Reading COLORS Your World

Summer Reading Suggestions 2022
Entering Grades 7 and 8
Sharing Books with Older Children

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 and Sora, our online eBook and audiobook collection. Students should try to read every day and are asked to read at least five chapter 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 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. 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 children 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**

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SHSH Sora eBook Library
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.
2022 Children’s Literary Award Winners

Awarded by the American Library Association, the 2022 children’s book awards include:

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

★Dobbs, Alda P. Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna.
Based on a true story, the tale of one girl’s perilous journey to cross the U.S. border and lead her family to safety during the Mexican Revolution. (A Pura Belpré Book Award honor)

★Elhillo, Safia. Home Is Not a Country. (YA)
This novel-in-verse captures one girl, caught between cultures, on an unexpected journey to face the ephemeral girl she might have been. Woven through with moments of lyrical beauty, this is a tender meditation on family, belonging, and home. (A Coretta Scott King Book Award honor)

★★Higuera, Donna Barba. The Last Cuentista.
A girl named Petra Pena, wanted nothing more than to be a storyteller, but Earth has been destroyed by a comet. Only a few hundred scientists and their children—including Petra and her family—have been chosen to journey to a new planet. Hundreds of years later, Petra wakes to this new planet—and the discovery that she is the only person who remembers Earth. (The 2022 Newbery Medal winner)

★Hiranandani, Veera. How to Find What You’re Not Looking For.
Set after the Loving v. Virginia ruling, a family struggles with shifting beliefs around interracial marriage, prejudice, and traditional Jewish values. (The 2022 Sydney Taylor Book Award winner)

★Khan, Hena. Amina’s Song.
Feeling pulled between two cultures after a month with family in Pakistan, Amina shares her experiences with Wisconsin classmates through a class assignment and a songwriting project with new student Nico. (The 2022 Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature winner)

★LaRocca, Rajami. Red, White, and Whole.
A radiant story about the ties that bind and how to go on in the face of unthinkable loss. This is the perfect next read for fans of Jasmine Warga and Thanhha Lai. (A Newbery Medal honor)

★ΨLittle Badger, Darcie. A Snake Falls to Earth.
Fifteen-year-olds Nina and Oli come from different worlds—she is a Lipan Apache living in Texas and he is a cottonmouth from the Reflecting World—but their lives intersect when Oli journeys to Earth to find a cure for his ailing friend and they end up helping each other save their families. (A Newbery Medal honor, and a National Book Award Finalist for Young People’s Literature)

★★Lukoff, Kyle. Too Bright To See.
While grieving the loss of a beloved uncle, 11-year-old Bug is haunted by an unfamiliar spirit and spends a summer trying to understand what it’s trying to say. (The 2022 Stonewall Book Award winner, a Newbery Medal honor, and a National Book Award Finalist for Young People’s Literature)
Magoon, Kekla. *Our Time: The Black Panther Party's Promise to the People.* (YA)

With passion and precision, Kekla Magoon relays an essential account of the Black Panthers—as militant revolutionaries and as human rights advocates working to defend and protect their community.

Myers, Alison Green. *A Bird Will Soar.*

After a tornado, Axel, who loves birds, finds an injured eaglet, and helps to rescue it—and also helps to resolve the problems in his broken family, and draws his father back home. (The 2022 Schneider Family Book Award winner)


A tale based on true events follows the coming-of-age of a girl who is motivated by an act of racism at school to learn about her ancestral heritage and her grandparents’ experiences as lost children during the Korean War. (Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature honor)


In the aftermath of World War II, the United States and Russia emerged as global superpowers, each vying for ideological, technological, and territorial dominance. Sheinkin crafts an epic narrative with a large cast of characters, far-flung settings, multiple plot strands, and rising suspense.

New and Notable Titles

*Listed throughout and identified with an asterisk preceding the author’s name. Links to titles available in Sora are included.

Additional young people's literary awards:

- National Book Award for Young People's Literature final
- Nebula Finalist (chosen by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America)
- Outstanding Science Trade Book selected by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)
- Rise: A Feminist Book Project (formerly the Amelia Bloomer Project)

Audiobooks: Sora, the C. V. Starr’s Online Audiobook and eBook Collection

Visit Sora for a selection of audiobooks your child might enjoy.

