New Books

**Fantasy**

**Small Spaces**  
by Katherine Arden

After eleven-year-old Ollie’s school bus mysteriously breaks down on a field trip, she has to take a trip through scary woods, using all of her wits to survive, and stick to small spaces.

**Sweep**  
by Jonathan Auxier

In nineteenth-century England, after her father’s disappearance, Nan Sparrow, ten, works as a “climbing boy” aiding chimney sweeps and unwittingly creates a golem.

**Historical Fiction**

**The Parker Inheritance**  
by Varian Johnson

Spending the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, Candice works to expose the injustice once committed against a local African American family.

**Realistic Fiction**

**Abby Spencer Goes to Bollywood**  
by Varsha Bajaj

When thirteen-year-old Abby travels to Mumbai to meet her estranged Bollywood star father, she is overwhelmed by the culture clash and the pressure of her secret identity.

**Blended**  
by Sharon Draper

Piano-prodigy Isabella, eleven, whose black father and white mother struggle to share custody, never feels whole, especially as her parents both become engaged, and she and her stepbrother are stopped by police.

**I’m OK**  
by Patti Kim

Ok, a Korean American boy, tries a get rich quick scheme of starting a hair braiding business and winning the school talent competition to hide the fact that he is struggling with the loss of his father and financial hardships.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Realistic Fiction</td>
<td>Amal Unbound</td>
<td>Aisha Saeed</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family’s debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humor</td>
<td>Funny Girl: Funniest. Stories. Ever</td>
<td>Betsy Bird</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Funny Girl</em> is a collection of uproarious stories, rollicking comics, rib-tickling wit, and more, from 25 of today’s funniest female writers for kids.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graphic Novel</td>
<td>New Kid</td>
<td>Jerry Craft</td>
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<td>Seventh grader Jordan loves drawing cartoons. At his prestigious private school, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color, he finds it difficult to fit in.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>Eat This!: How Fast Food Marketing Gets You to Eat Junk (And How to Fight Back)</td>
<td>Andrea Curtis</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Herstory: 50 Women and Girls Who Shook Up the World</td>
<td>Katherine Halligan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A History of Picture for Children: From Cave Paintings to Computer Drawings</td>
<td>David Hockney and Martin Gayford</td>
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</tbody>
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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 suggestions. Keep a list of the books you read and bring it on your first day of school.

Happy reading,
The Librarians
Classics

Alcott, Louisa May. Little Women
Grown-up Meg, tomboyish Jo, timid Beth, and precocious Amy. The four March sisters couldn't be more different. But with their father away at war, and their mother working to support the family, they have to rely on one another.

Dickens, Charles. Oliver Twist
The story of a boy who runs away from an orphanage in England and becomes involved with a gang of thieves.

Rawls, Wilson. Where the Red Fern Grows
A young boy works for two years to earn enough money to buy a pair of coon hounds whom he trains into champions, but tragedy lies ahead for the boy and his dreams.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. Treasure Island
This pirate story features a yellowing map, a treasure search and many robust characters such as Long John Silver.

Smith, Betty. A Tree Grows in Brooklyn
Francie, a young Irish-American girl, grows up in poverty in Williamsburg, Brooklyn during the turn of the 20th century.

Twain, Mark. The Prince and the Pauper
Two identical-looking boys—a prince and a pauper—trade clothes and step into each other's lives.

White, T.H. The Sword in the Stone
The story of young King Arthur and his education under the skilled and often surprising teaching of Merlin.

Fantasy & Science Fiction

Alexander, William. Goblin Secrets
Hoping to find his lost brother, Rownie runs from the witch Graba and joins a troupe of goblins who perform in a city where humans are forbidden to act in plays.

Auxier, Jonathan. The Night Gardener
Irish orphans Molly and Kip travel to England to work as servants in a crumbling manor house where nothing is quite what it seems to be, and soon the siblings are confronted by a mysterious stranger and secrets of the cursed house.

Boyce, Frank Cottrell. Cosmic
Liam is a twelve-year-old kid who looks like he's thirty. On the first spaceship to take civilians into space, a special flight for a group of kids and an adult chaperone, he is going as the adult chaperone.
DuPrau, Jeanne. *City of Ember*
Many hundreds of years ago, the city of Ember was created by the Builders to contain everything needed for human survival. It worked...but now the storerooms are almost out of food and the lights are failing. When two children, Lina and Doon, discover fragments of an ancient parchment, they begin to wonder if there could be a way out of Ember.

Lowry, Lois. *The Giver*
In a futuristic society Jonas is chosen for a special assignment. He is apprenticed to "The Giver" and asked to be the sole keeper of memories of the past.

Marsh, Katherine. *The Night Tourist*
Fourteen-year-old Jack Perdu, a prodigy of classical mythology, suffers a near-fatal accident after which he meets Euri, a young ghost who introduces him to New York's ghostly underworld, where he decides to look for his mother who disappeared years earlier.

Stewart, Mary. *The Crystal Cave*
In this first book of a trilogy about Merlin, we see the solitary child hiding the magical powers that he needs to help Britain.

Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Hobbit*
Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.

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**Graphic Novels**

Chmakova, Svetlana. *Awkward*
After shunning Jaime, the school nerd, on her first day at a new middle school, Penelope Torres tries to blend in with her new friends in the art club, until the art club goes to war with the science club, of which Jaime is a member.

Duffy, Chris. *Fable Comics*
Amazing cartoonists take on classic fables from Aesop and beyond!

Hale, Shannon. *Rapunzel’s Revenge*
Watch as Rapunzel and her amazing hair team up with Jack (of beanstalk fame) to gallop around the wild and western landscape, changing lives, righting wrongs, and bringing joy to every soul they encounter.

Hinds, Garth. *The Odyssey*
Masterfully reinterpreted version of heroism, adventure, and high action that has been told and retold for more than 2,500 years — though never quite like this.
Jamieson, Victoria. **Roller Girl**
An adventure about a girl who discovers roller derby right as she and her best friend are growing apart.

Phelan, Matt. **Bluffton**
A story about vaudeville, friendship, summertime, and the young Buster Keaton.

Say, Allen. **Drawing from Memory**
Caldecott Medalist Allen Say presents a stunning graphic novel chronicling his journey as an artist during WWII.

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**Historical Fiction**

Anderson, Laurie Halse. **Ashes**
The American Revolutionary War rages on, Isabel and Curzon are reported as runaways. While running from the awful Bellingham, they are fiercely determined to find Isabel's little sister Ruth, who is enslaved in a Southern state. Follows *Chains* and *Forge*.

Berg, Ann. **Unbound**
The day nine-year-old Grace is called to work in the kitchen in the Big House, everyone warns her to keep her head down and her thoughts to herself. One day her thoughts escape-- and to avoid being separated she and her family flee into the Dismal Swamp.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. **The War that Saved My Life**
A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

Gidwitz, Adam. **The Inquisitor’s Tale**
On a dark night, travelers from across France cross paths at an inn and begin to tell stories of three children: William, an oblate on a mission from his monastery; Jacob, a Jewish boy who has fled his burning village; and Jeanne, a peasant girl who hides her prophetic visions.

Kelly, Jacqueline. **The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate**
In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from the older three of her six brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather.

Lai, Thanhha. **Listen, Slowly**
Twelve-year-old Mai is sick of being perfect and her straight A's and extracurricular activities have gotten her a much unwanted trip to Vietnam with her family. But as time goes on, Mai grows closer to her family and she begins to understand her culture.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. **Echo**
Three children, beginning with Friedrich in Germany in the 1930s as Hitler is rising to power, continuing with Mike in Philadelphia in the midst of the Depression, and finishing
with Ivy in California as World War II has begun, come upon a harmonica that has a musical power that makes them capable of creating emotional connections with anyone.

Rundell, Katherine. **Wolf Wilder**
In the days before the Russian Revolution, twelve-year-old Feodora sets out to rescue her mother when the Tsar's Imperial Army imprisons her for teaching tamed wolves to fend for themselves.

Schlitz, Laura Amy. **The Hired Girl**
Fourteen-year-old Joan Skraggs, just like the heroines in her beloved novels, yearns for real life and true love. But what hope is there for adventure, beauty, or art on a hardscrabble farm in Pennsylvania? Maybe a hired girl cleaning and cooking for six dollars a week can become what a farm girl could only dream of—a woman with a future.

Taylor, Kamala Markandaya. **Nectar in a Sieve**
Rukmani, a peasant from a village in India, lives a life of constant struggle, yet she is a source of strength for many.

**Humor**

Holm, Jennifer. **The Fourteenth Goldfish**
Ellie's scientist grandfather has discovered a way to reverse aging, and consequently has turned into a teenager—which makes for complicated relationships when he moves in with Ellie and her mother, his daughter.

Lieb, Josh. **I am a Genius of Unspeakable Evil and I want to Be Your Class President.**
Twelve-year-old Oliver Watson’s got the IQ of a grilled cheese sandwich. Or so everyone in Omaha thinks. In reality, Oliver’s a mad evil genius on his way to world domination, and he has used his great brain to make himself the third-richest person on earth!

Thurber, James. **My Life and Hard Times**
First published in 1933, this humorous collection of essays details family life, odd dogs, recalcitrant machinery, and the foibles of human nature.

**Memoir**

Frank, Anne. **The Diary of a Young Girl**
The diary of a young Jewish girl during two years of hiding from the Germans in an Amsterdam attic.

Goodwins, Doris Kearns. **Wait Till Next Year**
Kearns recreates the fifties, when her affections were given over to her neighborhood, her family, and the Brooklyn Dodgers.
Hidashiga, Naoki. The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a thirteen-year-old Boy with Autism
A journey into the mind of a remarkable thirteen-year-old Japanese boy with severe autism shares firsthand insights into a variety of experiences associated with the disorder, from behavioral traits and misconceptions to perceptions about the world.

