

2021 ALSC Summer Reading Booklists

Grades 6–8



The Association for Library Service to Children promotes reading and books through recommendations, compilations of lists, and related services. This reading list was compiled by ALSC's Quicklists Consulting Committee as a resource for children's librarians to share with patrons. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to explore these titles to find resources that may match or spark their child's interest.

A full-color designed version of this reading list is forthcoming in May 2021. This text-only version has been provided to assist children's library workers in collection development.

All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team

by Christina Soontornvat

CANDLEWICK, 2020

ISBN: 9781536209457

This multi-award-winning nonfiction book tracks the survival story of a Thai boys' soccer team, showing both the challenges facing rescuers and the bravery and ingenuity of those trapped in a flooded cave.

Almost American Girl: An Illustrated Memoir

by Robin Ha

BALZER + BRAY/HARPER ALLEY, 2020

ISBN: 9780062685100

A graphic novel memoir recounting the author's experience as a middle-schooler uprooted from her home in South Korea to live in Alabama, and the power of the arts to connect us.

Amari and the Night Brothers

by B. B. Alston

BALZER & BRAY, 2021

ISBN: 9780062975164

After Amari's brother disappears, she is nominated to train at the secret government organization he worked for. At this camp, Amari learns she is a magician and trains to be a junior agent for the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs. First in a series.

Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids

Edited by Cynthia Leitich Smith

HEARTDRUM, 2021

ISBN: 9780062869944

An anthology of intersecting stories by Native authors about families from Nations across the U.S. and Canada as they gather at an intertribal powwow to honor Native traditions.

2021 ALSC Summer Reading Booklists

Grades 6–8



Beetle & the Hollowbones

by Aliza Layne

ATHENEUM, 2020

ISBN: 9781534441538

Teen goblin and witch-in-training Beetle uses her wits and magical powers to save her friend Blob Ghost from being destroyed by her ex–best friend Kat’s aunt’s dastardly plans in this rollicking graphic novel.

Cece Rios and the Desert of Souls

by Kaela Rivera

HARPERCOLLINS, 2021

ISBN: 9780062947550

Cece walks the fine line between humans and creaturas (powerful spirits) on her search to rescue her sister from an evil spirit. Traveling a dangerous desert, Cece finds a kind spirit to help her on the way.

Chirp

by Kate Messner

BLOOMSBURY, 2020

ISBN: 9781547602810

Mia moves to Vermont to help her grandmother with her cricket farm. She joins a STEM and Ninja Warrior camp and starts to become more empowered to deal with sexual harassment from a gymnastics coach.

Efrén Divided

by Ernesto Cisneros

QUILL TREE BOOKS, 2020

ISBN: 9780062881687

When 12-year-old Efrén’s mother is sent back to Mexico by U.S. authorities, his life becomes increasingly difficult. Hope lives in Efrén’s heart as long as there’s a chance his family can be reunited.

Everything Sad Is Untrue

by Daniel Nayeri

LEVINE QUERIDO, 2020

ISBN: 9781646140008

Daniel, an Iranian refugee, struggles to fit in with his Oklahoma community. Through the lens of Scheherazade’s *One Thousand and One Nights*, Daniel weaves stories about his past.

Fighting Words

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

DIAL, 2020

ISBN: 9781984815682

Through a hard childhood, Della has always relied on her older sister, Suki. When their mom's boyfriend does something awful, the sisters run away and must start a new life in a foster home, but their past still haunts them both.

From the Desk of Zoe Washington

by Janae Marks

KATHERINE TEGEN BOOKS, 2020

ISBN: 9780062875853

Zoe has a lot of things on her plate: an important internship at a bakery, which would help her get onto a kid's baking television show, and secret communication with her father, who is imprisoned but may be innocent. Zoe must balance her baking with proving her father didn't do the crime he was convicted of.

King and the Dragonflies

by Kacen Callender

SCHOLASTIC, 2020

ISBN: 9781338129335

King is convinced his brother who died has returned as a dragonfly. In confronting his grief, King also must navigate a changed relationship with his parents and evolving feelings for his best friend, the son of the town's racist sheriff.

