



READING GUIDE
Grades 6 - 8

Table of Contents



Page Turners	4
Great Graphic Novels	7
If You Loved Wings of Fire... Read Alikes	11
Read With Your Ears	12
Captivating Characters	14
Fantasy & Science Fiction	18
Must-Not-Miss Titles	21
Ready for YA	24
Reading Log & Reviews	25
Summer Reading Activities	38
Resources	47



Dear Reader,

Summer is a great time to explore all sorts of amazing books! You don't have to worry about homework or required reading from school and if you sign up for a reading challenge through your local library or a local organization, you'll even get a chance to earn prizes for all the reading you're doing!

But, sometimes it's hard to figure out exactly what you want to read. And that's where this reading guide comes in handy. Within these pages you'll find 50 suggestions of amazing books for kids entering sixth through eighth grade. Some of these books might grab your attention right away and others you may never pick up. And that's okay. There's a book out there for everyone (and usually more than one!).

So take some time to look through some of these suggestions, find a few that interest you and then head to your local library or independent bookstore to pick them up! If you need help from a librarian or bookseller, there's a useful how-to towards the back of the guide that can help you feel a little more prepared to ask for help (I know, sometimes it feels a little overwhelming!).

Beyond the curated list of book titles, I've also included some really fun book logs and book review pages that you can print out at home to keep track of your reading this summer. I've also included a section on goal setting and a worksheet on creating your own reading goals. And, if you want your own reading challenge - there's a bunch of different options in this guide - try the rainbow challenge to read books with different color covers or the book and movie challenge to read and watch movie adaptations or even a book bingo!

However you choose to read this summer, I hope you find some amazing books that speak to you!

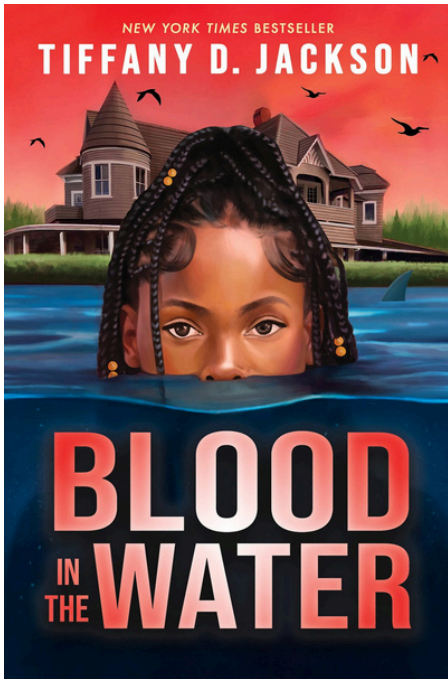
Happy Reading,

Laura

This summer reading guide contains affiliate links, meaning I'll receive a commission if you purchase through my links, at no extra cost. Please read the [full disclosure](#) for more information.

Page Turners

Looking for something fast-paced that pulls you in?
Check out these titles!



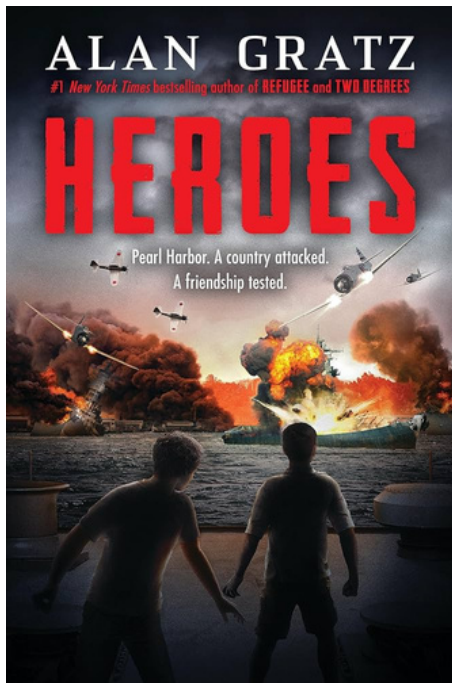
Blood In the Water by Tiffany D. Jackson

Brooklyn girl Kaylani McKinnon feels like a fish out of water. She's spending the summer with family friends in their huge house on Martha's Vineyard, and the vibe is definitely snooty. Still, there are beautiful beaches, lots of ice cream, and a town full of fascinating Black history. Until the shocking death of a popular teenage boy rocks the community to its core. Was it a drowning? A shark attack? Or the unthinkable--murder? Kaylani is determined to solve the mystery. But her investigation leads her to uncover shocking secrets that could change her *own* life as she knows it... if she survives.

Cincinnati Lee, Curse Breaker by Heidi Heilig

Cincinnati Lee's great great (great?) grandfather is famous. His adventures discovering ancient artifacts have been made into movies, and his work is widely respected by museums across the world. The thing is, in that line of work, you're bound to get cursed. And that leaves your great great (great?) granddaughter to break the curse by returning the artifacts you "preserved."





Heroes by Alan Gratz

December 6, 1941: Best friends Frank and Stanley have it good. With their dads stationed at the Pearl Harbor naval base in Hawaii, the boys get to soak up the sunshine while writing and drawing their own comic books. World War II might be raging overseas, but so far America has stayed out of the fight. There's nothing to fear, right?

December 7th, 1941: Everything implodes.

Frank and Stanley are touring a battleship when Japanese planes zoom overhead, dropping bomb after bomb. As explosions roar and sailors scream, Frank and Stanley realize the unthinkable is happening: Japan is attacking America!



One Wrong Step by Jennifer A. Nielsen

For a climber, letting go means certain death. For Atlas, it means something even worse. But he'll have to learn how to let go and look up if he ever wants to see the top...

Twelve-year-old Atlas Wade has been trying to forget the memory of his mother by climbing mountains ever since she died when he was nine years old. When his father signs them up for an expedition group hoping to be the first to ever summit the unconquerable Mount Everest, Atlas can't wait for the chance to prove himself to his father, and maybe finally he can leave his mother behind him on the mountain.



Paradise on Fire by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Addy is haunted by the tragic fire that killed her parents, leaving her to be raised by her grandmother. Years later, Addy's grandmother has enrolled her in a summer wilderness program. Deep in the forest the kids learn new (and to them) strange skills: camping, hiking, rock climbing, and how to start and safely put out campfires. Most important, they learn to depend upon each other for companionship and survival. But then comes a devastating forest fire...



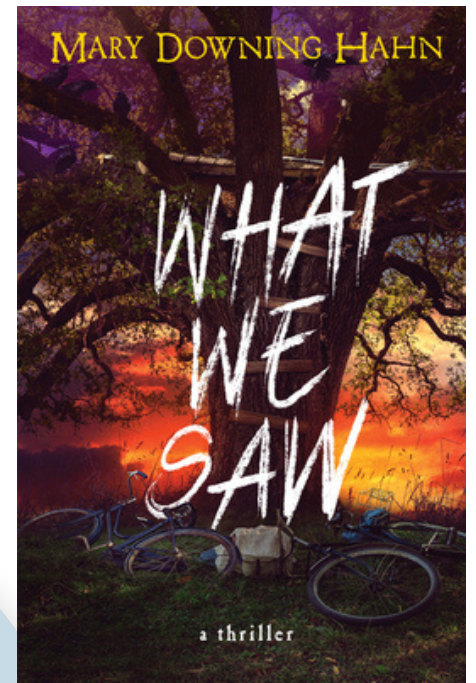
Vanya and the Wild Hunt by Sangu Mandanna

Eleven-year-old Vanya Vallen has always felt like she doesn't fit in. She's British-Indian, her parents won't talk about their pasts, and she has ADHD. Oh, and she talks to books. More importantly, the books talk back.



What Fell From the Sky by Adrianna Cuevas

Set in 1950s Texas, Pineda Matlage hides an alien in his family's barn, and with the help of friends, tries to help her despite the disruptive presence of soldiers using the town for a covert operation to capture and study aliens.



What We Saw by Mary Downing Hahn

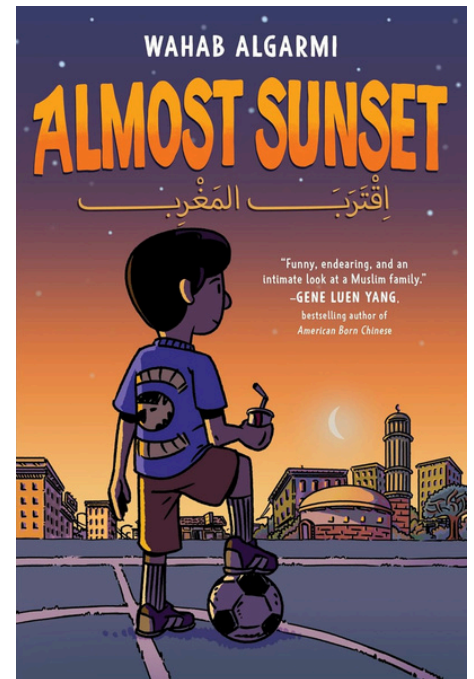
A chilling murder mystery lies at the heart of this page-turning thriller about a missing teacher, small town secrets, and turbulent friendships.

Great Graphic Novels

For fans of the format, try any one of these amazing stories with words and illustrations interconnected!

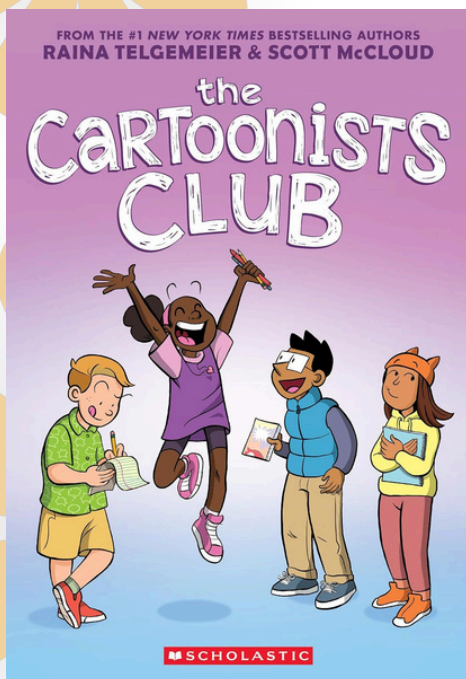
Almost Sunset by Wahab Algarmi

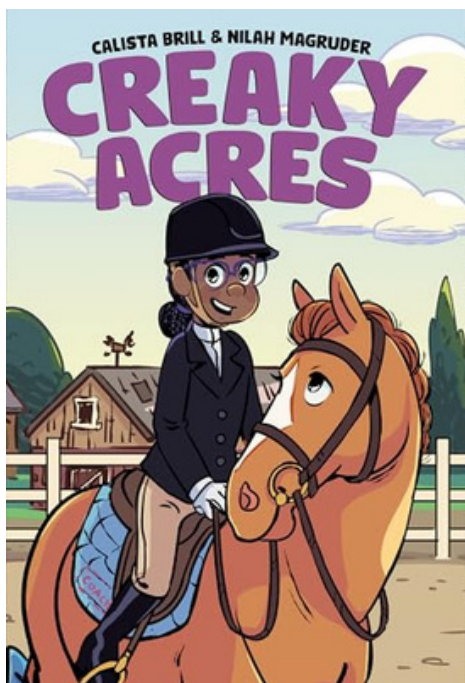
It's almost sunset, and Hassan has been dreaming about eating since the sun came up. The month of Ramadan has begun, and not eating until sundown intensifies his already busy days full of homework, soccer, and gaming. And since his teachers and friends at school barely understand Ramadan and its traditions, it's easier to just...not mention it. Can Hassan balance it all during the hectic holy month—faith, tradition, school, and fun, too?



The Cartoonists Club by Raina Telgemeier & Scott McCloud

Makayla is bursting with ideas but doesn't know how to make them into a story. Howard loves to draw, but he struggles to come up with ideas and his dad thinks comics are a waste of time. Lynda constantly draws in her sketchbook but keeps focusing on what she feels are mistakes, and Art simply loves being creative and is excited to try something new. They come together to form The Cartoonists Club





Creaky Acres by Calista Brill and Nilah Magruder

Nora is a prize-winning horseback rider in a suburban area, with a tight-knit circle of best friends. But when her mom gets a prestigious new job in a poor, rural area, she has to adjust to a lot of change: to being the only Black kid in a new class and to a new barn called Creaky Acres, where her beloved horse, Hay Fever, will make his new home.

It's there she meets geeky Laura, goofy Wilson, and fearless Dizzy. With her ragtag team of equestrians, Nora learns it's okay to stand out and steps into her power as a leader, realizing that being a rider isn't just about winning—or maybe that winning just might look different than what she'd thought.



Dracula's Brunch Club by Brian Gonsar

Count Dracula is not your average vampire. Well, sure, he's undead, hates garlic, and will burn up in sunlight—but unlike other vampires, he has a knack for baking. And it's his brunch club's famous blood-orange-jelly donuts that give his fellow vampires the energy source they need to live forever. But when Transylvania experiences a mysterious jelly shortage, it allows his nemesis, Constantine, to swoop in and steal the brunch club—and the vampires' loyalty—from Dracula. But it's not just jelly donuts at stake. When townsfolk start to go missing, Dracula suspects Constantine has far more sinister motives lurking that could threaten everything vampires and humans have worked for.

