organizations around the world. Most of these titles are national award winners and are available in eBook, audio book, braille, and large print formats. All titles are available through the St. Louis Public Library.

St. Louis Public Library Resources

The St. Louis Public Library offers digital library cards. There is a quick form to fill out and a library card is generated for the patron. They have an amazing collection of e-books and audiobooks available without ever needing to leave the house. They also no longer issue fines for any late materials. Click [here](#) for a list of St. Louis Public Library locations.

E-Card:

<https://www.slpl.org/ecard>

All Downloadables:

<https://www.slpl.org/resources-types/all-downloadables>

Comics and Graphic Novels:

<https://www.slpl.org/resources-types/comics-graphic-novels>

E-Audiobooks:

<https://www.slpl.org/resources-types/audiobooks>

E-Books:

<https://www.slpl.org/resources-types/ebooks>

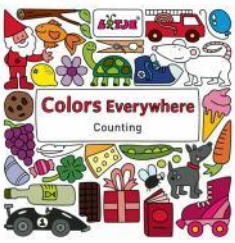
Newspapers and Magazines:

<https://www.slpl.org/resources-types/newspapers-magazines>

We recommend the following number of books for summer reading by grade level:

Grade Levels	Number of Books
PK - 2	15
3 - 5	9
6 - 8	6
9 - 12	4

BIRTH – PRESCHOOL

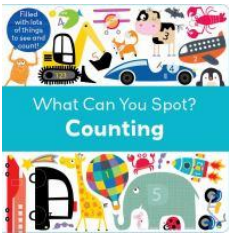


Colors Everywhere

Lizelot Versteeg

In this little book there are colors everywhere. On each page two hands will tell yo how many things to count. Will you count with us from one to ten? A playful book about colors and numbers, with fun questions. For

toddlers ages 30 months and up, with a focus on the child's language development."



Counting

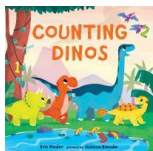
Presents detailed illustrations and challenges readers to find and count lists of things in each.



The Big Book of Counting to 100

The pages are packed with look and find activities and entertaining questions that help children learn numbers and understand the world around them.

Interactive pages include prompts to help children learn numbers, build counting skills, introduce simple mathematics, and keep little learners engaged.



Counting Dinos

Eric Pinder

Rodrigo the Ankylosaurus and his dinosaur friends explore their prehistoric world as they count from one to ten.



Counting with Barefoot Critters

Teagan White

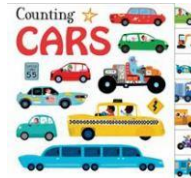
What is a day of counting with Barefoot Critters? Reading. Making pancakes. Helping friends. Exploring. Swimming. Playing pirates. Learning about numbers! Join this adorable cast of animal characters as they explore numbers and counting over the course of a day, having fun at all stops along the way.



Flip Flap Find! Counting 123

Violet Peto

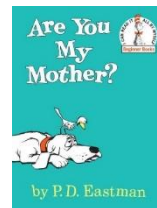
Simple text and colorful illustrations teach young readers to count from one to ten, inviting them to count the eggs of ten animals, guess their species, and lift interactive flaps to see what their hatched babies look like.



Counting Cars

Mara van der Meer

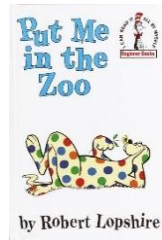
Encourages young readers to search and find specific quantities and types of motor vehicles.



Are You My Mother?

P.D. Eastman

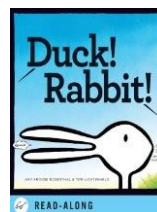
A baby bird goes in search of his mother in this hilarious Beginner Book edited by Dr. Seuss. [Read Aloud Link](#)



Put Me in the Zoo

Robert Lopshire

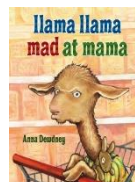
Spot believes he deserves to be in the zoo with the other amazing animals. In this Beginner Book edited by Dr. Seuss, Spot shows two young friends all the exciting things he can do with his spots. From changing their color and juggling them to moving them onto everything around him, you won't believe what Spot can do. [Read Aloud Link](#)



Duck! Rabbit!

Amy Krouse Rosenthal

This is a clever take on the age-old optical illusion: is it a duck or a rabbit? Depends on how you look at it! Readers will learn also a subtle lesson for kids who don't know when to let go of an argument. [Read Aloud Link](#)

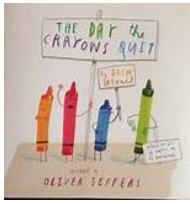


Llama Llama Mad at Mama

Anna Dewdney

Mama can't leave Llama at home, so off they go to Shop-O-Rama. Lots of aisles. Long lines. Mama is too busy to notice that Llama Llama is getting M-A-D! And before he knows it, he's having a full-out tantrum! [Read Aloud Link](#)

KDG. & 1ST GRADE:



The Day the Crayons Quit

Drew Daywalt

Duncan's crayons have gone on strike. They each write Duncan a letter explaining why refuse to go back to work until their needs are met.

