

Saint Ann's Library 2020 Suggested Summer Reading List for students entering 7th & 8th grades

Check out e-books all summer long!

See instructions on the last page of this list.

If a book is available through our digital library, its title is shaded.



Adeyemi, Tomi. **Children of Virtue and Vengeance**. Magic has returned to Orïsha thanks to Zélie and Amari. But not only have the magical powers of the magi been restored, so, too, have the powers of the nobles who join forces with the military. Civil war is on the horizon. This is the sequel to *Children of Blood and Bone*—start with that one first if you are new to the story.



Collins, Suzanne. **The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes**. Yes—there is another book in the Hunger Games series! This is a prequel featuring an 18-year-old Coriolanus Snow. This is all about the early days of the games; it was very different.



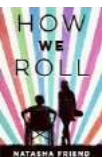
Dionne, Evette. **Lifting as we Climb: Black Women's Battle for the Ballot Box**. The history of the suffrage movement in the United States is largely told as a battle fought by white women. Where were the Black women? They were there all right, but their stories and their battles have been left out in the retelling. Read this more complete history.



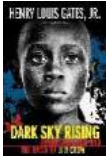
Easton, T.S. **Boys Don't Knit**. Ben gets in some trouble with a crossing guard and is forced to take a knitting class (better than an auto mechanics class in his opinion). Turns out he's good at it. But it's not exactly something he wants to make public. Totally hilarious.



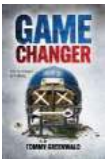
Flowers, Ebony. **Hot Comb**. (graphic novel) Black women's hair is the common thread in this collection of coming-of-age stories that grapple with issues of race, class, and identity.



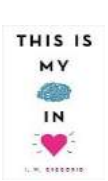
Friend, Natasha. **How We Roll**. Quinn is moving across the country—something she's not unhappy about because her friends in her old town abandoned her when she developed alopecia. In her new town no one has to know she's bald. Quinn meets some new kids, one of whom is Nick who uses a wheelchair. Maybe it's okay if they do know.



Gates, Henry Louis, Jr. with Tonya Bolden. ***Dark Sky Rising: Reconstruction and the Dawn of Jim Crow.*** (nonfiction) Do you want to know more about what happened at the end of the Civil War? Are you looking for more information about Reconstruction and Jim Crow Laws? This is your book.



Greenwald, Tommy. ***Game Changer.*** When 13-year-old football player Teddy ends up in a coma, the whole town becomes embroiled in a debate about violence in sports. Through conversations, newspaper articles, social media, and Teddy's own comatose thoughts, we start to learn what really happened on the field that day.



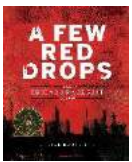
Gregorio, I.M. ***This is My Brain in Love.*** Jocelyn Wu has a plan to save her family's soon-to-go-out-of-business Chinese restaurant. With her father's reluctant approval, she decides to hire a summer intern to help out at the restaurant and increase its online presence. Enter William Domenici, the 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.



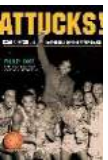
Grey, Melissa. ***Rated.*** Everyone is given a rating between 1 and 100; futures are determined by how high one's rating is. At Maplethorpe Academy, ratings are public and constantly updated for everyone to see. But then the doors of the academy are vandalized, and the whole system is upended.



Ha, Robin. ***Almost American Girl.*** (graphic novel) 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. Robin must deal with a new school, a new language, and a new family. Things are pretty bad until she discovers comics.



Hartfield, Claire. ***A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riot of 1919.*** (nonfiction) About a hundred years ago, racial tensions in Chicago were already high when a white man stoned a Black teenager to death when he swam too close to the white beach of Lake Michigan. Days of violence ensued, leaving 38 people (Black and white) dead and hundreds wounded. This is the true story of that time, with personal narratives, historical detail, and photographs.



