



BOOKS THAT *ROCK*

Summer Reading Recommendations: GRADES 3-6

Most of these books are on display in the Children's Room!

WE RECOMMEND...

Fiction:

The Strange Case of Origami Yoda

By Tom Angleberger, J Fiction Angleberger

Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future. A funny, uncannily wise portrait of the dynamics of a sixth-grade class and of the greatness that sometimes comes in unlikely packages.

The War I Finally Won

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley, J Fiction Bradley

***Sequel**

Ada's triumphant World War II journey continues in this sequel to the Newbery Honor-winning *The War that Saved My Life*. World War II rages on, and Ada and her brother, Jamie, move with their guardian, Susan, into a cottage with the iron-faced Lady Thornton. Life in the crowded home is tense. Then Ruth moves in. Ruth, a Jewish girl, from Germany. A German? Could Ruth be a spy? As the fallout from war intensifies, calamity creeps closer. Who will Ada decide to be? How can she keep fighting? Who will she struggle to save?

The Wild Robot

By Peter Brown, J Fiction Brown

Can a robot survive in the wilderness? When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is - but she knows she needs to survive. After battling a fierce storm and escaping a vicious bear attack, she realizes that her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island's unwelcoming animal inhabitants. As Roz slowly befriends the animals, the island starts to feel like home - until, one day, the robot's mysterious past comes back to haunt her. A heartwarming and action-packed novel about what happens when nature and technology collide.

Because of Mr. Terupt

By Rob Buyea, J Fiction Buyea

It's the start of fifth grade for seven kids at Snow Hill School. There's: Jessica, the new girl who's having a hard time fitting in; Alexia, a bully, your friend one second, your enemy the next; Peter, class prankster and troublemaker; Luke, the brain; Danielle, who never stands up for herself; shy Anna, whose home situation makes her an outcast; and Jeffrey, who hates school. Only Mr. Terupt, their new and energetic teacher, seems to know how to deal with them all...until the snowy winter day when an accident changes everything and everyone.

Molly Moon's Incredible Book of Hypnotism

By Georgia Byng, J Fiction Byng

***First in a series.**

Welcome to the Wonderful World of Hypnotism! Molly Moon has spent her entire life in a miserable orphanage. But when she finds a mysterious book, Molly discovers an extraordinary talent - she can hypnotize anyone! Accompanied by Petula the pug, Molly hypnotizes her way to New York and Broadway stardom. But hot on her trail is the sinister professor, who is determined to use Molly to stage the crime of a century...

The World's Greatest Detective

By Caroline Carlson, J Fiction Carlson

Detectives' Row is full of talented investigators, but Toby Montrose isn't one of them. He's only an assistant at his uncle's detective agency, and he's not sure he's even very good at that. Toby's friend Ivy is the best sleuth around - or at least she thinks so. They both see their chance to prove themselves when the famed Hugh Abernathy announces a contest to choose the World's Greatest Detective. But when a game turns into a real-life murder mystery, can Toby and Ivy crack the case?

Bud, Not Buddy

By Christopher Paul Curtis, J Fiction Curtis

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father - the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.



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The Journey of Little Charlie

By Christopher Paul Curtis, J Fiction Curtis, Grades 5 - 8

12-year-old Charlie is down on his luck: His sharecropper father just died and Cap'n Buck - the most fearsome man in Possum Moan, South Carolina - has come to collect a debt. Fearing for his life, Charlie strikes a deal with Cap'n Buck and agrees to track down some folks accused of stealing from the cap'n and his boss. It's not too bad of a bargain for Charlie... until he comes face-to-face with the fugitives and discovers their true identities. Torn between his guilty conscience and his survival instinct, Charlie needs to figure out his next move - and soon. It's only a matter of time before Cap'n Buck catches on.

Because of Winn Dixie

By Kate DiCamillo, J Fiction DiCamillo

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

Hoot

By Carl Hiaasen, J Fiction Hiaasen

The story takes place in Coconut Cove, Florida, where new arrival Roy makes a bad enemy, two oddball friends, and joins an effort to stop construction of a pancake house which would destroy a colony of burrowing owls who live on the site.

Bunnica: A Rabbit-Tale of Mystery

by Deborah Howe & James Howe, J Fiction Howe

Though scoffed at by Harold the dog, Chester the cat tries to warn his human family that their foundling baby bunny must be a vampire. The story of Chester's suspicions and their consequences makes uproarious reading.

