

HKA Primary Library Summer Reading Suggestions 2017

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

The following is a compilation of just a few (mainly fiction) titles that I read/came across during the past year and of which I think might appeal to our students. Consider this list a mere starting point to explore when looking for ideas on what to read over the summer. Additional resources are available on our [Summer Reading Padlet](#) (online bulletin board), which were compiled by our students. You can access the Padlet through our [Primary Portal page](#).

Please also consider visiting 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 following grade-level boundaries are meant to be broad 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. Keep in mind that books can be enjoyed in many different ways, depending on the reader's developmental stage and preferences, e.g. reading independently, sharing the reading, listening to a book that is read out loud (by a more experienced reader or an audio book narrator).

I hope you will discover stories that you enjoy and treasure reading / reading together during the upcoming break. Happy Summer Reading!

With warmest wishes from Ms. Tanja & Ms. Alison

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

Picture Books For Everyone

***A Child of Books* (Oliver Jeffers)**

“A little girl sails her raft across a sea of words, arriving at the house of a small boy. She invites him to go away with her on an adventure into the world of stories... where, with only a little imagination, anything at all can happen. “

***We're All Wonders* (R.J. Palacio)**

“The unforgettable bestseller *Wonder* has inspired a nationwide movement to Choose Kind. Now parents and educators can introduce the importance of choosing kind to younger readers with this gorgeous picture book, featuring Auggie and Daisy on an original adventure, written and illustrated by R. J. Palacio.”

***Mango, Abuela and Me* (Meg Medina)**

“When a little girl’s far-away grandmother comes to stay, love and patience transcend language in a tender story written by acclaimed author Meg Medina.”

***The Sound of Silence* (Katrina Goldsaito)**

“Do you have a favorite sound? little Yoshio asks. The musician answers, The most beautiful sound...”

***The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles* (Michelle Cuevas)**

“The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles, who lives alone atop a hill, has a job of the utmost importance. It is his task to open any bottles found at sea and make sure that the messages are delivered. He loves his job, though he has always wished that, someday, one of the letters would be addressed to him. One day he opens a party invitation—but there’s no name attached. As he devotes himself to the mystery of the intended recipient, he ends up finding something even more special: the possibility of new friends.”

***The Stone Lion* (Margret Wild)**

“Sometimes statues are granted a chance to become warm, breathing creatures. The stone lion has only one dream to run, pounce and leap in the park across from where he sits. But one snowy night, when a baby is abandoned at his paws, he is compelled to think differently.”

***What Do You Do With a Problem?* (Kobi Yamada)**

“From the same author and illustrator as our #1 nationally best-selling *What Do You Do With an Idea?* comes a new book to encourage you to look closely at problems and discover the possibilities they can hold.”

***Armstrong: The Adventurous Journey of a Mouse to the Moon* (Torben Kuhlmann)**

“A long time ago a mouse learned to fly . . . and crossed the Atlantic. But what happened next? Torben Kuhlmann’s stunning new book transports readers to the moon and beyond! On the heels of Lindbergh: The Tale of a Flying Mouse comes Armstrong: A Mouse on the Moon—where dreams are determined only by the size of your imagination and the biggest innovators are the smallest of all. The book ends with a brief non-fiction history of human space travel—from Galileo’s observations concerning the nature of the universe to man’s first steps on the moon.”

***Boat of Dreams* (Rogério Coelho)**

“This wordless, many-layered 80-page picture book invites all these interpretations and more. The intricately detailed illustrations reveal new wonders with each viewing. Neither children nor adults will ever tire of this wonderful testament to imagination, memory, and dreams.”

The White Cat and the Monk (Jo Ellen Bogart)

“A monk leads a simple life. He studies his books late into the evening and searches for truth in their pages. His cat, Pangur, leads a simple life, too, chasing prey in the darkness. As night turns to dawn, Pangur leads his companion to the truth he has been seeking.”

The Fog (Kyo Maclear)

“Warble is a small yellow warbler who lives on the beautiful island of Icyland, where he pursues his hobby of human watching. But on a warm day, a deep fog rolls in and obscures his view. The rest of the birds don't seem to notice the fog or the other changes Warble observes on the island. The more the fog is ignored, the more it spreads. When a Red-hooded Spectacled Female (Juvenile) appears, Warble discovers that he's not the only one who notices the fog. Will they be able to find others who can see it too? And is the fog here to stay?”

The Herd Boy (Niki Daly)

“Malusi is a herd boy, which means that he must look after his grandfather's sheep and goat and keep them from being harmed on the grazing slopes. It is a big job for a small boy, but it is one that Malusi does well. Even when a hungry baboon attacks the herd, Malusi isn't afraid. But he also dreams of someday being more than a herd boy. In this simple but poignant story, the author explores the idea that many great men came from humble beginnings. Ultimately, readers are encouraged to consider what it is that gives someone the strength and integrity of a great leader.”

