

Saint Ann's Library

2021 Suggested Summer Reading List

for students entering 7th & 8th grades



Check out e-books all summer! See instructions on the last page of this list. If a book is available through our digital library (as an e-book or audiobook), its title is shaded.

FICTION:



Abtahi, Olivia. **Perfectly Parvin**

Ninth grade is about to start, and Parvin has just had her first kiss. But when her new boyfriend dumps her, she launches a plan to make him jealous. With characters who are Iranian, Mexican, Korean, gay, pan, bi, and more, this is not your run-of-the-mill white-bread girl-meets-boy story. Super fun!



Adeyemi, Tomi. **Children of Blood and Bone**

The king of Orïsha has banned magic and killed Zélie's Reaper mother. Now Zélie has one last chance to defeat the crown prince, who wants to obliterate magic. Full of friendship, love, betrayal, and a strong sense of justice, this epic fantasy is not to be missed. Sequel: *Children of Virtue and Vengeance*.



Anderson, M.T. & Eugene Yelchin. **The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge**

What happens when an elfin historian and a goblin archivist meet for the first time after more than a century of war between the two communities? Told from both perspectives (one in words, one in pictures, and one decidedly more biased than the other), this is a hilarious story about who gets to write history and how we all just might be more similar than we think.



Callender, Kacen. **King and The Dragonflies**

In rural Louisiana, King's brother Khalid warned him to stop hanging out with a gay friend just before Khalid tragically passed away. But King believes Khalid isn't dead, he has simply shed his skin and become a dragonfly. Meanwhile, King's friend is in trouble, and as King helps him, he discovers more about himself.



Chee, Traci. **We Are Not Free**

Imagine living your whole life in one neighborhood, and then suddenly being told you don't belong and shipped off to a desert hundreds of miles away. From Japantown, San Francisco to Topaz incarceration camp and beyond, this is the gripping story of fourteen teenagers—told in fourteen voices—whose lives intertwine before, during, and after World War Two.



Colbert, Brandy. **The Voting Booth**

Marva is a teenage activist excited to vote in her first election. When she sees Duke turned away from the polls, she takes action. Politics and romance come together in this book that covers one epic day in the life of the characters and the country. Perfect for fans of *The Sun Is Also a Star*.



Edwardson, Debby Dahl. **My Name Is Not Easy**

Alaska, 1960s. Luke and his brother are sent south from their Inupiaq (Eskimo) community to a boarding school with Eskimos, Indians, and a handful of white kids. The novel follows the students through several years as they experience racism and learn to come together.



Emezi, Akwaeke. **Pet**

Jam lives in a town where angels have defeated—and erased all memory of—monsters. But when her mother’s painting comes alive and tells her there’s a monster in her friend Redemption’s house, everything changes. A unique tale of good and evil and restorative justice.



Faizal, Hafsa. **We Hunt the Flame**

In an ancient Arabian setting, Zafira hunts to feed her people, hiding the fact that she is a woman. Magic is long gone, and misogyny is rampant. When she is offered a chance to bring back the magic of the ancients, she jumps at the chance. Nasir, the son of the Sultan, is tasked with stopping her at all costs. Sequel: *We Free the Stars*.



Fukuda, Andrew. **This Light Between Us**

The year is 1935. When Alex’s teacher assigns him a French pen pal, he’s disappointed to find out that Charlie is a girl. But over the years, the two become close, each writing about the discrimination their families face (Alex is Japanese American and Charlie is Jewish) and much more. The story takes us to Manzanar internment camp, Auschwitz concentration camp, and the battlefields of Europe, where Alex has enlisted in the army to help fight Nazis...and to find Charlie.



Gregorio, I. W. **This Is My Brain in Love**

Jocelyn Wu has a plan to save her family’s soon-to-go-out-of-business Chinese restaurant. With her father’s reluctant approval, she decides to hire a summer intern to help out at the restaurant and increase its online presence. Enter William Domenici, the son of a Nigerian doctor and an Italian lawyer. This is a heartwarming foodie rom-com that grapples with issues of race, mental health, and the challenges American teens born to immigrant families face.



Higuera, Donna Barbra. **Lupe Wong Won't Dance**

Lupe plans to be the first female pitcher in the Major Leagues. But first, she has to get through seventh grade gym class—specifically, the square dancing unit. If she gets straight As, she gets to meet her favorite pitcher, who is Chinacan/Mexinese just like her. Funny and relatable.



