

Suggested SUMMER READING

for entering fifth & sixth graders
fiction • series • graphic novels • nonfiction

Fiction



Arlow, Jake Maia. **Almost Flying**. If you like some romance with your roller coasters, don't miss this book about 13-year-old Dahlia, whose dad announces out of the blue that he's getting married. Dahlia winds up on an amusement-park themed road trip with her mean stepsister-to-be and a new friend who could be turning into a first crush. 📖 🎧



Barnhill, Kelly. **The Ogress and the Orphans**. Stone-in-Glen was once the perfect town, until the fires and floods destroyed the schools and library and turned neighbor against neighbor. When an orphanage and a loving ogress who lives on the edge of town become targets, the orphans must take action. An unforgettable fantasy filled with dragon lore and magic kindness. 📖 🎧



Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. **The War that Saved My Life**. Ada is 10 and has never been outside. She was born with a twisted foot that her mother considers an embarrassment, so she watches the world from her window in World War II-era London. One day, she gets a chance to leave the city with a group of kids who are being evacuated to safety from Nazi bombs. Is there finally hope? **Sequel:** *The War I Finally Won*. 📖 🎧



Broaddus, Marcus. **Unfadeable**. Thirteen-year-old graffiti artist Bella Fades, known all over for her tag, is planning to spend the summer under the radar. She doesn't want to get caught tagging and she doesn't want anyone figuring out that she's living on her own. Then Bella learns that people in high places are taking money from her mostly-Black neighborhood, and she must team up with allies to stop it. 📖



Bruchac, Joseph. **Rez Dogs**. When COVID strikes, Mailan is at her grandparents' home on the reservation and a mysterious dog shows up to protect them. This novel in verse chronicles their experience during lockdown, celebrates family stories, and addresses the terrible toll infectious diseases and government policies have taken on Native people in this country. 📖 🎧



Bunker, Lisa. **Zenobia July**. After the death of her father, Zenobia—a trans girl who spends much of her time hiding behind a computer screen—moves across the country to live with her aunts. Feeling supported, she starts to make friends and live as her true self. Then, someone starts posting anti-trans and anti-Muslim memes on the school website. Zenobia must use her hacking skills to figure out who's doing it and why. 📖 🎧

**Read library books all summer
with Saint Ann's Digital Library!**

Access it at

<https://soraapp.com/library/saintannssny>

Every title on this list is available on the digital library as **ebook, audiobook, or both**.

📖 means ebook

🎧 means audiobook

📖 🎧 means both

**See the end of this list
for more instructions.**



Clayton, Dhonielle. **The Marvellers**. Ella is the first in her New Orleans conjurer community to attend the famous magic school, the Arcanum Training Institute. There, Marvellers from all around the world come together to practice their magical cultural arts. Then: Mystery! Crime! Sorcery! Friends! 📖



Cisneros, Ernesto. **Falling Short**. Sixth-graders Isaac and Marco seem like opposites. Isaac is a star basketball player who's *not* into school, Marco is an ace chess player who loves to study. Still, they're best friends, and when a misunderstanding convinces Isaac's former teammates that Marco has a secret basketball talent, they get to work to try to land him a spot on the team—and to bring Isaac up to speed in school. Funny, touching, and fast-moving. 📖



Draper, Sharon. **Blended**. Eleven-year-old Isabella deals with divorce and identity as she switches back and forth between the homes of her mom (who's white) and dad (who's Black). 📖



Fipps, Lisa. **Starfish**. Ellie has spent her life being bullied because she's fat. The stupid jokes from classmates are horrible, but her mother's cruel and judgmental attitude is the worst of it. In this novel in verse we learn how she makes new friends and, with help from her dad and a therapist, stands up to the bullies. An ode to being yourself, and really a page-turner. 📖 🎧



Glaser, Karina Yan. **A Duet for Home** After her father dies in an accident, June, along with her little sister and terribly depressed mom, are evicted from their home in Chinatown and must move to a shelter in the Bronx for homeless families. There she meets Tyrell, a veteran of the shelter who she hates at first, but then bonds with. Found family, music, and political activism—what a great book. 📖 🎧



