



2024 Summer Reading Recommendations

Is this a "required reading" list?

This is a list of suggested, not required, titles for middle school students. We request that you read at least two books this summer to support the growth of your skills.

Reading expands your mind and takes you on adventures you might not otherwise experience. It can be a window to help you gain new ideas and learn about others, or a mirror to help you understand yourself and your experiences. As always, if a book doesn't feel "just right" for you, return it and find another.

What happens to my reading skills if I don't read in the summer?

When you read books on topics of interest or in genres you enjoy, you naturally tend to read more. Reading during the summer decreases "summer reading loss", which is when your reading abilities decline.

Reading more often helps you become a better reader! Keep reading!

Can I get these books in ebook or audiobook format?

Click on a book cover to hyperlink to Sora, Overdrive's ebook and audiobook platform for schools. Students can use this website/app to check out free ebooks and audiobooks on computers, tablets, and smartphones. Information on how to use this website/app can be found on TCMS Library's Summer Reading webpage (see below).

Are there other resources for summer learning?



TCMS Library's Summer Reading webpage has information about other ebook and audiobook resources.
(<https://libguides.monroe.edu/TCMSSummerReading>)



Brighton Memorial Library's events page provides more information about summer programming at the public library.
(<https://www.brightonlibrary.org/events>)

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ADVENTURE/SPORTS



96 Miles, by J.L. Esplin

During a massive blackout in rural Nevada, two brothers struggle to cross the desert for help without their self-reliance-obsessed father or enough water.



Swim Team, by Johnnie Christmas

Bree can't wait for her first day at her new middle school, Enith Brigitha, home to the Mighty Manatees--until she's stuck with the only elective that fits her schedule, the dreaded Swim 101.



Two Degrees, by Alan Gratz

When three children endure separate climate change disasters, they emerge from their experiences committed to changing the world.



Falling Short, by Ernesto Cisneros

Best friends Isaac and Marco--one athletically gifted and one academically gifted--have more in common than they realize when their goals intersect, forcing them to find a way to support each other so they don't fall short.



Slugfest, by Gordon Korman

Forced to take Physical Education Equivalency, aka "Slugfest," in summer school so he can maintain his star spot on the JV football team, Yash recruits his fellow PE rejects to train with him and pass this course, an endeavor that turns into a summer he'll never forget.



The Canyon's Edge, by Dusti Bowling

A year after the death of her mother in a restaurant shooting, Nora is left struggling to stay alive when a climbing trip with her father goes terribly wrong.



Fast Pitch, by Nic Stone

Shenice Lockwood, captain of the Fulton Firebirds, is hyper-focused when she steps up to the plate, but life has thrown some curveballs her way.



Air, by Monica Roe

Independent twelve-and-a-half year old Emelyn Ethrige lives with her father in South Carolina, dreams of wheelchair motocross, and makes custom chair bags trying to earn enough money to buy a serious set of wheels.



Concealed, by Christina Diaz Gonzalez

Katrina and her parents are part of the Witness Protection Program. Every new discovery reveals that Katrina's entire life has been built around secrets covered up with lies.



Checked, by Cynthia Kadohata

To help his dog through cancer treatment, Conor gives up hockey and finds himself considering who he is without the sport that has defined him, and connecting more with his family and best friend.



Graphic Novel



Series



Novel in Verse



Award Winner

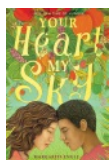


LGBTQ Interest



Sweet and Sour, by Debbi Michiko Florence

Eleven-year-old Mai has been contemplating revenge on her former best friend Zach ever since he humiliated her two years ago, but while spending time together for the summer, Mai has noticed a change in Zach, forcing her to decide if she can forgive him, even if she can never forget.



Your Heart, My Sky: love in a time of hunger, by Margarita Engle

In Cuba's "special period in times of peace" of 1991, Liana and Amado find love after their severe hunger gives both courage to risk government retribution by skipping a summer of labor to seek food. Told in their two voices plus that of the stray dog that brought them together.



Star-Crossed, by Barbara Dee

When Mattie is cast as Romeo in an eighth-grade play, she is confused to find herself increasingly attracted to Gemma, a new classmate who is playing Juliet.



