



PARKWAY CONNECTS

#ParkwayReads

2020 Summer Reading List
Grades 6- 8

Truman Reader Award

Missouri Association of School Librarians

City of Ghosts

By Victoria Schwab
Cassidy Blake's parents are The Inspectors, a (somewhat inept) ghost-hunting team. But Cass herself can REALLY see ghosts. In fact, her best friend, Jacob, just happens to be one.

Deep Water

By Watt Key
When a dive off the coast of Alabama goes horribly wrong, twelve-year-old Julie and one of her father's scuba clients struggle to survive after reaching an abandoned oil rig.

Fire & Heist

By Sarah Beth Durst
As Sky Hawkins, a were-dragon, faces her first heist she discovers secrets about her missing mother, the true reason her boyfriend broke up with her, and the valuable jewel that could restore her family's wealth and rank.

Ghost Boys

By Jewell Parker Rhodes
After seventh-grader Jerome is shot by a white police officer, he observes the aftermath of his death and meets the ghosts of other fallen black boys including historical figure Emmett Till.

Impostors

By Scott Westerfeld
Frey and Rafi are twin sisters, but few people know of Frey's existence, because she has been raised to be her sister's body double and lethal bodyguard, while Rafi has been raised to further the family's political power--but when their father sends Frey in her sister's place as collateral in a tricky deal, Col, the son of a rival leader, gets close enough to begin to suspect something, and Frey must decide whether to deal with him violently or finally assume her own identity.

Lifeboat 12

By Susan Hood
In 1940, a group of British children, their escorts, and some sailors struggle to survive in a lifeboat when the ship taking them to safety in Canada is torpedoed. Includes historical notes.

Mascot

By Antony John
Noah Savino has been stuck in a wheelchair for months. He hates the way

people treat him like he's helpless now. He's sick of going to physical therapy, where he isn't making any progress. He's tired of not having control over his own body. And he misses playing baseball--but not as much as he misses his dad, who died in the car accident that paralyzed Noah.

Nightbooks

By J. A. White
A thrilling contemporary fantasy where a boy is imprisoned by a witch and must tell her a new scary story each night to stay alive.

Not If I Save You First

By Ally Carter
Maddie and Logan were torn apart by a kidnapping attempt when they were young. They were only kids -- Logan's dad was POTUS and Maddie's father was the Secret Service agent meant to guard him. The kidnappers were stopped -- but Maddie was whisked off to Alaska with her father, for safety. Maddie and Logan had been inseparable . . . but then she never heard from him again.

Skyward

By Brandon Sanderson
When a long-term attack against her world by the alien Krell escalates, Spensa's dream of becoming a pilot may come true, despite her deceased father being labeled a deserter.

The Benefits of Being an Octopus

By Ann Braden
Seventh-grader Zoey Albro focuses on caring for three younger siblings and avoiding rich classmates at school until her fascination with octopuses gets her on the debate team and she begins to speak out.

The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl

By Stacy McAnulty
A lightning strike made Lucy, twelve, a math genius but, after years of homeschooling, her grandmother enrolls her in middle school and she learns that life is more than numbers.

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Association for Library Service to Children

Be Prepared

By Vera Brosgol

Laugh, cringe, and root for Vera as she navigates Russian summer camp.

Beverly, Right Here

By Kate DiCamillo

After the unbearable loss of her dog, Beverly Tapinski runs away from her troubled home to a small Florida beach town where a quirky cast of characters helps her pick up the pieces of her heart.

The Bridge Home

By Padma Venkatraman

Runaway sisters Viji and Rukku end up living on the streets of Chennai, where they find a new family of friends who help them to survive by scavenging the city's mountains of rubbish.

Caterpillar Summer

By Gillian McDunn

An unexpected change in plans leaves Caterpillar to navigate an adventurous summer with her brother, who is autistic.

Dissenter on the Bench: Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Life and Work

By Victoria Ortiz

This biography provides highlights from the iconic Supreme Court justice's life and career and will inspire young readers to change the world.

Each Tiny Spark

By Pablo Cartaya

When Emilia Torres's father returns from deployment, he's not quite the same, but they're able to bond over welding.

I Can Make This Promise

By Christine Day

Eddie discovers a mysterious box in the attic, filled with pictures of a woman who looks just like her. The discovery is the beginning of a journey to uncover her family's secrets and find her own Native American identity.

Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World

By Ashley Herring Blake

After a devastating tornado hits her town and destroys her home, Ivy Aberdeen develops a crush on another girl at school.

Just Jaime

By Terri Libenson

The last day of seventh grade has Jaime and Maya wondering who their real friends are: What do you do when it feels like you're drifting apart from your best friend? How can you tell who is a true friend?

Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks

By Jason Reynolds

Ten concurrent stories, ten captivating characters, one school bus falling from the sky.

Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish

By Pablo Cartaya

Marcus just wants to help his single mom get by and protect his brother from bullies, but he creates more problems than he solves. His mother decides a trip to visit family in Puerto Rico is just the thing they need.

The Night Diary

By Veera Hiranandani

A gripping story of one family's flight from Pakistan during the partition of India in 1947, as told by twelve-year-old Nisha to her diary.

Nowhere Boy

By Katherine Marsh

When Max finds Ahmed, a Syrian refugee, hiding alone in his basement in Belgium, Max decides to help Ahmed by keeping him secret and safe.

Pay Attention, Carter Jones

By Gary D. Schmidt

Carter's first day of middle school gets off to an unusual start: he opens his front door and finds an English butler standing on the doorstep, sent by his late grandfather to help mend the family.

Peasprout Chen, Future Legend of Skate and Sword

By Henry Lien

Peasprout and her brother, Cricket, are accepted into Pearl Famous Academy of Skate and Sword to study wu liu, martial arts figure skating. High-stakes competition, political intrigue, and more await them. First in a series.

Putting Peace First: 7 Commitments to Change the World

By Eric Dawson

Learn how to make a difference and spread peace in the world NOW with this step-by-step guide to putting your visions into practice.

Queen of the Sea

By Dylan Meconis

History is reimaged in this graphic novel retelling of the exile of Queen Elizabeth I.

The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise

By Dan Gemeinhart

Coyote Sunrise and her dad travel the country in their school bus. Along the way, they meet new friends who help them see their world in a new way and heal from the tragedy that hit their family five years earlier.

Sal and Gabi Break the Universe

By Carlos Hernandez

Cuban culture is woven through this zany sci-fi story told by 13-year-old Sal, an aspiring magician who can rip holes in the fabric of the universe.

Sci-Fu

By Yehudi Mercado

It's 1980s Brooklyn, and Wax just scratched the perfect beat, attracting the attention of an evil alien robot who transports his family, best friend, and crush to the planet Discopia, where Wax must master the art of sci-fu if he wants to fight the bad guys, save the universe, and get back to Earth.

The Season of Styx Malone

By Kekla Magoon

An ordinary summer is upended with a splash when Styx Malone, who oozes cool, moves to town and befriends brothers Caleb and Bobby.

Song for a Whale

By Lynne Kelly

Iris, who struggles to communicate with others because she is deaf, feels a kinship with a whale in a similar situation thousands of miles away and tries to make a connection.

The Stars beneath Our Feet

By David Barclay Moore

In the wake of his brother's death, a gift of LEGOs sets 12-year-old Lolly on a journey to find himself and a community in his Harlem neighborhood.

Us, in Progress: Short Stories about Young Latinos

By Lulu Delacre

A collection of short stories offering refreshing and nuanced depictions of young Latinx boys and girls growing up in the United States.

White Bird: A Wonder Story

By R. J. Palacio

The grandmother of Wonder's Julian tells him the story of her experience during World War II, where she had to hide in a barn to escape persecution from the Nazis.



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Children's Choices Reading List

International Literacy Association

Apocalypse Taco

By Nathan Hale
Twins Axl and Ivan and their friend, Sid, make a late-night fast food run for the theater team. Then the food from the restaurant transforms into strange beasts that attack the kids. A multiarmed graduate student takes them into an alternative world created by evil bioengineered squid-bees.

Back to the Drawing Board: Making Friends #2

By Kristen Gudsruk
Danny is enjoying the beginning of a new school year with her best friend, Madison, and her magic sketch book. However, when Danny decides to double herself with a little magic, it makes more than a little trouble for her and her friends. Readers will relate to the middle school woes throughout this graphic novel.

Best Babysitters Ever

By Caroline Cala
Best friends Malia, Bree, and Dot need to earn enough money for their 13th birthday bash. After reading Kristy's Great Idea, a book about a babysitters club, Malia decides to use the idea with her friends. Although babysitting sounds great, the three find it to be much different from what they imagined.

