Saint Ann’s Library
2016 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.

Albertalli, Becky. *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*
A smart, sweet coming-of-age coming-out masterpiece. Chapters alternate between Simon’s emails with an unknown admirer and his everyday life at school. What happens when they begin to intersect? As author Tim Federle says, “a pitch-perfect triumph of wit and wordplay.”

Alexander, Kwame. *Booked*
Nick is a 12-year-old soccer player struggling with problems at home and at school. Like Alexander’s Newbery-winning *The Crossover*, this novel-in-verse packs a punch with gripping language and likable characters.

Anderson, M.T. *Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad* (nonfiction)
History buffs and music lovers, this one’s for you. The horror of the three-year siege of Leningrad (bodies littering the streets, citizens resorting to cannibalism) would not be believed if it were not true. This is a story of unspeakable tragedy and the redemptive power of music.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. *The War That Saved My Life*
Ada’s mother is embarrassed by Ada’s twisted foot and has never allowed her to leave their small apartment. But when her younger brother is sent from London to the countryside to escape the bombing during World War Two, Ada sneaks away with him. The two are placed with a woman reluctant to take them in, and all must struggle to love again. Written for the younger crowd but a good read for all, this poignant novel won a 2016 Newbery Honor.

Brontë, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*
Jane grew up an orphan in a repressive environment, but her spirit remains unbroken as she sets out and becomes governess at Thornton Hall. Love blossoms, but when Rochester’s big secret emerges, Jane must decide what to do. Brontë has been called the “first historian of the private consciousness,” and for good reason.

Brown, Don. *Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans* (graphic nonfiction)
In 2005, Hurricane Katrina destroyed the city of New Orleans. Ordinary citizens became heroes, and those supposed to protect were unable or unwilling to do so. This true story in graphic form explores what happens when disaster strikes and incompetence and racism converge. Powerful and devastating.
Coates, Ta-Nehisi. *Between the World and Me* (nonfiction)
One of the most talked-about books of the year, *Between the World and Me* weaves together personal and historical narrative. Written as a letter to Coates’s son, this short but intense volume is an indictment of American racism and a celebration of the human spirit.

Cline, Ernest. *Armada*
Zach Lightman is a teenage gamer whose skills are needed when one of his video games comes to life. If you’re a fan of coming-of-age alien invasion stories packed with humor and pop culture references... oh wait, haven’t read too many of those? Yes, once again Ernest Cline has written an entirely original novel. And if you’ve never read Cline’s *Ready Player One*, what are you waiting for?

Doctorow, Cory and Jen Wang. *In Real Life* (graphic novel)
What happens when you mix real money with online role-playing games? Or when a girl in Arizona tries to help a boy working in a factory in China – and ends up harming him instead? This graphic novel explores the intersection of gaming and economics, of cultural differences and global responsibility.

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*
Sherlock Holmes is experiencing a pop culture revival, but have you read the original? Follow the legendary Victorian-era detective through a series of cases in this classic.

Gephart, Donna. *Lily and Dunkin*
Thirteen is an awkward age for many people, but for Lily and Dunkin, eighth grade is particularly difficult. Lily is a transgender girl, and Dunkin is dealing with bipolar disorder and more. Their friendship will grab you and stay with you long after you finish this heart-wrenching and inspiring new novel.

Hardinge, Frances. *The Lie Tree*
When Faith’s father is found dead, Faith suspects murder. And she suspects the murder has something to do with his scientific research. Looking for answers, Faith goes through her father’s belongings; what she finds defies all belief, and goes to the core of the human thirst for knowledge. Exquisitely written feminist mystery with elements of fantasy.

Hartland, Jessie. *Steve Jobs: Insanely Great* (graphic biography)
A biography in graphic format about one of the most influential people of our modern world. A brilliant book about a brilliant man.
Healey, Karen. **When We Wake**
The year is 2027, and Tegan is a normal teenager in Australia...until she dies and wakes up 100 years later, locked in a government facility amid an international debate about cryopreservation. Some things are better in the future – acceptance of multiple sexualities, for example – but other aspects of life are markedly worse – like xenophobia and environmental collapse. When Tegan uncovers government secrets, she has to decide what to do. Sequel: *While We Run*.