The Language of Seabirds, by Will Taylor

Jeremy is not excited about the prospect of spending the summer with his dad and his uncle in a seaside cabin in Oregon. It's the first summer after his parents' divorce, and he hasn't exactly been seeking alone time with his dad. He doesn't have a choice, though, so he goes . . . and on his first day takes a walk on the beach and finds himself intrigued by a boy his age running by.



In the Key of Us, by Mariama Lockington

While twelve-year-old Andi has suffered from anxiety attacks ever since her mother died ten months ago, Zora starts hurting herself whenever she feels out of control; they are both at Camp Harmony, an elite summer music camp, trying to deal with their problems and also the stress of competition--but as the summer passes they find themselves increasingly drawn to each other, and maybe not just as friends.



Snapdragon, by Kat Leyh

Snap's town has a witch. At least, that's the rumor. In reality, Jacks is just a Crocs-wearing, internet-savvy old lady who sells the skeletons of roadkill online. It's creepy, sure, but Snap thinks it's kind of cool, too. Snap needs a favor from this old woman, though, so she begins helping Jacks with her strange work. Snap gets to know her and realizes that Jacks may in fact have real magic--and an unlikely connection to Snap's family's past.



Listen to This, by Jennifer Blecher

Secrets, rumors, shifting friendships, overbearing parents, and, on top of all that, a first dance--how does anyone survive seventh grade? This novel about two tweens finding their voices and standing up for themselves is told from dual points of view.



Danny Constantino's First (and Maybe Last?) Date,

by Paul Acampora

Between going to the middle school dance with his celebrity crush and watching his mom campaign to be the next town mayor, Danny has a lot to learn about life in the spotlight.



Click on book cover to link to Sora ebook and audiobook, if available.

OVERCOMING BARRIERS/ADVERSITY



How to Find What You're Not Looking For, by Veera Hiranandani

Middle schooler Ariel Goldberg must find her own voice and define her own beliefs after her big sister elopes with a young man from India following the Supreme Court decision that strikes down laws banning interracial marriage.



Starfish, by Lisa Fipps

Bullied and shamed her whole life for being fat, twelve-year-old Ellie finally gains the confidence to stand up for herself, with the help of some wonderful new allies.



Genesis Begins Again, by Alicia D. Williams

Thirteen-year-old Genesis tries again and again to lighten her black skin, thinking it is the root of her family's troubles, before discovering reasons to love herself as is.



Mascot, by Charles Waters and Traci Sorell

Six eighth graders outside Washington, DC, navigate through conflict and division focused on their school district's Native American mascot.



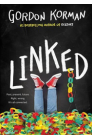
Will on the Inside, by Andrew Eliopoulos

After dedicated soccer player Will is sidelined from the season--and his friend group--due to complications from his newly diagnosed Crohn's disease, he finds himself figuring out who he really is on the inside.



Iveliz Explains it All, by Andrea Beatriz Arango

Twelve-year-old Iveliz is trying to manage her mental health and advocate for the help and understanding she deserves, but in the meantime her new friend calls her crazy and her abuela Mimi dismisses the therapy and medicine Iveliz needs to feel like herself.



Linked, by Gordon Korman

When swastikas begin appearing all over town, Link, Michael, and Dana, the only Jewish girl in town, must face crimes both past and present to find the truth.



Born Behind Bars, by Padma Venketramen

In Chennai, India, after spending his whole life in jail with his mother, who is serving time for a crime she did not commit, nine-year-old Kabir is suddenly released and has to figure out how to survive on his own in the outside world.



Too Bright to See, by Kyle Lukoff

In the summer before middle school, eleven-year-old Bug must contend with best friend Moira suddenly caring about clothes, makeup, and boys; a ghost haunting; and the truth about Bug's gender identity.



Attack of the Black Rectangles, by A.S. King

When sixth-grader Mac discovers several words of his classroom copy of Jane Yolen's *The Devil's Arithmetic* are blacked out he is outraged, so he, his friends, and his eccentric family set out to do something about the censorship imposed by one teacher and the school board.



Graphic Novel



Series



Novel in Verse



Award Winner



LGBTQ Interest



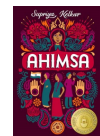
When Winter Robeson Came, by Brenda A. Woods

In August 1965, twelve-year-old Eden's older cousin from Mississippi comes to visit her in Los Angeles, and while the Watts Riots erupt around them, they continue their investigation of the disappearance of Winter's father ten years ago.



