



By K12 Coalition

Summer Reading Recommendations

Reading for enjoyment is one of the strongest predictors of student academic success, and equally important: the development of empathy and flexible thinking. RedThread's Summer Reading Recommendations are made with this in mind. The books in this list are intentionally chosen to engage a wide variety of readers and provide choices to students and families so that every student can find books they will truly enjoy.

BOOK CATEGORIES	
Decodables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primarily for students entering grades K-2• Used to give practice with specific phonic concepts• Can also be used for students in older grades who need targeted practice
Picture Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primarily for students entering grades K-2• Can be read aloud by caregivers or read by students themselves
Early Chapter Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primarily for students entering grades 1-4• Include pictures, while also developing reading stamina & comprehension• Mostly series, allowing for students to read more of what they love
Middle Grade Chapter Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primarily for students entering grades 3-6• Can be used for family read-aloud to younger students as well
Young Adult Chapter Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primarily for students entering grades 6-9• Content may be scary for younger students
Graphic Novels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can be used in a variety of age levels• Include rich vocabulary and knowledge-building opportunities
Non-fiction + Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can be read aloud for younger students or independently in older grades• Often include great visuals and great for building knowledge

Tips for Developing a Love of Reading

- **Finding a book your child truly enjoys** is more important than what is technically recommended for their grade level or what is a “quality” book. If your child loves video games, there are plenty of books now with stories about popular video games. If your child loves a series they started when they were younger, it is ok if they keep reading this series even as they get older!
- **Read together!** Even older students often like to read together. This could mean they read their book, while a caregiver reads their own book. This could also mean reading aloud to older students and alternating pages. Another great option is to have an older sibling read aloud to a younger sibling.
- **Set a predictable routine.** It can help to designate a specific time of the day for reading. For some, including younger students, this might be at bedtime. For others, you might set a requirement of reading for 15 minutes after breakfast each day.
- **Leverage audio books and the library.** Audiobooks can be valuable tools to support reading development. Got a long car ride coming up? Choose an audio book that the whole family will like and listen to it on the ride. Reading doesn't have to be expensive, leverage your local library as well as the Libby app to check out physical books and digital or audio books!

Recommended Frequency: We recommend students read for at least 20 minutes each day during the summer. Since summer schedules for families can be different, families should exercise creativity to ensure that reading becomes a regular part of the summer routine in a way that fits best for them.

DECODABLE TEXTS

Decodable texts can be difficult to purchase for families to read at home. For students who have used RedThread curriculum in grades K-2, we recommend leveraging the library of take-home RedThread Readers you've built over the course of the school year. Libraries often tend to have decodable texts available. Alternatively, we've provided several suggestions which families can purchase easily below.

- *Nonfiction Phonics Readers* or *Bob Books*: These tend to be sold in sets and present an affordable option for families to purchase books that target a variety of phonic patterns.
- The *Meg and Greg Series* are meant to be read aloud with a family member. On the left page, students read from the decodable text, while on the right page, an adult reads aloud from more complex text.
- *Phonic Books Moon Dog Series* are meant for older students who still need decodable text practice and are sold in affordable sets so families can purchase multiple books at once.

PICTURE BOOKS

Title	Author	Topic
<i>The Gruffalo</i>	Julia Donaldson	woodland creatures, outsmarting bullies, humor
<i>The Snail and the Whale</i>	Julia Donaldson	adventure, friendship, big vs. small
<i>Grumpy Monkey</i>	Suzanne Lang	emotions, self-acceptance, humor
<i>How to Say Hello to a Worm: A First Guide to Outside</i>	Olivia Stutz	nature, outdoor exploration, curiosity
<i>Island Storm</i>	Brian Floca & Sydney Smith	weather, nature, family, resilience
<i>Zip Zap Wickety Wack</i>	Matthew Diffie	sharing, humor, community
<i>Fireworks</i>	Matthew Burgess	wonder, summer, celebration
<i>Menudo Sunday: A Spanglish Counting Book</i>	René Colato Laínez	family traditions, bilingual, counting
<i>Earthrise: Apollo 8 and the Photo That Changed the World</i>	James Gladstone	space exploration, history, perspective
<i>Elephant and Piggie</i>	Mo Willems	friendship, humor, emotions
<i>Be Kind</i>	Pat Zietlow Miller	kindness, empathy, community
<i>What Should Danny Do?</i>	Ganit & Adir Levy	choices, consequences, interactive
<i>A Bedtime Full of Stories</i>	Ashley Casey	world folktales, bedtime, family
<i>Hogbert</i>	Briony May Smith	fairy tales, independence, animal adventure
<i>If You Make a Call on a Bananaphone</i>	Zach Rich	humor, cause-and-effect, silliness
<i>Broken</i>	X. Fang	repair, imperfection, resilience