You Go First

By Erin Entrada Kelly, J Fiction Kelly (grades 4-6)

Twelve-year-old Charlotte Lockard and eleven-year-old Ben Boxer are separated by more than a thousand miles. On the surface, their lives seem vastly different - Charlotte lives near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, while Ben is in the small town of Lanester, Louisiana. Charlotte wants to be a geologist and keeps a rock collection in her

room. Ben is obsessed with Harry Potter, presidential history, and recycling. But the two have more in common than they think. They're both highly gifted. They're both experiencing family turmoil. And they both sit alone at lunch. Over the course of a week, Charlotte and Ben - online friends connected only by a Scrabble game - will intersect in unexpected ways, as they struggle to navigate the turmoil of middle school. An engaging story about growing up and finding your place in the world.

The Jolly Regina (The Unintentional Adventures of the Bland Sisters, Book 1)

By Kara LaReau, J Fiction LaReau

***First in a series.**

Meet Jaundice and Kale Bland, two sisters who avoid excitement at any cost. Together, they patiently await the return of their parents, who left on an errand years ago and have never returned. One day, the Bland sisters are kidnapped by an all-female band of pirates. They're unwillingly swept into a high-seas romp that might just lead to solving the mystery of what happened to their parents. A visually stunning, laugh-out-loud funny start to a new series for readers who are looking for an anything-but-bland adventure.

The Doll People

By Ann M. Martin and Laura Godwin, J Fiction Martin

A family of porcelain dolls that has lived in the same house for one hundred years is taken aback when a new family of plastic dolls arrives and doesn't follow "The Doll Code of Honor."

Bob

By Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead, J Fiction Mass

It's been five years since Livy and her family have visited Livy's grandmother in Australia. Now that she's back, Livy has the feeling she's forgotten something really, really important about Gran's house. It turns out she's right. Bob, a short, greenish creature dressed in a chicken suit, didn't forget Livy, or her promise. He's been waiting five years for her to come back, hiding in a closet like she told him to. He can't remember who - or what - he is, where he came from, or if he even has a family. But five years



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ago Livy promised she would help him find his way back home. Now it's time to keep that promise. Clue by clue, Livy and Bob will unravel the mystery of where Bob comes from, and discover the kind of magic that lasts forever. Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead, two masterminds of classic, middle-grade fiction come together to craft this magical story about the enduring power of friendship.

The Apothecary

By Maile Meloy, J Fiction Meloy

It's 1952 and the Scott family has just moved from Los Angeles to London. Here, 14-year-old Janie meets a mysterious apothecary and his son, Benjamin - a fascinating boy who's not afraid to stand up to authority and dreams of becoming a spy. When Benjamin's father is kidnapped, Janie and Benjamin must uncover the secrets of the apothecary's sacred book, the Pharmacopoeia, in order to find him, all while keeping it out of the hands of their enemies: Russian spies in possession of nuclear weapons. Janie and Benjamin embark on a dangerous race to save the apothecary and prevent impending disaster.

Adventures with Waffles

by Maria Parr, J Fiction Parr

Hardly a day passes without Trille and Lena inventing some kind of adventure that often ends in trouble. Whether it's coaxing a cow onto a boat or sledding down the steepest and iciest hill with a chicken, there is always a thrill - and sometimes an injury - to be had. Trille loves to share everything with Lena, even Auntie Granny's waffles. But when Lena has to move away and Auntie Granny leaves the world, it sometimes seems like nothing will ever be right again. The warmth of friendship and the support of family suffuse this lightly illustrated novel, proving that when times are tough, a little taste of sweetness can make all the difference.

