

# HKA Primary Library Summer Reading Suggestions 2015

**A starting point to discover some great books to read and enjoy.**

The following is a compilation of just a few (fiction) titles that I read/came across during the past year and of which I think they might appeal to our students. Consider this list as just one of several resources, which provide you and your child with ideas on what to read this summer. Other resources to explore for reading recommendations can be found on the [Summer Reading 2015 Symbaloo](#) on our [Primary Portal Page](#). Please also consider taking your child to a public library and/or bookstore to browse the shelves for more ideas. Having a say in what to read is the most powerful factor in motivating readers.

The grade-level boundaries are very loose and mainly geared towards interest and not reading level since reading levels vary within grade-levels, as each reader develops at his/her own pace. Please also keep in mind that books can be used and read in various ways, depending on the child's developmental stage and preferences, e.g. your child reading independently, you and your child sharing the reading, you reading the book out loud to your child, your child listening to an audio book etc.

## Happy Summer Reading!

*(Included brief title descriptions below, unless marked otherwise, originate from [Goodreads](#).)*

# PK1-K

## Some suggestions for students in PK1-K (and everyone else loving picture books ;)

### 1. *Noni the Pony Goes to the Beach* (Alison Lester)

“Noni the Pony is friendly and funny. She loves going down to the beach when it's sunny. With her two very best friends Dave Dog and Coco the Cat, and the cows from next door, it's going to be a wonderful day.”

### 2. *The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend* (Dan Santat)

“This magical story begins on an island far away where an imaginary friend is born. He patiently waits his turn to be chosen by a real child, but when he is overlooked time and again, he sets off on an incredible journey to the bustling city, where he finally meets his perfect match and—at long last—is given his special name: Beekle.”

### 3. *How to Read a Story* (Kate Messner)

“Accomplished storytellers Kate Messner and Mark Siegel chronicle the process of becoming a reader: from pulling a book off the shelf and finding someone with whom to share a story, to reading aloud, predicting what will happen, and—finally—coming to *The End*. This picture book playfully and movingly illustrates the idea that the reader who discovers the love of reading finds, at the end, the beginning.”

### 4. *Dragon Loves Penguin* (Debi Gliori)

“One dragon looking for an egg + one lonely egg in need of a mummy = one delightful relationship between the most unlikely of creatures.”

### 5. *Where Does Kitty Go in the Rain?* (Harriet Ziefert)

“A lilted kitty mystery combines with rain-centered facts to create an utterly charming fiction/nonfiction picture book. As kids are invited on the search for Kitty, they'll also discover what different animals do to enjoy, or avoid, a rainy day. Harriet Ziefert's rhyming couplets pair beautifully with Brigette Barrager's lush art to make a combination that is sure to please young readers and adults alike.”

### 6. *Waiting is Not Easy* (Mo Willems)

“Gerald is careful. Piggie is not.

Piggie cannot help smiling. Gerald can.

Gerald worries so that Piggie does not have to.

Gerald and Piggie are best friends.

In *Waiting Is Not Easy!*, Piggie has a surprise for Gerald, but he is going to have to wait for it. And Wait. And wait some more...”

### 7. *Beach House* (Deanna Caswell)

“In a funny and heartfelt celebration of family, vacations, and the joy of the sea, Deanna Caswell and Amy June Bates capture the essence of summer—building sand castles, jumping the waves, and watching the stars come out after a long day at the beach—and the love that warms every moment.”

### 8. *Noodle Magic* (Roseanne Greenfield Thong)

“Grandpa Tu is famous for his special noodles, and as the emperor's birthday approaches, he teaches his granddaughter, Mei, the family trade. Mei struggles to find the magic needed to make noodles. Ultimately, she finds the magic--and the ability to succeed--within. Mei doesn't just make noodles--her magic noodles in varied shapes and sizes rain down from the sky!”

