

Reading can be one of the many fun activities children choose to fill their summer time. And research has shown it is also much more!



Children who participate in public library summer reading programs make achievement leaps during the summer and score higher on fall reading achievement tests.

The books on this list come highly recommended by kid readers from all over the country and may also be available in ebook, audio book, braille, and large print formats. Connect with your local library to find out what's happening this summer.



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The 2020 Summer Reading Book 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.

For more booklists, please visit www.ala.org/alsc/booklists.

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SUMMER READING LIST

GRADES 6-8

Be Prepared

by Vera Brosgol, illustrated by the author

FIRST SECOND, 2018
ISBN: 9781626724457

Laugh, cringe, and root for Vera as she navigates Russian summer camp.

Beverly, Right Here

by Kate DiCamillo

CANDLEWICK, 2019
ISBN: 9780763694647

After the unbearable loss of her dog, Beverly Tapinski runs away from her troubled home to a small Florida beach town where a quirky cast of characters helps her pick up the pieces of her heart.

The Bridge Home

by Padma Venkatraman

NANCY PAULSEN BOOKS, 2019
ISBN: 9781524738112

Runaway sisters Viji and Rukku end up living on the streets of Chennai, where they find a new family of friends who help them to survive by scavenging the city's mountains of rubbish.

Caterpillar Summer

by Gillian McDunn

BLOOMSBURY, 2019
ISBN: 9781681197432

An unexpected change in plans leaves Caterpillar to navigate an adventurous summer with her brother, who is autistic.

Dissenter on the Bench: Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Life and Work

by Victoria Ortiz

CLARION, 2019
ISBN: 9780544973640

This biography provides highlights from the iconic Supreme Court justice's life and career and will inspire young readers to change the world.

Each Tiny Spark

by Pablo Cartaya

KOKILA, 2019
ISBN: 9780451479723

When Emilia Torres's father returns from deployment, he's not quite the same, but they're able to bond over welding.

I Can Make This Promise

by Christine Day

HARPERCOLLINS, 2019
ISBN: 9780062871992

Edie discovers a mysterious box in the attic, filled with pictures of a woman who looks just like her. The discovery is the beginning of a journey to uncover her family's secrets and find her own Native American identity.

Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World

by Ashley Herring Blake

LITTLE, BROWN, 2018
ISBN: 9780316515467

After a devastating tornado hits her town and destroys her home, Ivy Aberdeen develops a crush on another girl at school.

Just Jaime

by Terri Libenson, illustrated by the author

BALZER + BRAY, 2019
ISBN: 9780062851062

The last day of seventh grade has Jaime and Maya wondering who their real friends are: What do you do when it feels like you're drifting apart from your best friend? How can you tell who is a true friend?

Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks

by Jason Reynolds, illustrated by Alexander Nabaum

ATHENEUM, 2019
ISBN: 9781481438285

Ten concurrent stories, ten captivating characters, one school bus falling from the sky.

Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish

by Pablo Cartaya

VIKING, 2018
ISBN: 9781101997260

Marcus just wants to help his single mom get by and protect his brother from bullies, but he creates more problems than he solves. His mother decides a trip to visit family in Puerto Rico is just the thing they need.

New Kid

by Jerry Craft, illustrated by the author

HARPERCOLLINS, 2019
ISBN: 9780062691200

Seventh-grader Jordan Banks navigates a new private school lauded for its academics. The school is lacking in both diversity and art, making the transition difficult for art-loving African American Jordan.

The Night Diary

by Veera Hiranandani

KOKILA, 2018
ISBN: 9780735228511

A gripping story of one family's flight from Pakistan during the partition of India in 1947, as told by twelve-year-old Nisha to her diary.

Nowhere Boy

by Katherine Marsh

ROARING BROOK, 2018
ISBN: 9781250307576

When Max finds Ahmed, a Syrian refugee, hiding alone in his basement in Belgium, Max decides to help Ahmed by keeping him secret and safe.

Pay Attention, Carter Jones

by Gary D. Schmidt

CLARION, 2019
ISBN: 9780544790858

Carter's first day of middle school gets off to an unusual start: he opens his front door and finds an English butler standing on the doorstep, sent by his late grandfather to help mend the family.

Peasprout Chen, Future Legend of Skate and Sword

by Henry Lien

HENRY HOLT, 2018
ISBN: 9781250165695

Peasprout and her brother, Cricket, are accepted into Pearl Famous Academy of Skate and Sword to study wu liu, martial arts figure skating. High-stakes competition, political intrigue, and more await them. First in a series.

Putting Peace First: 7 Commitments to Change the World

by Eric Dawson

VIKING, 2018
ISBN: 9781101997338

Learn how to make a difference and spread peace in the world NOW with this step-by-step guide to putting your visions into practice.

Queen of the Sea

by Dylan Meconis, illustrated by the author

WALKER, 2019
ISBN: 9781536204988

History is reimaged in this graphic novel retelling of the exile of Queen Elizabeth I.

The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise

by Dan Gemeinhart

HENRY HOLT, 2019
ISBN: 9781250196705

Coyote Sunrise and her dad travel the country in their school bus. Along the way, they meet new friends who help them see their world in a new way and heal from the tragedy that hit their family five years earlier.

Sal and Gabi Break the Universe

by Carlos Hernandez

RICK RIORDAN PRESENTS, 2019
ISBN: 9781368022828

Cuban culture is woven through this zany sci-fi story told by 13-year-old Sal, an aspiring magician who can rip holes in the fabric of the universe.

Sci-Fu

by Yehudi Mercado, illustrated by the author

ONI PRESS, 2018
ISBN: 9781620104729

It's 1980s Brooklyn, and Wax just scratched the perfect beat, attracting the attention of an evil alien robot who transports his family, best friend, and crush to the planet Discopia, where Wax must master the art of sci-fu if he wants to fight the bad guys, save the universe, and get back to Earth.

The Season of Styx Malone

by Kekla Magoon

WENDY LAMB BOOKS, 2018
ISBN: 9781524715953

An ordinary summer is upended with a splash when Styx Malone, who is sixteen and oozes cool, moves to town and befriends brothers Caleb and Bobby.

Song for a Whale

by Lynne Kelly

DELACORTE, 2019
ISBN: 9781524770235

Iris, who struggles to communicate with others because she is deaf, feels a kinship with a whale in a similar situation thousands of miles away and tries to make a connection.

The Stars beneath Our Feet

by David Barclay Moore

KNOPF, 2017
ISBN: 9781524701246

In the wake of his brother's death, a gift of LEGOs sets 12-year-old Lolly on a journey to find himself and a community in his Harlem neighborhood.

Us, in Progress: Short Stories about Young Latinos

by Lulu Delacre, illustrated by the author

HARPERCOLLINS, 2017
ISBN: 9780062392145

A collection of short stories offering refreshing and nuanced depictions of young Latinx boys and girls growing up in the United States.

White Bird: A Wonder Story

by R. J. Palacio, illustrated by the author and Kevin Czap

KNOPF, 2019
ISBN: 9780525645535

The grandmother of Wonder's Julian tells him the story of her experience during World War II, where she had to hide in a barn to escape persecution from the Nazis.