

Grades 11 & 12 Summer Reading

This suggested reading list provides a wide array of reading choices for students. The books on this list do not indicate reading level or achievement, but will hopefully spark discussion between you and your children and inspire an interest in stories and reading.

Starting on Tuesday, June 20, you can stop by the Youth Desk at Beebe Library and sign up for Summer at the Library 2023. It's FREE to sign up and to participate in all of the summer programs and activities at the library. To learn more, you can inquire at the Youth Desk or visit www.wakefieldlibrary.org/summer-reading. Want to get involved? Just visit the Youth Desk and tell a librarian you want to be a part of Summer at the Library.

Suggested Reading List For Students Entering Grades 11 and 12

Fiction

First Year Orientation edited by Eric Smith and Lauren Gibaldi

Sixteen acclaimed authors join forces for a cross-genre YA anthology of linked short stories about the first days of college. This colorful array of stories spans genres and moods—from humorous to heartfelt to ghostly—tackling with sensitivity, humor, and warmth what it feels like to take those first shaky steps into adulthood.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction First

Cheer up: Love and Pompoms by Crystal Frasier.

Annie is a smart, antisocial lesbian starting her senior year of high school who's under pressure to join the cheerleader squad to make friends and round out her college applications. Her former friend BeBe is a people-pleaser, a trans girl who must keep her parents happy with her grades and social life to keep their support of her transition. Through the rigors of squad training and amped up social pressures, the two girls rekindle a friendship.

Call Number: Young Adult Comics Frasier

Off the Record by Camryn Garrett.

A teen journalist uncovers the #metoo scandal of the decade: a bigshot Hollywood director is taking advantage of cast members.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Garrett

You Should See Me in a Crown by Leah Johnson.

Liz Lighty has always done her best to avoid the spotlight in her small, wealthy, and prom-obsessed midwestern high school, after all, her family is black and rather poor. Instead she has concentrated on her grades and her musical ability in the hopes that it will win her a scholarship, but when that falls through, she is forced to turn to a scholarship through the prom court, which leads to a gauntlet of social media and all sorts of problems.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Johnson

Meet Cute by many authors.

A collection of short stories exploring the moment when a couple meets for the first time--from an African American girl in upstate New York who simultaneously finds a prom dress and a date to a transgender girl who confronts the student blocking her right to use the school restroom.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Meet

Pumpkin by Julie Murphy.

Waylon Russell Brewer is a fat, openly gay boy stuck in the small West Texas town of Clover City. His plan is to bide his time until he can graduate and move to Austin with his twin sister, Clementine. In a series of misfortunes, Waylon is nominated for prom queen as a joke. Clem's girlfriend, Hannah Perez, also receives a joke nomination for prom king. Waylon and Hannah decide there's only one thing to do: run—and leave high school with a bang.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Murphy

All American Boys by Jason Reynolds.

Rashad and Quinn -- one black, one white, both American -- face the unspeakable truth that racism and prejudice didn't die after the civil rights movement. There's a future at stake, a future where no one else will have to be absent because of police brutality. They just have to risk everything to change the world. Cuz that's how it can end.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Reynolds

If We Were Villains by M.L. Rio.

They were seven Shakespearean actors at Dellecher Classical Conservatory, rivals exchanging roles and lovers. Until opening night on their fourth year, when the competition turned ugly and violence entered. Then they faced their greatest acting challenge: convincing the police they were innocent. On the day Oliver Marks is released from jail, Detective Colborne is waiting at the door. After ten years, he wants to know the truth.

Call Number: Adult Fiction Rio, M

Wash Day Diaries by Jamila Rowser.

From self-care to spilling the tea at an hours-long salon appointment to healing family rifts, these stories about Kim and her friends are brought to life through beautifully drawn characters and different color palettes reflecting the mood in each story.

Call Number: Adult Graphic Novels Rowser

Major Detours by Zachary Sergei.

The reader makes choices for four college-bound best friends who take an occult-centered road trip and embark on a mystical scavenger hunt across the West Coast, uncovering the mysteries of their tarot deck.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Sergei

Don't Read the Comments by Eric Smith.

