Summer Reading List

Preschool - Grade 12

Summer, 2020

**A Parade of Elephants** by Keven Henkes. Illustrated by Kevin Henkes. Greenwillow. 2018. ISBN: 9780062668271. Five elephants are on a mission, marching from dawn to dusk, up and down through and around in this colorful concept book.


**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.


**Saturday is Swimming Day** by Hyewon Yum. Illustrated by Hyewon Yum. Candelwick. 2018. ISBN: 9780763691172. A little girl gradually conquers her fear of swimming in this Inspiring story of bravery.

**You and Me** by Rebecca Kai Dotlich. Illustrated by Susan Reagan. Creative Editions. 2018. ISBN: 9781568463216. This poetically and sensitively explores the importance of balancing attention given to an older and younger sibling.
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: 9781250203983. 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.


**Lety Out Loud** by Angela Cervantes. Scholastic Press. 2019. ISBN: 9781338159349. Let 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 Atlantan 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.

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: 9781343826846. 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. 21018. 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.


Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging by Sebastian Junger. Harper Collins. 2017. ISBN: 9780008168186. 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.