

Grades 9 & 10 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 Monday, June 17th, you can stop by the Youth Desk at Beebe Library and sign up for Summer at the Library 2024. 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/satl-kids-2024/. 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 9 and 10

Fiction

What if it's Us by Becky Albertalli and Adam Silvera

Told in two voices, when Arthur, a summer intern from Georgia, and Ben, a native New Yorker, meet it seems like fate, but after three attempts at dating fail, they wonder if the universe is pushing them together or apart.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Albertalli

Love in English by Maria Andreu

Sixteen-year-old Ana is a poet and a lover of language, except now that since she moved to New Jersey from Argentina, she can barely find the words to express how she feels. At first, Ana just wants to return home then she meets Harrison, the very cute, very American boy in her math class, and discovers the universal language of racing hearts. But then she begins spending time with Neo, the Greek Cypriot boy from ESL.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Andreu

The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

When a Connecticut teenager inherits vast wealth and an eccentric estate from the richest man in Texas, she must also live with his surviving family and solve a series of puzzles to discover how she earned her inheritance.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Barnes

Chlorine Sky by Mahogany L. Browne

Picked on at home, criticized for talking trash while beating boys at basketball, and always seen as less than her best friend, a girl struggles to like and accept herself.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Browne

Happily Ever Afters by Elise Bryant

Sixteen-year-old Tessa Johnson has never felt like the protagonist in her own life. The only place she's a true leading lady is in her own writing--in the swoony love stories she shares only with Caroline, her best friend. When Tessa is accepted into a fancy creative writing program, she's excited to finally let her stories shine. But then the words are just...gone. Fortunately, Caroline has a solution: Tessa just needs to find some inspiration in a real-life love story of her own.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Bryant

Blackout by Dhonielle Clayton, Angie Thomas, Nic Stone, Ashley Woodfolk, Nicola Yoon, & Tiffany D. Jackson

A summer heatwave blankets New York City in darkness. But as the city is thrown into confusion, a different kind of electricity sparks! A first meeting. Long-time friends. Bitter exes. And maybe the beginning of something new. When the lights go out, people reveal hidden truths. Love blossoms, friendship transforms, and new possibilities take flight.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Blackout

Flamer by Mike Curato

It's the summer between middle school and high school, and Aiden Navarro is away at camp. Everyone's going through changes--but for Aiden, the stakes feel higher. As he navigates friendships, deals with bullies, and spends time with Elias (a boy he can't stop thinking about), he finds himself on a path of self-discovery and acceptance.

Call Number: Young Adult Comics Curato

Once Upon a Quinceañera by Monica Gomez-Hira

Eighteen-year-old Carmen takes on a summer internship that has her reuniting with estranged family for an over-the-top quinceañera, reluctantly reconnecting to a long-lost ex-boyfriend, and finding happiness in the chaos.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Gomez-Hira

Hani and Ishu's Guide to Fake Dating by Adiba Jaigirdar

Everyone likes Hani Khan--she's one of the most popular girls at school. But when she comes out to her friends as bisexual, they invalidate her identity, saying she can't be bi if she's only dated guys. Ishu Dey is the complete opposite of Hani. She's an academic overachiever. But Ishita agrees to "date" Hani, if Hani will help her become more popular.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Jaigirdar

Something More by Jackie Khalilieh

Fifteen-year-old Jessie, a quirky loner obsessed with the nineties, is diagnosed as autistic just weeks before starting high school. Determined to make a fresh start and keep her diagnosis a secret, Jessie creates a list of goals that range widely. Within the halls of Holy Trinity High, Jessie gets more than she bargained for when two very different boys steal her heart, forcing her to go off-script.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Khalilieh

Darius the Great is Not Okay by Adib Khorram

Clinically-depressed Darius Kellner, a high school sophomore, travels to Iran to meet his grandparents, but it is their next-door neighbor, Sohrab, who changes his life.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Khorram

Briarcliff Prep by Brianna Peppins

Avi LeBeau juggles navigating her first year at a historically Black boarding school with the revelation that her older sister Belle is in an abusive romantic relationship.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Peppins

The Lesbiana's Guide to Catholic School by Sonora Reyes

Sixteen-year-old Mexican American Yami Flores starts Catholic school, determined to keep her brother out of trouble and keep herself closeted, but her priorities shift when Yami discovers that her openly gay classmate Bo is also annoyingly cute.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Reyes

Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds

As fifteen-year-old Will sets out to avenge his brother Shawn's fatal shooting, seven ghosts who knew Shawn board the elevator and reveal truths Will needs to know.

