



Get ready to read!

Join our Summer of Reading program to dive into stories that will captivate you from the very first page. This list of 50 books is full of magical adventures, inspiring friendships, suspenseful mysteries, and more. Plus, enter to win books!

Take our challenge!

As part of the Summer of Reading program, we're challenging you to read three books. The books can be from this list, but they don't have to be. Once you read them, fill out the form on p26. Scan or photograph the form and email it to us at reading@theweekjunior.com. When you do, you'll be entered for a chance to win books. Three winners will be drawn at random. The deadline is August 20.

Symbol key

- Graphic novel
- Author Ambassador
- Notable classic
- Newbery Medal winner

GET LOST IN A SUMMER ADVENTURE



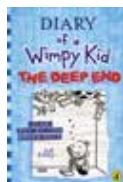
CATERPILLAR SUMMER
By Gillian McDunn
(Bloomsbury Children's Books)

When a summer trip doesn't go as planned, Cat (short for caterpillar) and her brother spend three weeks at their grandparents' house on Gingerbread Island. For once, she doesn't have to watch over her little brother. From bike rides to fishing, Cat gets to do all the things she's missed out on through the years. *Ages 8-13*



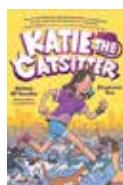
MAYBE MAYBE MARISOL RAINEY
By Erin Entrada Kelly
(Greenwillow Books)

Eight-year-old Marisol seems to be afraid of a lot of things, especially climbing the tree in her backyard. But when she spots a bird's nest high up in the tree, she really wants to see it. Will she be able to overcome her fear? This book may remind you of the Ivy + Bean series. *Ages 8-12*



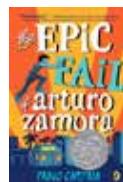
DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE DEEP END
By Jeff Kinney
(Harry N. Abrams)

In the latest book in the bestselling series, Greg and his family hit the road for a camping trip. But in true Wimpy Kid fashion, everything that can possibly go wrong does. The story and drawings are funny and heartfelt at the same time. *Ages 8-12*



KATIE THE CATSITTER
By Colleen AF Venable, illustrated by Stephanie Yue
(Random House)

Books for Young Readers
Katie thinks summer is going to be boring because her friends are away at camp. Then she gets a job babysitting her neighbor's 217 (that's not a typo) cats. School break just got exciting! Watch for lots of plot twists in this first book of a new series. *Ages 8-12*



THE EPIC FAIL OF ARTURO ZAMORA
By Pablo Cartaya
(Puffin Books)

Arturo is excited to be working in his family's restaurant in Miami during summer break. But the business might have to close because a real estate developer wants to build something else where the restaurant is located. How can Arturo help save what his family has worked so hard to create? *Ages 10 and up*



THE LAST LAST-DAY-OF-SUMMER
By Lamar Giles, illustrated by Dapo Adeola
(Versify)

Summer is almost over, until two cousins accidentally extend it by freezing time with a magic camera. With their bikes, supernatural creatures, and robots, they try to make things right again. This story is a wild ride with lots of humor. *Ages 8-12*



SUMMER OF LOST AND FOUND
By Rebecca Behrens
(Aladdin)

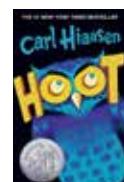
Nell leaves New York City to spend the summer with her mom, who will be studying plants in North Carolina. At first, she's upset to be away from her friends. Then she learns about the very intriguing Lost Colony of Roanoke and sets out to investigate. *Ages 8-12*

BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE



BAN THIS BOOK
By Alan Gratz
(Starscape)

When a parent asks that a book be removed from a fourth-grade library, one student wages a battle to prevent that from happening. This story will help you understand what having freedom of speech means in the US—and may inspire you to stand up for what you believe is fair. *Ages 8-12*



HOOT
By Carl Hiaasen
(Yearling)