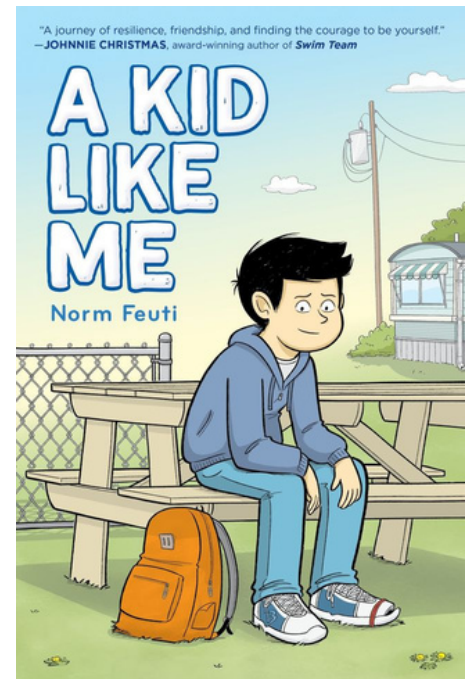


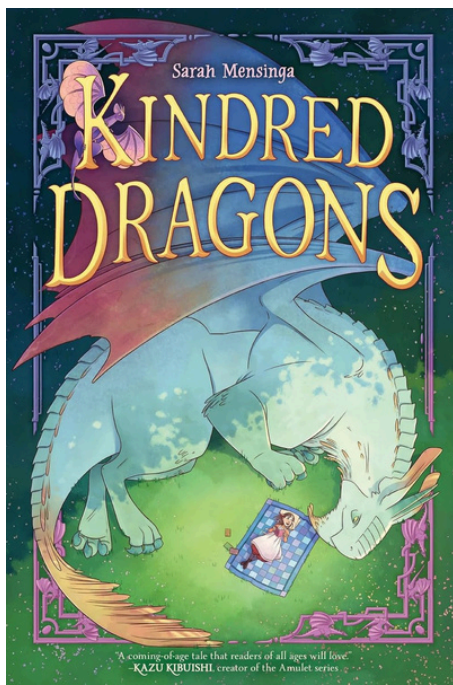
The Firelight Apprentice by Bree Paulsen

In a city powered by magic and still recovering from a bloody war, Ada is concerned about her younger sister Safi's developing powers. She understands that Safi could learn how to control her magic under the apprenticeship of a king's magician. But with the memories of war still fresh, Ada is conflicted by this prospect. When a traveling group of magicians comes to the city to perform, they offer to train Safi, but Ada is right to worry about her sister, for there may be monsters hiding behind friendly faces...

A Kid Like Me by Norm Feuti

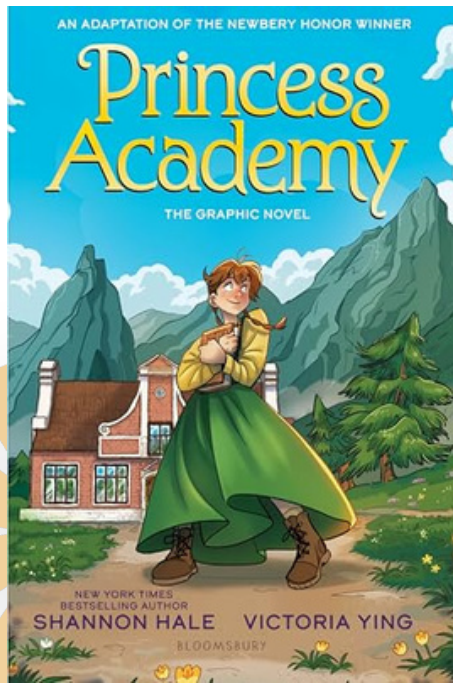
Ethan doesn't want to stand out, he just wants to fit in. But fitting in is tough when your peers call out your ancient cell phone, busted backpack, and discount clothing. To make matters worse, his best friend, Ricky, insists on hanging out with a group of guys who just don't get him . . . they're more interested in playing pranks than playing his favorite card game Bio Battle. Things start looking up, though, when Ethan befriends Aiden, a new kid in school, but it's only matter of time before even that goes sideways. Can Ethan figure out where he belongs without forgetting who he is and who he wants to be?





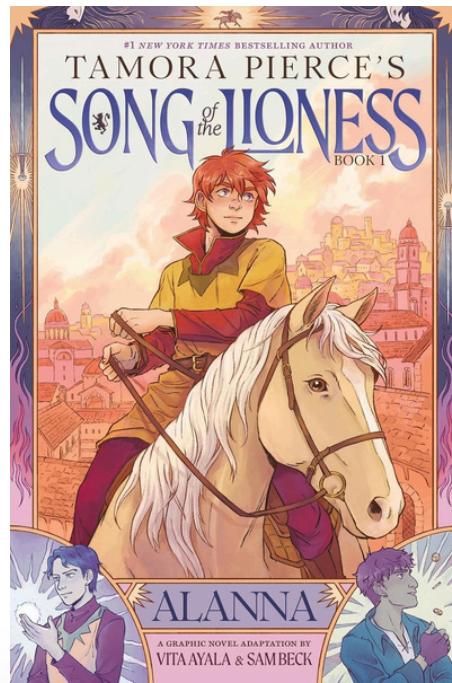
Kindred Dragons by Sarah Mensinga

Alice has been sent her to Prince Edward Island to live with her strict grandmother. Alice is fanciful, prone to telling tall tales, and absolutely OBSESSED with dragons! Fairies deliver dragon eggs to a select few, but no egg has ever arrived for Alice. While wandering the woods alone, she finds and secretly befriends a mysterious old dragon named Brim. Alice is excited to finally have a dragon friend of her own, but when Brim suddenly falls ill, Alice must set out on a desperate quest to save him.



Princess Academy by Shannon Hale

While attending a strict academy for potential princesses with the other girls from her mountain village, fourteen-year-old Miri discovers unexpected talents and connections to her homeland.



Song of the Lioness by Tamora Pierce

Alanna isn't like other girls from noble families-what she really wants is to become a knight and earn her shield. But Alanna will not be deterred, and she arrives in the capital disguised as a boy to begin training as a page.



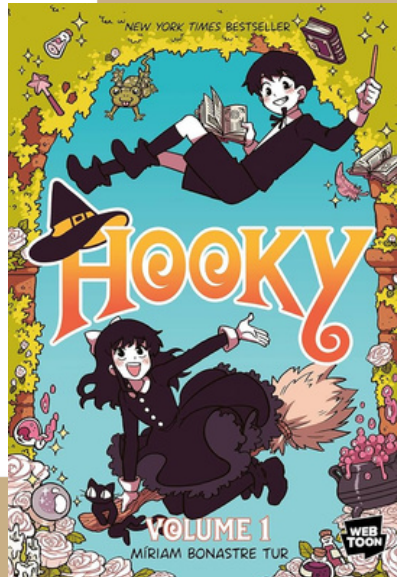
Space Chasers by Leland Melvin and Joe Caramagna

When a team of brilliant kids-turned-astronauts find themselves in serious trouble in outer space, they must work together to get back home. Find out what they learn and if they get back...



If You Loved *Wings of Fire*...

Try these!



Dreamslinger by Graci Kim
14-year-old Aria Loveridge lives at the Resthaven Home for Dreamslingers, a safe haven for children born with a genetic mutation that transports them to a powerfully magical realm while they sleep. But this magic can be unpredictable--even deadly.

Hooky by Miriam Bonastre Tur
When Dani and Dorian missed the bus to magic school, they never thought they'd wind up declared traitors to their own kind! Now, thanks to a series of mishaps, they are being chased by powerful magic families.

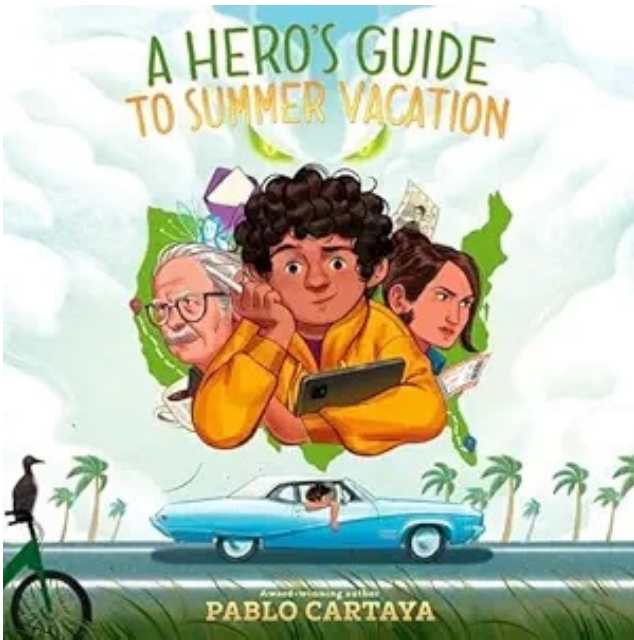
Lightningborn by Julie Kagawa
In a world in the clouds where only the rich own dragons, a poor boy named Remy finds a wild baby dragon--believed to be extinct--and becomes the focus of an evil pirate's vengeance.

Read With your Ears

Sometimes it's just nice to listen to someone read a story and these titles are even better as audiobooks.

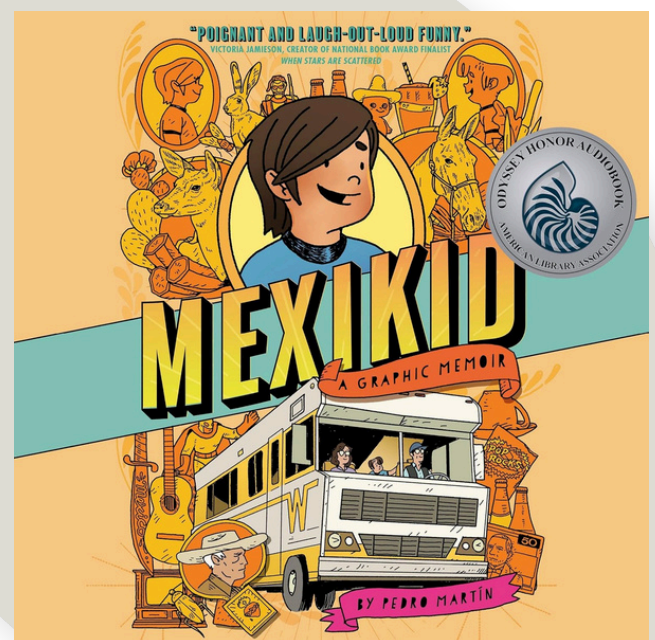
A Hero's Guide to Summer Vacation by Pablo Cartaya

Gonzalo Alberto Sánchez García has never considered himself the hero of his own story. He's an observer, quietly snapshotting landscapes and drawing the creatures he imagines emerging from them. Forced to spend the summer with his estranged grandfather, Alberto William García—the very famous reclusive author—Gonzalo doesn't expect to learn that heroes and monsters are not only the stuff of fantasy.



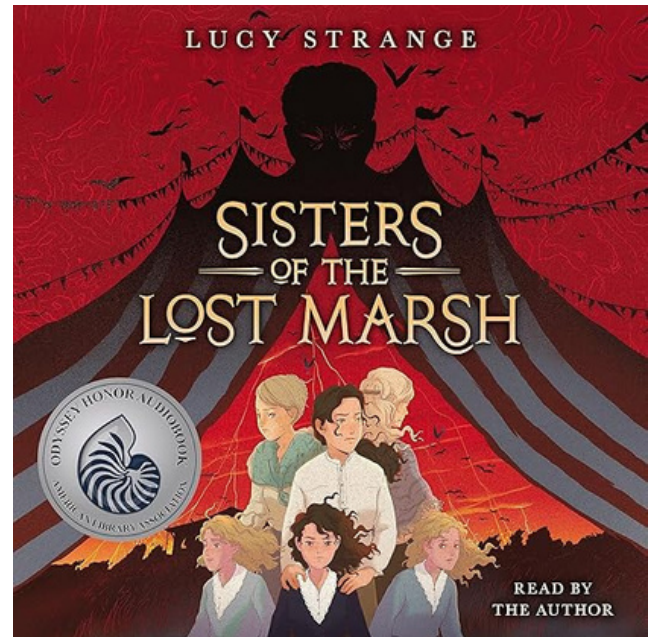
Mexikid by Pedro Martín

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 at the news that Abuelito is coming to live with their family. After all, Pedro has 8 brothers and sisters and the house is crowded enough! 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, one filled with laughs and heartache.



