

Suggested Summer Reading

Middle & High School 2014

The books on the suggested reading list are just suggestions so students may read any age- and level-appropriate book of their choice. Please keep in mind that some content may be too mature for younger readers and therefore parental discretion is advised. See your public librarian for alternate titles, series, and authors as needed.

Suggested Series	AUTHOR	LEXILE	SUMMARY
39 Clues	multiple authors	550-730	Dan and Amy Cahill are given the choice of receiving a million dollars or uncovering the thirty-nine clues hidden around the world that will lead to the source of the family's power, but by taking on the clues, they end up in a dangerous race against their own family.
Alex Rider	Anthony Horowitz	610-780	After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6.
Artemis Fowl	Eion Colfer	600	When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll.
Beautiful Creatures	Kami Garcia	670	In a small South Carolina town, where it seems little has changed since the Civil War, sixteen-year-old Ethan is powerfully drawn to Lena, a new classmate with whom he shares a psychic connection and whose family hides a dark secret that may be revealed on her sixteenth birthday.
Bluford High	Various Authors	740	The Bluford Series focuses on the lives of a group of high school students and their families. Set in contemporary urban America, each novel addresses complex topics relevant to the lives of today's students: family, friendship, trust, isolation, violence, and peer pressure, to name a few.
Dead is...	Marlene Perez	580-630	Seventeen-year-old Daisy Giordano, daughter and sister of psychics, attempts to help her mother discover who is behind a series of bizarre attacks on teenage girls in their little town of Nightshade, California.
Divergent	Veronica Roth	700	In a future Chicago, sixteen-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group, and that the society she lives in is not perfect after all.
Escape from Furnace	Alexander Gordon Smith	950-1010	When fourteen-year-old Alex is framed for murder, he becomes an inmate in the Furnace Penitentiary, where brutal inmates and sadistic guards reign, boys who disappear in the middle of the night sometimes return weirdly altered, and escape might just be possible.
Hardy Boys	Franklin W. Dixon	700	In the Hardy Boys series, brothers Joe and Frank solve mysterious cases which appeal to teens.
Leviathan	Scott Westerfeld	790-810	In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically-engineered beasts.

Maximum Ride	James Patterson	680-770	After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "bird kids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose.
Maze Runner	James Dashner	720-760	Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.
Michael Vey	Richard Paul Evans	500	Fourteen-year-old Michael discovers he has special electrical powers and, with the help of his best friends, becomes aware that there are other teens with similar powers, but something or someone is hunting them and, after Michael's mother is kidnapped, he will need to rely on his powers and his friends to rescue his mom, protect himself, and save the others.
Middle School	James Patterson	700	When Rafe Kane enters middle school, he teams up with his best friend, "Leo the Silent," to create a game to make school more fun by trying to break every rule in the school's code of conduct.
Midnighters	Scott Westerfeld	740-810	Upon moving to Bixby, Oklahoma, fifteen-year-old Jessica Day learns that she is one of a group of people who have special abilities that help them fight ancient creatures living in an hour hidden at midnight; creatures that seem determined to destroy Jess.
Nancy Drew	Carolyn Keene	700	Nancy Drew is a mystery series in which the fictional character Nancy Drew solves a variety of different cases from theft to murder.
Pendragon	D.J. MacHale	680	Fourteen-year-old Bobby Pendragon, having learned he is a Traveler--someone who can ride "flumes" through time and space, is soon off to the alternative dimension of Denduron where he teams up with Loor, a girl his age from the warrior-territory of Zadaa, in an attempt to save the gentle Milago people from slavery.
Sherlock Holmes	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	960-1090	Sherlock Holmes is a well-known detective who uses logical reasoning and a variety of disguises to solve crimes.
Skeleton Creek	Patrick Carman	740-830	Although housebound following an eerie accident, teenaged Ryan continues to investigate the strange occurrences in his hometown of Skeleton Creek, recording his findings in a journal and viewing email video clips sent by fellow detective Sarah.
Strange Case of Origami Yoda	Tom Angleberger	760	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. Includes instructions for making Origami Yoda.
Tales of the Frog Princess	E.D. Baker	710-920	After reluctantly kissing a frog, an awkward, fourteen-year-old princess suddenly finds herself a frog, too, and sets off with the prince to seek the means--and the self-confidence--to become human again.
The Faerie Wars Chronicles	Herbie Brennan	750-830	Troubled by family problems, Henry finds his life taking a whole new dimension when he and his friend, old Mr. Fogarty, become involved with Prince Pyrgus Malvae who has been sent from the faerie world in order to escape the treacherous Faeries of the Night.
The Heir Chronicles (audio only at CCPL)	Cinda Williams Chima	690-770	Sixteen-year-old Jack discovers that he is one of the last warriors of the Weirind, an underground society of magical people, and must fight to determine which house--the White Rose or the Red Rose--will rule the Weir.

