

Grade 6-8 | 2013 Suggested Summer Reading List

FICTION

Return to Sender by Julia Alvarez *JFIC ALV*

After his family hires migrant Mexican workers to help save their Vermont farm from foreclosure, 11-year-old Tyler befriends the oldest daughter. When he discovers they may not be in the country legally, he realizes that real friendship knows no borders.

Forge by Laurie Halse Anderson *JFIC AND*

The story of an African-American slave, Curzon, who serves in the army during the Revolutionary War and the hardships he endures as he fights for his own freedom.

Close to Famous by Joan Bauer *YFIC BAU*

Twelve-year-old Foster McFee and her mother escape her mother's abusive boyfriend and end up in a small town where, with the help of new friends and their own strengths, they build a new life.

Kepler's Dream by Juliet Bell *JFIC BEL*

While her mother undergoes radical cancer treatment, 11-year-old Ella stays with her grandmother in Albuquerque, New Mexico. There she learns about grammar and family history and helps investigate the theft of an extremely rare book from her grandmother's library.

Chime by Franny Billingsley *YFIC BIL*

Bryony says she's a witch and deserves to die. But is she? And what really happened with her stepmother?

The Outcasts by John Flanagan *JFIC FLA*

Skandian outcasts Hal, Stig and others do battle at sea against the Wolves and the Sharks, in the ultimate race across icy waters where not everyone thinks of the competition as play.

Page by Paige by Laura Lee Gullledge *YFIC GUL*

In this graphic novel, when Paige Turner and her family move to New York City from rural Virginia, she tries to make sense of her new life through her sketchbook. Helping to reveal her true personality, the process is equal parts terrifying and rewarding.

Dearly, Departed by Lia Habel *YFIC HAB*

First in a teen series that is set in a post-apocalyptic world based on Victorian England society. Includes zombies, steampunk-ish gadgets, romance, mystery, action and adventure.

La Linea by Ann Jaramillo *YFIC JAR*

When 15-year-old Miguel's time finally arrives to leave his poor Mexican village, cross the border illegally, and join his parents in California, his younger sister's determination to join him soon imperils them both.

Five Flavors of Dumb by Antony John *YFIC JOH*

Despite her deafness, Piper agrees to manage her high school's popular rock band, Dumb, trying to get them a paying job while earning money for college. Let the fireworks begin and the music rock!

Silhouetted by the Blue by Traci L. Jones *YFIC JON*

After the death of her mother, seventh-grader Serena is left to handle the day-to-day challenges of caring for herself and her younger brother when their father cannot pull himself out of depression.

The Ghost and the Goth by Stacy Kade *YFIC KAD*

After being hit by a bus and killed, a high school homecoming queen gets stuck in the land of the living, with only a loser classmate – who happens to be able to see and hear ghosts – to help her.

Wanting Mor by Rukhsana Khan *JFIC KHA*

When Jameela's mother, Mor, dies and her father abandons her in a marketplace, she is placed in an orphanage. With only the memory of her mother to sustain her, Jameela finds the strength to face those who abandoned her when fate brings them together again.

Icefall by Matthew Kirby *JFIC KIR*

Princess Solveig and her siblings are spirited away to a secret hideout to keep them safe from their enemies. But one of their closest protectors is actually a traitor. Vikings, berzerkers and Norse myth make this mystery something different.

Wrinkle in Time: The Graphic Novel by Hope Larson *JFIC LAR*

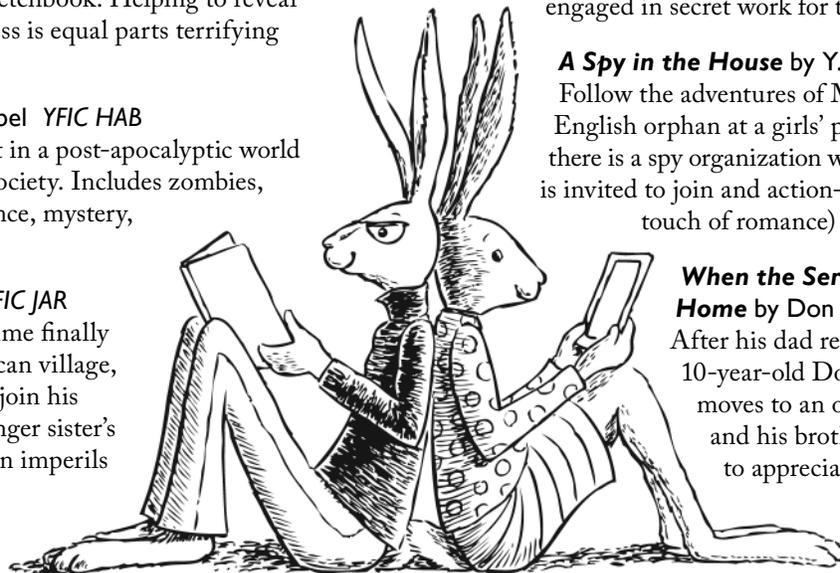
A graphic novel adaptation of the classic tale in which Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.

