New Books

Historical Fiction

**It Ain't So Awful, Falafel** by Firoozeh Dumas

Eleven-year-old Zomorod, originally from Iran, tells her story of growing up Iranian in Southern California during the Iranian Revolution and hostage crisis of the late 1970s. Funny and relatable.

**The Book of Boy** by Catherine Gilbert Murdock

In 1350, a boy with a large hump on his back is pulled into a dangerous expedition across Europe to gather the seven precious relics of Saint Peter.

**She Loves You (Yeah, Yeah, Yeah)** by Ann Hood

In 1964, overdramatic sixth-grader Trudy, decides that meeting her favorite Beatle, Paul McCartney, in Boston will help her regain her popularity.

Realistic Fiction

**Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World** by Ashley Herring Blake

Twelve-year-old Ivy Aberdeen’s house is destroyed in a tornado, and in the aftermath of the storm, she begins to develop feelings for another girl at school.

**See You in the Cosmos** by Jack Cheng

11-year-old Alex tells his journey across the country through transcripts of podcasts. Likeable and intelligent, Alex has learned to be self-sufficient because he knows he cannot rely on his mother, who struggles with mental illness.

**Three Pennies** by Melanie Crowder

In San Francisco, eleven-year-old Marin desperately searches for her birth mother and discovers for the first time in her life what it feels like to be truly wanted by someone.

**Sweeping Up the Heart** by Kevin Henkes

Amelia, in seventh-grade, makes her first male friend who claims to see the spirit of her late mother. Will her disappointing spring break transform because of this unexpected friendship with a fellow artist?

**The Season of Styx Malone** by Kekla Magoon

Caleb Franklin and his younger brother, Bobby Gene, spend an extraordinary summer with their new, older neighbor, Styx Malone, a foster boy from the city.

**Front Desk** by Kelly Yang

Recent immigrants from China, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California. Mia tries to cope with the demands of working the front desk.
Fantasy

Lost Property Office by James R. Hannibal
An American boy travels with his family to London for his mother to find his father, but it turns out his father was involved with something nefarious...and now so is he.

Tin by Padraig Kenny
Christopher is 'Proper': a real boy with a real soul, orphaned in a fire. He works for an engineer but after a devastating accident, Christopher discovers who he really is, and what it means to be human.

The Jumbies by Tracey Baptiste
In a spine-tingling tale that is rooted in Caribbean folklore, 11-year-old Corinne must call on her courage and an ancient magic to stop an evil spirit and save her island home.

Graphic Stories

The City on the Other Side by Scott Mairghread
Isabel is transported from her sheltered high-society world to the magical and dangerous fairy world, where she discovers an ongoing war that threatens both the fairy world and her own.

The Prince and the Dressmaker by Jen Wang
Prince Sebastian is supposed to be looking for a bride but he's too busy hiding his secret life as the fabulous Lady Crystallia.

Science Comics series
Presented using graphic storytelling, these in-depth introductions to various science topics will inform and appeal to all readers.

Nonfiction

Calling All Minds: How to Think and Create Like an Inventor by Temple Grandin

Camp Panda: Helping Cubs Return to the Wild by Catherine Thimmesh

Mystery

Book Scavenger by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman
After Emily and her family move to San Francisco, she teams up with new friend James to figure out the secrets of an odd book.
With summer vacation comes the joy of reading for pleasure. Choose books from a broad range of genres, such as historical fiction, fantasy, biographies, poetry, and nonfiction. This list includes suggestions for great summer reads. For more book ideas, explore your public library and ask friends and family for more suggestions. Keep a list of the books you read and bring it on your first day of school.

Happy reading,
The Librarians

**Adventure**

Creech, Sharon. *Ruby Holler*
Thirteen-year-old fraternal twins Dallas and Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage but their lives change forever when an eccentric but sweet older couple invites them each on an adventure.

Paulsen, Gary. *Hatchet*
After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive.

Pennypacker, Sara. *Pax*
After being forced to give up his pet fox Pax, a young boy named Peter decides to leave home and get his best friend back.

Riley, James. *The Story Thieves*
Except for reading his favorite adventure series, Owen’s life is boring until he sees his classmate climb out of a book and learns that she’s half fictional and is searching for her missing (fictional character) father.

Sachar, Louis. *Holes*
Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

**Classics**

Carroll, Lewis. *Alice in Wonderland*
A little girl falls down a rabbit hole and discovers a world of nonsensical and amusing characters.

L’Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time*
Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.

London, Jack. *White Fang*
Follows the adventures of a dog who is part wolf as he eventually makes his peace with man in the wilderness of northern Canada.

Pyle, Howard. *The Story of King Arthur*
The adventures of Arthur as he draws the sword Excalibur from the anvil, proving his right to the throne, and as he courts and wins the heart of Guinevere.

Wyss, Johann. *Swiss Family Robinson*
Tale of a shipwrecked family.
Fantasy & Science Fiction

Babbitt, Natalie. *Tuck Everlasting*
A ten year old girl and a stranger discover a secret about a spring with water that keeps one from growing older.

