



Your 2022 Summer Reading assignment is to read TWO books.

One book is your choice from the list of “required choices” for your grade level.
The other book can be anything you want!

You will find summaries of the **required** choice books for entering
6th, 7th, and 8th grade here.

Scan this QR code or visit the
Summer Reading page of the
WMS Library website for more
information and
over 50 more suggestions for
more great books!
(www.wmslibrary.com)



Entering 6th Grade Required Choices You are required to read ONE book from this list

Amira and Hamza by Samira Ahmed

While attending a medieval exhibit on Islamic astronomy, Amira's bored younger brother Hamza tampers with the Box of the Moon, paralyzing those in this dimension and sending the siblings into another. A pair of ethereal djinn inform the siblings they have a role to play in stopping a civil war in the land of Qaf and if they don't succeed, the moon will split apart and the world they came from will be destroyed by terrifying beasts. (fantasy)

Blended by Sharon Draper

Isabella is only eleven, but she is already so used to hearing about how “exotic” and unusual she is due to her black father and white mother that she is sick of her biracial identity. Now that her parents are divorced and fighting over her worse than ever, Isabella needs a way to define her identity so she can feel not like two halves, but a whole. (realistic)

The Canyon's Edge by Dusti Bowling

Exactly one year after her mother died in a random public shooting, Nora and her father go on a rock-climbing trip to the desert Southwest. After they descend into a canyon, her father and all their supplies get washed away in a flash flood. Nora is left to try to find her way to safety alone, facing dehydration, dangerous desert animals, and her PTSD. (survival/adventure)

Just Roll With It by Veronica Agarwal & Lee Durgey-LaVoie

Maggie, who struggles with anxiety and OCD, is starting middle school for the first time and worries about how she stacks up in comparison to her older siblings. A lover of role-playing games, Maggie uses her twenty-sided dice to help her make decisions. When her rolls and decisions get compulsive however, her family realizes that she needs help and offers her the therapy she needs. Can Maggie learn to make friends, trust herself, and reach out to those around her? (graphic realistic)

New From Here by Kelly Yang

When the coronavirus hits Hong Kong, ten-year-old Knox Wei-Evans's mom makes the last-minute decision to move him and his siblings back to California (where they were born). At his new school in California, Knox struggles with being the new kid. And everyone struggles with Knox's blurring-things-out problem. As racism skyrockets during COVID-19, Knox tries to stand up to hate, while finding his place in his new/old country. (realistic)

The Next Great Paulie Fink by Ali Benjamin

The Mitchell School in Mitchell, Vermont, has only ten seventh-grade students and one new girl, Caitlyn. On the first day of school, they learn that the infamous class clown, Paulie Fink is missing this year. They enlist the help of Caitlyn to hold a reality show-like competition to determine who will replace him. (realistic)

Red, White, and Whole by Rajani LaRocca

A first-generation Indian American, Reha views her school and home lives as vastly different worlds. At home she's required to follow a strict code of conduct and participate in her family's traditions and rituals. At school, her American friends relish 1980s pop culture and view her as a fish out of water. When her mother gets sick, Reha feels even more pressure to fit into both sides. (historical)

Take Back the Block by Chrystal D. Giles

Wes Henderson would much rather be playing video games than going to protests with his parents. But when a real estate developer makes an offer to buy his neighborhood, the protests his mom makes him march in take on a whole new meaning. Now, all the adults seem to do is argue, and the residents are divided. Even Wes's friends are fighting, and some of them may be moving away. Can Wes find a way to save the only home he's ever known before it's too late. (realistic)

Thanks A Lot Universe by Chad Lucas

Seventh-grader Brian suffers from social anxiety that only gets worse when he ends up in foster care. He feels responsible for his younger brother and wilts under the pressure of something new. Ezra, a boy on his basketball team, notices Brian's isolation and reaches out to him. Together the boys become a source of support for each other as they navigate the difficulty of growing up in the midst of turmoil. (realistic)

Trace by Pat Cummings

After a car accident that killed his parents, now thirteen-year-old Trace Carter lives with his free-spirited-artist aunt in New York City. He spends most of his time at the New York Public Library (the site of the Colored Orphan Asylum fire of 1863) as he tries to overcome his grief and start a new life. One day, he sees a young, disheveled black boy in old-fashioned clothing and realizes the boy is a ghost, possibly from the asylum fire. (scifi/fantasy)



Entering 7th Grade Required Choices You are required to read ONE book from this list

