

St. Hilda's & St. Hugh's  
C. V. Starr Library & Learning Center



Summer Reading Suggestions 2021  
Entering Grade 6

## Sharing Books with Older Students

Here is a selection of books for you and your family to enjoy over the summer months and a few simple tips to help parents and caregivers nurture a child's love of reading. Many of these titles can be found at your local public library ([www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org)) and our school's Sora eBook collection. Students should try to read every day and are asked to read at least five books of their own choice during the summer months. Your teacher will provide one or two of these five books, depending on your grade. You may also want to refer to this list throughout the year when borrowing books from Sora, the school's online eBook collection, as well as the school library.

**Make it a family value.** Children are expert observers. Whether you prefer to read books, blogs, manuals or magazines, let your child see you enjoy reading.

**Make reading a social activity.** Talk with your child about what she or he is reading, or what you have read together. Start a parent-child book club, or attend a book signing at your local bookstore. Which is better: the book or the movie? Sometimes children will be motivated to read a book because they liked the movie. Why not listen together to Tolkien's *Fellowship of the Ring*, see the movie, and at the conclusion of the audiobook, celebrate by whipping up a hobbit-worthy meal?

**Use the books as conversation starters** and allow books to lead to other learning. Reading aloud is a wonderful way to bridge discussions on topics that you may not know how to bring up. As kids get older, you can choose material that leads into conversations about relationships, choices, current events, religion, and other relevant subjects.

**Use audiobooks.** Listening to audiobooks benefits all readers! They are an easy way to introduce children to books above their reading level and to model good interpretive reading and critical listening skills. Audiobooks can also provide a bridge to important topics of discussion for parents and children who can listen together while commuting to sporting events, music lessons, or other destinations.

**Make it part of your summer routine.** Try to encourage your child to read 20-30 minutes a day. You can make reading a part of your child's evening routine, or perhaps a morning activity of "breakfast and books" works better for your family. The goal is to encourage your child to pick up the habit of reading.

## Suggested Libraries and Children's Bookstores

St. Hilda's & St. Hugh's  
C. V. Starr Library & Learning Center  
Librarian: Angela Perna  
[aperma@sthildas.org](mailto:aperma@sthildas.org)

SOSH Sora eBook Library  
<https://soraapp.com/welcome>

The New York Public Library  
[www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org)

Book Culture  
<https://www.bookculture.com>

Books of Wonder  
<http://booksof wonder.com>

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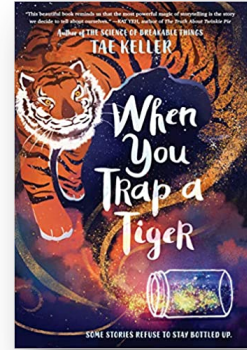
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Bibliography compiled and arranged by Angela Perna, librarian, St. Hilda’s & St. Hugh’s. Annotations are courtesy of the American Library Association, The New York Public Library, and the Library of Congress cataloging-in-publication notes. Updated spring 2021.

## 2021 Children's Literary Award Winners

Awarded by the American Library Association, the 2021 children's book awards include:

- Asian/Pacific American Award (★winner ★honor)
- Coretta Scott King Book Award (★winner ★honor)
- Newbery Medal (★winner ★honor)
- Pura Belpré Book Award (★winner ★honor)
- Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award (★winner ★honor)
- Schneider Family Book Award (★winner ★honor)
- Stonewall Book Award (★winner)
- The Sydney Taylor Book Award (★winner)



Additional young people's literary awards:

- ❖2021 Amelia Bloomer List (honoring children's books with feminist themes)
- ✚ Audie Audiobook Award Winner
- ∞ Outstanding Science Trade Book selected by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)
- ✧Freeman Book Award awarded by The National Consortium for Teaching about Asia at Columbia University
- National Book Award for Young People's Literature (🏆winner 🏆finalist)
- Ψ Nebula Finalist (chosen by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America)
- ✚Orbis Pictus Award (recognizing excellence in the writing of nonfiction for children)

New and notable titles for 2020-21

- \*Listed throughout and identified with an asterisk preceding the author's name
- 📖 Indicates books that can be enjoyed also as a read aloud.

