Dear Parent/Guardian:
The Chattanooga Public Library is proud to present its 2021 List of recommended Summer Reading Picks. Chosen by local expert librarians, these titles are great reads and are highly regarded in the book community, receiving many awards, excellent reviews and popular appeal. We hope that the 2021 List will help your family pick the best books for your child, grades K-12. All of the books on the List are available at your local library. Your local librarian can suggest additional titles.

Reading in the summer helps build on the skills obtained during the school year so that learning continues into the next grade year. We need the support and encouragement of families to ensure that all of our children become excellent readers.

Happy Reading!

Corinne Hill
Executive Director
Chattanooga Public Library

CLASSICS

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L’Engle
Meg and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers after her father disappears. W | Y LEn

Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery
An imaginative girl is adopted and grows up on Prince Edward Island. Y | J Mon

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
After a plane crash, a thirteen-year-old boy survives alone in the wilderness. R | Y Pau

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor
A family's loyalty to one another helps during the hardships of the Depression. W | Y Tay

The Hobbit, or, There and Back Again by J.R.R. Tolkien
Bilbo Baggins sets off on an adventure with dwarves and a wizard. Z | Y Tol

The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge by M.T. Anderson and Eugene Yelchin
Illustrations and text combine for the fabulous journey of an elf into the land of goblins. M | Y And

Stepsister by Jennifer Donnelly
A continuation of the Cinderella story, but through the eyes of one of the stepsisters. T | Y Don

The Last Last-Day-of-Summer by Lamar R. Giles
Cousins have the gift of ridding their town of troublesome, out-of-this-world problems. T | J Gil

Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky by Kwame Mbalia
Tristan accidentally opens a chasm into a dangerous world. V | J Mba

The Time of Green Magic by Hilary McKay
A family moves into an enchanted house filled with magical books. T | J McK

The Elephant's Girl by Celesta Rimington
With the help of a ghost and an elephant, Lex wants to uncover her past. W | J Rim

CLASSICS

FANTASY & SCI-FI

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart
At a very special school, students are challenged by complex puzzles. V | Y Ste

The Line Tender by Kate Allen
Lucy and her father navigate as best they can after her mother tragically dies while collecting data on sharks. O | J All

The Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani
In 1947, India splits into two countries, and Nisha finds hope by writing letters to her deceased mother. O | J Hir

Show Me a Sign by Ann Clare LeZotte
Tensions mount in a deaf community on Martha's Vineyard in the early 19th century. T | J LeZ

How High the Moon by Karyn Parsons
An African American girl leaves South Carolina to visit her mother in Boston and returns with a better understanding of racial injustices. N | J Par

Just Like That by Gary D. Schmidt
Following the death of a friend, a teen goes off to a boarding school in Maine. V | Y Sch

The Enigma Game by Elizabeth Wein
After escaping the Blitz in London, a teen takes a job in Scotland and gets involved in code breaking. V | Y Wei

HISTORICAL FICTION

SUMMER READING PICKS 2021 GRADES 6 » 8
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| *Beyond the Bright Sea* by Lauren Wolk  
Abandoned as a newborn, now twelve-year-old Crow seeks answers by sailing to an island that was home to a former leper colony.  
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| *Look Both Ways* by Jason Reynolds  
Award-winning short story collection from the viewpoint of ten different kids going home from school.  
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| *The List of Things That Will Not Change* by Rebecca Stead  
As her father's marriage to his boyfriend approaches, a girl learns to embrace change.  
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| *Genesis Begins Again* by Alicia Williams  
Forced to leave yet another house, Genesis' family moves in with her grandmother and she has to transfer schools.  
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| *Sanity & Tallulah* by Molly Brooks  
Two friends living on a space station create a three-headed kitten.  
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| *Be Prepared* by Vera Brosgol  
Vera is sent to Russian summer camp with hilarious consequences.  
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| *New Kid* by Jerry Craft  
A seventh-grader who loves drawing cartoons tries to fit in at a new private school.  
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| *When Stars Are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed  
Two brothers dream of moving out of a refugee camp in Kenya.  
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| *Dear Justice League* by Michael Northrop  
Familiar superheroes answer letters from kids.  
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| *The Witch Boy* by Molly Ostertag  
Breaking tradition, a boy secretly trains to become a witch.  
O | J Graphic Wit |

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| *This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality* by Jo Ann Allen Boyce  
The story of one of twelve African American students to integrate a high school in Tennessee.  
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| *Never Caught, the Story of Ona Judge: George and Martha Washington’s Courageous Slave Who Dared to Run Away* by Erica Armstrong Dunbar and Kathleen van Cleve  
A slave in the Washingtons' household grows up and escapes.  
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| *From the Desk of Zoe Washington* by Janae Marks  
Zoe writes letters to her father, who is in prison for a crime he claims that he didn't commit.  
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| *Efrén Divided* by Ernesto Cisneros  
A boy worries about his mother when she is deported.  
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| *Knockout* by K.A. Holt  
In this novel told in verse, a boy who conquered a life-threatening disease as a child takes up boxing.  
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| *Fighting Words* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley  
Della faces the trauma of her past head on when she and her older sister move to a new foster home.  
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| *Marcus Vega Doesn’t Speak Spanish* by Pablo Cartaya  
Marcus' mother takes her family to Puerto Rico after he's suspended from school.  
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Because this list includes books for a range of grades, please be aware that some titles may contain advanced content that might not be appropriate for everyone. If you need help making selections, ask your librarian for guidance.

Guided reading levels as determined by the Fountas & Pinnell Text Level Gradient used by Hamilton County Schools.  