Kelly Barnhill. *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*
Raised by a witch, a Swamp Monster, and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, a young girl must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her. Winner of the 2017 Newbery Award

LeGuin, Ursula. *A Wizard of Earthsea*
A boy grows to manhood while attempting to subdue the evil he unleashed on the world as an apprentice to the Master Wizard. (First book of a trilogy)

Graveyard ghosts adopt orphaned Bod and teach him the meaning of family.

Lin, Grace. *When the Sea Turned to Silver*
Pinmei, a storyteller's granddaughter, must find the Luminous Stone that Lights the Night to rescue her grandmother, who has been kidnapped by the Tiger Emperor.

Meloy, Colin. *Wildwood*
Prue McKeel's life is ordinary. At least until her brother is abducted by a murder of crows and taken to the Impassable Wilderness, a dense, tangled forest on the edge of Portland. No one's ever gone in--or at least returned to tell of it.

Messner, Kate. *All the Answers*
Ava finds an old pencil in her family's junk drawer and discovers that it will answer factual questions. Ava grows in self-confidence until the pencil reveals a truth about her family that Ava would rather not know.

Historical Fiction

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Chains: Seeds of America*
As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year old Isabel wages her own fight for freedom, becoming a spy for the rebels and reporting on her cruel owners.

Avi. *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*
As the lone "young lady" on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious.

Blos, Joan W. *A Gathering of Days*
A fictional diary of a New England girl beginning in 1830.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*
The Watson family takes a life-changing trip to see family in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

Dowell, Frances O'Roark. *Shooting the Moon*
When her brother is sent to fight in Vietnam, twelve year old Jamie begins to reconsider the army world that she has grown up in.

Draper, Sharon M. *Stella by Starlight*
Fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town.
Giff, Patricia Reilly. **Lily's Crossing**
During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently.

Holm, Jennifer. **Full of Beans**
Ten-year-old Beans Curry, a member of the Keepsies, the best marble playing gang in Depression-era Key West, Florida, tries to earn money while “New Dealers” from Washington, D.C., arrive to turn run down Key West into a tourist resort. Companion book to *Turtle in Paradise.*

Lai, Thanhha. **Inside Out and Back Again**
A young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975 in verse when she, her mother, and her brothers escape Vietnam to resettle in Alabama.

Napoli, Donna Jo. **The Smile**
In prose as rich as the high Renaissance is Mona Lisa's tale—a story of passion, intrigue, loss, and, most of all, love.

Park, Linda Sue. **A Single Shard**
Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in twelfth century Korea, lives under a bridge near a potters' village, and longs to learn how to create beautiful pottery himself.

Speare, Elizabeth George. **The Sign of the Beaver**
Friendship grows between a white boy left alone to guard the family's wilderness home and the Native American boy who helps him. Set in the late eighteenth century in Maine.

Wolk, Lauren. **Wolf Hollow**
Twelve-year-old Annabelle must learn to stand up for what's right in the face of a manipulative and violent new bully who targets people Annabelle cares about, including a homeless World War I veteran.

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**Humor**

Hiassen, Carl. **Hoot**
Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in an attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a construction site.

Konigsburg, E.L. **The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place**
Twelve-year-old Margaret campaigns to preserve three unique towers her grand uncles have been building in their backyard for over forty years.

Lear, Edward. **The Complete Nonsense Book**
Presents all of the nonsense poems, limericks, alphabets, and drawings of English author-painter Edward Lear.

Philbrick, Rodman. **The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg**
Homer ventures south from northern Maine to Pennsylvania where he is told his brother is bound.

Rodgers, Mary. **Freaky Friday**
A thirteen-year-old girl gains a much more sympathetic understanding of her relationship with her mother when she has to spend a day in her mother's body.
Memoirs/Biographies

Favilli, Elena and Francesca Cavallo. Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls: 100 Tales of Extraordinary Women
From Ada Lovelace to Zaha Hadid.

Hautzig, Esther. The Endless Steppe: Growing Up in Siberia
The memoir of an eleven year old girl who, along with her family, was arrested in Poland and exiled to Siberia during World War II.

Ignatofsky, Rachel. Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World
Fifty notable women in the fields of technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) from the ancient to the modern world.

Jiang, Ji Li. Red Scarf Girl
The author led a happy life in China until she was twelve years old when her family became a target of the Cultural Revolution. Would she denounce her father and break with her family, or refuse to speak against him and lose her future in the Communist Party?

Lowry, Lois. Looking Back: A Book of Memories
Using family photographs and quotes from her books, the author provides glimpses into her life.

Telgemeier, Raina. Smile
It's hard enough to be in sixth grade with all your teeth, but this graphic novel memoir tells the author's story of enduring sixth grade without them.

Mystery

Brumbach, Andrew. The Eye of Midnight
Maxine Campbell and her cousin William Battersea arrive at their grandfather’s house in New Jersey to find that the house is empty- and soon they’re caught up in the contest for an ancient Arabian relic.