Sora encourages many of the traditional independent reading habits students learn during library such as perusing books, checking out and returning books, putting books on hold, and reading books by the same author. Sora also keeps track of time spent reading (a reading log of sorts), includes a built-in dictionary, and students can create their own lists of books they want to read.

Your child has access to two eBook collections:

1. St. Hilda's & St. Hugh's collection
2. Hudson Valley Library Association (HVLA) consortium collection

During the summer months, your child can access Sora by installing the Sora app on your personal device from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, or go to soraapp.com. Please remember to sign in with your child's SHSH's gmail credentials.

The HVLA, and any public library collection, must be added to your child’s Sora account manually the first time, and then will remain linked. For access to public libraries, a library card from that institution is required. You can apply online for a public library eCard by visiting your public library's website.
Biographies, Memoirs, and Nonfiction

* Outstanding Science Trade Book selected by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)

* Fletcher, Tiera and Ginger Rue. Wonder Women of Science: Twelve Geniuses Who Are Currently Rocking Science, Technology, and the World
What does it take to be a STEM genius? Check out these exciting, highly readable profiles of a dozen contemporary women who are on the cutting edge of scientific research.

* Marcus, Leonard S. ed. You Can’t Say That! Writers for Young People Talk About Censorship, Free Expression, and the Stories They Have to Tell.
What happens when freedom of expression comes under threat? In frank and wide-ranging interviews, historian and critic Leonard S. Marcus probes the experience of thirteen leading authors of books for young people.

* Sonnenblick, Jordan. The Boy Who Failed Dodgeball.
Sixth grade is the worst... and also the best, as Jordan rides the ups and downs of middle-school life in hilarious fashion.

* Wong, Alice, ed. Disability Visibility (Adapted for Young Adults): 17 First-Person Stories for Today.
The 17 eye-opening essays in Disability Visibility, all written by disabled people, offer keen insight into the complex and rich disability experience, examining life’s ableism and inequality, its challenges and losses, and celebrating its wisdom, passion, and joy.

* Wright, Camron. The Rent Collector.
Sang Ly struggles to survive by picking through garbage in Cambodia’s largest municipal dump. Under threat of eviction by an embittered old drunk who is charged with collecting rents from the poor of Stung Meanchey, Sang Ly embarks on a desperate journey to save her ailing son from a life of ignorance and poverty.

* Yelchin, Eugene. The Genius Under the Table: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain.
In the tiny apartment he shares with his Baryshnikov-obsessed mother, poetry-loving father, continually outraged grandmother, and safely talented brother, all Yevgeny has is his little pencil, the underside of a massive table, and the doodles that could change everything. (The 2022 Sydney Taylor Silver Medalists winner)

A biography in verse and prose of science fiction visionary Octavia Butler. Born into the Space Race, the Red Scare, and the dawning Civil Rights Movement, Butler experienced an American childhood that shaped her into the groundbreaking science fiction storyteller whose novels continue to challenge and delight readers fifteen years after her death.

Classics

Alcott, Louisa. Little Women. (Puffin Classics)
This classic novel chronicles the humorous and sentimental fortunes of the four March sisters as they grow into young women during the early nineteenth century.

Austen, Jane. Pride and Prejudice. (Puffin Classics)
Spirited Elizabeth Bennet matches wits and wiles with the arrogant Mr. Darcy in an entertaining portrait of matrimonial rites and rivalries in Regency England.
Brontë, Emily. *Wuthering Heights*. (Puffin Classics)
On the wild and lonely Yorkshire moors a tragic love story unfolds as Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff fall in love. But Cathy marries another man, Edgar Linton, and breaks Heathcliff’s heart. Years later, he returns to Wuthering Heights and takes his revenge on the Linton family.

Dickens, Charles. *Oliver Twist*. (Puffin Classics)
Adventures of an orphan boy who lives in the squalid surroundings of a nineteenth-century English workhouse until he becomes involved with a gang of thieves.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The House of Seven Gables*.
Follows the Pyncheon family living for years in a home under a man’s curse until his death restores the peace of their house.

