



PARKWAY CONNECTS

#ParkwayReads

2020 Summer Reading List

Grades 9 - 12

Missouri Gateway Reader Award YALSA Best Fiction 2020

A Heart in a Body in the World

By Deb Caletti

Followed by Grandpa Ed in his RV and backed by her brother and friends, Annabelle runs from Seattle to Washington, D.C., becoming a reluctant activist as people connect her journey to her recent trauma.

After The Shot Drops

By Randy Ribay

Told from alternating perspectives, Bunny takes a basketball scholarship to an elite private school to help his family, leaving behind Nasir, his best friend, in their tough Philadelphia neighborhood.

Dread Nation

By Justina Ireland

A stunning and powerful meditation on race in America wrapped in an alternate-history adventure where Confederate and Union soldiers rise from the dead at the end of the Civil War.

Dry

By Neal & Jarrod Shusterman

A lengthy California drought escalates to catastrophic proportions, turning Alyssa's quiet suburban street into a warzone, and she is forced to make impossible choices if she and her brother are to survive.

Flight Season

By Marie Marquardt

Vivi, a college student attempting to complete an internship, TJ, a nursing student, and Angel, a patient with heart disease, all find their lives intersecting at a university hospital that could change their lives forever.

Hey, Kiddo

By Jarrett Krosoczka

A powerful, unforgettable graphic memoir about growing up with a drug-addicted mother, a missing father, and two unforgettably opinionated grandparents.

Little White Lies

By Jennifer Lynn Barnes

Eighteen-year-old Sawyer accepts her estranged grandmother's bribe to live with her for a year, participate in the debutante season and ball, and possibly meet the father she has never known.

Lovely War

By Julie Berry

A critically acclaimed, multi-layered romance set in the perilous days of World Wars I and II, where gods hold the fates and the hearts of four mortals in their hands.

Monday's Not Coming

By Tiffany Jackson

Claudia's friend Monday goes missing and she is the only one who seems to care. A gripping mystery of one teenage girl's disappearance.

On the Come Up

By Angie Thomas

Bri hopes to become a great rapper, and after her first song goes viral for all the wrong reasons, must decide whether to sell out or face eviction with her widowed mother.

Patron Saints of Nothing

By Randy Ribay

When Jay learns his Filipino cousin and former best friend, Jun, was murdered as part of President Duterte's war on drugs, he flies to the Philippines to learn more.

Pet

By Akwaeke Emezi

In a near-future society that claims to have gotten rid of all monstrous people, a creature emerges from a painting seventeen-year-old Jam's mother created, a hunter from another world seeking a real-life monster.

The Book Of Essie

By Meghan MacLean Weir

The youngest daughter of an Evangelical preacher-turned-reality TV star hatches a plan to wrangle her freedom—and expose the dark truth about her family.

The Cruel Prince

By Holly Black

Jude, a mortal, gets tangled in palace intrigues while trying to win a place in the treacherous High Court of Faerie, where she and her sisters have lived for a decade.

The Field Guide to the North American Teenager

By Ben Philippe

A hilarious realistic novel about a witty Black French Canadian teen who moves to Austin, Texas, and experiences the joys, clichés, and awkward humiliations of the American high school experience.

The Poet X

By Elizabeth Acevedo

Xiomara feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. She has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking. She discovers slam poetry as a way to understand her mother and her own relationship to the world.

The Unfortunates

By Kim Liggett

After getting away with murder, Grant plans his own form of justice, but before he can act upon it a cave collapse traps him and four other teenagers miles below the surface, where they soon discover that they aren't alone.

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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Young Adults' Choices Reading List

International Literacy Association

All That I Can Fix

By Crystal Chan

A teen boy's world gets turned upside-down when a zoo of exotic animals takes over his small town in this wickedly funny, heartbreakingly honest novel.

Ash Princess

By Laura Sebastian

After enduring years of captivity and shame, Theodosia realizes she must rise up and take back the power that is rightfully hers. By using her intellect, she begins a perilous journey to regain her kingdom and end the injustices her people are suffering.

