

Spark Summer Reading!

The list of books below was generated to help you spark some ideas for summer reading! Remember, you may select from one of the books listed OR any title of your choosing, as long as it is middle-school appropriate.

Alexander, Kwame - *The Crossover*

Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

Alifrenka, Caitlin - *I Will Always Write Back*

The true story of an all-American girl and a boy from Zimbabwe and the letter that changed both of their lives forever. It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place. Martin was lucky to even receive a pen-pal letter. There were only ten letters, and fifty kids in his class. But he was the top student, so he got the first one. That letter was the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and changed two lives. In this compelling dual memoir, Caitlin and Martin recount how they became best friends –and better people–through their long-distance exchange.

Anderson, John David – *Posted*

A group of middle school students decide to begin leaving sticky notes for each other after cell phones are banned, but soon the kids in school are leaving cutting and cruel notes, and nothing will ever be the same.

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell - *The Boy Who Dared*

In October 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hübener, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people.

Card, Orson Scott - *Ender's Game*

Ender, who is the result of genetic experimentation, may be the military genius Earth needs in its war against an alien enemy.

Cooney, Caroline - *Three Black Swans*

When sixteen-year-old Missy Vianello decides to try to convince her classmates that her cousin Claire is really her long-lost identical twin, she has no idea that the results of her prank will be so life-changing.

Draper, Sharon - *Out of my Mind*

Possessing a photographic memory in spite of an inability to walk or speak, Melody is mistaken as mentally challenged by those who cannot see beyond her cerebral palsy, impelling her to discover a way to communicate.

Farmer, Nancy - *The House of the Scorpion*

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

Flanagan, John - *The Ruins of Gorlan*

When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt, and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger.

Gaiman, Neil - *The Graveyard Book*

The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures.

Gantos, Jack - *Dead End in Norvelt*

In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses.

Gemeinhart, Dan - *The Honest Truth*

A boy named Mark, tired of being sick with cancer, conceives a plan to climb Mount Rainier, and runs away from home with his dog, Beau—but with over two hundred miles between him and his goal, and only anger at his situation to drive him on, nothing will be easy, and only his best friend, Jessie, suspects where he is heading.

Gratz, Alan – *Refugee*

Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson – *Found*

When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.

Herlong, Madaline - *The Great Wide Sea*

Still mourning the death of their mother, three brothers go with their father on an extended sailing trip off the Florida Keys and have a harrowing adventure at sea.

Hiaasen, Carl – *Hoot*

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

Horowitz, Anthony – *Stormbreaker*

After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6.

Hunt, Lynda Mullaly - *Fish in a Tree*

Middle schooler Ally's greatest fear is that everyone will find out she is as dumb as they think she is because she still doesn't know how to read.

Lupica, Mike - *QB1*

Jake Cullen, fourteen, lives in the shadows of his father and older brother until he becomes the starting quarterback for the high school football team and finally has his chance to shine.

MacHale, D.J. – *Sylo*

They came from the sky parachuting out of military helicopters to invade Tucker Pierce's idyllic hometown island in Maine. They call themselves SYLO and they are a secret branch of the U.S. Navy. SYLO's commander, Captain Granger, informs everyone that the island has been hit by a lethal virus and must be quarantined. Now, residents are cut off from the outside world.

Nielsen, Jennifer - *A Night Divided*

When the Berlin Wall went up, Gerta, her mother, and her brother Fritz were trapped on the eastern side where they were living, while her father, and her other brother Dominic were in the West—four years later, now twelve, Gerta sees her father on a viewing platform on the western side and realizes he wants her to risk her life trying to tunnel to freedom.

Peacock, Shane - *Eye of the Crow*

In 1867, Sherlock Holmes, an impoverished young outcast with a Jewish father and a highborn mother, visits the scene of a woman's brutal murder, where he meets a wrongly accused young Arab and becomes a suspect himself.

Reichs, Kathy – *Virals*

Tory Brennan and her friends are exposed to a canine parvovirus when they rescue a dog from a medical testing facility and soon realize they have heightened senses, which they use to solve a cold case murder.

Reynolds, Jason – *Ghost*

Ghost, a naturally talented runner and troublemaker, is recruited for an elite middle school track team. He must stay on track, literally and figuratively, to reach his full potential.

Ryan, Pam Munoz – *Echo*

Lost in the Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and finds himself entwined in a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica—and decades later three children, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California find themselves caught up in the same thread of destiny in the darkest days of the twentieth century, struggling to keep their families intact, and tied together by the music of the same harmonica.

Sonnenblick, Jordan - *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*

When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family.

Spinelli, Jerry – *Stargirl*

At first, the students at Arizona's Mica High School are captivated by Stargirl Caraway's unusual, carefree behavior; however, she is soon shunned for everything that makes her unique in this story that pits individuality against conformity.

VanDraanen, Wendelin – *Flipped*

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

Westerfeld, Scott – *Uglies*

Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen year old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the "pretty world" that she doesn't like.

White, J.A. - *The Thickety*

When Kara discovers her mother's grimoire (a book of magic spells) in the dangerous forest, she must decide if she'll use it, even though such magic is forbidden.