Hitchcock, Bonnie-Sue. **The Smell of Other People's Houses**

Ruth, Dora, Alyce, and Hank. They are dancers, fisherpeople, survivors, kids on the run. They are Athabascan, Inupiat, and white. Set in 1970 Alaska, this stunning novel weaves together the remarkable stories of four teens whose lives touch each other in the most unexpected ways.



Johnson, Leah. **You Should See Me in a Crown**

Liz is determined to get out of her small midwestern town and go to college. As one of the few Black girls in town, Liz tries not to call attention to herself. But when she finds out the prom king and queen can win a college scholarship she decides to go for it. The only thing is—the new girl, Mack, who Liz happens to have a crush on—has the same idea.



Kenwood, Nina. **It Sounded Better in My Head**

Natalie is about to leave for college when her parents tell her they are getting divorced. She is completely shocked; they don't even fight! Meanwhile, her two best friends start hooking up and she feels left out, awkward, and unlovable...until romance comes her way. Takes place in Australia.



Khorram, Adib. **Darius the Great Is Not Okay**

Darius speaks too much Klingon to fit in at his high school in Oregon, and not enough Farsi to fit in with the Iranian side of his family. But when his family goes to Iran to visit his dying grandfather, Darius meets the boy next door, and can finally be his full self. Sequel: *Darius the Great Deserves Better*.



Kritzer, Naomi. **Catfishing on CatNet**

Steph and her mom never stay in one place for long; it's too risky, with Steph's abusive father always potentially on their tail. Steph's most lasting relationships are on CatNet, a place to share cat pictures and much more. Alternately narrated by Steph and a sentient AI, this fun and heartfelt thriller explores power, personhood, technology, and identity without being preachy.

It's a book full of nerdy queer and queer-adjacent characters, a book you won't be able to put down. Sequel: *Chaos on CatNet*.



Lee, Stacey. **The Downstairs Girl**

Jo Kuan is a Chinese American maid for an important white family in 1890s Atlanta. She is also “Miss Sweetie,” author of the newspaper’s hottest advice column. When Miss Sweetie starts to subtly tackle racism and sexism, the backlash is intense, and she’s not sure she can keep her identity hidden anymore. As people come closer to discovering who she is, she comes closer to secrets about her own family’s past.



Mafi, Tahereh. **A Very Large Expanse of Sea**

The year 2002 is not a good year to be Muslim in America. Sixteen-year-old Shirin does her best to ignore the constant taunts and attacks, closing herself off to the world in the process. But when she meets Ocean James, she just may have a chance to open up again.



Moon, Sarah. **Middletown**

Eli and her older sister Anna have always been close, but when their mom ends up in rehab, they must rely on each other even more—and not get caught living alone. Can Eli trust her friends Javi and Meena? Can Meena become more than a friend? You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll root for the characters. Oh, and it's written by Saint Ann's very own Sarah Moon!



Morris, Brittney. **Slay**

Seventeen-year-old Kiera is a gamer who develops a game called Slay. The game is meant to be a safe space for Black gamers—but then someone gets killed in a related incident and things fall apart.



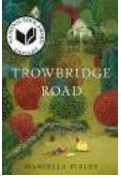
Nayeri, Daniel. **Everything Sad is Untrue**

Khosrou/Daniel stands in front of a hostile middle school classroom in Oklahoma and begins to tell tales of Iran. An escape from secret police, a refugee camp in Italy, a toilet disaster in Oklahoma...As the story gets wilder and wilder, one may wonder: Are these true stories of his family? Ancient Persian folklore? A little of both? An epic autobiographical novel.



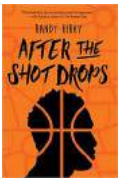
Picoult, Jodi. **My Sister's Keeper**

Engineered to be a perfect genetic match for her older sister Kate, who was dying of leukemia, Anna began her life by donating stem cells from her umbilical cord. Each time Kate relapsed, Anna donated; first platelets, then bone marrow. At age 13, Anna has had enough, and sues for medical emancipation from her parents. Who's right? Anna? Her parents?



Pixley, Marcella. **Trowbridge Road**

It is 1983, and June Bug's father has recently died of AIDS and her mother has become so afraid of germs that she bathes June Bug in bleach. When Ziggy comes to town after his own family tragedy, the two kids create a fantasy world to escape their difficult realities.