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

Concrete Rose by Angie Thomas

Maverick feels strongly about family ties. He's now raising a child but the gang life he led to support them all financially could leave them all bearing his responsibilities since it endangers his life. It looks like he may have been offered a chance to go straight, but leaving the King Lords won't be easy, and a "real" job has high demand for low return.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Thomas

Sports

Home Field Advantage by Dahlia Adler

Amber McCloud's dream is to become cheer captain at the end of the year, but after the football team's quarterback dies in an accident and is replaced by a girl, Amber knows she should work against this unliked Jaelyn to keep her cheer status but the two fall for each other.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Adler

Here to Stay by Sara Farizan

When a cyberbully sends the entire high school a picture of basketball hero Bijan Majidi, photo-shopped to look like a terrorist, the school administration promises to find and punish the culprit, but Bijan just wants to pretend the incident never happened and move on.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Farizan

A Map to the Sun by Sloane Leong

One summer day, Ren meets Luna at a beachside basketball court and a friendship is born. But when Luna moves back to Oahu to care for her sick mother, her friendship with Ren dissolves. Years go by before Luna returns, hoping to rekindle their friendship but Ren is still hurt and is hesitant to let her back in so easily. She's also dealing with a lot, including trouble at home, falling behind in school, and the newly formed women's basketball team at their high school, which Luna just joined, alongside Ren's new friends.

Call Number: Young Adult Comics Leong

She Drives Me Crazy by Kelly Quindlen

After an embarrassing loss to her ex-girlfriend in their first basketball game of the season, seventeen-year-old Scottie Zajac gets into a fender bender with her nemesis, Irene Abraham. When the accident sends Irene's car to the shop for repairs, the girls are forced to carpool, and their rocky start only gets worse. In trying to get back at her toxic ex, Scottie bribes Irene into a fake-dating scheme that threatens to reveal some very real feelings.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Quindlen

Adventure & Mystery

Lore by Alexandra Bracken

Every seven years, there is a hunt offering mortal descendants of gods the opportunity to claim their divinity by killing any of nine immortals made mortal for one night. Lore Perseous has no desire to participate in the Agon, embittered because her family was killed by a rival who then ascended to godhood. When a childhood friend asks her to help, and a wounded god offers an alliance, Lore overlooks the steep cost of this decision in exchange for vengeance.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Bracken

Truly Devious by Maureen Johnson

When Stevie Bell, an amateur detective, begins her first year at a famous private school in Vermont, she sets a plan to solve the cold case involving the kidnapping of the founder's wife and daughter shortly after the school opened.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Johnson

All for One by Lillie Lainoff

In 1655, sixteen-year-old Tania is the daughter of a retired musketeer, but she is afflicted with extreme vertigo and subject to frequent falls; when her father is murdered she finds that he has arranged for her to attend Madame de Treville's newly formed Académie des Mariées in Paris, which, it turns out, is less a school for would-be wives, than a fencing academy for girls--and so Tania begins her training to be a new kind of musketeer, and to get revenge for her father.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Lainoff

Thieves' Gambit by Kayvion Lewis

Seventeen-year-old Ross Quest, a master thief, enters the Thieves' Gambit, a competition consisting of dangerous, international heists, in order to save her mother's life.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Lewis

Fly by Night by Tara O'Connor

Dee returns to her small hometown in New Jersey to see if she can help her father and the local police find her missing twin sister Beth, who was a leader in fighting the threat of a pipeline gutting the pinelands, but only finds more mysterious questions while discovering signs of the supernatural in the surrounding woods.

Call Number: Young Adult Comics O'Connor

There's Someone Inside Your House by Stephanie Perkins

Hawaii-born Makani Young's new life in Nebraska is thrown into chaos when a serial killer begins to target her fellow high school students.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Perkins

Harvest House by Cynthia Leitich Smith

Halloween is near, and Hughie Wolfe is volunteering at a new rural attraction: Harvest House. He's excited, except for the "Indian maiden" part. And then there's the crossroads near Harvest House, where unusual things have been happening. While Hughie weighs whether to speak up about the "maiden", he and his friends begin to investigate the crossroads. As Moon rises on All Hallows' Eve, will they be able to protect themselves and their community?

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Smith

Historical Fiction

My Dear Henry: A Jekyll and Hide Remix by Kalynn Bayron

London, 1885. Gabriel Utterson, a 17-year-old law clerk, has returned to London for the first time since his life--and that of his dearest friend, Henry Jekyll--was derailed by a scandal that led to his and Henry's expulsion from the London Medical School. But there's more than it seems going on. Monsters of all kinds prowl within the London fog—and not all of them are out for blood...