Dress Coded by Carrie Firestone

Middle schooler Molly Frost starts a podcast in protest of her school's unfair dress code policies, which disproportionately affect young girls, especially those with curvy bodies. When her podcast gains notoriety, she faces not only bullying, but also the scrutiny of the local school board. (realistic)

Elatsoe by Darcie Little Badger

Seventeen-year-old Ellie lives in an alternate Earth where she has the ability to wake and train ghosts to assist her, a trait she inherited from her Lipan Apache grandmother. When her cousin Trevor, who died in a car accident, reveals to her in a dream that he was murdered, Ellie sets out with her ghost-dog Kirby to protect Trevor's family and reveal the truth of what happened. (scifi/fantasy)

Finding Junie Kim by Ellen Oh

Middle school student Junie Kim turns inward and becomes depressed after enduring the taunts of a school bus bully and a racist incident happens at school. While working on a school assignment to interview a family elder, Junie learns of her Korean grandparents' sufferings and courage during the Korean War and learns to unpack her own courage to face the racism surrounding her. (realistic)

The Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera

As the daughter of prominent scientists, twelve-year-old Petra Peñis is among the select few boarding a spaceship to another planet before Earth is decimated by a comet. Petra doesn't take after her parents though, she wants to be a professional storyteller like her grandmother. When she wakes centuries later, she realizes that her family and other passengers have no recollections of Earth or what life was like there. After learning that a dangerous cult known as the Collective is responsible, Petra knows it's up to her to preserve the memories of the past. (scifi)

Linked by Gordon Korman

When a swastika shows up at Chokeyerry Middle School in Colorado, the students are shocked. Michael Amorosa, a Dominican American boy of color, found the graffiti and is an immediate suspect. The only Jewish girl, Dana Levinson, is prompted to dig into her family history and help another student who learns about his Jewish roots. Popular boy Link feels pressure from other students to look for a solution, and along with other students, helps with an art project to counter the graffiti. (realistic)

This list continues on the next page...



7th Grade Required Choice list continued

My Life As an Ice Cream Sandwich by Ibi Zoboi

Since she was little, 12-year-old Ebony-Grace has lived Huntsville, Alabama with her grandpa, Jeremiah, who has nurtured her love for all things outer space and science fiction—especially Star Wars and Star Trek. In the summer of 1984, Ebony-Grace spend a few weeks with her father in Harlem which is an exciting and terrifying place for a sheltered girl from Huntsville, but soon Harlem begins to reveal that it has more in common with her beloved sci-fi adventures than she ever thought possible. (scifi)

Omar Rising by Aisha Saeed

Seventh-grader Omar is initially thrilled when he receives a scholarship to an elite boarding school in Pakistan, knowing it's his family's ticket out of poverty. When he arrives, however, he gets a rude awakening, learning that scholarship students are treated differently. He and others like him must do menial chores around the school, and must maintain impossibly high grades--none of which are requirements for students who pay tuition. In this tough situation, Omar finds himself bonding with other scholarship students and overcoming his own preconceptions. (realistic)

Other Boys by Damian Alexander

Damian is the new kid at school, and he has a foolproof plan to avoid the bullying that's plagued him his whole childhood: he's going to stop talking. If he keeps his mouth shut, the bullies will have nothing to tease him about—right? But Damian's vow of silence doesn't work—his classmates can tell there's something different about him. His family doesn't look like the kind on TV: his mother is dead, his father is gone, and he's being raised by his grandparents in a low-income household. Kids have teased him about this his whole life, especially other boys. But if boys can be so cruel, why does Damian have a crush on one? (graphic realistic)

Starfish by Lisa Fippes

Ever since Ellie wore a whale swimsuit and made a big splash at her fifth birthday party, she's been bullied about her weight. To cope, she tries to live by the Fat Girl Rules—like "no making waves," "avoid eating in public," and "don't move so fast that your body jiggles." And she's found her safe space—her swimming pool—where she feels weightless in a fat-critical world and her diet-obsessed mom. Fortunately, Ellie has allies in her dad, her therapist, and her new neighbor, Catalina, who loves Ellie for who she is. With this support buoying her, will Ellie finally be able to cast aside the Fat Girl Rules and unapologetically be her own fabulous self? (realistic)

The Usual Suspects by Maurice Broaddus

Thelonius Mitchell is tired of being labeled. He's in special ed, separated from the "normal" kids at school who don't have any "issues." That's enough to make all the teachers and students look at him and his friends with a constant side-eye. (Although his disruptive antics and pranks have given him a rep too.) When a gun is found at a neighborhood hangout, Thelonius and his pals become instant suspects. Thelonius may be guilty of pulling crazy stunts at school, but a criminal? T isn't about to let that label stick. (mystery)