<i>The Ranger's Apprentice</i>	John Flanagan	920	When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt, and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger.	
<i>Theodore Boone</i>	John Grisham	840	Thirteen-year-old Theodore Boone, who knows every judge, police officer, and court clerk in the small town of Strattenburg, finds himself involved in a murder trial because of knowledge he might have about a cold-blooded killer.	
<i>Uglies</i>	Scott Westerfeld	770	Just before their sixteenth birthdays, when they will be transformed into beauties whose only job is to have a great time, Tally's best friend runs away and Tally must find her and turn her in, or never become pretty at all.	
<i>Warriors Series</i>	Erin Hunter	630-1120	Graystripe, deputy leader of ThunderClan, has finally returned to his forest home after being kidnapped by Twolegs, and finds that Firestar has appointed a new deputy leader.	
<i>Suggested Author</i>	<i>Genre</i>		<i>Suggested Author</i>	<i>Genre</i>
Anthony Horowitz	Adventure		Jeff Kinney	Humor
Gordon Korman	Adventure		Gordon Korman	Humor
Gary Paulsen	Adventure		James Patterson	Humor
Alexander Gordon Smith	Adventure		Scott Westerfeld	Sci Fi/Dystopia
Hilari Bell	Fantasy		Suzanne Collins	Sci Fi/Dystopia
C.S. Lewis	Fantasy		James Dashner	Dystopia
Rick Riordan	Fantasy		Chris Crutcher	Sports Fiction
JRR Tolkien	Fantasy		Tim Green	Sports Fiction
Laurie Halse Anderson	Historical Fiction		Mike Lupica	Sports Fiction
Avi	Historical Fiction		Malin Alegria	Teen Issues
Margaret Peterson Haddix	Historical Fiction		Meg Cabot	Teen Issues
Lois Duncan	Mystery		Sharon Flake	Teen Issues
Mary Downing Hahn	Mystery		Sharon Draper	Teen Issues
Joan Lowery Nixon	Mystery		S.E. Hinton	Teen Issues
Agatha Christie	Mystery		Walter Dean Myers	Teen Issues
Jack Gantos	Humor		Jordan Sonnenblick	Teen Issues
Tom Angleberger	Humor			

2014 GEORGIA CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD NOMINEES - Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl Books for 2015

Title	Author	Lexile	Summary
<i>Chomp</i>	Hiaasen, Carl	800	The difficult star of the reality television show, "Expedition Survival," disappears on location in the Florida Everglades, where they were filming animals from the wildlife refuge run by Wahoo Crane's family, and Wahoo and classmate Tuna Gordon set out to find him, but they must avoid Tuna's gun-happy father.
<i>Counting by 7's</i>	Sloan, Holly	770	When twelve-year-old genius Willow Chance loses her parents in an accident, her journey to find and accept a new family leads her through unexpected turns in life and forces her to confront reality in new ways.
<i>Eight Keys</i>	LaFleur, Suzanne	590	When twelve-year-old Elise, orphaned since age nine, becomes disheartened by middle school, with its bullies, changing relationships, and higher expectations, keys to long-locked rooms and messages from her late father help her cope.
<i>Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library</i>	Grabenstein, Chris	720	A group of kids are excited to spend a fun night at a lock-in at Mr. Lemoncello's newly opened library. However, the event is quite literal--now they will have to band together to find a way out before it is too late.
<i>Lincoln's Grave Robbers</i>	Sheinkin, Steve	930	This dramatic account of the 1875 attempt to steal the 16th president's body describes how a counterfeiting ring plotted to ransom Lincoln's body to secure the release of their imprisoned ringleader and how a fledgling Secret Service and an undercover agent conducted a daring election-night sting.
<i>Lions of Little Rock</i>	Levine, Kristin	630	In 1958 Little Rock, Arkansas, painfully shy twelve-year-old Marlee sees her city and family divided over school integration, but her friendship with Liz, a new student, helps her find her voice and fight against racism.
<i>March: Book 1</i>	Lewis, John		Presents in graphic novel format the life of Georgia congressman John Lewis, focusing on his youth in rural Alabama, his meeting with Martin Luther King Jr. and the birth of the Nashville Student Movement.
<i>Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25</i>	Evans, Richard Paul	500	Michael Vey's secret powers earn him the scrutiny of an unknown organization that wants him for their own purposes. When they kidnap his mother, Michael must use his power and his wits to free his mother, save his friends, and defeat the organization's relentless hunters.
<i>Mountain Dog</i>	Engle, Margarita	1050	When his mother is sent to jail in Los Angeles, eleven-year-old Tony goes to live with his forest ranger great-uncle in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, where Tony experiences unconditional love for the first time through his friendship with a rescue dog.
<i>Navigating Early</i>	Vanderpool, Clare	790	"Odyssey-like adventure of two boys' incredible quest on the Appalachian Trail where they deal with pirates, buried secrets, and extraordinary encounters"--Provided by publisher.

