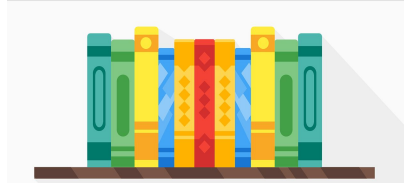


#ParkwayReads

2021 Summer Reading List

Grades 6- 8



Truman Reader Awards Nominees 2021-2022

Missouri Association of School Librarians

Genesis Begins Again

By Alicia D. Williams

Thirteen-year-old Genesis tries again and again to lighten her black skin, thinking it is the root of her family's troubles, before discovering reasons to love herself as is.

It's The End of the World As I Know It

By Matthew Landis

Derrick is building a doomsday shelter to prepare for the apocalypse when he makes friends with Misty, the girl next door.

Other Words For Home

By Jasmine Warga

Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives. At first, everything in America seems too fast and too loud. The American movies that Jude has always loved haven't quite prepared her for starting school in the US --and her new label of 'Middle Eastern,' an identity she's never known before.

Right As Rain

By Lindsey Stoddard

It's been almost a year since Rain's brother Guthrie died, and her parents still don't know it was all Rain's fault. In fact, no one does--Rain buried her secret deep, no matter how heavy it weighs on her heart.

The Bone Houses

By Emily Jones-Lloyd

When risen corpses called 'bone houses' threaten Ryn's village because of a decades-old curse, she teams up with a mapmaker named Ellis to solve the mystery of the curse and destroy the bone houses forever.

The Crossover

By Kwame Alexander

This graphic novel adaptation of Alexander's novel in verse brings each character and event to life through dynamic line work and portions of Alexander's beautiful poetry. The artwork, in a palette of black, white, gray, and orange, evokes the imagery of the basketball, ensuring that readers feel Josh Bell's experiences come to life.

The Line Tender

By Kate Allen

Following a tragedy that further alters the course of her life, twelve-year-old Lucy Everhart decides to continue the shark research her marine biologist mother left unfinished when she died years earlier.

The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise

By Dan Gemeinhart

Five years. That's how long twelve-year-old Coyote and her dad, River, have lived on the road in an old school bus, criss-crossing the nation. It's also how long ago Coyote lost her mom and two sisters. Coyote hasn't been home in all that time, but when she learns that the park in her old neighborhood is being demolished--the very same park where she, her mom, and her sisters buried a treasured memory box--she devises an elaborate plan to get her dad to drive 3,600 miles back to Washington state

The Unteachables

By Gordon Korman

The Unteachables never thought they'd find a teacher who had a worse attitude than they did, and Mr. Kermit never thought he would actually care about teaching again. Over the course of a school year room 117 will experience mayhem, destruction, and maybe even a shot at redemption.

Tiger Queen

By Annie Sullivan

Princess Kateri's desert kingdom of Achra is suffering from a drought, and as a result, the king is having to ration its precious water, which, to make matters worse, is being stolen by the gang of Desert Boys. Kateri longs to help her people, but first, as is tradition, she must fight through the arena and prove her right to rule before she can become queen. However, when she discovers who her final opponent is, Kateri knows that her training won't be enough to give her a victory, what will she do?

Verify

By Joelle Charbonneau

An alluring young man gives teenage Meri a slip of paper that changes everything she knows about the world and sets her on a quest for the truth. The paper says only "VERIFY," a word Meri has never seen before. As it turns out, there is a lot about the world that Meri does not know. Following clues left by her late mother, Meri begins to learn the truth behind the clean, eco-friendly, safe society in which they live.

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Association for Library Service to Children & Best of Titlewave Grades 6 - 8

Almost American Girl: An Illustrated Memoir

By Robin Ha
Ha shares her experience of a surprise move from South Korea to Alabama with her single mom. Feeling out of place in her new stepfamily and high school, she acclimates with the help of a comic-making class.

