

Recommended Summer Reading 2021

PRE-K ENTERING KINDERGARTEN

***Everywhere Wonder* by Matthew Swanson** The imagination of a young boy—who explores everything from the pyramids of Egypt to a dusty footprint on the moon—and then back out again to the wonderful world right in front of him. ©2017 **Grade Level K-1**

***Good Day, Good Night* by Margaret Wise Brown** Reminiscent of the author's beloved Goodnight Moon, this shares a day—and night—in the life of a busy little bunny. ©2017 **Grade Level K-1**

***Green* by Laura Vaccaro Seeger** How many kinds of green are there? There's the lush green of a forest on a late spring day, the fresh, juicy green of a just-cut lime, the incandescent green of a firefly, and the vivid aquamarine of a tropical sea. **2013 Caldecott Honor Book, Geisel Honor Book, Kirkus Reviews Best Children's Book of ©2012 Grade Level Preschool-1**

***Hello Lighthouse* by Sophie Blackall** Tells the story of life in a lighthouse. Told through full page illustrations, this fascinating picture book tells the story of a dedicated lighthouse keeper and his growing family. **2019 Caldecott Medal ©2018 Grade Level Preschool-3**

***One-osaurus, Two-osaurus* by Kim Norman** A counting book and dinosaurs celebrating make an entertaining book about numbers and counting. Ending has a Funny twist and shows how a child uses their imagination. ©2021 **Grade Level Preschool-2**

***Parade of Elephants* by Kevin Henkes** Five elephants are on a mission, marching from dawn to dusk, up and down, through and around in this colorful concept book. ©2018 **Grade Level Preschool-2**

***The Panda Problem* by Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Hannah Marks** Every story needs a problem. But Panda doesn't have a problem. Unless . . . Panda is the problem. Just who is the main character of this story? A funny book about how books work. ©2019 **Grade Level Preschool-2**

***Pete the Cat and the Missing Cupcakes* by James Dean** Pete's back, this time in a rhyming counting book that has the cat and his platypus buddy, Gus, solving a mystery: Who's taking the cupcakes for the party? ©2016 **Grade Level Preschool-3**

***Robinson* by Peter Sís** Illustrated by the author Exquisite art and a heartfelt story of adventure and friendship come together in this imaginative, magical book. ©2017 **Grade Level K-2**

***They All Saw a Cat* by Brendan Wenzel** The cat walked through the world, with its whiskers, ears, and paws. In this glorious celebration of observation, curiosity, and imagination, Brendan Wenzel shows us the many lives of one cat, and how perspective shapes what we see. When you see a cat, what do you see? **2017 Caldecott Honor Book ©2016 Grade Level Preschool-K**

***Tops & Bottoms* by Janet Stevens** Once upon a time, there was a lazy Bear and a clever Hare. Bear had lots of money and lots of land but all he wanted to do was sleep. Hare had nothing but hungry children, so he came up with a plan to convince Bear to split his land down the middle—tops and bottoms. ©1995 **1996 Caldecott Honor Book ©1995 Grade Level K-2**

Recommended Summer Reading 2021

KINDERGARTEN ENTERING FIRST GRADE

***Alma and How She Got Her Name* by Juana Martinez-Neal** When Alma's father shares family stories about the origins of her long beautiful name, she gains an appreciation for its uniqueness and connection to her history. Martinez-Neal uses smudgy graphite and colored pencil to convey a soft palette that gently transports readers into Alma's rich ancestral past. **2019 Caldecott Honor Book ©2018 Grade Level K-3**

***Changes: A Child's First Poetry Collection* by Charlotte Zolotow** As the seasons change, there is new beauty waiting to be discovered. Charlotte Zolotow's classic poems paired with Tiphonie Beeke's lovely illustrations make for a perfect poetry collection for every child. **©2015 Grade Level 1-2**

***Eyes That Kiss in the Corners* by Joanna Ho** A young Asian girl notices that her eyes look different from her peers'. They have big, round eyes and long lashes. She realizes that her eyes are like her mother's, her grandmother's, and her little sister's. They have eyes that kiss in the corners and glow like warm tea, crinkle into crescent moons, and are filled with stories of the past and hope for the future. **©2019 Grade Level K-2**