A Bit of Nonfiction

(... mainly for Upper Primary readers)

***Martina & Chrissie* (Phil Bildner)**

“A fascinating dual biography of tennis greats Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert celebrates the power of equality, respect, and sportsmanship. “

***Lines, Bars and Circles* (Helaine Becker)**

“Born in Scotland more than 250 years ago, William Playfair was a dreamer who saw the world differently from other people. Unfortunately, this difference sometimes got in the way of his success. Early on, as he attempted to apply his unique perspective to a series of career opportunities in order to gain ?riches! fame! glory! he instead suffered one failure after another. Then, while writing a book about economics, Will's innovative vision inspired an idea that would set him apart: he created the first modern line graph. Next came a bar graph and later a pie chart. These infographic inventions provided a way for numbers to be seen as pictures, which made them easier to understand and to remember --- and thus changed the way the world would interact with data forever.”

***Some Writer: The Story of E.B. White* (Melissa Sweet)**

““SOME PIG,” Charlotte the spider’s praise for Wilbur, is just one fondly remembered snippet from E. B. White’s *Charlotte’s Web*. In *Some Writer!*, the two-time Caldecott Honor winner Melissa Sweet mixes White’s personal letters, photos, and family ephemera with her own exquisite artwork to tell his story, from his birth in 1899 to his death in 1985. Budding young writers will be fascinated and inspired by the journalist, *New Yorker* contributor, and children’s book author who loved words his whole life. This authorized tribute is the first fully illustrated biography of E. B. White and includes an afterword by Martha White, E. B. White’s granddaughter.”

***Apex Predators* (Steve Jenkins)**

“ In his latest book, the award-winning author and illustrator Steve Jenkins introduces readers to apex predators—the animals that are at the top of their food chains and have no natural enemies. Using his signature art style, Jenkins illustrates how these animals dominate their different ecosystems using speed, strength, and even cooperation and cunning. Take a trip through history and discover apex predators both past and present, from the earliest sea creatures to the modern African lion and giant freshwater ray, which can grow to over fifteen feet.”

***Curious Constructions: A Peculiar Portfolio of Fifty Fascinating Structures* (Michael Hearst)**

“Curious about constructions? Inside this book, you'll come face-to-face with 50 incredible structures, including: a fire-breathing octopus sculpture; the skateboard ramp you'd need to jump the Great Wall of China; a whole community of tree houses in Costa Rica; and a lifesize X-Wing Starfighter built of Legos. These and many more fascinating accounts of constructions both fantastically useful and gloriously unnecessary await inquisitive readers, aspiring engineers, and anyone who ever looked at a skyscraper and thought, “Yeah, but what if it had a roller coaster on top?”

***Grace Hopper: Queen of Computer Code* (Laurie Wallmark)**

“*If you’ve got a good idea, and you know it’s going to work, go ahead and do it.*” The picture book biography of Grace Hopper—the boundary-breaking woman who revolutionized computer science.”

***Pedal Power* (Allan Drummond)**

“Bikes rule the road in Amsterdam today, but that wasn't always the case. In the 1970's, Amsterdam was so crowded with vehicles that bicyclists could hardly move, but moms and kids relied on their bikes to get around the city. PEDAL POWER is the story of the people who led protests against the unsafe streets and

took over a vehicles-only tunnel on their bikes, showing what a little pedal power could do! Author and illustrator Allan Drummond returns with the story of the people that paved the way for safe biking around the world.”

***The Music of Life* (Elizabeth Rusch)**

“Award-winning biographer Elizabeth Rusch and two-time Caldecott Honor-recipient Marjorie Priceman team up to tell the inspiring story of the invention of the world’s most popular instrument: the piano.”

***Shark Lady* (Jess Keating)**

“At 9 years old, Eugenie Clark developed an unexpected passion for sharks after a visit to the Battery Park Aquarium in New York City. At the time, sharks were seen as mindless killing machines, but Eugenie knew better and set out to prove it. Despite many obstacles in her path, Eugenie was able to study the creatures she loved so much. From her many discoveries to the shark-related myths she dispelled, Eugenie’s wide scientific contributions led to the well-earned nickname “Shark Lady.”

***Thunder Underground* (Jane Yolen)**

“In this collection of poems, noted children’s poet Jane Yolen takes readers on an expedition underground, exploring everything from animal burrows and human creations, like subways, near the surface—to ancient cities and fossils, lower down—to caves, magma, and Earth’s tectonic plates, deeper still below our feet. At the same time, in Josée Masse’s rich art, a girl and boy, accompanied by several animals, go on a fantastic underground journey. This book contains science, poetry, and an adventure story all rolled into one. But it’s also more than that: In these poems we see that beneath us are the past, present, future—history, truth, and story. This thought-provoking collection will evoke a sense of wonder and awe in readers, as they discover the mysterious world underneath us.”

