

The Week Junior's Summer of Reading list



AMAZING ADVENTURES

DRIVE ME CRAZY

By Terra Elan McVoy

(Katherine Tegen Books)

After Lana's grandpa marries Cassie's grandma, the whole family takes a road trip from California to Maine for the honeymoon. Stuck in the back seat together, will Lana and Cassie go from rivals to friends?

FROM THE DESK OF ZOE WASHINGTON

By Janae Marks

(Katherine Tegen Books)

Twelve-year-old Zoe wants to become a contestant on the Food Network, but soon she is faced with another challenge. Can she prove that her imprisoned father is innocent of the crime he's been locked up for during her entire life?

IVY + BEAN

By Annie Barrows and Sophie Blackall

(Chronicle Books)

If you have a friend who is nothing like you, you'll relate to the stories in the 11 books in this series. Despite being total opposites, 7-year-old neighbors Ivy and Bean become best pals and drum up zany ideas, like trying to be the youngest kids to dig up a dinosaur.

THE LONELY HEART OF MAYBELLE LANE

By Kate O'Shaughnessy

(Knopf Books for Young Readers)

Eleven-year-old Maybelle takes a road trip from Louisiana to Nashville, Tennessee, to find the father she's never met. What happens next may make you feel a mix of happy and sad.

THE MYSTERIOUS

BENEDICT SOCIETY

By Trenton Lee Stewart

(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

Four students are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. The book series is being made into a TV show.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S EXPLORER ACADEMY SERIES

By Trudi Trueit

(National Geographic Kids)

In a fantastic combo of science and adventure, Cruz Coronado and 23 other kids from around the world train in Washington, DC, to become the next generation of explorers. The stories in the book series take you to Africa, Iceland, Norway, and more exciting places.

REALISTIC AND HISTORICAL FICTION

BLACK BROTHER, BLACK BROTHER

By Jewell Parker Rhodes

(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

Although 12-year-old Donte and Trey are twins and both enjoy fencing, they don't look alike. Donte encounters bullying and racism because his skin is darker.

ECHO MOUNTAIN

By Lauren Wolk

(Dutton Children's Books)

This family's struggles during the Great Depression feel especially relevant in these times. You may have read the author's book *Beyond the Bright Sea*.

FRONT DESK

By Kelly Yang

(Arthur A. Levine Books)

Coming to 1990s America from China is only the beginning of 10-year-old Mia's life journey. While her family takes jobs working at a hotel, she must deal with learning English, the prejudice of locals, and hiding fellow immigrants from trouble.

KEEPING SCORE

By Linda Sue Park

(Clarion)

Maggie and her brother, Joey-Mick, were named for baseball great Joe DiMaggio of the New York Yankees. But Maggie is a devoted fan of the Brooklyn Dodgers baseball team. Even readers who think they don't care about baseball will be drawn into Maggie's world.

MERCI SUÁREZ CHANGES GEARS

By Meg Medina

(Candlewick)

In sixth grade, Merci switches to a private school on a scholarship. You'll root for her as she copes with the unexpected changes in her life, from first crushes to a sick grandfather.

THE TRACK SERIES

By Jason Reynolds

(Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books)

Track stars from different backgrounds find success as part of an elite middle school team. Through the course of four novels, each athlete gets their time in the spotlight.

WAYS TO MAKE SUNSHINE

By Renée Watson and Nina Mata

(Bloomsbury Children's Books)

Ryan Hart, who wants to be a chef, doesn't let anything stop her from seeing the bright side of life. That can be hard for a fourth grader with an out-of-work father, an annoying brother, and a bad case of stage fright. This is the first book of a new series.

WHAT LANE?

By Torrey Maldonado

(Nancy Paulsen Books)

When he starts middle school, Stephen, who is biracial, notices that he's being treated differently than his white friends. This book addresses racism head-on.

STORIES ABOUT SCHOOL LIFE

THE CLEMENTINE SERIES

By Sara Pennypacker and Marla Frazee

(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

Third grader Clementine and her best friend, Margaret, have many adventures together throughout this seven-book series. In the first story, Clementine tries to help Margaret when she gets glue in her hair, but it doesn't go as planned.

