Summer Reading Suggestions 2022
Entering Grade 6
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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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** (★honor)
- **Stonewall Book Award** (★winner)
- **The Sydney Taylor Gold medalist Book Award** (★winner)

★ 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—among them 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 Gold Medalist 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 2022 Newbery Medal honor)

★★ 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, and a Newbery Medal honor)

★ McNicoll, Elle. *A Kind of Spark.*
  When she discovers that her small Scottish town used to burn witches simply because they were different, a neurodivergent girl who sees and hears things others cannot refuses to let them be forgotten. (A Schneider Family Book Award honor)
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)

Portico Reeves' secret identity as Stuntboy allows him to use his superpower to keep everybody safe, but when his superhero parents start fighting a lot he feels the responsibility to save them. (A Schneider Family Book Award 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. (A Sibert Informational Book Award honor)

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

📚 Book suggested as an independent read or as a family read aloud.

Additional young people’s literary awards:

ΨNebula Finalist (chosen by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America)
≈Outstanding Science Trade Book selected by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)
❖Orbis Pictus Award (recognizing excellence in the writing of nonfiction for children)
❖Rise: A Feminist Book Project (formerly the Amelia Bloomer Project)

Biographies and Memoirs

Sixth grade is the worst... and also the best, as Jordan rides the ups and downs of middle-school life in hilarious fashion.

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. (A Sydney Taylor Book Award Silver Medalist)

Classics

Baum, Frank L. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.* (Puffin Classics)
Tells the story of Dorothy's arrival in Oz and her adventures in that magical country.

Green, Roger Lancelyn. *King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table.* (Puffin Classics)
From the magical moment when Arthur releases the sword in the stone to the quest for the Holy Grail and the final tragedy of the Last Battle, Roger Lancelyn Green brings the enchanting world of King Arthur stunningly to life.
Nesbit, E. *Five Children and It*. (Puffin Classics)
When Cyril, Anthea, Robert, Jane and their baby brother go digging in the gravel pit, the last thing they expect to find is a Psammead—an ancient Sand-fairy! Having a Sand-fairy as a pet means having one wish granted each day. But the children don’t realize all the trouble wishes can cause.

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

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

**Dystopia, Fantasy, Spooky Tales, and Science Fiction**

The conclusion to the epic sci-fi coming-of-age tale that began in *Stowaway*, which Booklist called "The Mandalorian meets Guardians of the Galaxy" in a starred review.

*Barnhill, Kelly. *The Ogress and the Orphans.*
When a child goes missing from the Orphan House in the town of Stone-in-the-Glen, the mayor suggests the kindly Ogress is responsible, but the orphans do not believe that and try to make their deluded neighbors see the real villain among them.

*Brown, India Hill. *The Girl In The Lake.*
For fans of *Small Spaces*, *Doll Bones*, and *Mary Downing Hahn*, a truly chilling (and historically inspired) ghost story from the award-winning author of *The Forgotten Girl*.

A fantasy adventure set in a global magic school in the sky, perfect for fans of Rick Riordan, Soman Chainani, and Philip Pullman.

*Cypress, Leah. *Thornwood*. (Sisters Ever After series. Book 1). It’s hard living beneath the looming curse of becoming the Sleeping Beauty; even harder, in this middle-grade fairy-tale retelling, is being Sleeping Beauty’s sister. (A 2022 Nebula Finalist)

*Farrey, Brian. *The Counterclockwise Heart.*
A prince and a mage must untangle the riddles from their shared past to save the future of the empire—or risk seeing everything they both love destroyed.

*Ryan, Pam Muñoz. *Solimar: The Sword of the Monarchs.*
On the eve of her Quinceañera, Princess Solimar discovers that it will take more than magic to save her kingdom and prevent the destruction of the Monarch butterfly.

When Celia and Tyrus discover the four lost diaries of Charles Dodgson (a.k.a. Lewis Carroll), they are pulled into Wonderland and must solve riddles and puzzles to stop the Queen of Hearts from opening a door and taking over our world.
*Steadman, A. F. *Skandar and the Unicorn Thief.*
Thirteen-year-old Skandar Smith has always wanted to be a Unicorn rider, but when the mysterious Weaver steals the most powerful unicorn in the world, Skandar must face sky battles, ancient secrets, and bloodthirsty unicorns in order to save his island.

Alex again has to write stories to survive, this time learning to finish discarded ideas and overcome writer’s block, after he’s held hostage in his dreams by fear vampire Simeon, working alongside evil witch Natacha in a story graveyard.

**Historical Fiction**

*Avi. *City of Magic.*
Mangus the Magician and his 13 year old servant, Fabrizio, are commanded to go to Venice to find a book which reportedly contains a magical means of making money; but Venice is a strange and dangerous city, and someone else is also after the book—then Mangus is arrested, and taken to the prison, and Fabrizio must find a way to secure the book, and save Magnus.