***Katherine Johnson (You Should Meet)* by Thea Feldman** About a brilliant mathematician who worked at NASA in the early 1950s until retiring in 1986. Katherine's unparalleled calculations (done by hand) helped plan the trajectories for NASA's Mercury and Apollo missions (including the Apollo 11 moon landing). She is said to be one of the greatest American minds of all time. **©2017 Grade Level 1-3**

***Nana in the City* by Lauren Castillo** A young boy spends an overnight visit with his nana and is frightened to find that the city where she lives is filled with noise and crowds and scary things. But then Nana makes him a special cape to help him be brave, and soon the everyday sights, sounds, and smells of the city are not scary—but wonderful. **2015 Caldecott Honor Book ©2014 Grade Level K-3**

***The Proudest Blue* by Ibtihaj Muhammad** With her new backpack and light-up shoes, Faizah knows the first day of school is going to be special. It's the start of a brand new year and, best of all, it's her older sister Asiya's first day of hijab—a hijab of beautiful blue fabric, like the ocean waving to the sky. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful, and in the face of hurtful, confusing words, Faizah will find new ways to be strong. **©2019 Grade Level 1-3**

***Thank You, Omu!* by Oge Mora** Everyone in the neighborhood dreams of a taste of Omu's delicious stew! One by one, they follow their noses toward the scrumptious scent. And one by one, Omu offers a portion of her meal. Soon the pot is empty. **2019 Caldecott Honor Book ©2018 Grade Level K-3**

Thunder Boy Jr. by Sherman Alexie Thunder Boy Jr. is named after his dad, but he wants a name that's all his own. Just because people call his dad Big Thunder doesn't mean he wants to be Little Thunder. He wants a name that celebrates something cool he's done, like Touch the Clouds, Not Afraid of Ten Thousand Teeth, or Full of Wonder. **New York Times Notable Children's Book of the Year ©2016 Grade Level 1-3**

Truman by Jean Reidy Truman the tortoise lives with his Sarah, high above the taxis and the trash trucks and the number eleven bus, which travels south. He never worries about the world below...until one day, when Sarah straps on a big backpack and does something Truman has never seen before. **©2019 Grade Level 1-2**

***When Grandma Gives You a Lemon Tree* by Jamie L. B. Deenihan** When Grandma gives you a lemon tree, definitely *don't* make a face! Care for the tree, and you might be surprised at how new things, and new ideas, bloom. **©2019 Grade Level 1-2**

Recommended Summer Reading 2021

FIRST GRADE ENTERING SECOND GRADE

***A Flicker of Hope* by Julian Cook** Sometimes the dark clouds overhead seem too heavy and you feel like giving up. Little candle knows all about this. Bad grades, blasted on social media, worried about making the team, and wondering who her real friends are so many hard things to deal with! All she can see is darkness. ©2018 Grade Level 2-3

***The Girl With a Mind for Math* by Julia Finley Mosca** Meet Raye Montague—the hidden mastermind who made waves in the U.S. Navy! After touring a German submarine in the early 1940s, young Raye set her sights on becoming an engineer. **NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Book 2019, NSTA Best STEM Trade Books for Students K-12 2019, 2019 Amelia Bloomer List, and 2019 Mathical Honor Book** ©2018 Grade Level 2-4

***Jabari Jumps* by Gaia Cornwall** The big moment has come for Jabari to jump off the diving board, but is he ready? **Charlotte Zolotow Honor Book** ©2020 Grade Level 1-3

***Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Pena** Every Sunday after church, CJ and his grandma ride the bus across town. But today, CJ wonders why they don't own a car like his friend Colby. Why doesn't he have an iPod like the boys on the bus? How come they always have to get off in the dirty part of town? **2016 Newbery Medal, 2016 Caldecott Honor Book and Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book** ©2015 Grade Level K-2

***Meet Yasmin!* by Saadia Faruqi** Meet Yasmin, a bright, fun Pakistani American second grader. With her oversized imagination and a little help from her family, there's no problem she can't solve. ©2018 Grade Level 1-3

***My Awesome Summer* by P. Mantis by Paul Meisel** Vibrant illustrations add whimsy to this five-month diary in the life of a praying mantis as it eats (its siblings!), hides from predators, and learns to fly. ©2018 Grade Level 1-3

