

#ParkwayReads

2021 Summer Reading List

Grades
3 - 5



Mark Twain Reader Awards Nominees 2021-2022 Missouri Association of School Librarians

Bernice Buttman, Model Citizen

By Niki Lenz
Bernice Buttman is tired of being labeled a *bully*, so when her mom leaves her with her aunt, who is a nun, Bernice decides to mend her ways and become a model citizen.

Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation

By Stuart Gibbs
The CIA forces twelve-year-old Charlotte "Charlie" Thorne, a rebellious genius, to use her code-breaking skills on an epic global chase to locate Einstein's last equation before dangerous agents discover it and unlock the solution to harnessing energy.

Me and Sam-Sam Handle the Apocalypse

By Susan Vaught
After cops arrest her dad on suspicion of stealing the library fund money, Jesse and her friend Springer investigate. A tornado then strikes their town, and Springer, Jesse, and her Pomeranian Sam-Sam must show what they're really made of after all.

Pay Attention, Carter Jones

By Gary Schmidt
Carter must adjust to the unwelcome presence of a know-it-all butler who is determined to help him become a gentleman, and also to deal with burdens from the past.

Shine!

By JJ & Chris Grabenstein
When seventh-grader Piper's father is hired by Chumley Prep, a school where every student seems to be the best at everything, she gets the chance to compete for the prestigious Excelsior Award.

Shouting at the Rain

By Lynda Mullaly Hunt
Delsie loves tracking the weather, living with her grandmother, and the support of friends and neighbors, but misses having a *regular family*, especially after her best friend outgrows her.

Song for a Whale

By Lynne Kelly
Twelve-year-old Iris and her grandmother, both deaf, drive from Texas to Alaska armed with Iris's plan to help Blue-55, a whale unable to communicate with other whales.

The Bridge Home

By P. Venkatraman
Life is harsh in Chennai's teeming streets, so when runaway sisters Viji and Rukku arrive, their prospects look grim. Very quickly, Viji discovers how vulnerable they are in this uncaring, dangerous world. Fortunately, the girls find shelter--and friendship--on an abandoned bridge.

The Memory Keeper

By Jennifer Camiccia
Lulu Rose Carter's memory improves greatly just as her beloved Gram becomes very forgetful, and Lulu begins to explore Gram's past in an effort to save her.

Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA

By Brenda Woods
Gabriel gains new perspective when he becomes friends with Meriwether, a Black World War II hero who has recently returned to the unwelcoming Jim Crow South.

White Bird: A Wonder Story

By R.J. Palacio
Tells the story of Julian's grandma's childhood as she, a Jewish girl, was hidden by a family in a Nazi-occupied French village during World War II and how the boy she once shunned became her savior and best friend.

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Association for Library Service to Children

Grades 3 - 5

Any Day with You

By Mae Respicio

Kaia enters a filmmaking contest, drawing inspiration from the many Filipino tales her great-grandfather tells. When Tatang decides to return to the Philippines, Kaia will do whatever it takes to keep him in California.

Bear

By Ben Queen

This graphic novel follows a seeing-eye dog, Bear, as he loses his vision and embarks on an exciting adventure to return home after getting lost.

Becoming Muhammad Ali

By J. Patterson & K. Alexander

A biographical novel tells the story of Cassius Clay, the determined boy who would one day become Muhammad Ali, one of the greatest boxers of all time.

Black Brother, Black Brother

By Jewell Parker Rhodes

Suspended unjustly from elite Middlefield Prep, Donte Ellison studies fencing with a former champion, hoping to put the racist fencing team captain in his place.

Cat Dog Dog: The Story of a Blended Family

By Nelly Buchet

Told through humorous illustrations and only the words *cat* and *dog*, two pets reluctantly accept a third pet into their family through their owners' marriage.

Catherine's War

By Julia Billet

This graphic novel tells the story of Rachel, a Jewish girl forced to change her identity during World War II. As Catherine, she uses a camera to document her experiences, vividly capturing moments of terror, exhilaration, and joy.

