

Suggested Summer Reading

Check out these titles for some good summer reading suggestions. The majority of these book annotations were taken from the Library of Congress website (www.loc.gov.) The remaining ones are brief quotes or summaries borrowed from the various bookjackets.

Realistic Fiction:

The Leanin' Dog—K.A. Nuzum

In wintry Colorado during the 1930s, eleven-year-old Dessa Dean mourns the death of her beloved mother, but the arrival of an injured dog and the friendship they form is just what they need to change their lives forever

My One Hundred Adventures—Polly Horvath

Twelve-year-old Jane, who lives at the beach in a run-down old house with her mother, two brothers, and sister, has an eventful summer accompanying her pastor on bible deliveries, meeting former boyfriends of her mother's, and being coerced into babysitting for a family of ill-mannered children.

Eleven—Patricia Reilly Giff

When Sam, who can barely read, discovers an old newspaper clipping just before his eleventh birthday, it brings forth memories from his past, and, with the help of a new friend at school and the castle they are building for a school project, his questions are eventually answered.

The Big Splash—Jack Ferraiolo

Matt Stevens, an average middle schooler with a glib tongue and a knack for solving crimes, uncovers a mystery while working with "the organization," a mafia-like syndicate run by seventh-grader Vincent "Mr. Biggs" Biggio, specializing in forged hall passes, test-copying rings, black market candy selling, and taking out hits with water guns.

Lost and Found—Andrew Clements

Twelve-year-old identical twins Jay and Ray have long resented that everyone treats them as one person, and so they hatch a plot to take advantage of a clerical error at their new school and pretend they are just one.

Football Genius—Tim Green

Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players

Waiting for Normal—Leslie Connor

Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

42 Miles—Tracie Vaughn Zimmer

As her thirteenth birthday approaches, JoEllen decides to bring together her two separate lives—one as Joey, who enjoys weekends with her father and other relatives on a farm, and another as Ellen, who lives with her mother in a Cincinnati apartment near her school and friends.

Trouble—Gary D. Schmidt

Fourteen-year-old Henry, wishing to honor his brother Franklin's dying wish, sets out to hike Maine's Mount Katahdin with his best friend and dog. But fate adds another companion—the Cambodian refugee accused of fatally injuring Franklin—and reveals troubles that predate the accident.

Ways to Live Forever—Sally Nicholls

Eleven-year-old Sam McQueen, who has leukemia, writes a book during the last three months of his life, in which he tells about what he would like to accomplish, how he feels, and things that have happened to him.

Biography/Autobiography:

The trouble begins at 8: a life of Mark Twain in the wild, wild West—Sid Fleischman
A humorous biography of Mark Twain's early life.

Knucklehead: tall tales & mostly true stories about growing up Scieszka—John Scieszka
How did Jon Scieszka get so funny? He grew up as one of six brothers with Catholic school, lots of comic books, lazy summers at the lake with time to kill, babysitting misadventures, TV shows, and jokes told at family dinner.

She Touched the World: Laura Bridgman, Deaf-Blind Pioneer—Sally Hobart Alexander & Robert Alexander

When she was just two years old, Laura Bridgman lost her sight, her hearing, and most of her senses of smell and taste. But then a progressive doctor, who had just opened the country's first school for the blind in Boston, took her in. Laura learned to communicate, read, and write—and eventually even to teach.

Adventure:

Camel Rider—Prue Mason

Two expatriates living in a Middle Eastern country, twelve-year-old Adam from Australia and Walid from Bangladesh, must rely on one another when war breaks out and they find themselves in the desert, both trying to reach the same city with no water, little food, and no common language.

The Pirates of Crocodile Swamp—Jim Arnosky

Kidnapped by their father, two boys escape into the mangrove swamps of Key Largo, Florida, where they learn to live on their own among the wildlife.

Hippie Chick—Joseph Monninger

After her sailboat capsizes, fifteen-year-old Lolly Emmerson is rescued by manatees and taken to a mangrove key in the Everglades, where she forms a bond with her aquatic companions while struggling to survive

The Compound—S.A. Bodeen

After his parents, two sisters, and he have spent six years in a vast underground compound built by his wealthy father to protect them from a nuclear holocaust, fifteen-year-old Eli, whose twin brother and grandmother were left behind, discovers that his father has perpetrated a monstrous hoax on them all.

The White Darkness—Geraldine McCaughrean

Taken to Antarctica by the man she thinks of as her uncle for what she believes to be a vacation, Symone--a troubled fourteen year old--discovers that he is dangerously obsessed with seeking Symme's Hole, an opening that supposedly leads into the center of a hollow Earth.

Science Fiction/Fantasy:

Nation—Terry Pratchett

After a devastating tsunami destroys all that they have ever known, Mau, an island boy, and Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, together with a small band of refugees, set about rebuilding their community and all the things that are important in their lives.

Life as we knew it—Susan Beth Pfeiffer

Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

Hunger Games—Suzanne Collins

In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place.