Greenwald, Tommy. **Game Changer**. A 13-year-old football player takes a hard hit at camp and winds up in the hospital in a coma. Is football just too dangerous for kids? Is that why the accident happened—or was something sinister at play? Told in texts, emails, newspaper articles, and dream-like poems from the injured kid's mind. After you read this, check out the author's basketball-related companion book, *Rivals*. 📖 🎧



Harrell, Rob. **Wink**. Ross wants to be an average seventh grader, but that becomes tough when he's diagnosed with a rare form of eye cancer. (The author, who also wrote and illustrated the graphic novel *Monster on a Hill*, had the same illness when he was a kid.) A hilarious, shocking, sometimes upsetting story of survival over cancer—and middle school. Great illustrations, too! 📖 🎧



Hernandez, Carlos. **Sal and Gabi Break the Universe**. Sal is a new kid at an arts school in Miami. Bullies are everywhere, but luckily Sal can open portals into other realms, which helps. This is a mind-bending book with a lot of heart, humor, Cuban culture, the possible destruction of the fabric of the universe—and a great sequel (*Sal and Gabi Fix the Universe*). 📖 🎧



Howe, James. **Also Known as Elvis**. If you liked *Totally Joe* (a read-aloud in some fifth-grade library classes) don't miss this. In it, Skeezie, about to have his first child at age 25, recalls the important summer he spent in Paintbrush Falls after seventh grade. Other books about the gang: *Addie on the Inside* (Addie's story in verse), and *The Misfits* (before the events of *Totally Joe*). 📖



Ireland, Justina. **Ophie's Ghosts**. Ophie saw her first ghost when she was 12. It was the ghost of her father, who had been lynched by white men for trying to vote as a Black man in 1920s Georgia. He tells Ophie that she and her mom must flee. They end up in Pittsburgh—where Ophie goes to work in a manor house filled with ghosts and secrets that beg to be unraveled. A page-turner that explores issues of race and historical injustice. 📖



Kelly, Lynne. **Song for a Whale**. Iris is her school's resident tech genius, but as the only deaf kid, she often feels left out and underestimated. When she hears about Blue 55, a whale who is unable to communicate with other whales, she becomes determined to find a way to connect with him. 📖 🎧



Luckoff, Kyle. **Different Kinds of Fruit**. Sixth-grader Annabelle is expecting another fairly boring year in her pleasant life in a Seattle suburb. But when she becomes friends with a new nonbinary kid at school who uses they/them pronouns, Annabelle's dad and mom disapprove—which surprises her. Then, as Annabelle and her parents talk about gender identity and LGBTQ issues, family history is revealed that Annabelle could never have imagined. 📖 🎧



Marks, Janae. **From the Desk of Zoe Washington**. Zoe, a seventh grader, gets a letter from her father, who has been in jail for murder since before she was born. It turns out he may have been wrongly convicted and, despite her mother's objections, she sets out to prove his innocence. Along the way her eyes are opened to racism in the criminal justice system. 📖 🎧



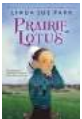
Mbalia, Kwame and Prince Joel Makonnen. **Last Gate of the Emperor**. Epic and action packed. In this sci-fi thriller inspired by the history and lore of Ethiopia, Yared scrapes by as an underground game player in a futuristic Addis Ababa. When his uncle disappears, he teams up with a fantastic cast of characters and launches a mission to find him. Done with this one? Read the sequel, *The Royal Trials*. 📖



Nesbet, Anne. **Daring Darleen: Queen of the Screen**. Nonstop action 1914-style as 12-year-old silent film star Darleen finds herself fleeing real-life criminals along with one of the country's richest girls—after a fake kidnapping set up by Darleen's studio turns real. Can the girls escape and make it to happily-ever-after? 📖