**Hinton, S.E. The Outsiders**
Since the death of Ponyboy’s parents, his brothers and gang have been his family. When his best friend kills a member of a rival gang, a violent nightmare begins. This classic was one of the first novels published for young adults, and Hinton was only sixteen when she wrote it! Also check out Hinton’s other books: *That Was Then, This is Now; Rumblefish; Tex*; and more.

**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 new novel weaves together the remarkable stories of four teens whose lives touch each other in the most unexpected ways.

**Hoose, Phillip. The Boys who Challenged Hitler** (nonfiction)
When Germany occupied Denmark in 1940, the Danish government did not immediately fight back. Ashamed by his country’s acquiescence, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen gathered his friends and they set out on their bicycles to embarrass the Nazis. What started as a series of small pranks inspired a national resistance movement.

**Hurston, Zora Neale. Their Eyes Were Watching God**
Janie Crawford is a strong black woman who feels no need to explain herself to those around her. Follow her journey through three marriages in this classic Southern love story from one of the most prominent writers of the Harlem Renaissance.

**Jamieson, Victoria. Roller Girl** (graphic novel)
When Astrid’s mother takes her to see a roller derby bout, Astrid envisions herself out in that arena. The only problem: she doesn’t know how to skate. Her bottle of blue hair dye and months of practice bring her a long way, but her journey to being a true roller girl has many bumps in the road. With vibrant illustrations and easy-to-read text, this is a story of changing friendships and a girl finding her inner (and outer!) strength. A 2016 Newbery Honor book!

**Kaufman, Amie and Jay Kristoff. Illuminae**
A futuristic intergalactic adventure of epic proportions. Hacked documents speckle this thrilling novel as Kady and her ex-boyfriend attempt to uncover the truth and save their world. The first in a trilogy (good luck patiently waiting for the next installment due in October!).
Keyes, Daniel. **Flowers for Algernon**
Charlie has an IQ of 68, and jumps at the chance to be the first human to undergo experimental brain surgery. When he does, he becomes a genius, just as Algernon the mouse had before him. But when Algernon’s abilities inexplicably start to deteriorate, Charlie wonders what’s in store for him. A timeless tear-jerker.

Kuehn, Stephanie. **Charm and Strange**
Past and present come together in this twisted psychological thriller about a teenager battling his demons. Guaranteed to shock.

Lewis, John, Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell. **March** (graphic memoir)
The first in a graphic trilogy about both John Lewis’s journey from civil rights activist to Congressman, and the civil rights movement at large. A masterfully written and illustrated memoir. If you like it, read *March: Book Two* (and *Book Three* when it comes out).

Lo, Malinda. **Adaptation**
Reese and David are returning from a high school debate competition when all flights are canceled due to flocks of birds. They get in a car accident and are both unconscious for a month. When they awake, strange things begin to happen. This book is full of unexplained occurrences, shocking secrets, a bit of teen romance (when Reese meets the intriguing Amber), and a cliffhanger ending. Sequel: *Inheritance*. Companion ebook: *Natural Selection*. Other books by Lo: *Ash and Huntress*.

Lockhart, E. **The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks**
Frankie returns to her fancy boarding school after a summer of changes and finds herself dating a gorgeous senior who is part of a long-standing all-boys secret society. Frankie uses her wit (and righteous indignation) to manipulate the club and challenge the school’s sexism and classism. If you like this clever and dynamic story, check out Lockhart’s other books, including the *Ruby Oliver* series.

McGruder, Aaron. **A Right to be Hostile** (comics)
*The Boondocks* was one of the funniest, most subversive political comics of all time. Told through the eyes of pre-teen Huey Freeman (named after Black Panther Party founder Huey Newton), the strip ran for ten years, providing scathing critique of American racism, foreign policy, and more. A *Right to Be Hostile* is the first collection of *Boondocks* comics. *Public Enemy #2* is the second.

