



Prince William County Public Schools Summer Reading Recommendation

Suggested Reading List Grades 6 – 8

The purpose of the Prince William County Public Schools Summer Reading Recommendation is for students to enjoy quality literature and to continue developing their independent reading skills to support critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, collaboration and citizenship. Student participation in the challenge is voluntary. Students who choose to participate will read books they self-select. Students that read during the summer can grow and explore new experiences to support life-long reading habits.

The following titles are suggestions to help foster a love of reading for pleasure. Other books selected by the student with guidance from a parent, guardian, or librarian, are also acceptable.

PWCS Summer Reading Recommendation Suggested Reading List
6th Grade

Author	Title	Pub. Date	Annotation
Ignatow, Amy	<i>Research for the Social Improvement and General Betterment of Lydia Goldblatt & Julie Graham-Chang</i> or any book by Amy Ignatow	2010	Best friends Lydia and Julie study popularity in an attempt to prepare for middle school.
Smith, Roland	<i>I, Q: Book One: Independence Hall</i> or any book by Roland Smith	2008	Q and his new step-sister find themselves in the middle of spies and terrorists in Philadelphia.
Korman, Gordon	<i>Masterminds</i> or any book in the series by Gordon Korman	2015	Life in Serenity, New Mexico, is pretty uneventful until Eli and his friends discover that they are the result of an experiment using DNA from some of the most infamous criminal who ever lived.
Sheinkin, Steve	<i>Two Miserable Presidents: Everything Your Schoolbooks Didn't Tell You About the Civil War</i> or any book by Steve Sheinkin	2008	(nonfiction) Factual, fascinating, and occasionally even funny account of the events that led to the Civil War.
Black, Holly	<i>The Bronze Key</i> or any book in the Magisterium series by Holly Black	2016	Callum returns to the Magisterium for his Bronze Year but becomes involved in a murder investigation when one of his fellow students is killed.
Bartoletti, Susan Campbell	<i>Terrible Typhoid Mary: A True Story of the Deadliest Cook in America</i> or any middle school book by Susan Campbell Bartoletti	2015	(nonfiction) True story of Mary Mallon, a cook who unwittingly infected dozens with typhoid in the early 1900s, and the efforts of doctors and scientists to identify the cause and stop the spread of the disease.
Roth, Veronica	<i>Divergent</i> or any book in the series by Veronica Roth	2011	A teenager living in a dystopian society finds herself at a crossroads when she is supposed to choose one of her society's factions, each prizing a different quality: honesty, selflessness, bravery, peacefulness, and intelligence.
Riordan, Rick	<i>The Lightning Thief</i> or any book in the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series by Rick Riordan	2005	Percy discovers that his father is the sea god Poseidon and attends Camp Half-Blood with other children of the gods.

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Swanson, James	<i>Chasing Lincoln's Killer</i> or any middle school book by James Swanson	2009	(nonfiction) True account of the pursuit of John Wilkes Booth after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.
Grimes, Nikki	<i>Garvey's Choice</i> or any middle school poetry book by Nikki Grimes	2016	Garvey must reconcile his own interests against those of his sports-loving father in this novel in verse.
Maddox, Jake	<i>Paintball Problems</i> or any middle school sports book by Jake Maddox	2013	Max's summer plans go off-track when the school bully joins his paintball league.
Engle, Margarita	<i>Drum Dream Girl</i> or any book by Margarita Engle	2015	A young girl in 1920s Cuba works to show that girls can be drummers, too.
Christopher, Matt	<i>Play Ball!</i> or any book by Matt Christopher	2013	A Little League Baseball World Series Championship is on the line for cousins Liam and Carter.
Telgemeier, Raina	<i>Smile</i> or any middle school book by Raina Telgemeier	2010	(graphic novel) Raina loses her front teeth in an accident—but that's only one of the many issues she must deal with in middle school.
Carson, Gail	<i>The Lost Kingdom of Bamarre</i> or any middle school book by Gail Carson	2017	Although she has been raised as the daughter of the Latki Lord Trove, Peregrine learns that she is really Bamarre-born and must come to the aid of the Bamarre people.
various authors	<i>Who Was Harriet Tubman?</i> or any book in the Who Was series by various authors	2002	(nonfiction) Short, entertaining biographies about historical figures such as Tubman, an escaped slave who led many others to freedom on the Underground Railroad.
Curtis, Christopher Paul	<i>The Mighty Miss Malone</i> or any book by Christopher Paul Curtis	2012	Deza and her family leave Indiana for Michigan in search of her father during the Great Depression.
Erskine, Kathryn	<i>Seeing Red</i> or any book by Kathryn Erskine	2013	In the racially-divided Virginia of the 1970s, Frederick's mother wants to sell his deceased father's car repair business, but Red doesn't want to let that happen.
Barnhill, Kelly	<i>The Girl Who Drank the Moon</i> or any book by Kelly Barnhill	2016	Left in the forest as a baby, Luna has been raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a (tiny) dragon, but the magic that grows as she approaches her thirteenth birthday will change everything.
Kadohata, Cynthia	<i>Weedflower</i> or any book by Cynthia Kadohata	2006	During WWII, Japanese-American Sumiko and her family are relocated from their farm in California to an Arizona internment camp.