Divya Sharma is a queen. Or she is when she's D1V, playing Reclaim the Sun, the year's hottest online game. Gaming is basically Aaron Jericho's entire life. Much to his mother's frustration, Aaron has zero interest in becoming a doctor like her, and spends his free time writing games for a local developer. Soon, a campaign of trolls seeps into reality, threatening Aaron's dreams and Divya's actual life.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Smith

The Serpent King by Jeff Zentner.

The son of a Pentecostal preacher faces his personal demons as he and his two outcast friends try to make it through their senior year of high school in rural Forrestville, Tennessee without letting the small-town culture destroy their creative spirits and sense of self.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Zentner

Historical Fiction

That Way Madness Lies edited by Dahlia Adler.

A collection of reimaginings of Shakespeare's plays and poetry by young adult authors.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction That

They Called Us Enemy by George Takei.

George Takei has captured hearts and minds worldwide with his captivating stage presence and outspoken commitment to equal rights. But long before he braved new frontiers in Star Trek, he woke up as a four-year-old boy to find his own birth country at war with his father's -- and their entire family forced from their home into an uncertain future.

Call Number: Adult Graphic Novels Takei (Nonfiction)

When Angels Left the Old Country by Sacha Lamb.

Uriel the angel and Little Ash are the only two supernatural creatures in their shtetl. The angel and the demon have been studying together for centuries, but recent events have drawn young people from their village to America. When one of those young emigrants goes missing, Uriel and Little Ash set off to find her, but there are obstacles ahead of them as difficult as what they've left behind.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Lamb

Self-Made Boys: a Great Gatsby Remix by Anna-Marie McLemore.

New York City, 1922. Nicolás Caraveo, a 17-year-old transgender boy from Wisconsin, has no interest in the city's glamor. Going to New York is all about establishing himself as a young professional, which could set up his future—and his life as a man—and benefit his family. Enter his cousin, Daisy Fabrega – now Daisy Fay – and Jay Gatsby, his new neighbor.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction McLemore

Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys.

In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina, her mother, and brother are pulled from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death in a prison camp while she fights for her life, vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers by burying her story in a jar on Lithuanian soil.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Sepetys, Young Adult Comics Sepetys

Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein.

The spy “Verity” weaves a courageous tale as she relates what she happened after she crashes in Nazi-occupied France in 1943.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Wein

Sports

Furia by Yamile Saied Mendez.

Seventeen-year-old Camila Hassan, a rising soccer star in Rosario, Argentina, dreams of playing professionally, in defiance of her fathers' wishes and at the risk of her budding romance with Diego.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Mendez

Check, Please: Book 1 #Hockey by Ngozi Ukazu.

“Y'all... I might not be ready for this. I may be a former junior figure skating champion, vlogger extraordinaire, and very talented amateur pâtissier, but being a freshman on the Samwell University hockey team is a whole new challenge. It's nothing like co-ed club hockey back in Georgia! First of all? There's checking. And then, there is Jack... You see the problem.”

Call Number: Young Adult Comics Check

The Avant Guards Vol. 1 by Carly Usdin and Noah Hayes.

As a transfer student to the Georgia O'Keeffe College for Arts and Subtle Dramatics, Charlie is struggling to find her place. But when she joins the school's newly formed basketball team, the Avant-Guards, she begins to see the person she wants to be--on and off the court.

Call Number: Young Adult Comics Avant-Guards

Adventure & Mystery

Ninth House by Leigh Bardugo.

Twenty-year-old Galaxy "Alex" Stern is the sole survivor of a multiple homicide. But at her hospital bed, she receives a strange offer, to attend Yale University as an undercover spy.

Call Number: Adult Fiction Bardugo, L

The Dog Stars by Peter Heller.

Surviving a pandemic disease that has killed everyone he knows, a pilot establishes a shelter in an abandoned airport hangar before hearing a random radio transmission that compels him to risk his life to seek out other survivors.

Call Number: Adult Fiction Heller, P

The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue by Mackenzi Lee.

Vowing to make his yearlong escapade across Europe his last hurrah before taking over the family estate, Henry "Monty" Montague and his best friend Percy find themselves in the middle of a dangerous manhunt involving pirates and highwaymen.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Lee

Stars and Smoke by Marie Lu.

