



# **2021 Summer Reading**

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## Princeton Public Schools - Summer Reading Recommendations 2021 Pre-Kindergarten – Kindergarten

The Princeton Public School librarians created these lists of books popular with PreK and Kindergarten children. In addition to the following lists, we highly recommend sharing a variety of alphabet books, counting books and rhyming books with your child.

### Some popular books to read with PreK and Kindergarten children:

[\*A Ball for Daisy\*](#) by Chris Raschka  
[\*The Camping Trip\*](#) by Jennifer K. Mann  
[\*City Shapes\*](#) by Diana Murray  
[\*Dear Zoo\*](#) by Rod Campbell  
[\*Fabulous Frogs\*](#) by Martin Jenkins  
[\*Julián Is a Mermaid\*](#) (series) by Jessica Love  
[\*Lift\*](#) by Minh Lê  
[\*Lion, Lion\*](#) by Miriam Busch  
[\*The Little Red Cat Who Ran Away and Learned His ABC's \(the Hard Way\)\*](#)  
by Patrick McDonnell  
[\*Me & Mama\*](#) by Cozbi A. Cabrera  
[\*Peanut Butter's Tasty Opposites\*](#) by Terry Border  
[\*Pete the Cat\*](#) (series) by Eric Litwin and James Dean  
[\*Pinkalicious\*](#) (series) by Victoria Khan and I Can Read series)  
[\*Press Here\*](#) by Hervé Tullet  
[\*There's a Bear on My Chair\*](#) by Ross Collins  
[\*Yo! Yes?\*](#) by Chris Raschka

### Some favorite authors and illustrators of PreK and Kindergarten children:

[Eric Carle](#), [Donald Crews](#), [Lois Ehlert](#), [Susan Middleton Elya](#), [Kevin Henkes](#), [Jon Klassen](#), [Steve Jenkins](#), [Ezra Jack Keats](#), [Yuyi Morales](#), [Jerry Pinkney](#), [Laura Vaccaro Seeger](#), and [Ed Young](#).

### For emergent readers:

[\*Biscuit\*](#) (series) by Alyssa Capucilli  
[\*Don't Throw It to Mo!\*](#) (series) by David Adler  
[\*Elephant and Piggie\*](#) (series) by Mo Williams  
[\*Fly Guy\*](#) (series) by Tedd Arnold  
[\*King & Kayla\*](#) (series) by Dori Hillestad Butler (mystery)  
[\*Ling & Ting\*](#) (series) by Grace Lin  
[\*Meet Yasmin\*](#) (series) by Saadia Faruqi  
[\*Pedro\*](#) (series) by Fran Manushkin  
[\*See the Cat: Three Stories About a Dog\*](#) by David LaRochelle  
[\*Ty's Travels\*](#) (series) by Kelly Starling Lyons  
[\*Where's Baby?\*](#) by Anne Hunter

## Princeton Public Schools - Summer Reading Recommendations 2021

### First Grade - Second Grade

The Princeton Public School librarians created these lists of books popular with first and second grade children. In addition to the following lists, we highly recommend sharing a variety of fairy tales from different cultures as well as non-fiction books about favorite topics.

#### Some favorite authors and illustrators of first and second grade children:

[Eric Kimmel](#), [Pat Mora](#), [Robert Munsch](#), [Cynthia Rylant](#), [Dan Santat](#), [David Ezra Stein](#), [Melissa Sweet](#), [Chris Van Dusen](#), [National Geographic Kids](#), [Lisa Wheeler](#), [Mo Willems](#) and [Vera B. Williams](#).

#### For emergent readers:

[\*Biscuit\*](#) (series) by Alyssa Capucilli  
[\*Don't Throw It to Mo!\*](#) (series) by David Adler  
[\*King and Kayla\*](#) (series) by Dori Hillestad Butler  
[\*Ling & Ting\*](#) (series) by Grace Lin  
[\*Meet Yasmin\*](#) (series) by Saadia Faruqi  
[\*Pinky and Rex\*](#) (series) by James Howe  
[\*Princess in Black\*](#) (series) by Dean and Shannon Hale  
[\*Robot and Rico\*](#) (series) by Anastasia Suen  
[\*See the Cat: Three Stories About a Dog\*](#) by David LaRochelle  
[\*Sofia Martinez: My Family Adventures\*](#) (series) by Jacqueline Jules  
[\*Ty's Travels\*](#) (series) by Kelly Starling Lyons  
[\*Where's Baby?\*](#) by Anne Hunter

#### For independent readers:

[\*Anna, Banana\*](#) (series) by Anica Mrose Rissi  
[\*Bramble and Maggie\*](#) (series) by Jessie Haas  
[\*Breyer Stablemates\*](#) (series) by various authors  
[\*Cam Jansen\*](#) (series) by David Adler  
[\*Dragon Masters\*](#) (series) by Tracey West  
[\*Frankie's Magic Soccer Ball\*](#) (series) by Frank Lampard  
[\*Jasmine Green\*](#) (series) by Helen Peters  
[\*Judy Moody and Friends\*](#) (series) by Megan McDonald  
[\*Katie Woo\*](#) (series) by Fran Manushkin  
[\*Lotus Lane\*](#) (series) by Kyla May  
[\*Notebook of Doom\*](#) (series) by Troy Cummings  
[\*Pedro\*](#) (series) by Fran Manushkin  
[\*Piper Green and the Fairy Tree\*](#) (series) by Ellen Potter  
[\*The Owl Diaries\*](#) (series) by Rebecca Elliott  
[\*The Questioners\*](#) (series) by Andrea Beaty  
[\*Super Turbo\*](#) (series) by Lee Kirby

## Princeton Public Schools Summer Reading Recommendations 2021 Third Grade - Fifth Grade

The Princeton Public Schools Pre-K-5 librarians have created the following lists of book recommendations because the children typically ask us to recommend books based on a genre (e.g., fantasy, non-fiction, mystery, etc.). Recommended books are some of our personal favorites as well as some of our students' favorites. Each genre has three categories: 'Just starting out' is for those readers who may never have tried a particular genre or who have just gained independence in reading; 'In the middle of the road' books are for independent readers or for families who read together who want a longer story; 'looking for a challenge' books are for strong readers who are ready for emotionally challenging or complex topics (in other words, the 'challenging' scary stories truly are scary). Please visit our school websites as well as the Princeton Public Library for even more ideas on what to read!

### FICTION Fantasy / Science Fiction

For those just starting out:

[\*Captain Awesome\*](#) (series) by Stan Kirby  
[\*Dragonbreath\*](#) (series) by Ursula Vernon  
[\*Dragon Masters\*](#) (series) by Tracey West  
[\*Frankie's Magic Soccer Ball\*](#) (series) by Frank Lampard  
[\*The Owl Diaries\*](#) (series) by Rebecca Elliott  
[\*Secrets of Droon\*](#) (series) by Tony Abbott

For those in the middle of the road:

[\*The Spiderwick Chronicles\*](#) (series) by Tony Diterlizzi and Holly Black  
[\*Dragon Slayer's Academy\*](#) (series) by Kate McMullan  
[\*Fuzzy\*](#) and [\*Fake Mustache\*](#) by Tom Angleberger  
[\*Goddess Girls\*](#) (series) by Joan Holub and Suzanne Williams  
[\*House of Robots\*](#) (series) by James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein  
[\*How Oscar Indigo Broke the Universe \(and Put it back together again\)\*](#) by David Teague  
[\*The Land of Stories\*](#) (series) by Chris Colfer  
[\*Mañanaland\*](#) by Pam Muñoz Ryan  
[\*The Menagerie\*](#) (series) by Tui Sutherland  
[\*Order of the Majestic\*](#) by Matt Myklusch  
[\*Peter and the Starcatchers\*](#) (series) by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson  
[\*Tuesday McGillycuddy\*](#) (series) by Angela Banks  
[\*Unicorn Rescue Society\*](#) (series) by Adam Gidwitz  
[\*The Wild Robot\*](#) and [\*The Wild Robot Escapes\*](#) by Peter Brown  
[\*Wildwood Chronicles\*](#) (series) by Colin Meloy

For those wanting a challenge:

[\*Among the Hidden\*](#) (series) and [\*Under Their Skin\*](#) (duology) by Margaret Peterson Haddix  
[\*Anya and the Dragon\*](#) by Sofiya Pasternack  
[\*Artemis Fowl\*](#) (series) by Eoin Colfer  
[\*Ella Enchanted\*](#) by Gail Carson Levine