Montgomery, L. M. *Anne of Green Gables*. (Puffin Classics)
An 11-year-old orphan is sent to live with a lonely, middle aged brother and sister on Prince Edward Island.

Tolkien, J.R.R. *Fellowship of the Ring*.
Recounts the flight of Frodo, possessor of the One Ring, and his companions from the Black Riders of Mordor, and the subsequent attempt to come to the place where the Ring could be unmade.

Wells, H.G. *The Time Machine*.
The classic story of time travel, good, and evil that is as thrilling today as any modern science fiction novel.

**Dystopia, Fantasy, and Science Fiction**

*Cervantes, J. C. Flirting with Fate*. (YA)
Ava Granados arrives too late for her grandmother’s deathbed blessing, then Nana appears as a ghost asking for help so Ava, with the help of her two older sisters and bumbling spiritual guide, Medardus, must befriend the mysterious boy who received the blessing the night of the storm.

*Lim, Elizabeth. Six Crimson Cranes*. (YA)
The exiled Princess Shiori must unravel the curse that turned her six brothers into cranes, and she is assisted by her spurned betrothed, a capricious dragon, and a paper bird brought to life by her own magic.

*Okorafor, Nnedi. Akata Woman*. (Nsibidi Scripts series. Book 3.)
With the help of her friends, 15-year-old Sunny embarks on a mission to find a precious object and return it to the spider deity Udide, but defeating the guardians of Udide’s ghazal will put all of Sunny’s hard lessons and abilities to the test.

*Patrick, S. A. A Darkening of Dragons: Songs of Magic*.
Three unlikely heroes--Patch Brightwater, a boy in disgrace, Wren, a girl cursed to live as a rat, and Barver, a fire-breathing draco griff——discover a deadly truth: the evil Piper of Hamelyn is on the loose! Can they stop him before he sparks the biggest battle of them all?

*Sands, Kevin. Children of the Fox*.
Callan and four other young criminals are recruited to pull off a difficult heist from the city’s most powerful sorcerer.
*Swiedler, Christopher. *In the Red.*
Michael Prasad knows he shouldn’t go out on the Mars surface alone. It’s dangerous. But when his best friend, Lilith, suggests they sneak out one night, he can't resist the chance to prove everyone—including himself—wrong. As luck would have it, a massive solar flare hits the planet, knocking down all communication and power, leaving them stranded with an already limited supply of food, water, and air, Michael and Lilith must risk everything if they're to get back to the colony alive.

Sylvie and her mother and grandmother are beloved, trusted healers in their medieval French village, though some whisper that 15-year-old Sylvie and her grand-mere deal in more than herbs and medicines. After her grandmother dies, and an attempt to use magic to heal her mother’s grief brings tragic consequences, Sylvie leaves her village in search of a teacher.

**Historical Fiction**

*Khor, Shing Yin. *Legend of Auntie Po.*
Aware of the racial tumult in the years after the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act, Mei tries to remain blissfully focused on her job, her close friendship with the camp foreman’s daughter, and telling stories about Paul Bunyan—reinvented as Po Pan Yin (Auntie Po), an elderly Chinese matriarch. (A National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature. Graphic Novel.)

In the wake of a new regime in Cuba, Ana, Miguel, Zulema, and Juan learn to find a place for themselves in a world forever changed. In a tumultuous moment of history, we see the lasting effects of a revolution in Havana, the countryside, Miami, and New York. Through these snapshot stories, we are reminded that regardless of any tumultuous times, we are all forever connected in our humanity.

*Nielson, Jennifer A. *Lines of Courage.*
From the assassination that triggers World War I in 1914 to Armistice Day in 1918, the story follows the fates of five young people on both sides of the conflict—each facing their portion of the war with courage, until the end of the war brings them together. Includes information on the history of the war.

*Sepetys, Ruta. *I Must Betray You.*
In a country governed by isolation, fear, and a tyrannical dictator, seventeen-year-old Cristian Florescu is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer, but he decides to use his position to try to outwit his handler, undermine the regime, give voice to fellow Romanians, and expose to the world what is happening in his country.

**Mystery, Suspense, and Thrillers**

*Christie, Agatha. *And Then There Were None.*
Considered the best mystery novel ever written, this is the story of 10 strangers, each lured to Indian Island by a mysterious host. Once his guests have arrived, the host accuses each person of murder. Unable to leave the island, the guests begin to share their darkest secrets, until they begin to die.