Batman: Nightwalker

By Marie Lu

The Nightwalkers are terrorizing Gotham City, and Bruce Wayne is next on their list. Bruce will walk the dark line between trust and betrayal as the Nightwalkers circle close.

Camp Valor

By McEwen & Williams

Wyatt avoids a prison sentence by agreeing to spend three months in a secret government training camp for teenage agents, but when enemies try to root out Camp Valor's secrets, Wyatt and his friends have to put their training into practice to protect their country.

Furyborn

By Claire Legrand

Rielle may prove to be one of the Prophesized Queens, if she survives the trials, and a thousand years later bounty hunter Eliana helps a girl who could be the answer to the prophecy.

Lies You Never Told Me

By Jennifer Donaldson

Elyse's life is a little too much like her role as Juliet in her school's production of Romeo and Juliet with its relationships, lies, and family drama. Gabe is discovering that his romantic choices can have hazardous effects. This novel, with unseen twists and turns, reveals that choices can have dire consequences.

Live in Infamy

By Caroline Tung Richmond

In this alternate historical fiction, the United States and the Allied powers have lost World War II. Ren joins the rebel movement that wants the US to regain its power and bring back freedom to all citizens.

Marvel Studios 101: all your questions answered

By Adam Bray

Where should I begin with the Marvel movies? Who exactly are the Guardians of the Galaxy? What's the best order to watch the films in? And are Iron Man and Captain America friends or enemies? A guide to Marvel's cinematic universe that covers main characters, superpowers, key events, and more.

Meet the Sky

By McCall Hoyle

With nothing but pain in her past, all Sophie wants is to plan for the future—keep the family business running, get accepted to veterinary school, and protect her mom and sister from disaster. But when a hurricane forms and heads right toward their island, Sophie realizes nature is one thing she can't control.

#MurderTrending

By Gretchen McNeil

Falsely accused of murdering her stepsister, seventeen-year-old Dee fights to survive paid assassins on Alcatraz 2.0, the most popular prison on social media.

Rickety Stitch and the Gelatinous Goo

By Costa and Parks

The Hobbit meets Adventure Time as a singing skeleton searches for his origins in this full-color graphic novel series kickoff, perfect for fans of Nimona!

Rickety Stitch and the Gelatinous Goo 2

By Costa and Parks

Nimona meets Adventure Time in this full-color graphic novel as a singing skeleton continues to search for his origins alongside his gelatin monster sidekick!

Rebound

By Kwame Alexander

In the summer of 1988, twelve-year-old Chuck Bell is sent to stay with his grandparents, where he discovers jazz and basketball and learns more about his family's past.

The Mythology Book

By DK Publishing

Eighty of the world's greatest myths and characters, from the gods of Greek mythology to the Norse heroes, retold and explained with engaging text and bold graphics.

The Cheerleaders

By Kara Thomas

As a town prepares for the anniversary of the deaths of five cheerleaders who were killed in three separate accidents, two teens uncover long-buried truths about what really happened.

The Last Girl on Earth

By Alexandra Blogier

Li is the only human left after aliens take over the planet, but she learns to stay alive, with the help of her human-sympathizing father, by assimilating to Abdolorean society, which she must keep a secret at all costs or risk the terrifying consequences of exposure.

Undocumented: A Worker's Fight

By Duncan Tonatiuh

Juan grew up in Mexico working in the fields to help provide for his family. Struggling for money, Juan crosses over into the US and becomes an undocumented worker, living in a poor neighborhood, working hard to survive. He risks everything when he stands up for himself and the rest of his community by leading the fight for better wages and workers' rights.

INTERNATIONAL
LITERACY
ASSOCIATION

The Young Adults' Choices project began in 1986, funded by a special grant given to the International Literacy Association. The books included on this list reflect current trends in young adult literature and titles that will engage today's readers.

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