

Suggested Summer Reading

for entering fifth & sixth graders

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- See the last page for EASY instructions •

Quick Picks! You really want ...

Funny Mystery



**The Swifts:
A Dictionary of
Scoundrels**
by Beth Lincoln.

Lemony Snicket-
style! Shenanigan

Swift investigates murders at a
reunion of her strange family.
Puzzles, word play, foul play!

Superhero Tale



**Miles Morales
Suspended**
by Jason Reynolds.

Miles (aka Spider-
Man) lives in
Brooklyn, goes to

private school, loves poetry. He
and his crush have been
suspended from school for
speaking out against a racist
teacher. When his Spidey Sense
tingles, he's off to fight villains
that include book banners,
racists, and an evil genius known
as the Warden.

Sad/Hopeful Book



Half Moon Summer
by Elaine Vickers.

Drew and Mia met
once before—in the
hospital on the day
they were born.

Now 12, they're thrown together
for a summer that turns out to
be the most challenging of their
lives. For Drew, it's his dad's
terrible medical diagnosis. For
Mia, it's knowing that her family
is about to lose their home. Can
they find hope together? Told in
alternating perspectives.

Fantasy Adventure



Once There Was
by Kiyash Monsef.

When Marjan was
little, her father, a
veterinarian, told
her wonderful

Iranian folk stories about magical
creatures. Now she's 15, her
father has been mysteriously
murdered, and Marjan must take
over his vet practice. She learns
her father was no mere vet, and
she is no mere girl.

Camp Book



**From Night Owl to
Dogfish** by Holly
Goldberg Sloan &
Meg Wolitzer.

Avery
and Brett live in
different cities and

have basically nothing in
common—until their dads fall in
love and decide the girls should
meet by going to sleepaway
camp. Together. What could go
wrong? Written entirely in
emails and letters, this hilarious
book has lots of heart, lots of
drama, and lots of camp!

Sci-fi-ish Book



The Talent Thief by
Mike Thayer.

After
two meteors collide,
Tiffany is able to
take on other
people's talents. Can

she use her powers to save the
run-down planetarium where
her father works, get some
friends who aren't senior
citizens, and generally improve
her life? She's conflicted: Is it
right to take other people's
talents?



I like
bird
books.

Quick Picks, continued!

Family Mystery



Maizy Chen's Last Chance by Lisa Yee. Who wrote the racist note? How did Maizy's grandparents wind

up as the only Asians in Last Chance, Minnesota? And who are the people in the mysterious faded photographs on the wall of her grandparents' Chinese restaurant? Maizy, in town to help her sick grandfather, has all summer to track down answers.

A Little Romance



The Language of Seabirds by Will Taylor. It's the first summer after his parents' divorce, and 12-year-old

Jeremy is not excited about the prospect of a summer with his dad in a seaside cabin. But his first day on the beach he finds himself fascinated with a boy his age running by. Soon, they meet and friendship blooms into something neither boy is expecting...and also something for which both have been secretly hoping.

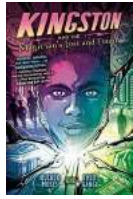
AI School Story



The Superteacher Project by Gordon Korman. Oliver is king of pranks at his school, but when he sends a spitball

hurtling toward his new teacher, the guy catches it in midair. Soon, Mr. Aidact is the most popular teacher at school—with both kids and adults. Is he too good to be true? Or rather, too good to be human? (Spoiler alert: Yes.)

Black Magic Book



Kingston and the Magician's Lost and Found by Rucker Moses and Theo Gangi. Kingston's father was one of

the world's greatest magicians—until a trick went wrong four years ago and he disappeared. Now 12, Kingston has moved to Brooklyn, the last place his father was seen alive. Come for the adventure, portals to other realms, and a son's quest to save his father. Stay for the cool info on the history of Black magicians.