***The Rough Patch* by Brian Lies** Evan, a fox, and his dog are best friends and in a series of acrylic, oil, and colored pencil vignettes, they are shown attending a fair, playing games, and, most important, working in Evan's meticulously groomed garden. These loving scenes are abruptly cut short by a large spread of white space with spare text stating: "But one day, the unthinkable happened." On the opposing page, white space surrounds a grieving Evan as he mourns the loss of his dog. **2019 Caldecott Honor Book** ©2018 Grade Level 1-3

***The Stuff of Stars* by Marion Dane Bauer** A visually stunning and poetic representation of the beginning of our universe and life. **2019 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award Winner** ©2018 Grade Level 1-3

***The Sun is Kind of a Big Deal* by Nick Seluk** Learn why the sun is a big deal in this funny book jam-packed with facts about the sun and our solar system. ©2018 Grade Level 1-3

***We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga* by Traci Sorell** Following a full Cherokee year of celebrations and experiences, this book shares the contemporary life of the Cherokee people, highlighting their tradition of gratitude. **2019 Sibert Honor Book, 2019 Orbis Pictus Honor Book** ©2018 Grade Level 2-4

Recommended Summer Reading 2021

SECOND GRADE ENTERING THIRD GRADE

***Bad Bella* by Ali Standish** All Bella wants is a family who loves her for the dog she is. And perhaps some popcorn now and then (with extra butter). But with Christmas growing nearer and a new baby on the way, her adopted family finds that they have little patience and even less time for a dog.

©2019 Grade Level 3-4

***A Boy Called Bat* by Elana K. Arnold** Third grader, Bixby Alexander Tam, goes by the nickname Bat and exhibits behaviors that might place him on the spectrum. He flaps his hands and avoids eye contact, but the author never labels Bat “autistic.” She simply allows us to see Bat, and all his friends, as unique individuals. ©2018 Grade Level 3-5

***Clayton Byrd Goes Underground* by Rita Williams-Garcia** When his beloved grandfather, the blues man Cool Papa Byrd, dies suddenly, Clayton’s anger and misplaced alliances get him into trouble. This story of family, grief, reconciliation, and the power of music is set in New York City. **National Book Award Finalist, Horn Book Best Books of 2017** ©2018 Grade Level 3-5

***Grand Canyon* by Jason Chin** Rivers wind through earth, cutting down and eroding the soil for millions of years, creating a cavity in the ground 277 miles long, 18 miles wide, and more than a mile deep known as the Grand Canyon. **2018 Caldecott Honor Book, Sibert Honor Book** ©2017 Grade Level 3-5

***Hello, Universe* by Erin Entrada Kelly** The lives of Virgil, Kaori, Gen, and Valencia are woven together in unexpected ways when a disaster brings them together to perform a rescue in this story of bravery and friendship. **2018 Newbery Winner** ©2017 Grade Level 3-5

***Home of the Brave: An American History Book for Kids 15 Immigrants Who Shaped U.S. History* by Brooke Khan** From Levi Strauss to Isabel Allende, discover how these dedicated and creative people made their mark—and how you can follow in their footsteps—with this fun history book. ©2019 Grade Level 3-5

***How to Be Cool in the Third Grade* by Besty Duffey** It's not easy to seem cool when the whole class knows you wear superhero underwear and your mom still kisses you goodbye at the bus stop. But Robbie York has a plan. 1) Get rid of the name Robbie. 2) Get jeans. 3) Avoid bullies like Bo Haney. If only it were that simple! ©1999 Grade Level 3-4

***John Lincoln Clem: a Civil War Drummer Boy* by E. F. Abbott** Do you have what it takes to run off and join the army, leaving your family behind? That's what John Lincoln Clem, a nine-year-old boy living in Ohio, does as the American Civil War rages on. ©2017 Grade Level 3-4

***Sergeant Reckless: The True Story of the Little Horse Who Became a Hero* by Patricia McCormick** When a group of US Marines fighting in the Korean War found a bedraggled mare, they wondered if she could be trained to a packhorse. ©2017 Grade Level 1-5

***Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille* by Jen Bryant** Louis Braille was just five years old when he lost his sight. He was a clever boy, determined to live like everyone else, and what he wanted more than anything was to be able to read. ©2016 Grade Level 2-4