Entering 8th Grade Required Choices

You are required to read ONE of these books

All American Muslim Girl by Nadine Jolie Courtney

Allie Abraham has it all going for her—she's a straight-A student, with good friends and a close-knit family, and she's dating popular, sweet Wells Henderson. One problem: Wells's father is Jack Henderson, America's most famous conservative personality, and Allie hasn't told Wells that her family is Muslim. It's not like Allie's religion is a secret. It's just that her parents don't practice, and raised her to keep it to herself. But as Allie witnesses Islamophobia in her small town and across the nation, she struggles with what to do. (realistic)

Before We Disappear by Shaun David Hutchinson

Sixteen-year-old magician's assistant and pickpocket Jack meets his sixteen-year-old counterpart Wilhelm, when Jack's mentor Evangeline moves them to the Pacific Northwest to perform in the 1908 Alaska-Pacific-Yukon Exposition. Unlike Jack who was taken in as an orphan, Wilhelm was stolen from his family by a shyster named Laszlo for his special ability to invisibly transport from place to place. While both try to aid in their mentors' competing magic shows, they form a romantic relationship with each other that forces them to question the lives that have been forced upon them. (fantasy)

Borders by Thomas King

Borders is a masterfully told story of a boy and his mother whose road trip is thwarted at the border when they identify their citizenship as Blackfoot. Refusing to identify as either American or Canadian first bars their entry into the US, and then their return into Canada. In the limbo between countries, they find power in their connection to their identity and to each other. (graphic realistic)

The Dark Matters of Mona Starr by Laura Lee Gulledge

Sometimes, the world is too much for Mona Starr. She's sweet, geeky, and creative, but it's hard for her to make friends and connect with other people. She's like a lot of sensitive teenagers—but in the hands of graphic novelist Laura Lee Gulledge, Mona's struggle with depression takes on a vivid, concrete form. Mona calls it her Matter. The Matter gets everywhere, telling Mona she's not good enough, and that everyone around her wishes she would go away. But through therapy, art, writing, and the persistence of a few good friends, Mona starts to understand her Matter, and how she—and readers—can turn their fears into strengths. (realistic)

The Electric Kingdom by David Arnold

After a flu pandemic ravages the earth, a small group of survivors embark on journeys for safe havens only to come face-to-face with mysterious and supernatural elements. Twelve-year-old Kit is searching for a rumored safe zone and meets up with eighteen-year-old Nico who is searching for a portal her parents told her about. Meanwhile, the enigmatic Deliverer watches over them and hops through time and space hoping to change events. (fantasy)

Love is a Revolution by Renee Watson

When Nala reluctantly agrees to attend an open mic night for her cousin-sister-friend Imani's birthday, she finds herself falling in instant love with Tye Brown, the MC, who's perfect, except — Tye is an activist and is spending the

summer putting on events for the community. Nala tells a few tiny lies to have enough in common with him. As they spend more time together, sharing more of themselves, some of those lies get harder to keep up. (realistic)

Pet by Akwaeke Emezi

There are no monsters anymore, or so the children in the city of Lucille are taught. Jam and her best friend, Redemption, have grown up with this lesson all their life. But when Jam meets Pet, a creature made of horns and colors and claws, she must reconsider what she's been told. Pet has come to hunt a monster, and the shadow of something grim lurks in Redemption's house. Jam must fight not only to protect her best friend, but also to uncover the truth, and the answer to the question--How do you save the world from monsters if no one will admit they exist? (scifi/fantasy)

Spin by Lamar Giles

When rising star Paris Secord (aka DJ ParSec) is found dead on her turntables, it sends the local music scene reeling. No one is feeling that grief more than her shunned pre-fame best friend, Kya, and ParSec's chief groupie, Fuse -- two sworn enemies who happened to be the ones who discovered her body. The trail quickly turns cold, and the authorities don't seem to be pushing too hard to investigate further. But nobody counted on Paris's deeply loyal fans, or the outrage that would drive Fuse and Kya to work together. Fuse and Kya start digging into Paris's past, stumbling across a deadly secret. With new info comes new motives. New suspects. And a fandom that will stop at nothing in their obsessive quest for answers, not even murder... (mystery)

Summer Bird Blue by Akemi Dawn Bowman

Rumi spends a lot of time worrying she doesn't have the answers to everything. What to eat, where to go, whom to love. But there is one thing she is absolutely sure of—she wants to spend the rest of her life writing music with her younger sister, Lea. Then Lea dies in a car accident, and her mother sends her away to live with her aunt in Hawaii while she deals with her own grief. Now thousands of miles from home, Rumi struggles to navigate the loss of her sister, being abandoned by her mother, and the absence of music in her life. With the help of new friends, Rumi attempts to find her way back to her music, to write the song she and Lea never had the chance to finish. (realistic)

