

## Grade 7&8 Summer Reading

The suggested reading list provides a wide array of reading choices for students. The titles listed below are samplings of the works produced by these authors. You can also read other titles by these authors for your suggested reading.

An asterisk (\*) indicates a S.T.E.A.M title.

The Wakefield Public Schools invites students to participate in the 2018 Summer Reading Program, *Libraries ROCK!* Check out [wakefieldlibrary.org](http://wakefieldlibrary.org) to set up your online account.

For information about the Wakefield Public Schools' Summer Reading initiative and assignment updates, visit [wakefieldreads.org](http://wakefieldreads.org).

### Suggested Reading List For Students Entering Grades 7 and 8

#### Fiction

\**Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson.

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

*Young Adult Fiction Anderson*

*My Life with Liars* by Caela Carter.

Behind the white-washed walls of the Arizona compound, life is simple. Follow the rules, "live in the light," and all would be well. Zylynn is excited to turn thirteen and begin the work of bringing others into the light to save them from the liars and the darkness of the outside world.

*Young Adult Fiction Carter*

*Pashmina* by Nidhi Chanani.

Priyanka Das has so many unanswered questions: Why did her mother abandon her home in India years ago? Who is her father, and why did her mom leave him behind? Then Pri find a mysterious pashmina tucked away and forgotten. When she wraps herself in it, she finds India.

Or does she?

*Young Adult Comics Chanani*

\**Awkward* by Svetlana Chmakova.

Cardinal Rules One & Two for surviving school: Don't get noticed by the mean kids and seek out groups with similar interests and join them. On her first day at her new school, Penelope-Peppi-Torres manages to break them both, sort of.

*Young Adult Comics Awkward*

***If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period*** by Gennifer Choldenko.

Kirsten and Walker stand up to a mean but influential classmate, and they uncover a long-kept secret about themselves and their families.

*Young Adult Fiction Choldenko*

***Red Kayak*** by Priscilla Cummings.

Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, thirteen-year-old Brady and his best friends, J.T. and Digger, find themselves entangled in a tragedy that tests their friendship.

*Young Adult Paperback Cummings*

***The Cat at the Wall*** by Deborah Ellis.

Clare used to be a 13-year-old girl, but after dying, she has come back as a stray cat in Palestine. Finding herself in the middle of a fast moving situation, she struggles to come to terms with her own past and what she can do to help.

*Young Adult Fiction Ellis*

**\**Flush*** by Carl Hiaasen.

With their father jailed for sinking a floating casino, Noah Underwood and his sister must prove that the owner of the casino is emptying his sewage into the protected waters near them.

*Young Adult Paperback Hiaasen*

**\**Chomp*** by Carl Hiaasen.

When the difficult star of the reality television show *Expedition Survival* disappears, Wahoo and friend, Tuna, set out to find him while avoiding Tuna's gun-happy father.

*Young Adult Paperback Hiaasen*

**\**Nothing can Possibly go Wrong*** by Prudence Shen & Faith Erin Hicks.

Nate and Charlie's unlikely friendship nearly bites the dust when a class election campaign comes down to funding either Nate's robotics competition or new cheerleading uniforms.

*Young Adult Comics Hicks*

***Sunny Side Up*** by Jennifer & Matthew Holm.

Sunny is spending summer vacation with her grandfather in Florida. At first, she is excited, but life in Florida is boring. Why is she there? And will she find anything fun to do at all?

*Young Adult Comics Sunny*

***Lemonade Mouth*** by Mark Peter Hughes.

A disparate group of high school students thrown together in detention form a band to deal with the pressures of the world. Among other hijinks, they protest the removal of a lemonade machine.

*Young Adult Fiction Hughes*

**\*Side Effects** by Amy Goldman Koss.

Isabelle, not quite 15, is living a normal life of fighting with her younger brother, being disgusted with her parents, and hoping to be noticed by a cute guy. Everything changes in an instant when she is diagnosed with lymphoma.