Hoose, Phillip. ***Attucks!: Oscar Robertson and the Basketball Team that Awakened a City.*** (nonfiction) When Oscar Robertson led his Black high school's basketball team to two state championships, it not only destroyed the myth of white superiority, but it helped spark integration in the state of Indiana.



Johnson, Lana Wood. ***Technically You Started It.*** Hayley thinks she's texting with the nice Martin Nathaniel Munroe II, but, in fact, it's his not-so-nice cousin with the same name. Will they figure it out before disaster strikes? BTW, this light-hearted charmer is written all in text messages.



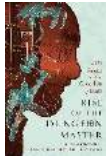
Kemmerer, Brigid. ***A Curse so Dark and Lonely.*** Every season Prince Rhen turns into a monster and terrorizes his people. The curse can be broken if someone falls in love with him. Rhen sends Commander Grey to search for a candidate and Harper finds herself transported to their parallel universe. Cerebral palsy held Harper back in her world, but not in Emberfall. This is a twist on the classic beauty and the beast story. If you like it, read the sequel: ***A Heart so Fierce and Broken.***



Krosoczka, Jarrett. **Hey, Kiddo.** (graphic novel) Jarrett’s mother is an opioid addict; his father is not in the picture. He lives with his grandparents, who love him in their own imperfect way. This honest graphic memoir underscores how complicated life is and how kids are able to cope with so much more than they should have to.



Kuhn, Sarah. **I Love You So Mochi.** Kimi is fighting with her mom. She’s going to art school next year, but much to her mother’s dismay, she wants to focus on her unique fashion creations and not painting. When Kimi gets invited by her estranged grandparents to spend spring break in Kyoto, she jumps on the opportunity. Romance and self-discovery ensue.



Kushner, David. **Rise of the Dungeon Master: Gary Gygax and the Creation of D&D.** (graphic novel) Gary Gygax was the co-creator of Dungeons & Dragons and this is the story of his life and the creation of the well-known game. The reader (you) gets to participate in the action as you take on the roles of different characters in the story—just like the game.



Lu, Marie. **Rebel.** There is a new book in the Legend series! If you’ve read the first three in the series, read this latest to find out what happens with June and Day. If you haven’t read any of them, start with *Legend*, then continue with *Prodigy* and *Champion*. Expect adventure with a large dose of class warfare, a dystopian world setting, romance, and gaming.



McLemore, Anna-Marie. **Blanca & Roja.** Blanca and Roja Cisne are sisters and rivals. Not only are they complete opposites, they also must contend with a spell that will one day allow one of them to go free and the other to be trapped in the body of a swan.



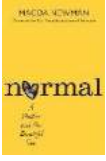
Medina, Tony. Illustrated by Stacey Robinson & John Jennings. **I Am Alfonso Jones.** (graphic novel) Fifteen-year-old Hamlet-loving actor Alfonso Jones is shopping with his crush when a white off-duty police officer mistakes a coat hanger for a gun and shoots him. We meet Alfonso in the afterlife, where he is guided by other victims of police brutality. The pain is palpable as we watch both Alfonso and his surviving family members grieve and fight for justice.



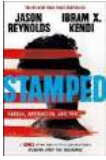
Menon, Sandhya. **There’s Something about Sweetie.** Ashish Patel got dumped. His mother decides to set him up with Sweetie Nair, a fellow Indian American. He’s got nothing to lose so he agrees. Sweetie is a track star, a great singer, and too fat to date Ash, according to her own mother. The two decide to meet in secret. Can you guess what happens? Don’t miss Menon’s earlier novel, *When Dimple Met Rishi*, featuring a different Patel brother.



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.



Newman, Magdalena and Nathaniel Newman. **Normal: One Kid's Extraordinary Journey.** (memoir) Nathaniel went swimming “normally” for the first time when he was thirteen (meaning he could put his head under the water and not worry about water flooding his trach tube and inhibiting his ability to breathe). Nathaniel was born with Treacher Collins Syndrome and needed a tracheostomy to breathe since he was a newborn. (BTW: Nathaniel was Palacio’s inspiration for the character of Auggie in the book *Wonder*.) This is the story of the yearlong process (which included a massive surgery) that enabled him to breathe without a trach.



