

## 2025 Suggested Reading for Students Entering Grades 7 & 8

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](http://wakefieldlibrary.org/summer)

Want more recommendations? Please ask us! Happy reading!

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

### ***The Playbook: 52 Rules to Aim, Shoot, and Score in This Game Called Life* by Kwame Alexander**

What can we imagine for our lives? Discover wisdom from inspiring athletes and role models such as Nelson Mandela, Serena Williams, LeBron James, Steph Curry, and Michelle Obama in this motivational and inspirational book. Pair this book with its fictional counterpart, *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander, a story of basketball and family.

*Children's Nonfiction 796 Alexander*

### ***Charlie Hernández and the League of Shadows* by Ryan Calejo**

What do you do when you're not the "chosen one," but the villains think you are? Charlie must navigate a world where monsters and brujas rule and things he couldn't possibly imagine go bump in the night in this action-packed, mythology-steeped, magical adventure.

*Teen Fiction Calejo*

### ***The Retake* by Jen Calonita**

You can retake your photos... but what if you could redo moments in your life too? A smart and funny twist on time travel about a girl who discovers a mysterious app that allows her to redo moments captured by social media and mend her friendship with her ex-best friend.

*Teen Fiction Calonita*

### ***The Last Beekeeper* by Pablo Cartaya**

Facing a world dually altered by climate change and those who profit from it, tech-savvy Yolanda Cicerón will have to fight to save the last known beehive from extinction in this gripping adventure.

*Teen Fiction Cartaya*

### ***Aisle Nine* by Ian X. Cho**

It's Black Friday—and the apocalypse is on sale! Jasper is a checkout clerk at the discount mart, where a hell portal in aisle nine means danger every shift. An unforgettably freaky and hilarious adventure of hell portals, impending apocalypse, and unlikely heroes.

*Teen Fiction Cho*



***Wildseed Witch* by Marti Dumas**

Hasani's summer to-do list is simple: get a bigger following for her YouTube channel and get her parents back together. Not on the list? An outburst of magic that lands her at Les Belles Demoiselles, a literal charm school. Filled with fun and drama, this fantasy follows Hasani's quest to own her magic and to find friendship, family, and forgiveness.

*Teen Fiction Dumas*

***Wires Crossed* by Beth Fantaskey**

Mia feels like everything and everyone is changing and she is caught in the middle. Stuck between old friends and new friends...between feeling like a kid and growing up. A smart and funny slice-of-life graphic novel about navigating the ups and downs of middle school—from first crushes to crushing the school's science competition.

*Teen Comics Fantaskey*

***Gooseberry* by Robin Gow**

B doesn't know what their new name should be or what it's like to not live in foster care. What B does know is that they want to be a dog trainer, so when they meet anxious dog Gooseberry, it seems like a match. But dog training might not be as easy as B thought. A heartwarming story about finding family, hope, and—most of all—yourself.

*Teen Fiction Gow*

***Refugee* by Alan Gratz**

In the midst of political turmoil, how do you escape the only country that you've ever known and navigate a new life? Parallel stories of three different middle school-aged refugees—Josef from Nazi Germany in 1938, Isabel from 1994 Cuba, and Mahmoud from 2015 Aleppo—eventually intertwine in this poignant story full of adventure and suspense.

*Teen Fiction Gratz*

***The Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani**

It's 1947, and India, newly independent of British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India, creating deadly tension between the two nations and half-Muslim, half-Hindu Nisha doesn't know where she belongs. A gripping, nuanced story of the human cost of conflict.

*Children's Fiction Hiranandani*

***The Star That Always Stays* by Anna Rose Johnson**

When bright and spirited Norvia moves from the country to the city, she has to live by one new rule: Never let anyone know you're Ojibwe. Sensitive and enthralling, often funny and often heartbreaking, this vivid and fresh story was inspired by the author's own family history.

*Children's Fiction Johnson*

***The Great Greene Heist* by Varian Johnson**

Trying to go straight, troublemaker Jackson Greene succumbs to the lure of the con when it appears the student council election is being rigged. The elaborate bait and switch of this fast-paced, funny caper novel will surprise its readers as much as the victims.

*Children's Fiction Johnson*



***Jennifer Chan is Not Alone* by Tae Keller**

Sometimes middle school can make you feel like you're totally alone in the universe... but what if we aren't alone at all? A gripping and emotional story about friendship, bullying, and the possibility that there's more in the universe than just us.