### 9. *This is Sadie* (Sara O'Leary)

“Sadie is a little girl with a big imagination. She has been a girl who lived under the sea and a boy raised by wolves. She has had adventures in wonderland and visited the world of fairytales. She whispers to the dresses in her closet and talks to birds in the treetops. She has wings that take her anywhere she wants to go, but that always bring her home again. She likes to make things -- boats out of boxes and castles out of cushions. But more than anything Sadie likes stories, because you can make them from nothing at all. For Sadie, the world is so full of wonderful possibilities ... This is Sadie, and this is her story.”

10. *Thank You, Jackson: How One Little Boy Makes a Big Difference* (Niki Daly)

“Jackson the donkey works very hard, carrying loads of mielies, carrots and potatoes up the hill to market every week, from the little farm where he lives with the farmer, his wife Beauty and his son Goodwill. But one day Jackson just stops, halfway up the hill. The farmer pushes him, pulls him, shouts at him. But Jackson WILL NOT BUDGE. Just as the farmer is about to beat his donkey, little Goodwill comes running up the hill. Quickly he whispers something in the donkey's ear - and, straightaway, the old donkey gets to his feet. The farmer is astonished. What could be the secret of the boy's message? "Well," says Goodwill, "Mama told me it's the little things like saying please and thank you, that make a big difference in this world." And from that day on, the farmer remembers to thank his old donkey for helping him, and Jackson does his work willingly.”

Two additional recommendations that will delight especially Kindergarteners ready for slightly longer books:

*Ling & Ting* series (Grace Lin)

*Billie Brown* series (Sally Rippin)

# G1-2

## Some suggestions for students in G1-2

### 1. *Mercy Watson series and Tales from Deckawoo Drive* (Kate DiCamillo)

“Leroy Ninker has a hat, a lasso, and boots. What he doesn’t have is a horse — until he meets Maybelline, that is, and then it’s love at first sight. Maybelline loves spaghetti and sweet nothings, and she loves Leroy, too. But when Leroy forgets the third and final rule of caring for Maybelline, disaster ensues. Can Leroy wrestle fate to the ground, rescue the horse of his heart, and lasso loneliness for good? Join Leroy, Maybelline, and a cast of familiar characters — Stella, Frank, Mrs. Watson, and everyone’s favorite porcine wonder, Mercy — for some hilarious and heartfelt horsing around on Deckawoo Drive.”

### 2. *Dory Fantasmagory* (Abby Hanlon)

“As the youngest in her family, Dory really wants attention, and more than anything she wants her brother and sister to play with her. But she’s too much of a baby for them, so she’s left to her own devices—including her wild imagination and untiring energy. Her siblings may roll their eyes at her childish games, but Dory has lots of things to do: outsmarting the monsters all over the house, escaping from prison (aka time-out), and exacting revenge on her sister’s favorite doll. And when they really need her, daring Dory will prove her bravery, and finally get exactly what she has been looking for.

With plenty of pictures bursting with charm and character, this hilarious book about an irresistible rascal is the new must-read for the chapter book set.”

### 3. *The Chicken Squad: The First Misadventure* (Doreen Cronin)

“They’re darling. They’re daring. They know their shapes! They’re chicks on a mission, and on this, their first (mis)adventure, the Chicken Squad launches a galactic backyard expedition. Meet the Chicken Squad: Dirt, Sugar, Poppy, and Sweetie. These chicks are not your typical barnyard puffs of fluff, and they are not about to spend their days pecking chicken feed and chasing bugs. No sir, they’re too busy solving mysteries and fighting crime.”

### 4. *The Cleo Stories: The Necklace and the Present* (Libby Gleeson)

“Cleo desperately wants a necklace. Her parents say special presents are only for birthdays...but Cleo doesn't want to wait. In the second story, it's her mum's birthday and Cleo doesn't know what to give her - until she has the best idea of all. Delightful, warm and irresistible, these stories show how a little girl with a big imagination can always find a way to have fun.”