A Spy in the House by Y.S. Lee *YMYS LEE*

Follow the adventures of Mary, a half-Chinese, half-English orphan at a girls' private school who discovers there is a spy organization working out of the school. She is invited to join and action-packed adventures (with a touch of romance) follow.

When the Sergeant Came Marching Home by Don Lemna *JFIC LEM*

After his dad returns from WW II, 10-year-old Don is furious when his family moves to an old, run-down farm. Don and his brother must adjust and learn to appreciate their new life.



(Continued on reverse)

FICTION *continued*

Wildwood by Colin Meloy *JFIC MEL*

When her baby brother is kidnapped by crows, seventh-grader Prue McKeel ventures into the forbidden Impassable Wilderness – a dangerous and magical forest in the middle of Portland, Oregon – and soon finds herself involved in a war among the various inhabitants.

Cinder by Marissa Meyer *YSF MEY*

Cinder's a cyborg and a second-class citizen with a demanding stepmom and evil stepsisters. She meets charming Prince Kai but can she save the world too? A sci-fi Cinderella.

Shadow by Michael Morpurgo *YFIC MOR*

Aman and his mother escaped from their brutal life in Afghanistan, guided by Shadow, a lost bomb-sniffing dog. Now facing deportation from England, Aman tells his grueling life story to a journalist – his best friend's grandfather – in the hope that he and his mother can remain in England.

Tokyo Heist by Diana Renn *YMYS REN*

Manga-loving Violet is drawn into the mystery of stolen van Gogh drawings. Traveling with her dad from Seattle to Tokyo, Violet immerses herself in Japanese culture and is determined to find the drawings.

Milo: Sticky Notes & Brain Freeze by Alan Silberberg *JFIC SIL*

Milo is really suffering from his mother's death, but with humor and the help of his friends he is able to cope with the Fog that has been in his house since her death.

NONFICTION

Steve Jobs: the Man Who Thought Different

by Karen Blumenthal *YB JOBS*

From the start, his path was never predictable. Steve Jobs was given up for adoption at birth, dropped out of college after one semester, and at 20, created Apple in his parents' garage with his friend Steve Wozniack. This is the story of the man who changed our world.

The Alien Hunter's Handbook: How to Look for Extraterrestrial Life by Mark Brake *J576.839 B*

Given the mind-bogglingly large number of other galaxies and planets in the universe, odds are pretty good that we may have neighbors out there somewhere. This practical handbook – an entertaining introduction to the field of astrobiology – shows readers how life evolved on planet Earth, and how to go about finding other forms of life in other parts of the universe.

The Wild Horse Scientists by Kay Frydenbor *J599.665 F*

Scientists share a rare glimpse into the wild herds of Assateague with beautiful photos of the horses in their island home, island history and the scientists at work.

The Last Dragon by Jane Yolen *YFIC YOL*

No one has seen a dragon in the town of Meddlesome for years but when the town healer, a child and livestock are taken it is up to Tansy to find a way to save them all.

Liar & Spy by Rebecca Stead *JFIC*

Seventh-grader Georges adjusts to moving from a house to an apartment, his father's efforts to start a new business, his mother's extra shifts as a nurse, being picked on at school, and Safer, a boy who wants his help spying on another resident of their building.

Deadly Pink by Vivian Vande Velde *YSF VAN*

Grace's smart, talented, popular and beautiful older sister, Emily, is immersed in a virtual reality game and planning to never come out. When Grace enters the game to bring her sister back, she finds they are both trapped and must find the way out.

On the Blue Comet by Rosemary Wells *JFIC WEL*

When the Depression hits and Oscar Ogilvie's father sells their home to look for work in California, 11-year-old Oscar is left with his dour aunt. While there, he befriends a mysterious drifter, witnesses a stunning bank robbery, and is suddenly catapulted onto a train that takes him to a different time and place.



Zombie Makers: True Stories of Nature's Undead

by Rebecca L. Johnson *J591.7857 J*

Are zombies real? Dead people do not come back to life but things can take over the bodies and brains of innocent creatures, turning them into senseless slaves. Meet nature's zombie makers, including a fly-enslaving fungus, a suicide worm, a cockroach-taming wasp and their victims.

The Mighty Mars Rovers: the Incredible Adventures of Spirit and Opportunity by Elizabeth Rusch *J523.43 R*

Explore Mars through the eyes of NASA mission leader Steve Squyres of the Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL). You are transported into the world of the JPL scientists and onto the surface of Mars as the rovers collect information.

Outcasts United: the Story of a Refugee Soccer Team That Changed a Town by Warren St. John *Y796.334 S*

A woman soccer coach, Luma, was a strange sight to young Africans, and especially to the young Muslim boys from Afghanistan and Iraq. Luma guides these refugee teams through adversity on and off the field in their new home, Clarkston, Georgia.