



Summer adventures are just a chapter away!

Summer is right around the corner, and while this one may feel a bit different than what we are used to, one silver lining is that we will all have lots of time to discover new worlds, learn about our history, and travel... all through reading! Children are inherently curious, and giving them plenty of opportunities to make these discoveries often leads to a hunger for more.

This list of titles is adapted from the Association for Library Service to Children 2020 Notable Books list and can help guide you as you select books for your child's summer reading adventures. *Many of these titles are available electronically through your local library.*

Grades 6–8

Accused! The Trials of the Scottsboro Boys: Lies, Prejudice, and the Fourteenth Amendment. By Larry Dane Brimner. illus. Boyds Mills/Calkins Creek. The impeccably researched story of nine African American young men falsely accused of raping two white girls in 1931 Scottsboro, Alabama.

All the Greys on Greene Street. By Laura Tucker. Illus. by Kelly Murphy. Viking. Olympia must navigate both the disappearance of her father and her mother's growing struggle with depression.

Beverly, Right Here. By Kate DiCamillo. Candlewick. After the loss of her beloved dog, Beverly runs away from home and starts a new life.

Born to Fly: The First Women's Air Race across America. By Steve Sheinkin. Illus. by Bijou Karman. Roaring Brook. The well-researched, compellingly written account of 20 aviators competing in the first all-female, cross-country air derby.

Games of Deception: The True Story of the First U.S. Olympic Basketball Team at the 1936 Olympics in Hitler's Germany. By Andrew Maraniss. illus. Philomel. This brief history of how basketball became an Olympic sport looks at the ethical issues surrounding the U.S. team's decision to participate in the 1936 Olympics.

Genesis Begins Again. By Alicia D. Williams. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy. Painfully self-conscious about her dark skin, 13-year-old Genesis faces new challenges when her family moves to suburban Detroit and she starts a new school. (Newbery Honor Book)

I Can Make This Promise. By Christine Day. Harper. Twelve-year-old Edie discovers a box in her family's attic that reveals her mother's Suquamish/Duwamish heritage.

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People. By Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. Adapted by Jean Mendoza and Debbie Reese. illus. Beacon. This unflinching adaptation makes crucial history accessible for children and teens.

Infinite Hope: A Black Artist's Journey from World War II to Peace. By Ashley Bryan. Illus. by the author. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy. A moving memoir recounts the WWII experiences of an artistic young man through his contemporaneous writing and illustration on the front line.

Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks. By Jason Reynolds. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy. What happens after school? These 10 interconnected stories will tell you, block by block.

Maybe He Just Likes You. By Barbara Dee. Aladdin. Mila, a seventh-grader, experiences sexual harassment and unwanted attention from a group of classmates.

New Kid. By Jerry Craft. Illus. by the author. Harper. A funny, thought-provoking graphic novel that details Jordan Banks' seventh-grade year as one of the few African American kids in an elite suburban school. (Newbery Medal Book)

Ordinary Hazards: A Memoir. By Nikki Grimes. WordSong. This distinguished memoir in verse highlights bestselling author and poet Nikki Grimes' formative years, detailing the people, places, and events that shaped her life. (Sibert Honor Book)

The Other Half of Happy. By Rebecca Balcárcel. Chronicle. A biracial girl explores her Guatemalan heritage and deals with family struggles, while navigating the realities of middle school. (Belpré Author Honor Book)

Other Words for Home. By Jasmine Warga. HarperCollins/Balzer+Bray. Themes of conflict, home, identity, the arts, and prejudice are interwoven in this powerful verse novel about a Syrian girl's new life in America. (Newbery Honor Book)

A Place to Belong. By Cynthia Kadohata. Illus. by Julia Kuo. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy. After her Japanese American parents are released from an internment camp, twelve-year-old Hanako travels with her family to start a new life in post-war Japan.

The Poison Eaters: Fighting Danger and Fraud in our Food and Drugs. By Gail Jarow. illus. Boyds Mills/Calkins Creek. From formaldehyde in your milk to borax in your beans comes this fun, informative exploration of the FDA and how it works to keep our food safe.