### 5. *Pigstick and Harold and the Incredible Journey* (Alex Milway)

“Pigsticks is the last in a noble line of explorers, and he’s decided it’s time for him to follow in his forepigs’ footsteps — with an assistant to do the heavy lifting, of course. When his help-wanted ad draws a motley crew of candidates, he chooses a hapless delivery hamster named Harold. As the unlikely duo set off from Tuptown with plenty of tea cakes in tow, Pigsticks is breathless with excitement (and Harold is struggling for breath under all the gear). But after a long trek through jungles, over deserts, and up a giant ice-topped mountain, the last crumb of cake is stolen by a herd of thieving goats, and their goal is nowhere in sight. Will they ever discover the Ends of the Earth? Could it be in the last place they’d ever think to look?”

### 6. *Violet Mackerel’s Pocket Protest* – and other titles in the series (Anna Branford)

“VIOLET MACKEREL loves Clover Park. She especially loves to collect acorns from under the big old OAK TREE. But the OAK TREE is going to be cut down. Violet does NOT think this is a good idea! The OAK TREE is important. It is worth trying to SAVE. And Violet hopes her POCKET PROTEST will be just the thing to save it.”

### 7. *On the Go with Mr. and Mrs. Green* – and other titles in the series (Keith Baker)

“Mr. and Mrs. Green are as busy as ever in this fourth book of adventures, and their usual zest for life (and delicious munchies) has not diminished a bit since we last saw them. Beginning readers will love getting green with everyone's favorite warm and wacky alligator couple.”

### 8. *Lulu’s Mysterious Mission* – and other titles in the series (Judith Viorst)

“This irresistible third illustrated chapter book starring Judith Viorst's Lulu is full of hilarious hijinks, delightful twists, and a top-secret mission! *Eeny meeny miney mo, That babysitter's got to go.* Lulu has put

her tantrum-throwing days behind her. That is, until her parents announce that they are going on vacation WITHOUT LULU. Not only that, but they are leaving her with the formidable Ms. Sonia Sofia Solinsky, who says hello by bellowing, The Eagle has landed, and smiles at you with the kind of smile that an alligator might give you before eating you for dinner. The second her parents are out of the house, Lulu tries out several elaborate schemes to bring them straight back. But just when she seems to finally be making some headway, her babysitter reveals an astonishing secret one that has Lulu crossing her fingers that her parents will go on vacation *all the time* without her!”

### 9. *Love From Anna Hibiscus* – and other titles in the series (Atinuke)

“Anna Hibiscus is on holiday with Grandmother and Grandfather in the village where they were born. She befriends the local children there and teaches them their ABC and 123. When Anna goes to market one day and a boy steals a banana from her, she runs after him. It turns out that the boy is poor; he lives alone. Anna and Sunny Belafonte become friends and when Sunny takes ill, it is Anna who makes sure he gets the medical help he needs. Happily, Grandfather invites Sunny Belafonte to come and live with them, and be part of their family.” (Amazon.com)

### 10. *Once Upon an Alphabet* (Oliver Jeffers)

“The most inventive and irresistible book of the year spans a mere 26 letters (don't they all!) and 112 pages. From an **A**stronaut who's afraid of heights, to a **B**ridge that ends up burned between friends, to a **C**up stuck in a cupboard and longing for freedom, *Once Upon an Alphabet* is a creative tour de force from A through Z. Slyly funny in a way kids can't resist, and gorgeously illustrated in a way readers of all ages will pour over, this series of interconnected stories and characters explores the alphabet in a way that will forever raise the bar.”

# G3-4

## Some suggestions for students in G3-4

### 1. *Alvin Ho Allergic to the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and other Tourist Attractions*

(Lenore Look)

“Here’s the sixth book in the beloved and hilarious Alvin Ho chapter book series, which has been compared to *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and is perfect for both beginning and reluctant readers. Alvin, an Asian American second grader who’s afraid of *everything*, is taking his fears to a whole new level—or should we say, continent. On a trip to introduce brand-new baby Ho to relatives in China, Alvin’s anxiety is at fever pitch. First there’s the harrowing 16-hour plane ride; then there’s a whole slew of cultural differences to contend with: eating lunch food for breakfast, kung fu lessons, and acupuncture treatment (yikes!). Not to mention the crowds that make it easy for a small boy to get lost.”

