New Books

Realistic Fiction

It Wasn’t Me
by Dana Alison 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.

Long Way Down
by Jason Reynolds

As Will, fifteen, sets out to avenge his brother Shawn's fatal shooting, seven ghosts who knew Shawn board the elevator and reveal truths Will needs to know.

Fantasy

Scythe
by Neal Shusterman

In a world where disease has been eliminated, the only way to die is to be randomly “gleaned” by professional “scythes”. Two teens compete with each other for one scythe position, though neither of them wants it. The one who becomes a scythe must glean the other.

Nonfiction

#Notyourprincess: Voices of Native American Women
edited by Lisa Charleyboy and Mary Beth Leatherdale

An eclectic collection of poems, essays, interviews, and art that express the experience of being a Native woman.

We Are Here to Stay: Voices of Undocumented Young Adults
by Susan Kuklin

Stories of nine undocumented young adults living in America, who face an uncertain future.

The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives
by Dashka Slater

 Tells the true story of a teen who was set on fire by another teen while riding a bus in Oakland, California.
Nonfiction

Just Mercy: Adapted for Young Adults
by Bryan Stevenson

Details author’s personal experience including his many challenges and efforts as a lawyer and social advocate, especially on behalf of America's most marginalized people.

Historical Fiction

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn
by Betty Smith

Young Francie Nolan, having inherited both her father's romantic and her mother's practical nature, struggles to survive and thrive growing up in the slums of Brooklyn in the early twentieth century.

And the Ocean was Our Sky
by Patrick Ness

Retelling of Moby Dick from the point of view of Bathsheba, a warrior whale, destined from birth to hunt down the mythical human Toby Wick.

Graphic Stories

The Unwanted: Stories of the Syrian Refugees
by Don Brown

An exploration of the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis, exposing the harsh realities of living in, and trying to escape, a war zone.

The Bridge: How the Roeblings Connected Brooklyn to New York
by Peter J. Tomasi

Looks at the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge.

Runaways
by Brian K. Vaughan

Running from their villainous parents, six runaway teens have only each other to rely on.
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**

Dickens, Charles. *A Christmas Carol*
The ghosts of Christmas past, present and future bring greedy miser Ebenezer Scrooge on a Christmas eve adventure and transformation.

Dumas, Alexandre. *The Count of Monte Cristo*
Falsely accused of a crime, a young sailor escapes after 15 years in prison determined to punish his enemies.

Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*
Scout is 10 when her father, a small town lawyer, defends a black man unjustly accused of a crime. Set in Alabama in the 1930's.

Orczy, Baroness. *The Scarlet Pimpernel*
A band of titled Englishmen rescue French aristocrats from the shadow of the guillotine.

Steinbeck, John. *The Pearl*
A poor Mexican fisherman discovers a giant pearl which brings him not wealth but great unhappiness.

**Fantasy & Science Fiction**

Hardinge, Francis. *The Lie Tree*
On an island off the south coast of Victorian England, Faith investigates the mysterious death of her father, who was involved in a scandal, and discovers a tree that feeds upon lies and gives those who eat its fruit visions of truth.

Hartman, Rachel. *Seraphina*
In a world where dragons and humans coexist in an uneasy truce and dragons can assume human form, Seraphina, whose mother died giving birth to her, grapples with her own identity.
McNeal, Tom. Far, Far Away
When Jeremy Johnson Johnson's strange ability to speak to the ghost of Jacob Grimm draws the interest of his classmate, Ginger Boltinghouse, the two find themselves at the center of a series of disappearances in their hometown.

Nix, Garth. Sabriel
Sabriel, daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, must travel into the mysterious and magical Old Kingdom to rescue her father from the Land of the Dead.

Pratchett, Terry. The Color of Magic
First of the legendary Discworld series, introduces the tourist Twoflower and his wizard guide Rincewind.

Sachar, Louis. Fuzzy Mud
Two middle-grade kids take a shortcut home from school and discover a substance with the potential to wreak havoc on the entire world.

Graphic Novels
A grandmother shares the story of her experiences in WWII with her grandchild in this moving graphic novel.

Halliday, Ayun. Peanut
Nervous about starting her sophomore year at a new high school, Sadie decides to make herself more interesting by claiming to be allergic to peanuts, but her lie quickly spirals out of control.