[Read Aloud Link](#)



Sulwe

Lupita Nyong'o

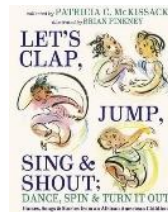
Sulwe has skin the color of midnight. She is darker than everyone in her family. She is darker than anyone in her school. Sulwe just wants to be beautiful and bright, like her mother and sister. Then a magical journey in the night sky opens her eyes and changes everything. [Read Aloud Link](#)



Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut

Derrick Barnes

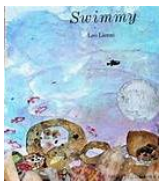
The barbershop is where the magic happens. Boys go in as lumps of clay and with princely robes draped around their shoulders, a dab of cool shaving cream on their foreheads, and a slow, steady cut, they become royalty. That crisp yet subtle line makes boys sharper, more visible, more aware of every great thing that could happen to them when they look good. [Read Aloud Link](#)



Let's Clap, Jump, Sing & Shout

Patricia C. McKissack

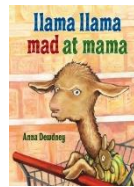
Parents and grandparents will delight in sharing this exuberant book with the children in their lives. Here is a songbook, a storybook, a poetry collection, and much more, all rolled into one. Find a partner for hand claps such as "Eenie, Meenie, Sassafreeny," or form a circle for games like "Little Sally Walker."



Swimmy

Leo Lionni

The little fish in this charming classic are afraid of the dangers of the sea. When Swimmy comes along, he shows his little fish friends how they can conquer their fears with teamwork. [Read Aloud Link](#)



Llama Llama Mad at Mama

Anna Dewdney

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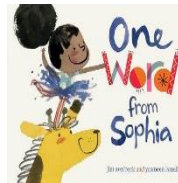


I Can Be Anything! Don't Tell Me

I Can't (read aloud)

Leo & Diane Dillon

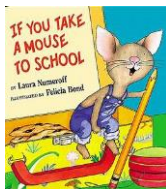
Like most girls and boys, Zoe enthusiastically embraces the wonders of our world and its infinite possibilities. "I can be anything I want to be!" she tells us, presenting herself in a range of careers.



One Word From Sophia

Jim Averbeck

Sophia tries varied techniques to get the giraffe she wants more than anything in this playfully illustrated story about the nuances of negotiation. Sophia has one true desire for her birthday. But she has Four Big Problems in the way: Mom, Dad, Uncle Conrad...and Grand-mama.

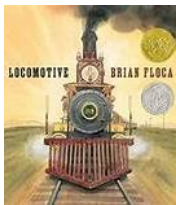


If You Take a Mouse to School

Laura Numeroff

Get excited about going back to school with this sweet tale about a mouse that is difficult to satisfy. Every time he gets something, he wants just one thing more!

2ND & 3RD GRADES



Locomotive

Brian Floca

In the summer of 1869, a family takes a ride on America's brand-new transcontinental railroad. The book captures the images, sounds, and power of the trains.

[Read Aloud Link](#)



Sing to the Moon

Nansubuga Nagadya Isdahl

For one little Ugandan boy, no wish is too big. First he dreams of reaching the stars and then of riding a supernova straight to Mars. But on a rainy day at his grandfather's house, he is brought down to earth with a bump. Do adventures only happen in galaxies far away or can he find magic a little closer to home?

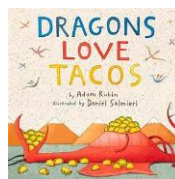


Whoosh!

Chris Barton

You know the Super Soaker. It's one of top twenty toys of all time was invented entirely by accident. Trying to create a new cooling system for refrigerators and air conditioners, impressive inventor Lonnie

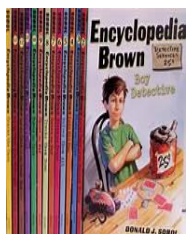
Johnson instead created the mechanics for the iconic toy. A love for rockets, robots, inventions, and a mind for creativity began early in Lonnie Johnson's life. Growing up in a house full of brothers and sisters, persistence and a passion for problem solving became the cornerstone for a career as an engineer and his work with NASA. [Read Aloud Link](#)



Dragons Love Tacos

Adam Rubin

This silly story explains that the best way to get dragons to come to your party is to eat tacos. Lots of tacos! But beware of the salsa when you have fire-breathing dragons at your party!



Encyclopedia Brown

Donald J. Sobel

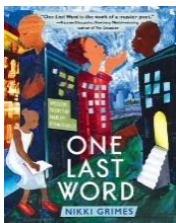
This book features junior detective Leroy (aka "Encyclopedia") Brown. (If you love solving mysteries with Encyclopedia, read more of the books in this series this summer!)"