Nineteen-year old Winter Young, the world's hottest superstar, is recruited by a covert organization to take down a criminal tycoon and finds himself paired with Sydney Cossette, a fierce and unpredictable secret agent, but suspicions soon turn to sparks as the two are drawn into a tangled web of secrets and deception.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Lu

Daughters of Oduma by Moses Ose Utomi.

Eat. Dance. Fight. This is the life of the girls who compete in the Isle's elite, all-female fighting sport of Bowing. But it isn't really Dirt's life anymore. At sixteen, she is old and has retired from competition. An attack from a powerful rival leaves the Mud without their top Bower, and Dirt is the only one who can compete in the tournament. But Dirt is old, out of shape, and afraid.

Victory seems impossible—yet defeat would mean the end of her beloved Fam. And no way is Dirt going to let that happen.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Utomi

Fantasy

Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi.

Seventeen-year-old Zélie, her older brother Tzain, and rogue princess Amari fight to restore magic to the land and activate a new generation of magi, but they are ruthlessly pursued by the crown prince, who believes the return of magic will mean the end of the monarchy.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Adeyemi

Truthwitch by Susan Dennard.

Safiya and Iseult just want to be free to live their own lives, but war is coming to the Witchlands. With the help of the cunning Prince Merik and the hindrance of a Bloodwitch bent on revenge, the friends must fight emperors, princes, and mercenaries alike, who will stop at nothing to get their hands on a Truthwitch.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Dennard

Legendborn by Tracy Deonn.

To discover the truth behind her mother's mysterious death, a teen girl infiltrates a magical secret society claiming to be the descendants of King Arthur and his knights.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Deonn

A Spindle Splinter by Alix E. Harrow.

It's Zinnia Gray's twenty-first birthday, which is the last birthday she'll ever have. Her best friend Charm is intent on making it special with a full sleeping beauty experience, complete with a tower and a spinning wheel. But when Zinnia pricks her finger, something strange and unexpected happens, and she finds herself falling through worlds, with another sleeping beauty, just as desperate to escape her fate.

Call Number: Adult Fiction Harrow, A

Little Thieves by Margaret Owen.

Vanja Schmidt knows that no gift is freely given, not even a mother's love--and she's on the hook for one hell of a debt. Vanja, the adopted goddaughter of Death and Fortune, was Princess Gisele's dutiful servant up until a year ago. That was when Vanja's otherworldly mothers demanded a terrible price for their care, and Vanja decided to steal her future back...by stealing Gisele's life for herself.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Owen

Darker Shade of Magic by Victoria Schwab.

Kell is one of the last Travelers--magicians with a rare, coveted ability to travel between parallel universes--as such, he can choose where he lands. Kell is personal ambassador and adopted Prince of Red London. Unofficially, Kell is a smuggler, a dangerous hobby, and one that has set him up for accidental treason. Fleeing into Grey London, Kell runs afoul of Delilah Bard, a cut-purse with lofty aspirations. To save all of the worlds, Kell and Lila will first need to stay alive--and that is proving trickier than they hoped.

Call Number: Adult Fiction Schwab

The Bone Season by Samantha Shannon.

Paige Mahoney is a Dreamwalker, a rare type of clairvoyant employed by the Seven Seals, the powerful criminal syndicate that operates within a dystopian 21st-century London. When she's captured by Scion, Paige must develop her gifts if she wants to survive, let alone escape.

Call Number: Adult Fiction Shannon, S

Nimona by Noelle Stevenson.

Nimona is an impulsive young shapeshifter with a knack for villainy. Lord Ballister Blackheart is a villain with a vendetta. Nimona and Lord Blackheart's mission is to prove to the kingdom that Sir Ambrosius Goldenloin and his buddies at the Institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics aren't the heroes everyone thinks they are.

Call Number: Young Adult Comics Stevenson

Science Fiction/Horror

Internment by Samira Ahmed.

A terrifying, futuristic United States where Muslim-Americans are forced into internment camps, and seventeen-year-old Layla Amin must lead a revolution against complicit silence.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Ahmed

All the Birds in the Sky by Charlie Jane Anders.