Reynolds, Jason and Ibram X. Kendi. **Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You.** (nonfiction) Kendi wrote an important 600-page book in 2016 called *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*. In this remix of the award-winning book, Reynolds makes it accessible for everyone.



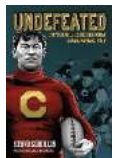
Rich, Kaelyn and Giulia Sagromola (illustrator). **Girls Resist!: A Guide to Activism, Leadership, and Starting a Revolution.** (nonfiction) Your guide to activism, social, justice, and reform.



Sandler, Martin W. **1919: The Year that Changed America.** (nonfiction) Sometimes history is hard to believe. Did you know there was a molasses flood in 1919? World War I had just ended, there was a pandemic, rampant racism, prohibition, and the women’s suffrage movement—to name just a few things going on. Winner of the 2019 National Book Award for Young People’s Literature.



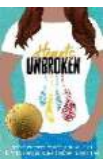
Sfar, Joann. **The Rabbi's Cat.** (graphic novel) In 1930s Algeria, a rabbi’s cat eats a parrot and gains the ability to talk. Unfortunately for the rabbi, the cat has a highly developed wit, enjoys theological debates, and insists on having a bar mitzvah. Meanwhile, a young rabbi from Paris courts the rabbi’s daughter, and the story takes us on an adventure through a time when Jewish, Arab, and French people mixed and the region was not yet embroiled in war.



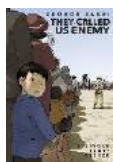
Sheinkin, Steve. **Undeclared: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team.** (nonfiction) The odds were stacked against Jim Thorpe. Sent to a school designed to erase his Native American culture, Thorpe joined a football team that challenged—and often defeated—some of the best schools of the day. He went on to win two Olympic gold medals and has often been called “the world’s greatest athlete.”



Shusterman, Neil and Jarrod Shusterman. **Dry.** A dystopian thriller that rings true. Due to climate change, poor planning, and corrupt politics, California has run out of water. The situation is dangerous. When Alyssa’s parents leave to hunt for water and don’t return, it is up to her to figure out how she and her brother are going to survive. Warning: This book will make you thirsty.



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.



Takei, George. (with Justin Eisinger, Steven Scott, and Harmony Becker) ***They Called us the Enemy.*** (graphic novel) This is the story of when George Takei (he played Hikaru Sulu on Star Trek and is also an activist for social justice) and his family were imprisoned in an internment camp in the United States during World War II because of their Japanese heritage. Beautiful illustrations.



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: Rose Poplawski. Kalyn's dad, after all, is in jail for murdering the town's golden boy 17 years earlier. 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.



Walden, Tillie. ***On a Sunbeam.*** (graphic novel) Mia is part of a team of restorers tasked with traveling throughout space to repair old relics. All the restorers on board have a past, but Mia's includes Grace. A compelling combination of space travel and romance.

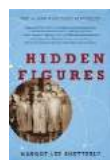


Yee, F.C. ***The Epic Crush of Genie Lo.*** Genie Lo is just trying to get into college. Her plans get derailed when a new kid at school tells her he's the Monkey King and she is the human reincarnation of his weapon, the Ruyi Jingu Bang. Genie needs to study up on her Chinese mythology because it turns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



Zoboi, Ibi (editor). ***Black Enough: Stories of Being Young & Black in America.*** Zoboi invited sixteen Black authors, "to write about teens examining, rebelling against, embracing, or simply existing within their own idea of Blackness." Don't miss Jason Reynolds' story about three boys walking home from the community pool or Renée Watson's story about two girls at camp.

Books to Movies



Lee Shetterly, Margot. ***Hidden Figures.*** (nonfiction) We know about the white men who first orbited the earth and walked on the moon, but what about the Black women who helped them get there? Read about four African American women who worked as human computers during the height of the space race. Read the original or the young reader's edition. (Watch the 2016 movie starring Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer, and Janelle Monáe.)

