This summer reading list includes suggested titles for each grade level. This is not a mandatory reading list but students are encouraged to choose books from their grade level list to read during the summer break. Students can visit their local libraries and/or find the electronic books online. Schools may choose to create activities and assignments using this list. The Cleveland Metropolitan School District will not be purchasing these book titles for students.


Beware of the Crocodile by Martin Jenkins. Illustrated by Satoshi Kitamura. Candelwick. 2019. ISBN: 978763675387. This book explores the life of crocodiles. It begins with how they feed and then goes into how their babies are born and how they grow up.


Lucia the Luchadora by Cynthia Leonor Garza. Illustrated by Alyssa Bermudez. POW! 2017. ISBN: 9781576878279. Lucia’s abuela helps her find the courage to stand up to bullies by sharing that Lucia comes from a long line of strong luchadoras.


Grades K - 2


**Little Taco Truck** by Tanya Valentine. Illustrated by Jorge Martin Random House. 2019. ISBN: 9781524765859. Little Taco Truck finds the perfect place to serve his customers, but what will he do when another truck parks in his spot? This includes vivid colors and a great lesson about communicating with others when there are problems.


**Moon! Earth’s Best Friend** by Stacy McAnulty. Illustrated by Steve Lewis. Henry Holt Books. 2019. ISBN: 97812502039839. This is an autobiography told from the moon’s perspective. Moon explains why she and Earth will always stick together and how she never turns her back on Earth. This is a wonderful explanation of the moon’s purpose and relationship to our planet.


**Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom** by Teresa Robeson. Illustrated by Rebecca Huang. Sterling Children’s Books. 2019. ISBN: 9781454932208. This engaging biography follows Wu Chien Shiung as she battles sexism and racism to become the “Queen of Physics” for her work on beta decay.

**Skulls!** by Blair Thornburgh. Illustrated by Scott Campbell. Atheneum. 2019. ISBN: 9781534414006. This is a book all about souls and their many functions!

**Superheroes Are Everywhere** by Kamala Harris. Illustrated by Metal Renee Roe. Penguin Random House. 2019. 9781984837493. From Senator Kamala Harris comes a picture book with an Empowering message: Superheroes are all around us — and if we try, we can all be heroes too.

**The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family** by Ibtihaj Muhammad and S.K. Ali. Illustrated by Hatem Aly. Little Brown. 2019. ISBN: 9780316519007. Faizah’s older sister, Asia, is a Princess. She certainly looks like one on her first day of sixth grade and her first day learning her beautiful, bold blue headscarf to school.
**Chapter Two is Missing** by Josh Lieb. Illustrated by Kevin Cornell. Penguin Young Readers/Razorbill. 2019. ISBN: 9781984835482. An investigation to find the missing Chapter. Milo, the book’s janitor, offers to help, but he ends up not really helping.


**Her Own Two Feet: A Rwandan Girl’s Brave Fight to Walk** by Meredith Davis and Rebeka Uwitonze. Scholastic Focus. 2020. ISBN: 97813383856373. Rebeka was born with twisted feet. Her inspiring story through her eyes, with the help of one of her hosts.

**Jake the Fake: Goes for Laughs** by Craig Robinson and Adam Mansbach. Illustrated by Keith Knight. Penguin Random House. 2020. 9780553523584. For fans of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and *Big Nate* comes the second book in the side-splitting series about a class clown faking his way to comedy stardom from comedian and film star Craig Robinson.

**Lety Out Loud** by Angela Cervantes. Scholastic Press. 2019. 9781338159349. Lety Munoz’s first language is Spanish, and she likes to take her time putting her words together. She loves volunteering at the Furry Friends Animal Shelter because dogs and cats don’t care if she can’t always find the right word.


**The Parker Inheritance** by Varian Johnson. Arthur A. Levine. 2018. ISBN: 9780545946179. Candice would rather be home in Atlanta with her friends this summer, instead of where she is, in her grandmother’s small town of Lambert, South Carolina. But the discovery of clues to an intricate puzzle entwined in the town’s complicated history could lead to a hidden fortune.