***Wish* by Barbara O'Connor** "A story about a girl who, with the help of the dog of her dreams, discovers that family doesn't always have to be related--they are simply people who love you for who you are." ©2016 Grade Level 2-3

Recommended Summer Reading 2021

THIRD GRADE ENTERING FOURTH GRADE

***Archer's Quest* by Linda Sue Park** Twelve-year-old Kevin Kim is shocked when a young man, complete with bow and arrows, crash-lands on his bedroom floor—especially when that man, Skillful Archer, claims to be a legendary ruler from ancient Korea. As much as Kevin enjoys teaching Archie about contemporary life and learning about Korean history from Archie's stories, Kevin needs to help Archie get back home—or history will be changed forever. ©2018 **Grade Level 4-5**

***The Chestertons and the Golden Key* by Nancy Carpentier Brown** Summer vacation turns into an adventure for the three Nicholl sisters when Mr. Gilbert Chesterton and his wife come to town. ©2016 **Grade Level 4-5**

***Finding Langston* by Lesa Cline-Ransome** It's 1946. Langston's mother has just died, and now they're leaving the rest of his family and friends. He misses everything--Grandma's Sunday suppers, the red dirt roads, and the magnolia trees his mother loved. **Coretta Scott King Honor Book, Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction, and the Christopher Award** ©2020 **Grade Level 4-7**

***Flashback Four #1: The Lincoln Project* by Dan Gutman** Four very different kids are picked by a mysterious billionaire to travel through time and photograph some of history's most important events. This time, the four friends are headed to 1863 to catch Abraham Lincoln delivering his famous Gettysburg Address. ©2017 **Grade Level 4-7**

***I Survived the American Revolution, 1776* by Lauren Tarshis** Nathaniel Fox never imagined he'd find himself in the middle of a blood-soaked battlefield, fighting for his life. He was only eleven years old! He'd barely paid attention to the troubles between America and England. ©2017 **Grade Level: 3-5**

***The Journey of Little Charlie* by Christopher Paul Cutis** Twelve-year-old Charlie is down on his luck: His sharecropper father just died and Cap'n Buck -- the most fearsome man in Possum Moan, South Carolina -- has come to collect a debt. Fearing for his life. **The National Book Award finalist** ©2018 **Grade Level 4-7**

***Me and Marvin Gardens* by Amy Sarig King** While picking up trash from Devlin Creek, Obe discovers a most extraordinary animal that may be the answer to the pollution. ©2019 **Grade Level 3-5**

***The Parker Inheritance* by Varian Johnson** Candace 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. **Coretta Scott King Author Honor, Boston Globe, and Horn Book Honor** ©2019 **Grade Level 4-6**

***Raffie on the Run* by Jacqueline Resnick** Raffie Lipton lives a rat's dream life. In his family's subway station home, he has all the food he can forage from the treasure chests humans call trash cans, and the perfect shoebox bed for telling his brother his famous adventure stories. ©2018 **Grade Level: 3-6**

***Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr** Hospitalized with the dreaded atom bomb disease, leukemia, a child in Hiroshima races against time to fold one thousand paper cranes to verify the legend that by doing so a sick person will become healthy. ©2004 **Grade Level: 4-7**

***Saving Winslow* by Sharon Creech** Louie doesn't have the best luck when it comes to nurturing small creatures. So when his father brings home a sickly newborn mini donkey, he's determined to save him. He names him Winslow. Taking care of him helps Louie feel closer to his brother, Gus, who is far, far away in the army. ©2018 **Grade Level 4-6**

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FOURTH GRADE ENTERING FIFTH GRADE

***Aim* by Joyce Moyer Hostetter** As World War II threatens the United States in 1941, fourteen-year-old Junior Bledsoe fights his own battles at home. Junior struggles with school and with anger—at his father, his insufferable granddaddy, his neighbors, and himself—as he desperately tries to understand himself and find his own aim in life. ©2016 Grade Level: 5–7

***Absolutely Almost* by Lisa Graff** Ten-year-old Albie has never been the smartest, tallest, best at gym, greatest artist, or most musical in his class, as his parents keep reminding him, but new nanny Calista helps him uncover his strengths and take pride in himself. ©2015 Grade Level: 5-7