***Lighter Than Air* (Matthew Clark Smith)**

“Take to the skies with the beautifully told tale of Sophie Blanchard a woman meant for the air as she discovers the incomparable sensation of flight. “

***John Ronald’s Dragons: The Story of J.R.R. Tolkien* (Caroline McAlister)**

“A captivating picture book biography of a boy who imagined a world full of dragons and grew up to be beloved author J. R. R. Tolkien.”

Or try out one of these nonfiction picture books by Kate Messner, which are also suitable for younger readers:

Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt

Over and Under the Pond

Over and Under the Snow

PK1-K

1. *The Airport Book* (Lisa Brown)

“In a book that is as intriguing as it is useful and entertaining, we follow a family on its way through the complexities of a modern-day airport. From checking bags and watching them disappear on the mysterious conveyor belt, to security clearance and a seemingly endless wait at the gate to finally being airborne.”

2. *Mighty, Mighty, Construction Site* (Sheri Duskey Rinker) and/or *Little Excavator* (Anna Dewdney)

“At last—here from the team behind the beloved international bestseller comes a companion to *Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site*. All of our favorite trucks are back on the construction site—this time with a focus on team-building, friendship, and working together to make a big task seem small! Down in the big construction site, the crew faces their biggest job yet, and will need the help of new construction friends to get it done. Working as a team, there’s nothing they can’t do! The millions of fans of *Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site* are in for a *mighty* good time!” (Amazon)

3. *They All Saw A Cat* (Brendan Wenzek)

“*The cat walked through the world, with its whiskers, ears, and paws . . .* In this celebration of observation, curiosity, and imagination, Brendan Wenzel shows us the many views of one cat, and how perspective shapes what we see. When you see a cat, what do you see?”

4. *A Morning With Grandpa* (Sylvia Liu)

“Mei Mei’s grandpa is practicing tai chi in the garden, and Mei Mei is eager to join in. As Gong Gong tries to teach her the slow, graceful movements, Mei Mei enthusiastically does them with her own flair. Then Mei Mei takes a turn, trying to teach Gong Gong the yoga she learned in school. Will Gong Gong be able to master the stretchy, bendy poses? Winner of the LEE & LOW New Voices Award, this title celebrates, with lively spirit and humor, the special bond between grandparent and grandchild and the joy of learning new things together. Readers of all ages will want to try out some tai chi and yoga too!” (Amazon)

5. *The Giant Jumperee* (Julia Donaldson)

“Two of the world’s most celebrated picture book creators, Julia Donaldson and Helen Oxenbury, team up for the first time in this jaunty animal fable for fans of “The Gruffalo” and “We’re Going on a Bear Hunt.”

6. *Sad, the Dog* (Sandy Fussell)

“An ode to finding the one who brings out the best in you—and makes you feel as special as you are.”

7. *Juna’s Jar* (Jane Bakh)

“Juna and her best friend, Hector, have many adventures together, and they love to collect things in empty kimchi jars. Then one day, Hector unexpectedly moves away without having a chance to say good-bye. Juna is heartbroken and left to wonder who will go on adventures with her. Determined to find Hector, Juna turns to her special kimchi jar for help each night. She plunges into the depths of the ocean, swings on vines through the jungle, and flies through the night sky in search of her friend. What Juna finds is that adventure--and new friends--can be found in the most unexpected places. Coupled with dreamy watercolor illustrations by Felicia Hoshino, *Juna’s Jar* is a heartwarming and whimsical tale about the power of the imagination.”

8. *Home in the Rain* (Bob Graham)

“Waiting out a storm by the highway inspires a name for an unborn baby sister in a tender, exquisitely observed tale from the incomparable Bob Graham.”

9. *Over the Ocean* (Taro Gomi)

“A young girl gazes out to where the water meets the sky and wonders what lies beyond the waves. Boats filled with toys? Skyscrapers filled with people? Houses filled with families? Or, maybe, over the ocean stands someone not so different from the girl herself, returning her gaze.”

10. *On the Spot* (Amy Krouse Rosenthal)

“Transform an ordinary story into a silly one with stickers or found objects in this Mad Libs-esque adventure! For fans of Press Here and Tap the Magic Tree. New York Times bestselling author Amy Krouse Rosenthal (Uni the Unicorn and I Wish You More), Lea Redmond, and Sanne te Loo have created a picture book with a story that rhymes and very lovely illustrations. But, oops--they've left out some important pieces of the story . . . and it's up to YOU to fill them in!”

Kindergarteners might also enjoy getting a first taste of chapter books. Here are a few suggested titles to try out - with help or independently:

Ling & Ting series (Grace Lin)

Charlie and Mouse series (Laurel Snyder)

Fly Guy series - fiction and nonfiction (Tedd Arnold) - weather, sharks, castles, dinosaurs, space, etc.