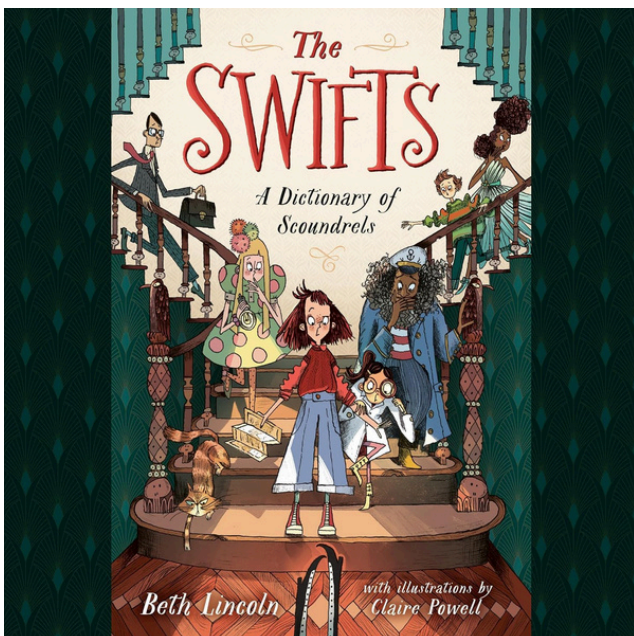
Sisters of the Lost Marsh by Lucy Strange

On a poor farm surrounded by marshlands, six sisters live in fear of their father and the superstition that haunts him: The Curse of the Six Daughters. Their beloved grandmother tries to protect them, but the future seems bleak. When the Full Moon Fayre makes a rare visit, the girls slip out to see the famous puppeteer. Afterwards, oldest sister Grace is missing. Following the Full Moor Fayre into the Lost Marsh, Willa will have to battle her inner doubts and the legends that have haunted her family. Can she save her sister from one fate, and outrun her own?



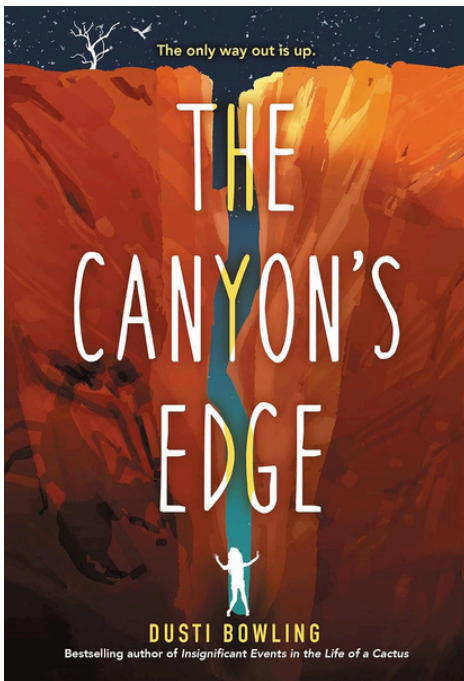
The Swifts: A Dictionary of Scoundrels by Beth Lincoln

On the day they are born, every Swift child is brought before the sacred Family Dictionary. They are given a name, and a definition. A definition it is assumed they will grow up to match. Shenanigan is getting ready for the big Swift Family Reunion and plotting her next great scheme: hunting for Grand-Uncle Vile's long-lost treasure. She's excited to finally meet her arriving relatives—until one of them gives Arch-Aunt Schadenfreude a deadly shove down the stairs.



Captivating Characters

Sometimes it's just nice to listen to someone read a story and these titles are even better as audiobooks.

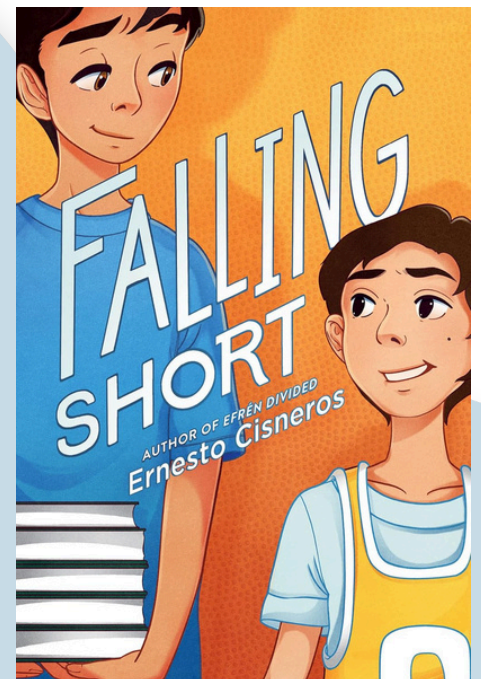


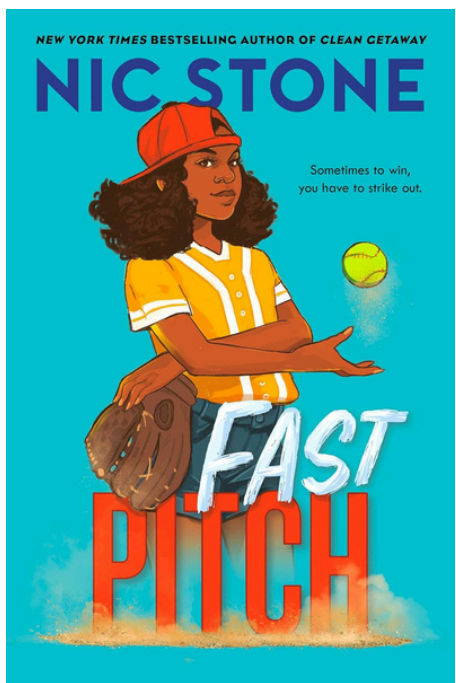
The Canyon's Edge by Dusti Bowling

Nora and her father are exploring a slot canyon deep in the Arizona desert when the unthinkable happens: A flash flood rips across their path, sweeping away Nora's father and all of their supplies. Suddenly, Nora finds herself lost and alone in the desert, facing dehydration, deadly snakes, venomous scorpions, and, worst of all, the Beast who has terrorized her dreams for the past year. If Nora is going to save herself and her father, she must conquer her fears, defeat the Beast, and find the courage to live her new life.

Falling Short by Ernesto Cisneros

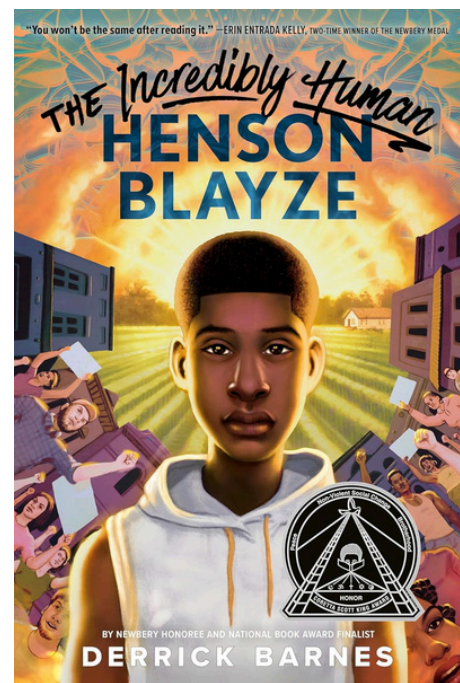
Isaac and Marco already know sixth grade is going to change their lives. But it won't change things at home—not without each other's help. This year, star basketball player Isaac plans on finally keeping up with his schoolwork. Better grades will surely stop Isaac's parents from arguing all the time. Meanwhile, straight-A Marco vows on finally winning his father's approval by earning a spot on the school's basketball team. But will their friendship and support for each other be enough to keep the two boys from falling short?





Fast Pitch by Nic Stone

Shenice Lockwood, captain of the Fulton Firebirds, is hyper-focused when she steps up to the plate. Nothing can stop her from leading her team to the U12 fast-pitch softball regional championship. But life has thrown some curveballs her way. Strike one: As the sole team of all-brown faces, Shenice and the Firebirds have to work twice as hard to prove that Black girls belong at bat. Strike two: Shenice's focus gets shaken when her great-uncle Jack reveals that a career-ending—and family-name-ruining—crime may have been a setup. Strike three: Broken focus means mistakes on the field. And Shenice's teammates are beginning to wonder if she's captain-qualified.



The Incredibly Human Henson Blayze by Derrick Barnes

In the small town of Great Mountain, Mississippi, all eyes are on Henson Blayze, a thirteen-year-old football phenom whose talents seem almost superhuman. The predominately white townsfolk have been waiting for Henson to play high school ball, and now they're overjoyed to finally possess an elite Black athlete of their own. Until a horrifying incident forces Henson to speak out about injustice. Until he says that he might not play football anymore. Until he quickly learns he isn't as loved by the people as he thought.

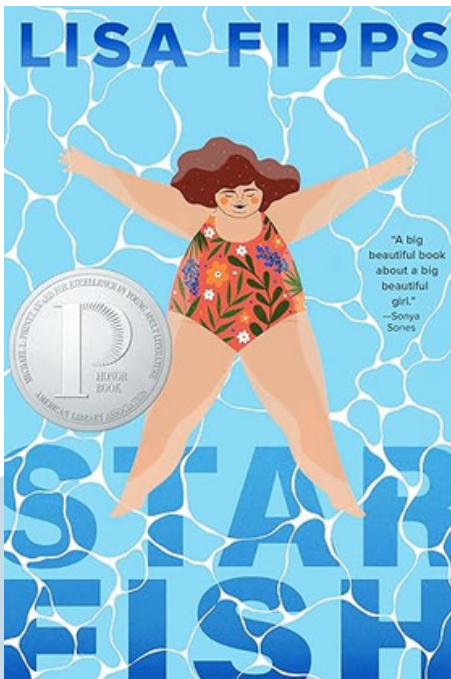
Kestrel Takes Flight by Joy McCullough

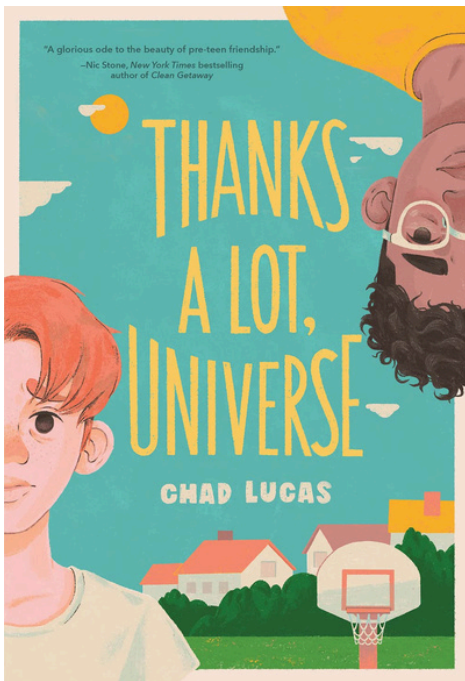
Kestrel doesn't feel much like the fierce bird for which she is named. Not after being rushed away from her grandfather's strict church community to the wilds of Montana. Her mother has gotten a job at a conservation institute, where she'll work with a special breed of dog to help make interactions between humans and bears safer. At first, Kes is terrified of the dogs and angry at her mother for ripping her from the only world she's known. But with some distance from her grandfather, she starts to understand how badly his bark hurt. In this new terrain, can Kestrel discover a safe place to spread her wings and soar?



Starfish by Lisa Fipps

Ellie has been bullied about her weight since she was five. To cope, she tries to live by the Fat Girl Rules—like "no making waves," "avoid eating in public," and "don't move so fast that your body jiggles." And she's found her safe space—her swimming pool—where she feels weightless in a fat-obsessed world. In the water, she can stretch herself out like a starfish and take up all the room she wants. Fortunately, Ellie has allies in her dad, her therapist, and her new neighbor, Catalina, who loves Ellie for who she is. With this support buoying her, Ellie might finally be able to cast aside the Fat Girl Rules and starfish in real life--by unapologetically being her own fabulous self.





Thanks A Lot, Universe by Chad Lucas

Brian starts having panic attacks after being placed in foster care.

Ezra's always been popular, but now, some of his friends have been acting differently, and Brian seems to be pulling away. Ezra wants to help, but he worries if he's too nice to Brian, his friends will realize that he has a crush on him...

But when Brian and his brother run away, Ezra has no choice but to take the leap and reach out. Both boys have to decide if they're willing to risk sharing parts of themselves they'd rather hide. But if they can be brave, they might just find the best in themselves—and each other.



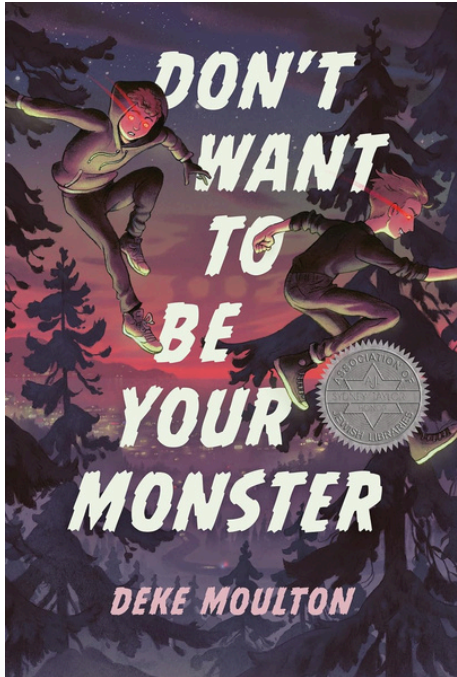
When Sea Becomes Sky by Gillian McDunn

Bex and Davey's summer in the saltmarsh is different this year, thanks to the record-breaking drought. When they discover a mysterious underwater statue, they're thrilled at the chance to solve the puzzle of its origin.