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7th Grade

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Alexander, Kwame	<i>Out of Wonder</i> or any middle school book by Kwame Alexander	2016	Presents a collection of twenty poems written in tribute to well-known poets from around the world.
Chainani, Soman	<i>The School for Good and Evil</i> or any book in the series by Soman Chainani.	2013	With her glass slippers and devotion to good deeds, Sophie knows she'll earn top marks at the School for Good and join the ranks of past students like Cinderella, Rapunzel, and Snow White. Meanwhile, Agatha, with her shapeless black frocks and wicked black cat, seems a natural fit for the villains in the School for Evil.
Green, Tim	<i>Baseball Genius</i> or any middle school book by Tim Green.	2017	Jalen DeLuca loves baseball. Unfortunately, his dad can't afford to keep him on the travel team. His dad runs a diner and makes enough to cover the bills, but there isn't enough to cover any extras. So, Jalen decides to take matters into his own hands and he sneaks into the home of the New York Yankees' star second baseman, James Yager, and steals a couple of balls from his personal batting cage. He knows that if he can sell them, he'll be able to keep himself on the team.
Hiaasen, Carl	<i>Skink, No Surrender</i> or any middle school book by Carl Hiaasen	2014	With the help of an eccentric ex-governor, a teenaged boy searches for his missing cousin in the Florida wilds. To avoid being shipped off to boarding school, Malley takes off with some guy she met online. Richard knows his cousin's in trouble before she does. Wild Skink--the ragged, one-eyed ex-governor of Florida--is enough of a renegade to think he can track Malley down. With Richard riding shotgun, the unlikely pair scour the state, undaunted by blinding storms, crazed pigs, flying bullets, and giant gators.
Jarrow, Gail	<i>Fatal Fever</i> or any nonfiction middle school book by Gail Jarrow	2015	(nonfiction) In the early 1900s, when typhoid fever was killing tens of thousands of Americans each year, Mary Mallon was employed as a cook by several well-to-do New York families. When some members of these households developed the disease, suspicion turned to Mary. Did she have anything to do with the spread of the deadly bacteria? Here is the gripping, true story of Typhoid Mary; the epidemiologist who discovered her trail of infection; and the health department that decided her fate.
Johnson, Varian	<i>The Great Greene Heist</i> or any book by Varian Johnson	2014	Jackson Greene has a reputation as a prankster at Maplewood Middle School, but after the last disaster he is trying to go straight--but when it looks like Keith Sinclair may steal the election for school president from Jackson's former best friend Gabriela, he assembles a team to make sure Keith does not succeed.
Lai, Thanhha	<i>Listen, Slowly</i> or any book by Thanhha Lai	2015	Assisting her grandmother's investigation of her grandfather's fate during the Vietnam War, Mai struggles to adapt to an unfamiliar culture while redefining her sense of family.