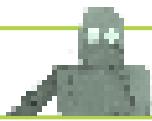
The new kid in town tries to safeguard endangered miniature owls when their homes are threatened by new construction. The book, which was turned into a movie, may help you realize that you can make a difference when it comes to protecting wildlife. *Ages 10-12*



OPERATION FROG EFFECT
By Sarah Scheerger
(Yearling)

A classroom writing assignment sparks some new friendships but also leads to a big mistake. Now the whole class has to come together and put their differences aside to save their beloved teacher. Reading this story will remind you of how powerful your own voice can be. *Ages 8-12*





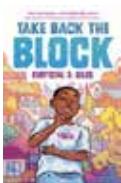
Summer of Reading



RHYME SCHEMER

By K.A. Holt
(Chronicle Books)
A seventh-grade bully writes poetry, and some of his work

explains why he's acting out. When the victim of his bullying finds the book, he doesn't do the right thing and threatens to reveal the bully's secrets. Fortunately, a school librarian treats the bully with kindness and helps him see his strengths. *Ages 10-14*



TAKE BACK THE BLOCK

By Chrystal D. Giles
(Random House Books for Young Readers)

Wes's mom is a community activist, and she's taken him to rallies and protests. When his family and neighbors may no longer be able to afford to live in their part of town, sixth-grader Wes tries to bring the community together. *Ages 8-12*



THREE KEYS

By Kelly Yang
(Scholastic Press)
When a newly proposed state law would prevent some

immigrants from going to school, Mia writes a letter to the local newspaper and starts a petition. She also helps her friend whose mother isn't able to return to the US after traveling to Mexico. This book is part of the Front Desk series. *Ages 8-12*



WONDER

By R.J. Palacio
(Knopf Books for Young Readers)
Auggie, a fifth-grader with a facial

difference, goes to a regular school for the first time. While he just wants to fit in, his classmates have trouble getting past his appearance.

This book started a kindness movement around the world. *Ages 8-12*

EXPLORE MAGICAL AND MYSTERIOUS PLACES

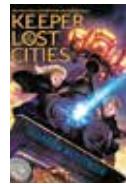


GOLDDILOCKS: WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE

By Chris Colfer, illustrated by Jon Proctor

(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

This graphic novel is a spin-off from the Land of Stories series. It centers on the character of Goldilocks. She has been on the run since childhood for vandalizing the house of the Three Bears. *Ages 8-12*



KEEPER OF THE LOST CITIES

By Shannon Messenger
(Aladdin)

In the first book of this intriguing series, Sophie thinks she can read minds. One day, she meets a mysterious boy who helps her find her roots in a land of elves. This story is full of suspense and action. *Ages 8-12*



SAL & GABI BREAK THE UNIVERSE

By Carlos Hernandez
(Rick Riordan Presents)

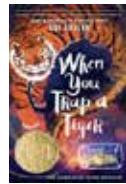
Sal, a 13-year-old magician-in-training, can punch holes in the universe and access parallel worlds. At his new school, Gabi figures out his secret and they become friends. This book includes interesting facts about Cuban culture. *Ages 8-12*



THE GIRL WHO DRANK THE MOON

By Kelly Barnhill
(Algonquin Young Readers)

Raised by a witch, Luna must figure out the magical powers she was given by accident. The fast-paced fable pits good against evil and will make you think about the power of love. *Ages 10-14*



WHEN YOU TRAP A TIGER

By Tae Keller
(Random House Books for Young Readers)

Lily moves with her family from California to Washington to be closer to her sick Halmoni (the Korean word for grandmother). Halmoni confides in Lily that she once stole something from a tiger. Lily strikes a deal with the magical creature to make her grandmother better. Will it work? *Ages 8-12*



THE WILD ROBOT

By Peter Brown
(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)
A robot finds herself alone on a remote

island and doesn't remember how she got there. She starts to settle into a routine and cares for some of the wild creatures. But her past starts to catch up with her. *Ages 8-12*



ZITA THE SPACEGIRL

By Ben Hatke
(First Second)

When Zita and her friend Joseph are playing in a field, he accidentally goes through a portal to another galaxy. Full of courage, Zita reopens the portal and jumps in to rescue Joseph. She teams up with an inventor, a giant mouse, and other creatures along the way.