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Bayron

Displacement by Kiku Hughes

On a visit to San Francisco, Kiku finds herself transported in time back to the 1940s Japanese-American internment camp that her late grandmother, Ernestina, was forcibly relocated to during World War II.

Call Number: Young Adult Comics Hughes

Under a Painted Sky by Stacey Lee

In 1845, Sammy, a Chinese American girl, and Annamae, an African American slave girl, disguise themselves as boys and travel on the Oregon Trail to California from Missouri.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Lee

Last Night at the Telegraph Club by Melinda Lo

America in 1954 is not a safe place for two girls to fall in love, especially not in Chinatown. Red-Scare paranoia threatens everyone, including Chinese Americans like Lily Hu. With deportation looming over her father--despite his hard-won citizenship--Lily and, her maybe girlfriend, Kathleen Miller risk everything to let their love see the light of day.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Lo

Great or Nothing by Joy McCullough, Caroline Richmond, Tess Sharpe, & Jessica Spotswood
In the fall of 1942, the United States is still reeling from the attack on Pearl Harbor. While the US starts sending troops to the Front, the March family grieves their own enormous loss: the death of their daughter, Beth. Under the strain of their grief, Beth's remaining sisters fracture, each going their own way. Each sister's story weaves together, telling a story of finding one's way in a world undergoing catastrophic change.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Great

Fantasy

Hunted by the Sky by Tanaz Bhathena

Trained in warrior magic after the murder of her parents, a girl with a star-shaped birthmark is prophesied to be the downfall of a tyrant king, but the boy she falls in love with owes his loyalty to those hunting her.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Bhathena

A Song of Wraiths and Ruin by Roseanne A. Brown

For Malik, the Solstasia festival is a chance to escape his war-stricken home and start a new life with his sisters in the prosperous desert city of Ziran. But when a vengeful spirit abducts his younger sister Nadia as payment to enter the city, Malik strikes a fatal deal: kill Karina, crown princess of Ziran, in exchange for Nadia's freedom.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Brown

Baba Yaga's Assistant by Marika McCoola

When her father announces that he is remarrying, Masha decides to leave home and become Baba Yaga's assistant. But to earn her place at the witch's house, she must first pass a series of tests.

Call Number: Young Adult Comics Baba

Every Heart a Doorway by Seanan McGuire

Children have always disappeared from Eleanor West's Home for Wayward Children under the right conditions. Nancy tumbled once, but now she's back. Each child under Miss West's care are seeking a way back to their own fantasy world. But Nancy's arrival marks a change at the Home. There's a darkness just around each corner.

Call Number: Adult Fiction McGuire, S

Sabriel by Garth Nix

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

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Nix

The Raven Boys by Maggie Stiefvater

Blue Sargent has been told that a kiss will kill her true love. She stays away from all boys, but when one boy's ghost shows up, Blue understands that she can no longer avoid the Raven Boys.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Stiefvater

Cast in Firelight by Dana Swift

Adraa and Jatin are royal heirs of their respective kingdoms, masterful with magic, and their arranged marriage will unite two of Wickery's most powerful territories--except, they don't get along. Now, with the criminal underbelly suddenly making a move for control, the pair must learn to put their trust in the other if either is to uncover the real threat.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Swift

Science Fiction

The Kindred by Alechia Dow

Joy Abara knows her place. A commoner from the lowly planet Hali, she lives a simple life--apart from the notoriety that being Kindred to the nobility's most infamous playboy brings. Duke Felix Hamdi has a plan. He will exasperate his noble family to the point that they agree to let him choose his own future and finally meet his Kindred face-to-face. Then the royal family is assassinated, putting Felix next in line for the throne...and accused of the murders.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Dow

Teen Titans: Raven by Kami Garcia

When a tragic accident takes the life of the only family she's ever known, 16-year-old Raven is sent to New Orleans to start over. She soon discovers that she can hear the thoughts of others around her...and another, more disturbing, voice in her head.

Call Number: Young Adult Comics Garcia

Illuminae by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff

The planet Kerenza is attacked, and Kady and Ezra find themselves on a space fleet with limited supplies fleeing the enemy.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Kaufman

Warcross by Marie Lu

For the millions who log in every day, Warcross isn't just a game—it's a way of life. To make some quick cash, teenage hacker Emika takes a risk and hacks into the opening game of the international Warcross Championships—only to accidentally glitch herself into the action and become an overnight sensation. Instead of being arrested, Emika finds herself as an inside spy for the game's creator. And chest deep in a sinister plot against the entire Warcross empire.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Lu

Unwind by Neal Shusterman

In a future world where those between the ages of thirteen and eighteen can have their lives "unwound" and their body parts harvested for use by others, three teens go to extreme lengths to uphold their beliefs--and, perhaps, save their own lives.

