



PARKWAY CONNECTS

#ParkwayReads

2020 Summer Reading List

Grades 3 - 5

Mark Twain Reader Award Missouri Association of School Librarians

24 Hours in Nowhere

By Dusti Bowling
When you come from nowhere, can you ever really make it anywhere? Author Dusti Bowling (*Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus*) returns to the desert to create a gripping story about friendship, hope, and finding the power we all have within ourselves.

Amal Unbound

By Aisha Saeed
In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family.

Blended

By Sharon M Draper
Piano-prodigy Isabella, whose black father and white mother struggle to share custody, never feels whole. As racial tensions affect her school, her parents both become engaged, and she and her stepbrother are stopped by police.

Captain Superlative!

By J.S. Puller
Janey, a quiet outsider, is inspired by the eccentric and enigmatic Captain Superlative, a masked superhero who runs through the halls of their middle school, performing radical acts of kindness.

Front Desk

By Kelly Yang
Recent immigrants from China, desperate for money, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown Southern California motel for skinflint Mr. Yao, whose son is the only other Chinese American in Mia's class.

Squint

By Chad Morris and Shelly Brown
Flint Minett has keratoconus, an eye disease, but desperately wants to win a comic book art contest so that he and his new friend McKell Panganiban will be better accepted at middle school.

The Ambrose Deception

By Emily Ecton
Melissa is a nobody. Wilf is a slacker. Bondi is a show-off. At least that's what their middle school teachers think. To everyone's surprise, they are the three students chosen to compete for a ten thousand-dollar scholarship, solving clues that lead them to various locations around Chicago.

The Doughnut Fix

By Jessie Janowitz
When his family moves to tiny Petersville, eleven-year-old Tris stops focusing on his perfect sister, Jeanine, by using his cooking expertise to revive a town tradition of chocolate cream doughnuts.

The Night Diary

By Veera Hiranandani
Shy twelve-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing to her deceased Muslim mother in the pages of her diary.

The Science of Breakable Things

By Tae Keller
Middle schooler Natalie's year-long assignment to answer a question using the scientific process leads to truths about her mother's depression and her own cultural identity.

The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle

By Leslie Connor
Mason is the biggest, sweatiest kid in his grade, and everyone knows he can barely read or write. Mason's learning disabilities are compounded by grief. Fifteen months ago, Mason's best friend, Benny, turned up dead in the Buttle family's orchard. An investigation drags on, and Mason can't understand why Lieutenant Baird won't believe the story Mason has told about that day.

The Unforgettable Guinevere St. Clair

By Amy Makechnie
Gwyn searches for a missing neighbor in her new town in Iowa. She learns much about her mother, who grew up there but has suffered from memory loss since Gwyn was four.

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Association for Library Service to Children

Aquicorn Cove

By Katie O'Neill

Lana discovers the Aquicorns, magical sea-dwelling creatures who need her help to stop the overfishing that is destroying their home.

The Book of Boy

By Catherine Gilbert Murdock

In 1350, Boy, an orphaned servant, is hired to accompany a shadowy pilgrim on an action-filled quest across medieval Europe for the seven relics of St. Peter.

The Cardboard Kingdom

By Chad Sell

A diverse group of kids create their own world of play and safe self-expression using a little cardboard and a lot of imagination.

Clayton Byrd Goes Underground

By Rita Williams-Garcia

When his beloved grandfather, the blues man Cool Papa Byrd, dies suddenly, Clayton's anger and misplaced alliances get him into trouble. This story of family grief, reconciliation, and the power of music is set in New York City.

Granted

By John David Anderson

What happens when you make a wish? In this story, it may get assigned to a fairy whose job is to make it come true, even if it almost kills her.

Indian No More

By Charlene Willing McManis and Traci Sorell

Ten-year-old Regina Petit is Umpqua and lives on the Grand Ronde reservation. When the federal government signs a bill saying Regina's tribe no longer exists, Regina struggles to understand what it means to be "Indian no more."

Knights vs. Dinosaurs

By Matt Phelan

Action and comedy rule when boasting sends four of King Arthur's knights back in time to battle a legion of "terrible lizards."

The Last Last-Day-of-Summer

By Lamar Giles

On the last day of summer, local crime-solving celebrities and cousins Sheed and Otto encounter members of an interdimensional community battling between good and evil. The boys join the fight when they accidentally freeze time.