*Standish, Ali. *Yonder.*
A captivating novel about a boy on the home front in World War II who must solve the mystery of the disappearance of his best friend. Perfect for fans of Alan Gratz and Lauren Wolk, this riveting adventure explores what true heroism means.

*Wolk, Lauren. *My Own Lightning. Sequel to Wolf Hollow.*
Bestselling author Lauren Wolk (Beyond the Bright Sea, Echo Mountain) returns to World War II–era Western Pennsylvania in this luminous sequel to her Newbery Honor–winning debut, Wolf Hollow, proving once again why her acclaimed novels have been celebrated as “historical fiction at its finest.”

In August 1965, 12-year-old Eden’s older cousin from Mississippi comes to visit her in Los Angeles, and while the Watts Riots erupt around them, they continue their investigation of the disappearance of Winter’s father ten years ago.

**Mystery and Adventure**

*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.

*Lloyd, Natalie. *Hummingbird.*
When 12-year-old Olive, who suffers from brittle bone disease and has been homeschooled all her life, finally attends school in person she soon discovers fitting in is not that easy, but if she can find the magical wish-granting hummingbird that supposedly lives nearby, and prove herself worthy, maybe her deepest wish will be granted.

*Paulsen, Gary. *Northwind.*
This stunning novel from the survival story master, set along a rugged coastline centuries ago, does for the ocean what Hatchet does for the woods, as it relates the story of a young person’s battle to stay alive against the odds, where the high seas meet a coastal wilderness.
*Reynolds, Justin A. *It’s the End of the World and I’m in My Bathing Suit.*
When the electricity goes out, 12-year-old Eddie and his friends set out to investigate what is going on when they make the startling discovery that they are the only ones left in their neighborhood—and perhaps the only people left anywhere.

*Schwab, Victoria. *Gallant.*
Olivia has always wanted to belong somewhere. Summoned from boarding school, she arrives at Gallant, where no one is expecting her. Olivia knows that Gallant is hiding secrets, and she is determined to uncover them.

*Soontornvat, Christina. *The Last Mapmaker.*
In a fantasy adventure every bit as compelling and confident in its world building as her Newbery Honor Book *A Wish in the Dark*, Christina Soontornvat explores a young woman’s struggle to unburden herself of the past and chart her own destiny in a world of secrets.

*Stroud, Jonathan. *The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne.*
Kicking off a new series with a bang (several bangs, in fact), Stroud sends two young fugitives with murky pasts fleeing murderous pursuers across a fractured future Britain.

**Mythologies of the World**

Chokshi, Roshani. *Aru Shah and the City of Gold.* *(The Pandava Quintet. Book 4)*
Aru Shah and her sisters—including one who also claims to be the Sleeper’s daughter—must find their mentors Hanuman and Urvashi in Lanka, the city of gold, before war breaks out between the devas and asuras.

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

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

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

Lin, Grace. *Mulan: Before the Sword.*
Harnessing her talent for storytelling and relating Chinese myths and history, Lin imagines a compelling account of Mulan’s pre-warrior days.

Tristan Strong, just back from a victorious but exhausting adventure in Alke, the land of African American folk heroes and African gods, is suffering from PTSD. But there’s no rest for the weary when his grandmother is abducted.
Roanhorse, Rebecca. *Race to the Sun.*
Guided by her Navajo ancestors, seventh-grader Nizhoni Begay discovers she is descended from a holy woman and destined to become a monster slayer, starting with the evil businessman who kidnapped her father.

Zhao, Katie. *The Dragon Warrior.* (*The Dragon Warrior* series. Book 1)
Siblings Faryn Liu and Alex defend their parents’ honor and battle demons in this lively fantasy adventure that seamlessly blends gods and demons from myriad mythologies, including Greek, Phoenician, and Chinese.

**Nonfiction Series: Arts, Biography, and Social Studies**

*Basher Basics.* – Published by Kingfisher
A world of little books that bring big ideas to life in ingenious ways.

*DK Eyewitness Book.* – Published by DK
Lots of photographs and facts on various subjects.

*History Smashers.* – Published by Random House Books for Young Readers
Myths! Lies! Secrets! Smash the stories behind famous moments in history, and expose the hidden truth. Perfect for fans of *I Survived* and *Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales.*

*Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales.* – Published by Harry N. Abrams
Thrilling, daring, and downright gruesome stories from American history, in Graphic novel form.

**Novel in Verse**

In this prequel to *The Crossover,* Chuck Bell takes center stage, as readers get a glimpse of his childhood and how he became the jazz-music worshiping basketball star his sons look up to.