The Tale of Despereaux

Kate DiCamillo

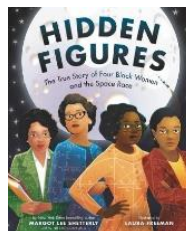
This is the story of the journey of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who loves stories, and music, as well as a rat named Roscuro and a little girl named Miggery Sow.



One Last Word

Nikki Grimes

Using "The Golden Shovel" poetic method, Grimes has written a collection of poetry that is as gorgeous as it is thought-provoking. This special book also includes original artwork in full-color from some of today's most exciting African American illustrators, who have created pieces of art based on Nikki's original poems.



Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race

Margot Lee Shetterly

The incredibly inspiring true story of four black women who helped NASA launch men into space to picture book readers. They participated in some of NASA's greatest successes, like providing the calculations for America's first journeys into space. And they did so during a time when being black and a woman limited what they could do.

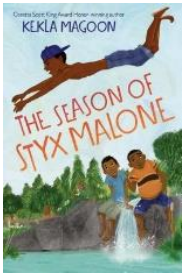


Zathura

Chris Van Allsburg

Take a journey into outer space with this science-fiction adventure story, a sequel to the classic Jumanji. Two brothers discover a game called Zathura and their adventure into space begins! [Read Aloud Link](#)

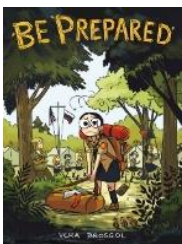
4TH & 5TH GRADES



The Season of Styx Malone

Kekla Magoon

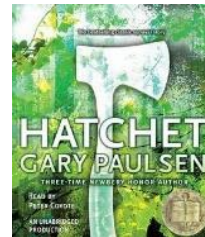
Caleb Franklin and his big brother Bobby Gene have the whole summer for adventures in the woods behind their house in Sutton, Indiana. Caleb dreams of venturing beyond their ordinary small town, but his dad likes the family to stay close to home.



Be Prepared

Vera Brosgol

In *Be Prepared*, all Vera wants to do is fit in – but that's not easy for a Russian girl in the suburbs.



Hatchet

Gary Paulsen

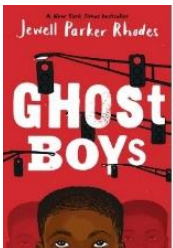
Hatchet is a story of survival. The protagonist is a thirteen-year-old city boy who ends up stranded in the Canadian wilderness when the pilot of the small plane he's flying in has a heart attack and dies.



Julian, Secret Agent

Ann Cameron

When Julian, his little brother Huey, and their friend Gloria decide to be "crime busters," they find themselves in one adventure after another.



Ghost Boys

Jewell Parker Rhodes

Twelve-year-old Jerome is unjustly shot by a police officer. He meets another ghost, Emmett Till, with a similar situation but from a different time. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father's actions.

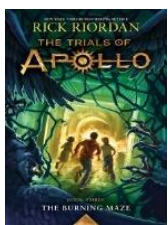


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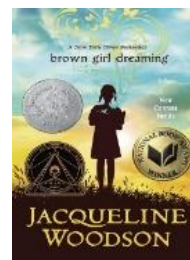
[Read Aloud Link](#)



The Tyrant's Tomb

Rick Riordan

The formerly glorious god Apollo, cast down to earth in punishment by Zeus, is now an awkward mortal teenager named Lester Papadopolos. In order to regain his place on Mount Olympus, Lester must restore five Oracles that have gone dark.

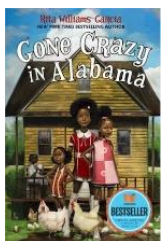


Brown Girl Dreaming

Jacqueline Woodson

Brown Girl Dreaming is a memoir by Jacqueline Woodson. She tells of her childhood as an African American in the American Northeast and South in the 1960s. Born in Columbus, Ohio, to the descendants of former slaves, Jacqueline

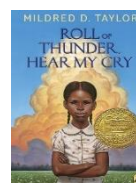
is named after her father, Jack, much to the chagrin of her mother, Mary Ann. Jacqueline soon comes to be called Jackie.



Gone Crazy in Alabama

Rita Williams-Garcia

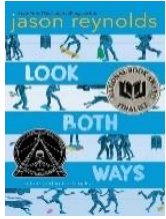
It's the summer of 1969, and Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern are off to Alabama to visit Big Ma and her eighty-two-year-old mother, Ma Charles. Pa can't remind them enough that the South's not like Brooklyn, and that you can't get more southern than Alabama.



Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

Mildred D. Taylor

Set in Mississippi at the height of the Depression, this is the story of one family's struggle to maintain their integrity, pride, and independence in the face of racism and social injustice.



