

#ParkwayReads

2021 Summer Reading List Grades 9 - 12



Missouri Gateway Readers Award Nominees 2021-2022 Missouri Association of School Librarians

Field Notes On Love

By Jennifer E. Smith

Two teens, Hugo and Mae, are strangers until they share a cross-country train trip that teaches them about love, each other, and the futures they can build for themselves.

Fireborne

By Rosaria Munda

Two dragonriders must go head-to-head for the top position in the Callipolan fleet, and protect the new regime from those who lost power.

I Know You Remember

By Jennifer Donaldson

After moving back to Anchorage and discovering the mysterious disappearance of her best friend, high school senior Ruthie embarks on a search that reveals dark secrets.

Internment

By Samira Ahmed

A terrifying, futuristic United States where Muslim-Americans are forced into internment camps, and Layla Amin must lead a revolution against complicit silence.

Patron Saints Of Nothing

By Randy Ribay

Jay Reguero plans to spend the last semester of his senior year playing video games before heading to the University of Michigan in the fall. But when he discovers that his Filipino cousin Jun was murdered as part of President Duterte's war on drugs, and no one in the family wants to talk about what happened, Jay travels to the Philippines to find out the real story.

SLAY

By Brittney Morris

By day, Kiera Johnson is an honors student, a math tutor, and one of the only Black kids at Jefferson Academy. But at home, she joins hundreds of thousands of Black gamers who duel worldwide as Nubian personas in the secret multiplayer online role-playing card game, SLAY. No one knows Kiera is the game developer, not her friends, her family, not even her boyfriend, Malcolm.

The Escape Of Light

By Fred Venturini

Teenage burn survivor Wilder Tate faces the challenges of high school but in the aftermath of tragedy he discovers the capacity to forgive and empathize -- learning the importance of healing from the inside out.

The Field Guide To The North American Teenager

By Ben Philippe

A hilarious YA contemporary realistic novel about a witty Black French Canadian teen who moves to Austin, Texas, and experiences the joys, cliches, and awkward humiliations of the American high school experience - including falling in love.

The Grace Year

By Kim Liggett

Tierney James, sixteen, struggles to endure the year in which she and other young women are banished to the wild until, purified, the survivors are allowed to return home and marry.

The Lovely And The Lost

By Jennifer Lynn Barnes

When a little girl is lost in a 750,000-acre national park, a family of search-and-rescue professionals reunites and three generations of secrets are uncovered.

The Speed Of Falling Objects

By Nancy Richardson

After a childhood accident that leaves Danger "Danny" Warren with one eye and ultimately an estranged father, she jumps at the chance when her famous survivalist dad, Cougar, invites her to appear on his show for her birthday. Better, she'll be filming with heartthrob-of-the-moment Gus Price in the Amazon forest. Disaster strikes when a violent storm throws the crew's plane into uncharted territory.

Where I End & You Begin

By Preston Norton

Ezra is an anxious insomniac with a huge crush on Imogen. Unfortunately, her best friend Wynonna has made a career out of tormenting him. After a solar eclipse, Wynonna and Ezra wake up-body-swapped! They then begin randomly swapping back and forth every day.

With The Fire On High

By Elizabeth Acevedo

Teen mother Emoni Santiago struggles with the challenges of finishing high school and her dream of working as a chef.

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The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) 2021 Best Fiction

Be Not Far from Me

By Mindy McGinnis
Ashley Hawkins has spent a lot of time learning survival skills, but they may not be enough when she takes off on her own during a camping trip; a nasty fall leaves her alone with a broken foot and nothing but the clothes on her back.

Clap When You Land

By Elizabeth Acevedo
Camino Rios waits at the airport for a flight that never arrives, while Yahaira Rios finds out that her father has died in a plane crash. Little do these girls know, they are sisters sharing a father who lived a double life with families in both the Bronx and the Dominican Republic.

Deeplight

By Frances Hardinge
The gods are gone, but pieces of them remain. When Hark finds the still-beating heart of a dead god, he uses it to save his friend Jelt's life. As Jelt slowly transforms into a monstrous version of himself, Hark must decide if the consequences are worth it.

Elatsoe

By Darcie Little Badger
In an alternative modern world filled with ghosts, vampires, and fairy rings, Lipan Apache teen Elatsoe "Ellie" Bride, faithfully accompanied by her ghost dog Kirby, must use the powerful legends of her sixth-great-grandmother and her own paranormal investigative skills to solve the murder of her beloved cousin.

Grown

By Tiffany D. Jackson
Enchanted feels like she is in a dream when big star Korey Fields mentors her singing career, but the dream quickly turns into an obsessive, violent nightmare.

More Than Just a Pretty Face

By Syed M. Masood
Danyal is a pretty face but not much of a student. Then he gets a chance to be recognized academically at school and impress the girl of his dreams. But Bisma, the book-smart girl who helps him with his project, keeps edging into his heart.

Raybearer

By Jordan Ifueko
When Tarisai is chosen to be a member of the Crown Prince's Council of Eleven, she must fight against the magical wish to which her mother, The Lady, has bound her; gain the prince's trust, and then kill him.

The Snow Fell Three Graves Deep: Voices from the Donner Party

By Allan Wolf
Based on true events, this novel in verse tells of the 80-person Donner Party, traveling west from Illinois. Narrated by Hunger as well as the adults and children of the party, this story gives readers an unforgettable rendering of a band of people struggling for their survival and their humanity.