*Keller, Tae. *Jennifer Chan Is Not Alone.*
When her new neighbor and alien-enthusiast Jennifer Chan goes missing, Mallory Moss must follow the clues to find her, and think about her own part in why Jennifer might have run away.
*Kramer, Kasper. *The List of Unspeakable Fears.*
   The War That Saved My Life meets Coraline in this chilling middle grade historical novel from the author of the acclaimed The Story That Cannot Be Told, following an anxious young girl learning to face her fears—and her ghosts—against the backdrop of the typhoid epidemic.

*Polydoros, Aden. *The City Beautiful.* (YA)
   Death lurks around every corner in this unforgettable Jewish historical fantasy about a city, a boy, and the shadows of the past that bind them both together. (A 2022 Sydney Taylor Book Award)

*Reynolds, Hannah. *The Summer of Lost Letters.* (YA)
   The discovery of a packet of old letters sends seventeen-year-old Abby Schoenberg to Nantucket to unravel a family mystery about her grandmother's past, but things get complicated when Abby meets the cute grandson of a prominent family who wants to stop her from investigating. (A Sydney Taylor Honor Book)

*Safi, Aminah Mae. *Travelers Along the Way: A Robin Hood Remix.* (YA)
   In this reimagination of the legend of Robin Hood, Rahma al-Hud and her older sister Zeena travel to Jerusalem for a final mission, and on their way they assemble a ragtag band of misfits and get swept up in Holy Land politics.

**Mythologies of the World**

Geras, Adele. *Troy.*
   Told from the point of view of the women of Troy, this book portrays the last weeks of the Trojan War, when women are sick of tending the wounded, men are tired of fighting, and bored gods and goddesses find ways to stir things up.

Green, Roger Lancelyn. *Myths of the Norsemen.* (Puffin Classics)
   The great Norse sagas are full of magic and heroic deeds. Odin's wanderings, Thor's hammer, the death of Bakkur, the vision of Ragnarok – tales which have been told since time immemorial – are given a fresh life in this version, written as one continuous exciting adventure story.

   After Paris abducts Menelaus's wife, Helen, the Greeks and Trojans battle for 10 years, each aided by the gods and goddesses.

Kagawa, Julie. *Shadow of the Fox.*
   Enter a beautiful and perilous land of shapeshifters and samurai, kami and legends, humans and demons...a world in which Japanese mythology and imagination blend together to create a brand-new and lushly drawn fantasy adventure. (YA)

   The Strong family is having a reunion in New Orleans, and Tristan is supposed to be keeping an eye on his younger cousin Terrance when several things happen at once: he sees his archenemy, King Cotton, and a mysterious girl grabs his magic cellphone—her name is Seraphine, and she seems to know everything about Tristan and the god Anansi (currently inhabiting the cellphone), and she has a mission for Tristan, one that is going lead to a final confrontation with haint King Cotton.

*Pan, X. R. Emily. *An Arrow to the Moon.* (YA)
   A lovely, lyrical exploration of how a poignant Chinese myth might play out in a contemporary setting.
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 Fallen Hero.* (*The Dragon Warrior* series. Book 2)
Determined to prevent the war her brother Alex is provoking, Faryn Liu and her half-dragon friend, Ren, seek help from the New Order, warriors based in Manhattan’s Chinatown, and from the Monkey King.

**Novel in Verse**

Acevedo, Elizabeth. *The Poet X.* (YA)
Poetry provides teenage Xiomara an outlet to express herself as she struggles with her demanding mother’s religious expectations, a secret romance, and self-acceptance.

*Farid, Diana. Wave.*
A coming-of-age novel in verse set in 1980s Southern California, about a Persian American girl who rides the waves, falls, and finds her way back to the shore.

*Smith, Colby Cedar. Call Me Athena: Girl From Detroit.*
This enchanting novel in verse captures one young woman’s struggle for independence, equality, and identity as the daughter of Greek and French immigrants in tumultuous 1930s Detroit.