Meyer, Marissa. **Cinder**
Cinder is a mechanic – and a cyborg – whose life becomes entwined with Prince Kai’s as she gets involved in an intergalactic battle. This is a cleverly imagined and completely unique take on a very old tale. Sequels: *Scarlet*, *Cress*, and *Winter*. 
Miller, Sarah. *The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden & The Trial of the Century* (nonfiction)

*Lizzie Borden took an axe / she gave her mother forty whacks / When she saw what she had done / she gave her father forty-one.* Who was Lizzie Borden? Did she kill her parents? If so, why? Complete with pictures and documents from the scene, this masterful book reads like a true-crime novel.

Nelson, Jandy. *I'll Give You The Sun*

Twins Jude and Noah communicate without words, understand each other’s art, and know that in an emergency they would each save the other before anyone else. But something happens that tears them apart. Told from both perspectives (Jude at age 16, Noah starting at age 13 and gradually getting older), the story brings the two narratives together as secrets are revealed to the characters and the reader alike. An award-winning and unique portrayal of grief, love, and sexuality.

Neri, G. *Tru and Nelle*

Did you love *To Kill A Mockingbird? Tru and Nelle* is based on the real-life childhood friendship of Truman Capote and (Nelle) Harper Lee. A quick read.

Older, Daniel José. *Shadowshaper*

It’s summer in Brooklyn, and Sierra Santiago is hoping to chill out and make art. But when a corpse shows up at a party and the neighborhood murals start shedding real tears, Sierra discovers a kind of ancient magic that someone is trying to crush. Family history is discovered, secrets are revealed.

Pfetzer, Mark. *Within Reach: My Everest Story* (memoir)

At age 16, Mark Pfetzer became the youngest person to climb Mt. Everest. This is the fascinating story of his climbing expeditions, filled with people and places and details that will interest climbers and non-climbers alike.

Raskin, Ellen. *The Westing Game*

In this 1979 Newbery winner for all ages, Sam Westing chooses sixteen people to compete for his inheritance in his “final game.” Mystery abounds as the characters try to figure out each other’s connections to Westing in this intricate Clue-like plot.

Reynolds, Jason and Brendan Kiely. *All American Boys*

What starts as a trip to the bodega to buy a bag of chips becomes a national scandal about racism and police brutality. Written in two voices – the teenager beaten by a cop and the one who witnesses it – this award-winning and timely novel grapples with issues of community, racism, loyalty, and truth. If you like this, check out *When I Was the Greatest* and Reynolds’ other books.
Ryan, Pam Muñoz. **Echo**
Otto, Friedrich, Mike, and Ivy live in different times and different countries. All face challenges – from discrimination in Nazi Germany to poverty and bias against migrant workers in California. One harmonica ties their stories together. A beautiful tale of four children with extraordinary musical talent...and a tinge of magic.

Selznick, Brian. **The Marvels**
1766: Billy Marvel survives a shipwreck and goes on to work in theatre. 1990: Joseph Jervis runs away from boarding school to stay with his eccentric uncle in a strange house with items frozen in time and place. With one story told in pictures and the next in words, this is a breathtaking book about love, loss, creativity, adventure, family (blood and chosen), and the power of story.

Schlitz, Laura Amy. **The Hired Girl**
Fourteen-year-old Joan escapes an oppressive father and sheltered rural life, and is taken in by a religious Jewish family in Baltimore. It’s 1911, and Joan has had very little exposure to Jews. As she learns about those different from herself, she begins to come into her own. A new novel that feels like a timeless classic.

Schmidt, Gary. **Orbiting Jupiter**
Jackson is a quiet sixth grader whose life is forever altered when his farming family takes in Joseph, a foster kid who became a father at age thirteen. Through Jackson’s eyes we follow Joseph as he struggles to find his daughter again. Short and intense, redemptive and tragic.

Sheinkin, Steve. **Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War** (nonfiction)
June 12, 1971, 4:30 pm: The NY Times finalizes the next day’s paper, which will expose government lies and cover-ups. At the same time, the skies clear at the White House and Richard Nixon’s daughter gets married in the Rose Garden. This is just one of the many fascinating small details Sheinkin conveys in his riveting account of the Pentagon Papers and the whistleblower behind them.