Mercy Watson and Tales from Deckawoo Drive series (Kate DiCamillo)

G1-2

1. *You Can Read* (Helaine Becker) and/or *This Is Not a Picture Book* (Sergio Ruzzier)

“In this fun and funny celebration of literacy, kids of all ages will discover that the act of reading is a daring adventure that can take you anywhere! You can read at the playground, under the sea, at the opera and even in outer space! It turns out you can read everywhere! And when you do, you open yourself to a universe of adventure.

Presented in light-hearted, rib-tickling verse that's perfect for reading aloud, *You Can Read* sings it loud and proud: Books are awesome. And so are the people who read them.”

2. *The Giggle Gang* series (Jan Thomas): *What is Chasing Duck? There's a Pest in the Garden*

“*What is chasing Duck? Is it something wild and hairy? Does it have big teeth? Who will help protect Duck?* Featuring Jan Thomas's wonderfully wacky humor, rowdy repetitions, and hilarious characters, this book is sure to have young readers laughing out loud!” (Amazon)

3. *Lucy* (Randy Cecil)

“Lucy is a small dog without a home. She had one once, but she remembers it only in her dreams. Eleanor is a little girl who looks forward to feeding the stray dog that appears faithfully beneath her window each day. Eleanor's father is a juggler with stage fright.”

4. *Cinnamon* (Neil Gaiman)

“Cinnamon was a princess, a long time ago, in a small hot country, where everything was very old. Cinnamon did not talk. Mango trees, a parrot, and a beautiful room in the palace do nothing to help the teachers who try to make her to speak. Can a man-eating tiger do so, and exactly who will end up in the belly of the beast?”

5. *Detective Gordon: The First Case - and other books in the series* (Ulf Nilsson)

“Someone's stealing nuts from the forest, and it's up to Detective Gordon to catch the thief! Unfortunately, solving this crime means standing in the snow and waiting for a long time... If only he had an assistant?someone small, fast, and clever?to help solve this terrible case.”

6. *Jasmine Toguchi: Mochi Queen* (Debbi Michiko Florence)

“[,,] about headstrong eight-year-old Jasmine Toguchi and her Japanese-American family. The first book, *Jasmine Toguchi, Mochi Queen*, is about yearning to be part of a fun family tradition, even if it's not something girls typically do. “

7. *Inspector Flytrap* (Tom Angleberger)

“From husband-and-wife team Tom Angleberger, creator of the *New York Times* bestselling *Origami Yoda* series, and Cece Bell, author/illustrator of the Newbery Honor graphic novel *El Deafo*, comes the start to a funny and clever illustrated chapter-book series about a mystery-solving Venus flytrap. With easy-to-read language and illustrations on almost every page, this early-chapter-book series is a must for beginning readers.”

8. *7 Ate 9: The Untold Story* (Tara Lazar)

“One was having a terrible day. She still couldn't count to Nine, and the other numbers wouldn't even let her try. But things took a turn for the worse when Seven ate Nine. He was doing a real number on everyone! Will she be the last One left?”

9. *Lily's New Home* - and other titles in the *Confetti Kids* series (Paula Yoo)

“In this early chapter book for beginning readers, Lily and her parents move from their suburban neighborhood to New York City. Lily is used to living in a house on a quiet street. When they arrive at their new apartment, Lily notices the amount of activity all around. Kids play jump rope on one corner.

Buses and taxis zoom by. Lily feels like a small ant on such a busy block and worries that she'll never feel at home. As she and her parents explore their new, multicultural neighborhood, Lily discovers that sometimes change can be a good thing. Featuring a diverse cast of characters, this is the first in the new Confetti Kids series. ”

10. *Barkus* (Patricia McLachlan)

“The adventures of a playful pup and his young owner. The exuberant Barkus and his lucky young owner whirl and twirl across the pages of this delightful pre-chapter book series from award-winning author Patricia MacLachlan. The accessible text is ideal for even the newest independent reader, while the warm, humorous story and energetic illustrations will appeal to picture book readers as well as advanced readers.” (Amazon)

G3-4

1. *Adventures with Waffles* (Maria Parr)

“Hardly a day passes without Trille and Lena inventing some kind of adventure that often ends in trouble. Whether it’s coaxing a cow onto a boat or sledding down the steepest and iciest hill with a chicken, there is always a thrill—and sometimes an injury—to be had. Trille loves to share everything with Lena, even Auntie Granny’s waffles. But when Lena has to move away and Auntie Granny leaves the world, it sometimes seems like nothing will ever be right again. The warmth of friendship and the support of family suffuse this lightly illustrated novel, proving that when times are tough, a little taste of sweetness can make all the difference. “

2. *Rip & Red series* (Phil Bildner): *A Whole New Ballgame*; xxx

“Rip and Red are best friends whose fifth-grade year is nothing like what they expected. They have a crazy new tattooed teacher named Mr. Acevedo, who doesn’t believe in tests or homework and who likes off-the-wall projects, the more “off” the better. They also find themselves with a new basketball coach: Mr. Acevedo! Easy-going Rip is knocked completely out of his comfort zone. And for Red, who has autism and really needs things to be exactly a certain way, the changes are even more of a struggle. But together these two make a great duo who know how to help each other—and find ways to make a difference—in the classroom and on the court.”