## Audiobooks: 2021 Audie Award Winner (✚) and Finalists

✚*The Good Hawk* written by Joseph Elliott, narrated by Gary Furlong, Fiona Hardingham, published by Brilliance Publishing. (YA)

*Genesis Begins Again* written and narrated by Alicia D. Williams, published by Simon & Schuster Audio. (YA)

🏆*King and the Dragonflies* by Kacen Callender, narrated by Ron Butler, published by Scholastic Audio. (YA)

*Say Her Name* written by Zetta Elliott, narrated by Channie Waites, published by Recorded Books. (YA)

*Shuri: A Black Panther Novel* written by Nic Stone, narrated by Anika Noni Rose, published by Scholastic.

★*We Dream of Space* written by Erin Entrada Kelly, narrated by Ramon de Ocampo, published by HarperAudio.

## Classics

📖 Baum, Frank L. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. (Puffin Classics Series)

Tells the story of Dorothy's arrival in Oz and her adventures in that magical country.

📖 Green, Roger Lancelyn. *King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table*. (Puffin Classics Series)

From the magical moment when Arthur releases the sword in the stone to the quest for the Holy Grail and the final tragedy of the Last Battle, Roger Lancelyn Green brings the enchanting world of King Arthur stunningly to life.

📖 Nesbit, E. *Five Children and It*. (Puffin Classics Series)

When Cyril, Anthea, Robert, Jane and their baby brother go digging in the gravel pit, the last thing they expect to find is a Psammead—an ancient Sand-fairy! Having a Sand-fairy for a pet means having one wish granted each day. But the children don't realize all the trouble wishes can cause.

📖 Smith, Dodie. *I Capture the Castle*. (Puffin Classics Series)

A young woman's prospects begin to improve when new neighbors arrive from America. Reportedly J.K. Rowling's favorite book.

📖 Tolkien, J. R. R. *The Hobbit*.

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.

## Dystopia, Fantasy, Scary Tales, and Science Fiction

Ψ Nebula Finalist (chosen by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America)

\*Alston, B.B. *Amari and the Night Brothers*.

Thirteen-year-old Amari, a Black girl from the inner city, gets an invitation from her missing brother to join the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs and join in the fight against an evil magician.

Ψ Badger, Darcie Little. *Elatsoe*.

When her cousin is killed, Ellie must delve into the town's evil past and use her Lipan Apache family's ability to call spirits back to life in order to identify and bring the murderer to justice.

★ Cuevas, Adrianna. *The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez*.

A Cuban-American boy must use his ability to communicate with animals to save the inhabitants of his town when they are threatened by a witch who transforms into animals.



\*Haydu, Corey Ann. *One Jar of Magic*.

Joining her family in her community's annual New Year's Day magic-capturing ceremony, a 12-year-old girl who has always been lucky captures just one tiny jar of magic, revealing the true nature and beliefs of her loved ones.

★★❖ Keller, Tae. *When You Trap a Tiger*.

In a wondrous, magic-realist world rooted in Korean folklore, a tiger appears to Lily and offers her a deal that might allow her to save her beloved but very sick grandmother.

★ Layne, Aliza. *Beetle & the Hollowbones*.

Twelve-year-old goblin and witch-in-training Beetle enlists her former best friend, Kat Hollowbones, to help stop Kat's sorceress aunt from demolishing the mall where Beetle's friend Blob Ghost is trapped. (Graphic Novel)

📖 L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time*.

Meg seeks to free her father from the forces that have imprisoned him in another dimension.

\*Lukoff, Kyle. *Too Bright to See*.

While grieving the loss of a beloved uncle, eleven-year-old Bug is haunted by an unfamiliar spirit and spends a summer trying to understand what it's trying to say.

\*Moses, Rucker and Theo Gangi. *Kingston and the Magician's Lost and Found*.

A fast-paced, magical read set in an accessible, vibrant world where Black magicians and a mainly Black cast take center stage.

★ Soontornvat, Christina. *A Wish in the Dark*.

This Thai-inspired twist on Hugo's *Les Misérables* follows Pong, who escapes prison hoping to find a fairer world, and Nok, who pursues Pong through a world that makes Nok question every truth she holds dear.