*Young Adult Fiction Koss*

**The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things** by Carolyn Mackler.

Fifteen-year-old Virginia Shreves is sure that she's the weakest link in her high-powered family until her handsome, athletic, star-student brother shockingly falls from grace.

*Young Adult Paperback Mackler*

**\*Dumplin'** by Julie Murphy.

Willowdean, or "Dumplin'" according to her mom, has always been at home in her own skin.

But after taking a job at a fast-food joint, she meets Bo, a hot former jock. Bo, who seems to like her back! But instead of feeling self-assured, Will find doubts creeping in. Her solution? Join the Miss Teen Blue Bonnet Pageant!

*Young Adult Fiction Murphy*

**We Are All Made of Molecules** by Susin Nielsen.

Stewart, 13 is a socially clueless genius, while Ashley, 14 is popular with everyone but her teachers. Their worlds collide when their parents move them in together. Ashley feels horrified, while Stewart tries to be hopeful. But will their differences let things work out?

*Young Adult Fiction Nielsen*

**Gracefully Grayson** by Ami Polonsky.

Grayson Sender has been holding onto a secret for what seems like forever! "He" is a girl on the inside, stuck in the wrong gender's body. The weight of this secret is crushing, but Grayson fears that sharing it would mean facing ridicule, scorn, rejection, or worse. Despite the risks, Grayson's true self itches to break free.

*Young Adult Fiction Polonsky*

**Under the Baseball Moon** by John Ritter.

Andy Ramos, a free-style skateboarding trumpeter, has dreams as big as a baseball moon. Born into a family of musicians, Andy wants to take his unique musical fusion straight to the top.

When he crosses paths with Glory Martinez, a softball pitcher who has Olympian dreams of her own, the mysterious fusion of their athletic and musical skills changes everything.

*Young Adult Paperback Ritter*

**\*Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie** by Jordan Sonnenblick.

When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family.

*Young Adult Paperback Sonnenblick*

***Piecing me Together*** by Renée Watson.

Jade believes she must get out of her poor neighborhood if she's ever going to succeed. After being invited to join a mentorship program for 'at-risk' girls, she feels tired of being singled out as needing fixing. So she searches for ways to show ways of being real and making a difference.  
*Young Adult Fiction Watson*

## **Sports**

***The Crossover*** by Kwame Alexander.

Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.  
*Young Adult Fiction Alexander*

***Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery*** by John Feinstein.

After winning a basketball reporting contest, Stevie and Susan Carol cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game.  
*Young Adult Paperbacks Feinstein*

***Pop*** by Gordan Korman.

Lonely after a midsummer move to a new town, sixteen-year-old high school quarterback Marcus Jordan becomes friends with a retired professional linebacker. Charlie helps train Marcus, but he also keeps Marcus in hot water with his childish behavior.  
*Young Adult Fiction Korman*

***The Million Dollar Throw*** by Mike Lupica.

Nate Brodie's family is having trouble and Nate's best friend Abby is going blind. A chance at a million dollars for completing a pass in a Patriot's game can fix things, if only Nate can do it!  
*Young Adult Fiction Lupica*

***Slam*** by Walter Dean Myers.

Sixteen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently.  
*Young Adult Paperback Myers*

***Ghost*** by Jason Reynolds.

Ghost (real name: Castle) wants to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school track team, but his past is slowing him down. With the help of Coach, can Ghost harness his talent and stay on track?  
*Children's Fiction Reynolds*

## **Adventure & Mystery**

***\*I'd Tell You I Love You But Then I'd Have to Kill You*** by Ally Carter.

Cammie Morgan has never been a normal teen. Raised by spies and attending a secret spy school, she meets a local boy during a routine surveillance class and takes her chance at a regular relationship.  
*Young Adult Paperback Carter*

***Delilah Dirk and the Turkish Lieutenant*** by Tony Cliff.

Lovable ne'er-do-well Delilah Dirk has traveled all over the world during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, participating in all sorts of adventures. Now, she wants to rob a corrupt Sultan. With the aid of her flying boat and new found (and reluctant) friend, Selim, can she manage it?