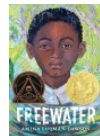
Show Me a Sign, by Anne Clare LeZolle

It is 1805 and Mary Lambert has always felt safe among the deaf community of Chilmark on Martha's Vineyard where practically everyone communicates in a shared sign language, but recent events have shattered her life.



Ahimsa, by Supriya Kelkar

In 1942, when Mahatma Gandhi asks Indians to give one family member to the freedom movement, ten-year-old Anjali is devastated to think of her father risking his life for the freedom struggle. But it turns out he isn't the one joining. Anjali's mother is.



Freewater, by Amina Luqman-Dawson

After fleeing the plantation where they were enslaved, siblings Ada and Homer discover the secret community of Freewater, and work with freeborn Sanzi to protect their new home from the encroaching dangers of the outside world.



Amil and the After, by Veera Hiranandani

In 1948, 12-year-old Amil, who is both Muslim and Hindu, struggles to find his place in Bombay, India, until his twin sister suggests he tell his story through drawings meant for their late mother as he tries to find hope and a sense of belonging in a chaotic world.



This Light Between Us, by Andrew Fukuda

In 1935, ten-year-old Alex Maki of Bainbridge Island, Washington, is horrified to discover that his new pen pal, Charlie Levy of Paris, France, is a girl. In spite of his initial reluctance, their letters continue over the years and they fight for their friendship even as Charlie endures the Nazi occupation and Alex leaves his family in an internment camp and joins the Army.



Iceberg, by Jennifer Nielsen

Twelve-year-old Hazel Rothbury stows away aboard the Titanic and, with the help of a porter named Charlie and a first-class passenger named Sylvia, she sets out to explore the great ship, uncovering a haunting mystery--until the ship hits an iceberg and she must fight to save herself and her friends.



The Lost Year, by Katherine Marsh

In the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, thirteen-year-old Matthew discovers a shocking secret about his great-grandmother's past as he learns about her life during the Holodomor famine in Soviet Ukraine.



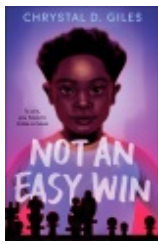
The Windeby Puzzle: History and Story, by Lois Lowry

Told in two voices, two outcasts in an Iron Age village befriend each other, as disabled, orphaned Varick helps Estrild achieve her dream of becoming the first female warrior. Inspired by the Windeby bog body.



Cuba in My Pocket, by Adriana Cuevas

In 1961 Cuba, with the threat of military service for children looming, twelve-year-old Cumba's parents send him to Miami, where he lives with a new family and misses his homeland.



Not an Easy Win, by Chrystal D. Giles

Nothing has gone right for twelve-year-old year old Lawrence since his Pop went away. After getting expelled from school for fighting, he discovers the world of chess and things begin to change.



The Partition Project, by Saadia Faruqi

When her grandmother comes off the airplane in Houston from Pakistan, Mahnoor knows that having Dadi move in is going to disrupt everything about her life. She doesn't have time to be Dadi's unofficial babysitter—her journalism teacher has announced that their big assignment will be to film a documentary, which feels more like storytelling than what Maha would call "journalism."



A-Okay, by Jarad Greene

When Jay starts eighth grade with a few pimples he doesn't think much of it. But when his acne goes from bad to worse, Jay's prescribed a powerful medication that comes with some serious side effects. Meanwhile, school isn't going exactly as planned.



Ellen Outside the Lines, by A.J. Sass

Ellen, an autistic thirteen-year-old, navigates a new city, shifting friendships, a growing crush, and her queer and Jewish identities while on a class trip to Barcelona, Spain.



The Boys in the Back Row, by Mike Jung

In this unabashed ode to male friendship, Matt and Eric are planning one big final adventure filled with hilarious hijinks and geekiness galore before Eric moves away.



Maizy Chen's Last Chance, by Lisa Yee

Eleven-year-old Maizy Chen visits her estranged grandparents, who own and run a Chinese restaurant in Last Chance, Minnesota; as her visit lengthens, she makes unexpected discoveries about her family's history and herself.



Barakah Beats, by Maleeha Siddiqui

It's Nimra Sharif's first time going to public school. Nimra's nervous, but as long as she has her best friend, Jenna, by her side, she figures she can take on just about anything. Unfortunately, middle school is hard.