\*Steiger, A. J. *Cathedral of Bones*.

Fourteen-year-old Simon, with mediocre magical powers, and Alice, a young girl transformed into a monster, work together to discover a cure to her enchantment and uncover secrets of their pasts.

## Historical Fiction

\*Albus, Kate. *A Place to Hang the Moon*.

In World War II England, orphaned siblings William, Edmund, and Anna are evacuated from London to live in the countryside, where they bounce from home to home in search of someone willing to adopt them permanently.



\*Behar, Ruth. *Letters from Cuba*.

In a series of letters, young Jewish refugee Esther describes life in 1930s Cuba as she helps her father earn money by sewing dresses so their family can join them and escape persecution in Poland.

\*Billet, Julia. *Catherine's War*.

This graphic novel tells the story of Rachel, a Jewish girl forced to change her identity during World War II. As Catherine, she uses a camera to document her experiences, vividly capturing moments of terror, exhilaration, and joy. (YA)

❖ Levine, Gail Carson. *A Ceiling Made of Eggshells*.

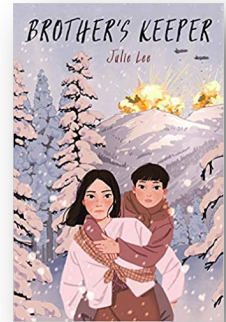
Paloma travels across fifteenth-century Spain with her influential Jewish grandfather and is required to make personal sacrifices as they struggle to keep Spanish Jews safe from widespread persecution.

★ LeZotte, Ann Clare. *Show Me a Sign*.

It is 1805, and Mary Lambert has always felt safe among the deaf community of Chilmark on Martha's Vineyard, however, recent events have shattered her life; her brother George has died, land disputes between English settlers and the Wampanoag people are becoming increasingly bitter, and a "scientist" determined to discover the origins of the islands' widespread deafness has decided she makes the perfect "live specimen"—and kidnapped her.

❖❖ Lee, Julie. *Brother's Keeper*.

Twelve-year-old Sora and her eight-year-old brother, Youngsoo, must try to escape North Korea's oppressive Communist regime on their own in 1950. Includes historical notes, photographs of the author's mother, glossary of Korean words, and timeline.



\*MacColl, Michaela. *View From Pagoda Hill*.

The coming-of-age story of 12-year-old Ming who moves from 1870s Shanghai to America. Based on a true story, it has themes of immigration and dual heritage in post-Civil War America.

\*Morosinotto, Davide. *Red Stars: The Case of Viktor and Nadya's Notebooks*.

Twins Viktor and Nadya are 12-years-old when Hitler's Germany declares war on the Soviet Union. With little notice, the city's children are evacuated on trains that are meant to take them to safety. Shockingly, Viktor and Nadya are separated, and disaster befalls them both. As the terrible conflict rages, each embarks on a desperate race across snow and ice, struggling through the destruction in an effort to be reunited.

★ Park, Linda Sue. *Prairie Lotus*.

In Dakota Territory in the 1880s, bicultural Hanna (her mother is Chinese-Korean and her father is white) face racism and resistance to change as they try to make a home for themselves.

\*Schlitz, Laura Amy. *Amber and Clay*.

Bound by destiny, Melisto and Rhaskos—Amber and Clay—never meet in the flesh. By the time they do, one of them is a ghost. But the thin line between life and death is just one boundary their unlikely friendship crosses. It takes an army of snarky gods and fearsome goddesses, slaves and masters, and mothers and philosophers to help shape their story into a gorgeously distilled, symphonic tour de force.

## Mystery and Adventure

📖 Aiken, Joan. *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*. (A series. Book 1)

Wicked wolves and a grim governess threaten Bonnie and her cousin Sylvia when Bonnie's parents leave Willoughby Chase for a sea voyage.

\*Ansari, Rebecca K.S. *The In-Between*.

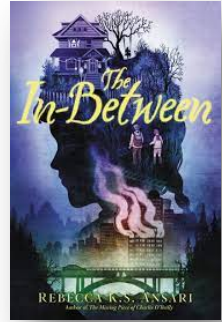
Chicago siblings Cooper and Jess unravel a mystery involving Elena, their strange new neighbor, and a series of historical disasters.

