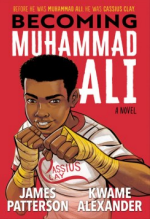
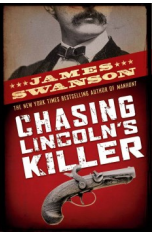
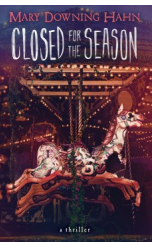
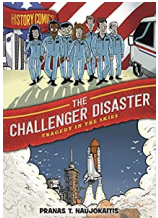
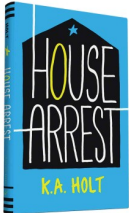


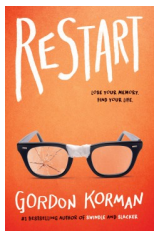
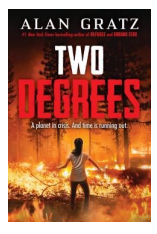
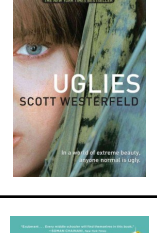
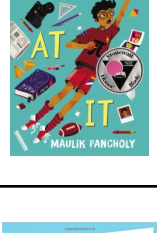
Paxon Hollow Middle School

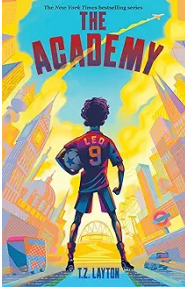
Summer Reading Choice List 2026

All rising 6th, 7th, and 8th graders should self-select and read any two books from the below list. The list includes widely read, critically acclaimed titles and was designed to offer a range of reading levels, themes, and topics to support student choice. The book descriptions are provided to help students and families make informed selections. Students may also choose to read another book by any author included on the list.

	<i>Becoming Muhammad Ali</i> by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander	Before he was a household name, Cassius Clay was a kid with struggles like any other. This story tells about Cassius' family and neighbors in Louisville, Kentucky, and how, after a thief stole his bike, Cassius began training as an amateur boxer at age twelve. Before long, he won his first Golden Gloves bout and began his transformation into the unrivaled Muhammad Ali.
	<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> by Jacqueline Woodson	Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. She shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.
	<i>Chasing Lincoln's Killer</i> by James Swanson	Recounts the twelve-day pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth, covering the chase through Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, with a discussion of Abraham Lincoln as a father, husband, and friend that examines the impact of his death on those close to him.
	<i>Closed for the Season</i> by Mary Downing Hahn	When thirteen-year-old Logan and his family move into a run-down old house in rural Virginia, he discovers that a woman was murdered there and becomes involved with his neighbor Arthur in a dangerous investigation to try to uncover the killer.
	<i>Eragon</i> By Christopher Paolini	In Aagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, populated with dragons, elves, and monsters.
	<i>The False Prince</i> by Jennifer Nielsen	In a discontented kingdom, civil war is brewing. To unify the divided people, Conner, a nobleman of the court, devises a cunning plan to find an impersonator of the king's long-lost son and install him as a puppet prince. Four orphans are recruited to compete for the role, including a defiant boy named Sage. Sage knows that Conner's motives are more than questionable, yet his life balances on a sword's point -- he must be chosen to play the prince or he will certainly be killed.

	<i>Fish in a Tree: A Novel</i> 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 distractions. She is afraid to ask for help. However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself. 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.
	<i>History Comics: The Challenger Disaster: Tragedy in the Sky</i> by Pranas T. Naujokaitis * or any other book in the <i>History Comics</i> series	In <i>History Comics: The Challenger Disaster</i>, we turn the clock back to January 28, 1986. Seven astronauts boarded the space shuttle <i>Challenger</i> on what would be a routine mission. All eyes and cameras were on crew member Christa McAuliffe, a high school teacher, who was set to become the first private citizen in space. Excitement filled the air as the clock counted down to liftoff. But at T-plus seventy-three seconds after launch, the unthinkable happened.
	<i>Three Blue Hearts</i> by Lynne Kelly	Max can't seem to escape the big, looming shadow of his politician dad. But for the next few months, Max and his mom are going away to a quiet Texas beach town where Max can be someone else. Someone who doesn't make dumb mistakes that embarrass his father. He stumbles on his fresh start right away, when he finds an injured octopus washed up onshore after a storm. With the help of a local wildlife center and a couple of new friends, Max rescues the octopus and vows to take care of her until she's ready to return to the sea.
	<i>House Arrest</i> by K.A. Holt	Timothy is a good kid who did a bad thing. Now he's under house arrest for a whole year. He has to check in weekly with a probation officer and a therapist, keep a journal, and stay out of trouble. But when he must take drastic measures to help his struggling family, staying out of trouble proves more difficult than Timothy ever thought it would be.
	<i>Legend</i> by Marie Lu	What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic. Fifteen-year-old June is a rich, elite prodigy in the Republic. Fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. From very different worlds, June and Day have no reason to cross paths - until the day June's brother, Metias, is murdered and Day becomes the prime suspect. Caught in the ultimate game of cat and mouse, Day is in a race for his family's survival, while June seeks to avenge Metias's death. But in a shocking turn of events, the two uncover the truth of what has really brought them together, and the sinister lengths their country will go to keep its secrets.
	<i>New From Here</i> by Kelly Yang	When COVID-19 hits Hong Kong, ten-year-old Knox's mom makes the last-minute decision to move him and his siblings back to California, leaving their father behind. As Knox navigates a new school and rising anti-Asian racism, he learns to adapt to a rapidly changing world. As Knox struggles to fit in at his new school, problems at home pop up, too. Knox finds that sometimes when the world is spinning out of control, the best way to get through it is to embrace our own lovable uniqueness.

