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Upper School Summer Reading List 2026

Every Book Is a Journey

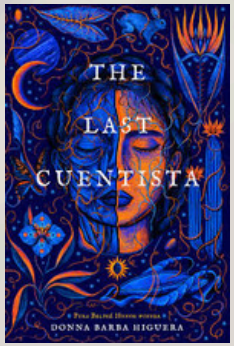
Books can transport us across oceans, through history, into distant cultures, and beyond the limits of our imagination. This collection has been carefully curated to help every reader discover new worlds this summer.

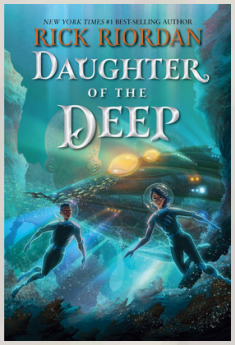




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Grade 6 Explorers

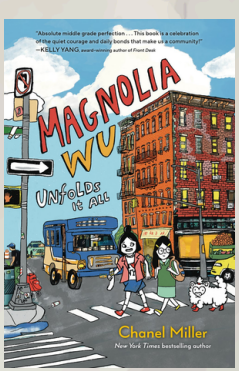


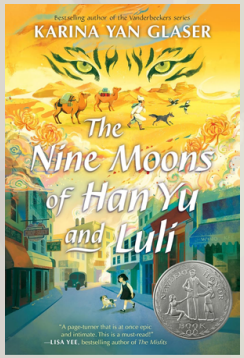




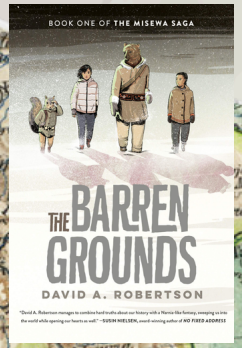












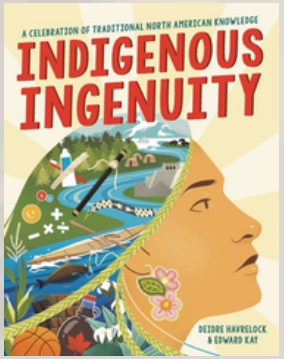




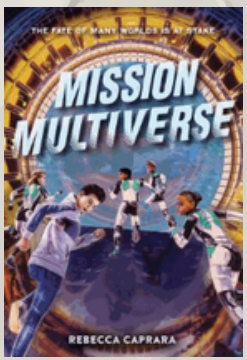


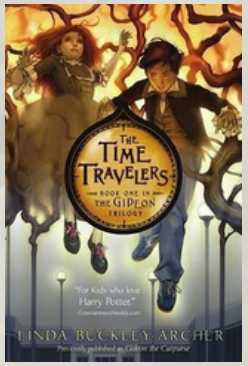
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GRADE 7 TRAVELERS





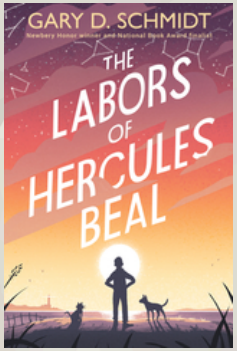


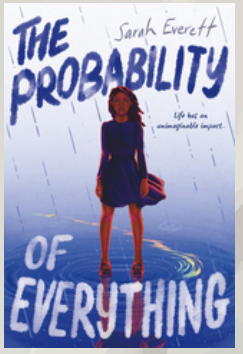


















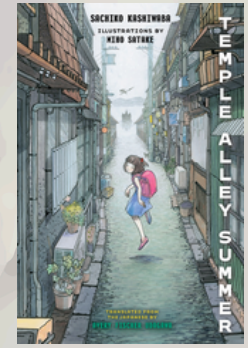
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GRADE 7 BEYOND BOOKS

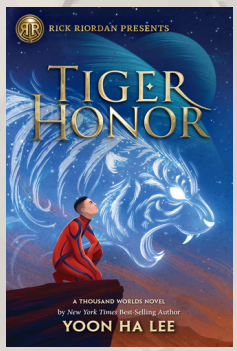
Podcasts	***Literary / Non-Literary Texts***	***Films***	**Art**	**Also consider...**
Those Who Were There Podcast Series *Dad and Me Love History* *But Why?* Podcast Wow in the World Brains On! Smash Boom Best "The Past and The Curious" - Episode: "Children's Poetry and Awful Alphabet" "Brains On!" - Episode: "Poetry, Rhyme, and Lyrical Riddles" "But Why: A Podcast for Curious Kids" - Episode: "Why Do We Like Poetry?	*Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry *Sadako and a Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr *Echo* by Pam Munoz Ryan *Made You Look: How Advertising Works and Why* by Shari Graydon *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell *Where the Sidewalk* Ends by Shel Silverstein *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jaqueline Woodsen	*Anne Frank: The Whole Story* *The Zookeeper's Wife* *My Best Friend Anne Frank* *The Lorax* *The Social Dilemma* *Wall-E* *Over the Hedge* *My Octopus Teacher* *Soul (Pixar)* *The Pursuit of Happyness* *The Book Thief* *Akkelah and the Bee*	*Blitzed Site* by Lowry (1942) *Women and Children in the Tube* by Henry Moore (1940) Banksy *Trolleys* (2006) Steve Cutts *Social Media Zombies* (2014) *The Thinker* by Auguste Rodin (1904) *The Persistence of Memory* by Salvador Dali (1931) *Starry Night* by Vincent Van Gogh (1889) *The Kiss* Gustav Klimt (1907-1908)	***"If you enjoyed reading 90 Miles to Havana..."*** *Refugee* by Alan Gratz *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan *Eleven* by Sandra Cisneros *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