Rhuday-Perkovich, Olugbemisola. **Operation Sisterhood**. Bo, who is Nigerian American, lives with her mom in a cozy apartment in the Bronx. Just the two of them. Then, her mom falls in love and marries and they move to her new stepdad's Harlem brownstone. Bo gets a stepsibling, some housemates, a new neighborhood, and—it's a lot! Like the *Babysitter's Club* or the *Vanderbeekers*? This is for you! 📖 🎧



Park, Linda Sue. **Prairie Lotus**. Hannah, the child of a white dad and a Chinese mom who died, navigates life in the 1880s in Dakota territory. The author's nuanced reflection of the *Little House on the Prairie* books, which she loved as a child. Wonderful! 📖 🎧



Ramee, Lisa Moore. **A Good Kind of Trouble**. One of the few Black kids in her middle school, Shayla has worked hard to stay out of trouble. But as she becomes more aware of racism and police violence against Black people, she starts to think some kinds of trouble are worth getting into. 📖 🎧



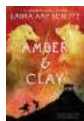
Reynolds, Jason. **Miles Morales: Spider-Man**. There's a new Spider-Man in town. He lives in a Brooklyn housing project, attends an elite private school, and he's dealing with some issues. This is a super readable and well-done take on the story, not surprising since it's written by the superpowered Jason Reynolds, author of the *Track* series and other great books. Read it. 📖 🎧



Saeed, Aisha. **Amal Unbound** and **Omar Rising**. These are two separate books. The first is about **Amal**, who lives in a small village in Pakistan where she loves school and dreams of being a teacher. When she has to quit school to stay home and help, it seems things couldn't get worse. But, they do. She must leave her family and loses her very freedom. The second is about her friend **Omar**, who is also smart, but because he's a boy he gets a scholarship to a prestigious school. Things don't go as expected there, either. Great books, inspired by the true stories of Malala Yousafzai and other brave kids. 📖 🎧



Sass, A.J. **Ana on the Edge**. Ana is a champion figure skater and she isn't the type for frills, so she's not happy when her new coach assigns princess-themed choreography. She realizes she likes it when a transgender boy she's training with sees her as a boy and Ana starts wondering why figure skating has to be so much about gender. 📖



Schlitz, Laura Amy. **Amber & Clay**. Written mainly in verse but partly in prose and set in 5th century Athens, this is the story of an enslaved boy (common as clay) and a privileged girl (precious as amber), who form a bond that extends beyond life. Hermes, Socrates, and other famous Greeks get involved. Great to tackle as a summer read! Read it if you love mythology, poetry, or fantasy. 📖 🎧



Sloan, Holly Goldberg and Meg Wolitzer. **To Night Owl from Dogfish**. Written entirely in letters and emails, this hilarious book brings together two 12-year-olds who couldn't be more different. Avery is a bookish worrier in New York City. Bett is a risk-taker living in California. When Bett discovers that the girls' fathers have fallen in love and are plotting to send their daughters to a summer camp together so they'll bond, she digs up Avery's email address and breaks the news. 📖 🎧



Smith, Charles. **Hoop Kings 2: New Royalty**. Are you someone who loves Joel Embiid, Kevin Durant, Giannis Antetokounmpo, and other NBA stars enough to want to read poetry about them? If so, this is your book. Illustrated with cool black-and-white action photos and graffiti-inspired flourishes. 📖



Smith, Dodie. **The 101 Dalmatians**. The classic British adventure story starring brave and noble dogs fighting to save their pups from their diabolical nemesis Cruella de Vil. Super-engaging and much more mature than the movie versions. 📖 🎧



Stead Rebecca. **The List of Things that Will Not Change**. In the face of many changes, starting with her parents' divorce, Bea writes in a journal to keep herself sane. You'll enjoy being part of her life as she deals with eczema, her dad's boyfriend, and life's other challenges. 📖 🎧



Yang, Kelly. **New From Here**. From the author of *Front Desk*. Ten-year-old Knox is living in Hong Kong with his parents when news of COVID starts to make headlines there. With his siblings and his mom, who's Chinese, he moves to California. His dad, who's white, stays in Hong Kong for work. In the U.S., the family faces anti-Asian prejudice and launches a campaign they call "Operation Dad Come Over" to pay for a plane ticket for Knox's dad. If you liked *Front Desk*, you'll love this.