Hilton, Marilyn. *Full Cicada Moon.* (YA)
Beautifully written in verse, the book tells the story of a young girl, half-black, half-Japanese, and her courageous spirit as she deals with racism in 1969.

Nagal, Mariko. *Under the Broken Sky.* (YA)
When Soviet troops invade Japanese-occupied Manchuria during the last days of World War II, 12-year-old Natsu Kimura must care for her younger sister as they struggle to survive and return to Japan.

**Poetry**

*The Poetry Foundation* is an independent literary organization committed to the presence of poetry in American culture. Its mission is to discover, celebrate and make accessible the best poetry before the largest possible audience.

**Realistic Fiction**

Callender, Kacen. *King and the Dragonflies.* (YA)
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.

*Lockette, Tim. Tell It True.* (YA)
A high school outcast finds herself in charge of the school newspaper and as she navigates the dilemmas, challenges and unintended consequences of journalism, she finds her life—and her convictions—changing in ways she could not have imagined.
*Lukoff, Kyle. *Different Kinds of Fruit.*
When Annabelle learns that her father shares something big—and surprising—in common with her new nonbinary friend, she begins to see herself, and her family, in a whole new light.

A family feud before the start of seventh grade propels Meilan from Boston’s Chinatown to rural Ohio, where she must tap into her inner strength and sense of justice to make a new place for herself.

**Social Justice: Fiction and Nonfiction**

*Saeed, Aisha. *Omar Rising.*
Seventh-grader Omar must contend with being treated like a second-class citizen when he gets a scholarship to an elite boarding school in Pakistan. It’s a good thing that in his favorite class, he’s learned the importance of being stubbornly optimistic. So with the help of his tight knit new group of friends—and with the threat of expulsion looming over him—he sets out to do what seems impossible: change a rigged system.

*Tahir, Sabaa. *All My Rage.* (YA)
A family extending from Pakistan to California, deals with generations of young love, old regrets, and forgiveness.

**Sports: Fiction and Nonfiction**

*Green, Tim. *Final Season.*
From New York Times bestselling author and former NFL player Tim Green comes a gripping, deeply personal standalone football novel about a star middle school quarterback faced with a life-changing decision after his dad is diagnosed with ALS.

*Lupica, Mike. *Defending Champ.*
When the girls soccer team learns it has been canceled due to budget cuts, they come up with a plan to raise the necessary funds through a face-off with the boys’ team, which is led by sneering superstar Chase Gwinn.

*Stone, Nic. *Fast Pitch.*
Shenice Lockwood dreams of leading the Fulton Firebirds to the U12 softball regional championship. But Shenice’s focus gets shaken when her great-uncle Jack reveals that a career-ending—and family-name-ruining—crime may have been a setup. It’s up to Shenice to discover the truth about her family’s past—and fast—before secrets take the Firebirds out of the game forever.

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).

Yang, Gene Luen. *Dragon Hoops.* (YA)
Gene Luen Yang turns the spotlight on his life, his family, and the high school where he teaches, especially the high school’s basketball team, the Dragons. (A Graphic Novel)
Suggested Magazines Available in Sora

Alongside SHSH’s existing eBook and audiobook collection, students can also access dozens of entertaining and educational magazines in Sora. Check out a sample of some of the titles below.
C. V. Starr Library

UD Summer Reading Checklist Challenge

Entering Grades 7 and 8

Each challenge represents a separate book. Use the list in whichever order you prefer. Completing the checklist is the ultimate goal, but your effort and participation is what really counts! Remember to track the books you read by keeping a list. Happy reading!

- Read a book from your favorite author or genre.
- Read a book recommended by a friend.
- Read a book by an author you’ve never read.
- Listen to an audiobook. Remember, Sora has many audiobook options.
- Read an award winning book (Newbery, CSK Book Award, Pura Belpré, etc.).
- Read a book of poetry. Optional Bonus Challenge: Memorize a poem and share it with someone!
- Read a book, or listen to an audiobook about someone different than you (race, religion, gender, geography, class, ability, etc.).
- Read a book in a genre you don’t normally read. Optional Bonus Challenge: Be a critic and write a review stating what you liked or didn’t like about the book.
- Read an autobiography, biography or memoir. Optional Bonus Challenge: Make a timeline of the person.
- Read a nonfiction book.