



Chattanooga
Public Library

SUMMER READING PICKS 2021

GRADES 9 » 12

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

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

by Douglas Adams

Just before Earth is obliterated, Arthur Dent and his friend, an alien researcher, hitch a ride on a spaceship.

F Ada

The Perks of Being a Wallflower

by Stephen Chbosky

A shy teenager navigates the intricacies of life during his freshman year of high school.

Y Chb

A Lesson Before Dying

by Ernest J. Gaines

Sentenced to death, a young African American finds strength while maintaining his dignity.

F Gai

The Outsiders

by S. E. Hinton

Misunderstood teens deal with gangs and violence in 1960s Oklahoma.

Y Hin

CLASSICS

The Bluest Eye

by Toni Morrison

A young African American girl longs for blond hair and blue eyes, believing they will protect her from the injuries of racism and abuse.

F Mor

The Joy Luck Club

by Amy Tan

A mahjong game brings together four Chinese immigrant mothers to share stories of their lives with their American-raised daughters.

F Tan

FANTASY & SCI-FI

The Hazel Wood

by Melissa Albert

After Alice's mother goes missing, she enters a supernatural world to find answers.

Y Alb

Legendborn

by Tracy Deonn

While attending a high school program in Chapel Hill, Bree stumbles into a war of magical entities.

Y Deo

The Ocean at the End of the Lane

by Neil Gaiman

A man returning to his childhood home remembers his encounter with a strange girl and her family.

F Gai

How Long 'til Black Future Month?

by N. K. Jemisin

Incredible collection of science fiction and fantasy stories.

S-C Jem

The Hive

by Barry Lyga

After posting a tasteless joke, Cassie faces condemnation from a crowdsourced justice system.

Y Lyg

FANTASY & SCI-FI

Mexican Gothic

by Silvia Moreno-Garcia

Noemí is sent to care for her ailing cousin but finds a house of horrors.

F Mor

Pan's Labyrinth: The Labyrinth of the Faun

by Guillermo del Toro

The director reimagines his film about a fantastical world set in war-torn Spain into a book.

Y Tor

HISTORICAL FICTION

They Went Left

by Monica Hesse

After surviving a concentration camp, an eighteen-year-old tries to find her brother.

Y Hes

Let Me Hear a Rhyme

by Tiffany D. Jackson

After Steph's murder, his friends come up with a way to let his music live on.

Y Jac

The Black Kids

by Christina Hammonds Reed

Ashley is swept up in the Los Angeles riots protesting the acquittal of four police officers involved in Rodney King's death.

Y Ham

A Cloud of Outrageous Blue

by Vesper Stamper

The Great Plague is creeping closer to Edyth's new home at the priory.

Y Sta

The Paper Girl of Paris

by Jordyn Taylor

Past and present collide when Alice visits a relative's long abandoned and untouched Paris apartment.

Y Tay

HISTORICAL FICTION

The Nickel Boys

by Colson Whitehead

In the Jim Crow South of the early 1960s, Elwood Curtis is sent to a horrific juvenile reformatory.

F Whi

MODERN REALISM

With the Fire on High

by Elizabeth Acevedo

Becoming a mother while in high school has not stopped Emoni's dream of becoming a chef.

Y Ace

The Inheritance Games

by Jennifer Barnes

A billionaire leaves Avery his fortune, much to the annoyance of his disinherited family.

Y Bar

Darius the Great Is Not Okay

by Adib Khorram

A teen visiting his family in Iran comes to terms with his identity while building his self-confidence.

Y Kho

Slay

by Brittney Morris

A high-schooler doubles as an honor student and online role-playing gamer.

Y Mor

Patron Saints of Nothing

by Randy Ribay

Jay travels to the Philippines to find out how and why his cousin was murdered.

Y Rib

MODERN REALISM

On the Come Up

by Angie Thomas

Bri aspires to follow in the footsteps of her famous father's rap career.

Y Tho

Super Fake Love Song

by David Yoon

Who knew pretending to be your older brother would rock your world?

Y Yoo

Punching the Air

by Ibi Aanu Zoboi

Amal, a talented artist and poet, is unjustly put in jail.

Y Zob

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Dancing at the Pity Party

by Tyler Feder

The author recounts her memories surrounding her mother's death.

Y Graphic Dan

Teen Titans: Beast Boy

by Kami Garcia

Gar accepts a dare that changes his life.

Y Graphic Tee

I Am Alfonso Jones

by Tony Medina

After being killed, Alfonso wakes up on a ghost train filled with other victims of police shootings.

Y Graphic I

One-Punch Man

by Yusuke Murata

Saitama, a different kind of superhero, has no problem punching out his opponents.

Y Graphic One

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Pumpkinheads

by Rainbow Rowell

Two friends spend their last shift at the pumpkin patch together before graduating high school and having to say goodbye.

Y Graphic Pum

They Called Us Enemy

by George Takei

Takei recalls his childhood experience living in an American concentration camp.

Y Graphic The

The Prince and the Dressmaker

by Jen Wang

A seamstress makes dresses for a Prince whose secret identity is Lady Crystallia.

Y Graphic Pri

NONFICTION

Shout

by Laurie Halse Anderson

An honest and raw look at women's rights and the real-life struggles women are facing.

Y 811.6

The Grand Escape: The Greatest Prison Breakout of the 20th Century

by Neal Bascomb

During WWI, a group of POWs plan their incredible escape from Holzminden.

Y 940.4724 Bas

Into the Streets

by Marke Bieschke

Trace the history of protest and resistance in American History.

Y 303.484 Bie

NONFICTION

Parkland: Birth of a Movement

by David Cullen

High school students, outraged by the mass shooting that killed their classmates, start a worldwide movement.

371.782 Cul

The Rise and Fall of Charles Lindbergh

by Candace Fleming

A biography painting a different portrait of this flawed American hero.

Y 629.1309 Fle

Steal Like an Artist

by Austin Kleon

Observe, study, and transform the world around you, while learning to be your creative self.

153.35 Kle

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You

by Jason Reynolds

A gripping account of racism gives readers a more accurate representation of history.

Y 305.8009 Rey

The 57 Bus

by Dashka Slater

The true story about both the victim and the offender of a violent hate crime.

Y 364.1555 Sla

The Girl Who Smiled Beads

by Clemantine Wamariya

Two young sisters flee the Rwandan genocide and journey together across Africa looking for safety.

B Wam

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.



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