Ribay, Randy. **After the Shot Drops**

When Nasir's best friend Bunny is recruited to a mostly-white private school to play basketball, Nasir starts to hang out with his cousin Wallace—a dangerous decision. Told through both Nasir's and Bunny's perspectives, this is a fast-paced book about friendship and compassion and everything that can go wrong when winning and losing become more important than how you play the game.



Savit, Gavriel. **The Way Back**

Two teens set out from their shtetl on a journey through the Far Country to try to defeat Death. Rabbis, ghosts, and demons find their way into this fantastical story based on Yiddish folklore. A dark fairy tale, but with a nice dose of humor as well.



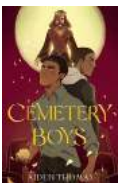
Smith, Cynthia Leitich. **Hearts Unbroken**

Louise Wolfe, who is Muscogee, dumps her boyfriend after he insults Native people. She turns her attention to the school newspaper. The story she is asked to cover is about the backlash provoked by the director of the school musical's inclusive casting of The Wizard of Oz. It seems that dating while Native is not the only challenge—add acting while Native to the list.



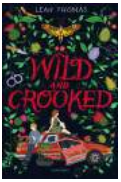
Suk, Sarah. **Made in Korea**

Looking for something a little lighter? Two Korean American teens (Valerie and Wes) sell beauty products out of their lockers at school. They are business rivals, and naturally they can't stand each other...or can they?



Thomas, Aiden. **Cemetery Boys**

Yadriel is trans, and feels left out of a very gendered family lineage of magic and healing. Becoming a brujo in secret, Yadriel sets out to prove his worth by uncovering more about his cousin's death. But when he accidentally summons another spirit, mystery and romance ensue.



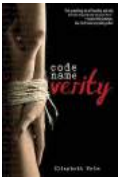
Thomas, Leah. **Wild and Crooked**

Kalyn Spence prides herself on her toughness, but when she returns to her dad’s hometown and starts school, she uses a pseudonym. Kalyn’s dad, after all, is in jail for murder. Gus is known for two things, his cerebral palsy and the fact that his dad was murdered before he was born. Worlds collide in this delightfully offbeat, poignant novel.



Watson, Renée & Ellen Hagan. **Watch Us Rise**

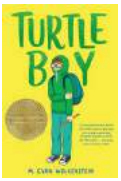
Best friends Chelsea (white) and Jasmine (Black) tackle feminism, racism, body-shaming and more at their progressive NYC high school. An inspiring story of friendship and activism featuring teenage girls who demand to be taken seriously.



Wein, Elizabeth. **Code Name Verity**

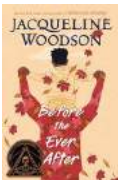
“Verity” is a secret agent, captured by the Gestapo and forced to write out a confession. Hoping to gain more time, she describes her involvement in the resistance with great detail. But what is true and what isn’t? Where is her friend Maddie, and what else is happening while she sits in prison? A clever and thrilling read with a shocking end. Sequel: *Rose Under Fire*. Prequel

(written last): *The Pearl Thief*.



Wolkenstein, M. Evan. **Turtle Boy**

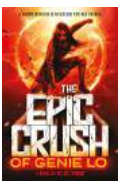
Will Levine has a rare medical condition that causes a receding chin, and the kids at school call him Turtle Boy as a result. He does actually love turtles and would rather hang out with them than prepare for his bar mitzvah, but when he meets dying teen RJ, he realizes he needs to do the things RJ wishes he could do, which are way out of his comfort zone. A story of friendship and self-discovery.



Woodson, Jacqueline. **Before the Ever After**

ZJ’s dad is a famous football player. When he starts acting strange, ZJ doesn’t know what’s going on. It is the early 2000s, just when people are starting to connect the dots about the large number of football players with traumatic brain injury symptoms. This is a short novel written in verse about a thoughtful kid navigating his new reality and his relationship with his ailing

father.



Yee, F.C. **The Epic Crush of Genie Lo**

Genie Lo is just trying to get into college. Her plans get derailed when a new kid at school tells her he’s the Monkey King and she is the human reincarnation of his weapon, the Ruyi Jingu Bang. Genie needs to study up on her Chinese mythology because it turns out it’s up to her to save the world from demons. Hilarious and fun.



Yoon, Nicola. **The Sun is Also a Star**

Natasha believes in science. Daniel believes in destiny. It makes no sense for the two NYC teens to fall in love, especially not the day before Natasha’s family is going to be deported to Jamaica. But the universe doesn’t always make sense. Read the book, then watch the movie!