\*Gibbs, Stuart. *Charlie Thorne and the Lost City*.

Charlie Thorne must search for Charles Darwin's hidden treasure in South America—with plenty of enemies hot on her trail.

\*Lawrence, Iain. *Deadman's Castle*.

Twelve-year-old Igor yearns for a normal life, but since he was five and his father witnessed a crime, his family has been on the run from the sinister figure he calls The Lizard Man.



\*Okorafor, Nnedi. *Ikenga*.

In southeastern Nigeria, twelve-year-old Mnamdi is determined to avenge his police chief father, who was murdered while trying to rid the town of criminals, but Nnamdi feels powerless until he receives a magical object which gives him superpowers.

\*Patrick, Cat. *Tornado Brain*.

Seventh-grader Frankie, who has various sensory disorders, is determined to find her missing best friend, Colette, before it is too late.

📖 Raskin, Ellen. *The Westing Game*.

The residents of an apartment building compete for the inheritance of an eccentric millionaire's fortune as they try to solve a mystery he has provided for them.

\*Stuart, Gibbs. *Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation*.

The CIA forces 12-year-old Charlotte "Charlie" Thorne, a rebellious genius, to use her code-breaking skills on an epic global chase to locate Einstein's last equation before dangerous agents discover it and unlock the solution to harnessing energy.

## Mythologies of the World

\*Chokshi, Roshani. *Aru Shah and the City of Gold*.

Aru Shah and her sisters—including one who also claims to be the Sleeper's daughter—must find their mentors Hanuman and Urvashi in Lanka, the city of gold, before war breaks out between the devas and asuras.

📖 Homer. *The Iliad*. Retold by Gillian Cross.

A strikingly illustrated retelling of Homer's classic from the team who brought us *The Odyssey*—Carnegie Medalist Gillian Cross and illustrator Neil Packer.

\*Kim, Graci. *The Last Fallen Star*.

After 13-year-old Hattie Oh casts a dangerous spell so her adopted sister, Riley, will get a share of her inherited magic, Riley must undertake a near-impossible quest to save Hattie from death. A story that blends Korean mythology and the modern world.



Lee, Yoon Ha. *Dragon Pearl*.

Fox-spirit Min runs away to find her missing brother who is supposedly after the Dragon Pearl. Traveling between planets, she meets pirates, vengeful ghosts, and spirits from Korean mythology.

Lin, Grace. *Mulan: Before the Sword*.

Harnessing her talent for storytelling and relating Chinese myths and history, Lin imagines a compelling account of Mulan's pre-warrior days.



\*Mbalia, Kwame. *Tristan Strong Destroys the World*.

Tristan Strong, just back from a victorious but exhausting adventure in Alke, the land of African American folk heroes and African gods, is suffering from PTSD. But there's no rest for the weary when his grandmother is abducted.

Roanhorse, Rebecca. *Race to the Sun*.

Guided by her Navajo ancestors, seventh-grader Nizhoni Begay discovers she is descended from a holy woman and destined to become a monster slayer, starting with the evil businessman who kidnapped her father.

Zhao, Katie. *The Dragon Warrior*.

Siblings Faryn Liu and Alex defend their parents' honor and battle demons in this lively fantasy adventure that seamlessly blends gods and demons from myriad mythologies, including Greek, Phoenician, and Chinese.

## Nonfiction Titles & Series: Arts, Biography, Religion, and Social Studies

*Basher Basics*. – Published by Kingfisher

A world of little books that bring big ideas to life in ingenious ways.

\*Bethencourt, Kahran. *Glory: Magical Visions of Black Beauty*.

*Glory* puts Black beauty front and center with more than 100 breathtaking photographs and a collection of powerful essays about the children.

★❖✚Dionea, Evette. *Lifting as We Climb: Black Women's Battle for the Ballot Box*.

For African American women, the fight for the right to vote was only one battle. This eye-opening book tells the important, overlooked story of black women as a force in the suffrage movement when fellow suffragists did not accept them as equal partners in the struggle.

*DK Eyewitness Book*. – Published by DK

Lots of photographs and facts on various subjects.