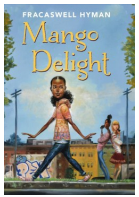
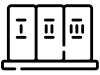
Invisible, by Christina Diaz Gonzalez

Can five overlooked kids make one big difference? There's George: the brain, Sara: the loner, Dayara: the tough kid, Nico: the rich kid, and Miguel: the athlete. And they're stuck together when they're forced to complete their school's community service hours. Although they're sure they have nothing in common with one another, some people see them as all the same--just five Spanish-speaking kids. Then they meet someone who truly needs their help, and they must decide whether they are each willing to expose their own secrets to help--or if remaining invisible is the only way to survive middle school.



Shine On, Luz Veliz! by Rebecca Balcarcel

Eleven-year-old injured soccer player Luz has a hard enough time reframing her identity as a computer programmer, but when her Guatemalan half-sister moves in, she learns what it truly means to start over.



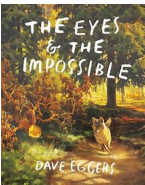
Mango Delight, by Fracaswell Hyman

When seventh-grader Mango Delight Fuller accidentally breaks her BFF's new cell phone, her life falls apart. She loses her friends and her spot on the track team, and even costs her father his job as a chef. Mango finds herself forced to make tough choices about the kind of friend she wants to have and, just as important, the kind of friend she wants to be.



Freestyle by Gail Galligan

While preparing for the last major dance competition before they graduate from eighth grade and go to separate high schools in NYC, Cory must balance the expectations of his parents, school, crew and his new friend as pressure mounts from all sides.



The Eyes and the Impossible, by Dave Eggers

Free dog Johannes' job is to observe everything that happens in his urban park and report back to the park's three bison elders, but changes are afoot, including more humans, a new building, a boatload of goats, and a shocking revelation that changes his view of the world.



The Swag is in the Socks, by Kelly J. Baptist
 Twelve-year-old Xavier Moon gets the courage to step out of the shadows when his great-uncle gives him some outlandish socks and some even stranger requests.



Click on book cover to link to Sora ebook and audiobook, if available.

SCARY AND PARANORMAL



The In-Between, by Rebecca K.S. Ansari

Cooper is lost. Ever since his father left their family three years ago, he has become distant from friends, constantly annoyed by his little sister, Jess, and completely fed up with the pale, creepy rich girl who moved in next door and won't stop staring at him. So when Cooper learns of an unsolved mystery his sister has discovered online, he welcomes the distraction.



Hide and Seeker, by Daka Hermon

Something is wrong with twelve-year-old Zee, who has returned after a year's absence. Nobody knows where he was or what happened to him, but now he is playing an odd game of hide-and-seek and talking wildly about some danger that is approaching.



What Lives in the Woods, by Lindsay Currie

Ginny is unhappy when her family moves from Chicago to Woodmoor, an old house full of rumors. Ginny, an aspiring mystery writer, is soon half convinced that the rumors are true, because something or someone is haunting the house--and she plans to investigate, with the help of Will, the older boy who lives nearby.



The Sleepover, by Michael Regina

Matt's friends plan a fun sleepover to try and cheer him up after he falls into a deep grief over the death of his nanny, but the sleepover quickly takes a turn when they realize the family's new nanny may be an actual monster.



Nightbooks, by J.A. White

A boy is imprisoned by a witch and must tell her a new scary story each night to stay alive.



Bumps in the Night, by Amalie Howard

Sent to her grandmother's estate in Trinidad, Rika meets a group of kids with elemental powers called Minders, who reveal that her long-lost mom is in danger, sending Rika on a magical adventure where she must learn to believe in herself to destroy evil.



Wait till Helen comes : a ghost story graphic novel, by Scott Peterson

When their mom remarries, Molly and her brother, Michael, try to make friends with their new stepsister, Heather. But Heather only wants to make trouble for them. She lies and tattles and misbehaves, and somehow they always get the blame. They know she's trying to drive a wedge between her father and their mother so she can have her father all to herself--and it seems to be working. Then, Heather starts playing in the graveyard behind their new house....



The Girl in the Lake, by India Hill Brown

Celeste knows she should be excited to spend two weeks at her grandparents' lake house with her brother, Owen, and their cousins Capri and Daisy, but she's not. She just failed her swim test and hates being in the water—it's terrifying.