### 2. *Angel Creek* (Sally Rippin)

“In her new falling-down home, in her new street, in her new suburb, Jelly waits for high school to begin. She can only feel happy up in the branches of the old apricot tree and by the creek at the back of the house. One night, Jelly and her cousins spot something in the creek’s dark waters. At first they think it’s a bird, but it isn’t...it’s a baby angel with a broken wing. And they decide to keep it. But soon things start to go wrong, and Jelly discovers that you can’t just take something from where it belongs and expect that it won’t be missed. Sally Rippin’s *Angel Creek* is a book about growing up: being brave and selfish and tough and scared. It’s a book about an angel. But not the sweet variety. It’s a book about the things that change and the things that always stay the same.”

### 3. *Ranger in Time* series: *Rescue on the Oregon Trail* and *Danger in Ancient Rome* (Kate Messner)

“Meet Ranger! He’s a time-traveling golden retriever who has a nose for trouble . . . and always saves the day! Ranger has been trained as a search-and-rescue dog, but can’t officially pass the test because he’s always getting distracted by squirrels during exercises. One day, he finds a mysterious first aid kit in the garden and is transported to the year 1850, where he meets a young boy named Sam Abbott. Sam’s family is migrating west on the Oregon Trail, and soon after Ranger arrives he helps the boy save his little sister. Ranger thinks his job is done, but the Oregon Trail can be dangerous, and the Abbotts need Ranger’s help more than they realize!?”

### 4. *Star Wars: Jedi Academy* (Jeffrey Brown)

“New York Times bestselling author/illustrator Jeffrey Brown takes readers to a middle school in a galaxy far, far away... This incredible, original story captures all of the humor, awkwardness, fun, and frustrations of middle school--all told through one boy’s comics, journal entries, letters, doodles, and newspaper clippings. The setting? A galaxy far, far away...”

### 5. *The Simple Things* (Bill Condon)

“When Stephen and his parents arrive at Auntie Lola’s home, he discovers that his aunt is not only really, really old, but also grumpy and scary. He wants to turn around and go home but his mum says they have to stay until Lola’s birthday - three whole weeks away! Will Stephen be able to last that long? Will Auntie Lola? A book for readers young and old.”

### 6. *El Deafo* (Cece Bell)

“Starting at a new school is scary, even more so with a giant hearing aid strapped to your chest! At her old school, everyone in Cece’s class was deaf. Here she is different. She is sure the kids are staring at the Phonic Ear, the powerful aid that will help her hear her teacher. Too bad it also seems certain to repel potential friends. Then Cece makes a startling discovery. With the Phonic Ear she can hear her teacher not just in the classroom, but anywhere her teacher is in school--in the hallway...in the teacher’s lounge...in the bathroom! This is power. Maybe even superpower! Cece is on her way to becoming El Deafo, Listener for All. But the funny thing about being a superhero is that it’s just another way of feeling different... and lonely. Can Cece channel her powers into finding the thing she wants most, a true friend?”

### 7. *Wolf Storm* (Dee Garretson)

“This is Stefan’s big break. He’s on location in the mountains far from home for his first movie role, filming a blockbuster sci-fi adventure. The props, the spaceships, and the trained wolves on set should add up to a dream job, but acting turns out to be much tougher than he ever imagined, and he feels like his inner loser is all that’s showing through. From the way his famously stuck-up co-star, Raine, treats him, he’s pretty sure she thinks so too. And worst of all, no one will believe his claim that there are wild wolves haunting the forest around the set. When a blizzard strikes, isolating the young co-stars and bringing hungry feral wolves into the open, Stefan must take on his biggest role yet—working together with his co-stars to survive. With no second takes, they only have one chance to get it right.”