The Lost Girl

By Anne Ursu

Twins Iris and Lark are challenged by their first school year in separate classrooms, as well as a mystery involving crows, missing belongings, and a strange new shop in their town.

Mañanaland

By Pam Muñoz Ryan

In this magical story, Maximiliano Córdoba goes on a dangerous journey armed only with a compass, a mysterious stone rubbing, and the legends Buelo told about traveling mythical gatekeepers.

Other Words for Home

By Jasmine Warga

In this novel in verse, 12-year old Jude does her best to adjust to American life after she and her mother travel alone to live with relatives as violence approaches their home city in Syria.

The Parker Inheritance

by Varian Johnson

Candice would rather be home in Atlanta with her friends this summer, instead of where she is, in her grandmother's small town of Lambert, South Carolina. But the discovery of clues to an intricate puzzle entwined in the town's complicated history could lead to a hidden fortune.

Rocket to the Moon! Big Ideas That Changed the World

By Don Brown

Taking readers through the history of rocket building, this title explores the people and technology that made the moon landing possible. First in a series.

Ruby in the Sky

By Jeanne Zulick Ferruolo

Ruby knows that she and her mom will not be living in Vermont for long, so she is determined to not get attached. When her mom is arrested, she realizes they will be there a bit longer than she originally planned.

Sanity & Tallulah

By Molly Brooks

Two best friends decide to engineer a three-headed kitten named Princess Sparkle, Destroyer of Worlds. If only her name didn't turn out to be a little too appropriate.

Sarai and the Meaning of Awesome

By Monica Brown and Sarai Gonzalez

For Sarai, awesome means amazing, love, family, and fun... and it's going to take all that and more to help save the day.

The Simple Art of Flying

By Cory Leonardo

A pair of brother-and-sister parrots navigate the perils of living in a pet shop, which means trying to stay together while also spreading their wings. Told from the perspective of the brother parrot, this book offers a unique perspective on relationships and coming of age.

Stanley Will Probably Be Fine

By Sally J. Pla

Stanley struggles to fit in, so he creates an imaginary superhero named John Lockdown who helps him compete in Trivia Quest, a comics-trivia scavenger hunt.

Sweeping Up the Heart

By Kevin Henkes

Amelia is disappointed to be stuck at home for spring break, but when she meets a new friend at a local art studio who claims to see the spirit of her dead mother, the week takes an exciting turn.

Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster

By Jonathan Auxier

Nan is an orphan living alone and working in a dangerous, cruel world. She discovers a friendly monster, and together they try to start a new life.

To Night Owl from Dogfish

By Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer

Twelve-year-olds Avery and Bett discover their dads are dating and plan to send the girls to summer camp to meet, while they vacation in China. The girls develop a long-distance friendship via email and letters, first to thwart their fathers' plans and then to reunite them when the men break up.

Twinchchantment

By Elise Allen

Twin princesses must save their mother after magic resurfaces in their kingdom; they do so with the help of some newfound friends, a brave servant and his black kitten.

We're Not from Here

By Geoff Rodkey

Follow the story of a family from Earth who moves to a new planet in this sci-fi adventure that explores concepts such as immigration, culture shock, and a galaxy of differences.

What a Waste: Trash, Recycling, and Protecting Our Planet

By Jess French

What can we do to keep our home, planet Earth, healthy?



Children's Choices Reading List

International Literacy Association

Beneath the Bed and Other Scary Stories: An Acorn Book (Mister Shivers)

By Max Brallier
Do you know what is under the bed? Mister Shivers does! This collection of scary stories is sure to thrill readers. With authentically vivid details and beautifully gothic-style characters and illustrations to match, these tales will give readers a light scare and something to tell their friends.

Catwad: It's Me

By Jim Benton
Catwad is a bit of a grouch. His best friend is a dim-witted cat named Blurmp who can see the bright side of anything. He has a different take on just about everything, and he is not afraid to share it.

Chapter Two Is Missing

By Josh Lieb
An investigation is launched to find the missing chapter. Milo, the book's janitor, offers to help, but he ends up not really helping. This comical mystery is a favorite that will prompt readers to talk to the book in order to help solve the mystery.

The Crayon Man: The True Story of the Invention of Crayola Crayons

By Natascha Biebow
Celebrating the inventor of the Crayola crayon! This gloriously illustrated picture book biography tells the inspiring story of Edwin Binney, the inventor of one of the world's most beloved toys.

Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid: Rowley Jefferson's Journal

By Jeff Kinney
Friendships can be tricky, but being friends with Greg is challenging. Rowley starts a journal to document his life, but Greg has different plans. Will their friendship last through disagreements, force fields, and frequent pranks?

Dinosaur Feathers

By Dennis Nolan
This beautifully illustrated book walks readers poetically through the beginning of dinosaurs to the evolution of the animals we know today.

Does It Fart? A Kid's Guide to the Gas Animals Pass

By N. Caruso & D. Rabaiotti
Have you ever wondered if animals fart? Or how gas can even pass? Well, wonder no more! This entertaining and humorous nonfiction book will keep you guessing.

The Eternal Soldier: The True Story of How a Dog Became a Civil War Hero

By Allison Crotzter Kimmel
Sallie, a dog gifted to the 11th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, goes to war with the soldiers, leading them into battle. After the fighting ended at Gettysburg, Sallie guarded the dead and wounded until help could find them.

Fairy in Waiting (Fairy Mom and Me #2)

By Sophie Kinsella
Ella is ready to be a fairy, but despite helping her mom with magic codes, she just has not finished growing up yet. What is a young fairy in waiting to do to prove she is ready?

For Whom the Ball Rolls (Dog Man #7)

By Dav Pilkey
The Supa Buddies, Li'l Petey and 80-HD, try and help Dog Man control his dog-like habits. Dog Man also finds himself being chased by a new supervillain as Petey the Cat is released from jail. This new book in the series emphasizes the importance of doing good.

The Girl Who Named Pluto: The Story of Venetia Burney

By Alice B. McGinty
An empowering, inspiring--and accessible!--nonfiction picture book about the girl who actually named the newly discovered Pluto in 1930.

Glitch

By Sarah Graley
Izzy can secretly enter her new video game world. There, she meets Rae, a robot who tells Izzy to save the video world. How can she do that and live in the real world with school, family, and her best friend, Eric? This action-packed comic is perfect for adventure lovers and gaming fans.

Team Taekwondo #3 How to Be Cheeri

By L. Lee and J. Nodelman
Cheeri is a hardworking perfectionist. Baeoh would rather have fun than work hard. When Master Jahngsoo pairs them together for their next-level challenge, Cheeri is not happy. In this graphic novel, these two opposites must figure out how to work together to achieve their goals and be successful.

If You Played Hide-and-Seek With a Chameleon

By Bill Wise
What if kids entered into competition with animals? Although children will probably never enter a pie-eating contest with a hippo or compete in a long-jump event with a kangaroo, by reading this book they will find out many interesting facts about some amazing animals.

The Immortal Jellyfish

By Sang Mia
When a young boy's grandpa dies, he is overwhelmed with the sadness of knowing that they will never see each other again. But in his dreams they meet once more in the magical Life Transfer City.

Me and the Sky: Captain Beverley Bass, Pioneering Pilot

By Beverly Bass
A picture book biography of the life and career of pilot Beverley Bass. Discover how she went from an ambitious young girl gazing up at the sky to a groundbreaking pilot smiling down from the cockpit.

Mr. Posey's New Glasses

By Ted Kooser
Mr. Posey and his neighbor, Andy, go shopping for new glasses at the thrift shop. The glasses they find are a surprise and reveal amazing or frightful scenes. Andy makes an observation that gives Mr. Posey a new view on life.

Rumple Buttercup: A Story of Bananas, Belonging, and Being Yourself

By Matthew Gray Gubler
Rumple Buttercup has five crooked teeth, three strands of hair, green skin, and a left foot that is slightly bigger than his right. Join him as he learns the joy of individuality as well as the magic of belonging.

Sofia Valdez, Future Prez

By Andrea Beaty
Sofia Valdez is a second grader who takes on the challenge of making a difference in the world. The rhyming couplets, as well as the message that one person can make a difference, will delight readers.

The Undefeated

By Kwame Alexander
This poem is an ode to the persistence and grit displayed by black Americans and a tribute to those who have succeeded as activists, artists, and athletes. It is a way to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. It is the story of overcomers and dreamers.

WeirDo

By Anh Do
Weir Do is a third grader and the new kid in school. With an unforgettable name, a crazy family, and some seriously weird habits, fitting in will not be easy—but it will be funny! This tale will keep young readers laughing as Weir and his friends survive elementary school and their families.

International Literacy Association

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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