[\*Fablehaven\*](#) (series) and [\*The Five Kingdoms\*](#) (series) by Brandon Mull  
[\*The Girl Who Drank the Moon\*](#) by Kelly Barnhill  
[\*Gregor the Overlander\*](#) (The Underland Chronicles series) by Suzanne Collins  
[\*Icebreaker\*](#) (series) by Lian Tanner  
[\*Mapmakers\*](#) (series) by S. E. Grove  
[\*Princess Academy\*](#) (series) by Shannon Hale  
[\*Starry River of the Sky\*](#) by Grace Lin  
[\*The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez\*](#) by Adrianna Cuevas  
[\*The Unwanteds\*](#) (series) by Lisa McMann  
[\*A Wish in the Dark\*](#) by Christina Soontornvat

## Historical Fiction

For those just starting out:

[\*American Girl\*](#) (series)  
[\*I Survived\*](#) (series) by Lauren Tarshis  
[\*Magic Tree House\*](#) (series) by Mary Pope Osborne

For those in the middle of the road:

[\*Baseball Card Adventures\*](#) (series) by Dan Gutman  
[\*Before the Ever After\*](#) by Jacqueline Woodson  
[\*The Birchbark House\*](#) (series) by Louise Erdrich  
[\*Bud, Not Buddy\*](#) by Christopher Paul Curtis  
[\*Front Desk\*](#) and [\*Three Keys\*](#) by Kelly Yang  
[\*The Hero Two Doors Down\*](#) by Sharon Robinson  
[\*Nory Ryan's Song\*](#) by Patricia Reilly Giff  
[\*One Crazy Summer\*](#) by Rita Williams-Garcia  
[\*Paper Wishes\*](#) by Lois Sepahban  
[\*Prairie Lotus\*](#) by Linda Sue Park  
[\*Show Me a Sign\*](#) by Ann Clare LeZotte  
[\*The War That Saved My Life\*](#) and [\*The War I Finally Won\*](#) by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley  
[\*We Dream of Space\*](#) by Erin Entrada Kelly  
[\*The Wind Called My Name\*](#) by Mary Louise Sanchez

For those in need of an emotional and/or thought-provoking challenge:

[\*The Blackbird Girls\*](#) By Anne Blankman  
[\*Cloud and Wallfish\*](#) by Anne Nesbet  
[\*Crispin: The Cross of Lead\*](#) by Avi  
[\*Echo\*](#) by Pam Muñoz Ryan  
[\*The Enemy\*](#) by Sara Holbrook  
[\*Esperanza Rising\*](#) by Pam Muñoz Ryan  
[\*Fever\*](#) by Laurie Halse Anderson  
[\*The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, the Three Magical Children and Their Dog\*](#) by Adam Gidwitz  
[\*Jefferson's Sons: A Founding Father's Secret Children\*](#) by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley  
[\*Lifeboat\*](#) by Susan Hood  
[\*The Night Diary\*](#) by Veera Hiranandani  
[\*A Single Shard\*](#) by Linda Sue Park

[\*Towers Falling\*](#) by Jewell Parker Rhodes  
[\*White Bird: A Wonder Story\*](#) by R.J. Palacio  
[\*Wolf Hollow\*](#) by Lauren Wolk  
[\*The Wolf Wilder\*](#) by Katherine Rundell

## Mysteries

For those just starting out:

[\*A-Z Mysteries\*](#) and [\*Capital Mysteries\*](#) (series) by Ron Roy  
[\*Cam Jansen\*](#) (series) by David Adler  
[\*Geronimo Stilton\*](#) and [\*Thea Stilton\*](#) (series) by Geronimo and Thea Stilton

For those in the middle:

[\*The Bad Books Series\*](#) and [\*The Secret Series\*](#) by Pseudonymous Bosch  
[\*Brixton Brothers\*](#) (series) by Mac Barnett  
[\*Chasing Vermeer\*](#) by Blue Balliett  
[\*Elvis and the Underdogs\*](#) (series) by Jenny Lee  
[\*From the Desk of Zoe Washington\*](#) by Janae Marks  
[\*Gilda Joyce Psychic Investigator Series\*](#) by Jennifer Allison  
[\*Malcolm at Midnight\*](#) (series) by W.H. Beck  
[\*Puzzling World of Winston Breen\*](#) (series) by Eric Berlin  
[\*Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars\*](#) (series) by Michael and Tracy Mack  
[\*Under the Egg\*](#) by Laura Marx Fitzgerald

For those in need of a challenge:

[\*The Goldfish Boy\*](#) by Lisa Thompson  
[\*The Invention of Hugo Cabret\*](#) by Brian Selznik  
[\*The Parker Inheritance\*](#) by Varian Johnson  
[\*Serafina and the Black Cloak\*](#) (series) by Robert Beatty  
[\*The Shakespeare Stealer\*](#) by Gary L. Blackwood

## Realistic Fiction

For those just starting out:

[\*Anna, Banana\*](#) (series) by Anica Mrose Rissi  
[\*Chasing the Dream\*](#) (series) by Hena Khan  
[\*Clementine\*](#) (series) and [\*Waylon\*](#) by Sara Pennypacker  
[\*Jake Maddox\*](#) (multiple sports-themed series) by Jake Maddox  
[\*Jasmine Green\*](#) (series) by Helen Peters  
[\*Juana and Lucas\*](#) by Juana Medina  
[\*Lola Levine\*](#) (series) by Monica Brown  
[\*Lotus Lane\*](#) (series) by Kyla May  
[\*Piper Green and the Fairy Tree\*](#) (series) by Ellen Potter  
[\*The Questioners\*](#) (series) by Andrea Beaty  
[\*Rainbow Street Pets\*](#) (series) by Wendy Orr

[\*The No 1 Car Spotter\*](#) (series) by Atinuke

For those in the middle:

[\*A Boy Called Bat\*](#) (series) by Elana K. Arnold

[\*Fish in a Tree\*](#) by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

[\*Garvey's Choice\*](#) by Nikki Grimes

[\*Jasmine Toguchi Drummer Girl\*](#) (series) by Debbi Michiko Florence

[\*Matt Christopher books\*](#) (multiple sports-themed series) by Matt Christopher

[\*Merci Suárez Changes Gears\*](#) by Meg Medina

[\*Love, Sugar, Magic: a Dash of Trouble\*](#) by Anna Meriano

[\*Once Upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices\*](#)

by S. K. Ali and Aisha Saeed (Editor)

[\*Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing\*](#) by Judy Blume

[\*Ways to Make Sunshine\*](#) by Renée Watson

[\*A Whole New Ballgame\*](#) (Rip & Red series) by Phil Bildner

[\*Year of the Dog\*](#) (Pacy Lin series) by Grace Lin

For those in need of an emotional and/or thought-provoking challenge:

[\*As Brave As You\*](#) and [\*Ghost\*](#) (Track series) by Jason Reynolds

[\*Black Brother, Black Brother\*](#) by Jewell Parker Rhodes

[\*Blended\*](#) by Sharon Draper

[\*The Crossover\*](#) and [\*Rebound\*](#) by Kwame Alexander

[\*Efrén Divided\*](#) by Ernesto Cisneros

[\*Escape from Aleppo\*](#) by N. H. Senzai

[\*Fighting Words\*](#) by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

[\*Hello, Universe, The Land of the Forgotten Girls\*](#) and [\*Blackbird Fly\*](#) by Erin Entrada Kelly

[\*Home Town Hero\*](#) (series) by Mike Lupica

[\*King and the Dragonflies\*](#) by Kacen Callender

[\*A Mango-Shaped Space\*](#) by Wendy Mass

[\*The Only Road\*](#) and [\*The Crossroads\*](#) by Alexandra Diaz

[\*Out of My Mind\*](#) by Sharon Draper

[\*The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise\*](#) by Dan Gemeinhart

[\*When You Trap a Tiger\*](#) by Tae Keller

## Scary Stories

For those just starting out:

[\*Eerie Elementary\*](#) (series) by Jack Chabert and Sam Ricks

[\*The Haunted Library\*](#) (series) by Dori Hillestad Butler

[\*The Notebook of Doom\*](#) (series) by Troy Cummings

For those wanting to feel a bit creeped out:

[\*Goosebumps\*](#) (series) by R. L. Stine

[\*Undead Pets\*](#) (series) by Sam Hay

[\*The Year of Shadows\*](#) by Claire Legrand



For those who crave a really, really scary story...

[\*Breathe: A Ghost Story\*](#) by Cliff McNish  
[\*Doll Bones\*](#) and others by Holly Black  
[\*The Graveyard Book\*](#) and others by Neil Gaiman  
[\*The Jumbies\*](#) (series) by Tracey Baptiste  
[\*Ophie's Ghosts\*](#) by Justina Ireland  
[\*Scary Stories for Young Foxes\*](#) by [Christian McKay Heidicker](#)

## NON-FICTION

Non-fiction is such a diverse category that we recommend reading books, magazine and newspaper articles, and encyclopedia entries about significant current topics or places your family may visit or have visited in the past. Also any book by [Seymour Simon](#), [National Geographic Kids](#), [Steve Jenkins](#), and [Dianna Hutts Aston](#) are popular.