*Kuo, Jane. In The Beautiful Country.*
In 1980, 10-year-old Anna and her parents finalize their immigration from Taiwan to California, and as she settles into her new home, Anna is confronted by the stark difference between her dreams and her reality.

In free verse, this book evokes the voice of Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda, a book-loving writer, feminist, and abolitionist who courageously fought injustice in nineteenth-century Cuba.

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

Warga, Jasmine. *Other Words for Home.*
Sent with her mother to the safety of a relative’s home in Cincinnati when her Syrian hometown is overshadowed by violence, Jude worries for the family members who were left behind as she adjusts to a new life with unexpected surprises.
Poetry Picks: 2022 Young People’s Poet Laureate Naomi Shihab Nye

Each month, Young People’s Poet Laureate, Naomi Shihab Nye recommends a book of poetry for children. Selections include classics of children’s literature, adult collections that are well suited to children, as well as newly published books.

Realistic Fiction

*Connor, Leslie. *Anybody Here Seen Frenchie?*
A big-hearted, beautiful, and funny novel told from multiple viewpoints about neurodiversity, friendship, and community from the award-winning author of *The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle*, Leslie Connor.

*Kelly, Erin Entrada. *Those Kids From Fawn Creek.*
Every day in Fawn Creek, Louisiana, is exactly the same—until Orchid Mason arrives. From Erin Entrada Kelly, the winner of the Newbery Medal for *Hello, Universe* and a Newbery Honor for *We Dream of Space*, this contemporary school story set in small-town Louisiana is about friendship, family, deception, and being true to yourself and your dreams.

Mason and Ty were once the very best of friends, until seventh grade, when Ava Petrakis came along. Now Mason can trace everything bad in his life to that terrible fight they had over the new girl. The one thing he’d give anything for is a do-over. Mason knows do-overs are impossible, so he can’t believe it when he wakes up from a freak accident and finds himself magically transported back to seventh grade.

*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.

*Zarr, Sara. *A Song Called Home.*
From award-winning author Sara Zarr comes a story of the small moments that show us who we are, and how family is not just something you’re part of, but something you make.

Social Justice: Fiction and Nonfiction

*Kendall, Christine. *The True Definition of Neva Beane.*
From the author of *Riding Chance* comes the story of a girl whose dictionary is helping make sense of the world, her changing body, friendships, and a family that’s struggling to stay strong amidst the turbulent backdrop of activism, across generations.

Middle school can be a battlefield... From award-winning author Wendy Wan-Long Shang comes a poignant and timely take on prejudice, bullying, and claiming our own histories, perfect for fans of *Front Desk.*

*Venkatraman, Padma. *Born Behind Bars.*
In Chennai, India, after spending his whole life in jail with his mother, who is serving time for a crime she did not commit, 9-year-old Kabir is suddenly released and has to figure out how to survive on his own in the outside world.
Sports: Fiction and Nonfiction

*Cisneros, Ernesto. *Falling Short.*
Best friends Isaac and Marco face various challenges in sixth grade, such as Isaac getting better grades, Marco winning a spot on the basketball team, and both seeing their efforts make a change in their respective family lives. They hope their friendship and support for one another will be enough to help them from falling short.


Loosely based on Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing," 12-year-olds Trish and Ben should be automatic friends because they both play baseball on a Little League team in Comity, Massachusetts, and they both love solving math puzzles, but obstacles stand in their way.

*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.


∞ Outstanding Science Trade Books selected by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)
❖ Rise: A Feminist Book Project (formerly the Amelia Bloomer Project)

*Basher Science.* – Published by Kingfisher
Simon Basher's hip, kicky style and colorful characters make science learning fun and fundamental ideas easy to remember.

*DK Eyewitness Book.* – Published by DK
Lots of photographs and facts on various subjects, with emphasis on natural sciences.

*Field Guides.* – Peterson, Audubon, or Simon & Schuster
Explore the outdoors and use a field guide to learn about natural objects, flora, or fauna in nature.

*Science Comics.* – Published by First Second
Useful introduction to various science topics in graphic novel format.

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

*Turner, Pamela S. *How to Build A Human: In Seven Evolutionary Steps.*
A celebrated science writer draws upon the most recent discoveries in paleoarchaeology and evolutionary biology to present the seven most important steps leading to Homo sapiens
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.

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 Grade 6

Remember, each box 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.
- Read a book that was made into a movie. Optional Bonus Challenge: Watch the movie after reading the book. Which did you prefer and why? Share your thoughts with someone.
- Listen to an audiobook. Remember, Sora has many audiobook options.
- Read an award winning book (Newbery, CSK Book Award, Pura Belpre, etc.).
- 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 a biography or a nonfiction book.
- Read a graphic novel. Optional Bonus Challenge: Write your own graphic novel. Make sure it’s at least two pages with eight panels.