



SUMMER READING BOOK LISTS FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

AZ Academy recognizes that there is a need for high interest but lower book level reading resources. Please use this book list as a guide if your student is in the upper grades but needs modified reading.

Middle Grades (4-8)

Primates: The Fearless Science of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Biruté Galdikas

Ottaviani, Jim

AR Quiz No. 157783 EN Nonfiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **3.6** - AR Pts: **1.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

This account of the life stories of three ground-breaking researchers, Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Biruté Galdikas, students of the great Louis Leakey, explores how each made profound contributions to primatology.

Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales: Donner Dinner Party

Hale, Nathan

AR Quiz No. 160438 EN Nonfiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **2.7** - AR Pts: **2.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

In graphic-novel format, Nathan Hale relates the experiences of the Donner Party, a group of eighty-seven individuals who became trapped in a snowstorm in 1846, forcing them to take desperate measures to stay alive.

The Dumbest Idea Ever!

Gownley, Jimmy

AR Quiz No. 164559 EN Nonfiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **2.5** - AR Pts: **1.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

Renowned comics creator Jimmy Gownley shares his adventures as he grows from an eager-to-please boy into a teenage comic book artist. This is the real-life story of how the dumbest idea ever became the best thing that ever happened to him.

Smile

Telgemeier, Raina

AR Quiz No. 135787 EN Nonfiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **2.6** - AR Pts: **1.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

In graphic form, the author relates her experiences after she injured her two front teeth and had to have surgeries and wear embarrassing braces and headgear, all the while also dealing with the trials and tribulations of middle school.

The Silver Six

Lieberman, A.J.

AR Quiz No. 159403 EN Fiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **2.6** - AR Pts: **1.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

A group of orphans escape from their orphanage to an uninhabited moon, but their idyllic paradise is shattered when the powerful corporate boss who ordered the deaths of their parents sends a relentless henchman to track them down

Bad Island

Tennapel, Doug

AR Quiz No. 145213 EN Fiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **2.3** - AR Pts: **1.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

When Reese is forced to go on a boating trip with his family, the last thing he expects is to be shipwrecked on an island, especially one teeming with weird plants and animals.

Cardboard

TenNapel, Doug

AR Quiz No. 153017 EN Fiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **2.2** - AR Pts: **1.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

When cardboard creatures come magically to life, a boy must save his town from disaster.

Tommysaurus Rex

TenNapel, Doug

AR Quiz No. 159306 EN Fiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **2.0** - AR Pts: **0.5**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

To help him get over the death of his dog, Ely's parents send him to Grandpa's farm for the summer. When Ely discovers a Tyrannosaurus rex trapped in a cave on the farm, he tries to tame the dinosaur and convince the town his new pet is not a threat.

Ghostopolis

TenNapel, Doug

AR Quiz No. 138137 EN Fiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **2.4** - AR Pts: **1.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

Imagine Garth's surprise when he's accidentally zapped to the spirit world by Frank Gallows, a washed-out ghost wrangler. Suddenly, Garth has powers the ghosts don't have, but he's stuck in a world run by the evil ruler of Ghostopolis.

The Truth of Me

MacLachlan, Patricia

AR Quiz No. 160227 EN Fiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **2.8** - AR Pts: **1.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

Robbie and his dog, Ellie, spend the summer at his grandmother Maddy's house, where Robbie learns something about his emotionally distant mother and himself.

Milkweed

Spinelli, Jerry

AR Quiz No. 71828 EN Fiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **3.6** - AR Pts: **7.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP, VP**

Rating: ★★★★★

This book takes us to one of the most devastating settings imaginable -- Nazi-occupied Warsaw of World War II -- and tells a tale of heartbreak, hope, and survival through the bright eyes of a young orphan.

Sugar

Rhodes, Jewell Parker

AR Quiz No. 158360 EN Fiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **2.9** - AR Pts: **4.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

In the 1870s, Reconstruction brings big changes to the Louisiana sugar plantation where spunky ten-year-old Sugar has always lived, including her growing friendship with Billy, the son of her former master, and the arrival of workmen from China.

The Amulet Series by Kibuishi, Kazu. BL: 1.8-2.8

Amelia books by Gownley, Jimmy. BL: 2.0-3.2

The Whatever After series by Sarah Mlynowski. BL: 2.8-3.1

Bone series by Jeff Smith. BL: 2.2-2.9


Big Nate series by Lincoln Peirce. BL: 2.3-2.9


Middle Grades Plus (6th grade and up) – all of the above books plus these

Drama

Telgemeier, Raina

AR Quiz No. 153879 EN Fiction

 IL: **MG+** - BL: **2.3** - AR Pts: **1.0**

 AR Quiz Types: **RP**


 Rating: ★★★★★


Callie rides an emotional roller coaster while serving on the stage crew for a middle-school production of MOON OVER MISSISSIPPI as various relationships start and end and others never quite get going.