Just starting out:

[\*Above the Rim: How Elgin Baylor Changed Basketball\*](#) by Jen Bryant  
[\*Brothers at Bat: The True Story of an All-Brother Baseball Team\*](#) by Audrey Vernick  
[\*The Cat Man of Aleppo\*](#) by Irene Lantham and Karim Shamsi-Basha  
[\*Digging for Words: José Alberto Gutiérrez and the Library He Built\*](#)  
by Angela Burke Kunkel  
[\*Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks\*](#) by Suzanne Slade  
[\*Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera\*](#) by Candace Fleming  
[\*Inky's Amazing Escape\*](#) by Sy Montgomery  
[\*It Began with a Page\*](#) by Kyo Maclear  
[\*The Marvelous Thing That Came From a Spring\*](#) by Gilbert Ford  
[\*The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read\*](#) by Rita Lorraine Hubbard  
[\*Owen and Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship\*](#) (series) by Isabella Hatkoff  
[\*Tiny Stitches: The Life of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas\*](#) by Gwendolyn Hudson Hooks  
[\*Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship and Survival\*](#)  
by Kirby Larson and Mary Nethery  
[\*Your Place in the Universe\*](#) by Jason Chin

In the middle of the road:

[\*Becoming Muhammad Ali\*](#) by Kwame Alexander and James Patterson  
[\*I Survived True Stories: Five Epic Disasters\*](#) by Lauren Tarshis  
[\*The Magic School Bus Rides Again\*](#) (series)  
[\*Who Was? What Was? Where Is?\*](#) (series)  
[\*You Choose\*](#): Interactive History adventures (multiple series)

For those looking for some more complex subjects:

[\*All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team\*](#)  
by Christina Soontornvant  
[\*Box: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom\*](#) by Carole Boston Weatherford  
[\*Dive! World War II Stories of Sailors and Submarines in the Pacific\*](#) by Deborah Hopkinson  
[\*The Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd in the African Wild\*](#) by Lawrence Anthony

*Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls* (series)

*How We Got to the Moon: The People, Technology, and Daring Feats of Science Behind*

*Humanity's Greatest Adventure* by John Rocco

*Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales* (graphic novel series) by Nathan Hale

*Outcasts United Adapted for Young People* by Warren St. John

*Stamped (For Kids): Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi

and adapted by Sonja Cherry-Paul

*Toys! Amazing Stories Behind Some Great Inventions* by Don Wulffson

*When Stars Are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed

## Resources for Discussing Antiracism and Social Justice 2021 PreK-5

We have curated this list of resources to facilitate family discussions on antiracism and social justice. The list is not all inclusive.

### Resources Specifically Related to Discussing Racial Injustice and the News with Children

[\*Something Happened in Our Town: A Story of Racial Injustice\*](#) By [Marianne Celano, PhD, ABPP](#), [Marietta Collins, PhD](#), and [Ann Hazzard, PhD, ABPP](#).

[\*The Breaking News\*](#) by Sarah Lynne Reul [Parent Discussion Guide](#)

[\*Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness\*](#) by Anatasia Higginbotham

[\*How to Talk Racism With Your Family: Ask Code Switch\*](#)

[\*Racism and Violence in the News: How to Help Kids Handle the News\*](#) by the Child Mind Institute

[\*Talking to Kids about Discrimination\*](#) by the American Psychological Association

[How to Explain Racism - CNN/Sesame Street Town Hall](#)

### Picture Books for All Ages to Facilitate Discussions on Identity/Diversity

[\*I am Perfectly Designed\*](#) by Karamo Brown

[\*Black Is a Rainbow Color\*](#) by Angela Joy

[\*The Bug Girl: A True Story\*](#) by Sophia Spencer

[\*The Day You Begin\*](#) by Jacqueline Woodson [Discussion Guide](#)

[\*Double Bass Blues\*](#) By Andrea J. Loney

[\*Flash and Gleam: Light in Our World\*](#) by Sue Fliess

[\*Eyes that Kiss in the Corners\*](#) by Joanna Ho

[\*Hey Black Child\*](#) by Useni Eugene Perkins

[\*I Am Enough\*](#) by Grace Byers [Discussion Guide](#)

[\*I Am Every Good Thing\*](#) by Derrick Barnes

[\*If Dominican Were a Color\*](#) by Sili Recio

[\*In My Mosque\*](#) by M.O. Yuksel

[\*Just Ask!: Be Different, Be Brave, Be You\*](#) by Sonia Sotomayor

[\*Mango, Abuela and Me\*](#) by Meg Medina

[\*The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh\*](#) by Supriyah Kelkar

[\*My Hair Is a Garden\*](#) by Cozbi A. Cabrera [Discussion Guide](#)

[\*Nana Akua Goes to School\*](#) by Tricia Elam Walker

[\*The Ocean Calls: A Haenyeo Mermaid Story\*](#) by Tina Cho

[\*Our Skin: A First Conversation About Race\*](#) by Megan Madison and Jessica Ralli

[\*Papa, Daddy and Riley\*](#) by Seamus Kirst

[\*Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family\*](#) by Ibtihaj Muhammad

[\*Saffron Ice Cream\*](#) by Rashin Kheiriyeh

[\*Shades of Black: A Celebration of Our Children\*](#) by Sandra L. Pinkney

[\*Sing a Song: How 'Lift Every Voice and Sing' Inspired Generations\*](#)

by Kelly Starling Lyons [Activity Guide](#)

[\*Sing, Don't Cry\*](#) by Angela Dominguez

[\*Skin Again\*](#) by bell hooks

[\*The Undefeated\*](#) by Kwame Alexander

[\*What Riley Wore\*](#) by Elana Arnold

[\*We Are Grateful Otsaliheliga\*](#) by Traci Sorell

[\*Yaffa and Fatima\*](#) by Fawzia Gilani-Williams and Chiara Fedele

[You Matter](#) by Christian Robinson [Activity Sheets](#)

### **Picture Books for All Ages to Facilitate Discussions on Antiracism and Social Justice**

[Above the Rim: How Elgin Baylor Changed Basketball](#) by Jen Bryant

[Anti-Racist Baby](#) by Ibram X. Kendi (available June 16th)

[A is for Activist](#) by Innosanto Nagara

[The Book Rescuer](#) by Sue Macy

[Box: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom](#) by Carole Boston Weatherford

[Get Up, Stand Up](#) by Cedella Marley

[IntersectionAllies: We Make Room for All](#) By Chelsea Johnson, LaToya Council, and Carolyn Choi. (PDF Download available through June 19).

[I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark](#) by Debbie Levy

[It Began with a Page](#) by Kyo Maclear

[A Place Inside of Me: A Poem to Heal the Heart](#) by Zetta Elliott

[Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag](#) by Rob Sanders

[Say Something](#) by Peter H. Reynolds

[Sing a Song: How ‘Lift Every Voice and Sing’ Inspired Generations](#) by Kelly Starling Lyons [Activity Guide](#)

[Sulwe](#) by Lupita Nyong'o [Discussion Guide](#)

[The Undefeated](#) by Kwame Alexander

[We Are Still Here: Native Americans Truths Everyone Should Know](#) by Traci Sorell

[We March](#) by Shane W. Evans

### **Middle Grade Novels that Explore Identity/Diversity (best for ages 8+)**

[American as Paneer Pie](#) by Supriya Kelkar [Discussion Guide](#)

[As Brave As You](#) by Jason Reynolds [Discussion Guide](#)

[Black Brother Black Brother](#) by Jewell Parker Rhodes [Discussion Guide](#)

[A Boy Called Bat](#) (series) by Elana K. Arnold

[Chasing the Dream](#) (series) by Hena Khan [Discussion Questions](#)

[Clayton Byrd Goes Underground](#) by Rita Williams-Garcia [Discussion Guide](#)

[Clean Getaway](#) by Nic Stone [Discussion Guide](#)

[First Rule of Punk](#) by Celia C. Pérez [Discussion Guide](#)

[Front Desk](#) and [Three Keys](#) by Kelly Yang [Discussion Guide](#)

[Garvey's Choice](#) by Nikki Grimes [Educator's Guide](#)

[Harbor Me](#) by Jacqueline Woodson [Discussion Guide](#)

[Jasmine Toguchi Drummer Girl](#) (series) by Debbi Michiko Florence

[Look Both Ways](#) by Jason Reynolds [Discussion Questions](#)