Sal & Gabi Break the Universe. By Carlos Hernandez. Disney/Hyperion. Sci-fi adventure and Cuban culture blend as Sal Vidón and his friend Gabi travel to parallel universes and try to survive middle school. (Belpré Author Award Book)

A Story about Cancer (with a Happy Ending). By India Desjardins. Illus. by Marianne Ferrer. Quarto/Frances Lincoln. In this illustrated book for older children, a teenage girl waits for test results and reflects on her five-year battle with leukemia.

Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers. By Celia C. Pérez. Penguin/Kokila. Four wildly different middle-school girls join together in social activism to protest an outdated tradition.

Survivors of the Holocaust: True Stories of Six Extraordinary Children. Ed. by Kath Shackleton. Illus. by Zane Whittingham. Sourcebooks/Jabberwocky. A compelling collection of six little-known, true stories of child Holocaust survivors, told in graphic novel format.

They Called Us Enemy. By George Takei, Justin Eisinger, and Steven Scott. Illus. by Harmony Becker. Top Shelf. A graphic memoir of a Japanese American family during the internment years in California.

This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality. By Jo Ann Allen Boyce and Debbie Levy. illus. Bloomsbury. A first-person, verse account of the challenges faced by the first African American students to integrate into an American high school. (Sibert Honor Book)

Torpedoed: The True Story of the World War II Sinking of "The Children's Ship." By Deborah Heiligman. illus. Holt. The incredible, nonfiction tale of the German submarine attack on a ship carrying 100 child refugees during WWII.

Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky. By Kwame Mbalia. Disney/Hyperion. While visiting his grandparents in Alabama, Tristan enters into a parallel universe populated by characters from African and African American traditional stories.

Wait, What? A Comic Book Guide to Relationships, Bodies, and Growing Up. By Heather Corinna. Illus. by Isabella Rotman. Limerence. The founder of Scarleteen.com takes a head-on approach to discussing gender, sexuality, identities, and more.

We Are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls around the World. By Malala Yousafzai. Little, Brown. Yousafzai recounts her story of displacement and introduces refugee girls worldwide, putting faces and stories to the demographics of immigration.

Where the Heart Is. By Jo Knowles. Candlewick. Rachel negotiates a summer of changing friendships, family financial disaster, a new job, and a growing awareness of her sexual identity.

Words on Fire. By Jennifer Nielsen. Scholastic. Set during the nineteenth-century Russian occupation of Lithuania, Audra and her family smuggle books to save Lithuanian language and culture.

The Year We Fell from Space. By Amy Sarig King. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine. As Liberty's family struggles with divorce and mental illness, her life begins to spin out of control.

ALL AGES

I Remember: Poems and Pictures of Heritage. Ed. by Lee Bennett Hopkins. illus. Lee & Low. Sixteen illustrators and fourteen poets come together to address themes of culture, identity, and community.

Liberty Arrives!: How America's Grandest Statue Found Her Home. By Robert Byrd. Illus. by the author. Dial. This informational picturebook introduces many people involved in Lady Liberty's journey from France to her final destination in New York Harbor.

A Place to Land: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Speech that Inspired a Nation. By Barry Wittenstein. Illus. by Jerry Pinkney. Holiday/Neal Porter. A look at how Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream Speech" was written and the voices that shaped its message.

Soldier for Equality: José de la Luz Sáenz and the Great War. By Duncan Tonatiuh. Illus. by the author. Abrams. A fascinating picturebook biography of Mexican American José de la Luz Sáenz's fight for equality as a U.S. soldier during WWI. (Belpré Author Honor Book)

Thanku: Poems of Gratitude. Ed. by Miranda Paul. Illus. by Marlena Myles. Lerner/Millbrook. Thirty-two diverse poets explore moments of gratitude found throughout the year.

The Undefeated. By Kwame Alexander. Illus. by Kadir Nelson. HMH/Versify. Alexander's poetry and Nelson's illustration pair wonderfully in this stunning ode to the courage and strength of African Americans. (Caldecott Medal Book, Newbery Honor Book)

You Are Home: An Ode to the National Parks. By Evan Turk. Illus. by the author. Atheneum. Bold illustrations and poetic text showcase America's famous and lesser-known National Parks.

Reference: Association for Library Service to Children (<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb>)

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