Look Both Ways

Jason Reynolds

Jason Reynolds conjures ten tales (one per block) about what happens after the dismissal bell rings, and brilliantly weaves them into one wickedly funny, piercingly poignant look at the detours we face on the

walk home, and in life. Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book, National Book Award Finalist



New Kid

Jerry Craft

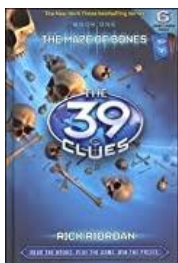
New Kid is a timely, honest graphic novel about starting over at a new school where diversity is low. Newberry Medal



Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky

Kwame Mbalia

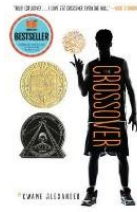
Seventh grader Tristan Strong feels anything but strong ever since he failed to save his best friend when they were in a bus accident together. All he has left of Eddie is the journal his friend wrote stories in. This adventure finds Tristan fighting with the sticky creature to hold on to his friend's journal and everything else he loves.



39 Clues: The Maze of Bones

Rick Riordan

The 39 Clues books feature 14-year-old Amy Cahill and her younger brother Dan on a quest to discover the secret behind their family's power. The first 10 books follows the Clue Hunt. The 11th transitions to the spin-off series. Two companion novels just add depth to the series.

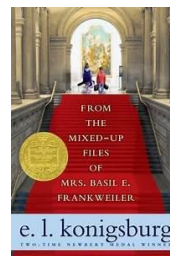


The Crossover

Kwame Alexander

"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks... The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces

dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood from Kwame Alexander.



From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

E.L. Konigsberg

When suburban Claudia Kincaid decides to run away, she knows she doesn't just want to run from somewhere, she wants to run to somewhere – to a place that is comfortable, beautiful, and preferably, elegant.

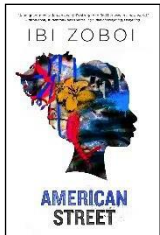


This Kid Can Fly

Aaron Philip

In this heartbreaking and ultimately uplifting memoir, Aaron Philip, a fourteen-year-old boy with cerebral palsy, shows how he isn't defined so much by his disability as he is by his abilities.

Grade 6



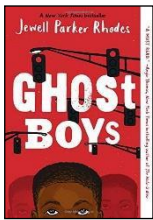
American Street

Ibi Zoboi

Lexile HL690

On the corner of American Street and Joy Road, Fabiola Toussaint thought she would finally find a good life. But after they leave Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Fabiola's mother is detained by U.S. immigration, leaving

Fabiola to navigate her loud American cousins, Chantal, Donna, and Princess; the grittiness of Detroit's west side; a new school; and a surprising romance, all on her own. Just as she finds her footing in this strange new world, a dangerous proposition presents itself, and Fabiola soon realizes that freedom comes at a cost. Trapped at the crossroads of an impossible choice, will she pay the price for the American dream?



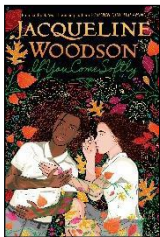
Ghost Boys

Jewell Parker-Rhodes

Lexile HL360, F&P Z

Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what

they see as an unjust and brutal killing. Soon Jerome meets another ghost: Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances. Emmett helps Jerome process what has happened, on a journey towards recognizing how historical racism may have led to the events that ended his life. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father's actions. Once again Jewell Parker Rhodes deftly weaves historical and socio-political layers into a gripping and poignant story about how children and families face the complexities of today's world, and how one boy grows to understand American blackness in the aftermath of his own death.



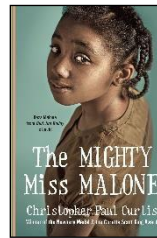
If You Come Softly

Jacqueline Woodson

HL570, F&P Y

Jeremiah feels good inside his own skin. That is, when he's in his own Brooklyn neighborhood. But now he's going to be attending a fancy prep school in Manhattan, and black teenage boys don't exactly fit in

there. So it's a surprise when he meets Ellie the first week of school. In one frozen moment their eyes lock, and after that they know they fit together--even though she's Jewish and he's black. Their worlds are so different, but to them that's not what matters. Too bad the rest of the world has to get in their way



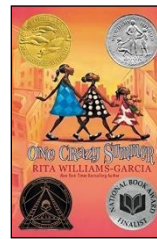
The Mighty Miss Malone

Christopher Paul Curtis

Lexile 750L, F&P U

Deza is the smartest girl in her class in Gary, Indiana, singled out by teachers for a special path in life. But it's 1936 and the Great Depression has hit Gary hard, and there are no jobs for black men. When her

beloved father leaves to find work, Deza, Mother, and her older brother, Jimmie, go in search of him, and end up in a Hooverville outside Flint, Michigan. Jimmie leaves the camp to be a performer, while Deza and Mother find a new home, hoping to find Father. The twists and turns of their story reveal the devastation of the Depression.



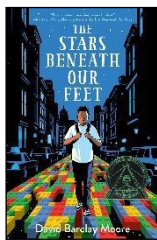
One Crazy Summer

Rita Williams-Garcia

Lexile 750, F&P W

Three sisters travel to Oakland, California, in 1968 to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother

is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.