### 8. *Rain Reign* (Ann Martin)

“Rose Howard has Asperger’s syndrome, and an obsession with homonyms (even her name is a homonym). She gave her dog Rain a name with two homonyms (Reign, Rein), which, according to Rose’s rules of homonyms, is very special. Rain was a lost dog Rose’s father brought home. Rose and Rain are practically inseparable. And they are often home alone, as Rose’s father spends most evenings at a bar, and doesn’t have much patience for his special-needs daughter. Just as a storm hits town, Rain goes missing. Rose’s father shouldn’t have let Rain out. Now Rose has to find her dog, even if it means leaving her routines and safe places to search. Rose will find Rain, but so will Rain’s original owners.”

### 9. *The Akimbo Adventures* (Alexander McCall Smith)

“Three captivating stories of wildlife and adventure in Africa. Akimbo and his parents live on the edge of an African game reserve, home to thousands of amazing animals, from leopards and rhinos to crocodiles and zebra. Wildlife-loving Akimbo likes nothing more than exploring the park and helping its animals. These three adventures see him protecting elephants from poachers, saving a lion cub from a trap, and rescuing a man from a crocodile!”

### 10. *The Astounding Broccoli Boy* (Frank Cottrell Boyce)

“Rory Rooney likes to be prepared for all eventualities. His favourite book is *Don't Be Scared, Be Prepared*, and he has memorized every page of it. He could even survive a hippo attack. He knows that just because something is unlikely doesn't mean it won't ever happen ...But Rory isn't prepared when he suddenly and inexplicably turns green. Stuck in an isolation ward in a hospital far from home with two other remarkably green children, Rory's as confused by his new condition as the medics seem to be. But what if it's not in their genes, or a virus, or something they ate? What if turning green actually means you've turned into a superhero? Rory can't wait to make it past hospital security and discover exactly what his superpower might be ...”

# G5

## Some suggestions for students in G5

### 1. *Echo* (Pam Munoz Ryan)

“Music, magic, and a real-life miracle meld in this genre-defying masterpiece from storytelling maestro Pam Muñoz Ryan. Lost and alone in a forbidden forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica.”

### 2. *Ghosts of Shanghai* (Julian Sedgwick)

“Obsessed with martial arts and ghost stories, Ruby is part of a gang of Chinese and expat children who hide out in ruined White Cloud Temple. But the world of Shanghai in the late 1920s is driven with danger: disease, crime, espionage and revolution are sweeping the streets. And since the death of her younger brother Thomas, Ruby is stalked by another anxiety and fear. Faced with a series of local hauntings, and armed with a lucky bookshop find - *The Almanac of Distant Realms* - Ruby forms the Shanghai Ghost Club to hunt down restless spirits. When best friend Faye is kidnapped by the Green Hand, Ruby must trust a mysterious stranger - and face her worst fears - in order to save her friends, and her own life. And in the ensuing fight she will catch a glimpse of the one spirit she has longed to see ...The secrets that Ruby's father and friends have kept from her are coming back to haunt them all”

### 3. *The Honest Truth* (Dan Gemeinhart)

“In all the ways that matter, Mark is a normal kid. He's got a dog named Beau and a best friend, Jessie. He likes to take photos and write haiku poems in his notebook. He dreams of climbing a mountain one day. But in one important way, Mark is not like other kids at all. Mark is sick. The kind of sick that means hospitals. And treatments. The kind of sick some people never get better from. So Mark runs away. He leaves home with his camera, his notebook, his dog, and a plan to reach the top of Mount Rainier--even if it's the last thing he ever does. *The Honest Truth* is a rare and extraordinary novel about big questions, small moments, and the incredible journey of the human spirit.”

### 4. *Dash* (Kirby Larson)

“New from Newbery Honor author Kirby Larson, the moving story of a Japanese-American girl who is separated from her dog upon being sent to an incarceration camp during WWII. Although Mitsi Kashino and her family are swept up in the wave of anti-Japanese sentiment following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Mitsi never expects to lose her home -- or her beloved dog, Dash. But, as World War II rages and people of Japanese descent are forced into incarceration camps, Mitsi is separated from Dash, her classmates, and life as she knows it. The camp is a crowded and unfamiliar place, whose dusty floors, seemingly endless lines, and barbed wire fences begin to unravel the strong Kashino family ties. With the help of a friendly neighbor back home, Mitsi remains connected to Dash in spite of the hard times, holding on to the hope that the war will end soon and life will return to normal. Though they've lost their home, will the Kashino family also lose their sense of family? And will Mitsi and Dash ever be reunited?”

