

## 2025 Suggested Reading for Students Entering Grades 9 & 10

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*

### ***Perfectly Parvin* by Olivia Abtahi**

Being a rom-com dream girl is much harder than it looks. Also hard? Parent-mandated Farsi lessons, boys, and the president's Muslim ban. A touching contemporary that's hilariously heartfelt about one girl's journey to self-discovery.  
*Teen Fiction Abtahi*

### ***I Was Told There Would Be Romance* by Marie Arnold**

Fancy Augustine's life goes topsy-turvy thanks to secrets, lies, a romantic bargain with a crush, and a deal with the devil (AKA the most popular girl in school). A vulnerable and candid protagonist and a hilarious and heartfelt story.  
*Teen Fiction Arnold*

### ***Boy 2.0* by Tracey Baptiste**

Just when he thought he was about to be shot, Coal Keegan turned invisible. Now he has to figure out how. Is he a superhero? Some kind of mutant? A science experiment? An imaginative, hopeful, and action-packed superhero story.  
*Teen Fiction Baptiste*

### ***The Inheritance Games* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes**

A teen must solve a multilayered puzzle to find out why she's the recipient of a billionaire's inheritance. With deadly stakes, thrilling twists, and juicy secrets, this fast-paced mystery is impossible to put down and will keep you guessing until the last page.  
*Teen Fiction Barnes*

### ***Mystery Royale* by Kaitlyn Cavalancia**

"Run if the strange finds you." But when Mullory Prudence uncovers an invitation to compete in a game of Mystery Royale for a chance to win billions, she's willing to risk a little strange. A high-stakes mystery, glittering magic, and wonderfully morbid curiosities.  
*Teen Fiction Cavalancia*



***Queerceañera* by Alex Crespo**

A whirlwind of telenovela-level drama and hijinks begin when Joaquin Zoido finds himself fake-dating his childhood crush and newly minted date to his queerceañera. An irresistible and hilarious romantic comedy.

*Teen Fiction Crespo*

***Flamer* by Mike Curato**

For Aiden, the last week at Scouting camp highlights accomplishments and humiliations that last a lifetime. Author and artist Mike Curato draws on his own experiences to tell a difficult story with humor, compassion, and love.

*Teen Comics Curato*

***The Luminaries* by Susan Dennard**

A family of monster hunters seeks redemption amid danger and mysteries in this haunting contemporary fantasy about the magic it takes to face your fears in a nightmare-filled forest and the mettle required to face the secrets hiding in the dark corners of your own family.

*Teen Fiction Dennard*

***Dreamover* by Dani Diaz**

Two teens are swept into a shared dream amid the ups and downs of first love. Nico and Amber unintentionally alienate their friends as they get caught up in their relationship. When they fall asleep into a strange but beautiful dream, they must grapple with how things will change for the couple when—and if—they wake up. A breathtakingly drawn graphic fantasy that weaves together humor, sweetness, angst, and a bit of magic.

*Teen Comics Diaz*

***The Great Cool Ranch Dorito in the Sky* by Josh Galarza**

Lately, Brett's been in need of a lot of cheering up. His adoptive mother has cancer, he's worried he's a burden to his best friend, he hates how he looks, and his journal has been posted online for all to read. A fiercely funny and hopeful story of one boy's attempts to keep everything under control while life has other plans.

*Teen Fiction Galarza*

***Rez Ball* by Byron Graves**

Tre wants to play basketball—for his brother, for his reservation, and for his future. A relatable, high-stakes story of a young athlete determined to play like the hero his Ojibwe community needs him to be.

*Teen Fiction Graves*

***The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera**

Había una vez, a girl named Petra Peña wanted to be a storyteller. But Petra's world is ending. Earth has been destroyed by a comet and she is the only one who remembers Earth. Gripping in its twists and turns and moving in its themes, this tale packs a wallop.

*Teen Fiction Higuera*

***Inside of a Dog: What Dogs See, Smell, and Know* by Alexandra Horowitz**

Here's your chance to experience the world nose first, from two feet off the ground. What do dogs know, and how do they think? The answers will surprise and delight you as dog owner and scientist Alexandra Horowitz explains how our four-legged friends perceive their daily worlds, each other, and us!

*Children's Nonfiction 636.7 Horowitz*



***The Dos and Donuts of Love* by Adiba Jaigirdar**

A girl competes in a televised baking competition, with contestants including her ex-girlfriend and a potential new crush in this punny romance. This joyful read is cute, fresh, and endearing — but it will make you hungry!