Series

Read an entire series this summer! Or, read two!



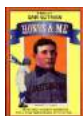
Chokshi, Roshani. **Pandava Series**. In an attempt to impress kids from school, Aru accidentally unleashes a demon in the museum of ancient Indian art where her mom works. Her friends and her mother are frozen in time. Can Aru save them? **The Series:** *Aru Shah and the End of Time*, *Aru Shah and the Song of Death*, *Aru Shah and the Tree of Wishes*, *Aru Shah and the City of Gold*, and *Aru Shah and the Nectar of Immortality*. 📖



Federle, Tim. **The Nate Trilogy**. The adventures of a theater-loving kid who is miserable in his hometown in Pennsylvania and sets out for New York City to try out for "E.T.: The Musical." Touching and witty. The series sees Nate grow up from middle school to high school and is the basis for the new Disney TV series. **The Series:** *Better Nate Than Ever*; *Five, Six, Seven, Nate!*; and *Nate Expectations*. 📖



Gibbs, Stuart. **Spy School**. When Ben is recruited to the CIA's top-secret Academy of Espionage, he's thrilled to have fulfilled his dream while still in middle school. Then, he learns they're planning to use him for bait. He is determined to save himself. Over-the-top funny! **The Series:** *Spy School, Spy Camp, Evil Spy School, Spy Ski School, Spy School Secret Service, Spy School Goes South, Spy School British Invasion, Spy School Revolution, and Spy School at Sea.* 📖



Gutman, Dan. **Baseball Card Adventure Series**. Joe Stoshack is a kid who knows everything there is to know about baseball—yet he hardly ever manages to get a hit. When he finds a super-old baseball card while cleaning out an attic, Joe's life totally changes. This series features baseball lore, mystery, time travel, and a very likeable main character. **The Series:** *Honus & Me, Jackie & Me, Babe & Me, Shoeless Joe & Me, Mickey & Me, Abner & Me, Satch & Me, Jim & Me, Ray & Me, Roberto & Me, Ted & Me, Willie & Me.* 📖



Messenger, Shannon. **Keeper of the Lost Cities**. Sophie has always been able to read minds, but she never knew why or what it meant. Then, she meets a boy named Fitz who reveals the reason for her gift—and tells her she must leave her life and family behind. And she does. If you want a wildly engaging, magical series that will entertain you over many long summer days, this is it. **The Series:** *Keeper of the Lost Cities, Exile, Everblaze, Neverseen, Lodestar, Nightfall, Flashback, Legacy, and Unlocked.* 📖

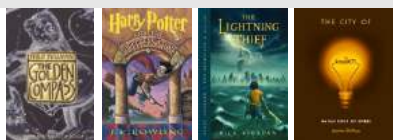


Williams-Garcia, Rita. **Gaither Sisters Trilogy**. African American sisters growing up in the turbulent 1970s. Set in Brooklyn (where they live with their dad), Oakland (home of their poet, Black Panther mother) and Alabama (where their great-grandma lives), the books make up a saga both hilarious and thought provoking. **The Series:** *One Crazy Summer, P.S. Be Eleven, and Gone Crazy in Alabama.* 📖



Yang, Kelly. **Front Desk Series**. Meet Mia Tang, a 10-year-old new immigrant from China who runs the front desk of a small California motel while her parents do the cleaning. In the first book of this series, she steps up to take on the dishonest motel owner, problems at school, racism aimed at motel guests she is fond of, and finally the potential loss of her family's livelihood. That's just book one! The story of Mia and her friends and family continues. **The Series:** *Front Desk, Three Keys, and Room to Dream.* 📖

∞ More Series to Read ∞ Whenever You Want!



You probably know many of the series listed below, but have you **read** all of them? The books in these great series are all available on the Saint Ann's Digital Library.

The Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling • **His Dark Materials Trilogy** by Philip Pullman •
Track Series by Jason Reynolds • **Percy Jackson Series** by Rick Riordan •
A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket • **Wings of Fire** by Tui T. Sutherland
The Books of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau • **Artemis Fowl** by Eoin Colfer •
Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel by Michael Scott •
The Fudge Series by Judy Blume • **The Vanderbeekers Series** by Karina Yan Glaser

Graphic Books

You'll find dozens of graphic novels on the Saint Ann's Digital Library.
Those listed below are just a few of the great ones.



Christmas, Johnnie. **Swim Team.** Bree, from Brooklyn, finds herself at a swim-crazed school in Florida when her dad takes a job there. She can't swim and doesn't want to, but really has no choice. A great book about trying new things that explores Black history and the history of swimming, and the ways they are connected. 📖



Dawson, Mike. **The Fifth Quarter.** On Lori's fourth-grade basketball team, the fifth quarter is the extra period before the game where the points don't count—and the not-so-good players, including Lori, take the court. Friendship, competition, basketball improvement? 📖



Escabasse, Sophie. **Witches of Brooklyn.** When Effie's mother dies, she moves in with her eccentric Brooklyn aunts. They're herbalists and acupuncturists—and it turns out they're also witches. Is Effie one too? Don't miss the sequel, *Brooklyn Witches: What the Hex*. 📖



∞ Lewis, John and Andrew Aydin. **March: Books One, Two and Three.** Lewis, the civil rights pioneer, recounts his life's journey—from child of Alabama sharecroppers to congressional representative. 📖



Lloyd, Megan Wagner. **Allergic.** Maggie is one of those kids who's been begging for a dog her whole life. She finally gets one for her 10th birthday! But...she breaks out in a horrible rash and learns she's hopelessly allergic to anything with fur. Now what? 📖



Marcks, Ira. **Shark Summer.** When a movie film crew arrives on Martha's Vineyard with a mechanical shark and a film contest for kids that comes with a gigantic prize, disgraced pitcher Gayle "Blue Streak" Briar sees a chance to turn a losing season into his best summer ever. He teams up with a bunch of kids to make a movie about a gruesome local legend—but is it just a legend? 📖



Miller, Kayla. **Besties Work It Out.** From the author of the Click series (*Click*, *Camp*, *Act*, and *Clash*—all on the Digital Library) comes the first in a related series about friends who think they have it made when they land a high-paying dog sitting job. Then, disaster strikes. 📖



Moore, Linette. **The Prisoner of Shiverstone.** Helga is bored at boarding school when she hears a scratchy, mysterious voice coming from a radio she's just built. The voice is begging to be rescued—and Helga sets off to answer the call. Adventure! Mad scientists and wonderful quirky characters! Don't miss it. 📖



Steinkellner, Emma. **The Okay Witch.** Moth is an outcast obsessed with witches. Then she finds out she has powers herself—powers she inherited from her mother, who had never allowed herself to use magic. Funny and action packed. **Sequel:** *The Okay Witch and the Hungry Shadow* 📖



Sutherland, Tui. **Wings of Fire Graphic Novel Series.** Brave young dragons fight for their freedom and to fulfill their destinies. There are five entries in this graphic novel version of the wildly popular chapter book series (also available on the Saint Ann's Digital Library). 📖



Wang, Jen. **The Prince and the Dressmaker.** Prince Sebastian has a secret—he loves wearing dresses. He meets up with a young seamstress whose dream is to be a famous designer, and begins to appear in public in her designs as the fabulous Lady Crystallina. Fresh fairy tale of love and friendship. 📖



Weir, Ivy Noelle. **Anne of West Philly.** The classic brought into our time with a diverse cast of characters. Smart and creative, Anne (of Green Gables, in the original) has never had a family and isn't sure she has one now in her new foster home with by Marilla and Matthew. Romance, friendship, drama! Also read *Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy* by this author. 📖

Nonfiction

From Serious to Fun



Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem. **Becoming Kareem: Growing Up On and Off the Court.** Fascinating memoir by the basketball star and civil rights leader. 📖