### 5. *Bleakboy and Hunter Stand Out in the Rain* (Steven Herrick)

“A new, laugh-out-loud novel from award-winning author Steven Herrick. Some things are too big for a boy to solve. Jesse is an eleven-year-old boy tackling many problems in life, especially fitting in to a new school. Luckily he meets Kate. She has curly black hair, braces and an infectious smile. She wants to Save the Whales, and needs Jesse's help. Both haven't counted on Hunter, the school bully, who is an endless font of meaningless names. With Hunter's catchphrase 'Ha!' echoing through their peaceful school, someone has to give. But will it be Jesse? Kate? Or is there more to Hunter than everyone thinks? An inspiring and funny story about the small gestures that help to make the world a better place.”

### 6. *Brown Girl Dreaming* (Jacqueline Woodson)

“*Jacqueline Woodson, one of today's finest writers, tells the moving story of her childhood in mesmerizing verse.* Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.”



### 7. *The Bomber Dog* (Megan Rix)

“Grey is just a puppy when he arrives at the War Dog Training School. Nathan, his trainer, is a brave young soldier. Wolf is a war dog who's seen it all. Grey and Nathan soon become inseparable. Until the day a parachute jump goes tragically wrong... As the Second World War rages, Grey faces his most important mission yet: to find his best friend. With Wolf at his side, he must journey across France and behind enemy lines. His path is fraught with danger. Can he reach Nathan before it's too late?”

### 8. *A Dragon's Guide to the Care and Feeding of Humans* (Laurence Yep and Joanne Ryder)

“**Fans of *How to Train Your Dragon* will love this whimsical tale, the first in a series, by a Newbery Honor winner, featuring charming illustrations and pet "training tips" in each chapter.** Crusty dragon Miss Drake has a new pet human, precocious Winnie. Oddly enough, Winnie seems to think Miss Drake is her pet—a ridiculous notion! Unknown to most of its inhabitants, the City by the Bay is home to many mysterious and fantastic creatures, hidden beneath the parks, among the clouds, and even in plain sight. And Winnie wants to draw every new creature she encounters: the good, the bad, and the ugly. But Winnie's sketchbook is not what it seems. Somehow, her sketchlings have been set loose on the city streets! It will take Winnie and Miss Drake's combined efforts to put an end to the mayhem . . . before it's too late.”

### 9. *Fish in a Tree* (Lynda Mullaly Hunt)

“The author of the beloved *One for the Murphys* gives readers an emotionally-charged, uplifting novel that will speak to anyone who's ever thought there was something wrong with them because they didn't fit in.

“Everybody is smart in different ways. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its life believing it is stupid.” Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.”

### 10. *Roller Girl* (Victoria Jamieson)

“**For fans of Raina Telgemeier's *Smile*, a heartwarming graphic novel about friendship and surviving junior high through the power of roller derby.** Twelve-year-old Astrid has always done everything with her best friend Nicole. So when Astrid signs up for roller derby camp, she assumes Nicole will too. But Nicole signs up for dance camp with a new friend instead, and so begins the toughest summer of Astrid's life. There are bumps and bruises as Astrid learns who she is without Nicole...and what it takes to be a strong, tough roller girl.”

# Parents

Here a few suggestions for parents, to get your summer reading started as well (you can of course also pick from the lists above – I read children’s literature all the time ;)

## *All the Lights We Cannot See* (Anthony Doerr)

“Marie-Laure lives with her father in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where he works as the master of its thousands of locks. When she is six, Marie-Laure goes blind and her father builds a perfect miniature of their neighborhood so she can memorize it by touch and navigate her way home. When Marie-Laure is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris, and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure’s reclusive great-uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum’s most valuable and dangerous jewel. In a mining town in Germany, the orphan Werner grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments, a talent that wins him a place at a brutal academy for Hitler Youth, then a special assignment to track the resistance. More and more aware of the human cost of his intelligence, Werner travels through the heart of the war and, finally, into Saint-Malo, where his story and Marie-Laure’s converge.”

