



Recommended Summer Reading List

Remember: Read books within your ZPD level!
If you do not know your ZPD level, call
340.718.79099

High School (while these books do not have a ZPD rating they are AR books and are intended for high school readers due to the content)

The 5th Wave. Yancey, Rick. Sci-Fi Upper Grades

Cassie Sullivan, the survivor of an alien invasion, must rescue her young brother from the enemy with help from a boy who may be one of them.

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter. Grahame-Smith, Seth. Upper Grades

Many people know about Abe Lincoln's political successes, but few know that after his mother was killed by a vampire Old Abe became a ruthless vampire hunter. This "biography," packed full of historical facts, will not disappoint readers who like a good horror story.

The Andromeda Strain. Crichton, Michael. Upper Grades

For five days, American scientists struggle to identify and control a deadly new form of life.

The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Volume 1: The Pox Party

Anderson, M.T. Biography Upper Grades

Diaries, letters, and other manuscripts chronicle the experiences of Octavian, a young African American, from birth to age sixteen, as he is brought up as part of a science experiment in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War. (National Book Award Winner)

Big Girl Small: A Novel. DeWoskin, Rachel. Upper Grades

Sixteen-year-old Judy Lohden, a girl whose phenomenal singing voice should have made her the star of the local performing arts high school, instead finds herself hiding out from the national media in a seedy hotel room due to a controversy sparked in part by the fact that she is only three feet, nine inches tall. Alex Award 2012

Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court. Twain, Mark. Classic 9.2

Nineteenth-century mechanic Hank Morgan suffers a blow to the head and wakes up in King Arthur's Court where he tries to introduce modern technology and political ideas to the inhabitants.

Crooked Little Heart. Lamott, Anne. Sports. Upper Grades

Some girls, like Rosie's friend and tennis partner on the Northern California tennis circuit, enter adolescence with young womanly grace and appeal; others, like Rosie, find the onset of a metamorphosing body and questionable social status burdened with a seemingly endless string of bad days. Driven by the constant fear that she's a loser, Rosie starts to cheat on the tennis court.

Meanwhile, her boy-crazy friend dabbles in off-court disaster, and a weird loner begins obsessively following Rosie's tennis matches. Author Anne Lamott has turned in a fair depiction of the struggles of adolescence that is lightened by humor and inspirational moments. Lamott provides the characters of Rosie's mother and adult friends with that same understanding: although they have problems of their own, they provide Rosie with admirable support that encourages her maturation rather than suffocating her with overwhelming concern.

A Day No Pigs Would Die. Peck, Robert Newton. Classic. Upper Grades

To a thirteen-year-old Vermont farm boy whose father slaughters pigs for a living, maturity comes early as he learns "doing what's got to be done," especially regarding his pet pig who cannot produce a litter.

Dragondrums. McCaffrey, Anne. Classic Fantasy. Upper Grades

When his boy soprano voice begins to change, Piemur is drafted by Masterharper Robinton to help with political work and is sent on missions that lead him into unusual sometimes dangerous adventures.

Every Day. David Levithan. Upper Grades

A teen wakes up every morning in a different body, living a different life. With his new novel, David Levithan has pushed himself to new creative heights. He has written a captivating story that will fascinate readers as they begin to comprehend the complexities of life and love in A's world, as A and Rhiannon seek to discover if you can truly love someone who is destined to change every day.

Fall of Giants. Follett, Ken. Historical Fiction- Upper Grades

A historical fiction epic that follows the lives of five interrelated families – American, German, Russian, English, and Welsh – around the time of World War I. *Series*

Swanson, Julie A. *Going For the Record.*

Leah Weiczynkowski is a promising soccer player with Olympic aspirations. However, the summer before senior year, she learns her father has pancreatic cancer. He has three months to live. Called "obsessed with soccer" by her mom, she continues to practice her sport intently, hoping for phone calls from college recruiters. As her dad's illness progresses, she begins feeling selfish and guilty. Her first-person narrative conveys emotional vulnerability with increased self-reflection. Part of an extended Catholic family, Leah is urged by her grandmother to consider the power of prayer. Then, with her father's death, Leah comes to recognize that soccer is just a game and that what really matters are relationships and making a difference in the world.

The Hoopster, Sitomer, Alan Lawrence. Sports. Upper Grades

Andre Anderson spends his summer playing basketball with his pals and working at a magazine, where he is assigned to write an article dealing with race. As an African American, the teen is reluctant to write about the topic, but he comes to think about it more deeply and writes an explosive piece.