Beals, Melba Patillo. **March Forward, Girl.** Beals was one of the Little Rock Nine, the group of students who famously integrated Arkansas's Little Rock High School in 1957. Here she tells the story of her life leading up to that moment and what inspired her to become a fighter for justice. 📖



Caldwell, Stella. **Pride: An Inspirational History of the LGBTQ+ Movement.** The stories of LGBTQ+ people have often been left out of history books. This book shines a light on stories of queer love from ancient times to the present, and explains key moments in history—like the Stonewall uprising and the legalization of gay marriage—in a super-interesting way. 📖



Messner, Kate. **History Smashers: Plagues and Pandemics.** History, scientific explanations, and strange-but-true facts about epidemics from the bubonic plague of the Middle Ages to COVID. Page through it and read bits and pieces or read it cover to cover. Great illustrations. 📖 🎧



Noah, Trevor. **It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood.** The Daily Show host's shocking yet hilarious tale of growing up under the racist system of apartheid. In South Africa when he was a kid, he was literally against the law—because he had a Black mother and white father. Still, Noah's mother raised him to believe there were no barriers to achieving his dreams. 📖



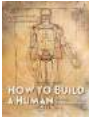
Soontornvat, Christina. **All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of The Thai Boys' Soccer Team.** The story of the dramatic 18-day rescue mission to save 12 boys and their coach from the Cave of the Sleeping Lady in Northern Thailand, after it flooded. Amazing storytelling interwoven with information about everything from Buddhism to hydraulics to the plight of stateless people in Thailand. 📖



Sundance, Kyra. **101 Dog Tricks, Kids Edition: Fun and Easy Activities, Games and Crafts.** Make a duct tape treat bag, build a doggy balance beam, and teach your pup to play peek-a-boo. Summertime is the right time! 📖



Tack, Karen and Alan Richardson. **Hello, Cupcake: Irresistibly Playful Creations Anyone Can Make.** Impress (and feed) your friends with Van Gogh's Starry Night cupcakes, kids-in-sleeping-bag cupcakes, or cupcakes that look like spaghetti and meatballs but taste like...cupcake. Yum! 📖



Turner, Pamela S. **How to Build a Human in Seven Evolutionary Steps.** Ever wonder how we got from slime in a pond to who we are today? This fun book gives a quick overview of early evolution then breaks it down step-by-step starting with Step One: We Stand Up. 📖



Yellowhorn, Eldon and Kathy Lowinger. **Turtle Island: The Story of North America's First People.** There's a Native American myth that says North and Central America were built on a turtle's back. This compelling book, based on myths, archaeological evidence, and oral history, tells the history of Native people beginning thousands of years before Europeans arrived, and ending with modern times. Tragic, hopeful, and fascinating. 📖



Yousafzai, Malala. **I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World.** Autobiography of the Pakistani girl who, under Taliban rule, spoke out and was shot in the head as punishment. Learn about her miraculous survival and her continuing work for human rights. Read this along with *Amal Unbound* by Aisha Saeed (in the fiction section of this list). 📖

Digital Library FACTS: What You Need to Know

Access the Saint Ann's Digital library through Sora at <https://soraapp.com/library/saintannssny> or use the **Sora app**, which you can download from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

Logging In: When you log onto Sora for the first time, you'll be prompted to find your school. If Saint Ann's doesn't pop up, search for it, then **log in with your Saint Ann's Google credentials**. Sora allows you to add other participating libraries, including the Brooklyn Public Library, so you can search multiple libraries at once.

Finding Books: To search for a title, click the "explore" icon at the bottom of the page/app and a search bar will appear at the top. You can also browse lists and collections, including this list.

Other: You can have four titles checked out at a time and the checkout period is two weeks. You may return books on the app or website. If you don't return a book yourself, it will automatically return after two weeks.

Current and past reading lists can be found online at:

<http://saintannssny.org/divisions-and-offices/library/high-school-library/reading-list/>