When they learn of a development plan that will destroy their special spot, they'll need to act quickly. As Bex and Davey attempt to save the statue and their beloved marsh, they come to see that the truth is not as simple as it seems . . . ultimately discovering so much more about life, permanence, love, and loss than they ever expected.

Fantasy & Science Fiction

Whether you're looking to add some magic or look into the future, these books are for you!



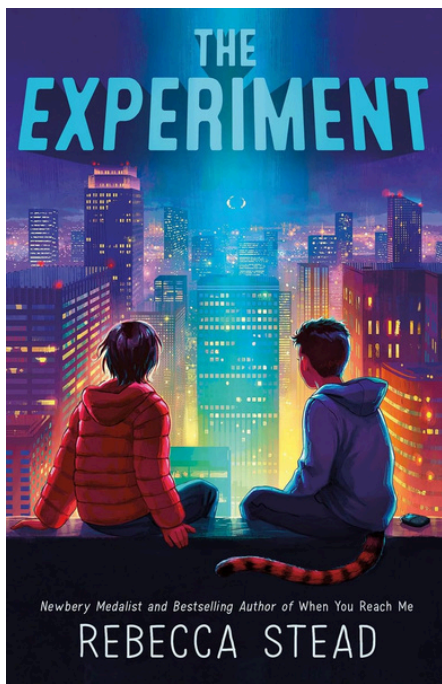
Don't Want To Be Your Monster by Deke Moulton

Adam and Victor are brothers who have the usual fights over the remote or which movie to watch. And they're vampires, hiding in plain sight. Adam knows he has a better purpose in his life (well, immortal life) than just drinking blood, but Victor wants to accept his own self-image of vampirism. Everything changes when bodies start to appear all over town, and it becomes clear that a vampire hunter may be on the lookout for the family. Can Adam and Victor reconcile their differences and work together to stop the killer before it's too late?

An Encantadora's Guide to Monstros & Magic by Sarah J. Mendonca

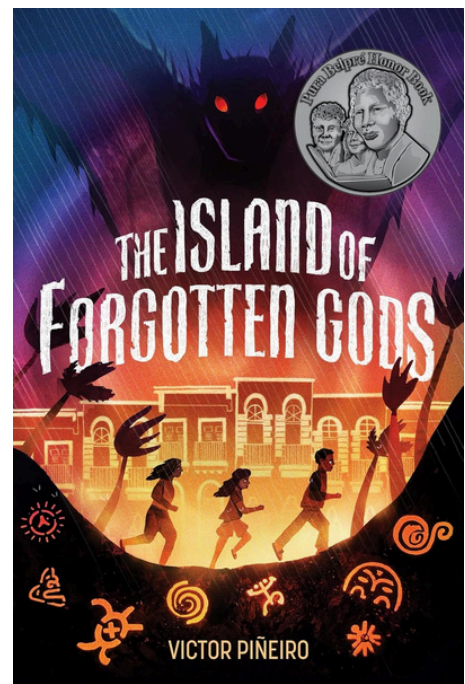
Rosa Coelho dreams of a better life for herself and her grandmother. So when the powerful Ministério dos Monstros threatens her family's struggling Encantadora shop, Rosa only has two weeks to scrape together the money for their debts. It seems like an impossible task... until Rosa tricks her way onto an infamous thief crew as their magical safecracker. Thrust into their world, Rosa is pulled into a scheme with the highest possible stakes: stealing from the Ministry itself. She must learn to trust her magical abilities and her crew—for if the heist goes wrong, everything she loves is forfeit.





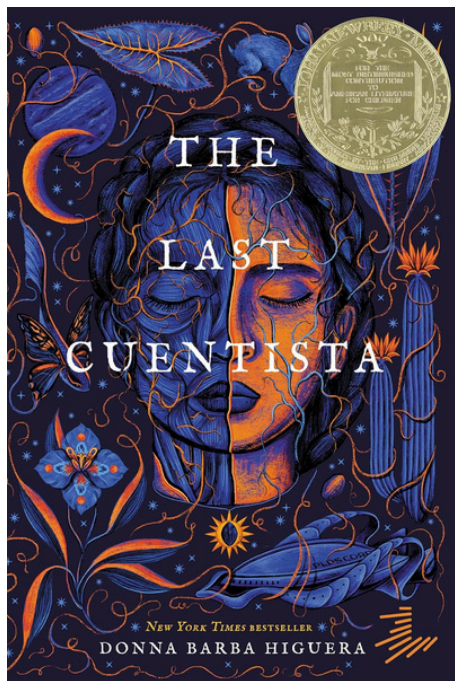
The Experiment by Rebecca Stead

Nathan never understood what was "fun" about secrets, probably because he's always had to keep a very big one. Although he appears to be a typical sixth-grader (with parents, homework and a best friend, Victor), Nathan learned at an early age that his family is from another planet. Now, their time on Earth may be coming to an end. Nathan, his parents and nine other families are part of an experiment that suddenly seems to be going wrong. Some of the experimenters, including Nathan's first crush, Izzy, are disappearing without a word. After his family is called back to the mothership, Nathan begins to question everything he's been taught to believe about who he is and why he's on Earth.



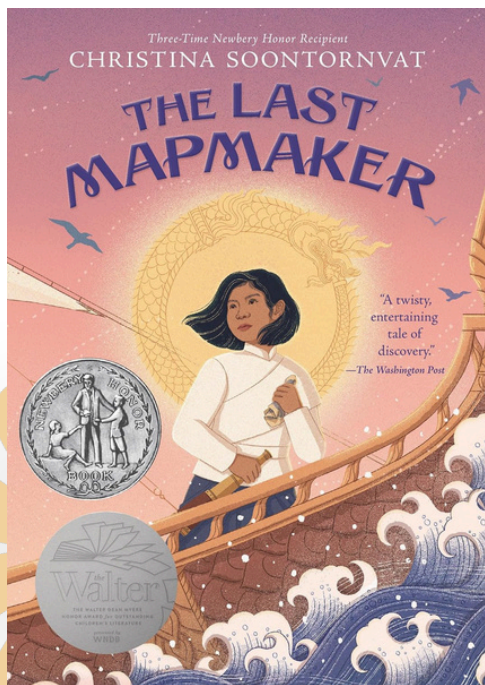
The Island of Forgotten Gods by Victor Piñero

Nico wants to be a famous film director. He's pretty sure if he can make the right movie, and soon, his life will completely change. The catch? His parents are sending him to Puerto Rico for the summer to stay with his iconic, but old-school, Abuela Luciana, and his awesome, but unpredictable cousins. Still, the show must go on. Until Nico and his cousins awaken a monster. A monster that looks an awful lot like the infamous Chupacabra. The creature begins stalking them all over Puerto Rico, turning up on every dark corner, sandy beach, and moonlit night. To make matters worse, a shadowy cult enters the chase, intent on capturing them before the Chupacabra can.



The Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera

Earth has been destroyed by a comet, and only a few hundred scientists and their children have been chosen to journey to a new planet. Hundreds of years later, Petra wakes to this new planet--and the discovery that she is the only person who remembers Earth. A sinister Collective has taken over the ship during its journey, bent on erasing the sins of humanity's past. Petra alone now carries the stories of our past, and with them, any hope for our future. Can she make them live again?



The Last Mapmaker by Christina Soontornvat

In a fantasy adventure, Christina Soontornvat explores a young woman's struggle to unburden herself of the past and chart her own destiny in a world of secrets.



Stitch by Pádraig Kenny

Stitch and his friend Henry Oaf were brought to life by the genius Professor Hardacre. But when his wicked nephew takes over the laboratory, they soon discover that the new professor's sights are set on Henry as his next experiment.



The Wild Huntsboys by Martin Stewart

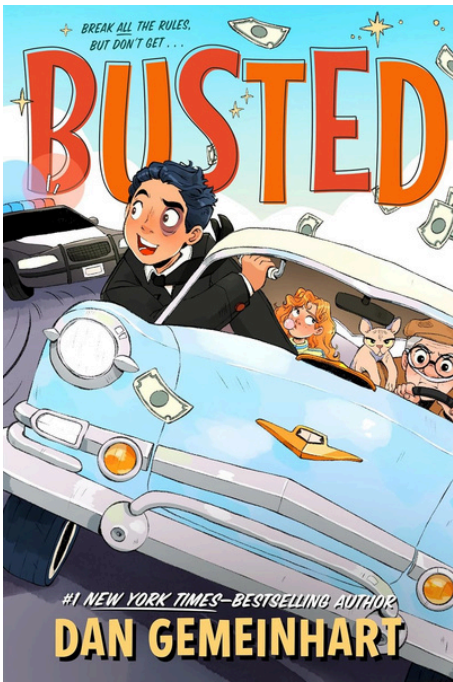
With the aid of his new friends, Luka has three days to turn his house into a fortress. But his problems are even more complicated than he thought: it's not just the faeries who are out to get the Wild Huntsboys...

Must-Not-Miss Titles

These are can't-miss titles that you've got to add to your "to be read" list right away!

Busted by Dan Gemeinhart

Oscar Aberdeen is a bit of an oddball. He's an ace at playing bridge, loves Frank Sinatra, and attends a whole lot of funerals. He's also the youngest resident of Sunny Days retirement home by more than a half-century, and he wouldn't have it any other way. So when his grandpa's served an eviction notice that threatens their home, he needs to find some cash. Enter Jimmy Deluca, a shady elderly man with a reputation, who makes Oscar an offer. He's got the drop on riches hidden away on the "outside" and he'll share the loot with Oscar on one condition: he busts him out of Sunny Days.



Concealed by Christina Diaz Gonzalez

Katrina doesn't know any of the details about her past, but she does know that she and her parents are part of the Witness Protection Program. Until their location leaks and her parents disappear. Forced to embark on a dangerous rescue mission, Katrina and her new friend Parker set out to save her parents—and find out the truth about her secret past and the people that want her family dead. Katrina must now decide if learning the whole truth is worth the price of losing everything she has ever believed about herself and her family.





Isle of Ever by Jen Calonita

Everly "Benny" Benedict and her mom have always managed to get by, though they're broke most of the time. But all that could change. Benny's just learned she's the sole heir to the vast fortune of Evelyn Terry, a mysterious ancestor from the 1800s! There's a catch, though. First Benny needs to play—and win—a game following clues that are more than a century old, she must find her way to the tiny island Evelyn wrote about in her diary. Yet Benny has only a couple weeks to locate it. If she's successful, she'll collect the inheritance. But what if there's more than a fortune at stake in this game? What if Benny has to break an ancient curse to win?

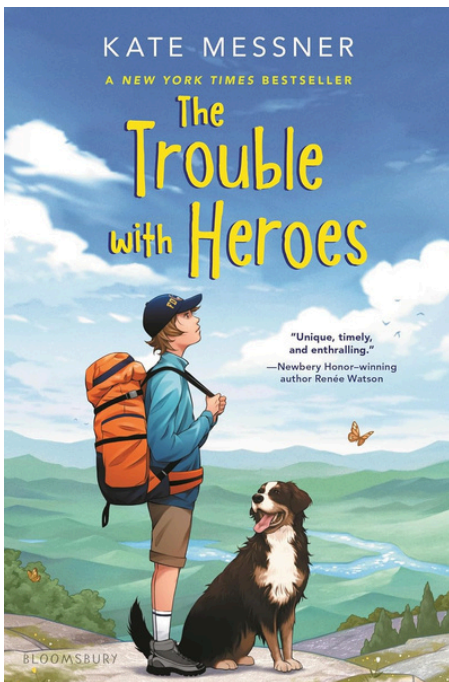


Keeping Pace by Laurie Morrison

Grace has been working for years to beat her former friend Jonah Perkins's GPA so she can be named top scholar of the eighth grade. But when Jonah beats her for the title, it feels like none of Grace's academic accomplishments have really mattered. Eager for something to occupy her days, Grace signs up for a half-marathon race that she and Jonah used to talk about running together. Jonah's running it, too. Maybe if she can beat Jonah on race day, she'll feel OK again. But as she begins training with Jonah and checking off a new list of summer goals, she starts to question what—and who—really matters to her. Is winning at all costs really worth it?

The Raconteur's Commonplace Book by Kate Milford

The rain hasn't stopped for a week, and the twelve guests of the Blue Vein Tavern are trapped by flooded roads and the rising Skidwreck River. Among them are a ship's captain, tattooed twins, a musician, and a young girl traveling on her own. To pass the time, they begin to tell stories—each a different type of folklore—that eventually reveal more about their own secrets than they intended. As the rain continues to pour down the guests begin to realize that the entire city is in danger, and not just from the flood. But they have only their stories, and one another, to save them. Will it be enough?