GRAPHIC (FICTION & NONFICTION)



Craft, Jerry. **Class Act**

Drew is in eighth grade, and as a Black student, he's always had to work harder than everyone else to get the respect he deserves from both fellow students and teachers. His two closest friends, Jordan and Liam, get him in some ways and not in others. Can they all stay friends and get through the end of middle school together? A companion to *New Kid*.



Ha, Robin. **Almost American Girl**

Robin lives in Seoul, Korea with her single mom. After a vacation to Alabama, Robin learns that her mom is getting married and they are moving. She must deal with a new school, a new language, and a new family. Only comics can keep her going. A memoir.



Hughes, Kiku. **Displacement**

Kiku is on vacation in San Francisco when a fog surrounds her and transports her back in time to a WWII-era Japanese internment camp. As she experiences the suffering and resistance of generations ago, she makes parallels to the more recent Muslim ban and jailing of children on the US-Mexico border. While the story is not exactly true (time travel and all), it does draw on the author's own family history.



Jamieson, Victoria and Omar Mohamed. **When Stars Are Scattered**

Omar and his brother Hassan have fled Somalia and are living in a refugee camp in Kenya. Taken in by a woman named Fatuma, they still miss their own mother and hold out hope of seeing her again. Omar may have an opportunity to go to school, but can he leave his disabled brother behind? Beautiful graphic novel memoir—it's also a full-cast audiobook, if you want to experience it that way!



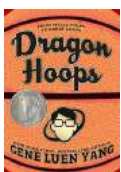
Tamaki, Jillian and Mariko. **This One Summer**

Rose and Windy have spent summers together every year at Awago Beach, but things are different now. Rose is dealing with issues beyond her control—parents arguing, a local teen pregnancy—and she and Windy are drifting apart. This one-of-a-kind realistic graphic novel perfectly captures a particular moment in the growing-up process.



Walden, Tillie. **On a Sunbeam**

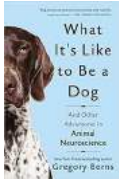
Mia falls in love with Grace at boarding school. Five years later she's repairing structures throughout the galaxy. The timelines interweave as the diverse crew of queer and nonbinary folks explores space, love, loss, and their own chosen family. An epic sci-fi romance.



Yang, Gene Luen. **Dragon Hoops**

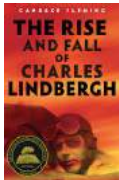
You might know Yang's other books, like *American Born Chinese* and *Boxers & Saints*. But did you know this graphic novelist taught math at a high school with an amazing basketball team? He always cared more about comics than sports, but the incredible athletes at his school made him want to pay more attention—and write a book about it. This is that book. True story.

NONFICTION:



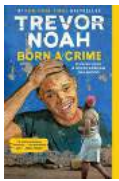
Berns, Gregory. **What It's Like to Be a Dog: And Other Adventures in Animal Neuroscience**

Want to get in the mind of a dog, an ape, a sea lion, or a bat? This book does just that, starting with training a dog to voluntarily enter an MRI scanner in order to observe the dog's thoughts and feelings. The results are fascinating.



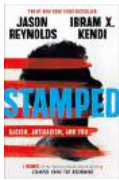
Fleming, Candace. **The Rise and Fall of Charles Lindbergh**

Charles Lindbergh was the first person to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. He was also a parent whose baby was kidnapped and murdered. He was also a Nazi sympathizer. This incredible biography shows all sides of the man: the good, the bad, the ugly.



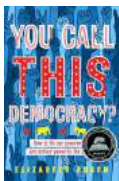
Noah, Trevor. **Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood**

Born in South Africa in 1984 to a black Xhosa mother and a white Swiss father, Trevor Noah was breaking the law just by existing. Trevor's mother was his fierce protector, ensuring that her troublemaking son would survive apartheid. From the host of *The Daily Show* comes this memoir that is honest, inspiring, and, of course, funny. Read the original adult version or the adapted kids' version.



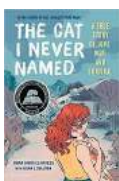
Reynolds, Jason and Ibram X. Kendi. **Stamped**

The authors claim this isn't a history book, but they do a damn good job of delving through the history of racist ideas. With Kendi's ideas about separation, assimilation, and anti-racism, and Reynold's well-known ability to write relatable page-turners, you can't go wrong. This is a "remix" (for teens) of *Stamped from the Beginning*.



