

2025 Suggested Reading for Students Entering Grades 5 & 6

Don't worry — this is not a homework assignment! This list was created by the youth librarians at Beebe Library to help you find a book you will enjoy. For information about your school's summer reading assignments, please contact your school.

Starting on **Monday, June 23**, you can stop by the Youth Desk at Beebe Library to **sign up for Summer at the Library 2025**. It's FREE to sign up and to participate in all of the summer programs and activities at the library. Learn more at wakefieldlibrary.org/summer

Want more recommendations? Please ask us! Happy reading!

Kat, Annie, Ariel, Heidi, & Holly, Youth Services Librarians

***Amari and the Night Brothers* by B. B. Alston**

A breath of fresh air in the normal-kid-finds-out-they're-magic genre, with Amari's snappy, no-nonsense narration, a mix of new, bizarre supernatural creatures and classic vampires and witches, and rich world building that reads as both familiar and fantastic.

Children's Fiction Alston

***Iveliz Explains It All* by Andrea Beatriz Arango**

Iveliz navigates seventh grade while facing mental health challenges. A hopeful, poetic story about learning to advocate for the help and understanding you deserve.

Teen Fiction Arango

***Small Spaces* by Katherine Arden**

A deliciously creepy, hair-raising adventure, complete with middle-school drama, spooky fairytale references, a heart-stopping finale, and a poignant tale of family love at its heart.

Children's Fiction Arden

***Freddie vs. the Family Curse* by Tracy Badua**

In this thrilling and hilarious adventure, Freddie Ruiz and his cousin, Sharkey, must team up with his ancestor to break the curse that's haunted their family for generations or be trapped in an amulet forever.

Children's Fiction Badua

***El Deafo* by Cece Bell**

Starting at a new school is scary, especially with a giant hearing aid strapped to your chest! This graphic memoir tells the humorous and touching origin story of a student with hearing loss and a hearing aid becoming a superhero.

Children's Comics Bell

***Top Secret: Spies, Codes, Capers, Gadgets, & Classified Cases Revealed* by Crispin Boyer**

Pssst. Want to know a secret? How about a few hundred of them? Here's a collection of the world's most classified cases, top secret truths, and cryptic curiosities you could ever hope to get your fingerprints on!

Children's Nonfiction 327.12 Boyer



Gamerville by Johnnie Christmas

A video gamer's championship aspirations are dashed when his parents send him to Camp Reset, where electronics are forbidden. An honest and vulnerable exploration of the importance of human connection and what it means to run in a pack.

Teen Comics Christmas

New Kid by Jerry Craft

As Jordan travels from his Washington Heights neighborhood to the upscale Riverdale private school where he's starting seventh grade, he finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Timely and honest, yet humorous.

Teen Comics Craft

Five Things About Ava Andrews by Margaret Dilloway

On the inside, Ava bubbles with ideas and plans. On the outside, everyone thinks she doesn't talk or, worse, is stuck-up. A heartfelt and funny story about a shy eleven-year-old who learns to manage her anxiety through improv classes—and discovers her activist voice.

Children's Fiction Dilloway

Will on the Inside by Andrew Eliopoulos

After dedicated soccer player Will is sidelined from the season—and his friend group—due to complications from his newly diagnosed Crohn's disease, he finds himself figuring out who he really is on the inside in this relatable, heartfelt, and thoughtful novel

Children's Fiction Eliopoulos

The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise by Dan Gemeinhart

In this poignant, action-packed adventure, 12-year-old Coyote must hoodwink her father, Rodeo, into returning home to Washington State after years of living on the road in a school bus. Hop on board with Coyote as she stakes a claim for her future by reclaiming the past.

Children's Fiction Gemeinhart

Max in the House of Spies by Adam Gidwitz

Germany is becoming more and more dangerous for Jewish families, but Max is determined to find a way back home, and back to his parents. He has a plan to return to Berlin. It merely involves accomplishing the impossible: becoming a British spy. A thought-provoking, fast-paced, and hilarious WWII story for anyone who has ever dreamed of becoming a spy.

Children's Fiction Gidwitz

The Last Last-Day-of-Summer by Lamar Giles

Two adventurous cousins accidentally extend the last day of summer by freezing time. This inventive and engaging romp through a bizarre town is packed with hijinks, zaniness, and getting the most out of your summer vacation.