This Is My America

By Kim Johnson
With the clock ticking on her father's death-row sentence and her brother accused of killing a white classmate, Tracy has just 267 days to uncover the racist secrets of her small Texas town and prove her family's innocence.

Tigers, Not Daughters

By Samantha Mabry
After Ana falls from her bedroom window and dies, the remaining four Torres sisters abandon their dream of escaping their controlling father. Strange things begin to happen in their house, and they must each follow their own path to find out what happened to Ana and what her spirit is trying to say.

The Voting Booth

By Brandy Colbert
Teen activist Marva has been waiting her whole life for her first Election Day. And it's her civic duty to help hapless Duke cast his vote too, even though he's an unregistered voter at the wrong polling station. Sparks fly as they rush around the city trying to get Duke's vote counted in time.

We Are Not from Here

By Jenny Torres Sanchez
Pulga and Pequeña are at a crossroads. Life in their town is ruled by violence, and gang leader Rey has his hooks in them both. If they want to live, Pulga, Pequeña, and Pulga's friend Chico must flee Guatemala to the U.S. border aboard the dangerous trains known as *La Bestia*.

What I Carry

By Jennifer Longo
Muir has spent her entire life in foster care following strict rules for herself to prepare for surviving in the real world. As she begins her last foster placement before she ages out, Muir struggles to keep her distance and protect her heart.

You Know I'm No Good

By Jessie Ann Foley
Just as Mia is starting to open up, she discovers that her murdered mother's life insurance policy is funding her involuntary commitment at Red Oak Academy. In her desperation to escape the control of her father and stepmother, she quickly learns that you can't escape yourself.

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The Dogwood Titles & Best of Titlewave

Grades 9-12 Nonfiction Books

An Indigenous People's History of the United States for Young People

By R. Dunbar-Ortiz, Adapters J. Mendoza and D. Reese
A history of the United States for young people told from the perspective of Indigenous peoples, revealing how Native Americans, for centuries, actively resisted expansion of the U.S. empire.

Dragon Hoops

By Gene Luen Yang
An introverted reader starts understanding local enthusiasm about sports in his school when he gets to know some of his talented athletic peers and discovers that their stories are just as thrilling as the comics he loves.

Flowers in the Gutter

By K. R. Gaddy
The Edelweiss Pirates were a loosely organized group of working-class young people in the Rhine Valley of Germany. They faced off with Nazis during the Third Reich and suffered consequences for their resistance during and after World War II.

Fly Like a Girl

By Mary Jennings Hegar
Hegar takes readers on an intimate narrative of her journey to becoming a decorated Air National Guard pilot who served three tours of duty in Afghanistan. A litany of obstacles failed to deter her, including physical injuries, personal and professional setbacks, and isolation.

I Am the Night Sky and Other Reflections by Muslim American Youth

By Next Wave Muslim Initiative Writers
During an era characterized by both hijabi fashion models and enduring post-9/11 stereotypes, ten Muslim American teenagers came together to explore what it means to be young and Muslim in America today.

I Was Their American Dream

By Malaka Gharib
The daughter of parents with unfulfilled dreams themselves, Malaka navigated her childhood chasing her parents' ideals, learning to code-switch between her family's Filipino and Egyptian customs, adapting to white culture to fit in, crushing on skater boys, and trying to understand the tension between holding onto cultural values and trying to be an all-American kid.

Ordinary Hazards: A Memoir

By Nikki Grimes
Grimes delivers a memoir in the form of a powerful and inspiring collection of poems. She details her early life through adulthood, and she unabashedly explores the highs as well as the lows. Grimes' struggle with a mother suffering from mental illness, an absent father, and an abusive stepfather plunged her life into turmoil at an early age. Yet through it all, she persevered and used writing as an outlet for her pain.

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You

By J.Reynolds & I. X. Kendi
A timely, crucial, and empowering exploration of racism--and antiracism--in America. This is NOT a history book. This is a book about the here and now. A book to help us better understand why we are where we are.

The Cat I Never Named: A True Story of Love, War and Survival

By Amra Sabic-El-Rayess
The stunning memoir of a Muslim teen struggling to survive in the midst of the Bosnian genocide--and the stray cat who protected her family through it all.

The Rise and Fall of Charles Lindbergh

By Candace Fleming
Discover the dark side of Charles Lindbergh in a riveting biography of one of America's most celebrated heroes, and most complicated, troubled men.

They Called Us Enemy

By George Takei
Actor, author, and activist George Takei recounts his childhood imprisoned within American concentration camps for Japanese Americans during World War II and the impact the experience had on his later life.

Warhead: The True Story of a Teen who Almost Saved the World

By Jeff Henigson
An often hilarious and always relevant memoir about one teen boy's battle with brain cancer and his Starlight Children's Foundation wish: to meet Mikhail Gorbachev in Russia and plead for nuclear disarmament and world peace.

We Are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World

By Malala Yousafzai
Malala Yousafzai not only explores her own story of adjusting to a new life while longing for home, but she also shares the personal stories of some of the incredible girls she has met on her various journeys--girls who have lost their community, relatives, and often the only world they've ever known.

We Are Here to Stay

By Susan Kuklin
Meet nine courageous young adults who have lived in the United States with a secret for much of their lives: they are not U.S. citizens. They came seeking education, fleeing violence, and escaping poverty. All have heartbreaking and hopeful stories about leaving their homelands and starting a new life in America.

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