Gallant, by Victoria Schwab

Olivia Prior has grown up at the grim Merilance School for Girls with no no past except for her one treasure, her mother's journal, so when a letter arrives inviting her to come home to ruinous manor, Gallant, she seizes the chance to find out about her family.



Graphic Novel



Series



Novel in Verse



Award Winner



LGBTQ Interest



Bloom, by Kenneth Oppel

The invasion begins--but not as you'd expect. It begins with rain. Rain that carries seeds. Seeds that sprout--overnight, everywhere. These new plants take over crop fields, twine up houses, and burrow below streets. They bloom--and release toxic pollens. They bloom--everywhere, unstoppable. Or are they?



Trex, by Christyne Morrell

Trex, a boy with an experimental implant, and Mellie, a reclusive girl training to be a spy, are pitted against middle school bullies, their own parents, and an evil, brain-hacking corporation.



The Last Cuentista, by Donna Barba Higuera

Petra's world is ending and only a few hundred scientists and their children - among them Petra and her family - have been chosen to journey to a new planet to carry on the human race. Hundreds of years later, Petra wakes and discovers that she is the only person who remembers Earth and a sinister Collective has taken over the ship during its journey.



A Rover's Story, by Jasmine Warga

Built to explore Mars, Resilience begins to develop human-like feelings as he learns from the NASA scientists who assembled him, and as he blasts off and explores Mars, Resilience must overcome different obstacles as he explores the red planet.



The Ghosts of Rancho Espanto, by Adrianna Cuevas

Rafa goes to work on a Rancho Espanto as punishment for a prank gone wrong, where he discovers a mystery as inexplicable as it is familiar and ultimately leads to Rafa learning hard truths about himself.



It's the End of the World and I'm in My Bathing Suit, by Justin Reynolds

When the electricity goes out, twelve-year-old Eddie and his friends set out to investigate what is going on when they make the startling discovery that they are the only ones left in their neighborhood--and perhaps the only people left anywhere.



The Last Beekeeper, by Pablo Cartaya

To prove that she belongs in a place where only the smartest and most useful are welcomed, twelve-year-old Yolanda learns that her survival rests on the rediscovery of a long-extinct beehive that could be the answer to everything.



Hana Hsu and the Ghost Crab Nation, by Sylvia Liu

In a near future where most adults are connected to the multiweb through neural implants, a twelve-year-old uncovers a corporate plot to genetically manipulate her classmates, and her scientist mother may be involved in the conspiracy.



Shuri, by Nic Stone

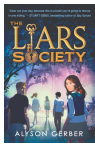
Shuri sets out on a quest to save her homeland of Wakanda.



Cog, by Greg van Eekhout

After an accident leaves him damaged and separated from his scientist caregiver, a young android recruits four robot accomplices and embarks on a cross-country road trip to reunite with her.

MYSTERY AND THRILLER



The Liars Society, by Alyson Gerber

Weatherby is a fish out of water. When she lands a scholarship to the prestigious Boston School, she's excited to be in the same world as her dad - but Weatherby has a secret she'll risk everything to protect, one that could destroy her new life. Every member of Jack's wealthy and privileged family has made their mark at the Boston School. Everyone, that is, except for Jack, who is entirely mediocre - but Jack has a secret of his own, one with the power to ruin everything.



The Mysterious Disappearance of Aidan S (as told to his brother), by David Levithan

Aidan disappeared for six days. Six agonizing days of searches and police and questions and constant vigils. Then, just as suddenly as he vanished, Aidan reappears. Where has he been? The story he tells is simply. . . impossible.



Undercover Latina, by Aya DeLeon

Going undercover as a white girl to befriend the estranged son of a dangerous white supremacist, Latina teen spy Andrea Hernandez-Baldoquin finds her first solo mission to trap a terrorist endangered by her crush on the target's best friend.



Chester Keene Cracks the Code, by Kekla Magoon

Eleven-year-old Chester and his classmate Skye, tasked with a complex puzzle-solving mission, discover the key to their spy assignment is to stop a heist, but cracking the code could put them in serious danger.



Absolutely Truly, by Heather Vogel Frederick

Twelve-year-old Truly Lovejoy's family moves to a small town to take over a bookstore. Soon, she has to solve two mysteries involving a missing book and an undelivered letter.



The Girl in the White Van, by April Henry

Sixteen-year-old Savannah Taylor is abducted after her kung fu class and must figure out how to escape and rescue fellow prisoner Jenny Dowd.