[Love, Sugar, Magic: a Dash of Trouble](#) (series) by Anna Meriano [Educator's Guide](#)

[Once Upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices](#) by S. K. Ali and

Aisha Saeed (Editors)

[Other Words for Home](#) by Jasmine Warga

[A Place at the Table](#) by Saadia Faruqi and Laura Shovan [Conversation Starters with Elders](#)

[Stars Beneath Our Feet](#) by David Barclay Moore [Discussion Questions](#)

[Stella Diaz](#) (series) by Angela Dominguez

[This Is Just a Test](#) by Madelyn Rosenberg and Wendy Wan-Long Shang

[Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky](#) by Kwame Mbalia [Discussion Guide](#)

[Two Naomis](#) and [Naomis Too](#) by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich and Audrey Vernick

[Ways to Make Sunshine](#) by Renée Watson [Guide](#)

[When You Trap a Tiger](#) by Tae Keller [Mythology Guide](#) [Author's Note](#)

[\*The Year of the Book\*](#) (series) by Andrea Cheng  
[\*Year of the Dog\*](#) (Pacy Lin series) by Grace Lin [Discussion Questions](#)  
[\*You Don't Know Everything, Jilly P!\*](#) by Alex Gino [Discussion Guide](#)

**Middle Grade Books that Explore Antiracism/Social Justice (best for ages 8+)**

[\*Black Brother Black Brother\*](#) by Jewell Parker Rhodes [Discussion Guide](#)  
[\*Blended\*](#) by Sharon Draper [Discussion Guide](#)  
[\*Clean Getaway\*](#) by Nic Stone [Discussion Guide](#)  
[\*Clayton Byrd Goes Underground\*](#) by Rita Williams-Garcia [Discussion Guide](#)  
[\*Efrén Divided\*](#) by Ernesto Cisneros  
[\*Front Desk\*](#) and [\*Three Keys\*](#) by Kelly Yang [Discussion Guide](#)  
[\*Ghost Boys\*](#) by Jewell Parker Rhodes [Discussion Guide](#)  
[\*A Good Kind of Trouble\*](#) by Lisa Moore Ramée [Education Guide](#)  
[\*Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls\*](#) (series)  
[\*Harbor Me\*](#) by Jacqueline Woodson [Discussion Guide](#)  
[\*King and the Dragonflies\*](#) by Kacen Callender [Discussion Questions](#)  
[\*New Kid\*](#) and [\*Class Act\*](#) by Jerry Craft [Discussion Guide](#)  
[\*The Only Road\*](#) and [\*The Crossroads\*](#) by Alexandra Diaz [Reading Group Guide](#)(*The Only Road*) [Reading Group Guide](#) (*The Crossroads*)  
[\*The Parker Inheritance\*](#) by Varian Johnson [Story Behind the Story](#) and [Discussion Questions](#)  
[\*The Power Book: What Is It, Who Has It, and Why?\*](#) by Claire Saunders, Hazel Songhurst, Georgia Amson-Bradshaw, Minna Salami, Mik Scarlet  
[\*Prairie Lotus\*](#) by Linda Sue Park [Discussion Questions](#)  
[\*Save Me a Seat\*](#) by Gita Varadarajan and Sarah Weeks  
[\*Stamped \(For Kids\): Racism, Antiracism, and You\*](#) by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi and adapted by Sonja Cherry-Paul  
[\*We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices\*](#) by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson  
[\*When Stars Are Scattered\*](#) by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed [Educator Guide](#)

**Princeton Public Schools**  
**Extended Summer Reading List 2021**  
**Pre-K to 5**

Did you read through the whole list and need more suggestions?!? Below are a few of our book award winners and favorite lists of book recommendations created by others. While perusing the lists, bear in mind that most of the lists include books for children up to age 14 which may not be appropriate for younger readers.

[Jane Addams Children's Book Award](#) - peace, social justice, global community and equity books

[American Indian Youth Literature Award](#) - books by and about Native Americans and Indigenous peoples of North America

[Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature](#) promoting Asian American cultures and heritages

[Batchelder Award](#) books originally published in another country and also translated to English

[Pura Belpré Award](#) celebrating the Latinx experience

[Amelia Bloomer Book List](#) feminist themes

Book Riot's [50 Must Read Middle Grade Graphic Novels](#)

[Caldecott Award](#) - distinguished picture books (including graphic novels)

[Children's Choice Awards](#) and [Children's Choices Reading List](#) chosen for kids by kids

[Geisel Award](#) distinguished beginning to read books

[Charlotte Huck Award](#) - National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)'s award for fiction

[Ezra Jack Keats Award](#) new picture book authors and illustrators

[Coretta Scott King Award](#) African American culture and universal human values

[Mathical Award](#) Winners - books with a mathematical theme

NSTA's [Outstanding Trade Books in Science](#) and [Best STEM Books](#)

[New York Public Library's Best Books for Children for 2020](#)

[New York Times 2019 Notable Children's Books](#)

[Newbery Award](#) distinguished contributions to children's literature (usually middle grade fiction)

[Orbis Pictus Award](#) National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)'s award for non-fiction

[Scott O'Dell Award](#) historical fiction

[Princeton Public Library's Staff Picks](#) for Kids

[Schneider Family Book Award](#) artistic representation of the disability experience

[Sibert Informational Book Award](#) distinguished non-fiction

[Stonewall Award](#) LGBTQ+ books

[Sydney Taylor Book Award](#) authentic portrayal of the Jewish experience

[Charlotte Zolotow Award](#) best picture book text

## ***Princeton Unified Middle School – Recommendations For Rising Sixth Graders***

At Princeton Unified Middle School, our readers benefit from the variety of fiction and nonfiction titles we offer during Reading Workshop in our English classes. As we believe in and stress the importance of reading beyond the school year, we will be offering a few suggested titles that are developmentally appropriate for all of our students who share varied ability levels, learning styles and interests.

As a result, we are offering twelve *fiction* and twelve *nonfiction* suggested titles at each grade level in our middle school as a reflective example of what students will find in each classroom library. ***In September, students should bring a copy of one of the texts read over the summer*** and expect to answer a variety of reader-response questions regarding their summer choices during the first full week of school. If the text selected for use in class is not on this list, it may be brought to class if it is of comparable merit and the student has a parent's or guardian's permission.

### **Fiction Selections**

*Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix  
*Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis  
*The Cavendish Home for Boys and Girls* by Claire Legrand  
*Delilah Dirk & The Turkish Lieutenant* by Tony Cliff  
*Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein  
*Falling Over Sideways* by Jordan Sonnenblick  
*Front Desk* by Kelly Yang  
*Game Changers* by Mike Lupica  
*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K. Rowling  
*The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan  
*Save Me a Seat* by Sarah Weeks & Gita Varadarajan  
*The Season of Styx Malone* by Kekla Magoon

### **Nonfiction Selections**

*Alexander the Great: Master of the Ancient World* by Doug Wilhelm  
*Claudette Colvin: Towards Justice* by Phillip M. Hoose  
*The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler* by John Hendrix  
*The Great White Shark Scientist* by Sy Montgomery  
*Hazardous Tales: Alamo All-Stars* by Nathan Hale  
*Knots in My Yo-Yo String* by Jerry Spinelli  
*Lincoln's Grave Robbers* by Steve Sheinkin  
*Saved by the Boats* by Julie Gassman  
*Scientists in the Field* by Pamela S. Turner  
*The Tarantula Scientist* by Sy Montgomery  
*This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality* by Jo Ann Allen Boyce & Debbie Levy  
*Women Who Changed the World* by Laurie Calkhovem

Dear Parents or Guardians:

Please encourage your child to read 20-minutes a day all summer long. We partner with the Princeton Public Library and recommend all students register for the [2021 Youth Summer Reading Program](#).

Appreciatively,  
English Department  
Princeton Unified Middle School

**Please indicate below your approval of your child’s reading:**

Title:

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Author:

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Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Students: Return this completed paper to your English teacher during the first week of school.)**

*Questions students can expect to see from their teachers upon their return from summer vacation...*

**Fiction:**

1. Was there one character similar to you in any book? Would the story be different if you were the main character?
2. Discuss one memorable moment of the story? Why is it memorable?
3. What was one major theme you recognized in any book?

**Nonfiction:**

1. What is something new that you learned? Please explain why it is significant to you.
2. Did any new information surprise you? Please explain that surprise and how it added to your knowledge of the subject.
3. Did anything change, challenge or confirm what you already knew? Please explain.