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Levine, Kristin	<i>The Lions of Little Rock</i> or any middle school book by Kristin Levine	2012	In 1958 Little Rock, Arkansas, painfully shy twelve-year-old Marlee sees her city and family divided over school integration, but her friendship with Liz, a new student, helps her find her voice and fight against racism.
Magoon, Kekla	<i>Camo Girl</i> or any other middle school book by Kekla Magoon	2011	Set in the modern-day suburbs of Las Vegas, a young girl finds herself caught between two worlds. She is drawn to the popular new boy—the only other black student in the school—but also loyal to her BFF, a geeky boy whose social status, like hers, is bottom-rung, and with whom she has shared an incomparable friendship.
Ryan, Pam Munoz	<i>Echo</i> or any other book by Pam Munoz Ryan	2015	Lost and alone in a forbidden forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Decades later, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California each, in turn, become interwoven when the very same harmonica lands in their lives. All the children face daunting challenges: rescuing a father, protecting a brother, holding a family together. And ultimately, pulled by the invisible thread of destiny, their solo stories converge in an orchestral crescendo.
Nielsen, Jennifer A.	<i>Mark of the Thief</i> or any other book in the series by Jennifer A. Nielsen	2015	Nic Calva and his sister are slaves in the mines outside Rome. When Nic is forced to enter one of the mines to retrieve the treasures of Julius Caesar, he finds much more than everyone could have expected—a magic amulet. When Nic takes the amulet for himself, hoping to gain freedom, he becomes involved in a battle that could destroy Rome.
Park, Linda Sue	<i>Forest of Wonders</i> in the Wing & Claw Series or any other middle school book by Linda Sue Park	2016	Raffa Santana has always loved the mysterious Forest of Wonders. For a gifted young apothecary like him, every leaf has the potential to unleash a kind of magic. If only Raffa's cautious father would allow him to experiment freely, Raffa knows he could discover miracles. When an injured bat crashes into Raffa's life, he invents a cure from a rare crimson vine that he finds deep in the forest. The powers of the vine are stronger than Raffa could have imagined. His remedy saves the animal but also transforms it into something much more than an ordinary bat, with far-reaching consequences.
Paulsen, Gary	<i>Fishbone's Song</i> or any other book by Gary Paulsen	2016	Deep in the woods, in a rustic cabin, lives an old man and the boy he's raised as his own. This sage old man has taught the boy the power of nature and how to live in it, and more importantly, to respect it. In <i>Fishbone's Song</i> , this boy reminisces about the magic of the man who raised him and the tales that he used to tell—all true, but different each time.
Preller, James	<i>The Fall</i> or any middle school book by James Preller	2015	In writing in his journal about middle school classmate Morgan Mallen's suicide from bullying, Sam explores whether he was a friend, or one of the bullies who ignored her at school and tormented her online.
Roman, Dave	<i>Slappy's Tales of Horror</i> or any other graphic novel by Dave Roman	2015	(graphic novel) A collection of short graphic novels featuring characters from famous <i>Goosebumps</i> stories includes "Ghost Beach," in which two siblings investigate a local legend and discover a terrible secret about their family.
Romero, Jordan	<i>No Summit Out of Sight: The True Story of the</i>	2016	(nonfiction) The dangers of Mt. Everest have taken the lives of countless climbers but that wasn't going to stop thirteen-year-old Jordan Romero from reaching the

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	<i>Youngest Person to Climb the Seven Summits</i>		summit at age 13. At 15, he had climbed the tallest mountain on every continent. This is the inspiring true story of Jordan's quest to make his dream come true through sheer force of will and determination against the odds.
Schmidt, Gary	<i>Okay for Now</i> or any middle school book by Gary Schmidt	2011	As a fourteen-year-old who just moved to a new town, Doug has no friends, an abusive father and a louse for an older brother. He finds an ally in Lil Spicer—a fiery young lady. Together they find a safe haven in the public library, inspiration in learning about the plates of John James Audubon's birds, and a hilarious adventure on a Broadway stage.
Shetterly, Margo Lee	<i>Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race</i>	2016	(nonfiction)The phenomenal true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space.
Stone, Tanya Lee	<i>Courage Has No Color</i> or any nonfiction book by Tanya Lee Stone	2013	(nonfiction) "What's it like to jump out of an airplane? Imagine." This book chronicles the courage and persistence of Triple Nickles, the African-Americans who pushed through military boundaries in the 555 th Parachute Infantry Battalion.
Weeks, Sarah	<i>Save Me a Seat</i> or any middle school novel by Sarah Weeks	2016	Ravi has just moved to the United States from India and has always been at the top of his class; Joe has lived in the same town his whole life and has learning problems--but when their lives intersect in the first week of fifth grade they are brought together by a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and the need to take control of their lives.

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8th Grade

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Bauer, Joan	<i>Soar</i> or any middle school book by Joan Bauer	2016	Jeremiah is the world's biggest baseball fan. He <i>really</i> loves baseball and he knows just about everything there is to know about his favorite sport. When he's told he can't play baseball following an operation on his heart, Jeremiah decides he'll do the next best thing and become a coach. But Jeremiah finds the town where he has just moved caught up in a scandal and about ready to give up on baseball. It's up to Jeremiah and his can-do spirit to get the town - and the team - back in the game.
Bodeen, S. A.	<i>The Raft</i> or any book in the Shipwrecked Island series by S.A. Bodeen	2013	When her plane goes down between Honolulu and her home, the Midway Atoll, 15-year-old Robie finds herself soaked, exhausted, confused, and sprawled aboard a leaky raft with the surviving copilot, Max.
Bruchac, Joseph	<i>Code Talker</i> or any middle school book by Joseph Bruchac	2005	After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.
Collins, Suzanne	<i>The Hunger Games</i> or any book by Suzanne Collins	2008	Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen accidentally becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a grave competition hosted by the Capitol where young boys and girls are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death.
Davies, Jacqueline	<i>Nothing but Trouble</i> or any book by Jacqueline Davies	2016	Maggie's town has always been too small for her big scientific ideas. Between her stuck-in-a-rut mom, her grumpy grandpop, and the lifetime supply of sludgy soda in the fridge, it's hard for Maggie to imagine a change. But when Lena moves in with her creative spirit and outrageous perspective, middle school takes off with a bang. These two smart girls are determined to liven up their town—one epic prank at a time.
Elliott, L. M.	<i>Across a War-Tossed Sea</i> or any other book by L.M. Elliott	2014	It's 1943, and World War II is raging. To escape the terror of the Blitz, ten-year-old Wesley and fourteen-year-old Charles are evacuated from England to America. After a few near misses with German U-boats and a treacherous ocean crossing, the brothers arrive in Virginia. The culture shock is intense as the London boys adjust to rural farm life and must learn new sports, customs, and spellings, plus contend with racial segregation and bullying.
Haddix, Margaret	<i>In Over Their Heads</i> or any book by Margaret Haddix	2017	Twins Nick and Eryn learned a shocking secret about the nature of their soon-to-be stepsiblings: they're robots. Now the twins, their stepsiblings, and both sets of parents are on the run, out in the woods, trying to conceal the fact that almost everyone in the world over the age of 12 is a robot.
Hale, Shannon	<i>Real Friends</i> or any book by Shannon Hale	2017	(nonfiction) Shannon and Adrienne have been best friends ever since they were little. But one day, Adrienne starts hanging out with Jen, the most popular girl in class and the leader of a circle of friends called The Group. Everyone in The