Will & Whit

Gulledge, Laura Lee

AR Quiz No. 163823 EN Fiction

 IL: **MG+** - BL: **3.0** - AR Pts: **1.0**

 AR Quiz Types: **RP**


 Rating: ★★★★★

Creative Will struggles to come to terms with a family tragedy and participates in an arts carnival that forces her to face her fear of the dark when a hurricane causes a blackout.

Skellig

Almond, David

AR Quiz No. 28292 EN Fiction

 IL: **MG+** - BL: **3.5** - AR Pts: **4.0**

 AR Quiz Types: **RP, LS, VP**


 Rating: ★★★★★


An unusual being called Skellig enters the life of Michael, a boy whose family has moved into a new house and whose baby sister is gravely ill. Michael's sadness and isolation lead to a special friendship with Skellig and with a neighbor girl.

Then

Gleitzman, Morris

AR Quiz No. 144856 EN Fiction

 IL: **MG+** - BL: **3.8** - AR Pts: **5.0**

 AR Quiz Types: **RP**


 Rating: ★★★★★


In early 1940s Poland, ten-year-old Felix and his friend Zelda escape from a cattle car headed to the Nazi death camps and struggle to survive, first on their own and then with Genia, a farmer with her own reasons for hating Germans.

Alligator Bayou

Napoli, Donna Jo

AR Quiz No. 128920 EN Fiction

 IL: **MG+** - BL: **3.1** - AR Pts: **7.0**

 AR Quiz Types: **RP**


 Rating: ★★★★★


14-yr-old Sicilian immigrant Calogero lives in Louisiana in 1899, when Jim Crow rules. Despite attempts to follow American customs, disaster follows his family, ending in multiple murders. The plot contains graphic violence and mature themes.

American Born Chinese

Yang, Gene Luen

AR Quiz No. 111766 EN Fiction

 IL: **MG+** - BL: **3.3** - AR Pts: **1.0**

 AR Quiz Types: **RP**

 Rating: ★★★★★

This book alternates interrelated stories about three characters: a Chinese American trying to fit into popular culture, a Chinese folk hero attempting to be worshipped as a god; and a teenager ashamed by his Chinese cousin's behavior.

Upper Grades (9th -12th) All of the above books plus these.

Nothing Can Possibly Go Wrong

Shen, Prudence

AR Quiz No. 157461 EN Fiction

IL: **UG** - BL: **3.1** - AR Pts: **1.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

The student council's funding decision means the robotics club and the cheerleaders must work together to win a battlebot competition.

The Good Neighbors: Kin

Black, Holly

AR Quiz No. 124699 EN Fiction

IL: **MG+** - BL: **2.7** - AR Pts: **1.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

Sixteen-year-old Rue Silver, whose mother has disappeared, believes she is going crazy until she learns that the strange things she has been seeing are real, and that she is one of the faerie creatures, or Good Neighbors, that mortals cannot see.

The Good Neighbors: Kith

Black, Holly

AR Quiz No. 133955 EN Fiction

IL: **MG+** - BL: **2.6** - AR Pts: **1.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

Rue Silver must travel deep into the faerie realm in order to rescue her mother and at the same time try and stop the faerie realm from vanquishing the human world. Book #2

The Good Neighbors: Kind

Black, Holly

AR Quiz No. 140963 EN Fiction

IL: **MG+** - BL: **3.1** - AR Pts: **1.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

Rue, a faerie heir, faces a difficult dilemma when the faerie world launches an attack on the city she has always known. The text and pictures contain sexual references and violence. Book #3

Boy Nobody/I Am the Weapon

Zadoff, Allen

AR Quiz No. 161533 EN Fiction

IL: **UG** - BL: **3.6** - AR Pts: **9.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

Boy Nobody, a 16-year-old assassin controlled by a shadowy government organization, considers sabotaging his latest mission because his target reminds him of the normal life he craves.

My Life, the Theater, and Other Tragedies

Zadoff, Allen

AR Quiz No. 143930 EN Fiction

IL: **UG** - BL: **3.5** - AR Pts: **7.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**


Rating: ★★★★★

While working backstage on a high-school production of A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM, sixteen-year-old Adam develops feelings for a beautiful actress and begins to overcome the grief that has controlled him since his father's death nearly two years earlier

Creature Tech

TenNapel, Doug

AR Quiz No. 86143 EN Fiction

 IL: **UG** - BL: **3.0** - AR Pts: **1.0**

 AR Quiz Types: **RP**

 Rating: 

Dr. Ong, a would-be pastor turned scientist, is called upon by his government to save the world when the zombified Dr. Jameson is resurrected by the Shroud of Turin and sets out to finish his plan to destroy the Earth with a giant space eel.

Carter High Mysteries. BL: 2.4-2.7