## ***Princeton Unified Middle School – Recommendations For Rising Seventh Graders***

At Princeton Unified Middle School, our readers benefit from the variety of fiction and nonfiction titles we offer during Reading Workshop in our English classes. As we believe in and stress the importance of reading beyond the school year, we will be offering a few suggested titles that are developmentally appropriate for all of our students who share varied ability levels, learning styles and interests.

As a result, we are offering twelve *fiction* and twelve *nonfiction* suggested titles at each grade level in our middle school as a reflective example of what students will find in each classroom library. ***In September, students should bring a copy of one of the texts read over the summer*** and expect to answer a variety of reader-response questions regarding their summer choices during the first full week of school. If the text selected for use in class is not on this list, it may be brought to class if it is of comparable merit and the student has a parent’s or guardian’s permission.

### **Fiction Selections**

*The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis  
*Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson  
*Calico Joe* by John Grisham  
*City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau  
*Dove Arising* by Karen Bao  
*Hoops* by Walter Dean Myers  
*In Real Life* by Cory Doctorow & Jen Wang  
*Life as We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer  
*New Kid* by Jerry Craft  
*Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani  
*Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen  
*Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech

### **Nonfiction Selections**

*Be Prepared* by Vera Brosgol  
*Crow Smarts: Inside the Brain of the World’s Brightest Bird* by Pamela S. Turner  
*Elon Musk & the Quest for a Fantastic Future* by Ashlee Vance  
*The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler* by John Hendrix  
*Frozen in Time* by Mitchell Zuckoff  
*Hidden Figures (Young Reader’s Edition)* by Margot Lee Shetterly  
*I am Malala (Young Readers Edition)* by Malala Yousafzai  
*Native American Doctor: The Story of Susan Laflesche Picotte* by Jeri Chase Ferris  
*Red Scarf Girl* by Ji-li Jiang  
*Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor’s Story* by Caren Stelson  
*Strong Inside (Young Readers Edition)* by Andrew Maraniss  
*Untold History of the United States (Young Reader’s Edition)* by Oliver Stone

Dear Parents or Guardians:

Please encourage your child to read 20-minutes a day all summer long. We partner with the Princeton Public Library and recommend all students register for the [2021 Youth Summer Reading Program](#).

Appreciatively,  
English Department  
Princeton Unified Middle School

**Please indicate below your approval of your child’s reading:**

Title:

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Author:

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Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Students: Return this completed paper to your English teacher during the first week of school.)**

*Questions students can expect to see from their teachers upon their return from summer vacation...*

**For Narrative Reading...**

1. How does the conflict change the character?
2. What is the author’s tone toward *one* of the characters in your book?
3. What symbols are central in the book? How do they contribute to the theme or to the book as a whole?

**For Nonfiction Reading...**

1. What do you think the author’s central idea is? What would you describe as the author’s purpose in writing the text?
2. How does the author structure the book? Is it chronological (time order), general to specific, cause and effect, pros and cons...?
3. Was there a specific passage that had a strong tone to it that revealed the author’s attitude toward a topic?
4. Did the book make you more aware and knowledgeable about the particular issue? How did earlier opinions about the issue change after reading this book?

## ***Princeton Unified Middle School – Recommendations For Rising Eighth Graders***

At Princeton Unified Middle School, our readers benefit from the variety of fiction and nonfiction titles we offer during Reading Workshop in our English classes. As we believe in and stress the importance of reading beyond the school year, we will be offering a few suggested titles that are developmentally appropriate for all of our students who share varied ability levels, learning styles and interests.

As a result, we are offering twelve *fiction* and twelve *nonfiction* suggested titles at each grade level in our middle school as a reflective example of what students will find in each classroom library. ***In September, students should bring a copy of one of the texts read over the summer*** and expect to answer a variety of reader-response questions regarding their summer choices during the first full week of school. If the text selected for use in class is not on this list, it may be brought to class if it is of comparable merit and the student has a parent's or guardian's permission.

### **Fiction Selections**

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith

*Bull Run* by Paul Fleischman

*Children of Blood and Bone: Legacy of Orisha, Book 1* by Tomi Adeyemi

*Counting by 7's* by Holly Goldberg Sloan *Darius the Great Is Not Okay* by Adib Khorram

*Flygirl* by

Sherri Smith

*Furthermore* by Tahereh Mafi *Genius: The Game* by Leopoldo Gout *Heartless* by  
Marissa Meyer

*Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys

*That Was Then, This Is Now* by S.E. Hinton

*Zen and the Art of Faking It* by Jordan Sonnenblick

### **Nonfiction Selections**

*The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor* by Sonia Sotomayor

*Blizzard of Glass: the Halifax Explosion of 1917* by Sally M. Walker *The Boys in the Boat*  
(YA

*Adaptation*) by Daniel James Brown *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson

*Flying Higher: Women Airforce Service Pilots of WWII* by Wanda Langley

*Freedom Walkers* by Russell Freedman

*Photo By Brady: A Picture of the Civil War* by Jennifer Armstrong

*The Plot to Kill Hitler* by Patricia McCormick

*The Race to Save the Lord God Bird* by Phillip Hoose

*Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune* by Pamela S. Turner

*The Unwanted: Stories of the Syrian Refugees* by Don Brown

*Witches: The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem* by Rosalyn Schanzer

Dear Parents or Guardians:

Please encourage your child to read 20-minutes a day all summer long. We partner with the Princeton Public Library and recommend all students register for the [2021 Youth Summer Reading Program](#).

Appreciatively,  
English Department  
Princeton Unified Middle School

**Please indicate below your approval of your child’s reading:**

Title:

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Author:

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Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Students: Return this completed paper to your English teacher during the first week of school.)**

*Questions students can expect to see from their teachers upon their return from summer vacation...*

**For Fiction Reading...**

**Dynamic Character**

A dynamic character is often easier to build a compelling story around. Dynamic character might go through a major life transition, have a coming-of-age experience, pull through trials and tribulations, mature, have a change of heart or develop more likeable qualities -- or take a turn for the worse. A common misconception is that a dynamic character has an electric, charismatic personality. In fact, the term "dynamic" doesn't define the character's qualities, but rather refers to how those qualities change over time.

Dynamic characters are often easier to spot than static ones. A clear example of a dynamic character is Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens’ novel, *A Christmas Carol*. His evolution was dramatic as he went from a miserly scrooge to a generous giver after encounters with three ghosts. Another dynamic character is Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz*. She starts out as a character that is timid and naive and develops into one that is confident, assertive, and more worldly.

## **Static Character**

Essentially, a static character is largely the same person at the end of the story as he was in the beginning. Any character in a compelling story experiences some life changes and variation in his environment, but what distinguishes a static character is usually his existing persona, confidence and appeal to readers. More compelling, heroic and charismatic characters often work better as static characters than ones who must undergo change to appeal to the audience and to significantly affect a story.

Change isn't always a good thing, nor necessary. Static characters can go entire seasons or books without changing or experiencing the character development that a more dynamic character does. A static character does not mean that the character is boring; many times the static characters are useful in secondary roles, serving as yardsticks against which your central (and Dynamic) character's growth can be a counter. The Wicked Witch of the West from *The Wizard of Oz* and Scar from *The Lion King* are both static characters as key aspects of their character do not change.

### **For Fiction Reading...**

1. What is important about the change that a dynamic character exhibits? And why is this important?
2. Why is it important that this static character does not undergo an important change?
3. There are plenty of compelling characters who encounter conflict, yet do not change all that much over the course of a story. If this is the case with your novel, explain how maintaining his/her nature/personality played a role in the book.
4. What conflict does your character face that caused him/her to change in order to overcome circumstances?
5. How is the main character changing? What is he or she learning about life and the role he or she plays in it?

### **For Nonfiction Reading...**

1. What kind of research do you think the author had to do to write this book?
2. Give some examples of specific clue words the author uses that let you know s/he is stating an opinion or a fact.
3. Does this book provide recent information? Where could you look to find more information about the topic?

## ***Princeton Unified Middle School: 6th - 8th Grade Extension Texts***

Did you read through the whole list and need more suggestions?!? Below are a few of our book award winners, favorite lists of book recommendations created by others, and audiobook pairings. While perusing the lists, bear in mind that most of the lists include books that are appropriate for middle school reading levels but may contain content that may not be appropriate for all middle school students.