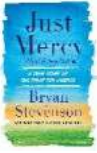


Murphy, Julie. ***Dumplin'.*** For Willowdean, a bikini-ready body is a body with a bikini on it. Yes, she's comfortable in her own skin. But when she meets perfect Bo, her confidence starts to waver. Is she actually going to enter the Miss Teen Blue Bonnet Pageant? Read and find out. (Watch the 2018 Netflix movie starring Jennifer Aniston.)



Skloot, Rebecca. ***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks.*** (nonfiction) The story of Henrietta Lacks and her cervical cancer cells. Extracted from her tumor without her knowledge or consent, these cells gave rise to one of the most important cell lines, known as HeLa, ever grown. Not only have they been instrumental in countless scientific breakthroughs, but a multi-billion-dollar industry emerged based on

the sale of these cells to labs around the world. But who was Henrietta Lacks? (Watch the 2017 HBO movie starring Oprah Winfrey.)

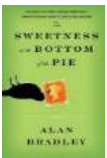


Stevenson, Bryan. **Just Mercy: A True Story of the Fight for Justice.** (nonfiction) At age 23, Stevenson joined a pro bono legal defense team fighting a death penalty case in Georgia. Since then, he has fought dozens of similar cases, and today runs the Equal Justice Initiative, which opened a museum and memorial honoring the legacy of Black people from slavery to lynching to segregation to mass incarceration. Stevenson illuminates a national crisis and calls on us all to work for justice. This is the YA adaptation of Stevenson's *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. (Watch the 2019 movie starring Michael B. Jordan, Jaime Foxx, and Brie Larson and the HBO documentary called *True Justice*.)



Walls, Jeannette. **The Glass Castle.** (memoir) Walls had an unusual childhood. Dysfunctional yet brilliant, her parents encouraged their four children to "fly under the radar" to avoid attracting attention to their bizarre lifestyle. Virtual nomads, they often did the "skedaddle" rather than pay rent or deal with authority. Amazing story. (Watch the 2017 movie with Brie Larson)

Series



Bradley, Alan. **Flavia de Luce.** Flavia is an eleven-year-old eccentric science prodigy with a penchant for poison, who lives in an ancient English country house. Fearless and unflappable, she pursues clues and solves crimes. Totally fun. Series: *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*, *The Curious Case of the Copper Corpse*, and *As Chimney Sweepers Come to Dust*.



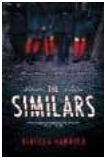
Cashore, Kristin. **Graceling.** Katsa's grace is killing, and her uncle, King Randa, forces her to do his bidding. But at 17, Katsa starts to question her uncle's orders. When she meets Prince Po, a graced fighter, she begins to discover truths about herself, her grace, and her kingdom, as she sets out on a path toward justice...and maybe love. Series: *Graceling*, *Fire*, *Bitterblue*.



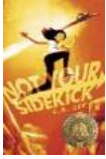
Chupeco, Rin. **The Bone Witch.** It turns out that Tea is a different kind of witch than other members of her family—she can raise the dead (something she finds out at her brother's funeral). She and her brother travel to faraway lands to teach her to harness her new powers, but dark forces are rising. For fantasy fans. Series: *The Bone Witch*, *The Heart Forger*, *The Shadow Glass*.



Faizal, Hafsa. **Sands of Arawiya.** 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. Series: *We Hunt the Flame*, *We Free the Stars*.



Hanover, Rebecca. **The Similar**. Emma goes to a boarding school in Vermont. Six human clones show up—one of them has the face of her best friend, Oliver, who just died over the summer. What is happening? Series: *The Similar*, *The Pretenders*.



