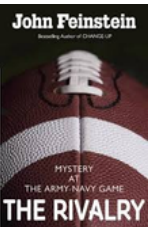


Summer Reading Picks

RMS 2025

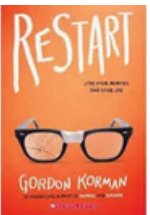
Looking for your next great read? This suggested list offers a variety of engaging books to match different interests, reading levels, and moods. Whether you're into sports, graphic novels, historical fiction, or heartfelt stories, there's something here for you to explore this summer!

6th Grade Recommendations



The Rivalry by John Feinstein

The Black Knights of the Army and the Midshipmen of the Navy have met on the football field since 1890, and it's a rivalry like no other, filled with tradition. Teen sports reporters Stevie and Susan Carol have been busy at West Point and Annapolis, getting to know the players and coaches—and the Secret Service agents. Since the president will be attending the game, security will be tighter than tight. Weeks and months have been spent on training and planning, and reporting to get them all to this moment. But when game day arrives, the refs aren't the only ones crying foul...



Restart by Gordon Korman

Chase Ambrose doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't remember anything. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life over again ... starting with his name. Okay, he's Chase. But who is Chase? Soon he's hearing stories of the alpha jock and bully who held a reign of terror over an entire school. Is that the person he was ... and is destined to be again?



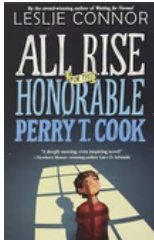
Jennifer Chan is Not Alone by Tae Keller

When Jennifer Chan disappears, Mallory must uncover the truth—about aliens, secrets, and herself. This mystery-filled story about friendship, courage, and standing up for what's right will keep you turning pages all summer long!



Kingdom Keepers by James Patterson

In this fantastical novel, Disney's Magic Kingdom suddenly becomes a bit eerie. Finn Whitman and four other teens have been hired as Disney World guides, but with an odd twist: With cutting-edge technology, they have been transformed into hologram projections capable of leading guests around the park. What begins as an exciting theme park job turns into a virtual nightmare as Finn and his pals attempt to thwart an uprising by a menacing group of Disney villains.



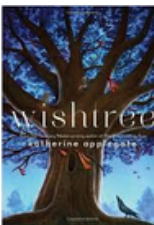
The Honorable Perry T. Cook by Leslie Connor

Eleven-year-old Perry was born and raised by his mom at the Blue River Co-ed Correctional Facility in tiny Surprise, Nebraska. His mom is a resident on Cell Block C, and so far, Warden Daugherty has made it possible for them to be together. That is, until a new district attorney discovers the truth, and Perry is removed from the facility and forced into a foster home. When Perry moves to the “outside” world, he feels trapped. Desperate to be reunited with his mom, Perry goes on a quest for answers about her past crime. As he gets closer to the truth, he will discover that love makes people resilient no matter where they come from... but can he find a way to tell everyone what home truly means?



Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher, Mr. Daniels, sees the bright, creative kid underneath the troublemaker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself, and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.



Wishtree by Katherine Applegate

Trees can't tell jokes, but they can certainly tell stories. . . .Red is an oak tree that is many rings old. Red is the neighborhood "wishtree"—people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches. Along with a crow named Bongo and other animals who seek refuge in Red's hollows, this wishtree watches over the neighborhood. You might say Red has seen it all. Until a new family moves in. Not everyone is welcoming, and Red's experience as a wishtree is more important than ever. Funny, deep, warm, and nuanced, this is Katherine Applegate at her very best—writing from the heart, and a completely unexpected point of view.



New Kid by Jerry Craft

Starting at a new school is tough—especially when you're one of the only kids of color and no one seems to get you. Follow Jordan Banks as he tries to stay true to himself, fit in, and chase his dream of becoming an artist. A funny, honest graphic novel that's perfect for summer reading!