Serious/True/Funny



Save the People by Stacy McNulty. A very jolly book about everything that has gone and might go wrong on earth—

from the mass extinction of the dinosaurs (as the text says, "Buh-bye!"), to an asteroid crashing into the planet (it could!), to a pandemic that's way worse than that last one, and, of course, climate change. But the message is about how we can work to save ourselves and fellow planet-dwellers.

Myths Alive!



Lei and the Fire Goddess by Malia Maunakea. Are those Hawaiian legends...real? On

her annual summer visit to the islands, Anna—who's begun to feel too Hawaiian to fit in at school yet too white to feel at home in Hawaii—picks a forbidden flower and tells her grandmother that her folk tales are just old stories. Soon, volcanoes start erupting and a giant hawk comes to kidnap her best friend. WHAT?

Righting a Wrong



What Happened to Rachel Riley? by Claire Swinarski. "I hope you learn

from everything in this box how Rachel Riley went from being the most popular girl to a Complete Social Outcast of the First Degree." A riveting story about sexual harassment in middle school told in texts, emails, and other artifacts—submitted by the narrator to her teacher for a class project called an "un-essay."

Novel-in-Verse

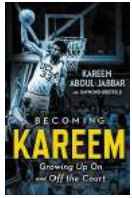


Mirror to Mirror by Rajani LaRocca. A story of identical twins, anxiety,

music, and healing. Fearing that they're growing apart, Maya and Chaya switch places. Can they find their way back to themselves by seeing through the eyes of the other?

The Final Quick Picks

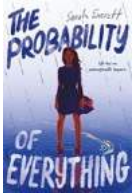
Sports Star Bio



Becoming Kareem: Growing Up On and Off the Court by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. One of the greatest basketball

players of all time—also a civil rights leader—tells the story of his life, and how he became the “kindest, gentlest, smartest, lovingest, version” of himself. Lots of hoops too!

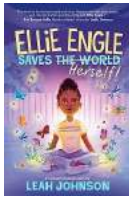
Sad and Surprising



The Probability of Everything by Sarah Everett. “Dear Reader, If you are reading this then chances are that our

world has ended.” If that first line intrigues you and you like reading VERY SAD books with plot twists, then this one's for you. There's an asteroid heading toward earth, and if we told you much more there would be spoilers.

Real World Fantasy



Ellie Engle Saves the World Herself by Leah Johnson. Ellie is just a regular comics-loving Black girl with a pet fish.

But things change radically one night when she's at her best friend's house (also maybe crush?) and there's an earthquake. Soon she discovers she has strange powers, including the ability to raise the dead (she brings her beloved fish back to life). Her first impulse is, KEEP IT SECRET. How can Ellie be her true self? Fun!



Historical Adventure



The Many Assassinations of Samir, the Seller of Dreams by Daniel Nayeri.

A thrice-orphaned servant boy traveling with a trading caravan along the Silk Road must repeatedly save his lovable hustler master from killers, as he tries to free himself.

New in Town

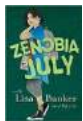


Finally Seen by Kelly Yang. From the author of the Front Desk series comes the story of Lina, whose parents and

baby sister moved to the U.S. from China when she was 5, leaving her with her grandmother. Now 10, she finally joins them. *Everything* is tough—but she starts to find her way thanks to a nice librarian ♥, a new friend, and books. Then, a book ban is threatened. Can Lina use her voice to help stop it?

Some More Great Fiction

...and it's all on Sora!



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.



Cisneros, Ernesto. **Falling Short**. Isaac and Marco are best friends—and opposites. Isaac is a star basketball player who's *not* into school; Marco is an ace chess player who loves to study. When a misunderstanding convinces the basketball team that Marco is a secret basketball talent, he and Isaac get to work to make that true—and to bring Isaac up to speed in school. Touching, fast-moving, funny!



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.



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*).



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 it.



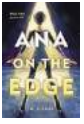
Marks, Janae. **From the Desk of Zoe Washington** and **On Air With Zoe Washington**. Zoe, a seventh grader, gets a letter from her father, who has been in jail for murder since before she was born. It turns out he may have been wrongly convicted and, despite her mother's objections, she sets out to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



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?