[Amelia Bloomer Book List](#) feminist themes

[American Indian Youth Literature Award](#) - books by and about Native Americans and Indigenous peoples of North America

The American Library Association recommends: ALSC Summer Reading Grades 6-8

2021 <http://www.ala.org/alsc/sites/ala.org.alsc/files/content/compubs/booklists/summer/ALSC-Summer-Reading-6-8-WEB.pdf>

[Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature](#) promoting Asian American cultures and heritages

[Batchelder Award](#) books originally published in another country and also translated to English

Book Riot's [50 Must Read Middle Grade Graphic Novels](#)

[Charlotte Huck Award](#) - National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)'s award for fiction

[Charlotte Zolotow Award](#) best picture book text

[Children's Choice Awards](#) and [Children's Choices Reading List](#) chosen for kids by kids

[Coretta Scott King Award](#) African American culture and universal human values

Global Read-Aloud (Fall 2020) <https://theglobalreadaloud.com/blog/>

[Jane Addams Children's Book Award](#) - peace, social justice, global community and equity books

I Read This Book: \_

<https://princetonlibrary.bibliocommons.com/list/share/104628707/1610902694>

Manga for Middle Schoolers\_

[https://www.nypl.org/blog/2019/02/04/manga-recommendations-middle-schoolers?utm\\_campaign=SocialFlow&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_medium=referral](https://www.nypl.org/blog/2019/02/04/manga-recommendations-middle-schoolers?utm_campaign=SocialFlow&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_medium=referral)

More Manga for Middle Schoolers

<https://www.anime-planet.com/users/themangalibrarian/lists/manga-for-middle-grades-68-703429>

[Mathical Award Winners](#) - books with a mathematical theme

LGBTQ Inclusive\_

<http://www.welcomingschools.org/pages/books-inclusive-of-LGBTQ-family-members-and-characters/>

NCTE's [Excellence in Poetry Award](#) - for poets who publish for children

NSTA's [Outstanding Trade Books in Science](#)

[Newbery Award](#) distinguished contributions to children's literature (usually middle grade fiction)

[New York Public Library's Best Books for Children Lists](#)

[New York Times 2020 Notable Children's Books](#)

[Orbis Pictus Award](#) National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)'s award for non-fiction

PPL Suggestions for Teens <https://princetonlibrary.org/book-suggestions-teens/>

[Project Lit](#) -a grassroots network of book groups that aims to get students excited about reading

by highlighting diverse, high-interest, culturally relevant books. If you enjoy reading from this list, join our PUMS Project Lit Club in September!

[Pura Belpré Award](#) celebrating the Latinx experience

[Schneider Family Book Award](#) artistic representation of the disability experience

[Scott O'Dell Award](#) historical fiction

[Sibert Informational Book Award](#) distinguished non-fiction

[Stonewall Award](#) LGBTQIA+ books (Children's and Young Adult Category)

[Sync Audiobooks](#) for Teens

[We are KidLit](#) Summer Reading List

[We Need Diverse Books Summer Reading](#)

## ***Resources for Discussing Antiracism and Social Justice 2021*** ***Grade 6-12***

### **Young Adult Literature (best for ages 12+)**

[\*The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime that Changed Their Lives\*](#): by Daska Slater  
[Discussion Guide](#)

[\*All American Boys\*](#) by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely [Discussion Questions](#) [Additional Resources](#)

[\*Americanah\*](#) by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie [Discussion Guide](#)

[\*Black Enough: Stories of Being Young and Black in America\*](#) Edited by Ibi Zoboi

[\*Dear Martin\*](#) by Nic Stone [Discussion Questions](#)

[\*The Hate U Give\*](#) by Angie Thomas [Discussion Guide](#)

[\*Homegoing\*](#) by Yaa Gyasi [Discussion Guide](#)

[\*Miles Morales Spider-man\*](#) by Jason Reynolds [Discussion Guide](#)

[\*Monster\*](#) by Walter Dean Myers [Discussion Guide](#)

[\*Noughts and Crosses\*](#) by Majorie Blackman

[\*One Person, No Vote: How Not All Voters Are Treated Equally\*](#) by Carol Anderson and Tonya Bolden  
[Discussion](#)

[Questions](#) are for the adult version.

[\*Piecing Me Together\*](#) by Renée Watson [Discussion Guide](#)

[\*Speak No Evil\*](#) by Uzodinma Iweala

[\*This Book is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on how to wake up, take action and do the work\*](#) by Tiffany Jewell

[\*We Are Not Yet Equal: Understanding Our Racial Divide\*](#) by Carol Anderson with Tonya Bolden  
[Discussion Questions](#) for *White Rage* (adult version)

### **Adult Literature to Facilitate Discussions on Race and Antiracism (ages 14+)**

[\*How to Be an Antiracist\*](#) by Ibram X. Kendi [Discussion Guide](#)

[\*Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World and Become a Good Ancestor\*](#) by Layla F. Saad

[\*The Person You Mean to Be\*](#) by Dolly Chugh [Discussion Questions](#)

[\*So You Want to Talk About Race\*](#) by Ijeoma Oluo [Discussion Questions](#)

[\*Stamped from the Beginning: The definitive guide of racist ideas in America\*](#) by Ibram X. Kendi  
[Discussion Guide](#)

[\*The Fire This Time: A New Generation Speaks About Race\*](#) Edited by Jesmyn Ward

[\*The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness\*](#) by Michelle Alexander [Discussion Guide](#)

[\*One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy\*](#) by Carol Anderson  
[Discussion Questions](#)

[\*A Question of Freedom: A Memoir of Learning, Survival and Coming of Age in Prison\*](#) by R. Dwayne Betts [Discussion Questions](#)

[\*When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir\*](#) by Patrisse Khan-Coullers and ashe bandele [Discussion Questions](#)

[\*White Fragility\*](#) by Robin DiAngelo [Discussion Guide](#)

[\*White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide\*](#) by Carol Anderson [Discussion Guide](#)



## Videos and Movies for Young Adults – Adults

[13th](#) (Netflix) From Ava DuVernay [Discussion Guide](#)

[A Conversation About Racism: All American Boys, 5 years later](#) with Jason Reynold and Brendan Kiely

[The Hate U Give](#) based on Angie Thomas’s novel of the same name [Discussion Guide](#)

[Just Mercy](#) based on Bryan Stevenson’s memoir of the same name [Discussion Guide](#)

[#KidLit Rally for Black Lives](#) (all of it - but the second hour is specifically directed to adults)

[Toni Morrison’s Powerful Words on Racism](#) by the Guardian News

[When They See Us](#) (Netflix) miniseries based upon the 5 Harlem teenagers falsely accused of an attack in Central Park) [Discussion Guide](#)

## Other Resources:

[Anti-Defamation League](#)

[Black Lives Matter Comics Reading List](#) by American Library Association

[Coretta Scott King Books Awards](#)

[Don’t Just Read About Racism - Read Stories About Black People Living](#) by Nic Stone

[KidLit Rally 4 Black Lives: Anti-racist Resources for Children, Families and Educators Not in Our Town Princeton](#)

Princeton Public Library - [Racial Literacy Resources](#)

[Talking About Race](#) from the National Museum of African American History & Culture

[Two Thumbs Up: Movies and Documentaries to Use \(and Avoid\) When Teaching Civil Rights](#) by Hasan Kwame Jeffries on the Zinn Education Project

## **A Note on Sensitive Topics in PHS Summer Reading**

Our summer reading lists are designed to offer a variety of texts that will be meaningful for and hold the interest of high school students. We seek to create what Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop described as “mirrors, windows and sliding glass doors”: reading experiences that allow individuals both to understand the lives of others and to see themselves and their experiences in books. Given the realities of our world and of the transition from young adult to adult literature, sensitive topics like domestic violence, sexual abuse, suicide, mental health struggles and discrimination and violence based on race, gender and/or LGBTQ+ status are thus addressed in some of the titles on this list.

We feel it important and necessary to acknowledge that the content outlined above could be triggering to those who have experienced trauma, and we thus want to share resources that can support youth while reading and processing. Please access our mental health website, which offers a variety of helplines, at <https://sites.google.com/pps.princetonk12.org/pps-mental-health/resources>. If you/your child has experienced a trauma that could lead to heightened sensitivity to a challenging topic, please read more about the titles before making a selection—the brief summaries offered on these lists are intended only as “teasers,” not as trigger warnings.

We want summer reading to be enriching. However, if any text on this list (required or otherwise) is upsetting to a student, please reach out to Ms. Stephanie Greenberg, Supervisor of Humanities, 7-12, and she will be happy to suggest another pedagogically appropriate text in its place.

## Princeton High School – 2021 Freshman Summer Reading

Arriving from different schools, places, and backgrounds, the students at PHS all have the power to contribute equally to our community. Together, we will create an environment in which learning extends beyond the walls of the classroom and helps to build the foundations needed for college-level reading, writing, and thought. By the end of freshman year, students will have developed ideas to help answer the following essential questions:

- How does literature help us learn about the journey of life?
- How does the individual interact within his/her community, and why are these interactions necessary for the survival and well-being of all involved?