3. *Cilla-Lee Jenkins: Future Author Extraordinaire* (Susan Tan)

“Roaring Brook has bought Cilla Lee-Jenkins: *Future Author Extraordinaire*, a debut middle-grade novel by Susan Tan. The book is told through the “memoirs” of a surely-soon-to-be renowned nine-year-old girl, exploring her mixed Chinese and American heritage, school, birthdays, time-traveling theories, and the impending birth of a new sibling. Publication is set for 2017, with a second book to follow in 2018. “

4. *The Fox and the Ghost King* (Michael Morpurgo)

“A delightful tale of victory against all odds from master storyteller, Michael Morpurgo, lavishly illustrated by Michael Foreman.”

5. *Wish* (Barbara O’Connor)

“Eleven-year-old Charlie Reese has been making the same secret wish every day since fourth grade. She even has a list of all the ways there are to make the wish, such as cutting off the pointed end of a slice of pie and wishing on it as she takes the last bite. But when she is sent to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina to live with family she barely knows, it seems unlikely that her wish will ever come true. That is until she meets Wishbone, a skinny stray dog who captures her heart, and Howard, a neighbor boy who proves surprising in lots of ways. Suddenly Charlie is in serious danger of discovering that what she thought she wanted may not be what she needs at all.”

6. *Captain Jimmy Cook Discovers Third Grade* (Kate Temple)

“When Jimmy Cook discovers that Captain Cook met with a sticky end in Hawaii, he’s determined to travel to the island to finish what his famous ancestor started. Big dreams come with a big price, but no price is too big for Captain Jimmy Cook, especially if it means beating the world’s most annoying person, Alice Toolie...”

7. *Bat Girl at Super Hero High* - and other books in the DC Superhero Girls Adventure Series (Lisa Yee)

“Award-winning author Lisa Yee brings mystery, thrills, and laughs to this groundbreaking series that follows DC Comics most iconic female Super Heroes and Super-Villains. Move over Batman and Superman the DC Super Hero Girls are ready to save the day and have fun doing it!”

8. *I Survived the Eruption of Mount St. Helens, 1980* - and other books in the I Survived series (Lauren Tarshis)

“It was one the most beautiful mountains in America, Mt. St. Helens, in Washington State. But what many didn’t know was that this peaceful mountain had an explosive past. For more than a century, it had been quiet. But below ground, pressure had been building, and soon, *Kaboom!* Mt. St. Helens would erupt with terrifying fury.”

9. *The Explorers: The Door in the Alley* (Adrienne Kress)

“Featuring a mysterious society, a secretive past, and a pig in a teeny hat, *The Explorers: The Door in the Alley* is the first book in a new series for fans of *The Name of This Book Is a Secret* and *The Mysterious Benedict Society*. Knock once if you can find it—but only members are allowed inside.”

10. *Figgy in the World* (Tamsin Janu)

“Figgy has two problems. One is her name. Nobody in Ghana has that name. The other is that her grandmother is ill and needs special medicine. Figgy can’t do much about her name, but she can do something for Grandma Ama. She will go to America and bring back the medicine, and Kwame, her special goat, will go with her. Out in the wide world she will meet some bad people, but she will also find good friends. “

As an incoming fourth or fifth grader, you might also like to explore the new [Hong Kong Battle of the Books list for the Primary Category](#), no matter whether you are intending to participate or not. Here are a few special recommendations from the list for you:

***Because of Winn Dixie* (Kate DiCamillo)**

“The summer Opal and her father, the preacher, move to Naomi, Florida, Opal goes into the Winn-Dixie supermarket--and comes out with a dog. A big, ugly, suffering dog with a sterling sense of humor. A dog she dubs Winn-Dixie. Because of Winn-Dixie, the preacher tells Opal ten things about her absent mother, one for each year Opal has been alive. Winn-Dixie is better at making friends than anyone Opal has ever known, and together they meet the local librarian, Miss Franny Block, who once fought off a bear with a copy of *WAR AND PEACE*. They meet Gloria Dump, who is nearly blind but sees with her heart, and Otis, an ex-con who sets the animals in his pet shop loose after hours, then lulls them with his guitar. Opal spends all that sweet summer collecting stories about her new friends and thinking about her mother. But because of Winn-Dixie or perhaps because she has grown, Opal learns to let go, just a little, and that friendship—and forgiveness—can sneak up on you like a sudden summer storm.”

***Wild Robot* (Peter Brown)**

“When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island. Why is she there? Where did she come from? And, most important, how will she survive in her harsh surroundings? Roz’s only hope is to learn from the island’s hostile animal inhabitants. When she tries to care for an orphaned gosling, the other animals finally decide to help, and the island starts to feel like home. Until one day, the robot’s mysterious past comes back to haunt her....”