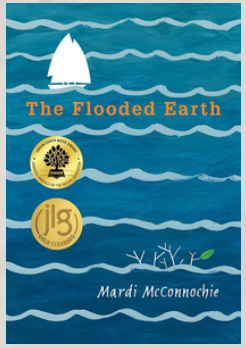
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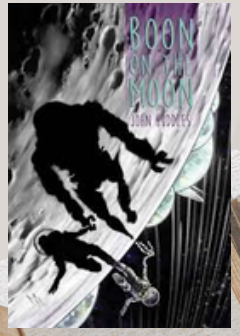
Grade 8 Adventurers







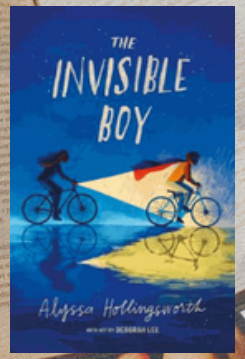




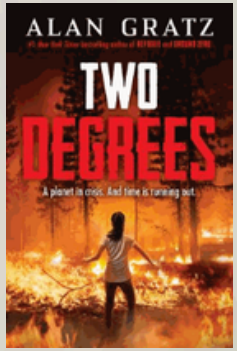














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Grade 8 Beyond Books

Podcasts	***Literary / Non-Literary Texts***	***Films***	**Art**	**Also consider...**
The Past and the Curious *But Why?* *Brains On!* *Stuff You Missed in History Class* *The End of the World* *The Children of Tendu* *Paradise Future* "Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls" - Episode: "William Shakespeare" "Shakespeare Rocks! Kids' Guide to Shakespeare"	*I am Malala* by Malala Yousefzai *Amelia Lost* by Candace Flemming *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William KamKwamba *Divergent* Veronica Roth *Hunger Games* Suzanne Collins *City of Ember* Jeanne DuPrau *Feed* M.T. Anderson *Matched* by Allie Condie *Shakespeare's Secre*t by Elise Broach *No Fear Shakespeare* (any plays)	*The Boy Who Harnassed the Wind* *Unbroken* *Soul Surfer* *The Secretariat* *Hidden Figures* *The Maze Runner* *Ready Player One* *Wall E* *10 Things I Hate About You* *Gnomeo and Juliet*	*The Desperate Man* by Gustave Courbet, 1845 *Portrait of a Man in Red Chalk,* Leonardo DaVinci (1512) *The Two Fridas* by Frida Kahlo (1939) *The Pas*t by Anastsia Markovich (2006) Michael Kerbow, Portents Series *The Seven Ages of Man* described by Shakespeare depicted by Robert Smirkle	***"If you enjoyed reading Code Talker..."*** *The Marrow Thieves* by Cherie Dimaline ***"If you enjoyed reading The Diary of Anne Frank..."*** *My Best Friend Anne Frank* by Hannah Gosler *Night* by Elie Wiesel *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak

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Grade 9 Beyond Books

Podcasts	***Literary / Non-Literary Texts***	***Films***	**Art**	**Also consider...**
The Unexplainable Disappearance of Mars Patel *Criminal* *Stuff You Missed in History Class* *But Why?* *Vantage Point Radio* *99% Invisible* *Art Detective*	*When You Reach Me* Rebecca Stead *Summer Lost* Allie Condie *The Emperor's Riddle* by Kat Zhang *We are Not Free* by Traci Chee *Luck of the Titanic* by Staci Lee *Walls* by Tom Llewellyn *The Legend of Greg* by Chris Rylander *Spray* by Herry Edge	*The Goonies* *Hugo* *Sherlock Holmes* *Hidden Figures* *The Book Thief* *My Best Friend Anne Frank* *Banksy Does New York* *Book of Life* *Exit Through the Gift Shop* *Bomb It!*	*Birmingham Race Riot* by Andy Warhol (1964) *Mona Lisa* by Leonardo DaVinci, (early 1500's) *The Scream* by Munch (1893) *Washington Crossing the Delaware* by Emanuel Leutz (1851) *Guernica* by Pablo Picasso (1937) Any Public Artworks–Visit Lisboa	**"If you enjoyed reading *Frankenstein*..."** *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer *Scythe* by Neal Shusterman *Unwind* by Neal Shusterman *The Giver* by Lois Lowry **"If you enjoyed reading *The Importance of Being Earnest*..."** *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams

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GRADE 10-12 BEYOND BOOKS

Podcasts	***Literary / Non-Literary Texts***	***Films***	**Art**	**Also consider...**
Ted Talks *This Teenage Life* *But Why* *Mortified* *Radiolab* *Socially Awkward Podcast* *The Frankenpod* *Love Letters to Poe* *The Slowdown* *The Poetry Gods* *Word Balloon Podcast* *Comic Book Junto*	*Hidden Figures* by Margo Lee Shetterly *The Maps of Memory* by Marjorie Agosin *Small Mercies* Bridget Krone *How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accents* by Julia Alvarez *With the Fire on High* Elizabeth Acevedo *Forbidden* Even Bunting *House of Furies* Madeline Rouix *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo *Crush* by Richard Siken *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang	*Blood Diamond* *Social Dilemma* *Blackfish* *I am Greta* *Whale Rider* *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* *The Joy Luck Club* *Kite Runner* *The Others* *Corpse Bride* *Edward Scissorhands* *Jane Eyre* *Dead Poets Society* *Set Me Free*	Banksy (artist) Peekasso (artist) Kidmograph (artist) Rosa Rolanda (artist) *Golden Adel by* Gustav Klimt (1907) *The Sunflower Quilting Bees at Arles*, by Faith Ringgold (1996) *The Triumph of Death* by Pieter Brugel the Elder (1562) *The Nightmare* by Henry Fuseli (1781) *Guernica* by Pablo Picasso (1937) *The Dance* by Henri Matisse (1910)	***"Books to complement and challenge your reading of To Kill a Mockingbird"*** *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds *Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward *Children of Blood and Bone* by Toni Ameyadi *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D Taylor *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry

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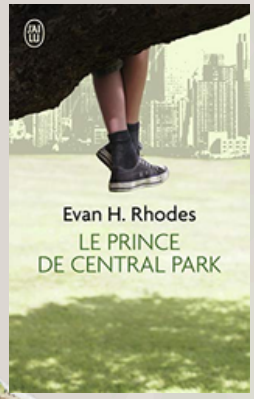
French Journeys



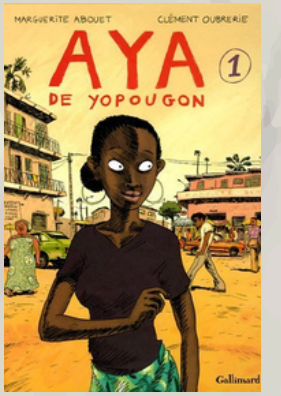






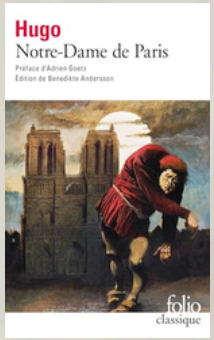








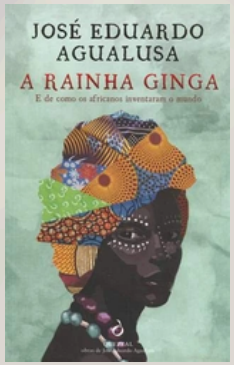


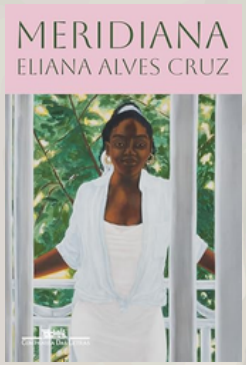




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Portuguese journeys

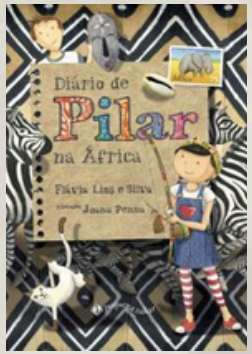






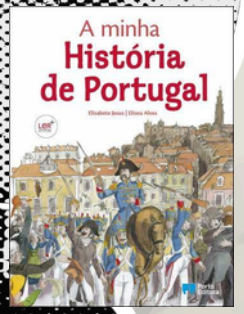




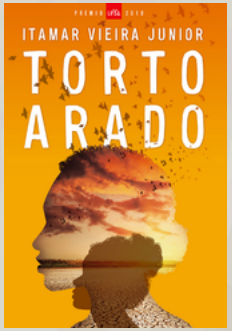
















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Classic Odysseys

New students in Grades 6-8 are encouraged to read classic titles to build background knowledge, in alignment with the Core Knowledge curriculum. These titles are suitable for strong independent readers or for reading aloud.

- A Midsummer Night's Dream – William Shakespeare
- Don Quixote – Miguel de Cervantes
- Gulliver's Travels – Jonathan Swift
- King Arthur and the Round Table – Traditionally retold; many adaptations based on Sir Thomas Malory's Le Morte d'Arthur
- The Iliad and The Odyssey – Homer
- The Legend of Sleepy Hollow – Washington Irving
- Little Women – Louisa May Alcott
- Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass – Frederick Douglass
- Pollyanna – Eleanor H. Porter
- Robin Hood – Anonymous (traditional English folklore, often retold by various authors)
- Robinson Crusoe – Daniel Defoe
- Sherlock Holmes – Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde – Robert Louis Stevenson
- The Tempest – William Shakespeare
- Treasure Island – Robert Louis Stevenson
- The Tragedy of Julius Caesar – William Shakespeare