The Stars Beneath Our Feet

David Barclay Moore

Lexile 650L, F&P Z+

It's Christmas Eve in Harlem, but twelve-year-old Lolly Rachpaul and his mom aren't celebrating. They're still reeling from his older brother's death in a gang-related shooting. Then Lolly receives a gift that will

change everything: two enormous bags filled with Legos. Faced with a pile of Legos and no instructions, Lolly must find his own way forward. His path isn't clear-and the pressure to join a "crew," as his brother did, is always there. When Lolly and his friend are beaten up and robbed, joining a crew almost seems like the safe choice. But building a Lego city at the community center provides Lolly with an escape and a bridge back to the world.



Tight

Torrey Maldonado

Lexile 600L

Bryan's mom has always encouraged his quiet, thoughtful nature, but his dad is different. He thinks it's time for the 6th grader to toughen up. With a quick temper and recently out of jail on probation, he tells Bryan it's better for a man to be feared than to be liked. Bryan's not really sure about this, and it doesn't seem to even matter when he befriends new kid Mike. Things get uncomfortable when it turns out Mike has some risky ideas about how to have fun. Bryan starts cutting school, jumping subway turnstiles and going train surfing, with Mike in the lead. But when Mike takes things a step too far and shows his true colors, Bryan has a difficult decision to make.

Grade 6



Sal and Gabbi Break the Universe

Carlos Hernandez

Lexile HL700

A brilliant sci-fi romp with Cuban influence that poses this question: What would you do if you had the power to reach through time and space and retrieve anything you want, including your mother, who is no longer living (in this universe, anyway)?



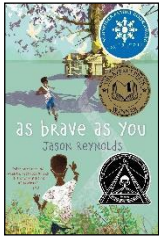
The Best At It

Maulik Pancholy

Lexile HL360, F&P Z

Rahul Kapoor is heading into seventh grade in a small town in Indiana. The start of middle school is making him feel increasingly anxious, so his favorite person in the whole world, his grandfather, Bhai, gives him some well-meaning advice: Find one thing you're really good at and become the BEST at it.

Grade 7

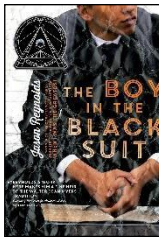


As Brave As You

Jason Reynolds
Lexile 750

Genie's summer is full of surprises. 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!

The second surprise comes when Genie figures out that their grandfather is blind. Genie thinks Grandpop must be the bravest guy he's ever known, but he starts to notice that his grandfather never leaves the house. When he finds the secret room that Grandpop is always disappearing into, he begins to wonder if his grandfather is really so brave after all. Then Ernie lets him down in the bravery department. It's his birthday, and Grandpop says to become a man you have to learn how to shoot a gun. Dumbfounded by Ernie's reluctance, Genie is left to wonder, are bravery and becoming a man only about proving something, or is it just as important to own up to what you won't do?

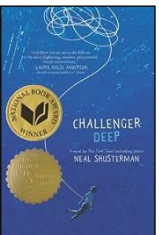


The Boy in the Black Suit

Jason Reynolds
Lexile HL760

Just when Matt thinks he can't handle one more piece of terrible news, he meets a girl who's dealt with a lot more--and who just might be able to clue him in on how to rise up when life keeps knocking him

down. Matt wears a black suit every day. He wears the suit for his gig at the local funeral home, which pays way better than the Cluck Bucket, and he needs the income since his dad can't handle the bills his own. Then Matt meets Lovey. Crazy name, and she's been through more crazy stuff than he can imagine. Yet Lovey never cries. She's tough. Tough in the way Matt wishes he could be. There is nothing more hopeful than finding a person who gets your loneliness and who can help take it away.



Challenger Deep

Neal Schusterman
Lexile HL800

A captivating novel about a teenage boy who struggles with schizophrenia that lingers long beyond the last page. Caden Bosch is on a ship that's headed for the deepest point on Earth: Challenger Deep,

the southern part of the Marianas Trench. Caden Bosch is a brilliant high school student whose friends are starting to notice his odd behavior. Caden Bosch is designated the ship's artist in residence to document the journey with images. Caden Bosch pretends to join the school track team but spends his days walking for miles, absorbed by the thoughts in his head.

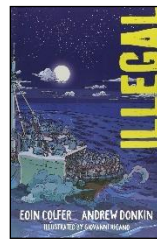


Divergent (series)

Veronica Roth
Lexile HL700

In Beatrice Prior's dystopian Chicago, society is divided into five factions. On an appointed day of every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. For

Beatrice, the decision is between staying with her family and being who she really is. So she makes a choice that surprises everyone. During the competitive initiation that follows, Beatrice renames herself Tris. Tris has a secret; one she's kept hidden from everyone because she's been warned it can mean death. As she discovers a growing conflict that threatens to unravel her perfect society, she learns that her secret might help her save those she loves.

