



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 Stampler  
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 Zobo

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.*