The fun drawings in this comic are easy to follow. *Ages 8-12*

DIVE INTO SCHOOL STORIES



CLASS ACT

By Jerry Craft
(Quill Tree Books)
Drew is starting eighth grade as one of the few kids of

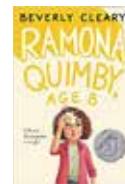
color in a fancy private school. When he hangs out at his pal Liam's house, their friendship is challenged. While the book covers some tough topics, it also has a lot of humor. *Ages 8-12*



EMMY IN THE KEY OF CODE

By Aimee Lucido
(Versify)
Emmy moves from Wisconsin to

California. At her new school, she takes a computer science class where she combines her passion for coding with music. This story is beautifully written in verse. *Ages 8-12*



RAMONA QUIMBY, AGE 8

By Beverly Cleary
(HarperCollins)
Ramona is excited for her first day of third

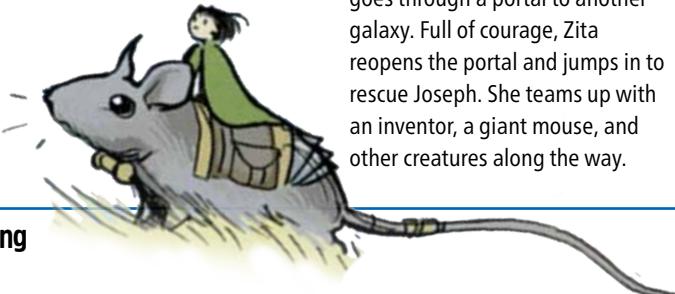
grade. But then her shoes squeak, she cracks an egg on her head, and she thinks her teacher dislikes her. With all these challenges, will everything turn out OK? *Ages 8-12*



THE STRANGE CASE OF ORIGAMI YODA

By Tom Angleberger
(Harry N. Abrams)
Sixth-grader Dwight creates a Star Wars

Yoda character out of paper and wears it on his finger. The Yoda gives advice to classmates. Should they listen? The book includes funny comments and drawings and contains directions for making your own Yoda. *Ages 8-12*





Summer of Reading



TWINS

By Varian Johnson,
illustrated by
Shannon Wright

(Graphix)

Twins Maureen and Francine were pretty much inseparable in elementary school. But in sixth grade, they have different interests and have only two classes together. Will middle school cause them to grow apart? Ages 8–12



WEIRD KID

By Greg van Eekhout

(HarperCollins)

After being homeschooled all his life, Jake, who has shape-shifting powers, is starting middle school. He thinks the first day goes well because he makes a friend and manages to hide his powers. But he may need to shape-shift when mysterious sinkholes start to pop up around town. Ages 8–12



How the book list came together

To compile this list of 50 books, we asked children's librarians, teachers, and bookstore owners across the US for their recommendations. We spoke to editors at publishing companies to find out about books coming out this year, and we did our own research. We'd love to hear what you think of these choices. In addition to filling out the sweepstakes form, write to us at hello@theweekjunior.com. Tell us which book you liked most and why!

CRACK THE CASE



A DOG-FRIENDLY TOWN

By Josephine Cameron

(Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

A famous dog's jeweled collar goes missing at a bed and breakfast in a California beach town that's been voted the Most-Dog Friendly in America. Twelve-year-old Epic McDade and his siblings try to add up the clues and figure out who stole it. Ages 8–12

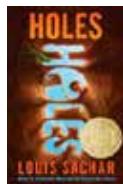


CITY SPIES

By James Ponti

(Aladdin)

Five kids from around the world come together to be on a top-secret spy team. The first book in the series focuses on a girl with amazing skills as she prevents a computer virus from being spread. The story contains lots of action and plot twists. Ages 8–12