*Young Adult Comics Delilah*

***Zero Day*** by Jan Gangsei.

Eight years ago, Addie Webster vanished, and her high-profile parents were forced to move on. Her father is now president of the United States, fighting to keep the oval office after a tumultuous first term. Then the unthinkable happens: Addie resurfaces.

*Young Adult Fiction Gangsei*

***Trash*** by Andy Mulligan.

Fourteen-year-olds Raphael and Gardo team up with a younger boy, Rat, to figure out the mysteries surrounding a bag Raphael finds during their daily life of sorting through trash in a third-world country's dump.

*Young Adult Paperbacks Mulligan*

***\*Trapped*** by Michael Northrop.

The day the blizzard started, no one knew that it was going to keep snowing for a week. No one knew that for those in its path, it would become not just a matter of keeping warm, but of staying alive...

*Young Adult Fiction Northrop*

## **Historical Fiction**

***Invasion*** by Walter Dean Myers.

Josiah and Marcus are on their way to an uncertain future. One white, one black, their whole lives are ahead of them, yet at the same time, death's whisper is everywhere. It's May 1944.

World War II is ramping up, and so are these young recruits, ready and eager.

*Young Adult Fiction Myers*

***Eleanor & Park*** by Rainbow Rowell.

Set over one school year in 1986, Eleanor, who sticks out like a sore thumb in her new school, meets Park, who has perfected the art of flying under the radar but seems impossibly cool to Eleanor. Slowly, via late-night conversations and mixed tapes, the two fall in love.

*Young Adult Fiction Rowell*

***Wednesday Wars*** by Gary Schmidt.

When all of his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read Shakespeare and discuss life.

*Children's Paperback Schmidt*

***One Crazy Summer*** by Rita Williams-Garcia.

In the summer of 1968, Delphine and her sisters arrive in California to a cold welcome from their mother, a dedicated poet and printer. While they had hoped to visit Disneyland and spend time with their long absent mother, she sends them to a Black Panther summer camp.

*Children's Fiction Williams-Garcia*

***The Book Thief*** by Marcus Zusak.

Death tells the story of Liesel, a German girl in World War II who steals books and uses her talents for story-telling to help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding.

*Young Adult Fiction Zusak*

## **Fantasy**

***Inkheart*** by Cornelia Funke.

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, a bookbinder, can "read" fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force her father into service.

*Young Adult Fiction Funke*

***The Thief Lord*** by Cornelia Funke.

Two orphaned brothers, Prosper and Bo, have run away to Venice, where crumbling canals and misty alleyways shelter a secret community of street urchins. The leader of this motley crew of lost children is a clever, charming boy with a dark history of his own.

*Children's Fiction Funke*

***Princess Academy*** by Shannon Hale.

While attending a strict academy for potential princesses with the other girls from her mountain village, fourteen-year-old Miri discovers unexpected talents and connections to her homeland.

*Young Adult Paperback Hale*

***\*The Girl from Everywhere*** by Heidi Heilig.

As the daughter of a time traveler, Nix has spent sixteen years sweeping across the globe and through the centuries aboard her father's ship. But when her father gambles with her very existence, it all may be about to end.

*Young Adult Fiction Heilig*

***The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms*** by N.K. Jemisin.

Outcast Yeine is summoned to the city of Sky when her mother mysteriously dies. Bloody intrigue follows while Yeine tries to solve her mother's death with the help of gods and men.

*Young Adult Fiction Jemisin*

***Howl's Moving Castle*** by Dianna Wynne Jones.

Sophie is resigned to her fate as a hat shop apprentice until a witch turns her into an old woman and she finds herself in the castle of the greatly feared Wizard Howl.