Lewis, John, Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell. March: Book Three
Depicts the Civil Rights movement from fall of 1963 through the signing of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. Follows John Lewis of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and fellow activists. Conclusion of a trilogy but can stand alone. Winner of the Printz Award 2017 and the YALSA Nonfiction Award.

Spiegelman, Art. Maus
Graphic novel of Holocaust survival based on Spiegelman's family featuring mice as Jews and cats as Nazis.

Stevenson, Noelle. Lumberjanes: vol. 1: Beware the Kitten Holy
Five best friends spending the summer at Lumberjane scout camp defeating yetis, three-eyed wolves, and giant falcons: what's not to love?

Telgemeier, Raina. Drama
Callie rides an emotional roller coaster while serving on the stage crew for a middle school production of 'Moon Over Mississippi,' as various relationships start and end, and others never quite get going.
Yang, Gene Luen. **American Born Chinese**
Three apparently unrelated characters: Jin Wang, the only Chinese-American student at his new school; the powerful Monkey King, subject of one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables; and Chin-Kee, a personification of the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, come together with an unexpected twist in this action-packed modern fable.

**Historical Fiction**

Anderson, M.T. **The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing**  
Various diaries, letters, and other manuscripts chronicle the experiences of Octavian, a young black man from birth to age sixteen, as he is brought up as part of a science experiment in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War.

Chevalier, Tracy. **The Girl with a Pearl Earring**  
Chevalier brings the real artist Vermeer and a fictional muse to life in a jewel of a novel.

Levine, Kristin. **The Lions of Little Rock**  
In 1958 Little Rock, Arkansas, painfully shy twelve-year-old Marlee sees her city and family divided over school integration, but her friendship with Liz, a new student, helps her find her voice and fight against racism.

Paterson, Katherine. **Of Nightingales that Weep**  
Romance, elegance and tragedy abound in this story of Takiko, a talented but troubled young woman in 12th century Japan.

Zusak, Markus. **The Book Thief**  
Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book stealing and storytelling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors. Set in WWII.

**Memoir**

Cleary, Beverly. **The Girl from Yamhill**  
Author of children's books gives her account of her childhood in Portland, Oregon in the 1920's.

Feynman, Richard. **Surely You're Joking Mr. Feynman**  
A series of anecdotes by Nobel Prizewinning physicist Richard Feynman who is intolerant of stupidity and very funny.

Hickham, Homer. **Rocket Boys**  
An autobiographical account of NASA engineer Homer Hickam's life that discusses his childhood, his obsession with rockets, his NASA career, and other related topics.
Jackson, Shirley. **Life Among the Savages**
The author, her husband and four children move to Vermont in this chronicle of a haphazard household.

McCarthy, Mary. **Memories of a Catholic Girlhood**
Mary, as the eldest of "poor Roy's children"- her parents died during the influenza epidemic of 1918- was shuttled between two sets of grandparents and three religions- Catholic, Protestant and Jewish.

Myers, Walter Dean. **Bad Boy**
The author describes his childhood in Harlem in the 1940s and 1950s, discussing his loving stepmother, his problems in school, his reasons for leaving home, and his beginnings as a writer.

Soto, Gary. **Living Up the Street**
Describes the author’s experiences growing up as a Mexican American in Fresno, California.

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**Mystery and Suspense**

Christie, Agatha. **Murder on the Orient Express**
Hercule Poirot tracks down a murderer among a dozen unusual passengers aboard the Orient Express.

King, Laurie R. **The Beekeeper's Apprentice**
Mary Russell joins up with Sherlock Holmes in an adventure colored by excitement and intelligence.

Oppel, Kenneth. **The Nest**
When wasps come to Steve in a dream offering to fix his sick baby brother, saying yes does not have the meaning Steve thinks it does.

Starmer, Aaron. **The Riverman**
Fiona claims she visits a parallel universe where The Riverman is stealing children's souls and needs Alistair to write her biography because she fears her soul may be next.

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**Nonfiction**

Ackerman, Diane. **The Zookeeper's Wife**
The story of Jan and Antonina Zabinski, Christian zookeepers at the Warsaw Zoo, who helped save the lives of approximately three hundred Polish Jews during World War II.
Alifirenka, Caitlin and Martin Ganda. *I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives*  
The true story of an American girl and a boy from Zimbabwe and the letter that changed both of their lives forever.

