

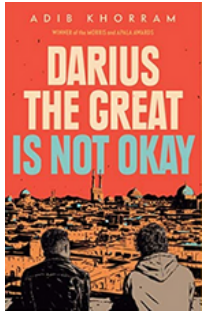
2023 Rising 8th Grade Summer Reading Choices:

Read **one** of the following and at least **two** additional titles.



Unsettled Novel in Verse by Reem Faruqi ([Sora ebook & audiobook](#))

"Nurah is a 13-year-old girl living happily in Pakistan: She loves hanging out with her family and her best friend, but her favorite thing to do is swim. Everything changes when Nurah learns her father has accepted a job in America. While missing Karachi, they try to adjust to their new surroundings in Georgia, but learning to speak, dress, and act differently takes its toll on the family. Nurah and her older brother, Owais, find some happiness at the community pool. Although Nurah makes a friend in fellow swimmer Stahr, she becomes jealous of Owais, who has been more easily able to fit in and win swim meets. When a tragic incident befalls him—in part due to her jealousy—Nurah learns it's better to stand up and stand out as who you are than try to conform. Faruqi's use of free verse will captivate readers with its metaphors that emphasize feelings and details of daily life...." (*Kirkus Reviews*)



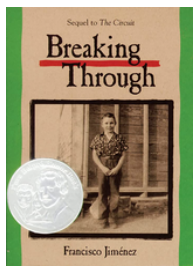
Darius the Great Is Not Okay by Adib Khorram ([Sora audiobook](#))

"Darius Kellner suffers from depression, bullying by high school jocks, and a father who seems to always be disappointed in him. When Darius' grandfather becomes terminally ill, Darius, along with his parents and younger sister, travels to Iran for the first time in his life. Iranian on his mother's side and white American on his father's side, Darius never quite fits in.... When he arrives in Iran, learning to play the Persian card game Rook, socializing, and celebrating Nowruz with a family he had never properly met before is all overwhelming and leaves Darius wondering if he'll ever truly belong anywhere. But all that changes when Darius meets Sohrab, a Baha'i boy, in Yazd. Sohrab teaches Darius what friendship is really about: loyalty, honesty, and someone who has your back in a football (soccer) match. For the first time in a long time, Darius learns to love himself no matter what external forces attempt to squash his confidence...." (*Kirkus Reviews*)



Almost American Girl Graphic Novel by Robin Ha ([Sora ebook](#))

"As a student in 1995 in Seoul, Korea, Ha was mostly a typical teenager, enjoying close friendships, studying hard, and obsessed with reading--and drawing--comics. That she lives with just her single working mother occasionally caused clucking gossip and bullying at school, but Ha's two-person household was exactly right for mother and daughter. While past vacations took the pair to touristy destinations like Hawaii and Singapore, this year, Ha's mother announces they're flying to Alabama, where they ultimately land in the Kim family home....With unblinking honesty and raw vulnerability, Ha's debut graphic memoir captures her often excruciating journey toward creating, 24 years later, 'a new identity that I now love.'" (*Booklist*).



Breaking Through by Francisco Jiménez ([Sora ebook](#))

"[Jimenez' work]... is a fictionalized memoir of Jiménez's teenage years in the late 1950s, when the family finally stayed in one place and Francisco and his brothers worked long hours before and after school to put food on the table... Jiménez writes with simplicity about a harsh world seldom seen in children's books. He also writes about a scary, sad, furious, and broken father... He stays true to the viewpoint of a teenager growing up poor: the yearning (What would it be like to live in a house, rather than the crowded barracks?); the ignorance (College?); the hurt of prejudice. Yet he celebrates his Mexican roots even as he learns to be an American." (*Booklist*)



A Place at the Table by Saadia Faruqi & Laura Shovan ([Sora ebook & audiobook](#))

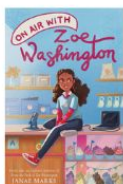
"Sara has transferred to public school from a small Islamic academy; Elizabeth has fallen out with her former best friend, and her mom seems crippled by depression. The girls meet in an after-school South Asian cooking club (taught by Sara's mom, who is also a caterer) and forge a tentative friendship. Told in alternating chapters by both girls, the story's strength lies in its realistic depiction of typical middle-school concerns (friends, family, teachers) set against a backdrop of multiculturalism. Lighter side plots involve both moms studying for their citizenship tests and a cooking contest.... Timely and true-to-life." (*Booklist*).