Lee, C.B. **Sidekick Squad**. Jessica’s parents are local superheroes, but at seventeen, she has yet to develop any powers of her own. But it might take superpowers not to act a fool working alongside her crush, Abby, at a summer internship. Oh, and that summer internship? It’s for the town’s supervillain, her parents’ nemesis. Series: *Not Your Sidekick*, *Not Your Villain*, *Not Your Backup*.



Lewis, John, Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell. **March**. (graphic memoir) Beginning with his childhood as the son of Alabama sharecroppers, John Lewis tells the extraordinary story of his life and the work he did during the civil rights era. Learn about sits-in, freedom rides, the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, the Freedom Summer murders, and the Selma to Montgomery marches. It’s all here. (Volumes 1-3)



Maas, Sarah Jay. **Throne of Glass**. Jumping on a chance to get out of the slave camp, Celaena Sardothien accepts an offer from the Crown Prince Dorian to compete with a bunch of assassins (of which she is one!) for a chance to serve the King, Prince Dorian’s father. If she succeeds, she will gain her freedom in four years. Series: *Throne of Glass*, *Crown of Midnight*, *Heir of Fire*, *Queen of Shadows*, *Empire of Storms*, *Tower of Dawn*, *Kingdom of Ash*.

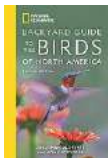


Shusterman, Neal. **Arc of a Scythe**. Citra and Rowan have been assigned a job they don’t want. They are to be apprenticed to a scythe. In Citra and Rowan’s world, a scythe is the only person who can take life (hunger, disease, and war have been eliminated). Scythes are tasked with population control—a grim responsibility. Series: *Scythe*, *Thunderhead*, *The Toll*.



Yancey, Rick. **The 5th Wave**. Cassie is one of the few humans left on Earth. Heavily armed at all times, she is battling the invading aliens in what is now called the 5th Wave. Her family survived Waves 1 and 2, only to meet their downfall in later Waves. Ben, an old high school crush of Cassie’s, also survived. A thriller with non-stop action, told from the viewpoints of both Cassie and Ben. Series: *The 5th Wave*, *The Infinite Sea*, and *The Last Star*.

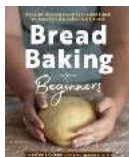
Feeling Creative? Want to do some Birding?



National Geographic Backyard Guide to the Birds of North America, 2nd edition by Jonathan Alderfer and Noah Strycker. With this guide you can identify the birds outside your window and down the street.



How to Draw Manga: Basics and Beyond! by Manga University, Ryo Katagiri, Hiroyuki Sengoku, and Yukio Onishi. It’s all here, everything you need.



Bread Baking for Beginners: The Essential Guide to Baking Kneaded Breads, No-Knead Breads, and Enriched Breads by Bonnie Ohara. Did the bread making craze pass you by this spring? It's not too late.



How to be the Best Bubble Writer in the World Ever by Linda Scott. This book isn't the newest, but it's still pretty cool. It does what just what the title claims it will do.

Read a Classic this Summer!

All titles are available in the digital library.

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya

Angelou

Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd by

Christie, Agatha

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur

Conan Doyle

Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier

The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale

Hurston

Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery

Dracula by Bram Stoker

The Lord of the Rings series by J.R.R. Tolkien

Around the World in 80 Days by Jules Verne

The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells

The Autobiography of Malcolm X by Malcom X

Saint Ann's Digital Library at Overdrive

Remember, students can check out e-books all summer long. Access the digital library at saintannsny.lib.overdrive.com or locate it by Googling the phrase *Saint Ann's Digital Library*. You can read books in your browser, on a digital device using the free Overdrive app, Sora app, or Kindle app, or on a Kindle.

Logging in: Students need a library card number and PIN to check out books. Look for an email from library@saintannsny.org with yours (though you may have it already).

FYI: 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!

Other things to keep in mind:

- Select the Read in your Browser option if you want to just read the title on your computer.
- For more information be sure to explore the [help](#) section in the digital library.

Current and past reading lists available online at:

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

Happy Reading, Love Ragan, Denise, and Hannah