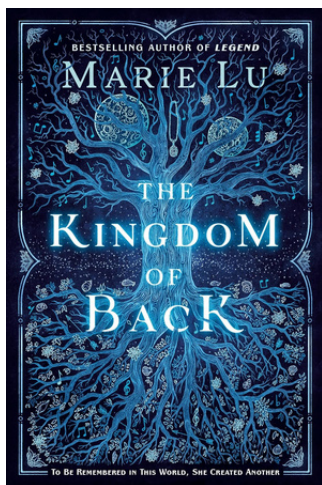


The Trouble With Heroes by Kate Messner

Finn is about to fail seventh grade and has never made headlines . . . until now. After vandalizing a gravestone, Finn agrees to climb all 46 Adirondack High Peaks in order for the charges to be dropped. In a wild three months of misadventures, mountain mud, and unexpected mentors, Finn begins to find his way on the trails. At the top of each peak, he can see for miles and slowly begins to understand more about himself and his dad. But the mountains don't care about any of that, and as the clock ticks down to September, they have more surprises in store. Finn's final summit challenge may be more than even a hero can face.

Ready for YA

Check out these three great YA titles that make a great introduction into the category!

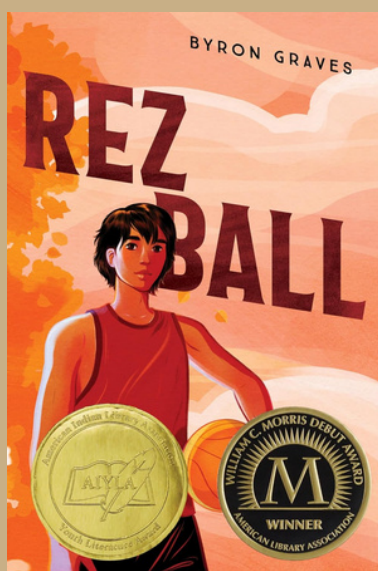


The Kingdom of Back by Marie Lu

Born with a gift for music, Nannerl Mozart has just one wish--to be remembered forever. She has little hope she'll ever become the acclaimed composer she longs to be. She is a young woman in 18th century Europe, and that means composing is forbidden to her. She will perform only until she reaches a marriageable age--her tyrannical father has made that much clear.

Perfectly Parvin by Olivia Abtahi

Parvin Mohammadi has just been dumped--only days after receiving official girlfriend status. Not only is she heartbroken, she's humiliated. Enter high school heartthrob Matty Fumero, who just might be the smoking-hot cure to all her boy problems. If Parvin can get Matty to ask her to Homecoming, she's positive it will prove to herself and her ex that she's girlfriend material after all.



Rez Ball by Byron Graves

These days, Tre Brun is happiest when he is playing basketball on the Red Lake Reservation high school team --even though he can't help but be constantly gut-punched with memories of his big brother, Jaxon, who died in an accident. When Jaxon's former teammates on the varsity team offer to take Tre under their wing, he sees this as his shot to represent his Ojibwe rez all the way to their first state championship.

Reading Logs



and Reviews

Reading GOALS

Setting reading goals is an exciting and fun way to track how your reading grows during a set amount of time. Let's learn more about setting goals and then turn the page to fill out your very own reading goals.

Try creating S.M.A.R.T. goals! Maybe you want to set a goal of reading a specific number of books, or you want to read a specific amount of time during a month, or you want to read books in different genres. Goals will look different for everyone and will change as you grow!

S - SPECIFIC - Narrow your goal down to a specific idea. How many books, pages, or minutes do you want to read?

M - MEASURABLE - How will you measure your accomplishment? In other words, how do you know you've accomplished your goal?

A - ATTAINABLE - Set goals that you can achieve, but that aren't too easy. You want them to be like Goldilocks.... just right!

R - RELEVANT - Set a reading goal that makes sense for you. For example, maybe your friend wants to read a whole series of books, but you don't really like that series. That wouldn't be a good goal for you to set.

T - TIME-BASED - Make sure to set an amount of time to achieve your goals. This could be the whole summerr, one month, or a week, but make sure to write it down!

The next page gives you a place to set the amount of time you have to reach your goals, write down your goals (you don't have to fill out all the blank lines), set a goal for a number of books, pages, or minutes if you're using those measurements, and explain why these goals are important to you. Finally, make sure to write down the action steps you'll take to achieve your goals! Let's set some reading goals!

Reading GOALS

START DATE: _____

END DATE: _____

MY READING GOALS

BOOKS		PAGES		MINUTES	
GOAL	ACTUAL	GOAL	ACTUAL	GOAL	ACTUAL

WHY ARE THESE GOALS IMPORTANT TO ME?

ACTION PLAN

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

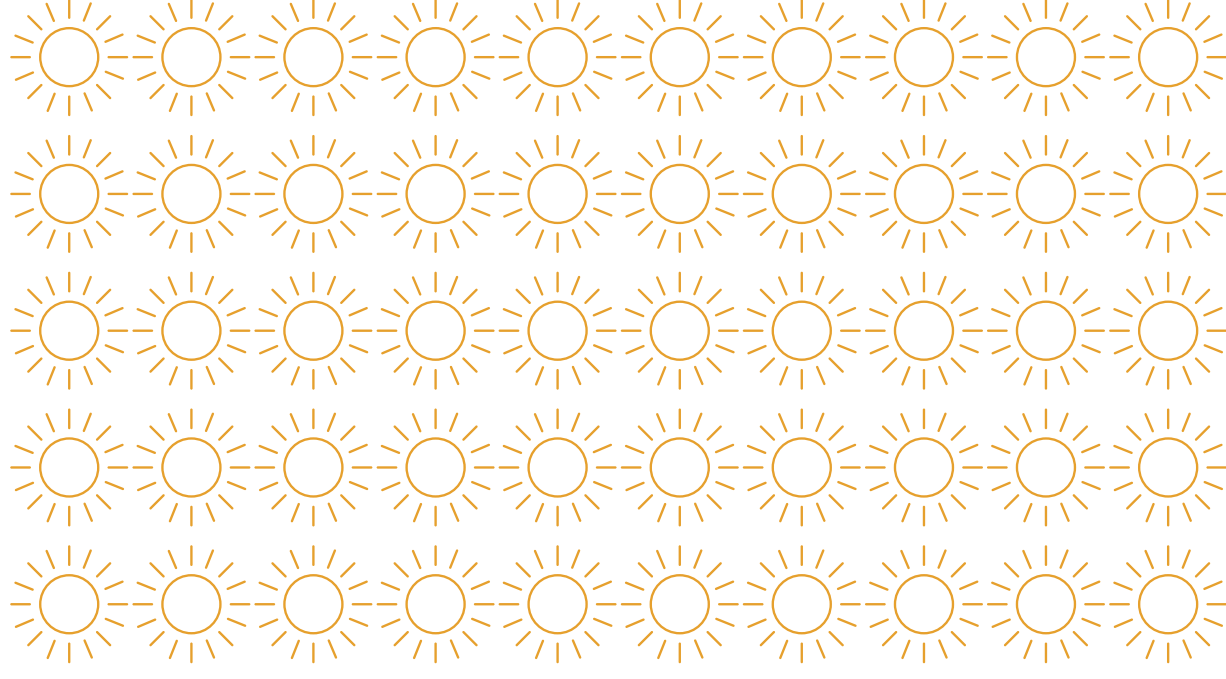
5 _____

SUMMER READING LOG

Keep track of all the great books you read this summer and rate how much you loved them!

Title

Rating



10 vertical lines for writing book titles and ratings.

GOAL: 25 BOOKS

Why not try reading 25 suggestions in the Literacious Summer Reading Guide!
Color in a box for each title you read this summer!

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25

Series TRACKER

Sometimes it's difficult to keep track of all the books you've read in a series. Write down the series name (if it has one) and author below. Then, list the titles included in the series. You can also track when you've read each title, including start and finish date, number of pages, and rating.

