Summer Reading Suggestions for grades 6-8

This summer, you have choices. Read what you want, when you want.

Reading is one of the most important lifelong skills we can develop in children. This list of summer reading suggestions was compiled by your librarians from the South Orange and Maplewood Middle and High Schools, public libraries and English Language Arts teachers, and is available online through the SOMSD website and the public library sites. We have included many great books to read over the summer.

All students are required to read one book of choice, from the summer reading list below, over the summer. At the end of the first week of school, each student will participate in a BOOK TALK activity with their English Language Arts class, where teachers and students will get together and discuss the book they chose to read.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer and Happy Reading!

Information Key

Series ☑️
Nonfiction/Biography ☑️
Multicultural ☑️
Realistic Fiction ☑️
Local Author ☑️
Graphic Novel ☑️
Historical Fiction ☑️
Sci-Fi / Fantasy ☑️
LGBTQ+ ☑️
Poetry ☑️

57 Bus by Dashka Slater ☑️
A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riot of 1919 by Claire Hartfield ☑️
The Acid King by Jesse P. Pollack ☑️
After the Shot Drops by Randy Ribay ☑️
All That I Can Fix by Crystal Chan ☑️
All the Ways the World Can End by Abby Sher ☑️
All’s Faire in Middle School by Victoria Jamieson ☑️
An Uninterrupted View of the Sky by Melanie Crowder ☑️
The Beauty that Remains by Ashley Woodfolk ☑️
Becoming Kareem: Growing Up On and Off the Court by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar ☑️
Between the Lines by Nikki Grimes ☑️
Blanca & Roja by Anna-Marie McLeMore ☑️
The Book of Dust by Philip Pullman ☑️
The Boy Who Went Magic by A.P. Winter ☑️
The Boy, the Bird & the Coffin Maker by Matilda Woods
Brave by Svetlana Chmakova
The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis
The Bridge Home by Padma Venkatraman
Changers by T.S. Cooper
Check, Please! Hockey by Ngozi Ukazu
Checked by Cynthia Kadohaya
Counting Thyme by Melanie Conklin
Dear Martin by Nic Stone
El Deafo by CeCe Bell
The Electric War: Edison, Tesla, Westinghouse and the Race to Light the World by Mike Winchell
The Faithful Spy by John Hendrix
Far From the Tree by Robin Benway
Fault Lines in the Constitution: The Framers, Their Fights, and the Flaws that Affect Us Today by Cynthia & Sanford Levinson
Fly Girls: How Five Daring Women Defied All Odds and Made Aviation History by Keith O'Brien
Ghost by Raina Telgemeier
Google It by Anna Crowley Redding
Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson
The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas
Hidden Figures (Young Readers' Edition) by Margot Lee Shetterly
How to Properly Dispose of Planet Earth by Paul North
I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erika Sanchez
I am Still Alive by Kate Alice Marshall
Inventing Victoria by Tonya Bolden
It's Trevor Noah. Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood by Trevor Noah
Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson
Kindred: A Graphic Novel Adaptation by Octavia Butler
Leah on the Offbeat by Becky Albertalli
Learning to Swear in America by Katie Kennedy
Like Vanessa by Tami Charles
Listen Slowly by Thanhha Lai
Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds
Lu by Jason Reynolds
Lumberjanes Vol. 6: Sink or Swim by Shannon Watters
March Trilogy by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, & Nate Powell
Marley Dias Gets It Done: and So Can You! by Marley Dias
Merci Suarez Changes Gears by Meg Medina
Mirage by Somaiya Daud
Miss Communication (Babymouse: tales from the locker) by Jennifer Holm
Monday's Not Coming by Tiffany Jackson
Moon Girl & Devil Dinosaur Vol. 1: BFF by Amy Reeder and Brandon Montclare
Mumun by Jesse Andrews
New Kid by Jerry Craft
Night Owl From Dogfish by Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer
On a Sunbeam by Tillie Walden
On the Come Up by Angie Thomas
Orphan Island by Laurel Snyder
Playing Atari with Saddam Hussein by Jennifer Roy
Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo
Power Coders: A Peculiar Sequence of Events by Amanda Vink
Pride by Ibi Zoboi
The Prince and the Dressmaker by Jen Wang
Proud: Living My American Dream by Ibtihaj Muhammad
Queer, There, and Everywhere: 23 People Who Changed the World by Sarah Prager
Ready Player One by Ernest Cline
Rebound by Kwame Alexander
Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard
Remember My Name by Mo'ne Davis
Rising Water by Marc Aronson
She Loves You (Yeah, Yeah, Yeah) by Ann Hood
The Sky At Our Feet by Nadia Hashimi
Small Spaces by Katherine Arden
Snow Lane by Josie Angelini
Song for a Whale by Lynn Kelly
Speak: The Graphic Novel by Laurie Halse Anderson
Spinning by Tillie Walden
The Terrible Two's by Mac Barnett
To Kill a Mockingbird (graphic novel) adapted by Fred Fordham
Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom by Lynda Blackmon Lowery
Turtles All the Way Down by John Green
Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School
    Football Team by Steve Sheinkin
The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA by Brenda Woods
Watch Us Rise by Renee Watson & Ellen Hagan
Watched by Marina Budhos
What Girls are Made Of by Elana K. Arnold
When Dimple Met Rishi by Sandhya Menon
When Light Left Us by Leah Thomas
White Rose by Kip Wilson
Yes She Can: 10 Stories of Hope and Change from Young Female Staffers of the Obama White House by Molly Dillon