Eva Evergreen, Semi-Magical Witch

By Julie Abe

Eva has only a pinch of magic, which makes passing the test to become a novice witch difficult. When she lands in a small coastal town, she sets up a magical repair shop to prove her worth.

From the Desk of Zoe Washington

By Janae Marks

A captivating mystery full of heart, as one courageous girl questions assumptions, searches for the truth, and does what she believes is right—even in the face of great opposition.

Isaiah Dunn Is My Hero

By Kelly J. Baptist

Now the man of the house, a boy finds passion in poetry after discovering his late father's journal while struggling to hold his house together.

Lupe Wong Won't Dance

By Donna Barba Higuera

When a dance threatens her chance to meet pitching idol and fellow Mexinese/Chinacan, Fu Li Hernandez, Lupe takes up the cause against square dancing in gym, which proves both challenging and enlightening.

Mañanaland

By Pam Muñoz Ryan

Max loves fútbol, although his hopes of joining a team are replaced by working with his Dad and eventually discovering that his family are secret guardians who take on refugees and deliver them to *Mañanaland*.

Once Upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices

By S. K. Ali and Aisha Saeed

A collection of short stories that showcases the most brilliant Muslim voices writing today, all about the most joyful holiday of the year: Eid! Eid: The short, single-syllable word conjures up a variety of feelings and memories for Muslims.

Pepper Page Saves the Universe!

By Landry Q. Walker

Twenty-fifth-century Pepper Page is obsessed with old comics, but when a high-school science experiment goes wrong and Pepper lands in the middle of a cosmic adventure of her own, Pepper's reading may not be enough to save her.

Shaking Up the House

By Yamile Saied Méndez

A friendly prank war at the White House spirals out of control in this hilarious and heartfelt middle grade novel.

Show Me a Sign

By Ann Clare LeZotte

Based in the actual Deaf community that existed on Martha's Vineyard during the 1800's, Mary lives a singularly typical life. Never considering the deafness she is born with to be a disability until a prejudiced scientist arrives, Mary finds herself the focus of a study against her will.

Skunk and Badger

By Amy Timberlake

No one wants a skunk as a roommate, but Badger doesn't have a choice. His quiet, solitary life is turned upside down by cheery Skunk in this odd-couple tale of friendship.

Stella Díaz Dreams Big

By Angela Dominguez

Stella is the president of the Sea Musketeers conservation club, she starts taking swim lessons, and she joins a new art club at school. But as her schedule fills up, school gets harder, too.

Super Detectives:

Simon and Chester

By Cale Atkinson

A hilarious first volume in a new graphic novel series centered around ghost Simon and human Chester solving the case of a mysterious dog who shows up in their house one day.

Telephone Tales

By Gianni Rodari

In this classic from Italy, a travelling salesman calls his daughter nightly to share a whimsical story. Sixty-seven playful tales humorously recount ice cream palaces, educational candy, and roads paved with chocolate.

The Last Bear

By Hannah Gold

April's father has always told her that there are no more polar bears left on Bear Island. When April sees something that looks like a polar bear across the horizon, she is determined to save it.

The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez

By Adrianna Cuevas

A Cuban-American boy must use his ability to communicate with animals to save the inhabitants of his town when they are threatened by a witch that transforms into animals.

The Year I Flew Away

By Marie Arnold

When Gabrielle moves from Haiti to Brooklyn, she finds that America isn't quite what she expected. With the help of a magical friend, Marie transforms into the perfect American girl but makes sacrifices in the process.

Three Keys: A Front Desk Novel

By Kelly Yang

Mia Tang thinks she's going to have the best year ever. She and her parents are the proud owners of the Calivista Motel, Mia gets to run the front desk with her best friend, Lupe, and she's finally getting somewhere with her writing! But as it turns out, sixth grade is no picnic.

When You Trap a Tiger

By Tae Keller

An uplifting story of a girl discovering a secret family history when she makes a deal with a magical tiger from her grandmother's stories, the Korean version of *Once Upon a Time*.