SERIES: _____ AUTHOR: _____

	START DATE: FINISH DATE: PAGES: 
--	--

	START DATE: FINISH DATE: PAGES: 
--	--

	START DATE: FINISH DATE: PAGES: 
--	--

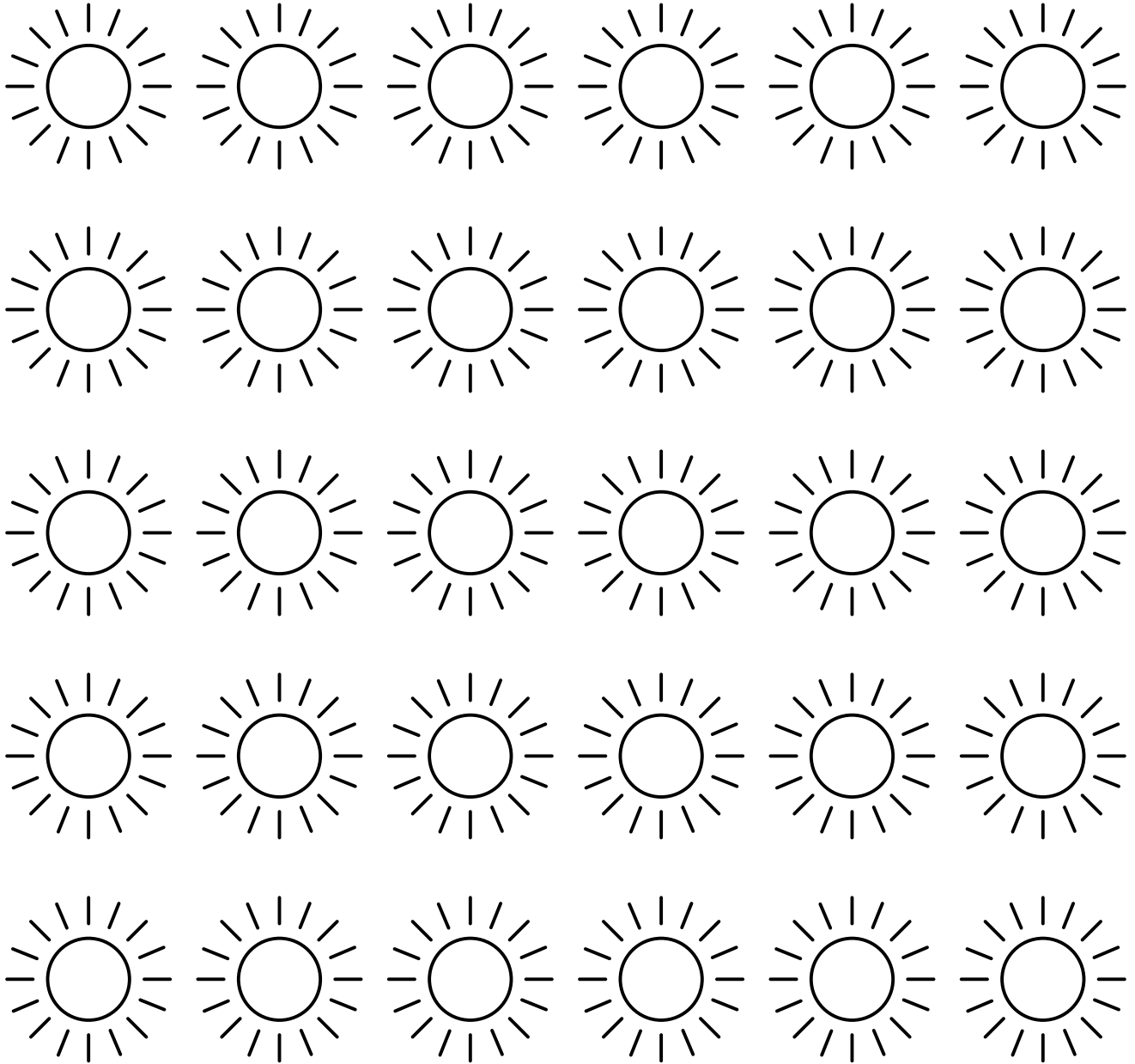
	START DATE: FINISH DATE: PAGES: 
--	--

	START DATE: FINISH DATE: PAGES: 
--	--

MONTHLY TRACKER

June

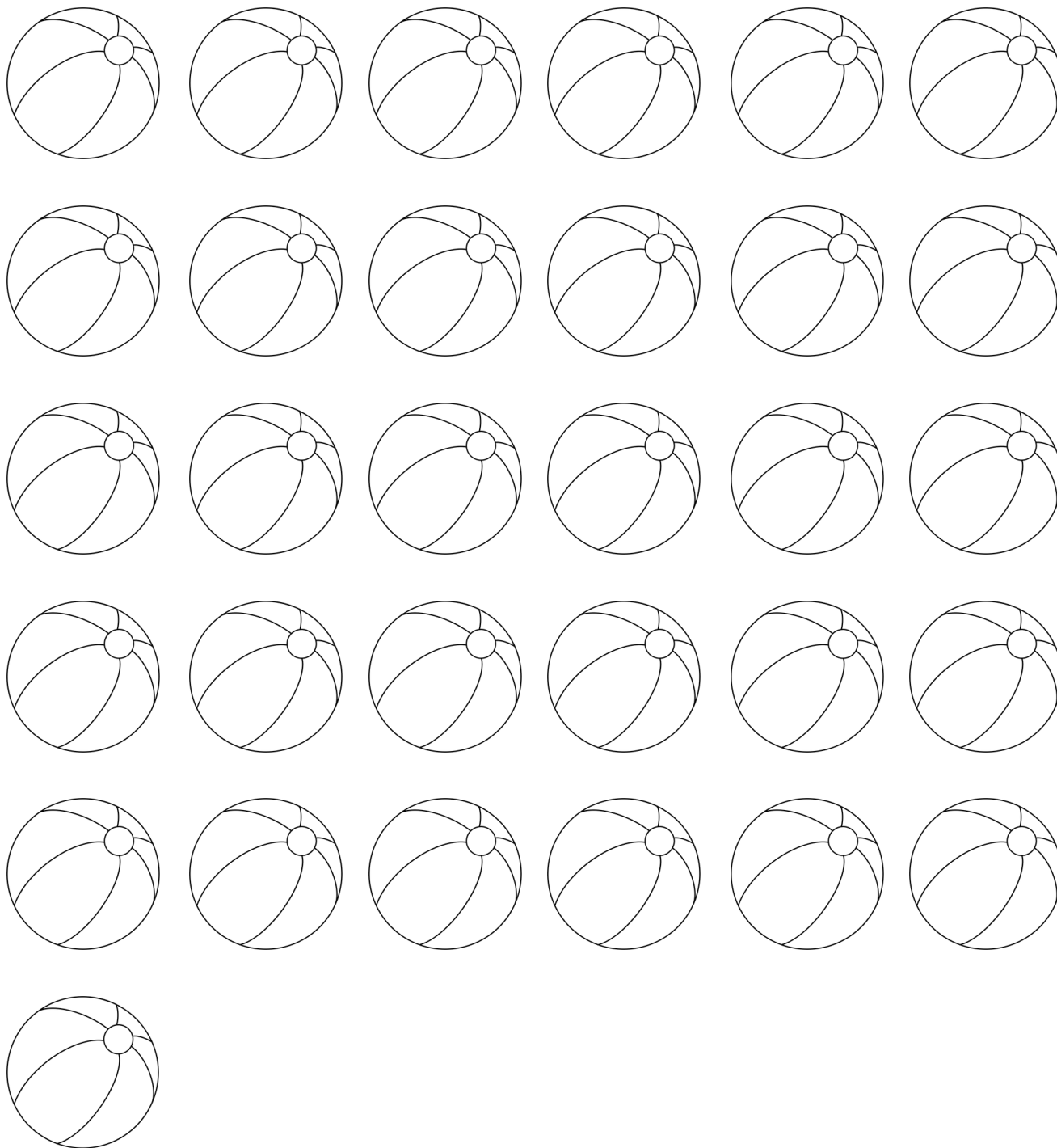
Read for 20 minutes each day in June. Track your progress by coloring in a sun for each day you read.



MONTHLY TRACKER

July

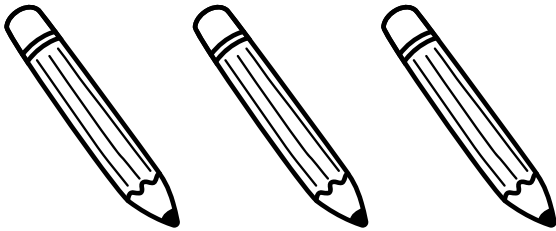
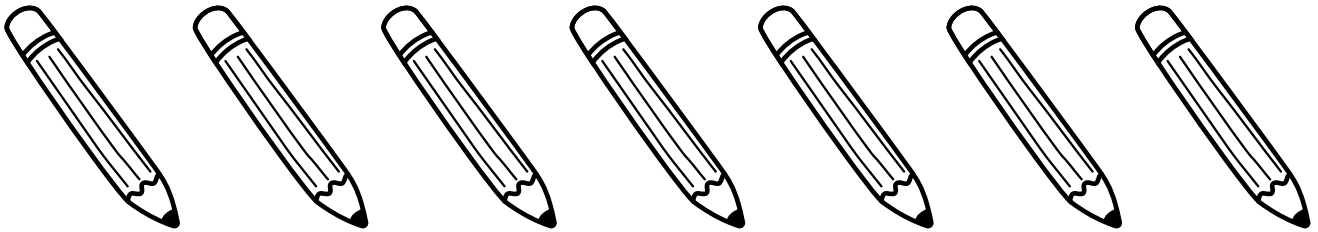
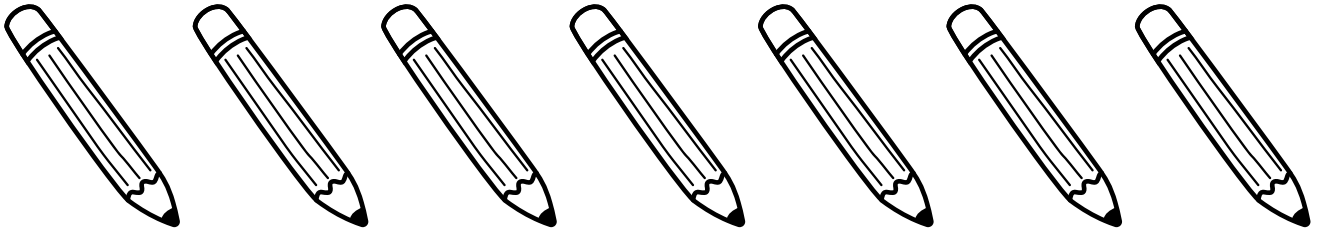
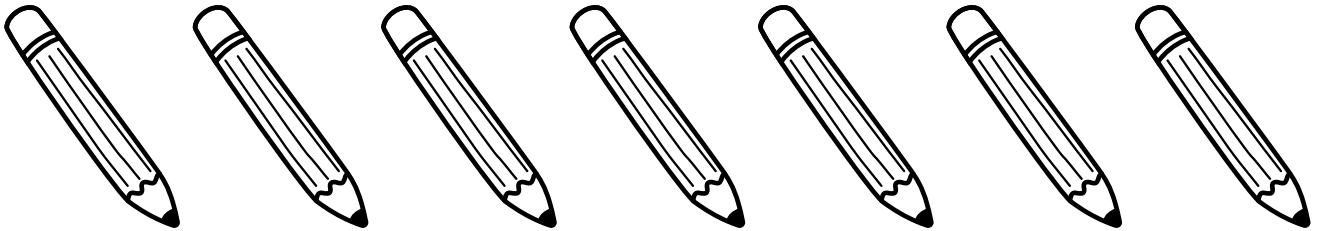
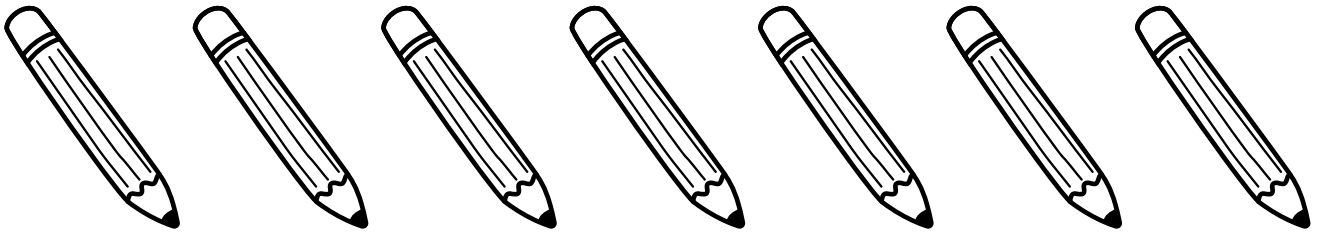
Read for 20 minutes each day in July. Track your progress by coloring in a sun for each day you read.



MONTHLY TRACKER

August









Read for 20 minutes each day in June. Track your progress by coloring in a sun for each day you read.



Book REVIEW

Want to take a moment to review the book you just finished? Use this sheet or the next to write up a quick book review. Remember, you don't have to fill out all the different parts of this worksheet - just the ones you want. I'd suggest to make sure you write down the title and then at least a rating of how many stars!

You may also want to include the genre (see the reference tools for a list of genres). You can also include the number of pages and how you read it - whether it was a typical print book, ebook, or audiobook. Circle the rating for both the characters and plots - did you like how well developed the characters were? Could you picture the setting in your mind? And finally, whether you would recommend it to a friend!

GENRE	TITLE:
PAGE COUNT	AUTHOR:
TYPE   	START/END DATES:
CHARACTER RATING 1 2 3 4 5	REVIEW/THOUGHTS:
PLOT RATING 1 2 3 4 5	
RECOMMEND? Y / N	<i>Rating</i>     

Book REVIEW

TITLE: _____

AUTHOR: _____

Rating



START DATE

END DATE

TYPE



PAGE COUNT

GENRE

CHARACTER RATING 1 2 3 4 5

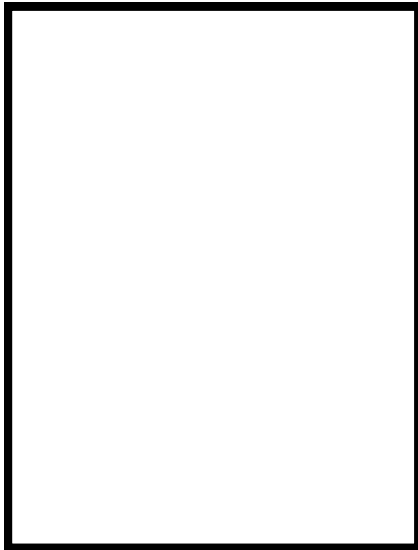
PLOT RATING 1 2 3 4 5

Review/Thoughts:

A large empty rectangular box with an orange border, intended for writing a review or thoughts about the book.

Book of the year

Give your favorite book of the year all the credit it deserves by filling out this page with a place for the cover, all the book details, a favorite quote, and, of course, why you loved it!



TITLE: _____

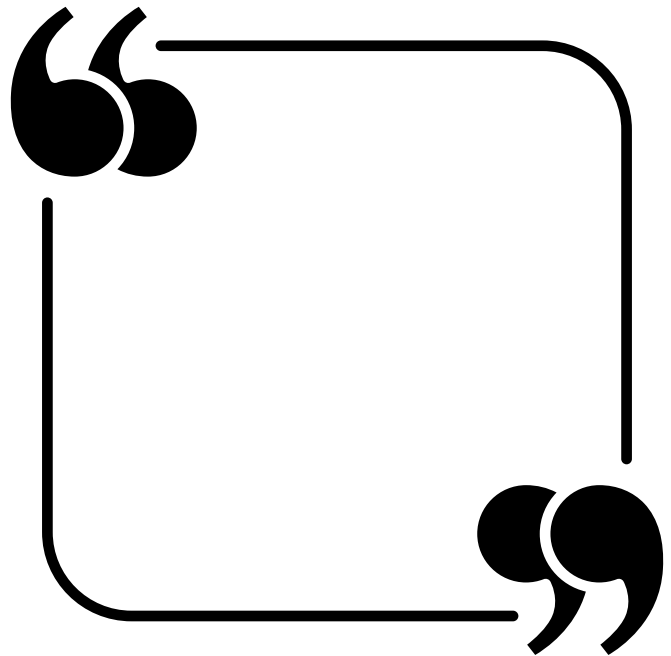
AUTHOR: _____

PUBLICATION DATE: _____

PAGE COUNT: _____

GENRE: _____

WHY I LOVED IT!



GenreCHART

Finish a book for a specific genre and color in a box in the chart. Track the types of books you read all year long!

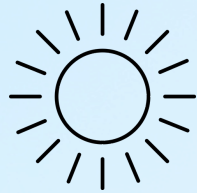
12									
11									
10									
9									
8									
7									
6									
5									
4									
3									
2									
1									
	Fantasy	Sci-Fi	Historical Fiction	Realistic	Horror	Action & Adventure	Mystery	Nonfiction	Biography

Summer Reading



Activities

SUMMER BINGO



SEND A LETTER TO A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND	READ A BOOK SET IN THE DESERT	READ A BOOK ABOUT SUMMER CAMP	READ A STORY ABOUT YOUR FAVORITE ANIMAL
RIDE YOUR BIKE OR TAKE A WALK AROUND TOWN	READ A BOOK ABOUT GOING BACK TO SCHOOL	DESCRIBE YOUR PERFECT VACATION	READ A BOOK WITH A YELLOW COVER
SPEND SOME TIME READING OUTSIDE	DRAW A SUMMER PICTURE	READ A BOOK ABOUT YOUR FAVORITE SPORT	READ A BOOK ABOUT A SUMMER HOLIDAY
READ A BOOK ABOUT CAMPING	READ A BOOK SET NEAR WATER	PLAY OUTSIDE TODAY	COOK A SUMMER INSPIRED RECIPE

Rainbow CHALLENGE

Read the rainbow and choose books with covers that are each color of the rainbow.
You can color in each square and also write down the titles too!