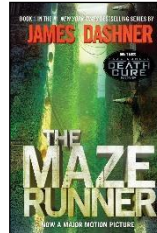


Illegal

Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin
Lexile GN490

A moving graphic novel that explores the current plight of undocumented immigrants. Ebo is alone. His brother, Kwame, has disappeared, and Ebo knows it can only be to attempt the journey to

Europe, and a better life Ebo refuses to be left behind in Ghana. He sets out after Kwame and joins him on the quest to reach Europe. But with every step he holds on to his hope for a new life, and a reunion with his family.

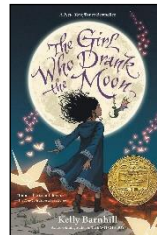


The Maze Runner (series)

James Dashner
Lexile HL770, F&P X

When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's surrounded by strangers--boys whose memories are also gone. Outside the towering stone walls that surround them

is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It's the only way out--and no one's ever made it through alive. Then a girl arrives. The first girl ever. And the message she delivers is terrifying: Remember. Survive. Run.



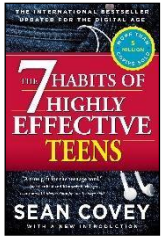
The Girl Who Drank the Moon

Kelly Barnhill
Lexile 640, F&P X

Each 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 ruining their town. But the witch in the Forest, Xan, is

kind. Xan rescues the children and delivers them to families on the other side of the forest, feeding the babies starlight on the journey. One year, Xan feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the ordinary child with extraordinary magic. Xan decides she must raise this girl, whom she calls Luna, as her own. As Luna's 13th birthday approaches, her magic begins to emerge with dangerous consequences.

Grade 8

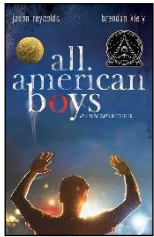


7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens

Sean Covey

Lexile Not Published

Imagine you had a guide to help you get from where you are now, to where you want to be in the future. You just need the tools to help you get there. This book provides a simple approach to help teens improve self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve their goals, and appreciate their parents, as well as tackle the new challenges of our time, like cyberbullying and social media. In addition, this book is stuffed with cartoons, clever ideas, great quotes, and incredible stories about real teens from all over the world.

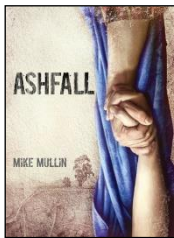


All American Boys

Jason Reynolds, Brendan Kiely

Lexile HL770

Two teens—one black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension.



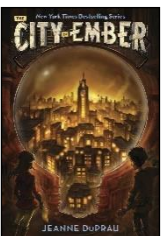
Ashfall

Mike Mullen

Lexile 570L

Under Yellowstone National Park is a super volcano. Most people don't know it's there. It just could be overdue for an eruption, which would change the landscape and climate of our planet. For

Alex, being left alone for the weekend means having the freedom to play computer games and hang out with his friends without hassle from his mother. Then the volcano erupts, plunging his hometown into a nightmare of darkness, ash, and violence. Alex begins a harrowing trek to search for his family and finds help in Darla, a travel partner he meets along the way. Together they must find the strength and skills to survive and outlast an epic disaster.

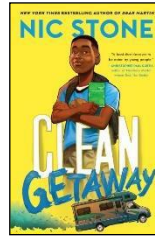


The City of Ember (series)

Jeanne DuPrau

Lexile 680L, F&P W

The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to flicker. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. She and her friend Doon must race to figure out the clues before the lights go out on Ember forever!

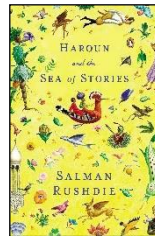


Clean Getaway

Nic Stone

Lexile 780

For the life of him, 'Scoob' Lamar can't seem to stay out of trouble—and now the run-ins at school have led to lockdown at home. So when Grandma, Scoob's favorite person on Earth, asks him to go on an impromptu road trip, he's in the RV faster than he can say freedom. With Grandma's old maps at their side, the pair set off on a journey down Grandma's memory lane. But adventure quickly turns to uncertainty: Grandma keeps changing the license plate, dodging Scoob's questions, and refusing to check Dad's voice mails. The farther they go, the more Scoob realizes that things aren't always what they seem—Grandma included.

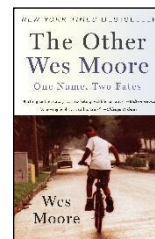


Haroun and the Sea of Stories

Salman Rushdie

Lexile 940L

Set in an exotic Eastern landscape peopled by magicians and fantastic talking animals, Haroun and the Sea of Stories inhabits the same imaginative space as The Lord of the Rings, The Alchemist, The Arabian Nights, and The Wizard of Oz. Twelve-year-old Haroun sets out on an adventure to restore his father's gift of storytelling by reviving the poisoned Sea of Stories. On the way, he encounters many foes, all intent on draining the sea of all its storytelling powers. In this wondrously delightful story, Salman Rushdie gives us an imaginative work of extraordinary power and endearing humor that is, at its heart, an illumination of the necessity of storytelling in our lives.



