



Recommended Summer Reading List

Remember: Read books within your ZPD level!
If you don't know your ZPD, call 340.718.7909

Students Entering Grades 7 and 8:

After the Last Dog Died: The True-Life, Hair-Raising Adventure of Douglas Mawson and His 1912 Antarctic Expedition. Bredson, Carmen. Biography 6.7

Describes the life and career of the Australian explorer, Sir Douglas Mawson, focusing on his 1912 scientific expedition to Antarctica.

Anne of Green Gables (Unabridged). Montgomery, L.M. Classic 7.3

An adventurous young orphan goes to live on a farm with an elderly brother and sister.

The Bad Beginning. Snicket, Lemony. Fantasy 6.4

After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune.

The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible...on Schindler's List.

Leyson, Leon. Biography 7.0

Leon Leyson, the youngest person saved by Oskar Schindler, memorably describes the Krakow ghetto, the Nazi factory where he worked, and his life in the U.S. after the war.

Boy: Tales of Childhood. Dahl, Roald. Biography 6.0

A collection of humorous anecdotes from the author's childhood, including his summer vacations in Norway and life at an English boarding school.

Becoming Ben Franklin: How a Candle-Maker's Son Helped Light the Flame of Liberty.

Freedman, Russell. Biography 8.4

Beginning with an independent young man arriving in Philadelphia, this informative and well-paced book shines a light on one of America's most interesting Founding Fathers.

Call It Courage. Sperry, Armstrong. Classic 6.2

Based on a Polynesian legend, this is the story of a youth who overcame his fear of the sea and proves his courage to himself and his tribe.

Courage Has No Color: The True Story of the Triple Nickels, America's First Black Paratroopers. Stone, Tanya Lee. Biography 8.0

Bolden introduces the unsung story of the U.S. Army's first African-American paratroopers unit, moving gracefully among portraits of individual paratroopers, the history of the unit, and the complex social issues of the time. (A YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults Honor Book)

The Darkest Minds. Bracken, Alexandra. Fantasy/Sci-Fi 6.7

Sixteen-year-old Ruby breaks out of a government-run rehabilitation camp for teens who acquired dangerous powers after surviving a virus that wiped out most American children.

The Dark Unwinding. Cameron, Sharon. 7.0

In 1852, when seventeen-year-old Katharine is sent to her family's estate to prove that her uncle is insane, she finds he is an inventor whose work creating ingenious clockwork figures supports hundreds of families; strange occurrences soon have her doubting her own sanity.

Delights & Shadows: Poems. Kooser, Ted. Poetry 7.5

This collection of poems by former Poet Laureate of the United States describes the habits and struggles of daily life.

Diego Rivera: An Artist for the People. Rubin, Susan Goldman. Biography 7.1

A visually appealing and engaging introduction to the life and the work of an important figure in modern art, muralist Diego Rivera.

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly: A Memoir of Life in Death. Bauby, Jean-Dominique. Biography 8.0

This extraordinary book, a celebration of everyday life, was dictated one blink at a time, recounting the author's struggle with the effects of a massive stroke which left him with a body which had all but stopped working.

Dune. Herbert, Frank. Classic Fantasy/Sci Fi 8.1

The story of a young prince, Paul Atreides, scion of a star-crossed dynasty, and of his journey from boy to warrior to ruler of a dying planet destined to become a paradise regained.

The Egypt Game. Snyder, Zilpha Keatley. Classic 6.7

A group of children, entranced with Egypt, play their own Egypt game. They are visited by a secret oracle, become involved with a murder, and befriend the Professor before they move on to new interests.

Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery. Freedman, Russell. Biography. 7.8

A biography of the first wife of a president to have a public life and career of her own.

Emancipation Proclamation: Lincoln and the Dawn of Liberty. Bolden, Tonya. Non-Fiction History 8.9

Bolden scrutinizes with clarity and flawless research the many paths that led to Lincoln's famous proclamation, reviewing its historical impact on the war-torn United States during a turbulent and bitter period.

Etiquette & Espionage. Carriger, Gail. 6.4

In this madcap, steampunk-mystery, Sophronia Temminnick learns that etiquette and espionage go hand-in-glove when she is covertly recruited from Mademoiselle Geraldine's Finishing Academy for Young Ladies of Quality. A paranormal mashup set in Victorian England.

Far Far Away. McNeal, Tom. Knopf 6.3

An insidious predator has been abducting innocent children. Jeremy, the only one who can hear narrator Jacob Grimm, must save himself and his friends with the storyteller's help.

A Farewell to Arms. Hemingway, Ernest. Classic 7.0

A British nurse and an American ambulance driver fall in love during World War I.

The Living. de la Peña, Matt. 6.0

In a thrilling survival story, Shy's summer job on a cruise ship becomes a fight for his life. This page-turner adventure also raises important cultural and sociological issues. (A 2014 Belpré Author Honor Book)

The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie. Bradley, Alan 6.7

Eleven-year-old Flavia loves chemistry puzzles and taking chances, so when a dead snipe is left at her kitchen door and a body is discovered in the garden, she is determined to get to the bottom of it. Book #1

The Way We Fall. Crewe, Megan. 6.5

Sixteen-year-old Kaelyn challenges her fears, finds a second chance at love, and fights to keep her family and friends safe as a deadly new virus devastates her island community.