Inferno: A Novel. Brown, Dan. Action/Adventure Upper Grades

Harvard professor Robert Langdon is once again drawn into a deadly quest, this time based on clues from Dante's *Inferno*.

Keeper. Peet, Mal. Sports. Upper Grades

When acclaimed South American journalist Paul Faustino begins his interview with World Cup soccer star El Gato, he expects to be recording the thoughts of a goalkeeper at the height of his career. He never envisioned hearing about a young, lonely boy growing up in the middle of a rain forest, who wandered upon a mysterious soccer field where an apparition appeared to him daily and trained him to become the greatest goalkeeper ever known. Is El Gato crazy or is there some truth to be discovered in his fantastic tale? This is an entirely new kind of soccer story, including not only the experience of play, but also mesmerizing readers with a supernatural mystery in a tale about relationships, loneliness, and believing in oneself.

March. Brooks, Geraldine. Biography. Upper Grades

This book follows the experiences of Mr. March, the father in Louisa May Alcott's "LITTLE WOMEN," as he witnesses the cruelty and racism of both Northern and Southern soldiers and the harsh realities of the Civil War.

Monument 14. Laybourne, Emmy. Upper Grades

A strange weather phenomenon drives students into a superstore where fourteen kids take refuge while the world outside gets torn apart from a series of escalating disasters.

People of the Book. Brooks, Geraldine. Upper Grades

Rare book expert Hanna Heath discovers a number of tiny artifacts hidden within the binding of a fifteenth-century Hebrew manuscript and begins to unravel the mysteries behind its past.

Ready Player One. Cline, Ernest. Sci-Fi. Upper Grades

In the year 2044, Wade Watts, like the rest of humanity, chooses to escape reality and spends his waking hours in the limitless, utopian virtual world of the OASIS. When Wade stumbles upon the first of the fiendish puzzles set up by OASIS creator James Halliday, he finds he must compete with thousands of others -- including those willing to commit murder -- in order to claim the prize of a massive fortune. Alex Award 2012

Robocalypse. Wilson, Daniel H. Sci-Fi Upper Grades

An artificial intelligence program has taken over the world, uniting all the computer programs residing in everything from dolls and toys to domestic service robots, airplanes, and military weapons. Its aim is to destroy all human life . . . and the robots are winning. Alex Award 2012

A Separate Peace. Knowles, John. Upper Grades- Historical Fiction Classic

Set at a boys' boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II, *A Separate Peace* is a harrowing and luminous parable of the dark side of adolescence. Gene is a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happens between the two friends one summer, like the war itself, banishes the innocence of these boys and their world.

Shadow and Bone. Bardugo, Leigh. Upper Grades

Orphaned by the Border Wars, Alina Starkov is taken from obscurity and away from her only friend, Mal, to become the protégé of the mysterious Darkling, who trains her to join the magical elite in the belief that she can destroy the monsters of the Fold.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn. Smith, Betty. Historical Fiction Upper Grades

The beloved American classic about a young girl's coming-of-age at the turn of the century, Betty Smith's *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* is a poignant and moving tale filled with compassion and cruelty, laughter and heartache, crowded with life and people and incident. The story of young, sensitive, and idealistic Francie Nolan and her bittersweet formative years in the slums of Williamsburg has enchanted and inspired millions of readers for more than sixty years. By turns overwhelming, sublime, heartbreaking, and uplifting, the daily experiences of the unforgettable Nolans are raw with honesty and tenderly threaded with family connectedness -- in a work of literary art that brilliantly captures a unique time and place as well as incredibly rich moments of universal experience.

Twisted. Anderson, Laurie Halse. Upper Grades

Tyler Miller, a high school senior, tries to clean up his reputation, succeed in school, and deal with his demanding, explosive father and his alcoholic, distant mother. In addition, he tries to win the affection and attraction of the most popular girl at school while enduring the torment of her brother. He must tackle the complex issues of integrity, raging hormones, personal responsibility, and identity on his own as he struggles to understand what it means to be a man. With gripping scenes and a rousing ending, Anderson authentically portrays Tyler's emotional instability as he contemplates darker and darker solutions to his situation.

National Book Award

Zeitoun. Eggers, Dave. Non-Fiction Upper Grades

A true account of a family caught between America's war on terror and the response to Hurricane Katrina. Following the chaos of the storm, Zeitoun travels the city by canoe, feeding abandoned animals and helping elderly neighbors until armed men suddenly burst into his home.