Two socially inept tweens who are thrust into a whirlpool of world-ending change, join forces in this knock-your-socks-odd blend of science and magic, which follows the pair over decades from friends to enemies.

Call Number: Adult Fiction Anders, C

Through the Woods by Emily Carroll.

A collection of five spine-tingling short stories filled with ghosts, murder, monsters, and squeal-inducing illustrations that will give readers a shivery thrill.

Call Number: Young Adult Comics Carroll

Psalm for the Wild-Built by Becky Chambers.

It's been centuries since the robots of Panga gained self-awareness and laid down their tools; centuries since they wandered, en masse, into the wilderness, never to be seen again. One day, the life of a tea monk is upended by the arrival of a robot, there to honor the old promise of checking in.

Call Number: Adult Fiction Chambers, B

Aetherbound by EK Johnston.

Pendt Harland's family sees her as a waste of food on their long-haul space cruiser when her genes reveal an undesirable mutation. During a space-station layover, Pendt escapes and forms a lucky bond with the Brannick twins, the teenage heirs of the powerful family that owns the station. Against all odds, the trio hatches a long-shot scheme to take over the station and thwart the destinies they never wished for.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Johnston

Ancillary Justice by Ann Leckie.

On a remote, icy planet, the soldier known as Breq is drawing closer to completing her quest. Years ago, Berg was a colossal starship with an artificial intelligence linking thousands of corpse soldiers in the service of the Radch. An act of treachery ripped it all away, leaving her with only one purpose--to revenge herself on the Lord of the Radch.

Call Number: Adult Fiction Leckie, A

Nonfiction, Biography, & Autobiography

Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad by M.T. Anderson.

An account of the Siege of Leningrad reveals the role played by Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich and his Leningrad Symphony in rallying and commemorating their fellow citizens.

Call Number: Children's Nonfiction 947 Anderson

Ducks: Two Years in the Oil Sands by Kate Beaton.

Katie heads out west to take advantage of Alberta's oil rush-part. Once there, she encounters the harsh reality of life in the oil sands, where trauma is an everyday occurrence yet is never discussed. Beaton's story is an untold story of Canada: a country that prides itself on its egalitarian ethos and natural beauty while simultaneously exploiting both the riches of its land and the humanity of its people.

Call Number: Adult Graphic Novel Beaton

You Too? edited by Janet Gurtler.

When #MeToo went viral, Janet Gurtler was among the millions of people who began to reflect on her past experiences. Things she had reluctantly accepted--male classmates groping her at recess, harassment at work--came back to her in startling clarity. By turns thoughtful and explosive, these personal stories encompass a wide range of experiences.

Call Number: Children's Nonfiction 362.88 You

Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand.

Relates the story of a U.S. airman who survived when his bomber crashed into the sea during World War II, spent forty-seven days adrift in the ocean and was held as a prisoner by the Japanese until the end of the war.

Call Number: Adult Nonfiction 940.5472 Hillenbrand

Colin Kaepernick: Change the Game by Colin Kaepernick and Eve L. Ewing.

High school star athlete Colin Kaepernick is at a crossroads in life. Heavily scouted by colleges and MLB as a baseball pitcher, he has a bright future ahead of him. This graphic memoir explores the story of how a young change maker learned to find himself and never compromise. How the right decision is very rarely the easy one, but taking the road less traveled can make all the difference in the world.

Call Number: Young Adult Comics Kaepernick

Stuff Matters: Exploring the Marvelous Materials That Shape Our Man-Made World by Mark Miodownik.

Why is glass see-through? What makes elastic stretchy? Why does a paperclip bend? With clarity and humor, here the author, a world-leading materials scientist answers all the questions you've ever had about your pens, spoons, and razor blades, while also introducing a whole world full of materials you've never even heard of.

Call Number: Adult Nonfiction 620.11 Miodownik

Muhammad Najem, War Reporter by Muhammad Najem and Nora Neus.

A graphic memoir by young Syrian Muhammad Najem, who rose to international notoriety during the Syrian Civil War due to his on-the-ground reporting using social media.

Call Number: Young Adult Comics Najem