Rusch, Elizabeth. **You Call This Democracy?: How to Fix Our Government and Deliver Power to the People**

Want to understand more about how our democracy works (and doesn't)? This is both a great primer on our political system and a call to action, with some very real concrete steps for anyone and everyone to get involved and be the change you want to see.



Sabec-El-Rayess, Amra and Laura Sullivan. **The Cat I Never Named**

Amra was sixteen when the war started in Bosnia. Her Serbian friends fled, and her Muslim family and other Muslim and Catholic friends were left to experience the horrors of war. When a stray cat found its way to Amra, it brought the family some hope, and maybe even a few miracles. A heartfelt and devastating memoir.



Saedi, Sara. **Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card**

When Sara's older sister applies for a job and finds out she has no social security number, Sara discovers that their family is undocumented. Now she has to worry not only about finding a boyfriend and keeping her unbrow under check, but about the possibility of being deported to Iran, where she hasn't lived since she was two years old. A poignant and hilarious memoir with some mature themes.



Soontornvat, Christina. **All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team** In June 2018, twelve boys and their coach went into a cave for an afternoon adventure. They thought the rainy season was still a few weeks off; they were wrong. Over the course of the next days and weeks, the world watched the international rescue effort grow, but would the boys survive? This book is full of jaw-dropping unbelievable-if-it-weren't-true details of the rescue, along with the cultural and political context of Thailand and its many amazing behind-the-scenes heroes. Whether you already know what's going to happen or not, you will be on the edge of your seat!



Tolan, Sandy. **The Lemon Tree** A single lemon tree outside a small stone house in Ramle, Israel (formerly Al-Ramle, Palestine), holds different meaning for Dalia, who lives there now, and Bashir, whose family lived there before 1948. This true account reads like a novel as it chronicles the relationship between an Israeli and a Palestinian family across decades.

Looking for a SERIES to keep you reading all summer? Try one of these!

Bradley, Alan. **Flavia de Luce**. Books: *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*, *The Weed that Strings the Hangman's Bag*, *A Red Herring Without Mustard*, *I Am Half-Sick of Shadows*, *Speaking from Among the Bones*, *The Dead in Their Vaulted Arches*, *As Chimney Sweepers Come to Dust*, *Thrice the Brinded Cat Hath Mew'd*, *The Grave's a Fine and Private Place*, *The Golden Tresses of the Dead*. Total number of pages: 3,726.

Cashore, Kristin. **The Graceling Realm**. Books: *Graceling*, *Fire*, *Bitterblue*, *Winterkeep*. Total number of pages: 2,160.

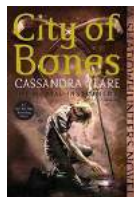
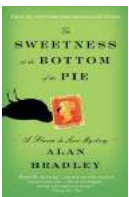
Clare, Cassandra. **Mortal Instruments**. Books: *City of Bones*, *City of Ashes*, *City of Glass*, *City of Fallen Angels*, *City of Lost Souls*, *City of Heavenly Fire*. Total number of pages: 3,217.

Lewis, John, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell. **March**. Books: *March 1-3*. Total number of pages: 577.

Menon, Sandhya. **Dimple and Rishi**. Books: *When Dimple Met Rishi*, *There's Something about Sweetie*, *10 Things I Hate about Pinky*. Total number of pages: 1,136.

Reynolds, Jason. **Track**. Books: *Ghost*, *Patina*, *Sunny*, *Lu*. Total number of pages: 896.

Tahir, Sabaa. **An Ember in the Ashes**. Books: *An Ember in the Ashes*, *A Torch Against the Night*, *Reaper at the Gates*, *A Sky Beyond the Storm*. Total number of pages: 1,960.



Saint Ann's Digital Library: What You Need To Know

Remember, students can check out e-books from our digital library all summer long. Google the phrase "Saint Ann's Digital Library" or use the link below. You can read books in your browser or through these apps: Kindle, Overdrive, Sora.

Logging In: Students need a library card number and PIN to check out books. Look for an email from library@saintannsny.org with yours.

Your library card number is simply your student ID number with an "s" in front. For example, if your student ID number is 18840, your library card number is s18840.

Your PIN is your first and last initials, lower case, followed by the same ID number. So, if your name is Eleanor Roosevelt and your library card number is s18840, your PIN is er18840. Got it, Eleanor? Now, go read some books!

We hope you have a fabulous summer!

Love,

Your Librarians

(Hannah, Denise, & Ragan)

To access the Saint Ann's Digital Library:

<http://saintannsny.lib.overdrive.com/>

Current and past booklists can be found at:

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