Allin, Michael. *Zarafa: A Giraffe's True Story*  
Chronicles the journey of the giraffe that Ottoman Viceroy of Egypt, Muhammad Ali, gave to King Charles X as it traveled from Egypt to France in 1827.

Ceram, C. W. *Gods, Graves and Scholars*  
An account of major archaeologists' explorations and their discoveries.

Gladwell, Malcolm. *Blink: The Power of Thinking without Thinking*  
A book about choices that seem to be made in an instant--in the blink of an eye--that actually aren't as simple as they seem.

Khan, Khizr. *This Is Our Constitution.*  
The author traces his family's experiences immigrating to the U.S. to introduce the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, explaining how it represents America's democratic values and discussing the importance of documents history.

Lord, Walter. *A Night to Remember*  
The sinking of the Titanic told as a suspenseful tale in chronological order, with eyewitness accounts from survivors.

Rubalcaba, Jill. *I.M. Pei: Architect of Time, Place, and Purpose.*  
Each chapter looks at Pei's approach to one project, the challenges he encountered, and how he achieved his vision for the building. Illustrations include sketches, site models, and photos.

Sacks, Oliver. *The Man Who Mistook his Wife for a Hat*  
Neurologist describes some puzzling cases of brain disorders.

The life and scientific discoveries of Maria Merian, who discovered the truth about metamorphosis and documented the science behind the mystery in this visual biography that features many original paintings by Maria herself.

Sobel, Dava. *Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time*  
The thorniest scientific problem of the eighteenth century was how to determine longitude. This is the engrossing story of the clockmaker who solved the problem that Newton and Galileo had failed to conquer.
St. John, Warren. **Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team that Changed a Town**
The young people’s version of the story of coach Luma Mufleh and her soccer team, the Fugees, made up of a diverse group of refugees, and how they inspired and changed small town Clarkston, Georgia.

**Realistic Fiction**

Carter, Anne Laurel. **The Shepherd's Granddaughter**
Like many Palestinians, Amani’s family has grazed sheep above the olive groves of the family homestead for generations, and, having been steeped in her grandfather's stories, longs to be a shepherd.

Cooney, Caroline B. **The Face on the Milk Carton**
A photograph of a missing girl on a milk carton leads Janie on a search for her real identity.

Erksine, Kathryn. **Mockingbird**
Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.

Flake, Sharon. **Who Am I Without Him?**
Ten short stories about teenage girls struggling with issues of self-worth.

Gino, Alex. **George**
When people look at George, they see a boy, but George knows she’s a girl. How long will she have to keep this a secret?

McCall, Guadalupe Garcia. **Under the Mesquite**
As her mother battles cancer, Lupita takes on responsibility for her house and seven younger siblings, while finding refuge in acting and writing poetry.

Myers, Walter Dean. **Darius and Twig**
Darius, a writer, and Twig, a runner, have been best friends since they were nine. Now sixteen, the two dream of finding a world beyond the confines of their daily lives on 145th Street in Harlem.

Pung, Alice. **Lucy and Linh**
A smart but insecure girl leaps at the chance to escape her broken-down suburban life when she is given a scholarship to a prestigious school, where she unexpectedly gains entry into an influential clique alongside a girl who is tired of being eclipsed by her own false popularity.

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. **Ghost Boys**
After seventh-grader Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat, he observes the aftermath of his death and meets the ghosts of other fallen black boys including historical figure Emmett Till.

Stead, Rebecca. **Goodbye Stranger**  
As Bridge makes her way through seventh grade on Manhattan's Upper West Side with her best friends--curvaceous Em, crusader Tab, and a curious new friend (or more than friend) Sherm--she finds the answer she's been seeking since she barely survived an accident at age eight: "What is my purpose?"

Sullivan, Tara. **Golden Boy**  
A Tanzanian albino boy finds himself the ultimate outsider, hunted because of the color of his skin.

Venkatraman, Padma. **A Time to Dance**  
Veda, a classical dance prodigy in India, lives and breathes dance. After an accident that results in a below-knee amputation, it seems she will never dance again. Veda refuses to let her disability determine her life. She receives a prosthetic leg and starts all over again.

**Need more suggestions?**

*Check out these authors...*  
Joan Bauer  
Bill Bryson  
Anne McCaffrey  
Sharon Draper  
Matt de la Peña  
Jim Murphy  
Mitali Perkins  
Gary Schmidt  
Steve Sheinkin  
Terry Pratchett  
Scott Westerfeld  
Gabrielle Zevin

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