***The Girl Who Drank The Moon* (Kelly Barnhill)**

“Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. “

***Heartsong* (Kevin Crossley-Holland)**

“Abandoned at the orphanage in Venice as a baby, Laura is mute. Her life is transformed when the composer Vivaldi unlocks her passion for music. The seasons turn, dark turns to light and miracles happen.”

***Save Me a Seat* (Sarah Weeks & Gita Varadarajan)**

“Joe and Ravi might be from very different places, but they’re both stuck in the same place: SCHOOL Joe’s lived in the same town all his life, and was doing just fine until his best friends moved away and left him on his own. Ravi’s family just moved to America from India, and he’s finding it pretty hard to figure out where he fits in.”

G5

1. *Beyond the Bright Sea* (Lauren Wolk)

“From the author of the critically acclaimed *Wolf Hollow* comes a moving story of identity and belonging. Twelve-year-old Crow has lived her entire life on a tiny, isolated piece of the starkly beautiful Elizabeth Islands in Massachusetts. Abandoned and set adrift on a small boat when she was just hours old, Crow’s only companions are Osh, the man who rescued and raised her, and Miss Maggie, their fierce and affectionate neighbor across the sandbar.”

2. *The Secret Keepers* (Trenton Lee Stewart)

“When Reuben discovers an extraordinary antique watch, he soon learns it has a secret power and his life takes an intriguing turn. At first he is thrilled with his new treasure, but as one secret leads to another, Reuben finds himself torn between his innately honest nature and the lure to be a hero. Now he is on a dangerous adventure--full of curious characters, treacherous traps, and hairsbreadth escapes--as he races to solve the mystery before it is too late. Even with fearless Penny, mighty Jack, and the wise Mrs. Genevieve on his side, can Reuben outwit and outmaneuver the sly villain called The Smoke and his devious defenders the Directions and save the city from a terrible fate? In this ingeniously crafted novel, acclaimed *New York Times* bestselling author Trenton Lee Stewart invites readers to join the adventure, decipher the clues, and ask themselves the question: Is knowing a secret a gift or a curse? “

3. *Funny Girl* (ed. By Betsy Bird)

“Sharyn November at Viking has acquired *Funny Girl*, a humor anthology for girls ages 9-12, curated by Betsy Bird and featuring short stories, personal essays, comics, and poetry from nearly 30 female writers, including Lisa Graff, Cece Bell, Jenni Holm, Shannon Hale, and Rita Williams-Garcia. A portion of the proceeds will support WriteGirl, a creative writing and mentoring organization for teen girls. “

4. *The Apprentice Witch* (James Nicol)

“A special middle grade debut of magic and courage in a world of witches, written with the charm and enchantment of *Circus Mirandus* and *The Apothecary*.”

5. *Sputnik’s Guide to Life On Earth* (Frank Cottrell Boyce)

“The Blythes are a big, warm, rambunctious family who live on a small farm and sometimes foster children. Now Prez has come to live with them. But, though he seems cheerful and helpful, he never says a word. Then one day Prez answers the door to someone claiming to be his relative. This small, loud stranger carries a backpack, walks with a swagger and goes by the name of Sputnik.”

6. *Restart* (Gordon Korman)

“Chase’s memory just went out the window. Chase doesn’t remember falling off the roof. He doesn’t remember hitting his head. He doesn’t, in fact, remember anything. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again . . . starting with his own name.”

7. *Liberty* - and other books in the *Dogs of World War II* series (Kirby Larson)

“Fish has a knack for inventing. His annoying neighbor, Olympia, has a knack for messing things up. But when his latest invention leads Fish to Liberty, a beautiful stray dog who needs a home, he and Olympia work together to rescue her.”

8. *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* (Pablo Cartaya)

“For Arturo, summertime in Miami means playing basketball until dark, sipping mango smoothies, and keeping cool under banyan trees. And maybe a few shifts as junior lunchtime dishwasher at Abuela’s restaurant. Maybe. But this summer also includes Carmen, a cute poetry enthusiast who moves into Arturo’s apartment complex and turns his stomach into a deep fryer. He almost doesn’t notice the smarmy land developer who rolls into town and threatens to change it. Arturo refuses to let his family and community go down without a fight, and as he schemes with Carmen, Arturo discovers the power of poetry and protest through untold family stories and the work of José Martí.”

9. *Amina’s Voice* (Hena Khan)

“A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family’s vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community in this sweet and moving middle

grade novel from the award-winning author of *It's Ramadan*, *Curious George* and *Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns*."

10. *Ghost* (Track) (Jason Reynolds)

"Running. That's all that Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But never for a track team. Nope, his game has always been ball. But when Ghost impulsively challenges an elite sprinter to a race -- and wins -- the Olympic medalist track coach sees he has something: crazy natural talent. Thing is, Ghost has something else: a lot of anger, and a past that he is trying to outrun. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed and meld with the team, or will his past finally catch up to him?"