**The Undefeated** by Kwame Alexander. Illustrated by Kadir Nelson. Anderson Press. 2020. ISBN: 9781783449293. This poem love letter to black life in the United States. It highlights the unspeakable trauma of slavery, the faith and fire of the civil rights movement, and the grit, passion, and perseverance of some of the world’s greatest heroes.
Grades 6 - 8

**Apple in the Middle** by Dawn Quigley. North Dakota State University Press. 2018. ISBN: 9781946163073. Apple’s name chosen by her Indian mother on her deathbed, has a double meaning: treasured apple of my eye, but also the negative connotation a person who is red, or Indian, on the outside, but white on the inside.


**Dissenter on the Bench: Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s Life and Work** by Victoria Ortiz. Clarion. 2019. ISBN: 9780544973640. This biography provides highlights from iconic Supreme Court justice’s life and career and will inspire young readers to change the world.

**Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks** by Jason Reynolds. Illustrated by Alexander Nabaum. Atheneum. 2019. ISBN: 9781481438285. Ten tales (about one per block) about what happens after the dismissal bell rings, and brilliantly weaves them into one funny, piercingly poignant look at the detours we face on the walk home, and in life.


**Stepsister** by Jennifer Donnelly. Scholastic Press. 2019. ISBN: 97813438268461. Isabelle has tried to fit in. To live up to her mother’s expectations. To be like her stepsister. To be sweet. To be pretty. One by one, she has cut away pieces of herself in order to survive a world that doesn’t appreciate a girl like her. This has made her mean, jealous, and hollow. Until she gets a chance to alter her destiny and prove what ugly stepsisters have always known: it takes more than heartache to break a girl.

**They Called Us Enemy** by George Take, Justin Eisinger, Steven Scott. Illustrated by Harmony Becker. Top Shelf Productions, an Imprint of IDW Publishing. 2019. ISBN: 9781603094504. In 1942, at the order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, every person of Japanese descent on the west coast was rounded up and shipped to one of ten “relocation centers,” hundreds or thousands of miles from home, where they would be held for years under armed guard.

High School


**I’m Not Dying with You Tonight** by Kimberly Jones and Gilly Segal. Source FireBooks. 2019. ISBN: 9781728216300. This book is about two high school girls in Atlanta, one black and one white, who must depend on their wits and each other to make it home after fights break out at their school football game and rioting and looting break out in the streets.


**Lawn Boy** by Jonathan Evison. Algonquin Books. 2018. ISBN: 9781616202620. For Mike Munoz, a young Chicano living in Washington State, life has been a whole lot of waiting for something to happen. Not too many years out of high school and he is still doing menial work. He’s got to be the one to shake things up if he’s ever going to change his life. But how? Read the book to find out!

**Life Sucks: How to Deal With the Way Life is, Was and Always Will Be Unfair** by Michael I. Bennett and Sara Bennett. Illustrated by Bridget Gibson. Penguin Young Readers. 2019. ISBN: 97815247877905. This book gives no-nonsense advice from a father-daughter duo explaining just how much high school is a hormonal, stressful and chaotic storm phase of life. You really can be whoever you want once you figure out who that is, and some adults can be helpful as allies.

**Loki: Where Mischief Lies** by Mackenzi Lee. Illustrated by Stephanie Hans. Disney Book Group. 2019. ISBN: 9781368022262. Young Loki longs to be seen as respected and heroic, but he lives in the shadow of his brother Thor. His magic makes others suspect villains; only Amor sees magic as a gift, not a threat.

**On the Come Up** by Angie Thomas. Harper Collins/Balzer Bray. 2019. ISBN: 9780062498564. Bri follows in the footsteps of her father, who was murdered, and creates a viral rap about a racial injustice at school. As she attempts to deal with the incident and the community’s misconceptions, Bri discovers the power of her voice amplified by the support of those around her. This is a significant and powerful novel by the author of *The Hate You Give.*


**The Bridge Home** by Padma Venkatraman. Penguin Young Readers. 2019. ISBN: 9781524738112. This book is about four preteens are abused, neglected and forced into homelessness in India. A tale of survival, this book describes the agonizing choices family and friends must make to protect loved ones.

**Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging** by Sebastian Junger. Harper Collins. 2017. ISBN: 97800608168186. Tribe explores what we can learn from tribal societies about loyalty, belonging, and the eternal human quest for meaning. It explains the irony that for many veterans as well as civilians - war feels better than peace, adversity can turn out to be a blessing, and disasters are sometimes remembered more fondly than weddings or tropical vacations.