Before the Ever After

By Jacqueline Woodson
In this novel in verse, ZJ leans on his community for support as his football-star father experiences alarming medical symptoms and dramatic changes as a result of the sport.

Brother's Keeper

By Julie Lee. Holiday
Sora and her family fled Communist North Korea during the Korean War in 1950. When the family becomes separated, Sora fights for her brother's survival as they travel south.

Class Act (New Kid)

By Jerry Craft
Eighth grader, Drew Ellis recognizes that he isn't afforded the same opportunities, no matter how hard he works, that his privileged classmates at the Riverdale Academy Day School take for granted, and to make matters worse, Drew begins to feel as if his good friend Liam might be one of those privileged kids and is finding it hard not to withdraw, even as their mutual friend Jordan tries to keep their group of friends together.

Dress Coded

By Carrie Firestone
An eighth grader starts a podcast to protest the unfair dress code enforcement at her middle school and sparks a rebellion.

Land of the Cranes

By Aida Salazar
Despite being detained in a cruel and inhuman deportation camp with her pregnant mother and separated from her deported papi, Betita survives by remembering she will return home like a crane in the Aztec legends her papi told her.

Nightshade (Alex Rider Adventures)

By Anthony Horowitz
Teen spy Alex Rider is sent to a maximum security facility in Gibraltar to impersonate Julius Grief while seeking information about a new criminal organization called Nightshade (book 12).

Refugee

By Alan Gratz
Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journey in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together.

Saucy

By Cynthia Kadohata
Becca is one of four quadruplets, but while her brothers have found their passions—sports, music, and science—she feels more adrift.

Snapdragon

By Kat Leyh
Snap's town has a witch. At least that's the rumor. Full of acceptance, love, and relatable characters, Snapdragon shows the connection between loving yourself and magic.

Superman Smashes the Klan

By Gene Luen Yang
When Dr. Lee moves his family to Metropolis, his son Tommy adjusts to the new neighborhood while daughter Roberta feels out of place, so when the evil Klan of the Fiery Cross begins a string of terrorist attacks on the city, Superman fights them, and Roberta and Superman soon learn to embrace their own unique features that set them apart.

The Blackbird Girls

By Anne Blankman
On a spring morning, neighbors Valentina and Oksana wake up to an angry red sky. A reactor at the nuclear power plant where their fathers work --Chernobyl--has exploded. Before they know it, the two girls, who've always been enemies, find themselves on a train bound for Leningrad to stay with Valentina's estranged grandmother, Rita Grigorievna. In their new lives in Leningrad, they begin to learn what it means to trust another person.

The Last Mirror on the Left

By L. R. Giles
In this new Legendary Alston Boys adventure, Otto and Sheed must embark on their most dangerous journey yet, bringing a fugitive to justice in a world that mirrors their own but has its own rules to play by (book 2 in series).

The Thirteenth Fairy (Chronicles of Never After)

By Melissa De la Cruz
Nothing ever happens in Cara Jefferson-Cho's sleepy little suburban town of North Pasadena. But one day, when Cara is walking home on her own, something strange happens. Cara is being followed by Jack Stalker, one of the heroes in the Thirteenth Fairy, a series of books she loves about a brave girl and her ragtag group of friends who save their world from an evil enchantress.

This Light Between Us: A Novel of World War II

By Andrew Fukuda
A powerful story of World War II and the unlikelyst of pen pals--a Japanese American boy and a French Jewish girl--as they fight to maintain hope in a time of war.

We Dream of Space

By Erin Entrada Kelly
Cash, Fitch, and Bird Thomas are three siblings in seventh grade together in Park, Delaware. In 1986, as the country waits expectantly for the launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger, they each struggle with their own personal anxieties.

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The Dogwood Titles & Best of Titlewave

Grades 6-8 Nonfiction Books

1919: The Year That Changed America

By Martin W. Sandler

This book explores each major movement of 1919 and offers a unique historical perspective on the trajectory of the major movements of the twentieth-century. Showing readers how every current event has unique and fascinating history preceding it.