The freshman summer reading assignment is the first opportunity for students to take ownership of their education at PHS and to engage with our community of learners. We are offering choices of texts that will entertain and inform students about the world, from ancient times to today.

**REQUIRED: Choose and read at least TWO of the following texts. (Of course, feel free to read as many as you like!)**

### Plays

#### *Agamemnon*

In *Agamemnon*, a father and daughter deal with the devastating effects of the Trojan War on their family. Each play tells a different side of the same journey...a journey of love, fear, war, betrayal. It is a sad story...but an important one that shows how the decisions of a few can affect the lives of so many.

#### **Aeschylus**

#### *A Raisin in the Sun*

*A Raisin in the Sun* is a classic. It tells the story of the multi-generational Younger family, who live on the South Side of Chicago during the 1950s. As each member of the family works, studies and dreams, their frustrations over financial struggles and systemic racism threaten to tear the family apart. Their transcendence, in the face of all, speaks to the Youngers' strength of spirit and resilience.

#### **Lorraine Hansberry**

### Novels

#### *The Poet X*

*The Poet X* is the award-winning debut by famed slam poet Elizabeth Acevedo. Not surprisingly, the main character--Xiomara, or, X--finds her strength and her voice through slam poetry. She navigates a community that tells her she needs to conform, but conform to what? X is confronted by her mother's prescriptive religiosity, her Harlem neighborhood's stereotypes of a teen female, and the pressures she finds at school. Written entirely in verse, *The Poet X* depicts a deeply emotional journey and confronts serious social issues.

#### **Elizabeth Acevado**

***Turtles All the Way Down***

**John Green**

*Turtles All The Way Down* is one of John Green's newest books, and is just as captivating as *The Fault in our Stars*. You'll love reading this story of Aza, a teenager who is investigating the disappearance of a billionaire even as she is managing her own struggles, including her anxiety and obsessive thoughts.

***The Love and Lies of Rukhsana Ali***

**Sabina Khan**

Trying to respect her strict Bangladeshi Muslim parents, Rukhsana hides much of her life from them, figuring that she'll be off to Caltech soon enough, where she will live openly. But when her parents discover her kissing her girlfriend, they send Rukhsana to family in Bangladesh. Rukhsana has to find the balance between her love for her family and culture and her own identity. Facing homophobia and physical and sexual violence, her journey is challenging but redeeming.

***The Secret Life of Bees***

**Sue Monk Kidd**

*The Secret Life of Bees* is written from the perspective of fourteen-year-old Lily Owens, whose journey begins when she runs away from her abusive father. While seeking the story of her mother's life and death in Tiburon, South Carolina, she chances upon a group of beekeeping sisters who provide her sanctuary and wisdom that defies her preconceptions about race, family, and femininity. This book features beautiful word choice, authentic characters, a sense of humor, and wisdom.

***The Chosen***

**Chaim Potok**

In *The Chosen*, two teenage boys from different worlds struggle to maintain their friendship despite prejudice, ignorance, and tradition. Reuven Malter, a modern orthodox Jew, and his friend Daniel Saunders, a Hasidic Jew, begin as rivals on the baseball field, but soon learn that a lasting friendship is a journey toward understanding. Their story is so sweet....so challenging....so informative....so important.

***The 57 Bus***

**Dashka Slater**

*The 57 Bus* is a narrative nonfiction piece based on an incident that lasted only minutes but changed the lives of two teenagers and forced a reckoning in the community. Sasha hails from a privileged home in the hills of Oakland while Richard is from the flatlands of Oakland; he's troubled and struggling but wants to do well. Richard, his cousin, and friend make an impulsive decision, and the ramifications for both Sasha and Richard cause everyone to contemplate issues of race, privilege, justice, and redemption.

***The Hate U Give***

**Angie Thomas**

*The Hate U Give* introduces us to Starr, a Black teen from a tight-knit community. She straddles two lives, one in her predominately Black neighborhood, the other in her predominately white, privileged private school. One night, she and her friend Khalil are pulled over; during the stop, the officer mistakes Khalil's phone for a gun, and fatally shoots him. This event causes Starr to wrestle with her identity as a young Black woman and to determine how she can fight for Khalil's legacy to bring him and their community justice.

***Boxers*****Gene Luen Yang**

In the graphic novel, *Boxers*, Little Bao's community is threatened by a group of mysterious foreigners who accuse Bao's village of worshipping false idols. After studying under the Kung Fu master, Red Lantern Chu, Little Bao embarks on a journey to defend his country from the invaders who threaten to destroy his ancient culture. In *Boxers*, Yang uses magical realism and a clear narrative voice to distill the Boxer Rebellion into an accessible, yet deeply personal narrative.

**Epic*****The Iliad*****Homer**

In *The Iliad*, Homer masterfully recounts the ways in which one warrior can turn the tide of a ten-year battle. This is a tale about a lost love, a jealous warrior, an angry leader, a clever commander, and of course, a famous wooden horse. It recounts the warrior's journey and represents all that a true epic can be.

## ***Princeton High School – 2021 Sophomore Summer Reading***

Rising sophomores must read two books during the summer. You may want to take notes or keep a journal to stay actively engaged. In September, students will spend several class periods participating in activities related to their selections and will then complete one or more writing assignments involving their two texts. We encourage you to read with attention, consideration, and curiosity.

### **REQUIRED: Marjane Satrapi's *The Complete Persepolis***

This graphic autobiography dives deeply into the author's childhood and young adult years in Iran. As the Islamic Revolution unfolds, Satrapi faces the challenge of coming of age amidst the profound changes taking place in her country and family. Please note that some versions of this text are divided into Book 1 and Book 2, but students should read *The Complete Persepolis*, which contains both books.

All rising sophomores **must also read one additional text** from the following list:

### **Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451***

This work depicts a dystopian society in which access to knowledge is severely restricted and books are forbidden. Everything is turned on its head in this world as the firemen are called to light fires rather than extinguish them.

### **Ijeoma Oluo's *So you want to talk about race***

Many of us need a guide to understanding both the sweeping truths and the intricacies of race. It's ok to be overwhelmed or insecure when discussing this challenging topic, but if we hope to become anti-racist and contribute to a more just society, we need help developing the language and methodology for these tough, but critical, conversations. This book is hard-hitting but incredibly valuable.

### **Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist***

This novel depicts a young man's journey to find worldly goods, which ultimately turns into a quest to find the treasure within.

### **Uzodinma Iweala's *Speak No Evil***

This modern, violent tragedy introduces us to prep-school educated, Harvard-bound Niru, the son of doting, conservative Nigerian parents, and his best friend, Meredith. After Niru's father discovers that Niru is gay, the characters' multi-dimensionality is revealed as they struggle to figure out how to balance their paths between the extremes of conformity and resistance.

### **Richard Kim's *Lost Names: Scenes from a Korean Boyhood***

In this novel, Kim tells the story of a young boy growing up in Korea during the Japanese occupation. He struggles with his identity while his extended family struggles simply to survive.

### **Pablo Neruda's *Fully Empowered***

This collection of poetry includes thirty-six poems that vary from short, intense lyrics to longer odes that speak to Neruda's declared purpose: "to be in his poems a voice for all those people -- and things -- that have no voice: that is the poet's obligation." (from Alastair Reid's *Introduction to the Collection*)

**Mine Okubo's *Citizen 13660***

This autobiographical graphic novel explores life in a Japanese internment camp during World War II, focusing on one woman's struggles during that dark time.

**George Orwell's *1984***

This classic dystopian novel chronicles life in a government-controlled country that, in some ways, shines light on trends in our contemporary world.

**Art Spiegelman's *Maus I***

In this Pulitzer Prize winning graphic novel, the novelist depicts his father's experiences during the Holocaust while also examining their troubled father-son relationship.

## ***Princeton High School – 2021 Junior Summer Reading***

All rising juniors must complete the following reading assignments prior to the start of school in September. While no written work is required, students should read carefully and thoughtfully. You may want to take notes or keep a journal to stay actively engaged. All students will participate in activities related to summer reading in early September and will complete one or more writing assignments involving these texts.

***Required for ALL rising juniors entering English III or AP English III:*** Choose and read ***ONE OF THE FOUR NOVELS on this list.*** In addition, all rising juniors must read ***ONE additional text*** from the list below (either a second novel, a drama, a poetry collection or a non-fiction text).

### **Novels**

\* ***Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

This novel is the story of a Nigerian young woman who moves from Nigeria to Princeton and back again, sharing the milestones and obstacles, large and small, that mark her coming of age journey.

\* ***Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston**

In this classic novel, a young woman in the rural South faces a series of choices in following her heart in order to find love, her voice, and herself.