11. *When Friendship Followed Me Home* (Paul Griffin)

"A boy's chance encounter with a scruffy dog leads to an unforgettable friendship in this deeply moving story about life, loss, and the meaning of family."

12. *Ms. Bixby's Last Day* (John David Anderson)

"Everyone knows there are different kinds of teachers. The good ones. The not-so-good ones. The boring ones, the mean ones, the ones who try too hard. The ones you'll never remember, and the ones you want to forget. But Ms. Bixby is none of these. She's the sort of teacher who makes you feel like the indignity of school is worthwhile. Who makes the idea of growing up less terrifying. Who you never want to disappoint. What Ms. Bixby is, is one of a kind."

And a special recommendation for all graphic novel fans:

Real Friends (Shannon Hale)

"Shannon and Adrienne have been best friends ever since they were little. But one day, Adrienne starts hanging out with Jen, the most popular girl in class and the leader of a circle of friends called The Group. Everyone in The Group wants to be Jen's #1, and some girls would do anything to stay on top . . . even if it means bullying others."

As a fifth grader, heading into middle school, you might also like to explore the new [Hong Kong Battle of the Books list for the Secondary Category](#), no matter whether you are intending to participate or not. Here are a few special recommendations from the list for you:

Booked (Kwame Alexander)

"In this follow-up to the Newbery-winning novel *THE CROSSOVER*, soccer, family, love, and friendship, take center stage as twelve-year-old Nick learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. Helping him along are his best friend and sometimes teammate Coby, and The Mac, a rapping librarian who gives Nick inspiring books to read. This electric and heartfelt novel-in-verse by poet Kwame Alexander bends and breaks as it captures all the thrills and setbacks, action and emotion of a World Cup match!"

Serafina and the Black Cloak (Robert Beatty)

"Serafina has never had a reason to disobey her pa and venture beyond the grounds of the Biltmore estate. There's plenty to explore in her grand home, although she must take care to never be seen. None of the rich folk upstairs know that Serafina exists; she and her pa, the estate's maintenance man, have secretly lived in the basement for as long as Serafina can remember. But when children at the estate start disappearing, only Serafina knows who the culprit is [...]."

Revolution is Not a Dinner Party (Ying Chang Compestine)

"Nine-year-old Ling is very comfortable in her life; her parents are both dedicated surgeons in the best hospital in Wuhan. But when Comrade Li, one of Mao's political officers, moves into a room in their apartment, Ling begins to witness the gradual disintegration of her world. In an atmosphere of increasing mistrust, Ling fears for the safety of her neighbors and, soon, for herself and family. Over the course of

four years, Ling manages to grow and blossom, even as she suffers more horrors than many people face in a lifetime.”

***Wolf Hollow* (Lauren Wolk)**

“Growing up in the shadows cast by two world wars, Annabelle has lived a mostly quiet, steady life in her small Pennsylvania town. Until the day new student Betty Glengarry walks into her class. Betty quickly reveals herself to be cruel and manipulative, and while her bullying seems isolated at first, things quickly escalate, and reclusive World War I veteran Toby becomes a target of her attacks. While others have always seen Toby’s strangeness, Annabelle knows only kindness. She will soon need to find the courage to stand as a lone voice of justice as tensions mount.”

***Brown Girl Dreaming* (Jacqueline Woodson)**

“Jacqueline Woodson, one of today’s finest writers, tells the moving story of her childhood in mesmerizing verse.”

Some Electronic Resources To Explore

[Tumble Book Library](#) - animated picture books, ebooks, graphic novels and more, geared towards students in K-6 (our library has a subscription)

[EPIC](#) - digital library for kids

Audiobooks such as [Audible.com](#)

For older students:

[Listenwise](#) - podcasts and public radio (free)

[Eleanor Amplified](#) - The Radio Adventure of Eleanor Amplified (An Adventure Podcast - free)

Grown-Ups

Here are a few suggestions for parents and colleagues, to help you getting your summer reading started as well (in addition to the many books listed above of course - no one is ever too old for children's literature!)

1. *The Borrowed* (Chan Ho-Kei)

"From award-winning Hong Kong writer Chan Ho-kei, *The Borrowed* tells the story of Kwan Chun-dok, a Hong Kong detective who rises from constable to senior inspector over the span of several decades, from the 1960s to the present day, and becomes a legend in the force, nicknamed "the Eye of Heaven" by his amazed colleagues. Divided into six sections told in reverse chronological order – each of which covers an important case in Kwan's career and takes place at a pivotal moment in Hong Kong history – the novel follows Kwan from his experiences during the Leftist Riot in 1967, when a bombing plot threatens many lives; the conflict between the HK Police and ICAC (Independent Commission Against Corruption) in 1977; the Tiananmen Square Massacre in 1989; the Handover in 1997; and the present day of 2013, when Kwan is called on to solve his final case, the murder of a local billionaire, while Hong Kong increasingly resembles a police state. Along the way we meet Communist rioters, ultraviolent gangsters, stallholders at the city's many covered markets, pop singers enmeshed in the high-stakes machinery of star-making, and a people always caught in the shifting balance of political power, whether in London or Beijing."