## *In the Unlikely Event* (Judy Blume)

“In her highly anticipated new novel, Judy Blume, the New York Times # 1 best-selling author of *Summer Sisters* and of young adult classics such as *Are You There God? It’s Me, Margaret*, creates a richly textured and moving story of three generations of families, friends and strangers, whose lives are profoundly changed by unexpected events.”

## *The Boys in the Boat* (Daniel James Brown)

**“For readers of Laura Hillenbrand’s *Seabiscuit* and *Unbroken*, the dramatic story of the American rowing team that stunned the world at Hitler’s 1936 Berlin Olympics.** Daniel James Brown’s robust book tells the story of the University of Washington’s 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, a team that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans. The sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the boys defeated elite rivals first from eastern and British universities and finally the German crew rowing for Adolf Hitler in the Olympic games in Berlin, 1936.

The emotional heart of the story lies with one rower, Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not for glory, but to regain his shattered self-regard and to find a place he can call home. The crew is assembled by an enigmatic coach and mentored by a visionary, eccentric British boat builder, but it is their trust in each other that makes them a victorious team. They remind the country of what can be done when everyone quite literally pulls together—a perfect melding of commitment, determination, and optimism. Drawing on the boys’ own diaries and journals, their photos and memories of a once-in-a-lifetime shared dream, *The Boys in the Boat* is an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times—the improbable, intimate story of nine working-class boys from the American west who, in the depths of the Great Depression, showed the world what true grit really meant. It will appeal to readers of Erik Larson, Timothy Egan, James Bradley, and David Halberstam’s *The Amateurs*.”

## *The Rosie Project* (Graeme Simsion)

“An international sensation, this hilarious, feel-good novel is narrated by an oddly charming and socially challenged genetics professor on an unusual quest: to find out if he is capable of true love. Don Tillman, professor of genetics, has never been on a second date. He is a man who can count all his friends on the fingers of one hand, whose lifelong difficulty with social rituals has convinced him that he is simply not wired for romance. So when an acquaintance informs him that he would make a “wonderful” husband, his first reaction is shock. Yet he must concede to the statistical probability that there is someone for everyone, and he embarks upon The Wife Project. In the orderly, evidence-based manner with which he approaches all things, Don sets out to find the perfect partner. She will be punctual and logical—most definitely not a barmaid, a smoker, a drinker, or a late-arriver. Yet Rosie Jarman is all these things. She is also beguiling, fiery, intelligent—and on a quest of her own. She is looking for her biological father, a search that a certain DNA expert might be able to help her with. Don’s Wife Project takes a back burner to the Father Project and an unlikely relationship blooms, forcing the scientifically minded geneticist to confront the spontaneous whirlwind that is Rosie—and the realization that love is not always what looks good on paper. *The Rosie Project* is a moving and hilarious novel for anyone who has ever tenaciously gone after life or love in the face of overwhelming challenges.”

### *The Sleepwalker's Guide to Dancing* (Mira Jacob)

"Spanning India in the 70s to New Mexico in the 80s to Seattle in the 90s, *The Sleepwalker's Guide to Dancing* is a winning, irreverent debut novel about a family wrestling with its future and its past. When brain surgeon Thomas Eapen decides to cut short a visit to his mother's home in India in 1979, he sets into motion a series of events that will forever haunt him and his wife, Kamala; their intellectually precocious son, Akhil; and their watchful daughter, Amina. Now, twenty years later, in the heat of a New Mexican summer, Thomas has begun having bizarre conversations with his dead relatives and it's up to Amina—a photographer in the midst of her own career crisis—to figure out what is really going on. But getting to the truth is far harder than it seems. From Thomas's unwillingness to talk, to Kamala's *Born Again* convictions, to run-ins with a hospital staff that seems to know much more than they let on, Amina finds herself at the center of a mystery so thick with disasters that to make any headway at all, she has to unravel the family's painful past."