*Young Adult Fiction Jones*

***Furthermore*** by Tahereh Mafi.

There are only three things that matter to twelve-year-old Alice: Mother, who wouldn't miss her; magic and color, which seem to elude her; and Father, who always loved her. It has been almost three years since her father disappeared, and Alice is determined to find him.  
*Children's Fiction Mafi, Children's Paperback Mafi*

***The False Prince*** by Jennifer Nielsen.

In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition. He will choose only one to impersonate the king's long-missing son in an effort to avoid a civil war.  
*Children's Fiction Nielsen*

***Sabriel*** by Garth Nix.

Sabriel, daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, must journey into the mysterious and magical Old Kingdom to rescue her father from the Land of the Dead.  
*Young Adult Fiction Nix*

***Eragon*** by Christopher Paolini.

Fifteen-year-old Eragon believes that he is merely a poor farm boy—until his destiny as a Dragon Rider is revealed. Gifted with only an ancient sword, a loyal dragon, and sage advice from an old storyteller, Eragon is soon swept into a dangerous tapestry of magic, glory, and power. Now his choices could save—or destroy—the Empire.  
*Young Adult Fiction Paolini*

***First Test*** by Tamora Pierce.

Ten-year-old Keladry of Mindalen, daughter of nobles, serves as a page but must prove herself to the males around her if she can fulfill her dream of becoming a knight.  
*Young Adult Fiction Pierce*

***Phoebe and her Unicorn*** by Dana Simpson.

In this graphic novel, reminiscent of *Calvin & Hobbes*, a young girl earns one wish by a unicorn. Phoebe chooses Marigold, the unicorn, to be her obligatory best friend. Through various adventures, can they recognize the loneliness in each other?  
*Children's Comics Phoebe*

***\*Lumberjanes: Beware the Kitten Holy*** by Noelle Stevenson and Grace Ellis.

Jo, April, Mal, Molly and Ripley are five best pals determined to have an awesome summer together...and they're not gonna let any insane quest or an array of supernatural critters get in their way!

*Young Adult Comics Lumberjanes*

## **Science Fiction**

***\*The Darkest Minds*** by Alexandra Bracken.

Sixteen-year-old Ruby breaks out of a government-run 'rehabilitation camp' for teens who acquired dangerous powers after surviving a virus that wiped out most American children. Feeling like a danger to herself and others, Ruby goes on the run.  
*Young Adult Fiction Bracken*

***The Testing*** by Joelle Charbonneau.

Sixteen-year-old Cia Vale is chosen to participate in The Testing to attend the University. However, Cia is fearful when she figures out that her friends who do not pass disappear.

*Young Adult Fiction Charbonneau*

***\*Starflight*** by Melissa Landers.

Solara Brooks needs a fresh start, someplace where nobody cares about the engine grease beneath her fingernails or the felony tattoos across her knuckles. The outer realm may be lawless, but it's not like the law has ever been on her side.

*Young Adult Fiction Landers*

***\*Legend*** by Marie Lu.

In a dark future, North America has split into two warring nations. Day, a famous criminal, and June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover a common enemy.

*Young Adult Fiction Lu*

***\*Cinder*** by Marissa Meyer.

As plague ravages the overcrowded Earth, Cinder, a gifted mechanic and cyborg, becomes involved with handsome Prince Kai and must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect the world in this futuristic take on the Cinderella story.

*Young Adult Fiction Meyer*

## **Nonfiction, Biography & Autobiography**

***\*Breakthrough: How One Teen Innovator is Changing the World*** by Jack Andraka.

Teen innovator and scientist Jack Andraka tells the story behind his revolutionary discovery. When a dear family friend passed away from pancreatic cancer, Jack was inspired to create a better method of early detection.

*Children's Biography Andraka*

***\*Sabotage: The Mission to Destroy Hitler's Atomic Bomb*** by Steve Bascomb.

Watch the teamwork of British Special Ops, a brilliant scientist and refugee Norwegian commandos that foiled Hitler's nuclear ambitions at a hydroelectric dam in Norway, the world's only supplier of an essential ingredient needed by the Nazis to build an atomic bomb.