<i>One for the Murphys</i>	Hunt, Lynda	520	After being placed with the Murphys, a foster family, twelve-year-old Carley feels out of place and decides to keep her distance. Gradually, however, she learns to look at the Murphys as a real family, and even considers a future with them -- until sudden news from her mother throws her entire world into question.
<i>Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin</i>	Shurtliff, Liesl	660	Relates the tale of Rumpelstiltskin's childhood and youth, explaining why his name is so important, how he is able to spin straw into gold, and why a first-born child is his reward for helping the miller's daughter-turned-queen.
<i>Serafina's Promise</i>	Burg, Ann	590	In a poor village outside of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Serafina works hard to help her family, but dreams of going to school and becoming a doctor--then the earthquake hits and Serafina must summon all her courage to find her father and still get medicine for her sick baby brother as she promised.
<i>The Boy on the Wooden Box</i>	Leyson, Leon	1000	Leon Leyson, a Holocaust survivor and one of the youngest Jewish boys saved by Oskar Schindler due to his list--made famous by the movie "Schindler's List"--offers his own words on his childhood and his experiences in Nazi-held Europe.
<i>The Cheshire Cheese Cat: A Dickens of a Tale</i>	Deedy, Carmen Agra	740	A community of mice and a cheese-loving cat form an unlikely alliance at London's Cheshire Cheese, an inn where Charles Dickens finds inspiration and Queen Victoria makes an unexpected appearance.
<i>The False Prince</i>	Nielsen, Jennifer	710	In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition to be selected to impersonate the king's long-missing son in an effort to avoid a civil war.
<i>The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp</i>	Appelt, Kathy	810	Twelve-year-old Chap Brayburn, ancient Sugar Man, and his raccoon-brother Swamp Scouts Bingo and J'miah try to save Bayou Tourterelle from feral pigs Clydine and Buzzie, greedy Sunny Boy Beaucoup, and world-class alligator wrestler and would-be land developer Jaeger Stitch.
<i>Three Times Lucky</i>	Turnage, Sheila	560	Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a café and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder.
<i>Twerp</i>	Goldblatt, Mark	730	In Queens, New York, in 1969, twelve-year-old Julian Twerski writes a journal for his English teacher in which he explores his friendships and how they are effected by girls, a new student who may be as fast as Julian, and especially an incident of bullying.
<i>Ungifted</i>	Korman, Gordon	730	Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at middle school.

Award BooksSites

http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/mildred-l-batchelder-award	This is a citation awarded to an American publisher for a children's book considered to be the most outstanding of those books originally published in a foreign language in a foreign country, and subsequently translated into English and published in the USA.
http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/pura-belpre-award	This is presented to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth.
http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/john-newbery-medal-2	The Newbery Medal is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children
http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/coretta-scott-king-book-awards	The Coretta Scott King Book Awards annually recognize outstanding books for young adults and children by African American authors and illustrators that reflect the African American experience.
http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/robert-f-sibert-informational-book-medal	The Sibert Award honors the most distinguished informational book published in English in the preceding year for its significant contribution to children's literature
http://www.ala.org/yalsa/printz-award	The Michael L. Printz Award is an award for a book that exemplifies literary excellence in young adult literature.
http://www.ala.org/yalsa/edwards	The Margaret A. Edwards Award, established in 1988, honors an author, as well as a specific body of his or her work, for significant and lasting contribution to young adult literature.