RED

ORANGE

YELLOW

GREEN

TEAL

BLUE

PURPLE

PINK

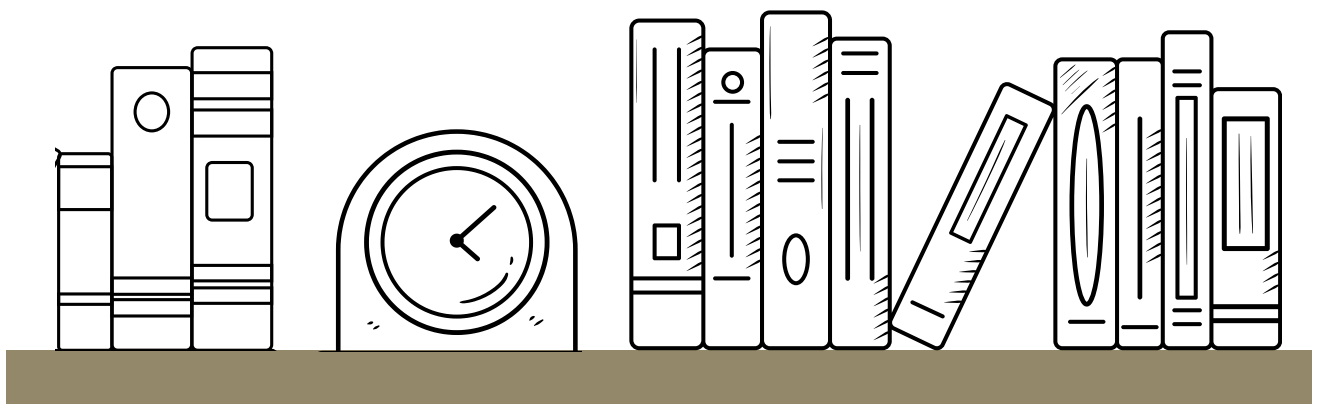
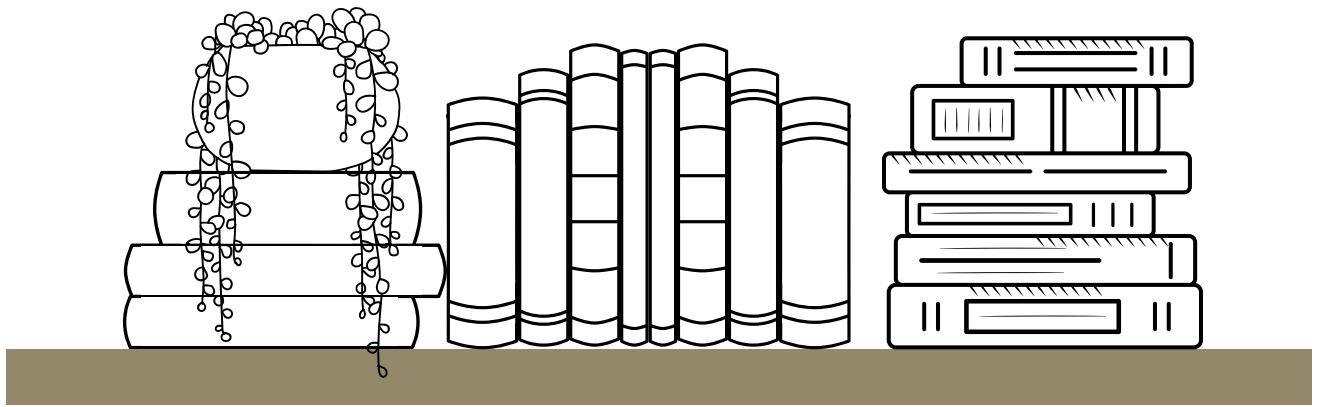
BROWN

GRAY

BLACK

WHITE

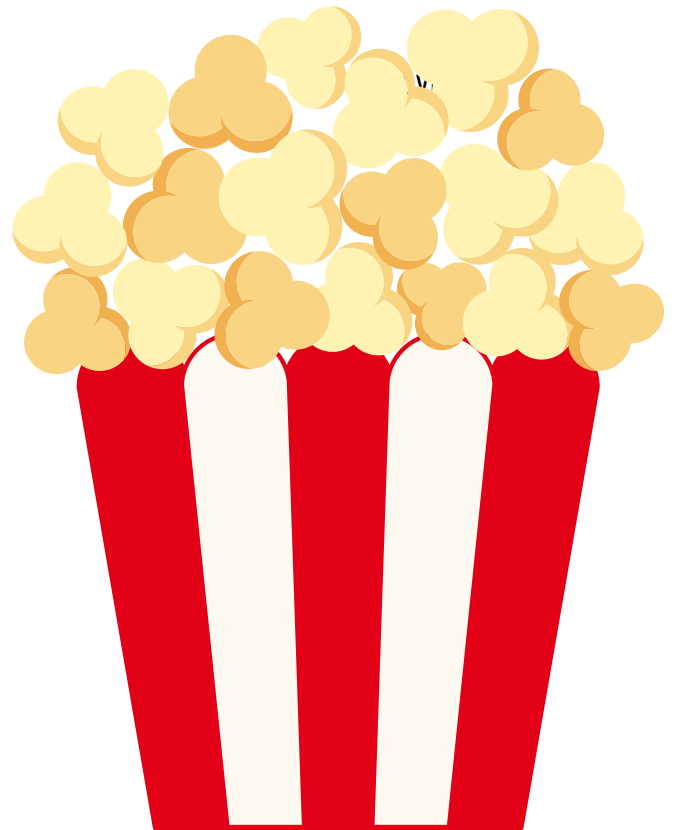
My Bookshelf



Book & Movie CHALLENGE

Create your own book and movie (or TV series) club. Read the book and then see the movie or TV series. You can use the list below or find even more great book & movie adaptations. Which version did you like better?

- *Matilda* by Roald Dahl
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* by Jeff Kinney
- *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick (Movie Name: *Hugo*)
- *The Bad Guys* by Aaron Blabey
- *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* by Judi Barrows
- *Llama Llama Red Pajama* by Anna Dewdney (Movie Name: *Llama Llama*)
- *Jumanji* by Chris Van Allsburg
- *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll (Movie Name: *Alice in Wonderland*)
- *Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White
- *How to Train Your Dragon* by Cressida Cowell
- *Ramona* by Beverly Cleary
Name: *Ramona and Beezus*)
- *Clifford the Big Red Dog* by Norman Bridwell
- *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson
- *Lyle, Lyle Crocodile* by Bernard Waber
- *Eloise* by Kay Thomspen
- *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter
(Movie Name: *Peter Rabbit*)
- *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss
- *The Story of Ferdinand* by Munro Leaf
(Movie Name: *Ferdinand*)
- *A Bear Called Paddington* by Michael Bond
(Movie Name: *Paddington*)
- *The Borrowers* by Mary Norton
(Movie Name: *The Secret World of Arrietty*)



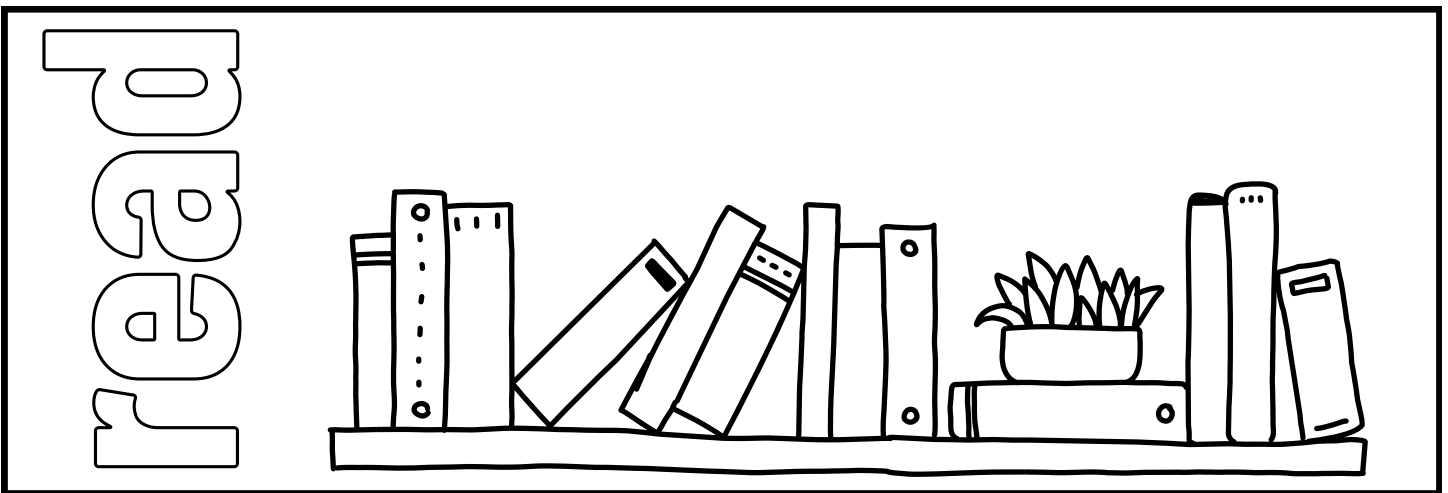
Just for fun!

A special challenge you won't find anywhere else! This includes reading challenges and other fun things to do, check off as many things as you can!

- Write a book review for your latest book
- Read a book about a character who is different from you
- Write a letter to your favorite author or draw a picture for your favorite illustrator
- Read a magazine
- Spend some time in the kitchen baking or cooking a new recipe
- Read a book with a cover of your favorite color
- Write a letter to your favorite author
- Create your very own reading nook for a special place to read
- Read a book set in your state or by an author from your state
- Read a book recommended to you by someone special