*History Smashers*. – Published by Random House Books for Young Readers

Myths! Lies! Secrets! Smash the stories behind famous moments in history, and expose the hidden truth. Perfect for fans of *I Survived* and *Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales*.

*Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales.* – Published by Harry N. Abrams

Thrilling, daring, and downright gruesome stories from American history, in Graphic novel form.

❖Nurgaiv, Aisholpan and Liz Welch. *The Eagle Huntress: The True Story of the Girl Who Soared Beyond Expectations.*

Aisholpan comes from a long line of Kazakh eagle hunters, but must work for her right to learn the craft as the first eagle huntress in her family.

\**Once Upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices.* Ed. by S. K. Ali and Aisha Saeed. An #OwnVoices collection of Eid celebrations throughout the Muslim world.

❖Ottaviani, Jim. *Astronauts: Women on the Final Frontier.*

Told through the perspective of astronaut Mary Cleave, this graphic novel describes the many tribulations and achievements of NASA's first female astronauts.

★★❖✦ Soontornvat, Christina. *All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team.*

Supported with photographs, interviews, and primary documents, *All Thirteen* tells the story of how a united worldwide effort saved 13 boys stranded in a cave after a monsoon deluge turned a day of exploration into two weeks of terror.

## Novel in Verse

\*Fipps, Lisa. *Star Fish.*

Bullied and shamed her whole life for being fat, 12-year-old Ellie finally gains the confidence to stand up for herself, with the help of some wonderful new allies.

\*Salazar, Alda. *Land of Cranes.*

Despite being detained in a cruel and inhuman deportation camp with her pregnant mother and separated from her deported papi, Betita survives by remembering she will return home like a crane in the Aztec legends her papi told her.

Warga, Jasmine. *Other Words for Home.*

Sent with her mother to the safety of a relative's home in Cincinnati when her Syrian hometown is overshadowed by violence, Jude worries for the family members who were left behind as she adjusts to a new life with unexpected surprises.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Brown Girl Dreaming.*

Written in verse, Jacqueline Wooden describes a life divided between the North and the South, learning about the Civil Rights movement and discovering a passion for writing stories.

## Poetry Picks: 2021 Young People's Poet Laureate Naomi Shihab Nye

Each month, Young People's Poet Laureate Naomi Shihab Nye recommends a book of poetry for children. Selections include classics of children's literature, adult collections that are well suited to children, as well as newly published books. For more information visit the Poetry Foundation website at

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/naomi-shihab-nye>.

## Realistic Fiction

★❖Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. *Fighting Words*.

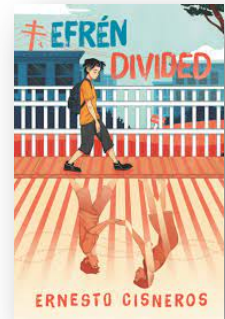
Sisters Della and Suki rely on each other to move forward after years of abuse from their mother's boyfriend. They find their own voices beyond the trauma through resilience and bond of sisterhood.

★Cisneros, Ernesto. *Efrén Divided*.

While his father works two jobs, seventh-grader Efrén Nava must take care of his twin siblings, kindergartners Max and Mia, after their mother is deported to Mexico. Includes glossary of Spanish words.

\*Colbert, Brandy. *The Only Black Girls in Town*.

Alberta is sure she will be friends with the new girl Edie, but realizes they are from two different worlds. Alberta struggles to voice how her family and race dynamics make her feel, but the two girls come together to discover a collection of hidden journals that reveal a secret to the past.



\*Diaz, Alexandra. *Santiago's Road Home*.

Santiago overcomes many dangerous obstacles to cross the border from Mexico into the United States only to be detained by ICE. While Santiago is used challenges, the brutal conditions of the youth detention center are not what he expected to find in the United States.

★Higuera, Donna Barba. *Lupe Wong Won't Dance*.

Lupe needs an A in all her classes in order to meet her favorite pitcher, Fu Li Hernandez, who's Chinacan/Mexinese just like her. So, when the horror that is square dancing rears its head in gym? Obviously she's not going to let that slide.

★⊙Jamieson, Victoria and Omar Mohamed. *When Stars Are Scattered*.

Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp, and when an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother in this intimate and touching portrayal of family and daily life in a refugee camp. (Graphic Novel)

★Kapit, Sarah. *Get a Grip, Vivy Cohen!*

Eleven-year-old knuckleball pitcher Vivy Cohen, who has autism, becomes pen pals with her favorite Major League baseball player after writing a letter to him as an assignment for her social skills class.

★Kelly, Erin Entrada. *We Dream of Space*.

Seventh-grade siblings Cash, Fitch, and Bird Nelson Thomas, each dealing differently with their tense and unpredictable household, are changed and united in unexpected ways by the fateful launch of the space shuttle Challenger in 1986.

\*Khan, Hena. *Amina's Song*.

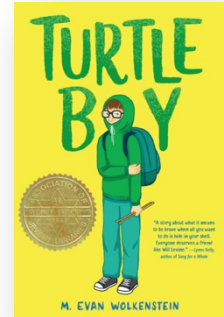
Amina has loved every minute of her vacation in Pakistan. She's excited to share the wonders of Pakistan with her friends back in Greendale. When Amina decides to do a presentation on Pakistani hero Malala Yousafzai, her classmates focus on the worst parts of the story. How can Amina share the beauty of Pakistan when no one wants to listen?

\*Lane, Kathleen. *Pity Party*.

A grab bag of deliciously dark short fiction set in middle school that explores anxieties and twists them into funny, resonant, and reassuring psychological thrills.

\*Medina, Meg. *Merci Suárez Can't Dance*.

In Meg Medina's follow-up to her Newbery Medal-winning novel, *Merci* takes on seventh grade, with all its travails of friendship, family, love—and finding your rhythm. The Suárez family is back in a touching, funny story about growing up and discovering love's many forms, including how we learn to love and believe in ourselves.



\*Parks, Amy Noelle. *Summer of Brave*.

Twelve-year-old Lilla wants to make everyone happy, so when her best friend Vivi dares her to start telling the truth as part of their Summer of Brave, Lilla hesitates because if she says out loud what she really wants, her whole life might crash down around her.

❖ Watson, Sarah. *Most Likely*.

Four life-long best friends navigate the big changes of senior year, not knowing that one of them will become the first female president of the United States.

★ Wolkenstein, M. Evan. *Turtle Boy*.

Seventh-grader Will's Bar Mitzvah community service project, visiting an incurably ill older boy in the hospital, leads to a friendship that is life-changing for both them and those around them.

\*Yang, Kelly. *Three Keys* (A Front Desk Novel).

Mia Tang and her family work to save the hotel they recently bought in the face of a looming immigration law that if passed could send them back to China and threatens the safety of Mia's friends.

## Social Justice: Fiction and Nonfiction

★🌐 Callender, Kacen. *King and the Dragonflies*.

King is sure that his brother, Khalid, has been reincarnated as a dragonfly, as he comes to terms with his brother's death, questioning both his and his best friend Sandy's sexuality.

\*Day, Christine. *The Sea in Winter*.

After an injury sidelines her dreams of becoming a ballet star, Maisie is not excited for her blended family's midwinter road trip along the coast, near the Makah community where her mother grew up.

Engle, Margarita. *The Firefly Letters: A Suffragette's Journey to Cuba*.

Slavery, women's rights, and economic inequality are experienced through the true-life experience of Swedish suffragist Fredrika Bremer, who became aware of all of these issues during her visit to Cuba.



Hiranandani, Veera. *The Night Diary*.

Shy 12-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing to her deceased Muslim mother in the pages of her diary.

\*Maldonado, Torrey. *What Lane?*

Biracial sixth-grader Stephen questions the limitations society puts on him after he notices the way strangers treat him when he hangs out with his white friends and learns about the Black Lives Matter movement.

❖ Malle, Mirion. *The League of Super Feminists*.

A graphic novel primer on feminism that addresses and breaks down many different aspects and issues from representation and tropes, intersectionality, consent, privilege, and body image.

Ramée, Lisa Moore. *A Good Kind of Trouble*.

Shayla finds her voice as an African-American, suburban, young woman as she grapples with changing friendships, her identity, and understanding the complexities surrounding the shooting of an African-American man.

\*Rhodes, Jewell Parker. *Black Brother, Black Brother*.