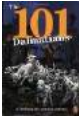
Saeed, Aisha. **Amal Unbound** and **Omar Rising**. Two books: The first is about **Amal**, who lives in a small Pakistani village where she loves school and dreams of being a teacher. When she has to quit school to stay home and help it seems things couldn't get worse. But, they do. She must leave her family and loses her very freedom. The second is about her friend **Omar**, who (being a boy) 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 sees her as a boy, and Ana starts wondering why figure skating has to be so much about gender, and questioning how to fit in.



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.

Need a Great Book Series? Here you go!

Fantasy



Keeper of the Lost Cities by Shannon Messenger. 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. **Series: Keeper of the Lost Cities, Exile, Everblaze, Neverseen, Lodestar, Nightfall, Flashback, Legacy, and Stellarlune.**

Sports



Home Team Series by Mike Lupica. Stories of four friends in the sports-crazed town of Walden. Each takes center stage in one book of series. Read them all and you'll get basketball, baseball, softball, and football. The emotions and the sports feel totally real. **Series: The Only Game, The Extra Yard, Point Guard, and Team Players.** (Our Sora copies are audiobooks.)

Murder Mystery



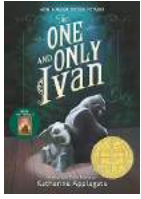
Wells & Wong Mysteries by Robin Stevens. Agatha Christie-style tales featuring two young detectives who are students at a boarding school in 1930s England. In the first book, the crime-obsessed duo sets up an agency only to find there are no crimes to solve—until their science teacher turns up DEAD. **First Four in the Series: Murder is Bad Manners, Poison is Not Polite, First Class Murder, and Jolly Foul Play.**

Food and ❤️❤️❤️



Wish: Foodie Fun Series by Suzanne Nelson and others. Enjoy sweet treats, friendship mixups, and first crushes in these books. (What if your family's bakery is having trouble and competition moves in across the street—and the child of the owners is really ... cute?) Bet you can't read just one! **Series: Cake Pop Crush, Macarons at Midnight, Shake it Off, I Only Have Pies for You, Pumpkin Spice Up Your Life, Pizza My Heart, and Sundae My Prince Will Come.**

Brilliant Animals



The One and Only Series by Katherine Applegate. A gorilla named Ivan, a dog named Bob, and a young elephant named Ruby. The three met at the Big Top Mall, where Ivan had lived in a glass box for 27 years, an attraction for

humans. Bob, a small stray, eked out an existence at the mall by day and slept with Ivan at night. When Ruby lost her mother, she was brought to learn circus tricks at the mall. Their unlikely friendship allowed them to move past difficult earlier lives. Each book of the series focuses on one of the three characters and deepens the friendship story. **Series: *The One and Only Ivan, The One and Only Bob, and the One and Only Ruby.***

Sisterhood is Powerful



Gaither Sisters Trilogy by Rita Williams-Garcia. 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. **Series: *One Crazy Summer, P.S. Be Eleven, and Gone Crazy in Alabama.***

FYI,
Aru Shah
is pretty
good.



And...more series to read *Whenever You Want*

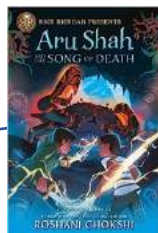
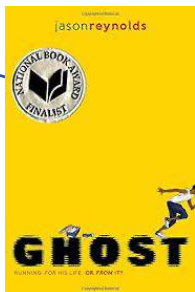
You probably know many of the great and famous series listed below, but have you read them all? **They're on Sora. Go read some NOW.**

The Percy Jackson Series by Rick Riordan • Track Series by Jason Reynolds
Spy School Series by Stuart Gibbs • His Dark Materials Series by Pullip Pullman

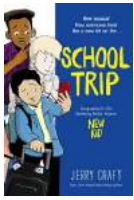
The Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling • Front Desk Series by Kelly Yang

A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket • Aru Shah Series by Roshani Chokshi
Wings of Fire by Tui T. Sutherland • The Books of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau • Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer • The Fudge Series by Judy Blume • The Vanderbeekers Series by Karina Yan Glaser

The Penderwicks Series by Jeanne Birdsall • Land of Stories Series by Chris Colfer



New Graphic Novels! All on Sora



School Trip by Jerry Craft. Yay! It's another book in the New Kid series. Here, Jordan and his friends (plus nemesis Andy) take a class trip to Paris. What is it like for the diverse group of kids to navigate the new city, and their relationships, in this intensely together experience?