EARLY CHAPTER BOOKS

Title	Author	Topic
<i>The Dragon Masters Series</i>	Tracey West	dragons, magic
<i>The Ratnip Series</i>	Cam Higgins	city rat, treasure hunting
<i>The Desmond Cole Ghost Patrol Series</i>	Andres Miedoso	ghosts, neighborhood adventure
<i>The Heidi Heckelbeck Series</i>	Wanda Coven	young witch, friendship
<i>The Cornbread and Poppy Series</i>	Matthew Cordell	friendship, adventure
<i>The Dory Fantasmagory Series</i>	Abby Hanlon	imagination, siblings
<i>The Kingdom of Wrenly Series</i>	Jordan Quinn	dragons, young heroes
<i>The Owl Diaries Series</i>	Rebecca Elliott	diary format, friendship
<i>The Eerie Elementary Series</i>	Jack Chabert	creepy school, monsters
<i>The Mia Mayhem Series</i>	Kara West	superheroes, school
<i>The Mercy Watson Series</i>	Kate DiCamillo	pig antics, neighborly chaos,
<i>The Meet Yasmin Series</i>	Saadia Faruqi	creativity, problem-solving
<i>The Wildlife Rescue Series</i>	Kate Messner	animal rescue, conservation
<i>The Sports Zone Series</i>	Jake Maddox	teamwork, sports

MIDDLE GRADE CHAPTER BOOKS

Title	Author	Genre	Topics
<i>Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All</i>	Cherie Dimaline	Contemporary Fiction	neighborhoods, identity
<i>The Unlikely Tale of Chase and Finnegan</i>	MarcyKate Connolly	Contemporary Fiction	friendship, adventure
<i>The Last Fallen Star</i>	Graci Kim	Fantasy	Korean mythology, magic
<i>Save Me a Seat</i>	Sarah Weeks & Gita Varadarajan	Contemporary Fiction	bullying, friendship
<i>The Unlikely Aventuras of Ramon and El Cucuy</i>	Tony Baltazar	Fantasy	folklore, humor
<i>The Summer of the Bone Horses</i>	Ana Brush	Fantasy	mystery, adventure
<i>A Wish in the Dark</i>	Christina Soontornvat	Fantasy	freedom, justice
<i>The Nine Moons of Han Yu and Luli</i>	Ying Chang Compestine	Fantasy	Chinese culture, time travel
<i>Flora and Ulysses</i>	Kate DiCamillo	Contemporary Fiction	humor, unlikely friendship
<i>Once Upon a Tim</i>	Stuart Gibbs	Adventure / Humor	medieval, comedy
<i>Impossible Creatures</i>	Katherine Rundell	Fantasy	mythical creatures, adventure
<i>Ways to Make Sunshine</i>	Renée Watson	Contemporary Fiction	navigating change, resilience
<i>I Can Make This Promise</i>	Christine Day	Contemporary Fiction	Indigenous heritage, family secrets
<i>The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez</i>	Adrianna Cuevas	Contemporary Fiction	military family, talking to animals
<i>From the Desk of Zoe Washington</i>	Janae Marks	Mystery	detective, criminal justice