Keller, Helen. The Story of My Life
Helen Keller tells of her early life, her relationship with her teacher Anne Sullivan, and her struggles to triumph over blindness and deafness.

Pfetzer, Mark. Within Reach: My Everest Story
The gripping story of sixteen-year-old Mark Pfetzer’s expedition to Mount Everest, who was the youngest climber ever to attempt the summit, and who witnessed a tragedy.

Mystery
Du Maurier, Daphne. Rebecca
Rebecca Max's first wife, the lovely Rebecca, died under suspicious circumstances. His second wife finds the house of Manderley and her own life there haunted by memories of Rebecca.

Hagen, George. Gabriel Finley and the Raven’s Riddle
Twelve-year-old Gabriel’s father has vanished without a trace. With a young raven with whom he has a magical bond, Gabriel travels to the land of Aviopolis, where he must face a series of difficult challenges and unanswerable riddles that could lead to his father...or to his death.

Springer, Nancy. The Case of the Missing Marquess
Enola Holmes, much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, must travel to London in disguise to unravel the disappearance of her missing mother.

Stewart, Mary. Nine Coaches Waiting
An English girl goes to an isolated chateau to be a governess to an orphaned French boy. After several “accidents” they realize they are the object of a murder plot.

Nonfiction and Poetry
Coerr, Eleanor. Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes
Biography of a young Japanese girl who has leukemia as a result of her exposure to radiation during the bombing of Hiroshima.

Fleming, Candace. The Family Romanov
Here is the tumultuous, true story of the Romanovs, Russia's last royal family.
Nye, Naomi Shihab. **19 Varieties of Gazelle**
A collection of sixty poems in which the Arab-American Young People’s Poet Laureate examines life in the Middle East.

Jankeliowitch, Anne. **Kids Who Are Changing the World**
Profiles forty-five children around the world who are taking steps to help the environment through fundraising, public demonstrations, and creating activist art. Includes suggestions on how readers can get involved.

Jarrow, Gail. **Fatal Fever: Tracking Down Typhoid Mary**
The story of Mary Mallon, an asymptomatic carrier notorious for infecting many New Yorkers at the turn of the twentieth century, and George Soper, the “germ detective” intent on stopping Mary from spreading the deadly disease.

Saujani, Reshma. **Girls Who Code: Learn to Code and Change the World.**
An introductory book about coding with interviews and a look at women in the fields that require coding.

Skurzynski, Gloria. **This is Rocket Science: True stories of the Risk-Taking Scientists Who Figure Out Ways to Explore Beyond Earth**
From the Chinese discovery of gunpowder to the development of nuclear spacecraft and rockets that sail on the solar winds.

Stelson, Caren. **Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor’s Story**
Tells the story of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki through the eyes of Sachiko Yasui, who was six when the devastation was wrought, describing her experiences in the aftermath of the attack as well as her long journey to find peace.

Stone, Tanya Lee. **Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream**
In the early 1960s, 13 women highly qualified to become astronauts were excluded by NASA from the Mercury space program.

Tyson, Neil deGrasse. **Astrophysics for People in a Hurry**
What is the nature of space and time? How do we fit within the universe? How does the universe fit within us? Acclaimed astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson guides you through these mindexpanding questions.

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**Realistic Fiction**

Benjamin, Ali. **The Thing About Jellyfish**
Twelve-year-old Suzy Swanson wades through her intense grief over the loss of her best friend by investigating the rare jellyfish she is convinced was responsible for her friend’s death.

Behrens, Rebecca. **Summer of Lost and Found**
Nell is a city girl forced to spend her summer in Roanoke, North Carolina, but when she meets historical reenactor Ambrose, they explore for clues as to what really happened to the lost colonists, turning her once boring vacation into an adventure.
Draper, Sharon. **Out of My Mind**
Eleven-year-old Melody has a photographic memory. She's the smartest kid in her whole school—but no one knows it.

Howe, James. **The Misfits**
Four best friends, the target of cruel name-calling, decide they aren't going to take it anymore.

Kadohata, Cynthia. **The Thing About Luck**
Just when twelve-year-old Summer thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong in a year of bad luck, an emergency takes her parents to Japan, leaving Summer to care for her little brother while helping her grandmother cook and do laundry for harvest workers.

Peck, Richard. **The Best Man**
Archer has four important role models in his life—his dad, his grandfather, his uncle Paul, and his favorite teacher, Mr. McLeod. When Uncle Paul and Mr. McLeod get married, Archer’s sixth-grade year becomes one he’ll never forget.

Reynolds, Jason. **Ghost, Patina, Sunny Lu** from **Track series**
A fast but fiery group of kids from wildly different backgrounds are chosen to compete on an elite track team. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves.

Urban, Linda. **The Center of Everything**
A story about donuts, a birthday wish, and making things right with the ones you love.

**More suggestions...**
- Kimberly Brubaker
- Sharon Draper
- Shannon Hale
- Grace Lin
- Ann M. Martin
- Garth Nix
- Matt Phelan
- Tamora Pierce

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