Legacy: Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance

by Nikki Grimes

BLOOMSBURY, 2021

ISBN: 9781681199443

This collection of poems styled with the Golden Shovel poetic method uses the original works of female poets of the Harlem Renaissance coupled with new poems written by Grimes.

2021 ALSC Summer Reading Booklists

Grades 6–8



Root Magic

by Eden Royce

WALDEN POND, 2021

ISBN: 9780062899576

In 1963 South Carolina, Jez and her twin brother, Jay, begin to learn the legacy of their family: rootwork, Gullah Geechee folk magic.

The Shape of Thunder

by Jasmine Warga

BALZER + BRAY, 2021

ISBN: 9780062956675

After an unimaginable tragedy impacts both of their siblings, best friends and neighbors Cora and Quinn haven't spoken in a year. To save their friendship and help their families, the pair decide to travel back in time.

Show Me a Sign

by Ann Clare LeZotte

SCHOLASTIC, 2020

ISBN: 9781338255812

The year is 1805, and eleven-year-old Mary lives in a small, isolated community where almost everyone is fluent in sign language. She's unaware of the prejudices against Deaf people, until a stranger visits her town.

Starfish

by Lisa Fipps

NANCY PAULSEN BOOKS, 2021

ISBN: 9781984814500

A body-positive novel in verse about a middle-schooler, Ellie, who, with the help of her therapist, begins standing up for herself against those who bully Ellie for her size—including confronting the worst tormentor of all, her mother.

Tracking Pythons: The Quest to Catch an Invasive Predator and Save an Ecosystem

by Kate Messner

MILLBROOK, 2020

ISBN: 9781541557062

How do you catch an animal that is so good at hiding? You enlist the help of those you've already captured. Accompany researchers as they work to control the numbers of pythons in Florida in this book filled with photos, diagrams, and QR codes for online videos.

Digital Experiences

Brains On! podcast

www.brainson.org

A podcast where different kid cohorts take the mic each week to tackle wide-ranging and fascinating science questions from listeners across the country.

Design Squad Global website

<https://pbskids.org/designsquad>

Kids can take on challenges, watch videos, play games, and be wowed by the power of engineering.

Funbrain website

www.funbrain.com

This website for children features cool science experiments, read-aloud videos, and fun games to explore.

iCivics website

www.icivics.org

Activities and games for both families and educators, all aimed at providing fundamental lessons in civics knowledge.

Monterey Bay Aquarium live cams webpage

www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams

Jellyfish, sea otters, and sharks, oh my! Learn about and watch live videos with these sea animals and more.

NASA STEM @ Home website

www.nasa.gov/stem

For children ages five and up, this website includes many activities both on- and off-screen based around NASA and space. Activities are broken down into three sections based on grade level: K–4, 5–8, and 9–12.

National Geographic Kids website

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com>

This fun and educational website for children features games, videos, and brain boosters.

2021 ALSC Summer Reading Booklists

Grades 6–8



The Past and the Curious podcast

<https://thepastandthecurious.com>

Kids and families can learn about shocking, inspirational, and often humorous historical events and people through short stories, humor, music, and fun.

Scratch website

<https://scratch.mit.edu>

An innovative block-based programming language that allows for the creation and remixing of limitless programming, from games to music to animation.

“Son Đoòng 360: Exploring the World’s Largest Cave” virtual tour

www.nationalgeographic.com/news-features/son-doong-cave/2/#s=pano37

Explore the world’s largest cave in Vietnam with National Geographic’s 360-degree tour of Hang Son Đoòng, with fun facts, nature sounds, and interactive questions.

Today’s Front Pages website

www.freedomforum.org/todaysfrontpages

Read and explore the front pages of hundreds of newspapers from across the nation and the world every day.

For more top resources, visit the [ALSC Book and Media Awards Shelf](https://alsc-awards-shelf.org/) at <https://alsc-awards-shelf.org/>.