HOLES

By Louis Sachar

(Yearling)

Stanley is found guilty of a crime he didn't commit and sent to a camp in the hot desert as punishment. The warden forces him and other kids to dig holes every day. What is the warden secretly looking for? Ages 10–13



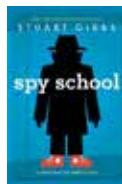
ONE CAME HOME

By Amy Timberlake

(Yearling)

This book, set in the Wild West in the late 1800s, will keep you guessing. Georgie, 13, tries to find

her older sister, Agatha, who ran away. As Georgie uncovers clues about what happened to her sister, she learns a lot about herself in the process. Ages 10–13



SPY SCHOOL

By Stuart Gibbs

(Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)

In the first book of this popular series, middle schooler Ben desperately wants to work for the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). He's recruited to go to a school known for having a good science program. When he's there, he finds out the school is actually the junior academy for the CIA. Ages 8–12



SUPER PUZZLETASTIC MYSTERIES

By Chris Grabenstein and the Mystery Writers of America

(HarperCollins)

This collection of 20 short stories from different authors gives you the chance to solve riddles. If you read each story closely and look for clues, you'll be able to figure out who committed each crime. You can check whether you were right by turning to the explanations in the back of the book. Ages 8–12



WHEN YOU REACH ME

By Rebecca Stead

(Yearling)

Twelve-year-old Miranda keeps receiving mysterious notes that instruct her to write down the story of what happens to her. She's not to show the notes to anyone. This suspenseful story is told in her first-person responses to the mystery writer. The book has an element of time travel. Ages 8–12

BEFRIEND AN ANIMAL



ALICE'S FARM: A RABBIT'S TALE

By Maryrose Wood

(Feiwel & Friends)

A brave rabbit joins forces with other animals to help a human family save the farm they recently bought. The story alternates perspectives between the humans and the animals. It's a fun book to read aloud. Ages 8–12



A WOLF CALLED WANDER

By Rosanne Parry, illustrated by Mónica Armiño

(Greenwillow Books)

Inspired by the true story of a wolf, this book follows a young cub that travels more than 1,000 miles to the Pacific Northwest. He encounters many challenges along the way, including a fire and the need to find food. There are beautiful black-and-white illustrations on many pages. Ages 8–12



COO

By Kaela Noel

(Greenwillow Books)

Ten years ago, a flock of pigeons picked up an abandoned baby girl and raised her as their own. When someone from the girl's pigeon family gets injured, she has to approach a human for the first time. Ages 8–12

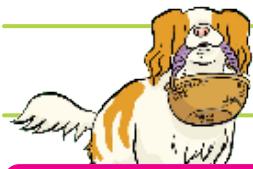


WARRIORS: INTO THE WILD, BOOK 1

Written by Erin Hunter, illustrated by Dave Stevenson

(HarperCollins) This series kicks off with Rusty, a house cat, meeting a kitten from a group of wildcats. They live in the forest and battle for more territory





Summer of Reading



Meet our Author Ambassadors

These authors, all of whom have books on this list, have teamed up with *The Week Junior* to inspire kids to enjoy reading this summer. In Issues 64–68, we will feature one of them on the Book Club page. If you have a question you'd like any of them to answer, email it to us at hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more at theweekjunior.com/summerofreading.



