

Getting Started: Recommended Titles for Middle Grade (MG) and Young Adult (YA)

Readers

	RECOMMENDED TITLES
NOVELS IN VERSE	<p>6-8: <i>Alone</i> by Megan Freeman, <i>Before the Ever After</i> and <i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> by Jacqueline Woodson, <i>Full Cicada Moon</i> by Marilyn Hilton, <i>Inside Out & Back Again</i> by Thanhha Lai, <i>Land of the Cranes</i> by Aida Salazar, <i>Other Words for Home</i> by Jasmine Warga, <i>Red, White, and Whole</i> by Rajani LaRocca, <i>Starfish</i> by Lisa Fipps, <i>The Canyon’s Edge</i> by Dusti Bowling, <i>The Crossover</i> (along with <i>Booked</i>, <i>Becoming Muhammad Ali</i>, <i>Rebound</i>, <i>The Door of No Return</i>, etc.) by Kwame Alexander.</p> <p>9-12: <i>Clap When You Land</i> and <i>The Poet X</i> by Elizabeth Acevedo, <i>Home is Not a Country</i> by Safia Elhillo, <i>Long Way Down</i> by Jason Reynolds, <i>(Me) Moth</i> by Amber McBride, <i>Punching the Air</i> by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam, <i>Shout</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson, <i>Solo</i> by Kwame Alexander, <i>White Rose</i> by Kip Wilson.</p>
GRAPHIC NOVELS AND GRAPHIC MEMOIRS	<p>6-8: <i>El Deafo</i> by Cece Bell, <i>Frizzy</i> by Claribel Ortega, <i>New Kid</i> series by Jerry Craft, <i>Invisible</i> by Christina Diaz Gonzalez and Gabriela Epstein, <i>Roller Girl</i> and <i>When Stars Are Scattered</i> by Victoria Jamieson (and the latter with Omar</p>

	<p>Mohamed), <i>Swim Team</i> by Johnnie Christmas, <i>Snapdragon</i> by Kat Leyh, <i>The Tryout</i> by Christina Soontornvat and Joanna Cacao, and <i>They Called Us Enemy</i> by George Takei, Justin Eisinger, Steven Scott, and Harmony Becker.</p> <p>9-12: <i>Almost American Girl</i> by Robin Ha; <i>American Born Chinese</i>, <i>Dragon Hoops</i>, and <i>Superman Smashes the Klan</i> by Gene Luen Yang; <i>Dancing at the Pity Party</i> by Tyler Feder; <i>Heartstopper</i> Series by Alice Oseman; <i>Maus</i> by Art Spiegelman; <i>Speak</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson and Emily Carroll; <i>I am Alfonso Jones</i> by Tony Medina, John Jennings, and Stacey Robinson; <i>Hey, Kiddo</i> and <i>Sunshine</i> by Jarrett Krosoczka; <i>The March Trilogy</i> by John Lewis, Nate Powell, and Andrew Aydin; <i>The Prince and the Dressmaker</i> by Jen Wang; <i>Squad</i> by Maggie Tokuda-Hall and Lisa Sterle.</p>
DYSTOPIAN	<p>7-12: <i>Divergent</i> by Veronica Roth, <i>Scythe</i> by Neal Shusterman, <i>Ender’s Game</i> by Orson Scott Card, <i>Legend</i> by Marie Lu, <i>Nyxia</i> by Scott Reignten, <i>Ready Player One</i> by Ernest Cline, <i>Shatter Me</i> by Taherah Mafi, <i>The Giver</i> by Lois Lowry <i>The Hunger Games</i> by Suzanne Collins, <i>The Last Book in the Universe</i> by Rodman Philbrick, <i>The</i></p>

	<p><i>Marrow Thieves</i> by Cherie Dimaline, <i>The Maze Runner</i> by James Dashner, <i>Uglies</i> by Scott Westerfield, etc.</p>
<p>“ALL THE FEELS”</p>	<p>7-12: <i>All My Rage</i> by Sabaa Tahir, <i>Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe</i> by Benjamin Alire Sáenz, <i>A Very Large Expanse of Sea</i> by Taherah Mafi, <i>Furia</i> by Yamile Saied Mendez, <i>Jackpot</i> and <i>Odd One Out</i> by Nic Stone, <i>Love From A to Z</i> by S.K. Ali, <i>Opposite of Always</i> by Justin Reynolds, <i>To All the Boys I've Loved Before</i> and <i>The Summer I Turned Pretty</i> by Jenny Han, <i>The Fault in Our Stars</i> by John Green, <i>The Henna Wars</i> by Adiba Jaigirdar, <i>The Sun is Also a Star</i> by Nicola Yoon, <i>The Poet X</i> by Elizabeth Acevedo, <i>They Both Die at the End</i> and <i>The First to Die at the End</i> by Adam Silvera, <i>Today Tonight Tomorrow</i> by Rachel Lynn Solomon, etc.</p>
<p>REALISTIC FICTION</p>	<p>6-8: <i>A Good Kind of Trouble</i> by Lisa Moore Ramee, <i>Black Brother Black Brother</i> by Jewel Parker Rhodes <i>Blended</i> and <i>Out of My Mind</i> by Sharon Draper, <i>Dress Coded</i> by Carrie Firestone, <i>Efrén Divided</i> and <i>Falling Short</i> by Ernesto Cisneros, <i>From the Desk of Zoe Washington</i> by Janae Marks, <i>I Can Make This Promise</i> by Christine Day, <i>Maybe He Just Likes You</i> by Barbara Dee, <i>Stand Up, Yumi Chung</i> by Jessica Kim, <i>Starfish</i> by Lisa Fipps, <i>The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora</i> by Pablo Cartaya, <i>The Remarkable Journey of Coyote</i></p>