Noah Frye Gets Crushed by Maggie Horn

Noah Frye just had the best summer ever at science camp—and she even made a new friend, Jessa, who’s starting at her school this fall. Noah can’t wait to introduce Jessa to her best friends, Zoey and Luna. But when school starts, things feel different. Zoey and Luna are suddenly all about boys, and Noah feels left out, especially since she’s never had a crush. To fit in, she pretends she has a crush too and starts a “crush experiment” to make it real. But pretending might be harder than she thought! This funny and heartwarming story is all about friendship, fitting in, and figuring out who you are.



Triple Threat by Mike Lupica

Twelve-year-old Alex is excited to join her middle school’s football team—she loves the game and has a great arm. But once she shows up, her all-boy teammates make it clear she’s not welcome. They tease her, try to make her fail, and take all the fun out of football. It’s the lowest Alex has ever felt. Still, if she wants to be a quarterback, she’ll have to fight for her spot and prove she belongs.



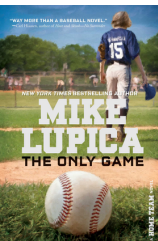
The Chance to Fly by Ali Stroker and Stacy Davidowitz

Nat Beacon loves musicals and dreams of performing on stage—even though she uses a wheelchair and has never seen someone like her in a lead role. When her family moves to New Jersey, she auditions for *Wicked*, her favorite show, and gets a part in the ensemble. But as opening night gets closer, Nat faces challenges that test her confidence. With courage and determination, she learns to believe in herself and shows that anything is possible. This inspiring story is about inclusion, resilience, and the magic of theater.



Impossible Escape: A True Story of Survival and Heroism in Nazi Europe by Steve Sheinkin

From award-winning author Steve Sheinkin comes a powerful true story set during the Holocaust. In 1944, teenager Rudi Vrba is trapped in Auschwitz and decides to risk everything to escape. He knows the terrible truth about the Nazis’ plan to murder millions of Jews—and he’s determined to warn the world. At the same time, his former classmate Gerta is hiding in Hungary, but danger is closing in. As time runs out, Rudi and a friend attempt a daring escape that could help save thousands of lives. This is a story of courage, survival, and the fight to speak the truth when it matters most.



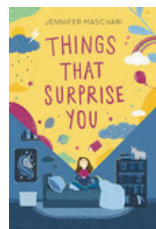
The Only Game by Mike Lupica

Can a young baseball star maintain his love of the game after the loss of his brother? Find out in this start to the Home Team series about a small town with high hopes, from New York Times bestselling author and sportswriting legend Mike Lupica. Jack Callahan is the star of his baseball team, and seventh grade is supposed to be his year. Undefeated season. Records shattered. Little League World Series. The works. That is, until he up and quits. Time spent with these new friends unlocks something within Jack, and with their help and the support of his family and his old friends, Jack discovers sometimes it’s more than just the love of the game that keeps us moving forward—and he might just be able to find his way back to The Only Game, after all.



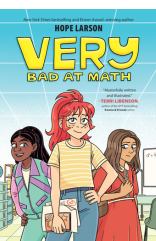
All Summer Long by Hope Larson

Thirteen-year-old Bina was all set for an epic summer of fun with her best friend, Austin... until he ditches her for soccer camp and starts acting weird. Left to her own devices, Bina discovers new music, unexpected friendships, and a growing sense of who she is without Austin. *All Summer Long* is a heartfelt, funny, and totally relatable graphic novel about growing up, growing apart, and finding your own rhythm. Perfect for fans of *Smile* and *Roller Girl*!



Things That Surprise You by Jennifer Maschari

Middle school is full of surprises, and not all of them are good. Emily thought she and her best friend Hazel, would stay the same forever, but suddenly, Hazel cares more about popularity than unicorns and silly jokes. At home, Emily's older sister is back from treatment for an eating disorder, and everything feels different. As Emily tries to figure out who she is, she learns that growing up isn't about being perfect; it's about staying true to yourself, even when life doesn't go as planned.



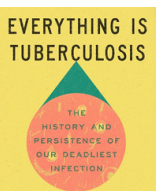
Very Bad at Math (Graphic Novel) by Hope Larson

Verity is used to being "simply the best" at everything that she does. She is the class president, knows everyone's name, is first clarinet, and does great in almost every subject. Math is the one hurdle that she cannot seem to overcome, no matter how hard she works at it. When she learns that she has to get her grades up or give up the presidency, she winds up in a special math pod with one of the few kids at her school who cannot stand her.



