MILL SPRINGS ACADEMY

13660 New Providence Road
Alpharetta, GA 30004
Ph: 770-360-1336

Summer Reading List

Grades 5-8

This reading guide is designed to help families and students find books they will genuinely enjoy over the summer. The selections below balance fun, adventure, humor, creativity, and meaningful storytelling while avoiding books that are overly tied to traditional classroom assignments.

Each recommendation includes:

- A brief description of the story
- The types of readers who may especially enjoy the book
- A variety of formats including graphic novels, nonfiction, fantasy, mystery, realistic fiction, and STEM-related books

Grade 5

Adventure & Fantasy

Amari and the Night Brothers by B. B. Alston
A girl discovers a hidden magical world while searching for her missing brother. Great for students who: love fantasy, magical schools, mystery, and action-packed adventures.

City Spies by James Ponti
A team of talented kids becomes international spies and travels the world on secret missions. Great for students who: enjoy gadgets, teamwork, travel, and fast-paced action.

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library by Chris Grabenstein
Students become trapped inside a giant puzzle-filled library and must solve clues to escape. Great for students who: enjoy games, riddles, teamwork, and mystery adventures.

The Last Kids on Earth by Max Brallier
A group of kids survives a monster apocalypse using humor, gadgets, and teamwork. Great for students who: enjoy video games, action, comedy, and illustrated novels.

Realistic & Emotional Stories

Front Desk by Kelly Yang
A young girl helps manage her family's motel while navigating school, friendships, and challenges. Great for students who: enjoy realistic fiction, inspiring characters, and stories about perseverance.

Octopus Moon by Bobbie Pyron
A moving novel in verse about a girl coping with change, anxiety, and growing emotions.
Great for students who: enjoy emotional stories, poetry, ocean themes, and reflective reading.

13660 New Providence Road
Alpharetta, GA 30004
Ph: 770-360-1336

Gabby Torres Gets a Billion Followers by Angela Dominguez
Gabby learns about the highs and lows of social media after trying to grow her online following. Great for students who: enjoy modern realistic stories, humor, technology, and friendship drama.

Grades 6–8

Mystery, Fantasy & Adventure

The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes
A teenager unexpectedly inherits a billionaire's fortune and must solve dangerous riddles. Great for students who: enjoy puzzles, suspense, mysteries, and fast-paced twists.

Scythe by Neal Shusterman
In a future where death has been conquered, two teens are chosen to become professional "Scythes." Great for students who: enjoy dystopian fiction, moral dilemmas, and intense world-building.

Scarlet Morning by ND Stevenson
A funny, adventurous pirate fantasy full of chaos, danger, and unforgettable characters. Great for students who: love pirates, fantasy worlds, humor, and action-packed storytelling.

The Forgotten Summer of Seneca by Camryn Garrett
A girl travels through time into New York City's past during an unforgettable summer adventure. Great for students who: enjoy history, fantasy, photography, and coming-of-age stories.

Graphic Novels & Contemporary Fiction

The New Girl by Cassandra Calin
A girl moves to a new country and must adapt to a new language, culture, and school. Great for students who: enjoy relatable middle school stories, graphic novels, and friendship-centered narratives.

Speak Up, Santiago! by Julio Anta
Santiago spends the summer improving his Spanish while struggling to fit in with new friends. Great for students who: enjoy soccer, family stories, identity themes, and graphic novels.

Whale Eyes by James Robinson
A creative memoir exploring disability, perspective, and human connection through unique visual storytelling.
Great for students who: enjoy memoirs, art, emotional storytelling, and reflective reading.

Nonfiction & STEM Picks
The Atlas Obscura Explorer's Guide to Inventing the World by Dylan Thuras
A fascinating look at inventions from around the globe and throughout history. Great for students who: enjoy trivia, inventions, history, engineering, and curiosity-driven reading.

13660 New Providence Road
Alpharetta, GA 30004
Ph: 770-360-1336

A World Without Summer by Nicholas Day
The true story of a volcanic eruption that changed weather, history, science, and literature worldwide. Great for students who: enjoy science, disasters, history, and surprising real-world stories.

The Vanishing of Lake Peigneur by Allan Wolf
The unbelievable true story of a mining accident that caused an entire lake to disappear. Great for students who: enjoy survival stories, engineering disasters, and graphic nonfiction.