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID

By Jeff Kinney

(Amulet Books)

When Greg Heffley starts middle school, he begins keeping a journal about his many mishaps, from gym class gone wrong to run-ins with bullies. The books (14 so far!) are journals, written in the format of diary entries and filled with comic-like illustrations.

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FRINDLE

By Andrew Clements and Brian Selznick

(Atheneum Books for Young Readers)
In this hilarious classic, a fifth grader decides to invent a new word. From now on, a pen will be called a frindle!

INSIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF A CACTUS

By Dusti Bowling

(Sterling Children's Books)
After moving from Kansas to Arizona, 13-year-old Aven struggles to fit in at school. You'll love how she strives to show what she can do, even without arms.

THE SECRET SHERIFF OF SIXTH GRADE

By Jordan Sonnenblick

(Scholastic)
Inspired by a toy badge given to him by his father before he died, a sixth grader is determined to be a hero regardless of the obstacles in his way. Although the book tackles some tough issues, it also has a lot of humor.

THE UNTEACHABLES

By Gordon Korman

(Balzer + Bray)
What happens when the worst class is paired with the worst teacher? Not what you expect! It's fun that each chapter is told from a different character's perspective.

WINK

By Rob Harrell

(Dial Books)
School becomes more difficult for a 12-year-old with eye cancer, but his love of music may lift everyone's spirits during his recovery. You might find it hilarious and heart-wrenching at the same time.

EVERYTHING ANIMALS

A DOG'S PORPOISE

By M.C. Ross

(Scholastic)
A town bands together to reunite a lost porpoise with its pod. Awww!

FLORA AND ULYSSES: THE ILLUMINATED ADVENTURES

By Kate DiCamillo

(Candlewick Press)
A squirrel with superpowers finds an unlikely BFF in a 10-year-old girl. But her mom does everything she can to keep them apart. Poems, pencil drawings, and comic panels appear between the chapters.

THE FUNJUNGLE COLLECTION

By Stuart Gibb

(Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)
In this set of three books from the series, the son of scientists at a popular zoo solves mysteries involving the park's wild inhabitants.

SAVING WINSLOW

By Sharon Creech

(HarperCollins)
A boy who was born prematurely is determined to nurse a tiny, orphaned donkey back to health. Will he succeed?

GREAT READS FOR YOUR FAMILY

ANNE FRANK: THE DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL

By Anne Frank

(Bantam)
Anne Frank is a typical teenager, who clashes with her mother and worships movie stars—all while her family hides from the Nazis. Even surrounded by danger, Anne never

gives up believing in human kindness. Her real-life, firsthand account is the most famous example of how the Nazi Holocaust destroyed the lives of Jewish people in Europe.

CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

By Roald Dahl

(Puffin Books)
Honest and kind Charlie Bucket wins one of five Golden Tickets to Willy Wonka's famous candy factory that makes fantastical treats. With songs, wacky word play, and lots of dialogue, this classic is entertaining for people of all ages to read.

FINDING ORION

By John David Anderson

(Walden Pond Press)
The quirky characters—like a dad who makes jelly beans for a living and an overly dramatic sister—make this book about a family road trip so much fun to share. Watch for the plot twists!

LAND OF STORIES: THE WISHING SPELL

By Chris Colfer

(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)
When 12-year-old twins open a book from their grandmother, they're pulled into a magical land and go on adventures with the fairy-tale characters they remember from their childhood. But the witches and goblins will make it harder to get home than they thought.

PETER AND THE STARCATCHERS

By Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson

(Disney-Hyperion)
With this book, you will dive deeper

into the lore of the legendary Peter Pan. The pirate dialogue is fun to read out loud.

BOOKS THAT HAVE BEEN TURNED INTO MOVIES

THE IRON GIANT

By Ted Hughes and Andrew Davidson

(Yearling)
Thanks to his friendship with a young boy, a creature goes from eating all the metal in town to being the protector of the Earth. This legendary fable about peace inspired a classic animated film.

THE ONE & ONLY IVAN

By Katherine Applegate and Patricia Castello

(HarperCollins)
An easygoing gorilla caged in a shopping mall makes peace with his existence until a baby elephant taken from the wild arrives. The movie is coming to Disney+ in August 2020.