OCDaniel, by Wesley King

A thirteen-year-old boy's life revolves around hiding his obsessive compulsive disorder until a girl at school, who is unkindly nicknamed Psycho Sara, notices him for the first time and he gets a mysterious note that changes everything.



The Harlem Charade, by Natasha Tarpley

Seventh-graders Jin, Alexandra, and Elvin come from very different backgrounds and circumstances, but they all live in Harlem. When Elvin's grandfather is attacked they band together to find out who is responsible.



It Wasn't Me, by Dana Levy

When Theo's photography project is vandalized, the five students nearby all claim it was not them, so Theo's favorite teacher suggests they all spend vacation week together and get to the truth.



Graphic Novel



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LGBTQ Interest



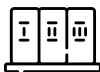
Six Crimson Cranes by Elizabeth Lim

The exiled Princess Shiori must unravel the curse that turned her six brothers into cranes, and she is assisted by her spurned betrothed, a capricious dragon, and a paper bird brought to life by her own magic.



New Dragon City, by Mari Mancusi

Five years after dragons decimated the world, a chance encounter with a young dragon leaves twelve-year-old Noah questioning everything he thought he knew.



Shinji Takahashi and the Mark of the Coatl, by Julie Kagawa

To free himself from an ancient curse, thirteen-year-old Shinji Takahashi must team up with a secret organization of explorers, find a magical font hidden in the jungles of Mexico, and replace a stolen idol.



The Last Mapmaker, by Christina Soontornvat

Joining an expedition to chart the southern seas, twelve-year-old mapmaker's assistant Sai, posing as a well-bred young lady with a glittering future, realizes she's not the only one on board harboring secrets when she discovers the ship's true destination.



Miles Morales Shock Waves: a Spider-Man graphic novel, by Justin Reynolds

Miles Morales is a normal kid who happens to juggle school at Brooklyn Visions Academy while swinging through the streets of Brooklyn as Spider-Man.



The Patron Thief of Bread, by Lindsay Eagar

Told in alternating viewpoints, this timeless tale of love, self-discovery, and what it means to be rescued follows eight-year-old Duck, a thief who becomes a baker's apprentice, and an old and ugly gargoyle who grows tired of waiting to fulfill his destiny.



Maya and the Rising Dark, by Rena Barron

A twelve-year-old girl discovers her father is the keeper of the gateway between our world and The Dark, and when he goes missing she'll need to unlock her own powers and fight a horde of spooky creatures set on starting a war.



Charlie Hernandez and the League of Shadows, by Ryan

Calejo

Steeped in Hispanic folklore since childhood, middle schooler Charlie Hernandez learns the stories are true when, shortly after his parents disappearance, he grows horns and feathers and finds himself at the heart of a battle to save the world.



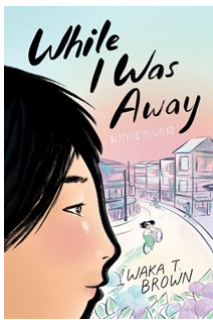
The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez, by Adrianna Cuevas

A Cuban-American boy must use his ability to communicate with animals to save the inhabitants of his town when they are threatened by a witch that transforms into animals.



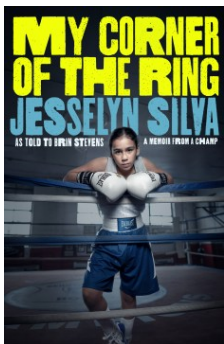
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BIOGRAPHIES



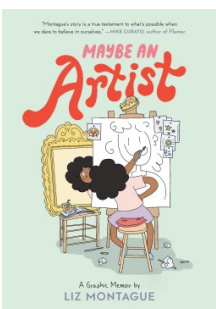
While I Was Away, by Waka Takahashi Brown

When Waka's mother suspects her twelve-year-old daughter can't understand basic Japanese, she makes a drastic decision to ship Waka to Tokyo to live with her strict grandmother and reconnect with the culture and master the language. Goodbye friends, end-of-sixth-grade parties, and fun, and goodbye summer vacation. Plucked from her straight-A-student life in rural Kansas and sent halfway across the globe, where her reading levels are embarrassingly low, Waka embarks on what feels like the hardest five months of her life.