The Crossover

By Kwame Alexander
Basketball phenoms Josh and Jordan are "moving & grooving, bopping and rocking" on the court in this graphic novel written in verse. Their incredible basketball skills, family life, and girlfriend jealousy make for a fast-paced read that shows readers life is not all about winning.

Earth: By the Numbers

By Steve Jenkins
A small book filled with big facts about Earth's geographical features, it contains interesting and well-illustrated information about the Earth's surface, its deepest places, its many disruptions and its dangers as well as an extensive timeline and glossary.

From an Idea to Disney: How Imagination Built a World of Magic

By Lowey Bundy Sichol
This book offers a historical look at how Disney World came to be and the man behind it all, Walt Disney. It's a journey through the development of one of the most well-known and beloved brands.

Guest: A Changeling Tale

By Mary Downing Hahn
When malicious sprites called the Kinde Folke snatch Mollie's baby brother and replace him with a hideous changeling, Mollie travels through eerie, perilous lands to save him.

Hilo #5: Then Everything Went Wrong

By Judd Winick
Hilo is a superpowered robot that looks like a regular boy. He takes a trip to his home planet of Jannus along with D.J. and Gina, his best friends. This graphic novel is filled with strange creatures, fantastic giant robots, humor, and lots of action.

The Lost Heir: Wings of Fire

By Tui Sutherland
This eagerly awaited graphic novelization of the second book in the popular Wings of Fire series about young dragons on a quest to bring peace to a world at war is a faithful adaptation sure to please fans of the novels. The engaging artwork, exciting action sequences, and heartfelt dialogue will surely win over new followers.

New Kid

By Jerry Craft
Gifted artist Jordan Banks struggles to fit in as one of the few kids of color in a prestigious, predominantly white private school in the Bronx. Like life in middle school, the story is both awkward and funny. The consistent, varied instances of racism on campus are especially poignant—an eye-opener for some readers, whereas others will certainly identify with Jordan's struggles.

Out to Get You: 13 Tales of Weirdness and Woe

By Josh Allen
Allen's 13 short tales tell of odd and scary occurrences that happen to ordinary kids. This book will give readers spooky stories to retell around a campfire or during a sleepover or to frighten their friends.

Pandora's Legacy

By Kara Leopard
While on a family vacation, three curious kids discover how their family's history ties into the turmoil inside a mythological world. Readers will be drawn to the details in the storytelling and the illustrations that bring together Greek mythology with a modern-day twist.

Rising Water: The Story of the Thai Cave Rescue

By Marc Aronson
Twelve members of the Wild Boars soccer team and their coach became trapped in a cave complex in Thailand. A sudden downpour flooded the tunnels, leaving the group with no way out. After eight days of searching and three days of rescue diving, the team and coach make it out of the cave. Nonfiction fans will enjoy this fact-filled read.

Survivors of the Holocaust: True Stories of Six Extraordinary Children

Edited by Kath Shackleton
Heinz, Trude, Ruth, Martin, Suzanne, and Arek were sent to concentration camps by the Nazis during World War II. They tell of their experiences with the "dearest wish that no one should suffer as they did and that we always show respect for each other. Although some pictures are upsetting, this graphic novel depicts the reality of the children's experiences.

Stig and Tilde: Vanisher's Island

By Max de Radiguès
Keeping with a local tradition, Stig and Tilde hop on a dinghy and head to a desert island to survive alone without adult supervision. However, an unexpected detour leads them to the wrong island. This one looks like it is inhabited by something that is not too fond of guests.

Unplugged and Unpopular

By Mat Heagerty
Erin Song loses her screen privileges because of a poor choice at school. Walking through the library, she sees a strange creature that no one else notices. Erin discovers that aliens are using mind control through everyone's screens and have hatched an evil plot to take over Earth.

The Woods

By R.L. Toalson
Set in the 1940s, Lenora is taken in by her Uncle Richard and told to stay away from the woods. However, a familiar voice lures her into the woods where she meets a magical creature named Bela. Lenora desperately wants to reunite her uncle with his son, but can she save her cousin without dooming herself?



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LITERACY
ASSOCIATION

International Literacy Assoc.

The Children's Choices Reading Lists, selected from more than 900 titles, can be counted on as books children really enjoy reading.

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