Log in to Sora at sora.com or through Summit website's Library page.

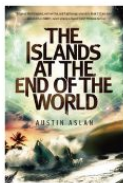
Grades 6 and 7

Realistic and Historical Fiction:

Alone in the Woods by Rebecca Behrens
Blackbird Girls by Anne Blankman
Starfish by Lisa Fipps
Wink by Rob Harrell
Unplugged or War Stories by Gordon Korman
The Night Witches by Katherine Lasky
Show me a Sign by Ann Clare LeZotte
On Air with Zoe Washington by Janae Marks
**Everything Sad is Untrue* by Daniel Nayeri
**Amber & Clay* by Laura Amy Schlitz
Just Like That by Gary D. Schmidt
Ways to Grow Love by Renee Watson

**Fantasy:**

The Islands at the End of the World by Austin Aslan
Shadow and Bone by Leigh Bardugo
The Strangers by Margaret Peterson Haddix
The Overthrow trilogy by Kenneth Oppel
**Dragon Pearl* by Yoon Ha Lee

**Adventure and Mystery:**

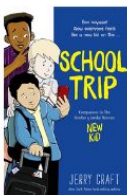
**The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by Alan Bradley
Scar Island by Dan Gemeinhart
Spy School: Project X by Stuart Gibbs
**The Lie Tree* by Frances Hardinge
The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson
A Wolf Called Wander by Rosanne Parry
City Spies by James Ponti
Daughter of the Deep by Rick Riordan
The Explorer by Katherine Rundell
Poison is Not Polite by Robin Stevens

**Nonfiction:**

Grasping Mysteries: Girls Who Loved Math by Jeannine Atkins
Race to the Bottom of the Earth by Rebecca E.F. Barone
**Fallout: Spies, Superbombs, & the Ultimate Cold War Showdown* by Steve Sheinkin
All Thirteen by Christina Soontornvat
**A Thousand Sisters* by Elizabeth Wein

**Graphic Novels:**

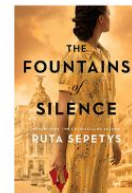
Swim Team by Johnnie Christmas
School Trip by Jerry Craft
Before They Were Artists by Elizabeth Haidle
**March Series* by John Lewis
Sorya and the Sun Bear by Trang Nguyen
A First Time for Everything by Dan Santat
Bomb by Steve Sheinkin



Grades 8 and 9

Realistic and Historical Fiction:

Lovely War by Julie Berry
**Tell the Wolves I'm Home* by Carol Rifka Brunt
The Prodigy by John Feinstein
I Believe in a Thing Called Love by Maurene Goo
Dare Mighty Things by Heather Kaczynski
**The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd
**The Librarian of Auschwitz* by Antonio Iturbe
Family of Liars by e. lockhart
When Dimple Met Rishi by Sandhya Menon
The Fountains of Silence by Ruta Sepetys
The Edge or The Ascent by Roland Smith
**Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan
The Enigma Game by Elizabeth Wein
Highly Illogical Behavior or Noggin by John Corey Whaley

**Fantasy and Dystopian Fiction:**

**Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi
Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo
**Dune* by Frank Herbert
**The Knife of Never Letting Go* by Patrick Ness
Shadowshaper by Daniel Jose Older
The Overthrow trilogy by Kenneth Oppel
Outwalkers by Fiona Shaw
Scythe or Dry by Neal Shusterman
The Ember in the Ashes by Sabaa Tahir

**Adventure and Mystery:**

The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes
**The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by Alan Bradley
**These Shallow Graves* by Jennifer Donnelly
A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson
Truly Devious by Maureen Johnson
**Keeper* by Mal Peet
Nation by Terry Pratchett
Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard by Rick Riordan
**Stateless and Rose Under Fire* by Elizabeth Wein

**Nonfiction:**

**Symphony for the City of the Dead* by M.T. Anderson
**Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
The Poison Eaters by Gail Jarrow
Meltdown: Earthquake, Tsunami, and Nuclear Disaster in Fukushima by Deirdre Langeland
A Thousand Sisters by Elizabeth Wein



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The library will be open from 9:00-2:30 on June 14 & 28, and July 12, 19, & 26.