*Children's Nonfiction 940.548 Bascomb*

***The Boys in the Boat: the True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics*** by Daniel Brown.

Follow the astonishing tale of nine working-class boys from American who at the 1936 Olympics showed the world what true grit really meant. They never expected make it to the Olympics, let alone go on to shock the world by challenging the Germans rowing for Hitler.

*Children's Nonfiction 797.123 Brown*

***Tales of Ancient Egypt*** by Roger Lancelyn Green.

These stories include the great myths: of Amen-Ra, who created all the creatures in the world; of Isis, searching the waters for her dead husband Osiris. It also includes tales told for pleasure about magic, treasure and adventure, even the first ever Cinderella story.

*Children's 299.31 Green*

***\*Blood, Bullets, and Bones: The Story of Forensic Science from Sherlock Holmes to DNA*** by Bridget Heos.

Since the introduction of DNA testing, everyone knows about forensic science, thanks especially to popular television shows. But forensic analysis is not new. People started practicing it thousands of years ago. Follow along with real-life cases telling the history of modern forensic science, from the first test for arsenic poisoning to fingerprinting, firearm and blood spatter analysis, DNA evidence, and all the important milestones in between.

*Children's Nonfiction 363.25 Heos*

***Unbroken: An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive*** by Laura Hillenbrand.

On a May afternoon in 1943, an American military plane crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. So began one of the most extraordinary sagas of the Second World War.

*Children's Nonfiction 940.547 Hillenbrand*

***\*Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World*** by Rachel Ignotofsky.

This book touts the contributions of fifty notable women to the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) from the ancient to the modern world.

*Children's Nonfiction 509.22 Ignotofsky*

***Women in Sports: 50 Fearless Athletes Who Played to Win*** by Rachel Ignotofsky.

The book highlights the achievements and stories of fifty notable women athletes from the 1800s to today, including trailblazers, Olympians, and record-breakers in more than forty sports.

*Children's Nonfiction 796.092 Ignotofsky*

***Boy on the Wooden Box*** by Leon Leyson.

Holocaust survivor Leon Leyson, traces his own story as the youngest child in his family and possibly the youngest of the hundreds of Jews rescued by Oskar Schindler.

*Children's Biography Leyson*

***The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden & the Trial of the Century*** by Sarah Miller.

This book takes readers along on an investigation into a brutal crime: the August 4, 1892, murders of wealthy and prominent Andrew and Abby Borden. The accused? Mild-mannered and highly respected Lizzie Borden. As the author sorts fact from fiction, a gripping portrait of a woman and a town emerges.

*Children's Nonfiction 364.152 Miller*

***\*The Pregnancy Project*** by Gaby Rodriguez.

This is the true story of a high school girl who faked a pregnancy, to see how her peers, teachers, and others would react. What she learned about stereotypes and teen pregnancy will captivate.

*Children's Nonfiction 306.8743 Rodriguez*

***\*Bomb*** by Steve Sheinkin.

In 1938 a chemist made a shocking discovery that launched a scientific race that spanned three continents. This is the story of the plotting, the deceit, and genius that created the atomic bomb.

*Children's Nonfiction 623.45 Sheinkin*

***Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny and the Fight for Civil Rights*** by Steve Sheinkin.

On July 17, 1944, a massive explosion rocked the segregated Navy base at Port Chicago, California, killing more than 300 sailors who were at the docks. Afterwards, many men refused to go back to work in unsafe, unfair conditions. Fifty faced with mutiny charges, meaning decades in jail and even execution.

*Children's Nonfiction 940.545 Sheinkin*

***The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives*** by Dashka Slater.

Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment.

*Children's Nonfiction 364.15 Slater*

***Smile*** by Raina Telgemeier.

In this graphic novel autobiography, the author describes how she lost two of her front teeth in an accident when she was twelve and her struggles with various corrective dental techniques.

*Young Adult Comics Telgemeier*