The Red Pencil

By Andrea Davis Pinkney, J Fiction Pinkney

Finally, Amira is twelve. Old enough to wear a toob, old enough for new responsibilities. And maybe old enough to go to school in Nyala - Amira's one true dream. But life

in her peaceful Sudanese village is shattered when the Janjaweed arrive. The terrifying attackers ravage the town and unleash unspeakable horrors. After she loses nearly everything, Amira needs to dig deep within herself to find the strength to make the long journey - on foot - to safety at a refugee camp. Her days are tough at the camp, until the gift of a simple red pencil opens her mind - and all kinds of possibilities.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone *(Illustrated Edition)*

By J.K. Rowling, Illustrated by Jim Kay, J Fiction Rowling

For the first time, J.K. Rowling's beloved Harry Potter books will be presented in lavishly illustrated full-color editions. Harry Potter has never been the star of a Quidditch team, scoring points while riding a broom far above the ground. He knows no spells, has never helped to hatch a dragon, and has never worn a cloak of invisibility. All he knows is a miserable life with the Dursleys, his horrible aunt and uncle, and their abominable son, Dudley - a great big swollen spoiled bully. Harry's room is a tiny closet at the foot of the stairs, and he hasn't had a birthday party in eleven years. But all that is about to change when a mysterious letter arrives by owl messenger: a letter with an invitation to an incredible place that Harry - and anyone who reads about him - will find unforgettable.

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them *(Illustrated Edition)*

By J.K. Rowling; Newt Scamander, Illustrated by Olivia Lomenech, J Fiction Rowling

An essential companion to the Harry Potter novels, now fully illustrated! Newt Scamander's classic compendium of magical creatures, has delighted generations of wizarding readers. With this beautiful, large-scale new edition illustrated in full color, Muggles too will have the chance to discover where the Runespoor lives, what the Puffskein eats, and why shiny objects should always be kept away from the Niffler.



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Holes

By Louis Sachar, J Fiction Sachar

A darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment. Stanley Yelnat's family has a history of bad luck, so he isn't too surprised when a miscarriage of justice sends him to a boys' juvenile detention center, Camp Green Lake. There is no lake - it has been dry for over a hundred years - and it's hardly a camp. As punishment, the boys must each dig a hole a day, five feet deep, five feet across, in the hard earth of the dried-up lake bed. The warden claims that this pointless labor builds character, but she is really using the boys to dig for loot buried by the Wild West outlaw Kissin' Kate Barlow. The story of Kissin' Kate, and of a curse put on Stanley's great-great-grandfather by a one-legged gypsy, weaves a narrative puzzle that tangles and untangles, until it becomes clear that the hand of fate has been at work in the lives of the characters - and their forebears - for generations.

The Night Fairy

By Laura Amy Schlitz, J Fiction Schlitz

What would happen to a fairy if she lost her wings and could no longer fly? Flory, a young night fairy no taller than an acorn and still becoming accustomed to her wings - wings as beautiful as those of a luna moth - is about to find out. What she discovers is that the world is very big and very dangerous. But Flory is fierce and willing to do whatever it takes to survive. If that means telling others what to do - like Skuggle, a squirrel ruled by his stomach - so be it. Not every creature, however, is as willing to bend to Flory's demands. Newbery Medal winner Laura Amy Schlitz and world-renowned illustrator and miniaturist Angela Barrett venture into the realm of the illustrated classic - a classic entirely and exquisitely of their making, and a magnificent adventure.

Ballet Shoes

By Noel Streatfeild, J Fiction Streatfeild

In this story, three orphan girls vow to make a name for themselves and find their own special talents. With hard work, fame just may be in the stars! Pauline, Petrova, and Posy love their quiet life together. The girls are orphans

who have been raised as sisters and when their new family needs money, the girls want to help. They decide to join the Children's Academy of Dancing and Stage Training to earn their keep. Each girl works hard following her dream. Pauline is destined for the movies. Posy is a born dancer. And Petrova? She finds she'd rather be a pilot than perform a pirouette. This beautiful children's classic is perfect for girls who love to dream about ballet, friendship, and finding their own special talents.

The Midnight Gang

By David Walliams, J Fiction Walliams

Tom lands in the hospital with a nasty bump on the head after a gym class accident. And things only get worse when he meets the hospital staff, including the wicked matron of the children's ward. But luckily, Tom's time in the hospital will be anything but boring when he discovers that his fellow patients turn the awful ward into the most wondrous world after lights out. Join the Midnight Gang as they make their wildest dreams come true!

Graphic Novels:

Pashmina

By Nidhi Chanani, J Graphic Chanani

Priyanka Das has so many unanswered questions: Why did her mother abandon her home in India years ago? What was it like there? And most importantly, who is her father, and why did her mom leave him behind? But Pri's mom avoids these questions - the topic of India is permanently closed. For Pri, her mother's homeland can only exist in her imagination. That is, until she finds a mysterious pashmina tucked away in a forgotten suitcase. When she wraps herself in it, she is transported to a place more vivid and colorful than any guidebook or Bollywood film. But is this the real India? And what is that shadow lurking in the background? To learn the truth, Pri must travel farther than she's ever dared and find the family she never knew. In this heartwarming graphic novel debut, Nidhi Chanani weaves a tale about the hardship and self-discovery that is born from juggling two cultures and two worlds.