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The Dogwood Titles & Best of Titlewave

Grades 3 - 5 Nonfiction Books

A Place to Land

By Barry Wittenstein
The true story behind the writing of Martin Luther King's, *I Have a Dream* speech.

A Sporting Chance: How Ludwig Guttmann Created the Paralympic Games

By Lori Alexander
Telling the inspiring human story behind the creation of the Paralympics, this chapter book biography artfully combines archival photos, full-color illustrations, and a riveting narrative to honor the life of Ludwig Guttmann, whose work profoundly changed so many lives.

Above the Rim: How Elgin Baylor Changed Basketball

By Jen Bryant
In the midst of the Black Civil Rights movement, NBA Hall of Famer Elgin Baylor made an impact on and off the basketball court.

Grow: Secrets of Our DNA

By Nicola Davies
An introduction to genetic code combines simple, engaging language and expressive, child-friendly illustrations to explain how biological life grows and changes and how DNA combines to make humans both unique and connected to all life on the planet.

Fauja Singh Keeps Going

By Simaran Jeet Singh
The inspiring true story of Fauja Singh, who broke world records to become the first one hundred -year-old to run a marathon, shares valuable lessons on the source of his grit, determination to overcome obstacles, and commitment.

Lost Cities

By Giles Laroche
Looks at several different lost cities from around the world, including Babylon, Karnak, Herculaneum, and Mesa Verde, discussing their contributions, civilization and more.

Rise! From Caged Bird to Poet of the People

By Tonya Engel
A biography of African American writer, performer, and activist Maya Angelou, who turned a childhood of trauma and emotional pain to become one of the most inspiring voices of our lifetime.

Rotten! Vultures, Beetles, Slime, and Nature's Other Decomposers

By Anita Sanchez
A funny and fact-filled look at decomposition in all of its slimy glory, illustrated with dazzling full-color art by Gilbert Ford. Vultures, fungi, dung beetles, and more aid in this fascinating and sometimes smelly aspect of the life cycle that's right under our noses.

Ruth Objects: The Life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg

By Doreen Rappaport
From her lace collars to her incredible work ethic, this picture book biography chronicles the hard work and dedication of RBG to become a Supreme Court Justice.

Saving Lady Liberty: Joseph Pulitzer's Fight for the Statue of Liberty

By Claudia Friddell
Unable to spark sufficient financial support from donors to complete a pedestal on which to place Lady Liberty,

newspaper owner Joseph Pulitzer turned to the public for the world's first crowdfunding effort and raised more than \$100,000.

Seashells: More Than a Home

By Melissa Stewart
A surprising look at how seashells serve a tremendous purpose. This large group of marine animals needs shells for protection, feeding, anchorage, transportation, and more.

She Persisted in Sports

By Chelsea Clinton
Readers are introduced to woman athletes who have excelled in their sports because of their passion, their skills, and their persistence.

Shirley Chisholm is a Verb!

By Rachelle Baker
A picture book biography celebrating the life and contributions of Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman in Congress, who sought the Democratic nomination to be the president of the United States.

The Teacher's March!

By Sandra Neil Wallace and Rich. Wallace
Demonstrating the power of protest and standing up for a just cause, here is an exciting tribute to the educators who participated in the 1965 Selma Teachers' March.

We Are Still Here! Native American Truths Everyone Should Know

By Traci Sorell
A group of Native American kids from different tribes presents twelve historical and contemporary time periods, struggles, and victories to their classmates, each ending with a powerful refrain: we are still here.

We Got Game! 35 Female Athletes Who Changed the World

By Aileen Weintraub
With amazing facts and detailed information, this nonfiction book shines a spotlight on amazing female athletes at the top of their game. New players and retired competitors alike are showcased for the mark they have made on the world.

Who Was Kobe Bryant

By Ellen Labrecque
An illustrated biography of professional basketball player Kobe Bryant.

William Still and His Freedom Stories

By Don Tate
A picture book biography that looks at the life of African-American abolitionist, conductor on the Underground Railroad, writer, historian, and activist, William Still.