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			Group wants to be Jen's #1, and some girls would do anything to stay on top . . . even if it means bullying others. In this graphic memoir, Shannon Hale reflects on her childhood friendships.
Hunt, Lynda Mullaly	<i>One for the Murphys</i> or any book by Lynda Mullaly Hunt	2012	Carley struggles with being open to love after she suffers a betrayal that forces her to move in with a foster family.
Lewis, C.S.	<i>The Magician's Nephew</i> or any book in The Chronicles of Narnia series by C.S. Lewis	1955	On a daring quest to save a life, two friends are hurled into another world, where an evil sorceress seeks to enslave them. But then the lion Aslan's song weaves itself into the fabric of a new land, a land that will be known as Narnia. And in Narnia, all things are possible.
Lu, Marie	<i>Legend</i> or any book in the Legend series by Marie Lu	2011	What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, fifteen-year-old June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the slums, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. But his motives may not be as malicious as they seem.
Morpurgo, Michael	<i>Half a Man</i> or any book by Michael Morpurgo	2015	From a young age, Michael was both fascinated by and afraid of his grandfather. Grandpa's ship was torpedoed during the Second World War, leaving him with terrible burns. As he grows older, Michael stays with his grandfather during the summer holidays and learns the story behind Grandpa's injuries, finally getting to know the real man behind the solemn figure from his childhood.
Pfeffer, Susan Beth	<i>Life as We Knew It</i> or any book in the Last Survivors series by Susan Beth Pfeffer	2006	Through journal entries, sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.
Reynolds, Jason	<i>Ghost</i> or any middle school book by Jason Reynolds	2016	Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team—a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves.
Seiple, Samantha	<i>Ghosts in the Fog: The Untold Story of Alaska's WWII Invasion</i> or any other middle school nonfiction book by Samantha Seiple	2011	(Nonfiction) This is the riveting story of how the Japanese invaded and occupied the Aleutian Islands in Alaska during World War II. This fascinating little-known piece of American history is told from the point of view of the American civilians who were captured and taken prisoner, along with the American and Japanese soldiers who fought in one of the bloodiest battles of hand-to-hand combat during the war.
Smith, Sherri L.	<i>The Toymaker's Apprentice</i> or any book by Sherri L. Smith	2015	Journeyman toymaker Stefan Drosselmeyer is recruited by his mysterious cousin, Christian, to find a mythical nut that will save Boldavia's princess and his own kidnapped father from a fanatical Mouse Queen and her seven-headed Mouse Prince, who have sworn to destroy the Drosselmeyer family. Based on the original inspiration for the Nutcracker ballet,

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Shusterman, Neal	<i>Tesla's Attic</i> or any book in the Accelerati Trilogy by Neal Shusterman	2014	Everything changed after the toaster hit Nick on the head. It fell from an attic full of junk in the ramshackle Victorian house in Colorado Springs that fourteen-year-old Nick, his father, and younger brother have moved into from Tampa. Nick disposes of most of the things in the attic at a garage sale. Nick discovers that the items he sold are the magical inventions of Nikola Tesla. And he must recover them before they fall into the hands of a murderous secret society, the Accelerati.
Westerfeld, Scott	<i>Uglies</i> or any book in the Uglies series by Scott Westerfeld	2005	Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen-year-old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn't like.
Woodson, Jacqueline	<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> or any book by Jacqueline Woodson	2016	(Nonfiction) Raised in South Carolina and New York, Jacqueline Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.