YOUNG ADULT

Title	Author	Genre	Keywords
<i>And Then, Boom</i>	Lisa Fipps	Contemporary Fiction	bullying, self-worth
<i>Rebellion, 1776</i>	Donna Freitas	Historical Fiction	American Revolution, loyalty
<i>The Mona Lisa Vanishes</i>	Nicholas Day	Narrative Nonfiction	art history, heist
<i>Coyote Sunrise</i>	Dan Gemeinhart	Contemporary Fiction	roadtrip, navigating grief
<i>The Enigma Girls</i>	Candace Fleming	Historical Nonfiction	WWII, female codebreakers
<i>The Bletchley Riddle</i>	Ruta Sepetys & Steve Sheinkin	Historical Fiction	WWII, espionage
<i>Akata Witch</i>	Nnedi Okofor	Fantasy	Nigerian mythology, magic
<i>Race to the Sun</i>	Rebecca Roanhorse	Fantasy	Navajo mythology, adventure
<i>Restart</i>	Gordon Korman	Contemporary Fiction	amnesia, bullying
<i>Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky</i>	Kwame Mbalia	Fantasy	West African folklore, adventure
<i>Amari and the Night Brothers</i>	B.B. Alston	Fantasy	supernatural, secret society
<i>Merci Suárez Changes Gears</i>	Meg Medina	Contemporary Fiction	class differences, Alzheimer's
<i>Falling Short</i>	Ernesto Cisneros	Contemporary Fiction	friendship, basketball
<i>Hello, Universe</i>	Erin Entrada Kelly	Contemporary Fiction	epic-quest, friendship
<i>Satellite</i>	Nick Lake	Sci-fi	space travel, conspiracy

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Title	Author	Age Range	Topic
<i>Pizza and Taco (series)</i>	Stephen Shaskan	K–2	food friends, humor, rivalry
<i>Cloud Puppy (series)</i>	Kelly Leigh Miller	K–2	animals, kindness, friendship
<i>Batcat (series)</i>	Meggie Ramm	K–2	animals, humor, adventure
<i>Narwhal and Jelly (series)</i>	Ben Clanton	K–2	ocean animals, unlikely friendship
<i>I Survived (series, graphic novel)</i>	Lauren Tarshis	3–5	historical disasters, survival, true events
<i>Frizzy</i>	Claribel Ortega	3–5	hair, identity, self-acceptance
<i>The Cartoonist's Club</i>	Raina Telgemeier & Scott McCloud	3–5	making comics, creative collaboration
<i>Hilo: The Boy Who Crashed to Earth (series)</i>	Judd Winick	3–5	boy crash-lands from space, adventure
<i>Garlic and the Vampire</i>	Bree Paulsen	3–5	fantasy village, confronting fears
<i>Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales (series)</i>	Nathan Hale	3–5	history, adventure, humor
<i>Weirdo</i>	Tony Weaver Jr.	6–8	superheroes, anime, finding your people
<i>Stepping Stones</i>	Lucy Knisley	6–8	blended family, farm life, friendship
<i>Almost American Girl</i>	Robin Ha	6–8	moving from Seoul, finding belonging through manga
<i>Freestyle</i>	Gale Galligan	6–8	secret passion for dance, basketball pressure
<i>Pashmina</i>	Nidhi Chanani	6–8	magical pashmina, dual cultures, family secrets

NON-FICTION AND REFERENCE

Title	Author	Grade	Topic
<i>There Are No Silly Questions</i>	Lori Degman	K–2	curiosity, asking questions
<i>A Day in the Life of Sharks (series)</i>	Caroline Wakeman	K–3	ocean animals
<i>National Geographic Weird But True (series)</i>	National Geographic Kids	K–5	science, animals, world facts
<i>What's Inside a Bird's Nest?</i>	Rachel Ignotofsky	K–3	nature, life cycles
<i>Gross Factopia!</i>	Paige Towler	2–5	gross science facts, browsable
<i>The Who Was? Series</i>	Various	2–6	biography, history
<i>Wild Places: The Life of Naturalist David Attenborough</i>	Hayley Rocco	K–3	biography, nature
<i>Total Garbage: A Messy Dive into Trash, Waste, and Our World</i>	Rebecca Donnelly	3–6	environment, sustainability
<i>History Smashers (series)</i>	Kate Messner	3–6	history myth-busting
<i>Treasury of Greek Mythology</i>	Donna Jo Napoli	3–7	Greek gods, heroes, monsters
<i>Africa, Amazing Africa: Country by Country</i>	Atinuke	3–6	African geography, world cultures
<i>Amazing Immortals: A Guide to Gods and Goddesses Around the World</i>	Dinah Williams	4–8	world mythology, art
<i>Bomb</i>	Steve Sheinkin	6–9	WWII history, espionage
<i>Indigenous Ingenuity</i>	Deidre Havrelock & Edward Kay	5–8	Indigenous history, STEM
<i>Mountain of Fire</i>	Rebecca E.F. Barone	5–8	earth science, survival