***Because of the Rabbit* by Cynthia Lord** On the last night of summer, Emma tags along with her game warden father on a routine call. They're supposed to rescue a wild rabbit from a picket fence, but instead they find a little bunny. Emma convinces her father to bring him home for the night. **2020 ALSC Notable Children's Book** ©2016 Grade Level 5–6

***Chasing Space Young Readers' Edition* by Leland Melvin** A true story about the perseverance of an NFL star turned NASA astronaut. ©2016 Grade Level: 5–7

***The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Pérez** There are no shortcuts to surviving your first day at a new school—you can't fix it with duct tape like you would your Chuck Taylors. On Day One, twelve-year-old Malú (María Luisa, if you want to annoy her) inadvertently upsets Posada Middle School's queen bee, violates the school's dress code with her punk rock look, and disappoints her college-professor mom in the process. **2018 Pura Belpré Author Honor Book** ©2018 Grade Level 5–7

***Gone Crazy in Alabama* by Rita Williams-Garcia** Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern are off to Alabama to visit their grandmother Big Ma and her mother, Ma Charles. Across the way lives Ma Charles's half-sister, Miss Trotter. The two half-sisters haven't spoken in years. As Delphine hears about her family history, she uncovers the surprising truth that's been keeping the sisters apart. **Coretta Scott King Award** ©2016 Grade Level 5–7

***The Last Fifth Grade of Emerson Elementary* by Laura Shovan** Emerson Elementary is closing its doors and is due to be replaced by a shopping mall. Not everyone in this multiracial fifth-grade class feels the same about the school's imminent closure. The variety of expressive writing styles for each character makes this book unique. ©2016 Grade Level 5–7

***Sweeping Up the Heart* by Kevin Henkes** Amelia Albright dreams about going to Florida for spring break like everyone else in her class, but her father—a cranky and stubborn English professor—has decided Florida is too much adventure. ©2020 Grade Level 5-7

***Where Watermelons Grow* by Cindy Baldwin** When twelve-year-old Della Kelly finds her mother furiously digging black seeds from a watermelon in the middle of the night and talking to people who aren't there, Della worries that it's happening again—that the sickness that put her mama in the hospital four years ago is back. ©2018 Grade Level 5–7

***White Bird* by R. J. Palacio** Grandmère Sara's story comes to light as she describes her life as a young Jewish girl during Nazi times. While hiding in a Nazi-occupied French village, she tells the tale of how a boy once shunned by classmates became her best friend. ©2019 Grade Level 5–6

Recommended Summer Reading 2021

FIFTH GRADE ENTERING SIXTH GRADE

***The Best Man* by Richard Peck** Archer Magill has spent a lively five years of grade school with one eye out in search of grown-up role models. Three of the best are his grandpa, the great architect; his dad, the great vintage car customizer. ©2017 Grade Level 5-6

***A Handful of Stars* by Cynthia Lord** When Lily's blind dog, Lucky, slips his collar and runs away across the wide-open blueberry barrens of eastern Maine, it's Salma Santiago who manages to catch him. ©2017 Grade Level 5-7

***How We Got to the Moon: The People, Technology, and Daring Feats of Science Behind Humanity's Greatest Adventure* by John Rocco** The Moon landing is one of the most ambitious, thrilling, and dangerous ventures in human history. This book tells the stories of the 400,000 unsung heroes--the engineers, mathematicians, seamstresses, welders, and factory workers--and their innovations and life-changing technological leaps forward that allowed NASA to achieve this unparalleled accomplishment. **Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award** ©2020 Grade Level 5-6

***Indian No More* by Charlene Willing McManis and Traci Sorell** With no good jobs available in Oregon, Regina's father signs the family up for the Indian Relocation program and moves them to Los Angeles. Regina finds a whole new world in her neighborhood on 58th Place. She's never met kids of other races, and they've never met a real Indian. **Best Books of 2019, American Indians in Children's Literature** ©2019 Grade Level 6-8

***Isabel Feeney, Star Reporter* by Beth Fantaskey** It's 1920s Chicago—the guns-and-gangster era of Al Capone—and it's unusual for a girl to be selling the *Tribune* on the street corner. But ten-year-old Isabel Feeney is unusually obsessed with being a news reporter. ©2017 Grade Level 5-7

