



Chattanooga
Public Library

SUMMER READING PICKS 2021 GRADES 6 » 8

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

CLASSICS

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

FANTASY & SCI-FI

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

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

HISTORICAL FICTION

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

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.

R | J Wol

MODERN REALISM

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.

T | J Bra

Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish

by Pablo Cartaya

Marcus' mother takes her family to Puerto Rico after he's suspended from school.

M | Y Car

Efrén Divided

by Ernesto Cisneros

A boy worries about his mother when she is deported.

S | J Cis

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.

N | Y Hol

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.

R | J Mar

MODERN REALISM

Look Both Ways

by Jason Reynolds

Award-winning short story collection from the viewpoint of ten different kids going home from school.

Q | Y Rey

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.

S | J Ste

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.

P | Y Wil

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Sanity & Tallulah

by Molly Brooks

Two friends living on a space station create a three-headed kitten.

M | J Graphic San

Be Prepared

by Vera Brosgol

Vera is sent to Russian summer camp with hilarious consequences.

K | J Graphic Be

New Kid

by Jerry Craft

A seventh-grader who loves drawing cartoons tries to fit in at a new private school.

L | J Graphic New

GRAPHIC NOVELS

When Stars Are Scattered

by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed

Two brothers dream of moving out of a refugee camp in Kenya.

P | Y Graphic Whe

Dear Justice League

by Michael Northrop

Familiar superheroes answer letters from kids.

K | J Graphic Dea

The Witch Boy

by Molly Ostertag

Breaking tradition, a boy secretly trains to become a witch.

O | J Graphic Wit

NONFICTION

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.

W | J 379.263 Boy

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.

Y | J 306.362 Dun

NONFICTION

On the Horizon

by Lois Lowry

Dual perspectives of WWII told in verse.

Q | J 940.5425 Low

Crossing on Time: Steam Engines, Fast Ships, and a Journey to the New World

by David Macaulay

A look at ships and how technology changed their designs.

Y | J 623.8243 Mac

Two Truths and a Lie: Histories and Mysteries

by Ammi-Joan Paquette and Laurie Ann Thompson

Test your knowledge about history to decipher which is the made-up story.

W | J 031.02 Paq

How We Got to the Moon

by John Rocco

Award-winning look at early space technology and the race to the moon.

Z | J 629.454 Roc

Beyond Words: What Elephants and Whales Think and Feel

by Carl Safina

Find out about the ways elephants and whales communicate with one another and with humans.

T | J 591.56 Saf

Capsized! The Forgotten Story of the SS Eastland Disaster

by Patricia Sutton

On a lovely summer day in 1915, a ship filled with 2,500 passengers and crew sank in the Chicago River.

S | J 917.7311 Sut

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.
Kindergarten: **A B C D** | 1st: **E F G H I J** | 2nd: **K L M** | 3rd: **N O P** | 4th: **Q R S** | 5th: **T U V** | 6th: **W X Y** | 7-8th: **Z** | 9th+: **Z+**