Gone—Michael Grant

In a small town on the coast of California, everyone over the age of fourteen suddenly disappears, setting up a battle between the remaining town residents and the students from a local private school, as well as those who have "The Power" and are able to perform supernatural feats and those who do not.

Found—Margaret Peterson Haddix

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.

The Underneath—Kathi Appelt

An old hound that has been chained up at his hateful owner's run-down shack, and two kittens born underneath the house, endure separation, danger, and many other tribulations in their quest to be reunited and free.

Well Witched—Frances Hardinge

Three friends fall prey to the demands of the Well Witch when they trespass in her wishing well and steal some coins

Tunnels—Roderick Gordon & Brian Williams

When Will Burrows and his friend Chester embark on a quest to find Will's archaeologist father, who has inexplicably disappeared, they are led to a labyrinthine world underneath London, full of sinister inhabitants with evil intentions toward "Topsoilers" like Will and his father.

Highway Cats--Janet Taylor Lisle

A hard-bitten group of mangy highway cats is changed forever after the mysterious arrival of three kittens.

Mystery:

Scat—Carl Hiaasen

Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing.

Shift—Jennifer Bradley

When best friends Chris and Win go on a cross country bicycle trek the summer after graduating and only one returns, the FBI wants to know what happened.

The Calder Game—Blue Balliett

When seventh-grader Calder Pillay disappears from a remote English village--along with an Alexander Calder sculpture to which he has felt strangely drawn--his friends Petra and Tommy fly from Chicago to help his father find him.

First Shot—Walter Sorrell

As David enters his senior year of high school, a family secret emerges that could solve the mystery of why his mother was murdered two years ago.

Oldies but goodies:

Wrinkle in Time—Madeline I' Engle

Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.

Julie of the Wolves—Jean Craighead George

While running away from home and an unwanted marriage, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo girl becomes lost on the North Slope of Alaska and is befriended by a wolf pack.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry—Mildred Taylor

A black family living in the South during the 1930's are faced with prejudice and discrimination which their children don't understand

The Cay—Theodore Taylor

When the freighter on which they are traveling is torpedoed by a German submarine during World War II, a twelve-year-old white boy, blinded by a blow on the head, and an elderly black man are stranded on a small desert island in the Caribbean where the boy acquires a new kind of vision, courage, and love from his old companion.

A Light in the Forest—Conrad Richter

A young boy captured in an Indian raid on the Pennsylvania frontier is raised as an Indian. When he is 15 he is told he must return to the family and life he has forgotten.

From the mixed-up files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler—E.L. Konigsburg

Having run away with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, twelve-year-old Claudia strives to keep things in order in their new home and to become a changed person and a heroine to herself.

The Westing Game—Ellen Raskin

The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

Historical Fiction:

The Brooklyn nine : a novel in nine innings—Alan Gratz

Follows the fortunes of a German immigrant family through nine generations, beginning in 1845, as they experience American life and play baseball.

Chains—Laurie Halse Anderson

After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.

One Small Step—P.B. Kerr

In 1969 Houston, Texas, thirteen-year-old Scott learns to fly from his father, an Air Force flight instructor, but when NASA needs him for a secret space mission, Scott's elation is tempered by concern that his mother, who has moved to Florida, will find out.

War Horse—Michael Morpurgo

Joey the horse recalls his experiences growing up on an English farm, his struggle for survival as a cavalry horse during World War I, and his reunion with his beloved master.

The Boy who Dared—Susan Campbell Bartoletti

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.

Nonfiction:

Written in bone: buried lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland--Sally Walker

This book reports on the work of forensic scientists who are excavating grave sites in James Fort, in Jamestown, Virginia, to understand the people who lived in the Chesapeake Bay area in the 1600s and 1700s.

We are the Ship—Kadir Nelson

Using an "Everyman" player as his narrator, Kadir Nelson tells the story of Negro League baseball from its beginnings in the 1920s through the decline after Jackie Robinson crossed over to the majors in 1947. Illustrations from oil paintings by artist Kadir Nelson.

The Reign of the Sea Dragons—Sneed B. Collard III

Takes a look at the prehistoric reptiles that lived in the Earth's oceans during the Mesozoic era (about 250 to 65 million years ago).

Balls! Round 2—Michael Rosen

Learn about the balls used in baseball, softball, bowling, bocce ball, croquet, billiards, the shot put and other "oddballs": how they're made, why they look the way they do, some amazing facts about their history and a bit about the games that use them, too.

11 Planets: A New View of the Solar System—David Aguilar

Uses brilliant photo-realistic illustration and fascinating up-to-date facts straight from the latest astronomy news to bring you a comprehensive look at our solar system as you've never seen it before

Three cups of tea: one man's mission to promote peace--one school at a time —Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin ; adapted for young readers by Sarah Thomson.

A man returns to Pakistan to fulfill his promise to build schools to repay for kindness he received from the people while he was lost in the mountains there.