Starmer, Aaron. **The Storyteller**
Get ready for Alistair and Fiona in the final installment of *The Riverman* trilogy. Haven’t read the first two? Start there! Prepare to have your mind blown as you question the nature of reality, the fine line between fact and fiction, and the meaning of story.

Stead, Rebecca. **Goodbye Stranger**
Rebecca Stead has done it again: cut right to the heart of things while simultaneously unraveling a mystery. This time it is the story – or rather three overlapping stories – of seventh graders and their struggles with family, friendship, and the overwhelming process of growing up.
Stevenson, Noelle. **Nimona** (graphic novel)
Featuring Sir Goldenloin as hero, Lord Blackheart as villain, and spunky shape-shifting Nimona as sidekick, this subversive web-comic-turned-graphic-novel questions the traditional clarity of good and evil as found in your average superhero comic.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. **The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde**
The thrilling moral parable about the good and evil that can exist within one person.

Sullivan, Tara. **The Bitter Side of Sweet**
Fifteen-year-old Amadou and his little brother Seydou left Mali to find work and ended up as forced laborers on a plantation in the Ivory Coast. They patiently try to earn enough to buy their freedom, until a girl named Khadija shows up and reminds them of the urgency of their situation. A gripping novel about the very real problem of modern-day slavery.

Thrash, Maggie. **Honor Girl** (graphic memoir)
What’s a good summer camp story without a lice scare, early morning civil war reenactments, boy band obsessions, riflery competitions, and a major crush on an older counselor? This is the true story – in graphic form – of Maggie’s last summer at her all-girls camp in Kentucky. Names have been changed to protect the innocent (and not so innocent).

Van Booy, Simon. **Tales of Accidental Genius**
A moving collection of short stories – diverse in their topics, locations, and characters – that highlight the genius that can emerge from compassion and everyday human connection.

Venkatraman, Padma. **A Time to Dance**
Veda is an Indian dance prodigy, so when she loses her leg in an accident, she is devastated. Determined to continue dancing, she starts over with beginner classes, and in the process finds both love and spiritual awakening.

Weir, Andy. **The Martian**
The ultimate survival story. Mark Watney – astronaut, physicist, botanist – finds himself stranded on Mars after his crew, thinking him dead, evacuates. Will he find a way to contact Earth, and then to survive until rescued? Read and find out. Then, watch the movie. (Who are we kidding: Now that you’ve seen the movie, read the book!)
Wilson, G. Willow and Adrian Alphona. **Ms. Marvel: No Normal** (graphic novel)
Meet Kamala Khan, aka Ms. Marvel. A normal Muslim teenage girl in New Jersey, or the comic world’s newest, fiercest superhero? You decide. Classic comic book style illustrated by Adrian Alphona (*The Runaways*). If you like this one, check out the next several volumes, all released within the past year and a half!

**Woodson, Jacqueline. The House You Pass on the Way**
Growing up in the South with a white mother and a black father, Staggerlee has always been a little different. But at age thirteen, as she starts to come to terms with her feelings for her best friend, she feels more different than ever. When her cousin Trout comes to visit for the summer, Staggerlee finally has someone to talk to. A poignant snapshot of adolescence from a prolific and award-winning author.

**Yousafzai, Malala. I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban** (memoir)
Malala Yousafzai spoke out for girls’ education, even as those opposed to it gained power in parts of Pakistan. At age 15 she was shot in the head and was not expected to survive. Not only did she live, she became an advocate for girls’ rights and education globally and the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner ever. Here she tells her own story within the political and historical context of the region.

**Zentner, Jeff. The Serpent King**
Dill is the only son of a Bible belt minister, and life is not easy for him at home or at school. As he starts senior year, he finds himself resisting the thought of an unknown future without his fellow outcast friends. Both funny and heartbreaking, this is one of those novels that will stay with you.

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**Happy Reading!**

*Love, Hannah, Denise, and Ragan*

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