Erin Entrada Kelly, author of *Maybe Maybe Marisol Rainey*



Remy Lai, author and illustrator of *Pawcasso*



Justina Ireland, author of *Ophie's Ghosts*



Peter Brown, author of *The Wild Robot*



Greg van Eekhout, author of *Weird Kid*

with other cat tribes. Rusty trains to become part of their clan. You might like the different personalities of all the characters. **Ages 8–12**



PAWCASSO
By Remy Lai

(Henry Holt and Co.) Every Saturday, an adorable dog comes into town to go grocery shopping. A lonely girl spots him from her window and they hang out together. Other kids soon think she's the dog's owner, and she starts to make friends. What will happen when the truth comes out? **Ages 8–12**



THE CALL OF THE WILD
By Jack London
(Reader's Library Classics)

Buck, a St. Bernard-Shepherd mix, is living in a comfortable home when he is stolen from his family and put to work as a sled dog in Alaska. He has to learn how to adapt if he wants to survive in the wild and harsh environment. **Ages 8–12**



THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX
By Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Timothy Basil Ering
(Candlewick)

In this enchanting tale, a music-loving mouse sets out to rescue a princess from rats who have her locked in the palace dungeon. The story has been turned into a movie. **Ages 7–10**

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME



BEFORE THEY WERE ARTISTS: FAMOUS ILLUSTRATORS AS KIDS
By Elizabeth Haidle

(Etch/HMH Books for Young Readers) Did you ever wonder what some well-known artists were like as kids? This book shares interesting details about six famous illustrators. One is Maurice Sendak, who created the classic book *Where the Wild Things Are*. **Ages 8–12**



BLUFFTON
By Matt Phelan
(Candlewick)

Henry wishes his life could be like that of Buster Keaton, a famous actor who performs in Michigan during the summers in the early 1900s. While Henry is fictional,

Buster Keaton was a real person who lived from 1895–1966. The illustrations will immerse you in the story. **Ages 9–12**



FEVER 1793
By Laurie Halse Anderson
(Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)

In the summer of 1793, an illness called yellow fever breaks out in Philadelphia, where Mattie lives. When a friend dies suddenly from the plague, Mattie finds the strength she didn't know she had. **Ages 10–14**



NATHAN HALE'S HAZARDOUS TALES: LAFAYETTE!
By Nathan Hale
(Harry N. Abrams)

This book is a must-read for fans of the Broadway musical *Hamilton*. It tells the true story of Marquis de Lafayette, a prominent character in *Hamilton*. Lafayette was from France and became a US military hero during the Revolutionary War (1775–1783). The book contains a lot of humor. **Ages 8–12**



OPHIE'S GHOSTS
By Justina Ireland
(Balzer + Bray)

When Ophie's home in Georgia is attacked in 1922, her father dies. She and her mom flee to Pennsylvania to start a new life. They end up working in a house that's haunted—and Ophie has the ability to see ghosts. **Ages 8–12**



PRAIRIE LOTUS
By Linda Sue Park
(Clarion Books)

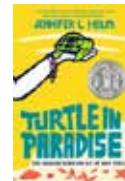
In the late 1800s, Hanna and her Papa leave California and head to the railroad town where they'll settle down. Hanna begs to

attend school, but her father is worried about how her classmates will treat her because she is half-Asian. Hanna's determination may inspire you. **Ages 10–12**



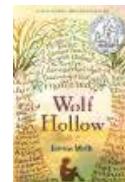
THE WAR THAT SAVED MY LIFE
By Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
(Puffin Books)

Ten-year-old Ada has never left her family's London apartment because her mom is embarrassed about Ada's disability. When the government evacuates children from the city during World War Two (1939–1945), Ada and her brother move to the countryside. Will she find happiness? **Ages 9–12**



TURTLE IN PARADISE
By Jennifer L. Holm
(Yearling)

In 1935, just after the Great Depression, Turtle's mom finds a new job. She sends Turtle to live with relatives in Key West, Florida, where Turtle discovers family secrets and a map to a pirate's hidden treasure. The book is based on the life of the author's great-grandmother. **Ages 8–12**



WOLF HOLLOW
By Lauren Wolk
(Puffin Books)

A bully moves to a town in Pennsylvania during World War Two, upsetting life for Annabelle. A homeless veteran comes to her defense, but the bully turns the town against him. The book, especially the ending, is intense. **Ages 10–13**

Find out more and get extra forms at theweekjunior.com/summerofreading.