2. *Crazy Rich Asian trilogy* (Kevin Kwan) - the perfect beach read ;)

"*Crazy Rich Asians* is the outrageously funny debut novel about three super-rich, pedigreed Chinese families and the gossip, backbiting, and scheming that occurs when the heir to one of the most massive fortunes in Asia brings home his ABC (American-born Chinese) girlfriend to the wedding of the season."

3. *In the Garden of Beasts* (Erik Larson)

"The time is 1933, the place, Berlin, when William E. Dodd becomes America's first ambassador to Hitler's Germany in a year that proved to be a turning point in history."

4. *Where the Lights Fall* (Allison Pataki and Owen Pataki) - available July 11, 2017

"Set in Revolutionary Paris, a rich and sweeping novel about courage, duty, sacrifice, and love by the bestselling author of *Sisi*, Allison Pataki, and her brother, Owen Pataki. From the courtrooms to the battlefields to the alleyways of Paris, with cameos from infamous figures in French history, the Patakis have crafted an epic, action-packed novel of the French Revolution as it has never been seen before. Three years after the storming of the Bastille, Paris is enlivened with the ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity. The monarchy has been dismantled and a new nation, for the people, is rising up in its place. Jean-Luc, a young optimistic lawyer, moves his wife, Marie, and their son to Paris, inspired by a sense of duty to contribute to the new order. André, the son of a former nobleman, flees his privileged past to fight in the unified French Army with his roguish brother. Sophie, a beautiful young aristocratic widow and niece of a powerful, vindictive uncle, embarks on her own fight for independence."

5. *The Other Einstein* (Marie Benedict)

"A vivid and mesmerizing novel about the extraordinary woman who married and worked with one of the greatest scientists in history."

Or maybe you would like to include some **Young Adult literature** in your summer reading (I am a big fan!):

1. *Words in Deep Blue* (Cath Crowley)

“Years ago, Rachel had a crush on Henry Jones. The day before she moved away, she tucked a love letter into his favorite book in his family’s bookshop. She waited. But Henry never came. Now Rachel has returned to the city—and to the bookshop—to work alongside the boy she’d rather not see, if at all possible, for the rest of her life. But Rachel needs the distraction. Her brother drowned months ago, and she can’t feel anything anymore. “

2. *Throne of Glass* - and other books in the *Throne of Glass series* (Sarah Maas)

“After serving out a year of hard labor in the salt mines of Endovier for her crimes, 18-year-old assassin Celaena Sardothien is dragged before the Crown Prince. Prince Dorian offers her her freedom on one condition: she must act as his champion in a competition to find a new royal assassin. Her opponents are men-thieves and assassins and warriors from across the empire, each sponsored by a member of the king's council. If she beats her opponents in a series of eliminations, she'll serve the kingdom for four years and then be granted her freedom. Celaena finds her training sessions with the captain of the guard, Westfall, challenging and exhilarating. But she's bored stiff by court life. Things get a little more interesting when the prince starts to show interest in her ... but it's the gruff Captain Westfall who seems to understand her best.”

3. *Flame in the Mist* (Renee Ahdieh)

“The only daughter of a prominent samurai, Mariko has always known she’d been raised for one purpose and one purpose only: to marry. Never mind her cunning, which rivals that of her twin brother, Kenshin, or her skills as an accomplished alchemist. Since Mariko was not born a boy, her fate was sealed the moment she drew her first breath. So, at just seventeen years old, Mariko is sent to the imperial palace to meet her betrothed, a man she did not choose, for the very first time. But the journey is cut short when Mariko’s convoy is viciously attacked by the Black Clan, a dangerous group of bandits who’ve been hired to kill Mariko before she reaches the palace.”

4. *City of Saints and Thieves* (Natalie C. Anderson)

“*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* meets *Gone Girl* in this enthralling YA murder mystery set in Kenya. In the shadows of Sangu City, there lives a girl who doesn't exist. After fleeing the Congo as refugees, Tina and her mother arrived in Kenya looking for the chance to build a new life and home. Her mother quickly found work as a maid for a prominent family, headed by Roland Greyhill, one of the city’s most respected business leaders. But Tina soon learns that the Greyhill fortune was made from a life of corruption and crime. So when her mother is found shot to death in Mr. Greyhill's personal study, she knows exactly who’s behind it.”

5. *The Inexplicable Logic of My Life* (Benjamin Alire Saenz)

“*The first day of senior year*: Everything is about to change. Until this moment, Sal has always been certain of his place with his adoptive gay father and their loving Mexican-American family. But now his own history unexpectedly haunts him, and life-altering events force him and his best friend, Samantha, to confront issues of faith, loss, and grief.”

Happy
Summer Reading!