***Louisiana's Way Home* by Kate Dicamillo** Louisiana Elefante's granny wakes her up one night and forces her on a bizarre car trip, running away from (imaginary?) law-enforcers. Louisiana has to use all her charms and wits to survive when she is abandoned and finds out that her life story has all been a gigantic lie. Her heart is put to the test: is it big enough to forgive? ©2020 Grade Level 5-6

***Merci Suarez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina** Merci Suarez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just *how* different. For starters, Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. **2019 Newbery Medal** ©2018 Grade Level 5-7

***The Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani** Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha seldom speaks and writes to her dead mother in a night diary. It's 1947, and her country (India) was just split into two countries: Pakistan and India. For the family's safety, they have to take a dangerous journey to a new home. **2019 Newbery Honor Book** ©2019 Grade Level 5-7

***Pay Attention, Carter Jones* by Grey D. Schmidt** Carter Jones suddenly has an English butler who insists on helping his family during a time of grief: teaching and letting Carter drive the huge family car and taking over the school soccer field so everyone can play cricket, among other absurd and humorous events. ©2020 Grade Level 5-7

***Talking Leaves* by Joseph Bruchac** When his father, Sequoyah comes back from a long period of absence, Uwohali is excited to reconnect. However, his father's mind seems far away and everyone thinks he's crazy. As this story based on a major historical event unfolds, Uwohali and the readers find out that the ingenius Sequoyia is actually trying to invent the first Cherokee alphabet!. ©2017 Grade Level 6-8

Recommended Summer Reading 2021

SIXTH GRADE ENTERING SEVENTH GRADE

***The Book Boy* by Catherine Gilbert Murdock** Historical fantasy set in medieval France that deals with religious themes and prejudices of that time. Relics -- body parts and effects of saints -- and their whereabouts drive the plot of the story. The tween protagonist called Boy undergoes a mystical transformation that surprises him and puts him at risk. **Newbery Honor Book ©2020 Grade Level 6-7**

***The Boys' War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk About the Civil War* by Jim Murphy** Includes diary entries, personal letters, and archival photographs to describe the experiences of boys, sixteen years old or younger, who fought in the Civil War. **Golden Kite Award Book ©1993 Grade Level 6-7**

***The Bridge Home* by Padma Venkatraman** Life is harsh on the teeming streets of Chennai, India, so when runaway sisters Viji and Rukku arrive, their prospects look grim. Very quickly, eleven-year-old Viji discovers how vulnerable they are in this uncaring, dangerous world. **©2020 Grade Level 6-7**

***Finding Gobi: A Little Dog with a Very Big Heart* by Dion Leonard** Dion Leonard, a seasoned ultramarathon runner who crosses paths with a stray dog while competing in a 155-mile race through the Gobi Desert in China. The lovable pup, who would later earn the name Gobi, went step for step with Dion over the Tian Shan Mountains and across massive sand dunes, keeping pace with him for 77 mile. **©2017 Grade Level 7-8**

***Locomotion* by Jacqueline Woodson** When Lonnie was seven years old, his parents died in a fire. Now he's eleven, and he still misses them terribly. And he misses his little sister, Lili, who was put into a different foster home because "not a lot of people want boys-not foster boys that ain't babies." **National Book Award finalist ©2010 Grade Level 5-7**

***The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl* by Stacy McAnulty** Lucy survived a lightning strike that left her with genius-level math talent -- and obsessive compulsive disorder. She's only 12 and capable of starting college, but her grandmother enrolls her in middle school to spend time with kids her age. Though Lucy downplays her math skills to try to fit in, she can't hide her OCD routines from snickering classmates. **©2019 Grade Level 6-7**

***The Red Bandanna* by Tom Rinaldi** Welles Crowther always kept a red bandanna with him, a gift from his father. Little did he know how that bandanna would help him in a time of crisis, during the fall of the South Tower of the World Trade Center. **Winner of the Christopher Award, Notable Social Studies Book ©2017 Grade Level 6-8**