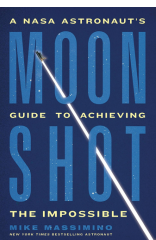
Sunrise on the Reaping by Suzanne Collins

For *Hunger Games* fans, check out another prequel about the history of the Hunger Games and Panem. As the day dawns on the fiftieth annual Hunger Games, fear grips the districts of Panem. This year, in honor of the Quarter Quell, twice as many tributes will be taken from their homes.



Everything is Tuberculosis (non-fiction) by John Green

In *Everything Is Tuberculosis*, author and historian John Green tells the story of a young boy in Africa with Tuberculosis. The book weaves scientific and social histories of how tuberculosis has shaped our world—and how our choices will shape the future of tuberculosis.



Moonshot: A NASA Astronaut's Guide to Achieving the Impossible by Mike Massimino

Interested in space and reaching for the moon (literally and figuratively): When you think of a NASA astronaut, the image that probably comes to mind is one of the All-American heroes: athletic, charismatic, ready to take on the stars. But former NASA astronaut Mike Massimino was pretty much the opposite. He was the underdog, one of the weakest swimmers during NASA training and a "with bad eyesight and a fear of heights." Based on thrilling, firsthand accounts of space exploration, *Moonshot* offers actionable insights on getting the little things right to accomplish our biggest goals.



Mexikid: A Graphic Memoir written and illustrated by Pedro Martín

Looking for Adventure? Pedro Martín has grown up hearing stories about his abuelito—his legendary crime-fighting grandfather who was once a part of the Mexican Revolution! But that doesn't mean Pedro is excited about the news that Abuelito is coming to live with their family. Still, Pedro piles into the Winnebago with his family for a road trip to Mexico to bring Abuelito home, and what follows is the trip of a lifetime.

Recommendations from our Reading Teacher



Crossover by Kwame Alexander

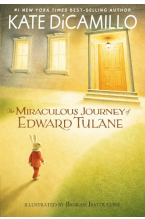
Written in reader-friendly poetry, this novel in verse tells the story of brothers who love basketball and who face what all middle schoolers face: growing up. Appropriate for a basketball lover or any reader who enjoys reading in verse.



Swim Team by Johnnie Christmas

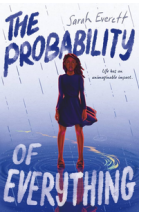
Most appropriate for 6th graders, but 7th/8th could certainly enjoy

A graphic novel about a young girl, Bree, who moves from NY to Florida and is forced to join a swim team. A fairly light story appropriate for all readers.



The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo

The story of a beloved bunny (Edward) who goes overboard during a family vacation. The story is told from Edward's perspective as he travels from owner to owner, learning about the lives of others and gaining insight into the sorrows and joys of each beholder. Appropriate for any reader who has ever had a cherished "love."



Probability of Everything by Sarah Everett

Told from the perspective of an 11-year-old Kami who loves science. When an asteroid is headed towards Earth, she decides to create a time capsule to encapsulate the life of her family, whom she deeply loves and admires. Appropriate for all readers, though it does deal with grief and saying goodbye.



You Are Here by Ellen Oh

Appropriate for all middle-grade readers. Written with some fantastic humor and heartfelt. From the perspective of twelve different characters who are all impacted by an incident at Chicago Airport.



A Place at the Table by Laura Shovan & Saadia Faruqi

Appropriate for all middle grades. Tells the story of two 6th-grade girls who are first-generation Americans, who form a friendship at an after-school cooking class.



All the Noise at Once by DeAndre Davis

Aiden is a 16-year-old boy with Autism who is trying out for the football team, where his older brother is the star. This book is written from Aiden's perspective and a page-turner. Appropriate for grades 6-8, (though note: there are a few choice words used throughout.)

Happy Reading! We hope this list inspires you to discover new literary treasures this summer. Share your favorites with friends and family, and enjoy the journey of reading!