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

By Christina Soontornvat

With superb narrative nonfiction writing, Soontornvat skillfully describes the dramatic real-life rescue of the Thai Boys' soccer team in 2018.

Born to Fly: The First Women's Air Race Across America

By Steve Sheinkin

Ace historian Sheinkin turns to the subject of early American women pilots, using as his organizing principle the first women's cross-country air race. Early chapters introduce the individual contenders; the book then chronicles, in detailed, dramatic fashion, each of the eight days of the derby, beginning in Santa Monica and ending in Cleveland.

Disaster Strikes!: The Most Dangerous Space Missions of All Time

By Jeffrey Kluger

There are so many missions to outer space that have succeeded. But for every success, there are mistakes, surprises, and flat-out failures that happen along the way. This collection recounts twelve such disasters, telling the stories of the astronauts and the cosmonauts, the trials and the errors, the missions and the misses.

How We Got to the Moon: The People, Technology, and Daring Feats of Science Behind Humanity's Greatest Adventure

By John Rocco

This ambitious nonfiction book chronicles one of the most exciting and miraculous accomplishments in American history--the 1969 lunar landing.

Lifting as We Climb: Black Women's Battle for the Ballot Box

By Evette Dionne

For African American women, the fight for the right to vote was only one battle. An eye-opening book that tells the important, overlooked story of Black women as a force in the suffrage movement -- when fellow suffragists did not accept them as equal partners in the struggle.

Monstrous: The Lore, Gore and Science Behind Your Favorite Monsters

By Carlyn Beccia

This book delves into the history and science behind eight legendary creatures, from Bigfoot and the kraken to zombies and more.

On the Horizon

By Lois Lowry

From two-time Newbery medalist and living legend Lois Lowry comes a moving account of the lives lost in two of WWII's most infamous events: Pearl Harbor and Hiroshima.

Poisoned Water: How the Citizens of Flint, Michigan, Fought for Their Lives and Warned the Nation

By C.J. Cooper & M. Aronson

Through interviews with residents and intensive research into legal records and new accounts, the authors reveal the story behind the water crisis in Flint, Michigan which began in 2014 when government officials of the cash-strapped city that had been abandoned by General Motors decided to temporarily switch its water supply from Lake Huron to the Flint River, which then caused widespread sickness and death to its residents.

Thank You For Coming To My Ted Talk

By Chris Anderson

This book includes everything teens need to persuade, inspire, and inform others, from preparation pointers and visual cues to notes on tackling pre-talk jitters and avoiding procrastination.

The Magnificent Migration: On Safari with Africa's Last Great Herds

By Sy Montgomery

This book takes readers on a staggering, emotional journey alongside the greatest land migration on planet earth to explore the mystery and wonder of migration in a sweeping story sure to leave its mark.

The Poison Eaters: Fighting Danger and Fraud in our Food and Drugs

By Gail Jarrow

Introduces readers to the relentless work of U.S. government chemist Dr. Harvey Washington Wiley, who mounted a thirty-year campaign to protect consumers from harmful food and drugs.

The Radium Girls

By Kate Moore

Explore the unbelievable true story of the young women exposed to the *wonder drug* radium and their struggle for justice. This enthralling new edition includes all-new material, including a glossary, timeline, and dozens of bonus photos.

Torpedoed: The True Story of the World War II Sinking of the Children's Ship

By Deborah Heiligman

A true account of the attack and sinking of the passenger ship SS *City of Benares*, which was evacuating children from England during WWII.

You Call This Democracy? How to Fix Our Government and Deliver Power to the People

By Elizabeth Rusch

America is the greatest democracy in the world...isn't it? Author Elizabeth Rusch examines some of the more problematic aspects of our government but, more importantly, offers ways for young people to fix them.

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