***The Season of Styx Malone* by Kekla Magoon** When brothers Caleb and Bobby meet their new neighbor, the suave, older boy Styx Malone, they are instantly charmed. When Styx promises that they could use his "Great Escalator Trade" scheme to obtain the object of their wildest dreams: a motorcycle, the brothers become the most faithful disciples: not realizing that under Styx cool exterior lies a vulnerable young man in need of care and kindness. **Coretta Scott King Honors and The Boston Globe Horn Book Award ©2016 Grade Level 6-8**

***Show Me a Sign* by Ann Clare LeZotte** Mary Lambert has always felt safe and protected on her beloved island of Martha's Vineyard. Her great-great-grandfather was an early English settler and the first deaf islander. Now, over a hundred years later, many people there, including Mary, are deaf, and nearly everyone can communicate in sign language. **Schneider Family Book Award 2020 Jane Addams Children's Book Award Finalist ©2020 Grade Level 7-8**

Recommended Summer Reading 2021

SEVENTH GRADE ENTERING EIGHTH GRADE

***The Apothecary* by Maile Meloy** It's 1952 and the Scott family has just moved from Los Angeles to London. Here, fourteen-year-old Janie meets a mysterious apothecary and his son, Benjamin Burrows - a fascinating boy who's not afraid to stand up to authority and dreams of becoming a spy. **E. B. White Read Aloud Award ©2013 Grade Level 6-9**

***As Brave as You* by Jason Reynolds** Genie's summer is full of surprises. The first is that 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! **Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book, Schneider Family Book Award ©2016 Grade Level 6-8**

***Code Girls the True Story of the American Girls Who Broke Code in WWII* by Lizz Mundy** More than ten thousand women served as codebreakers during World War II, recruited by the U.S. Army and Navy. While their brothers and boyfriends took up arms, these women moved to the nation's capital to learn the top secret art of code breaking. **©2018 Grade Level 8–Up**

***Dear America: Young Readers' Edition: The Story of an Undocumented Citizen* by Jose Antonio Vargas** Jose Antonio Vargas was only twelve years old when he was brought to the United States from the Philippines to live with his grandparents. He didn't know it, but he was sent to the U.S. illegally. **©2019 Grade Level 6-8**

***Endurance Young Readers Edition* by Scott Kelly** Discover the extreme challenges of long-term spaceflight, the pressures of living in close quarters with people from many countries, the extremely dangerous risk of colliding with space junk and the unnerving feeling of not being able to help if tragedy strikes at home. **©2018 Grade Level 8-9**

***A Light in the Darkness: Janusz Korczak, His Orphans, and the Holocaust* by Albert Marrin** A heart-wrenching look at the history of the Warsaw Ghetto, told by comparing the philosophies of Doctor Janusz Korczak, a pediatrician-turned-orphanage-director who championed children's rights, and Adolf Hitler, a racist fanatic whose policies led to the murder and manipulation of children. **YALSA's Award for Excellence in Nonfiction ©2021 Grade Level 7–9**

***A Night Divided* by Jennifer A. Nielsen** With the rise of the Berlin Wall, Gerta finds her family suddenly divided. She, her mother, and her brother Fritz live on the eastern side, controlled by the Soviets. Her father and middle brother, who had gone west in search of work, cannot return home. Gerta knows it is dangerous to watch the wall, yet she can't help herself. **©2018 Grade Level 7–8**

***Resistance* by Jennifer Nielsen** Chaya Lindner is a teenager living in Nazi-occupied Poland. Simply being Jewish places her in danger of being killed or sent to the camps. After her little sister is taken away, her younger brother disappears, and her parents all but give up hope, Chaya is determined to make a difference. **©2018 Grade Level 8-9**

***Torpedoed: The True Story of the World War II Sinking of "The Children's Ship"* by Deborah Heiligman** In 1940, the passenger ship City of Benares set sail from Britain, carrying 200 passengers, many of them children hoping to escape the ravages of war. Before they could reach safety, the ship was struck by a torpedo, and a tragic race to save the passengers began. **YALSA's Award for Excellence in Nonfiction ©2019 Grade Level 7–9**

***Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team* by Steve Sheinkin** An astonishing underdog sports story—and more. It's an unflinching look at the U.S. government's violent persecution of Native Americans and the school that was designed to erase Indian cultures. **©2019 Grade Level 7–9**