Children's Fiction Giles



***Samira's Worst Best Summer* by Nina Hamza**

After her yard gets TP'd, Samira's summer is filled with searching for clues to find out whodunit, new friends, old friends trying to ruin things with new friends, and a big decision for Sammy: can she stand up for herself? One thing is certain: this summer is either going to be the worst (or maybe the best) of Samira's life. Relatable, funny, and charming.

Children's Fiction Hamza

***Lupe Wong Won't Dance* by Donna Barba Higuera**

Lupe is a gifted baseball player, but she sure is no fan of square dancing. Lupe is determined to fight for the right to *not* participate in this laugh-out-loud story about family, friendship, and the beauty in being true to yourself.

Children's Fiction Higuera

***The First State of Being* by Erin Entrada Kelly**

When twelve-year-old Michael Rosario meets a mysterious boy from the future, his life is changed forever. Set in 1999 with the threat of Y2K looming, this novel explores themes of family, friendship, trust, and forgiveness.

Teen Fiction Kelly

***Allergic* by Megan Warner Lloyd**

Maggie has a lot going on at home, so a new puppy might be the answer...if she can find one that won't upset her allergies. A heartfelt story of family, friendship, resilience, and finding a place to belong.

Children's Comics Lloyd

***Mexikid* by Pedro Martín**

An unforgettable graphic memoir about a Mexican American boy's family and their adventure-filled road trip to bring their abuelito back from Mexico. Set in the 1970's, this is a retro yet timeless story of family and identity.

Teen Comics Martín (Nonfiction)

***Out There* by Seaerra Miller**

After her parents separated, Julia's dad became obsessed with the paranormal and even believes he was abducted by aliens. Julia and her dad embark on a road trip to celebrate the anniversary of a UFO crash in New Mexico, but will the trip bring them together or drive them apart? A touching, out-of-this-world graphic novel about things we do for people we love.

Teen Comics Miller

***Jude Saves the World* by Ronnie Riley**

Jude has the courage and determination it takes to create the first Diversity Club in their community, but will they be able to find the support they need to make it happen? An exploration of identity, unconditional friendship, found family, and bettering the world.

Children's Fiction Riley

***Treasure Tracks* by S. A. Rodriguez**

"Plot my coordinates. Chart my destiny. Save Abuelo. Find the family legacy." Dive into this fast-paced adventure filled with heart and humor about the bonds of family and the meaning of a legacy. Here be treasure indeed!

Teen Fiction Rodriguez



***Omar Rising* by Aisha Saeed**

Omar must contend with being treated like a second-class citizen when he gets a scholarship to an elite boarding school. Irresistibly appealing and genuinely inspiring—a story that helps us to see the world more clearly, and to see ourselves as powerful enough to change it.

Teen Fiction Saeed

***Kareem Between* by Shifa Saltagi Safadi**

This heartfelt coming-of-age novel in verse tells the powerful story of a seventh-grade Syrian American boy and his struggles, big and small, as he navigates middle school, friendships, his dreams of being on the football team, and his mother stuck in Syria.

Teen Fiction Safadi

***On a Wing and a Tear* by Cynthia Leitich Smith**

A living legend roosting in the backyard. An unmissable ball game. A hair-raising mystery. A road trip full of adventure and danger. And all the overlapping circles that connect us come together in this unique and noteworthy modern, Indigenous folktale about an unexpected group of heroes.

Teen Fiction Smith

***A Wish in the Dark* by Christina Soontornvat**

A boy on the run. A girl determined to find him. Set in a Thai-inspired fantasy world, this twist on Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* is a dazzling, fast-paced adventure that explores the difference between law and justice and asks if one person can shine a light in the dark.

Children's Fiction Soontornvat

***When Everything Went Wrong* by Max Temporelli & Barbara Gozzi**

Did you know? Some of the world's greatest inventions started off as failures! Inventions like Coca-Cola, shoes, and vacuum cleaners were actually mistakes. Told in a mixture of comic panels and prose, this book will introduce readers to 10 inventors who persevered.

Children's Nonfiction 609 Temporelli

***Happy Town* by Greg van Eekhout**

Keegan knows there's something off about Happy Town. When he gets sentenced to Mandatory Work Opportunities for refusing to follow the town's shady rules, he discovers a dangerous glitch in the system that's turning the town's happy residents into zombies.

Teen Fiction van Eekhout

***The Misfits: A Royal Conundrum* by Lisa Yee**

When Olive is dropped off at a strange boarding school in a castle, she finds herself lumped with a team of other kids who never quite fit in, and discovers that the academy isn't what it seems—and neither is she. But the school is in danger of closing, unless Olive's class can stop the heist of the century.

Children's Fiction Yee