### Or how about trying a Young Adult novel:

#### *All the Bright Places* (Jennifer Niven)

**"*The Fault in Our Stars* meets *Eleanor and Park* in this exhilarating and heart-wrenching love story about a girl who learns to live from a boy who intends to die.**

**Soon to be a major motion picture starring Elle Fanning! Theodore Finch** is fascinated by death, and he constantly thinks of ways he might kill himself. But each time, something good, no matter how small, stops him. **Violet Markey** lives for the future, counting the days until graduation, when she can escape her Indiana town and her aching grief in the wake of her sister's recent death.

When Finch and Violet meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school, it's unclear who saves whom. And when they pair up on a project to discover the "natural wonders" of their state, both Finch and Violet make more important discoveries: It's only with Violet that Finch can be himself—a weird, funny, live-out-loud guy who's not such a freak after all. And it's only with Finch that Violet can forget to count away the days and start living them. But as Violet's world grows, Finch's begins to shrink. This is an intense, gripping novel perfect for fans of Jay Asher, Rainbow Rowell, John Green, Gayle Forman, and Jenny Downham from a talented new voice in YA, Jennifer Niven."

#### *Every Day and Another Day* (David Levithan)

*"Every day a different body. Every day a different life. Every day in love with the same girl. There's never any warning about where it will be or who it will be. A has made peace with that, even established guidelines by which to live: Never get too attached. Avoid being noticed. Do not interfere.*

It's all fine until the morning that A wakes up in the body of Justin and meets Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon. From that moment, the rules by which A has been living no longer apply. Because finally A has found someone he wants to be with—day in, day out, day after day."

#### *Evil Librarian* (Michelle Knudsen)

"When Cynthia Rothschild's best friend, Annie, falls head over heels for the new high-school librarian, Cyn can totally see why. He's really young and super cute and thinks Annie would make an excellent library monitor. But after meeting Mr. Gabriel, Cyn realizes something isn't quite right. Maybe it's the creepy look in the librarian's eyes, or the weird feeling Cyn gets whenever she's around him. Before long Cyn realizes that Mr. Gabriel is, in fact . . . a demon. Now, in addition to saving the school musical from technical disaster and trying not to make a fool of herself with her own hopeless crush, Cyn has to save her best friend from the clutches of the evil librarian, who also seems to be slowly sucking the life force out of the entire student body! From best-selling author Michelle Knudsen, here is the perfect novel for teens who like their horror served up with a bit of romance, plenty of humor, and some pretty hot guys (of both the good and evil variety)."

#### *The Ghosts of Heaven* (Marcus Sedgwick)

"A bold, genre-bending epic that chronicles madness, obsession, and creation, from the Paleolithic era through the Witch Hunts and into the space-bound future. Four linked stories boldly chronicle madness, obsession, and creation through the ages. Beginning with the cave-drawings of a young girl on the brink of creating the earliest form of writing, Sedgwick traverses history, plunging into the seventeenth century witch hunts and a 1920s insane asylum where a mad poet's obsession with spirals seems to be about to unhinge the world of the doctor trying to save him. Sedgwick moves beyond the boundaries of historical fiction and into the future in the book's final section, set upon a spaceship voyaging to settle another world for the first time. Merging Sedgwick's gift for suspense with science- and historical-fiction, *Ghosts of Heaven* is a tale is worthy of intense obsession."

### Red Queen (Victoria Aveyard)

“The poverty stricken Reds are commoners, living under the rule of the Silvers, elite warriors with god-like powers. To Mare Barrow, a 17-year-old Red girl from The Stilts, it looks like nothing will ever change. Mare finds herself working in the Silver Palace, at the centre of those she hates the most. She quickly discovers that, despite her red blood, she possesses a deadly power of her own. One that threatens to destroy Silver control. But power is a dangerous game. And in this world divided by blood, who will win?”

Happy  
Summer Reading!