PERCY JACKSON AND THE OLYMPIANS SERIES

By Rick Riordan

(Miramax Books/Hyperion)
This five-book series is packed with thrilling adventures with Greek gods and monsters. The first two books were made into movies.

STARGIRL

By Jerry Spinelli

(Ember)
A home-schooled girl attends a public high school for the first time. Will she give in to peer pressure or be herself? You can watch the movie on Disney+.

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STORIES IN VERSE

BROWN GIRL DREAMING

By Jacqueline Woodson
(Puffin Books)

The author, who was raised in South Carolina and New York, shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s in beautifully written free-verse poems. The paperback version of the book has new material.

CAST AWAY: POEMS OF OUR TIME

By Naomi Shihab Nye
(Greenwillow Books)

In a powerful message about protecting the environment, this collection of more than 80 poems spotlights discarded items, like plastic straws, food wrappers, and water bottles.

THE CROSSOVER

By Kwame Alexander
(HMH Books for Young Readers)

Written in a mix of free verse and hip-hop poetry, the story follows 12-year-old twins who share a love of basketball but are growing apart. You may like the graphic novel version too.

OTHER WORDS FOR HOME

By Jasmine Warga
(Balzer + Bray)

When her neighborhood in Syria starts to become violent, 12-year-old Jude and her mom move to Cincinnati, Ohio, with her uncle's family. Written in verse from Jude's perspective, the book is divided into five sections starting with her flight from Syria.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

ASTRO-NUTS

By John Scieszka and Steven Weinberg
(Chronicle Books)

In this zany space adventure, four mutant animals are sent on a mission to find habitable planets for humans.

EL DEAF0

By Cece Bell and David Lasky
(Harry N. Abrams)

Based on the author's experience of being the only deaf student in class, this book will help you understand what it feels like to be different. It's also super funny.

NEW KID

By Jerry Craft
(Quill Tree Books)

This is the only graphic novel to have won the Newbery Medal. The story focuses on a seventh grader from an inner city. He wants to go to an art school, but his parents enroll him in a private academy. He strives to fit in and keep his neighborhood friends.

PASHMINA

By Nidhi Chanani
(First Second)

For fantasy fans: A magical scarf allows a girl to transport herself to an enchanted land that provides clues about her past.

ROLLER GIRL

By Victoria Jamieson
(Dial Books)

Read this if you're looking for a book with strong female characters. Twelve-year-old Astrid shines in roller derby camp—it's a tough sport—while realizing that she's growing apart from her BFF.

THE RUNAWAY PRINCESS

By Johan Tröianowski
(Random House Graphic)

A royal princess, Robin skips out of her kingdom and into a series of adventures. First stop: an aquatic carnival where she meets merpeople and is kidnapped by a bumbling band.

SHIRLEY & JAMILA SAVE THEIR SUMMER

By Gillian Goerz
(Dial Books)

A mix of *Harriet the Spy* and *Sherlock Holmes*, a neighborhood detective and her new friend try to solve the mystery of the missing pet gecko.

SMILE

By Raina Telgemeier
(Graphix)

The emoji on the cover gives you a hint about the plot. A sixth grader trips and injures her two front teeth, setting off major dental and friendship drama.

BOOKS FILLED WITH AMAZING FACTS

MACHINES THAT THINK!: BIG IDEAS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

By Don Brown
(Amulet Books)

It's a fun way to learn about technology from long ago to modern times. The book covers the earliest calculators all the way to smartphones. And it highlights the contributions of women in the computing field.

RAD AMERICAN HISTORY A-Z

By Kate Schatz and Miriam Klein Stahl

(Ten Speed Press)

This is an alphabet book you haven't outgrown: Each letter stands for the moments and movements in America's history that have shaped the world. The letter "C," for instance, represents the Combahee River Raid, a Civil War action planned in part by Union spy Harriet Tubman.

WHO WAS? SERIES

(Penguin Workshop)

Each of these short chapter-book biographies focuses on a different important person, ranging from historical figures (George Washington Carver) to athletes (like Venus and Serena Williams). With more than 150 choices, you're bound to find dozens that interest you.

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL

ABOUT FIRST LADIES

By Ruby Shamir and Matt Faulkner

(Philomel Books)

This chapter book is packed with fun facts and historical trivia about the roles that first ladies have played in shaping the White House and America through the years.