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Awkward

By Svetlana Chmakova, Teen Graphic/Chmakova S

After shunning Jaime, the school nerd, on her first day at a new middle school, Penelope Torres tries to blend in with her new friends in the art club, until the art club goes to war with the science club, of which Jaime is a member.

Brave

By Svetlana Chmakova, J Graphic Chmakova

In his daydreams, Jensen is the biggest hero that ever was, saving the world and his friends on a daily basis. But his middle school reality is VERY different - math is hard, getting along with friends is hard...Even finding a partner for the class project is a huge problem when you always get picked last. And the pressure's on even more once the school newspaper's dynamic duo, Jenny and Akilah, draw Jensen into the whirlwind of school news, social-experiment projects, and behind-the-scenes club drama. Jensen has always played the middle school game one level at a time, but suddenly, someone's cranked up the difficulty setting. Will those daring daydreams of his finally work in his favor, or will he have to find real solutions to his real-life problems? The charming world of Berrybrook Middle School gets a little bigger in this highly anticipated follow-up to Svetlana Chmakova's award-winning *Awkward* with a story about a boy who learns his own way of being brave!

Chi's Sweet Home

By Konami Kanata, J Graphic Chis V3

Follows the adventures of Chi, a mischievous kitten who is adopted by Yohei and his family, the Yamadas, even though their lease explicitly states pets are not allowed in their building.

Princess Princess Ever After

By Katie O'Neill, J Graphic O'Neill

When the heroic princess Amira rescues the kind-hearted princess Sadie from her tower prison, neither expects to find a true friend in the bargain. Yet as they adventure across the kingdom, they discover that they bring out the

very best in the other person. They'll need to join forces and use all the know-how, kindness, and bravery they have in order to defeat their greatest foe yet: a jealous sorceress with a dire grudge against Sadie. Join Sadie and Amira, two very different princesses with very different strengths, on their journey to figure out what happily ever after really means and how they can find it with each other.

Drama

By Raina Telgemeier, J Graphic Telgemeier

Callie loves theater. And while she would totally try out for her middle school's production of *Moon Over Mississippi*, she's a terrible singer. Instead she's the set designer for the stage crew, and this year she's determined to create a set worthy of Broadway on a middle-school budget. But how can she, when she doesn't know much about carpentry, ticket sales are down, and the crew members are having trouble working together? Not to mention the onstage AND offstage drama that occurs once the actors are chosen, and when two cute brothers enter the picture, things get even crazier! Following the success of *SMILE*, Raina Telgemeier brings us another graphic novel featuring a diverse set of characters that humorously explores friendship, crushes, and all-around drama!

Bats: Learning to Fly (Science Comics)

By Falyonn Koch, J Graphic 599.4 Koch

Every volume of Science Comics offers a complete introduction to a particular topic - dinosaurs, coral reefs, the solar system, volcanoes, bats, flying machines, and more. These gorgeously illustrated graphic novels offer wildly entertaining views of their subjects. In *Bats*, we follow a little brown bat whose wing is injured by humans on a nature hike. He is taken to a bat rehabilitation center where he meets many different species of bats. They teach him how they fly, what they eat, and where they like to live.



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annotated with key cultural icons, from famous people and inventions to events, food and monuments.

Non-Fiction:

How Animals Build: Lift the Flaps to Discover Amazing Animal Homes

By Moira Butterfield, J 591.564 Butterfield

Get ready to explore the incredible world of animal architects! Lift the flaps and open gatefolds to discover amazing animal homes up high, underground, on land, and under the sea. From spider webs and rabbit warrens, to bird's nests and ant colonies, we reveal the secrets to these extraordinary structures and learn how they're built.

I'm Just No Good at Rhyming and Other Nonsense for Mischievous Kids and Immature Grown-Ups

By Chris Harris, J 811.6 Harris, Gr 3 – 8

An illustrated collection of comically irreverent rhyming poems for readers of all ages, ranging in topic from avocados and anacondas to zombies and zebras (dressed like ghosts). "Ridiculous, nonsensical, peculiar, outrageous, possibly deranged - and utterly, totally, absolutely delicious..."

Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls: 100 Tales of Extraordinary Women

By Elena Favilli and Francesca Cavallo, J 920 FAVILLI

A children's book that reinvents fairy tales, inspiring girls with the stories of 100 great women from Elizabeth I to Serena Williams.

50 Cities of the U.S.A.: Explore America's Cities with 50 Fact-filled Maps

By Gabrielle Balkan, J 973 Balkan

Explore skyscraper streets, museum miles, local food trucks and city parks of the United States of America and discover more than 2,000 facts that celebrate the people, culture, and diversity that have helped make America what it is today. From Anchorage to Washington D.C., take a trip through America's well-loved cities with this unique A-Z like no other, lavishly illustrated and

ALSC RECOMMENDS...

(Association for Library Services to Children)

Ape and Armadillo Take Over the World

By James Sturm, J Graphic Sturm

Ape and Armadillo learn that achieving world domination is a lot less fun without your best friend at your side.

Almost Paradise

By Corabel Shofner, J Fiction Shofner

A (stolen) pet pig, an ornery nun, and a feisty 12-year-old runaway form an unusual family in this lively debut novel.

Charlie & Mouse

By Laurel Snyder, J Easy Snyder

***First in a series.**

Charming short stories follow the exploits of two brothers as they organize a neighborhood party, earn ice cream money, and invent the "bedtime banana."

Clayton Byrd Goes Underground

By Rita Williams-Garcia, J Fiction Williams

When his beloved grandfather, the blues man Cool Papa Byrd, dies suddenly, Clayton's anger and misplaced alliances get him into trouble. This story of family grief, reconciliation, and the power of music is set in New York City.

Cucumber Quest: the Doughnut Kingdom

By Gigi D.G.

***First in a series.**

A brother and sister duo take on a mission to stop the maniacal "Queen" Cordelia and her henchman, The Nightmare Knight.



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Flying Lessons & Other Stories

Edited by Ellen Oh, J Fiction Flying

Ten authors celebrate diversity through tales of Bigfoot, basketball, girl pirates, and more in a highly readable, relatable short-story collection.

Grand Canyon

By Jason Chin, J 557.91 Chin

As a father and daughter hike up and out of the canyon, Chin introduces readers to this National Park's unique geology, plants, and animals.

Hamster Princess: Harriet the Invincible (Hamster Princess #1)

By Ursula Vernon, J Fiction Vernon

***First in a series.**

Princess Harriet is not your typical princess, what with all the ogre-slaying, cliff-diving, and battle quail-riding. But she knows that the curse that is destined to befall her on her 12th birthday must also keep her alive until then – making her invincible!

Hello, Universe

By Erin Estrada Kelly, J Fiction Kelly

The lives of Virgil, Kaori, Gen, and Valencia are woven together in unexpected ways when a disaster brings them together to perform a rescue in this story of bravery and friendship.

Her Right Foot

By Dave Eggers, J 974.74 Eggers

A moving and conversational description of the history of the Statue of Liberty and how some of the smallest details contribute to her symbolism as a welcoming beacon to the world.

Juana and Lucas

By Juana Medina, J Fiction Medina

A little girl growing up on Bogota is determined to learn English before her trip to the U.S. and her visit to Spaceland.

The Jumbies

By Tracey Baptiste, J Fiction Baptiste

Eleven-year-old Corinne must call on her courage and an ancient magic to stop an evil spirit and save her island home.

Just Dance

By Patricia MacLachlan, J Fiction MacLachlan

Years ago, Sylvie's mother was a famous opera singer, but she gave it all up to marry Sylvie's father and move to small town Wyoming. Sylvie can't help but wonder – does her mother ever miss her glamorous former life? And is she ever tempted to go back to it?

Lola Levine is Not Mean!

By Monica Brown

***First in a series.**

Sports-loving Lola accidentally injures a classmate during a recess soccer game and resolves to win back her spot on the field – and her friends – by demonstrating what good sportsmanship is all about.

The Oodlethunks: Oona Finds an Egg

By Adele Griffin, Available at Other Minuteman Libraries. *First in a series.

Follow Oona Oodlethunk on her adventures in prehistoric times as she tries to find the perfect pet.