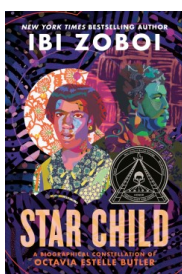
My Corner of the Ring, by Jesselyn Silva

In this inspirational memoir, twelve-year-old Jesselyn Silva offers a ringside seat to girl power and what it takes to win in the ring and in life: punch by punch. *My Corner of the Ring* shows kids what it means to be true to yourself and stick with your dreams even when facing adversity and ridicule.



Maybe An Artist, by Elizabeth Montague

A graphic novel memoir by one of the first Black female cartoonists to be published in the *New Yorker*, at the age of 22. This is her story from the age 5 through 22, how she navigated life in her predominantly white New Jersey town, overcame severe dyslexia through art, excelled as a track star and found her calling in life



Star Child: a biographical constellation of Octavia Estelle Butler, by Ibi Zoboi

Born into the Space Race, the Red Scare, and the dawning Civil Rights Movement, Butler experienced an American childhood that shaped her into the groundbreaking science-fiction storyteller whose novels continue to challenge and delight readers fifteen years after her death.



Play Like a Girl: a graphic memoir, by Misty Wilson

Debut author Misty Wilson chronicles her seventh-grade experience as the only girl on her town's football team in this empowering graphic memoir about teamwork, friendship, crushes, and touchdowns.



Series



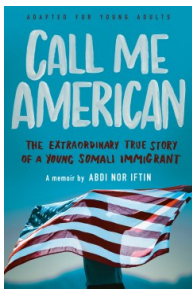
Novel in Verse



Award Winner

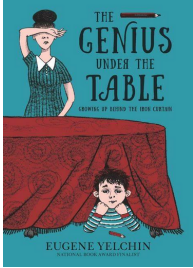


LGBTQ Interest



Call Me American (adapted for young adults), by Abdi Iftin

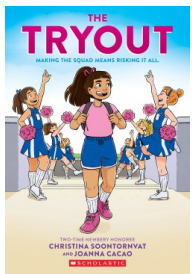
Follows one boy's journey into young adulthood, against the backdrop of civil war and his ultimate immigration to America in search of a better life. Abdi shares every part of his journey, and his courageous account reminds readers that everyone deserves the chance to build a brighter future for themselves.



The Genius Under the Table: growing up behind the Iron Curtain,

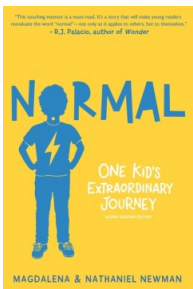
by Eugene Yelchin

Drama, family secrets, and a KGB spy in his own kitchen! How will Yevgeny ever fulfill his parents' dream that he become a national hero when he doesn't even have his own room? In the tiny apartment he shares with his Baryshnikov-obsessed mother, poetry-loving father, continually outraged grandmother, and talented brother, all Yevgeny has is his little pencil, the underside of a massive table, and the doodles that could change everything.



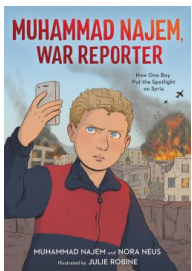
The Tryout, by Christina Soontornvat

As one of the only Asian Americans in her school, Christina confronts both well-meaning ignorance and cruel racism, but in middle school fitting in is important, which is why she and her best friend Megan are both excited and nervous to try out for the popular cheerleading squad.



Normal: One Kid's Extraordinary Journey, by Magdalena M. Newman

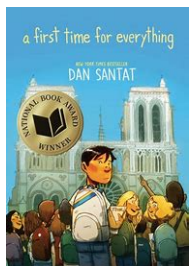
Nathaniel Newman and his mother, Magda, tell the story of his growing up with Treacher Collins Syndrome (the same craniofacial syndrome as the boy from 'Wonder'), from facing sixty-seven surgeries before the age of fifteen, to making friends, moving across the country, and persevering through hardships.



Muhammad Najem, War Reporter, by Muhammad

Najem

A graphic memoir by young Syrian Muhammad Najem, who rose to international notoriety during the Syrian Civil War due to his on-the-ground reporting using social media.



A First Time for Everything, by Dan Santat

Best-selling author and Caldecott Medalist

Santat shares his life-changing middle school trip to Europe during which he experiences a series of firsts, including first love.



Click on book cover to link to Sora ebook and audiobook, if available.