XL by Scott Brown

Will Daughtry is a late bloomer. On his sixteenth birthday, Will is just shy of five feet, and he is bitterly resigned to being tiny forever. His only comforts are his best friend and step brother. Everyone else literally overlooks him. But with them, he feels whole. Then he starts to grow. And grow fast. For the first time, Will's happy with his stature. People see him differently; more important, he sees himself differently. But the highest heights come with some lows and his most precious relationships suffer excruciating growing pains. Will has to figure out what to do with himself--and all of this new "himself" he never expected to have. (realistic)



Your 2022 Summer Reading assignment is to read TWO books.

This list is recommendations for your other book. They're not not required, they're just great books!



For 6th Graders, we recommend:

Realistic Fiction

Across the Desert by Dusti Bowling
Ahmed Aziz's Epic Year by Nina Hamza
The Best At It by Maulik Pancholy
A Bird Will Soar by Allison Green Myers
Before the Ever After by Jacqueline Woodson
The Boys in the Back Row by Mike Jung
The Brave by James Bird
Breathing Underwater by Sarah Allen
Confessions of a Class Clown by Arianne Costner
Falling Short by Ernesto Cisernos
Fighting Words by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
High Five For Glenn Burke by Phil Bildner
The Many Meanings of Meilan by Andrea Wang
Martin McCleam, Middle School Queen by Alyssa Zaczek
Redwood and Ponytail by K A Holt
Some Places More Than Others by Renee Watson
A Story About Cancer with a Happy Ending by India Desjardins
Tune It Out by Jamie Sumer
Worst Case Collin by Rebecca Caprara

Fantasy & Science Fiction

The Apothecary by Maile Meloy
Aru Shah and the End of Time by Roshani Choksi
Sal and Gabi Break the Universe by Carlos Hernandez
The In-Between by Rebecca K S Ansari
Only if You Dare by Josh Allen

Mystery

Drew LeClair Gets a Clue by Katryn Bury
Van Gogh Deception by Deron Hicks

Historical Fiction

The Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna by Alda P Dobbs
Frankie and Bug by Gayle Forman
How to Find What You're Not Looking For by Veera Hiranandani
Letters from Cuba by Ruth Behars
Mighty Inside by Sundee T Frazier

Graphic Novels

Chunky by Yehudi Mercado
Isla to Island by Alexis Castellanos
Living With Viola by Rosena Fung

Nonfiction

The Genius Under the Table by Eugene Yelchin
One Real American: the life of Ely S. Parker, Seneca Sachem and Civil War General by Joseph Bruchac
This is Your Time by Ruby Bridges

Fantasy & Science Fiction


Ruby Red by Kerstin Gier
Slay by Brittney Morris
The Thirteenth Fairy by Melissa de la Cruz

Graphic

The Girl From the Sea by Molly Knox Ostertag
On a Sunbeam by Tillie Walden
Superman Smashed the Klan by Gene Luen Yang
This Was Our Pact by Ryan Andrews

Nonfiction

Allies: Real talk about showing up, screwing up, and trying again by Shakirah Bourne
The Black Friend by Frederick Joseph
The Racers by Neal Bascomb




For 8th graders, we recommend all the books on the 6th and 7th grade lists, as well as:

Fiction

Miles Morales: Spider-Man by Jason Reynolds (Fantasy)
Most Likely by Sarah Watson (Realistic)
With the Fire on High by Elizabeth Acevedo (Realistic)
The Words in My Hands by Asphyxia (SciFi)

Nonfiction

Call Me American by Abdi Nor Iftin
Caught by Georgia Braggs
Dancing at the Pity Party by Tyler Feder (graphic)
Say Her Name by Zetta Elliott (poetry)



For 7th graders, we recommend all the books on the 6th grade list, as well as:

Realistic Fiction

The Land of Permanent Goodbyes by Atia Abawi
Lily and Dunkin by Donna Gephart
Perfectly Parvin by Olivia Abtahi
The Shape of Thunder by Jasmine Warga
Listen, Layla by Yassin Abdel-Magied

Required Reading for Students Entering 9th Grade

- 9CP (English 113) *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo (optional guide)
9ACP (English 112) *Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo
9H (English 111) *Born A Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah
AND one additional book of your choice
Foundations 9/10 *Just Mercy: Adapted for Young Adults: A True Story of the Fight for Justice* by Bryan Stevenson