	Resistance by Jennifer A. Nielsen	In 1942 sixteen-year-old Chaya Lindner is a Jewish girl living in Nazi-occupied Poland, a courier who smuggles food and documents to the isolated Jewish ghettos in southern Poland, depending on her forged papers and pale features—but when a mission goes wrong and many of her colleagues are arrested she finds herself on a journey to Warsaw, where an uprising is in the works.
	Restart by Gordon Korman	Chase does not remember falling off the roof. In fact, he does not remember anything about himself, and when he gets back to middle school he begins to learn who he was through the reactions of the other kids—trouble is, he really is not sure he likes the Chase that is being revealed, but can he take the opportunity amnesia has provided and restart his life?
	School Trip by Jerry Craft	Jordan, Drew, Liam, Maury, and their friends from Riverdale Academy Day School are heading out on a school trip to Paris. As an aspiring artist himself, Jordan can't wait to see all the amazing art in the famous City of Lights. But when their trusted faculty guides are replaced at the last minute, the school trip takes an unexpected—and hilarious—turn. Especially when trying to find their way around a foreign city ends up being almost as tricky as navigating the same friendships, fears, and differences that they struggle with at home.
	Two Degrees by Alan Gratz	When three children endure separate climate change disasters—a wildfire in the California woods, a close encounter with a hungry polar bear in Canada, and a massive hurricane in Florida—they emerge from their experiences committed to changing the world.
	Uglies by Scott Westerfeld	Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen year old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn't like.
	The Best At It By Maulik Pancholy	As Rahul begins seventh grade, he sets out to discover what he's "best at," taking his grandfather's advice to find something he can truly excel in. Along the way, he navigates the ups and downs of friendships, family expectations, and middle school challenges, while also exploring questions about his identity, including his gender identity. Through humor and honesty, Rahul's journey highlights the importance of self-acceptance and finding confidence in who you are.
	The Great Greene Heist By Varian Johnson	Jackson Greene swears he's given up scheming. Then school bully Keith announces he's running for Student Council president, against Jackson's former friend Gaby. Gaby wants Jackson to stay out of it -- but he knows Keith has "connections" to the principal, which could win him the presidency no matter the vote count. So Jackson assembles a team: Hashemi, tech genius. Victor, bankroll. Megan, science goddess. Charlie, reporter. Together they devise a plan to take down Keith, win Gaby's respect, and ensure the election is done right. If they can pull it off, it will be remembered as the school's greatest con ever -- one worthy of the name THE GREAT GREENE HEIST.

	<i>It Wasn't Me</i> By Dana Alison Levy	When Theo's photography project is mysteriously vandalized at school there are five suspected students who all say "It wasn't me." Theo just wants to forget about the humiliating incident but his favorite teacher is determined to get to the bottom of it and has the six of them come into school over vacation to talk. She calls it "Justice Circle." The six students—the Nerd, the Princess, the Jock, the Screw Up, the Weirdo, and the Nobody—think of it as detention. That is until they realize they might get along, despite their differences.
	<i>The Academy</i> By T.Z. Layton	Born and raised in a small town, twelve-year-old Leo K. Doyle has never seen the ocean or stepped foot on a plane. But Leo is a star soccer player with big dreams in life. While Leo longs to make the pros one day, he has no idea how to achieve this goal—until a professional scout pays a chance visit to one of Leo's games and extends an invitation to try out for the London Dragons youth squad, known as the Academy. Soon Leo is off to a whole new country, embarking on the greatest adventure of his life.