Child, Lauren. Ruby Redfort: Look into My Eyes
Thirteen-year-old Ruby, a genius code-cracker and daring detective, gets an anonymous call setting a challenge that leads her to the headquarters of Spectrum, a highly secret anti-crime agency that needs her help to crack a code, but soon Ruby uncovers dastardly plans of the Fool's Gold Gang.

Raskin, Ellen. The Westing Game
The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

Sherry, Maureen. Walls within Walls
When the Smithfork family moves into a lavish Manhattan apartment building, they discover clues to a decades-old mystery hidden behind the walls of their new home.

Nonfiction

Cross, Jennifer. Bad Girls of Fashion: Style Rebels from Cleopatra to Lady Gaga
Ten famous women who have used clothing to make a statement, change perceptions, break rules, attract power, or express their individuality.
Freedman, Russell. **Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery**
A photobiography of the first wife of a president to have public life and career of her own.

Freedman, Russell. **The Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights**
Before Marian Anderson was applauded by European royalty and welcomed at the White House in the mid-1930s, she was denied the right to sing at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. because of her race.

Hung Steph and Erin Jang. **Make & Give**
A design-savvy craft book with fun and simple projects that celebrate the people we love in the everyday moments.

Macy, Sue. **Wheels of Change: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom (with a Few Flat Tires Along the Way)**
Explores the role the bicycle played in the women's liberation movement.

Nelson, Kadir. **Heart and Soul**
An epic yet intimate introduction to the history of America and African Americans, from colonial days through the civil rights movement.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. **Let it Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters**
Profiles of ten African American women including Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, and Shirley Chisholm.

Sandler, Martin W. **The Whydah: A Pirate Ship Feared, Wrecked and Found**
Describes what happened when a slave ship packed with plunder was captured by pirates in 1717 then sunk by a brutal storm. Tells the story of the 1984 expedition to locate the wreck and what was uncovered.

Schatz, Kate. **Rad American Women A-Z**
This book documents America's famous and unsung heroines.

Sheinkin, Steve. **Lincoln's Grave Robbers**
The story of how counterfeiter Benjamin Boyd's gang stole the body of Abraham Lincoln and demanded two hundred thousand dollars as ransom.

Wollard, Kathy. **How Come?**
Why don't we fall off the spinning Earth? How do fireflies glow? Why is the sky blue? Find more than 175 answers to our most asked questions.

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**Realistic Fiction**

Applegate, Katherine. **Crenshaw**
A story about a homeless boy and his imaginary friend that proves in unexpected ways that friends matter, whether real or imaginary.

Blume, Judy. **Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret**
Faced with the difficulties of growing up and choosing a religion, a twelve year old girl talks over her problems with her own private God.

Conklin, Melanie. **Counting Thyme**
Struggling with homesickness and guilt after moving with her family to New York so that her little brother can participate in a potentially lifesaving cancer trial, 11-year-old Thyme finds her efforts to acclimate shaped by new friends, a first crush and a crotchety neighbor's whistling bird.

Glaser, Karina Yan. **The Vanderbeekers of 141st St.**
Told that they will have to move out of their Harlem brownstone just after Christmas, the five Vanderbeeker children, ages four to twelve, decide to change their reclusive landlord's mind.
Kelly, Erin Entrada. **Hello, Universe**  
Lives of four misfits are intertwined when a bully's prank lands shy Virgil at the bottom of a well and Valencia, Kaori, and Gen band together in an epic quest to find and rescue him. Winner of the 2018 Newbery Award.

Marsden, Carolyn. **Take Me with You**  
Raised in an Italian orphanage in the years following World War II, a biracial girl named Susanna and her best friend Pina want to be adopted but fear being separated.

Park, Linda Sue. **A Long Walk to Water**  
When the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, eleven-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family and must walk in search of a safe haven.

Perez, Celia C. **The First Rule of Punk**  
Maria Luisa O'Neill-Morales reluctantly moves with her Mexican-American mother to Chicago where she violates the dress code with her punk rock aesthetic and spurns the middle school's most popular girl in favor of starting a band with a group of like-minded weirdos.

Roske, Melissa. **Kat Greene Comes Clean**  
Fifth-grader Kat Greene is struggling with her boy-crazy best friend, her lame role in the production of Harriet the Spy at her progressive New York City school, and her mother's preoccupation with cleanliness—a symptom of her worsening obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Spinelli, Jerry. **Maniac Magee**  
After his parents die, Jeffrey Uonel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries.

Yeh, Kat. **The Truth About Twinkie Pie**  
When twelve-year-old GiGi and her big sister DiDi move to Long Island from South Carolina for GiGi to attend a fancy new private school, GiGi has a new recipe for success and makes new friends, but then discovers a family secret that turns her life upside-down.

Need more suggestions?  
Check out these authors...  
- Katherine Applegate  
- Joan Bauer  
- Christopher Paul Curtis  
- Karen Cushman  
- Stuart Gibbs  
- Jennifer Holm  
- Katherine Rundell  
- Pam Muñoz Ryan  
- Phyllis Reynolds Naylor  
- Naomi Shihab Nye  
- Jacqueline Woodson  
- Jane Yolen

And these websites...  
- [Summer Reading NYC](#)  
- [We Need Diverse Books](#)