Dark-skinned Donte experiences more racism than his lighter-skinned brother at their private middle school. He finds empowerment through fencing at the local Boys and Girls Club and faces off with a racist bully.

\*Sloan, Holly Goldberg. *The Elephant in the Room*.

Missing her mother who has returned to Turkey to resolve an immigration problem, sixth-grader Sila welcomes a very large distraction in her life when she helps a surprising new friend rescue a circus elephant.

\*Theoharis, Jeanne. *The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks: Young Readers Edition*

This definitive biography of Rosa Parks accessibly examines her six decades of activism, challenging young readers perceptions of her as an accidental actor in the civil rights movement.

Venkatraman, Padma. *The Bridge Home*.

After fleeing their abusive father, 11-year-old Viji and her sister 12-year-old sister, Rukku, form an unusual family with two homeless boys and a stray dog.

## Sports: Fiction and Nonfiction

\*Buckley, Jr., James. *It's a Numbers Game! Soccer: The Math Behind the Perfect Goal, the Game-Winning Save, and So Much More!*

Whether you call it soccer or football, "the beautiful game" wouldn't be the popular game it is without numbers. From the clock counting up the seconds to positioning your feet at the right angle for the perfect dribble, this book reveals the ways digits and math are part of the game.



\*Greenwald, Tommy. *Rivals.*

In basketball-crazed Walthorne, rival middle school stars Austin Chambers and Carter Haswell are both feeling the pressure when school sports reporter Alfie Jenks reveals scandals that jeopardize the whole season. Told through flashbacks, newspaper reports, social media posts, and interviews.

\*Letts, Elizabeth. *The Eighty-Dollar Champion: The True Story of a Horse, a Man, and an Unstoppable Dream.*

The dramatic odyssey of a horse called Snowman, saved from the slaughterhouse by a young Dutch farmer named Harry. Together, Harry and Snowman went on to become America's show-jumping champions, winning first prize in Madison Square Garden. Set in the mid to late 1950s, this book captures the can-do spirit of a Cold War immigrant who believed--and triumphed.

\*Lupica, Mike. *The Turnover.*

When a young basketball star decides to research his grandfather--and coach--for a school project, he uncovers a decades-old scandal that changes everything he thought he knew about his grandfather

\*Patterson, James and Kwame Alexander. *Becoming Muhammad Ali.*

In alternating verse and prose narratives, Cassius Clay and his friend Lucky create a portrait of the confident child determined to become a boxing champion during the Jim Crow era.

\*Wambach, Abby. *Wolfpack: Young Reader's Edition.*

In this young reader adaptation of her #1 *New York Times* bestselling book, two-time Olympic gold medalist and FIFA World Cup champion Abby Wambach inspires the next generation to find their voice, unite their pack, and change the world.

\*Wallace, Matt. *Bump.*

A heroic young girl who dreams of becoming a pro wrestler and learning to find courage and fight for what she loves.

★Woodson, Jacqueline. *Before the Ever After.*

In this novel in verse, 12-year-old ZJ leans on his community for support as his football-star father experiences alarming medical symptoms and dramatic changes as a result of the sport (later revealed to be CTE).

## S.T.E.M.: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

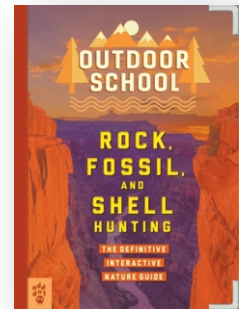
∞Outstanding Science Trade Book for 2021 selected by the National Science Teachers Association. Annotations for Outstanding Science Trade Books taken from <https://www.nsta.org/ostb-2021>

*Basher Science.* – Published by Kingfisher

Simon Basher's hip, kicky style and colorful characters make science learning fun and fundamental ideas easy to remember.

∞Bolden, Tonya. *Changing the Equation: 50+ US Black Women in STEM.*

This book celebrates over 50 women who have shattered the glass ceiling, defied racial discrimination, and pioneered in their fields.



*DK Eyewitness Book.* – Published by DK

Lots of photographs and facts on various subjects, with emphasis on natural sciences.