*Teen Fiction Keller*

***Quagmire Tiarello Couldn't Be Better* by Mylisa Larsen**

Quagmire must recalibrate his formidable survival skills when his mother's unstable mental health forces him to build a new life and forge ties with found family. An original narrative voice filled with humor and poignant truth telling.

*Teen Fiction Larsen*

***Very Bad at Math* by Hope Larson**

Verity faces one obstacle to a triumphant end to eighth grade: numbers. She plans to keep her math struggles a secret until a gossip podcaster finds out. A vivacious misadventure featuring hijinks, unexpected friendships, and pizza.

*Teen Comics Larson*

***Dropping Beats* by Nathanael Lessore**

The misadventures of an aspiring young rapper navigating school and family as he strives to become the next big thing. A hilarious, witty story centered on embracing your quirks and the importance of friendship.

*Teen Fiction Lessore*

***Ella Enchanted* by Gail Carson Levine**

At her birth, Ella of Frell receives a foolish fairy's gift—the “gift” of obedience. Against a backdrop of princes, ogres, giants, wicked stepsisters, and fairy godmothers, Ella goes on a quest to break the curse forever. This refreshing take on *Cinderella* preserves the spirit of the original, but adds plenty of humorous twists and a spunky, intelligent lead.

*Children's Fiction Levine*

***The Giver* by Lois Lowry & P. Craig Russell**

Jonas lives in a seemingly ideal world. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver does he begin to understand the dark secrets behind his fragile community. An eerie graphic adaptation of the Newbery Award-winning classic.

*Teen Comics Lowry*

***How to Become an Accidental Genius* by Elizabeth MacLeod**

Don't be afraid to try. Make connections. Be persistent. Ask questions and never take no for an answer! Learn the secrets and amazing stories of inventors and innovators who have accidentally changed the world.

*Children's Nonfiction 609.2 MacLeod*

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

A brazen 15-year-old orphan becomes embroiled in a treasonous power-play to install a false prince on the kingdom's vacant throne. A thrilling tale of grand adventure, intrigue, and treason packed with battles of wits and wills in this rollercoaster of a read.

*Teen Fiction Nielsen*



***The Best at It by Maulik Pancholy***

Rahul Kapoor is heading into seventh grade in a small town in Indiana. His grandfather gives him some well-meaning advice: Find one thing you're really good at. And become the BEST at it. Funny, charming, and incredibly touching, this is a story about friendship, family, and the courage it takes to live your truth.

*Children's Fiction Pancholy*

***City Spies by James Ponti***

No one said saving the world was easy... especially when it involves hacking into a rival school's computer, dangling 30 feet off the side of a building, and trying to stop a villain. This cinematic, witty page-turner is filled with adventure, intrigue, mystery, and humor.

*Children's Fiction Ponti*

***Look Both Ways by Jason Reynolds***

Unfolding in 10 blocks, comes a story about what happens after the dismissal bell rings woven into one wickedly funny, piercingly poignant look at the detours we face on the walk home, and in life.

*Teen Fiction Reynolds*

***Playlist: The Rebels and Revolutionaries of Sound by James Rhodes***

Bach. Mozart. Beethoven. Old guys with curly wigs, right? But trust me: those composers were the original rock stars. Discover how the rebels and revolutionaries of classical music are responsible for every track you love to listen to today.

*Children's Nonfiction 780.922 Rhodes*

***Ana on the Edge by A. J. Sass***

Figure skater Ana learns about gender identity from a new friend. With a major competition approaching, Ana must decide whether telling everyone the truth is worth risking years of hard work and sacrifice in this heartfelt, affirming novel.

*Teen Fiction Sass*

***City of Ghosts by Victoria Schwab***

Since a near-death experience a year ago, Cassidy Blake can enter the Veil, the curtain between the worlds of the living and the dead. A thrillingly spooky and action-packed tale of hauntings, history, mystery, and the bond between friends (even if that friend is a ghost...).

*Teen Fiction Schwab*

***The Bletchley Riddle by Ruta Sepetys & Steve Sheinkin***

Hitler's invasion creeps closer and a menacing inspector lurks outside the gates of the Bletchley mansion. This adventure follows two siblings at Bletchley Park, the home of WWII codebreakers, as they try to unravel a mystery surrounding their mother's disappearance.

*Teen Fiction Sepetys*

***Dead Wednesday by Jerry Spinelli***

Can playing dead bring you back to life? Maybe on Dead Wednesday... On this day the worlds of a shy boy and a gone girl collide, and the connection they make will change them both forever. This is the story of the unexpected, heartbreaking, hilarious, truly epic day when Worm Tarnauer discovers his own life.

*Teen Fiction Spinelli*