\* ***Let The Great World Spin* by Colum McCann**

This post-9/11 novel centers on multiple narrators – each of whom faces difficult choices in New York City in the early 1970s. This contemporary text highlights a range of voices and a great tapestry of life experiences built around the exploits of a daredevil acrobat who walks across a tightrope between the two World Trade Center buildings.

\* ***There, There* by Tommy Orange**

Weaving together multiple narratives in distinct voices, Orange's contemporary novel pulls together his character's stories. The novel's narrators are all indigenous Americans, but their perspectives are diverse—and nearly all of them find their way to the same pow-wow for a profound conclusion.

### **Drama**

\* ***Water by the Spoonful* by Quiara Alegria Hudes**

Set in Philadelphia, the protagonist, Elliot, returns from fighting in Iraq and is struggling to find his place in the world while elsewhere, in a chatroom, recovering addicts forge a bond of love and support. This acclaimed play won the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.



\* ***The Humans* by Stephen Karam**

Breaking with tradition, Erik Blake and his wife descend upon their daughter's apartment in lower Manhattan for Thanksgiving. As they sit down to share their meal, the family confronts its history, exposing the horrors that exist at its core. A Pulitzer Prize finalist and Tony Award winning play, *The Humans* asks what it means to be a family in contemporary America.

\* ***Angels in America* by Tony Kushner**

Set during the early days of the AIDS crisis, Kushner explores family, political will, religious faith, and the myth of America. While this Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning play focuses primarily on a gay couple living in Manhattan, it also incorporates a much broader array of stories and voices.

## **Poetry**

\* ***An Atlas of the Difficult World* by Adrienne Rich**

A 1992 Pulitzer Prize finalist, Rich's two-part collection of poems investigates the individual's sometimes unnoticed identities. The poems consider the sadness as well as the significance of the tensions that individuals manage. Often political, Rich's images illuminate the conflicted and nuanced nature of existence in society.

\* ***Night Sky with Exit Wounds* by Ocean Vuong**

In this thought-provoking and engaging collection of poetry, Vuong expresses conflicted emotions and perspectives as he reflects on his life as a refugee. His poetry wrestles with violence, the immigrant experience, sexuality, and the struggle between the inner life and the outer face.

\* ***Song of Myself* by Walt Whitman**

The epic poem by "America's Bard," written in 1855, analyzes the world through an exploration of the poet's inner life.

## **Non-Fiction**

\* ***How Does It Feel to Be a Problem* by Moustafa Bayoumi**

This collection of stories, told from the perspective of seven young Arab immigrants, examines what it means to be young and Arab in America. Each young voice encounters unique struggles in trying to forge a new life, while constantly confronted by the fear of what others do not understand.

\* ***Fun Home* by Alison Bechdel**

Bechdel's graphic novel explores the life of her father, a closeted gay man, in the aftermath of his death, perhaps a tragic accident, perhaps a suicide. In learning about him, Bechdel dives deep into her identity and what her father's identity means for her.

\* ***A Question of Freedom* by Reginald Dwayne Betts**

The text focuses on Betts's experiences with the American criminal justice system and the ways in which our society pushes to label and define people based on one action. His memoir considers the role of literature in helping him navigate his time in prison and questions how someone can remain free.

\* ***The Book of Ages: The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin* by Jill Lepore**

This book tells the story of Ben Franklin's younger sister Jane – an avid reader, a prolific writer, and a biting political commentator. Yet, unlike her brother, her primary work was not as a statesman but as a mother of twelve children. Lepore explores this lesser known – but not lesser – life.

\* ***The Way to Rainy Mountain* by N. Scott Momaday**

This short novel features three voices that each tell the story of the Kiowa people: Momaday's memories of stories from his childhood, the ancient Kiowa voice of his ancestors, and the historical record of these moments.

## ***Princeton High School – 2021 Senior Summer Reading***

All rising seniors must complete the following reading assignments prior to the start of school in September. While no written work is required, students should read carefully and thoughtfully. You may want to take notes or keep a journal to stay actively engaged. All students will participate in activities related to summer reading in early September and will complete one or more writing assignments involving these texts.

### **REQUIRED TEXT:**

**All rising seniors taking AP English IV will read *A Thousand Acres* by Jane Smiley.**

In *A Thousand Acres*, Jane Smiley offers a sweeping narrative exploring the American Dream, rural life, sibling rivalry, and existential crises. As the family patriarch agonizes over his legacy (the thousand-acre family land), his daughters engage in a rivalry that jeopardizes that same legacy. Smiley adapts her tale from Shakespeare's tragedy *King Lear*, but her rich language and deep understanding of the bounty and burdens of modern life deliver Shakespeare's drama to a contemporary audience.

**All rising seniors taking English IV will read *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover.**

Tara Westover is born in the mountains of Idaho to Mormon survivalist parents who homeschool their children, practice herbal healing, labor in scrap metal and prepare for the end times. This shocking memoir, a #1 New York Times bestseller, tells the story of Westover's transformation into an Oxford PhD while unflinchingly depicting the realities of abuse, mental illness, family ties and, of course, education.

**In addition** to the required text designated above, all rising seniors **must choose and read one text** from this list of ten options (continued on the next page):

### **FICTION**

\* ***One World: A Global Anthology of Short Stories***

This is an international collection of 23 short stories from a diverse group of world-renowned writers – all of whom share a talent and a desire to write engaging, provocative stories.

\* ***Disgraced* by Ayad Akhtar**

This 2012 play centers around a dinner party with four people from vastly different backgrounds. The play specifically addresses themes related to Islamophobia and the self-identity of Muslim Americans.

\* ***Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro**

Kazuo Ishiguro's 2021 novel is set in the near-future and is told from the perspective of Klara, a robot or "Artificial Friend." The narrative follows Klara as she is bought by a family who intends that she befriend their sick daughter and explores questions about what it means to be human, to be alive and to die.

## **NON-FICTION**

\* ***The Best American Essays 2020***

This collection of creative nonfiction essays addresses a wide variety of facets of the American experience in 2020, from politics to sports to love, through the varied perspectives of our greatest writers.

\* ***Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin**

In the 1950s Paris of American expatriates, liaisons, and violence, a young man is caught between desire and conventional morality. James Baldwin's now-classic story delves into the mystery of loving and creates a moving, highly controversial story of death and passion.

\* ***The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts* by Maxine Hong Kingston**

Kingston details her struggles with her individual and cultural identity as a first-generation Chinese-American woman. This award-winning text is a unique blend of Chinese folktales and memoirs that involves five interconnected chapters, each of which functions like a short story.

\* ***Savage Inequalities* by Jonathan Kozol**

Kozol describes the overwhelming disparities among the many public schools that he has visited throughout the country. He includes interviews with students, teachers, and parents in this seminal sociological work that is simultaneously inspiring and heartbreaking.

\* ***The Fire This Time: A New Generation Speaks About Race* edited by Jesmyn Ward**

Envisioned as a response to James Baldwin's groundbreaking 1963 work *The Fire Next Time*, these contemporary writers reflect on the past, present, and future of race in America.

\* ***A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf**

This 1929 piece is Woolf's essay response when asked to speak about women and fiction. She ponders how women find the space – both literally and figuratively – to write and to live.

## Where can I find my Summer Reading books?

- The **local bookstores** receive our booklists and make an effort to supply the books for you.
- The **PHS English Department** has a small number of the Summer Reading books for distribution.
- **Princeton Public Library and Cranbury Public Library** are provided our lists so that they can supply in-hand books for you.
- Remember, all PPS students qualify for a **free Princeton Public Library card** which allows you to borrow from the collection.
- **Princeton Public Library (PPL)** offers two databases that can also source your eBooks and audiobooks. Your PPL card is needed for virtual checkout.
  - **Hoopla** offers many eBook and audiobook titles
  - **RB Digital** offers audiobooks (and magazines)
- **PHS Learning Commons** has multiple in-hand copies of any required Summer Reading and at least one copy of your-choice Summer Reading options.
- **Princeton Public Schools, Princeton Public Library, and Cranbury Public Library** also have **OverDrive** copies of the overwhelming majority of these titles in both eBook and Audiobook formats.
  - Download the OverDrive or Sora (school-orientation) app. Both of these apps allow you to add both the school's library and the public libraries' libraries. Libby is also an option, but only for the public libraries' books.
  - Once in the app, you can use your public library card's ID and pin to authorize that library.
  - Or, go to 'sign in', then click on the SSO on the left-hand side, enter your school email address (princetonk12.org) and password to add the Princeton Public School's library.
  - Borrow the book in the format of your choice to your eReader, tablet, or smartphone. Some formats also allow for downloading onto a computer.