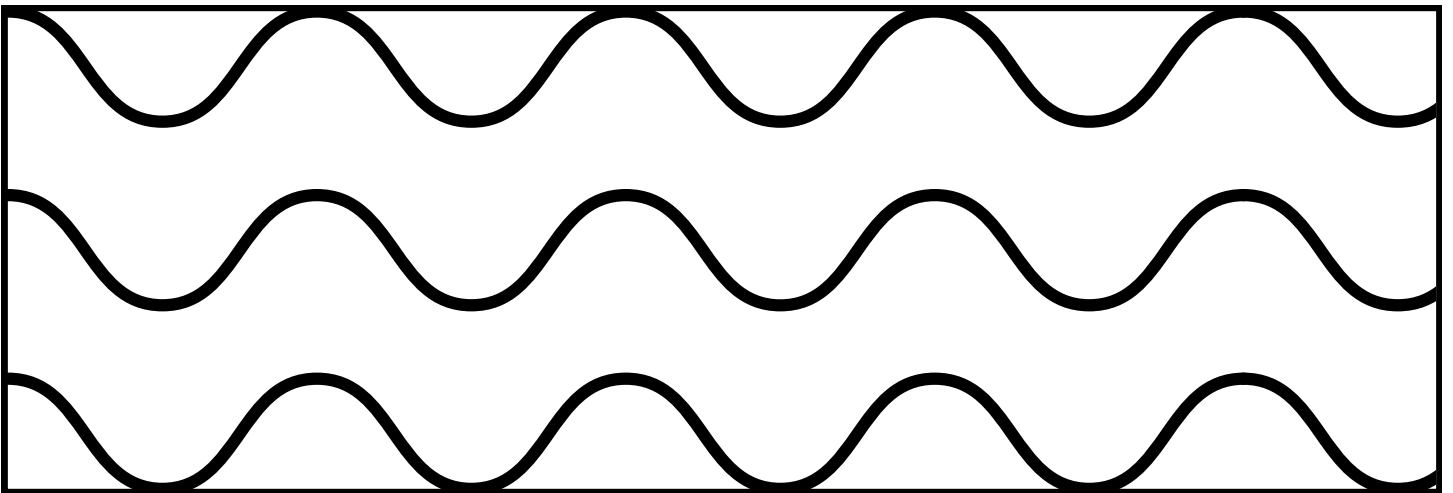
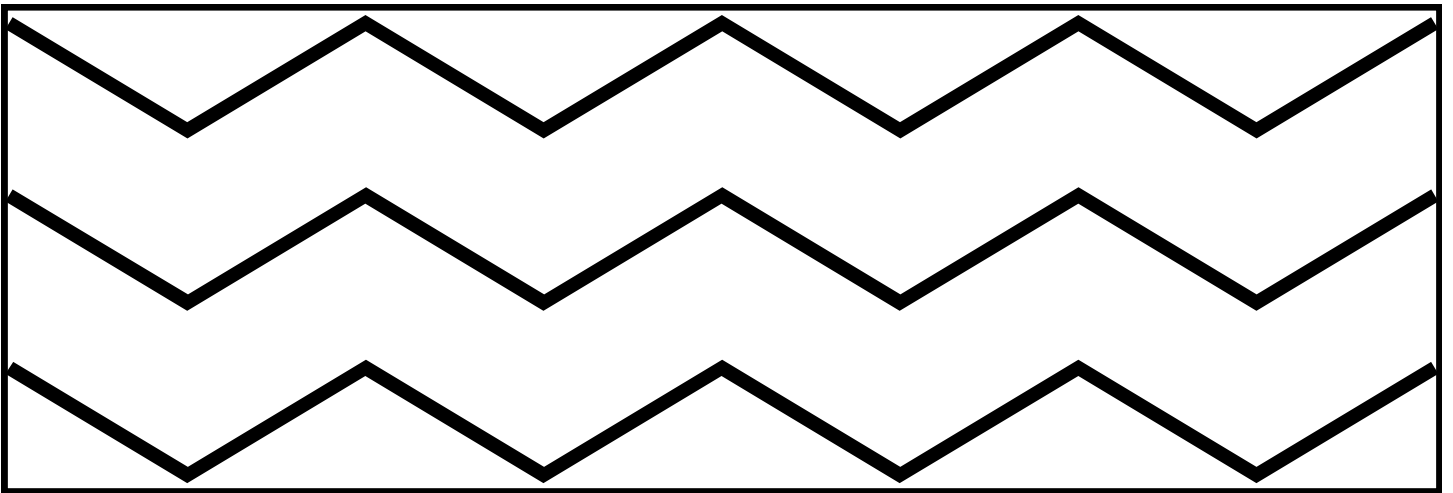
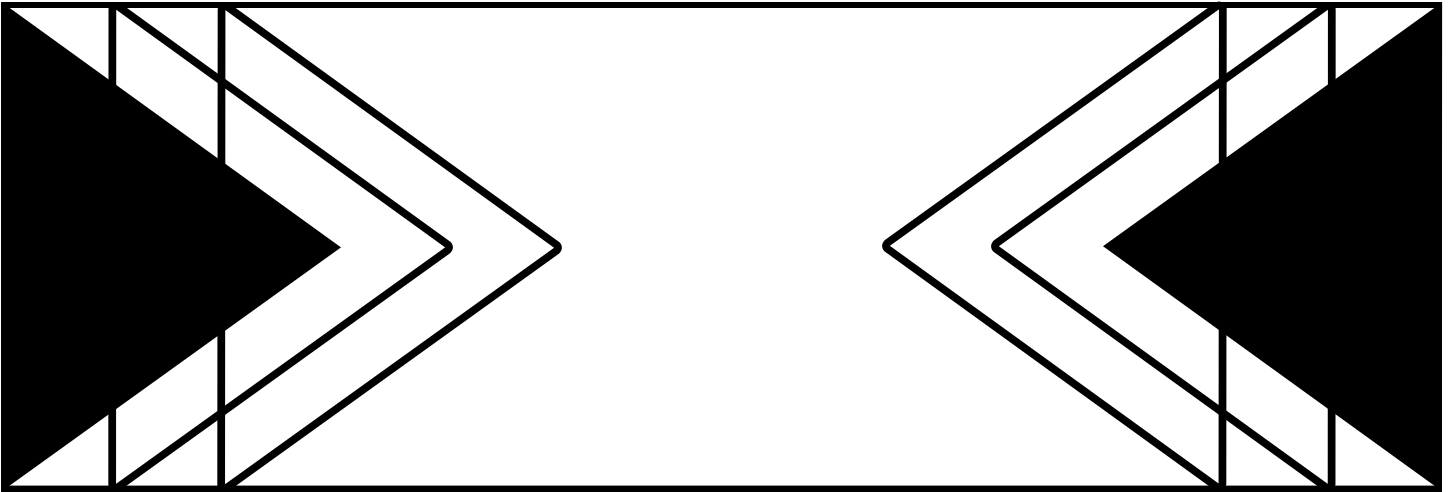
Bookmarks

Cut each bookmark out, color it in and use it with your next book!



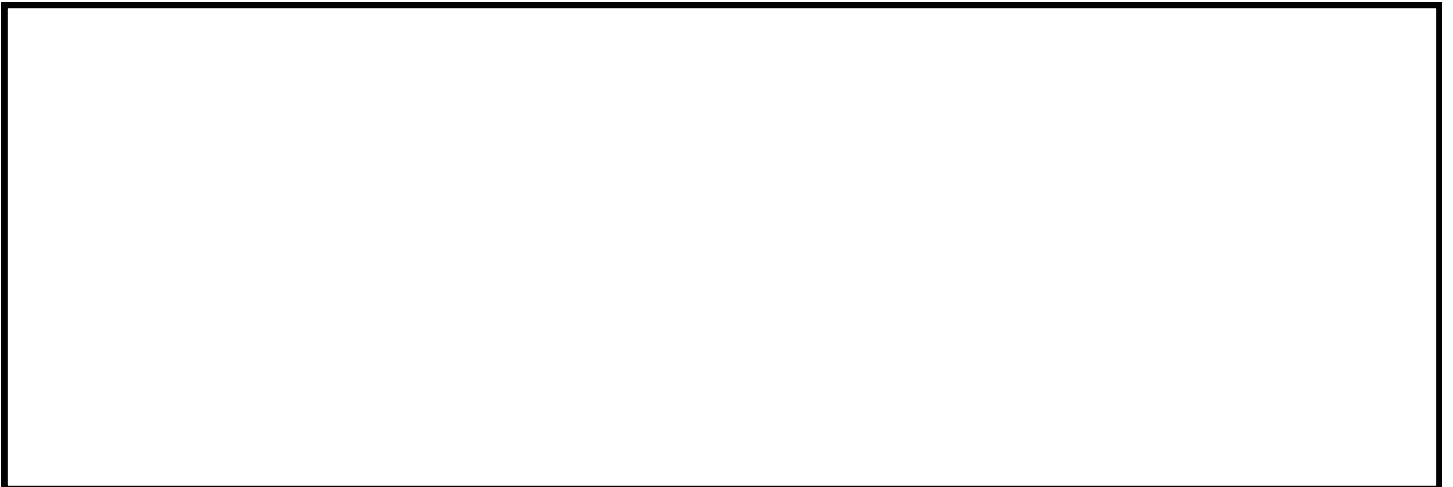
Bookmarks

Cut each bookmark out, color it in and use it with your next book!



Bookmarks

Design your own bookmarks, print them out, and use them for your own books or share them with friends and family!



Resources



HOW TO

ASK FOR BOOK SUGGESTIONS

Asking for help can sometimes be a little scary, but with a few easy steps, you'll be finding even more great books to read with suggestions from teachers, librarians, booksellers, and even friends! Librarians love to talk about books and make suggestions! Don't be afraid to ask for help.

- **Step 1:** Figure out what it is you're looking for.
- **Step 2:** Find the right words to ask for help.
- **Step 3:** Ask!
- **Step 4:** Review the suggestions.
- **Step 5:** Pick your favorite(s). Don't be afraid to ask for more choices if you haven't found something that grabs your attention. Explain why they aren't what you're looking for and give more information to find better choices.



A QUICK EXAMPLE

Let's say you love the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series and you're looking for another series that is similar.

Your question would be something like, "Do you have any series that are similar to *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*? My favorite thing about the Wimpy Kids books is that they have illustrations and are funny to read."

Formats & Reading Levels



- **Board Book** – created for babies and toddlers with cardboard pages that withstand wonder and exploration.
 - *Anne of Green Gables: A BabyLit Places Primer* by Jennifer Adams, illustrated by Alison Oliver
 - *Snuggle Puppy* by Sandra Boynton
 - *Yummy Yucky* by Leslie Patricelli
- **Picture Book** – a book, usually geared toward children, in which the illustrations are as important (or more important than) the text and conventionally is 32 pages long.
 - *Eyes That Kiss in the Corners* by Joanna Ho, illustrated by Dung Ho
 - *Max the Brave* by Ed Vere
 - *Tiny T. Rex and the Impossible Hug* by Jonathan Stutzman, illustrated by Jay Fleck
- **Wordless Picture Book** – a book usually geared toward children that is illustrated and contains no words.
 - *Flora and the Flamingo* by Molly Idle
 - *Journey* by Aaron Becker
 - *Where's Walrus?* by Stephen Savage
- **Easy Reader** – geared toward beginning readers with limited vocabulary, larger text font and images that illustrate the story to provide context to the reader.
 - *The Cookie Fiasco* by Dan Santat
 - *Kick It, Mo!* by David A. Adler, illustrated by Sam Ricks
 - *A Pig, a Fox, and a Box* by Jonathan Fenske
- **Chapter Book** – geared toward readers that are moving beyond easy readers and are ready for longer texts and fewer illustrations. Chapter books are usually geared toward 7-10 year olds, with short chapters, large type font, and more white space. Chapter books are often less than 100 pages making them the next stepping stone for readers.
 - *Dory Fantasmagory* by Abby Hanlon
 - *Dragon Masters: Rise of the Earth Dragon* by Tracey West
 - *Mercy Watson to the Rescue* by Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Chris Van Dusen



Formats & Reading Levels



- **Middle Grade** – geared toward 8-12 year old readers, with a more typical type font, less white space, and a few, if any illustrations. The books themselves are usually longer – think 200-300 pages and the chapters are usually longer than chapters found chapter books. Protagonists are usually 11 or 12 years old which allows for more mature content for a more mature reader.
 - *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander
 - *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill
 - *Sal and Gabi Break the Universe* by Carlos Hernandez
- **Young Adult** – geared toward 13-18 year olds with a protagonist who often learn where they fit into the world, not only within their family and friends, but within a larger context and spend time reflecting on what that means. Young adult novels can include profanity, violence, romance, but doesn't have to.
 - *Cemetery Boys* by Aiden Thomas
 - *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds
 - *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart
- **Anthology** – a selection of short stories written by different authors often about a similar topic.
 - *National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry* edited by J. Patrick Lewis
 - *Flying Lessons & Other Stories* edited by Ellen Oh
 - *A Universe of Wishes* edited by Dhonielle Clayton
- **Graphic novel** – a novel-length narrative written in the format of comic strips – including panels, captions, speech balloons, and the story relies heavily on the graphic/illustration element
 - *Donut Feed the Squirrels* by Mika Song
 - *Freestyle* by Gale Galligan
 - *The Magic Fish* by Trung Le Nguyen
- **Novel in verse** – can be found in middle grade and young adult novels. A novel in verse is a novel-length narrative written in a poetic form rather than in prose (paragraphs).
 - *Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie* by Julie Sternberg
 - *Alone* by Megan E. Freeman
 - *Solo* by Kwame Alexander



PRINTABLE 6TH - 8TH GRADE SUMMER READING LIST

- *Blood In the Water* by Tiffany D. Jackson
- *Cincinnati Lee, Curse Breaker* by Heidi Heilig
- *Heroes* by Alan Gratz
- *One Wrong Step* by Jennifer A. Nielsen
- *Paradise on Fire* by Jewell Parker Rhodes
- *Vanya and the Wild Hunt* by Sangu Mandanna
- *What Fell From the Sky* by Adrianna Cuevas
- *What We Saw* by Mary Downing Hahn
- *Almost Sunset* by Wahab Algarmi
- *The Cartoonists Club* by Raina Telgemeier & Scott McCloud
- *Creaky Acres* by Calista Brill and Nilah Magruder
- *Dracula's Brunch Club* by Brian Gonsar
- *The Firelight Apprentice* by Bree Paulsen
- *A Kid Like Me* by Norm Feuti
- *Kindred Dragons* by Sarah Mensinga
- *Princess Academy* by Shannon Hale
- *Song of the Lioness* by Tamora Pierce
- *Space Chasers* by Leland Melvin and Joe Caramagna
- *Dreamslinger* by Graci Kim
- *Hooky* by Míriam Bonastre Tur
- *Lightningborn* by Julie Kagawa
- *A Hero's Guide to Summer Vacation* by Pablo Cartaya
- *Mexikid* by Pedro Martín
- *Sisters of the Lost Marsh* by Lucy Strange
- *The Swifts: A Dictionary of Scoundrels* by Beth Lincoln
- *The Canyon's Edge* by Dusti Bowling
- *Falling Short* by Ernesto Cisneros
- *Fast Pitch* by Nic Stone
- *The Incredibly Human Henson Blayze* by Derrick Barnes
- *Kestrel Takes Flight* by Joy McCullough
- *Starfish* by Lisa Fipps
- *Thanks A Lot, Universe* by Chad Lucas
- *When Sea Becomes Sky* by Gillian McDunn
- *Don't Want To Be Your Monster* by Deke Moulton
- *An Encantadora's Guide to Monstros & Magic* by Sarah J. Mendonca
- *The Experiment* by Rebecca Stead
- *The Island of Forgotten Gods* by Victor Piñeiro
- *The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera
- *The Last Mapmaker* by Christina Soontornvat
- *Stitch* by Pádraig Kenny
- *The Wild Huntsboys* by Martin Stewart
- *Busted* by Dan Gemeinhart
- *Concealed* by Christina Diaz Gonzalez
- *Isle of Ever* by Jen Calonita
- *Keeping Pace* by Laurie Morrison
- *The Raconteur's Commonplace Book* by Kate Milford
- *The Trouble With Heroes* by Kate Messner
- *The Kingdom of Back* by Marie Lu
- *Perfectly Parvin* by Olivia Abtahi
- *Rez Ball* by Byron Graves