	<p><i>Sunrise</i> by Dan Gemeinhart, <i>The Shape of Thunder</i> by Jasmine Warga, <i>The Stars Beneath Our Feet</i> by David Barclay Moore, the Track Series by Jason Reynolds, etc.</p> <p>9-12: <i>All American Boys</i> by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely, <i>Dear Martin</i> and <i>Dear Justyce</i> by Nic Stone, <i>Here to Stay</i> by Sara Farizan, <i>In the Wild Light</i> and <i>The Serpent King</i> by Jeff Zentner, <i>Looking for Alaska</i> and <i>Paper Towns</i> by John Green, <i>Patron Saints of Nothing</i> by Randy Ribay, <i>Speak</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson, <i>The Hate U Give</i>, <i>Concrete Rose</i>, and <i>On the Come Up</i> by Angie Thomas, <i>This Is My America</i> by Kim Johnson, <i>We are Not from Here</i> by Jennifer Torres Sanchez, etc.</p>
<p>CONNECTION TO HISTORY</p>	<p>6-8: <i>A High Five for Glenn Burke</i> by Phil Bildner, <i>A Long Walk to Water</i> by Linda Sue Park, <i>Becoming Muhammad Ali</i> and <i>The Door of No Return</i> by Kwame Alexander and James Paterson, <i>Clean Getaway</i> and <i>Fast Pitch</i> by Nic Stone, <i>Finding Junie Kim</i> by Ellen Oh, <i>Front Desk</i> series by Kelly Yang, <i>Ghost Boys</i> and <i>Towers Falling</i> by Jewell Parker Rhodes, <i>Ophie’s Ghosts</i> by Justina Ireland, <i>Refugee</i> (among others) by Alan Gratz, <i>The Parker Inheritance</i> by Varian Johnson, <i>The War That Saved My Life</i> by Kimberly</p>

	<p><u>Brubaker Bradley</u>, <i>We Dream of Space</i> by Erin Entrada Kelly.</p> <p>9-12: <i>Black Birds in the Sky</i> by Brandy Colbert <i>Salt to the Sea</i> (among others) by Ruta Sepetys, <i>Born a Crime</i> by Trevor Noah; <i>Code Name Verity</i> by Elizabeth Wein, <i>Just Mercy</i> by Bryan Stevenson, <i>Fever 1793</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson, <i>Like a Love Story</i> by Abdi Nazemian, <i>The Black Kids</i> by Christina Hammonds Reed, <i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak, <i>The 57 Bus</i> by Dashka Slater, <i>Victory. Stand!</i> <i>Raising My Fist for Justice</i> by Tommie Smith, Derrick Barnes, and Dawud Anyabwile, <i>We are Not Free</i> by Traci Chee.</p>
MYSTERY & THRILLER	<p>7-12: <i>Ace of Spades</i> by <u>Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé</u>, <i>A Good Girl's Guide to Murder</i> by Holly Jackson, <i>Firekeeper's Daughter</i> by Angeline Boulley, <i>Monday's Not Coming (among others)</i> by Tiffany D. Jackson, <i>One of Us is Lying (among others)</i> by Karen McManus, <i>Sadie</i> by Courtney Summers, <i>Spy School</i> by Stuart Gibbs, <i>The Inheritance Games</i> by Jennifer Lynn Barnes, <i>They'll Never Catch Us</i> by Jessica Goodman, <i>Truly Devious</i> by Maureen Johnson.</p>

FANTASY

6-8: *Amari and the Night Brothers* by B.B. Alston, *A Wish in the Dark* by Christina Soontornvat, *Healer of the Water Monster* by Brian Young, *Nic Blake and the Remarkables* by Angie Thomas, *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill, *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan, *The Jumbies* by Kelly Baptiste, *The Marvellers* by Dhonielle Clayton, *Tristan Strong* by Kwame Mbalia, *When You Trap a Tiger* by Kae Teller.

9-12: *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi, *Elatsoe* by Darcie Little Badger, *Eragon* by Christopher Paolini, *Legendborn* by Tracy Deonn, *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs, *Raybearer* by Jordan Ifueko, *The Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard, *This Poison Heart* by Kalynn Bayron.