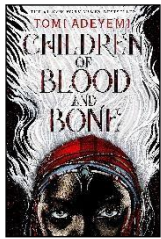
The Other Wes Moore

Wes Moore

Lexile 990L

Two kids with the same name lived in the same city. One went on to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated combat veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader. The other is serving a life sentence in prison. In 2000, the Baltimore Sun ran a small piece about Wes Moore, a student who had received a Rhodes Scholarship. The same paper also ran an article about four young men who had allegedly killed a police officer in a botched armed robbery. One was named Wes Moore. After following the story of the robbery, the manhunt, and the trial to its conclusion, Wes wrote a letter to the other Wes, now a convicted murderer serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole. Wes discovered that the other Wes had a life not unlike his own: Both had grown up in similar neighborhoods and had hard childhoods, both were fatherless; they'd hung out on similar corners with similar crews. At each stage of their young lives, they had come across similar moments of decision, yet their choices would lead them to astonishingly different destinies.

Grade 9-10



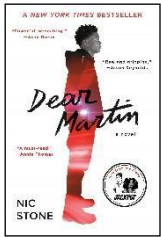
Children of Blood and Bone

Tomi Adeyemi

Lexile HL670

Seventeen-year-old Zelig, her brother Tzain, and Princess Amari fight to restore magic to the land and activate a new generation of magi, but they are ruthlessly pursued by Prince Inan, who

believes the return of magic will mean the end of the monarchy.



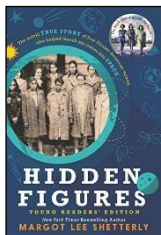
Dear Martin

Nic Stone

HL720

Justyce McAllister is a good kid, an honor student, and always there to help a friend—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. Despite leaving his rough

neighborhood behind, he can't escape. Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a journal to Dr. King to find out. Then comes the day Justyce goes driving with his best friend, Manny, windows rolled down, music turned up—way up, sparking the fury of a white off-duty cop beside them. Words fly. Shots are fired. Justyce and Manny are caught in the crosshairs. In the media fallout, it's Justyce who is under attack.



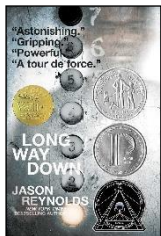
Hidden Figures: Young Readers' Edition

Margot Lee Shetterly

Lexile 1120L, F&P Y

Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of female mathematicians known as “human computers” used pencils,

slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets and astronauts, into space. This book brings to life the stories of four women who lived through the Civil Rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War, and the movement for gender equality, and whose work forever changed the face of NASA and the country.



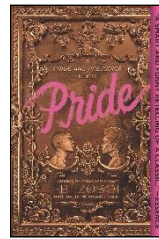
Long Way Down

Jason Reynolds

Lexile HL720

As Will, fifteen, sets out to avenge his brother Shawn's fatal shooting, seven ghosts who knew Shawn board the elevator and reveal truths Will needs to know. Told in short, fierce staccato

narrative verse, *Long Way Down* is a fast and furious, dazzlingly brilliant look at teenage gun violence, as could only be told by Jason Reynolds.



Pride

Ibi Zoboi

Lexile HL760

Pride and Prejudice gets remixed in this smart, funny, gorgeous retelling of the classic, starring all characters of color. Zuri Benitez has pride. Brooklyn pride,

family pride, and pride in her Afro-Latino roots. But pride might not be enough to save her rapidly gentrifying neighborhood from becoming unrecognizable. When the wealthy Darcy family moves in across the street, Zuri wants nothing to do with their two teenage sons, even as her older sister, Janae, starts to fall for the charming Ainsley. She especially can't stand the judgmental and arrogant Darius. Yet as Zuri and Darius are forced to find common ground, their initial dislike shifts into an unexpected understanding. But with four wild sisters pulling her in different directions, cute boy Warren vying for her attention, and college applications hovering on the horizon, Zuri fights to find her place in Bushwick's changing landscape or lose it all.



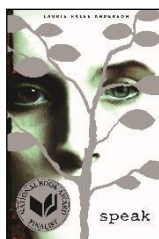
Red Queen (series)

Victoria Aveyard

Lexile HL740

In a world divided by blood—those with common, Red blood serve the Silver-blooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities—seventeen-year-old Mare, a Red, discovers she has an ability

of her own. To cover up this impossibility, the king forces her to play the role of a lost Silver princess and betroths her to one of his own sons. But Mare risks everything and uses her new position to help the Scarlet Guard—a growing Red rebellion—even as her heart tugs her in an impossible direction.