∞Dorian, Christiane. *Darwin's Rival: Alfred Russel Wallace and the Search for Evolution.*

A lavishly illustrated guide to the fascinating explorations of Alfred Russel Wallace, who discovered the theory of evolution—but Charles Darwin got there first.

*Field Guides.* – Peterson, Audubon, or Simon & Schuster

Explore the outdoors and use a field guide to learn about natural objects, flora, or fauna in nature.

∞Heinecke, Liz Lee. *The Kitchen Pantry Scientist: Chemistry for Kids: Homemade Science Experiments and Activities Inspired by Awesome Chemists, Past and Present.*

These thoughtful, interesting experiments are based on various biographies of scientists, many of whom have been forgotten or marginalized.

∞Jarrow, Gail. *Blood and Germs: The Civil War Battle Against Wounds and Disease.*

Learn more about medical horrors that ultimately led to medical advances such as sanitation in this in-depth look at the battle against diseases that caused significantly more casualties than the war itself.

★Rocco, John. *How We Got to the Moon: The People, Technology, and Daring Feats of Science Behind Humanity's Greatest Adventure.*

This ambitious nonfiction book chronicles one of the most exciting and miraculous accomplishments in American history--the 1969 lunar landing.

*Science Comics.* – Published by First Second

Useful introduction to various science topics in graphic novel format.

∞Siegel, Rebecca. *To Fly Among the Stars: The Hidden Story of the Fight for Women Astronauts.*

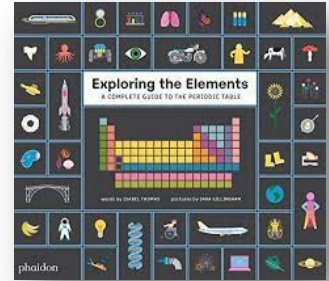
Excitement, disappointment, perseverance, and success permeate this book that tells the tale of the men and women of the Mercury space expedition.

\*Swanson, Jennifer. *Outdoor School: Rock, Fossil, and Shell Hunting*.

Rewild your life! *Outdoor School* is your indispensable tool for the outdoors. Make every day an adventure with the included: Immersive activities to get you exploring. Write-in sections to journal about experiences. Next-level adventures to challenge even seasoned nature lovers. No experience is required—only curiosity and courage!

∞Thomas, Isabel. *Exploring the Elements: A Complete Guide to the Periodic Table*.

A marvelous overview of the elements with clear explanations, delightful historical details (cobalt was called “goblin metal”), and descriptions of modern uses. This book is an essential guide for classrooms and budding scientists.



*Usborne Guides*. – Published by Usborne

Fact filled publications on all sorts of history, science and health topics.

∞Wolfson, Elissa and Margaret Barker. *Audubon Birding Adventures for Kids*.

Do you have a young bird watcher in your life? This book will build their knowledge of birding in a fun and engaging way with a beginners’ field guide, easy-to-do activities, games, and more!

## Suggested Magazines

*Ask: Arts & Science for Kids*

Features puzzles, riddles, cartoons, articles and inviting readers to explore the world's greatest artists, inventors and other thinkers.

*Cobblestone Magazine*

A magazine dedicated to examining life in America from the 17th century to today.

*Dig Into History*

Let your budding archaeologist uncover the treasures of the past with DIG, the premiere world history magazine for students ages 9-14.

*Discovery Girls*

The magazine honestly addresses the problems that are faced by girls of this age. *Discovery Girls* offers friendly advice, stimulating contests, and articles that any young girl would find entertaining and relevant.

*MUSE*

A science magazine dedicated to reporting the most cutting-edge discoveries in modern science. A perfect selection for aspiring engineers, inventors, biologists, and scientists of every type.

*Sports Illustrated for Kids*

Monthly magazine for elementary age children that includes interviews with sports heroes, comics, action photos and much more.



## A Note About Young Adult Literature

Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) of the American Library Association defines a young adult, as someone between the ages of 12 and 18. Young Adult (YA) literature explores themes important and crucial to adolescence development. Common YA plot lines include but are not limited to peer pressure and consequent experimentations, relationships to authority figures, and issues of diversity as it relates to gender, cultural, and/or socioeconomic status. YA titles often contain mature content and are noted as (YA) throughout the list.