A First Time for Everything by Dan Santat. Another class trip, this one a memoir. When Dan was in junior high he was a good kid who got bullied a lot, so when his parents and teacher basically force him to go on a school trip to Europe, he figures he'll just tolerate the pain. At first it's horrible as expected—but then the world starts to open for him. Eating fondue! Stealing a bike! Love?!



Out There by Seerra Miller. A road trip story! Julia's dad believes he was abducted by aliens a few years ago. Now he and Julia are hitting the road for Roswell, New Mexico (basically alien HQ) for a UFO festival. Julia's dad is fun and kind, but...she isn't sure what to believe. (Available June 27)



Barely Floating by Lilliam Rivera. Nat dreams of joining the Mermaids, an elite synchronized swimming team, but her parents tell her that her Latina heritage and her fat body type are wrong for the sport—that it's for thin white girls. They say she can't sign up. She does it anyway, in secret!

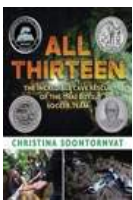


Tegan and Sara: Junior High by Tegan and Sara Quinn. Starting a new school, coming out, making music, making friends. The identical-twin indie pop stars your parents might remember deliver a super fun contemporary school story inspired by their junior high days in the 1990s.



Parachute Kids by Betty C. Tang. Ten-year-old Feng-Li is in Los Angeles for a visit with her parents and siblings when—next thing she knows—she finds out the parents are going home to Taiwan while the kids stay in the U.S. to go to school and live on their own. Learning English, confronting racism, making friends, figuring out how to cook—those are just some of their many challenges. Fun, thought-provoking, and inspired by the author's experiences

Breathtaking Nonfiction Both on Sora, of course.



All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team by Christina Soontornvat. The story of the dramatic 18-day rescue mission to save 12 young soccer players and their coach from the Cave of the Sleeping Lady after it flooded. They'd hiked in for a bit of adventure after a practice. Amazing storytelling interwoven with information about everything from Buddhism to hydraulics to the plight of stateless people in Thailand.



Unbreakable: The Spies Who Cracked the Nazis' Secret Code by Rebecca E. F. Barone. A riveting true spy story. At the height of World War II the Nazis had a code called Enigma that was allowing them to keep their military operations secret. The Allies NEEDED the key to that code. This is the incredibly suspenseful story of how English, French, and Polish spies and math geniuses figured it out—often at great risk to their lives. Their success is said to have shortened the war by three years. You couldn't invent a more exciting tale.

SORA FACTS: What You Need to Know

Sora is our digital library. Every book on this list is available through Sora in ebook or audiobook format, or both. **You can read ebooks** directly on a computer or you can download the Sora app to your device and read that way. You can also read on a Kindle or Kindle app. **You can listen to audiobooks** on a computer or the Sora app.

Read on for more info. Please use it a lot this summer!

It's easy and fun.

- **Getting There:** Access the Saint Ann's Digital library through Sora at <https://soraapp.com/library/saintannssny> <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 and have access to their collections.
- **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 summer reading list.
- **Checkouts and Returns:** You are allowed to have four titles checked out at a time and the checkout period is four weeks. You may return books on the app or website. If you don't return a book yourself, it will automatically return after four weeks.

Current and past summer reading lists can be found online at:

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

Have a wonderful summer!

Love,

Your Librarians

Denise, Ragan, and B Mann



Hey. What are you going to read first?

Me? First, I'll read one of the sad books.



Then I'll read *Spy School*. It cheers me.



And me. Don't forget me.