Speak

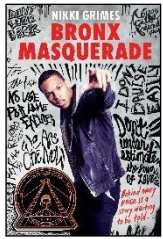
Laurie Halse Anderson

Lexile 690L, F&P Z

"Speak up for yourself—we want to know what you have to say." From the first moment of her freshman year, Melinda knows this is a big fat lie, part of the nonsense of high school. She is friendless,

outcast, because she busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, so now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. As time passes, she becomes increasingly isolated and practically stops talking altogether. Only her art class offers any solace, and it is through her work on an art project that she is finally able to face what really happened at that terrible party: she was raped by an upperclassman, a guy who still attends her school and is still a threat to her. Her healing process has just begun when she has another violent encounter with him. But this time Melinda fights back, refuses to be silent, and thereby achieves a measure of vindication.

Grade 11-12



Bronx Masquerade

Nikki Grimes

Lexile 670L, F&P Z+

When Wesley Boone writes a poem for his high school English class, some of his classmates clamor to read their poems aloud too. Soon they're having weekly poetry sessions and, one by one, the eighteen students are opening up and taking on the risky challenge of self-revelation. Through the poetry they share and narratives in which they reveal their most intimate thoughts about themselves and one another, their words and lives show what lies beneath the skin, behind the eyes, beyond the masquerade.

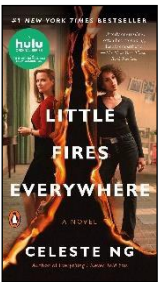


Children of Virtue and Vengeance

Tomi Adeyemi

Lexile HL680

After battling the impossible, Zélie and Amari have finally succeeded in bringing magic back to the land of Orisha. But the ritual was more powerful than they could've imagined, reigniting the powers of not only the maji, but of nobles with magic ancestry, too. Now, Zélie struggles to unite the maji in an Orisha where the enemy is just as powerful as they are. But when the monarchy and military unite to keep control of Orisha, Zélie must fight to secure Amari's right to the throne and protect the new maji from the monarchy's wrath. With civil war looming on the horizon, Zélie finds herself at a breaking point.



Little Fires Everywhere

Celeste Ng

Lexile 1000L

In Shaker Heights, everything is planned--from the layout of the roads, to the colors of the houses, to the lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules. Enter Mia Warren--an artist and single mother who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenaged daughter Pearl and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community. When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town--and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past. But her obsession will come at unexpected and devastating cost.



Look Both Ways

Jason Reynolds

Lexile 750L

This story was going to begin like all the best stories. With a school bus falling from the sky. But no one saw it happen. They were all too busy - Talking about boogers. Stealing pocket change.

Skateboarding. Braving up. Executing complicated handshakes. Planning an escape. Making jokes. But mostly, too busy walking home. Jason Reynolds conjures ten tales about what happens after the dismissal bell rings, and brilliantly weaves them into one funny, poignant look at the detours we face on the walk home, and in life.



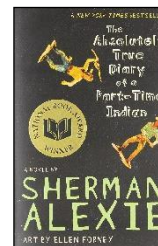
On the Come Up

Angie Thomas

Lexile HL550

Sixteen-year-old Bri wants to be one of the greatest rappers of all time. Or at least win her first battle. As the daughter of a hip-hop legend who died right before he hit big, Bri's got big shoes to fill. But

it's hard to get your come up when you're labeled a hoodlum at school, and your fridge at home is empty after your mom loses her job. Bri pours her anger and into her first song, which goes viral for all the wrong reasons. Bri soon finds herself at the center of a media controversy. But with an eviction notice staring her family down, Bri doesn't just want to make it--she has to. Even if it means becoming the very thing the public has made her out to be.



The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

Sherman Alexie

Lexile 600L, F&P Z+

This hilarious novel tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation.

Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.



With the Fire on High

Elizabeth Acevedo

Lexile 810L

Ever since she got pregnant freshman year, Emoni Santiago's life has been about making the tough decisions--doing what has to be done for her daughter.

The one place she can let all that go is in the kitchen, where she adds a little something magical to everything she cooks, turning her food into straight-up goodness. Even though she dreams of working as a chef after she graduates, Emoni thinks that it's not worth her time to pursue the impossible. But once Emoni starts cooking, her only choice is to let her talent break free.



This Kid Can Fly

Aaron Philip

In this heartbreaking and ultimately uplifting memoir, Aaron Philip, a fourteen-year-old boy with cerebral palsy, shows how he isn't defined so much by his disability as he is by his abilities.



Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library

Chris Grabenstein

Kyle Keeley is the class clown and a huge fan of all games – board games, word games, and particularly video games. His hero, Luigi Lemoncello, the most notorious and creative gamemaker in the world, just so happens to be the genius behind the construction of the new town library.



The Graveyard Book

Neil Gaiman

Nobody Owens, known as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, being raised by ghosts, with a guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor the dead. There are adventures in the graveyard for a boy—an ancient Indigo Man, a gateway to the abandoned city of shouls, the strange and terrible Sleer.