Call Number: Young Adult Fiction Shusterman

The Martian by Andy Weir

After a bad storm cuts his team's Mars mission short, injured astronaut Mark Watley is stranded. Now he has to figure out how to survive without air, shelter, food, or water on the harsh Martian landscape until the next manned mission in four years.

Call Number: Adult Fiction Weir, A

All Systems Red by Martha Wells

On a distant planet, a team of scientists are conducting surface tests, shadowed by their Company-supplied 'droid -- a self-aware SecUnit that has hacked its own governor module, and refers to itself (though never out loud) as "Murderbot." Scornful of humans, all it really wants is to be left alone long enough to figure out who it is. But when a neighboring mission goes dark, it's up to the scientists and Murderbot to get to the truth.

Call Number: Adult Fiction Wells, M

Nonfiction, Biography, & Autobiography

American Like Me: Reflections On Life Between Cultures by America Ferrera

From award-winning actress and political activist America Ferrera comes a vibrant and varied collection of first person accounts from prominent figures about the experience of growing up between cultures. Ranging from the heartfelt to the hilarious, the stories shine a light on a quintessentially American experience and will appeal to anyone with a complicated relationship to family, culture, and growing up.

Call Number: Adult Nonfiction 973.041 Ferrera

Body Talk: 37 Voices Explore our Radical Anatomy edited by Kelly Jensen

We all experience the world in a body, but we don't usually take the time to explore what it really means to have and live within one. Just as every person has a unique personality, every person has a unique body, and every body tells its own story.

Call Number: Children's Nonfiction 306.461 Body

Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults by Robin Wall Kimmerer, adapted by Monique Gray Smith

As a botanist and professor of plant ecology, the author has spent a career learning how to ask questions of nature using the tools of science. As a Potawatomi woman, she learned from elders, family, and history that the Potawatomi, as well as a majority of other cultures indigenous to the Americas, consider plants and animals to be our oldest teachers. In this book, she brings these two lenses of knowing together.

Call Number: Children's Nonfiction 304.2 Kimmerer

**Note: if you'd like the original adult version of the book, you can find it in Adult Nonfiction 304.2 Kimmerer*

March by John Lewis

A first-hand account of the author's lifelong struggle for civil and human rights spans his youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., and the birth of the Nashville Student Movement.

Call Number: Young Adult Comics March

What If: Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions by Randall Munroe

In pursuit of answers to wild questions, Munroe runs computer simulations, pores over stacks of declassified military research memos, solves differential equations, and consults with nuclear reactor operators. His responses are masterpieces of clarity and hilarity. They often predict the complete annihilation of humankind, or at least a really big explosion.

Call Number: Adult Nonfiction 500 Munroe

Queer Ducks (And Other Animals): the Natural World of Animal Sexuality by Eliot Schrefer
A research-based exploration of queer behavior in different animal species is interspersed with personal anecdotes and interviews with scientists.

Call Number: Children's Nonfiction 591.562 Schrefer

Fallout: Spies, Superbombs, and the Ultimate Cold War Showdown by Steve Sheinkin
As World War II comes to a close, the United States and the Soviet Union emerge as the two greatest world powers on extreme opposites of the political spectrum. With communism sweeping the globe, the two nations begin a neck-and-neck competition to build even more destructive bombs and conquer the Space Race.

Call Number: Children's Nonfiction 973.92 Sheinkin

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

This is a true story of the Black woman whose cells were used to create polio vaccine and many other scientific breakthroughs. A compelling tale of how science intersects with life.

Call Number: Adult Nonfiction 616.027 Skloot

The Book of Eels by Patrik Svensson

The Book of Eels is both a meditation on the world's most elusive fish - the eel - and a reflection on the human condition.

Call Number: Adult Nonfiction 597.43 Svensson

What the Fact? Finding Truth in All the Noise by Seema Yasmin

What is a fact? What are reliable sources? What is news? What is fake news? How can anyone make sense of it anymore? Well, we have to. As conspiracy theories and online hoaxes increasingly become a part of our national discourse and "truth" itself is being questioned, it has never been more vital to build the discernment necessary to tell fact from fiction.

Call Number: Children's Nonfiction 302.23 Yasmin