*Teen Fiction Jaigirdar*

***Spooked!: How a Radio Broadcast and The War of the Worlds Sparked the 1938 Invasion of America* by Gail Jarrow**

In 1938, thousands of Americans panicked when they believed that Martians had invaded Earth. What they actually heard was a fictional radio play. This gripping book explores the production of the broadcast, the aftermath, and the concept of "fake news" in the media.

*Children's Nonfiction 791.44 Jarrow*

***On Again, Awkward Again* by Erin Entrada Kelly & Kwame Mbalia**

Two quirky ninth graders navigate the surprises of high school and their instantaneous attraction to one another. A sweet rom-com that comedically amplifies the embarrassing, relatable woes of putting yourself out there for a crush.

*Teen Fiction Kelly*

***Darius the Great is Not Okay* by Adib Khorram**

Darius doesn't think he'll ever be enough, in America or in Iran, in this hilarious and heartbreaking tale. A story of friendship, identity, and family you won't want to put down.

*Teen Fiction Khorram*

***Dragonfruit* by Makiia Lucier**

Given the opportunity to right a grave wrong from her past, a teen faces dangerous sea-dragon hunters in order to find the rare dragonfruit. But "every wish demands a price..." A mesmerizing, captivating Pacific Islands-inspired fantasy.

*Teen Fiction Lucier*

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

A nerdy boy and a queen-bee girl become stepbrother and -sister in this comedy/drama. This savvy, insightful take on the modern family makes for nearly nonstop laughs.

*Teen Fiction Nielsen*

***Extra Large* by Tyler Page**

Forced to partake in a family diet, Tyler discovers the difference between building a body that conforms to society's expectations and one that actually feels good to live in, in this touching graphic memoir.

*Teen Comics Page (Nonfiction)*

***Homebody* by Theo Parish**

A graphic memoir about a nonbinary person's journey to find a home within themselves. Throughout the book, Theo's crystal-clear voice reminds the reader that it's okay not to know, it's okay to change your mind, and it's okay to take your time finding your way home. An accessible, affirming story that models how anyone can take steps toward self-knowledge and become more comfortable with one's self.

*Teen Comics Parish (Nonfiction)*



***Crying Laughing* by Lance Rubin**

Winnie just wants to make people laugh—but can she, with her father’s new ALS diagnosis, complications with her crush, and friendship disasters? A tragicomic story of bad dates, bad news, bad performances, and one girl's determination to find the funny in high school.

*Teen Fiction Rubin*

***How to Change Everything: The Young Human's Guide to Protecting the Planet and Each Other*  
by Rebecca Steffoff**

Warmer temperatures. Fires in the Amazon. Superstorms. These are just some of the effects of climate change. The good news is that we *can* do something about it. An empowering, engaging guide to understanding and battling climate change.

*Children's Nonfiction 363.738 Steffoff*

***What Happened to Rachel Riley?* by Claire Swinarski**

How did the most popular girl in school become persona non grata? In this engrossing and inventive novel, Anna Hunt uses social media posts, passed notes, and other clues to find out why a formerly popular girl is now the pariah of her new school.

*Teen Fiction Swinarski*

***Brownstone* by Samuel Teer**

A daughter, a dad, and a summer in New York take center stage in this vivid, sweeping, hopeful story about navigating your heritage, even when you feel like you don’t quite fit in. Angsty. Awkward. With a scrappy heart of gold, this is a must-read for anyone who’s ever felt totally out of place.

*Teen Comics Teer*

***Into the Sunken City* by Dinesh Thiru**

Thousands of feet under the ocean, a teenage girl must pull off the heist of a lifetime. Five hundred years ago, the clouds fused around the Earth, forming a “foggy shell.” The daily rain is submerging cities. Now, in Arizona in the year 2532, Jin is presented with an opportunity that could change her life this unique, captivating twist on *Treasure Island*.

*Teen Fiction Thiru*

***Bad Princess: True Tales from Behind the Tiara* by Kris Waldherr**

A mix of royal biography, pop culture, art, style, and pure fun, *Bad Princess* is a whip-smart, tongue-in-cheek spin on the traditional princess narrative, proving that it takes more than a pretty crown to be a great leader.

*Children's Nonfiction 940.099 Waldherr*

***Two Truths and a Lionel* by Brian Wasson**

Lionel is solidly a Background Character in the social hierarchy of his high school. Things turn around when Lionel is hailed as a hero during a fire for helping everyone escape. There’s just one problem: that person wasn’t Lionel. Still, it can’t hurt to take credit for it, right...? A comedic romp that uncovers the meaning of “the truth will set you free.”

*Teen Fiction Wasson*

