



Middle School, Grade 7 Summer Reading Suggestions

All the Greys on Greene Street. By Laura Tucker. Illus. by Kelly Murphy. Viking. Olympia must navigate both the disappearance of her father and her mother's growing struggle with depression. Interest Level 3-6, Lexile 910L

The Beast Player. By Nahoko Uehashi. Illus. by Yuta Onoda. Tr. by Cathy Hirano. Holt/Godwin. In this complex fantasy, a young girl is caught (pitted?) between the welfare of animals with whom she can communicate and a warring kingdom that only she can save. (Batchelder Honor Book) YA

Beverly, Right Here. By Kate DiCamillo. Candlewick. After the loss of her beloved dog, Beverly runs away from home and starts a new life. Interest Level 5-8, Lexile 480L

Born to Fly: The First Women's Air Race across America. By Steve Sheinkin. Illus. by Bijou Karman. Roaring Brook. The well-researched, compellingly written account of 20 aviators competing in the first all-female, cross-country air derby. Interest Level 5-8, Lexile 930L

The Bridge Home. By Padma Venkatraman. Penguin/Nancy Paulsen. Determined to escape their abusive father, Viji and her sister run away and make a new home on a bridge in Chennai, India. Interest Level 5-8, Lexile 680L

The Distance Between Me and the Cherry Tree. By Paola Peretti. Illus. by Carolina Rabei. Tr. by Denise Muir. Atheneum. Fifth-grader Mafalda discovers what is important in life as she loses her sight to a degenerative disease in this thoughtful, coming-of-age novel. (Batchelder Honor Book) Interest Level 5-8, Lexile 680L

Each Tiny Spark. By Pablo Cartaya. Penguin/Kokila. Emilia faces family challenges when her dad returns from overseas military service. Interest Level 5-8, Lexile 680L

¹ "Notable Children's Books - 2020." *Association for Library Service to Children*, American Library Association, www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb. Accessed 9 June 2020.

Genesis Begins Again. By Alicia D. Williams. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy. Painfully self-conscious about her dark skin, 13-year-old Genesis faces new challenges when her family moves to suburban Detroit and she starts a new school. (Newbery Honor Book) Interest Level 5-8, Lexile 670L

I Can Make This Promise. By Christine Day. Harper. Twelve-year-old Edie discovers a box in her family's attic that reveals her mother's Suquamish/Duwamish heritage. Interest Level 5-8, Lexile HL610L

Infinite Hope: A Black Artist's Journey from World War II to Peace. By Ashley Bryan. Illus. by the author. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy. A moving memoir recounts the WWII experiences of an artistic young man through his contemporaneous writing and illustration on the front line. Interest Level 5-8, Lexile 990L

Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks. By Jason Reynolds. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy. What happens after school? These 10 interconnected stories will tell you, block by block. Interest Level 5-8, Lexile 750L

Maybe He Just Likes You. By Barbara Dee. Aladdin. Mila, a seventh-grader, experiences sexual harassment and unwanted attention from a group of classmates. Interest Level 5-8, Lexile 630L

New Kid. By Jerry Craft. Illus. by the author. Harper. A funny, thought-provoking graphic novel that details Jordan Banks' seventh-grade year as one of the few African American kids in an elite suburban school. (Newbery Medal Book) Interest Level 5-8, Lexile GN320L

The Other Half of Happy. By Rebecca Balcárcel. Chronicle. A biracial girl explores her Guatemalan heritage and deals with family struggles, while navigating the realities of middle school. (Belpré Author Honor Book) Interest Level 5-8, Lexile HL570L

Other Words for Home. By Jasmine Warga. HarperCollins/Balzer+Bray. Themes of conflict, home, identity, the arts, and prejudice are interwoven in this powerful verse novel about a Syrian girl's new life in America. (Newbery Honor Book) Interest Level 5-8, Lexile 930L

A Place to Belong. By Cynthia Kadohata. Illus. by Julia Kuo. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy. After her Japanese American parents are released from an internment camp, twelve-year-old Hanako travels with her family to start a new life in post-war Japan. Interest Level 5-8, Lexile 690L

The Poison Eaters: Fighting Danger and Fraud in our Food and Drugs. By Gail Jarrow. illus. Boyds Mills/Calkins Creek. From formaldehyde in your milk to borax in your beans comes this fun, informative exploration of the FDA and how it works to keep our food safe. Interest 5-8, Lexile 1020L

Sal & Gabi Break the Universe. By Carlos Hernandez. Disney/Hyperion. Sci-fi adventure and Cuban culture blend as Sal Vidón and his friend Gabi travel to parallel universes and try to survive middle school. (Belpré Author Award Book) Interest 3-6, Lexile 700L

A Story about Cancer (with a Happy Ending). By India Desjardins. Illus. by Marianne Ferrer. Quarto/Frances Lincoln. In this illustrated book for older children, a teenage girl waits for test results and reflects on her five-year battle with leukemia. Interest Level 5-8, Lexile 830L

Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers. By Celia C. Pérez. Penguin/Kokila. Four wildly different middle-school girls join together in social activism to protest an outdated tradition. InterestLevel 5-8, Lexile 750L

Survivors of the Holocaust: True Stories of Six Extraordinary Children. Ed. by Kath Shackleton. Illus. by Zane Whittingham. Sourcebooks/Jabberwocky. A compelling collection of six little-known, true stories of child Holocaust survivors, told in graphic novel format. Interest Level 5-8, Lexile 750L

This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality. By Jo Ann Allen Boyce and Debbie Levy. illus. Bloomsbury. A first-person, verse account of the challenges faced by the first African American students to integrate into an American high school. (Sibert Honor Book) Interest Level 5-8,

Torpedoed: The True Story of the World War II Sinking of "The Children's Ship." By Deborah Heiligman. illus. Holt. The incredible, nonfiction tale of the German submarine attack on a ship carrying 100 child refugees during WWII. Interest 5-8, Lexile 840L

Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky. By Kwame Mbalia. Disney/Hyperion. While visiting his grandparents in Alabama, Tristan enters into a parallel universe populated by characters from African and African American traditional stories. Interest Level 3-6. Lexile 680L

Wait, What? A Comic Book Guide to Relationships, Bodies, and Growing Up. By Heather Corinna. Illus. by Isabella Rotman. Limerence. The founder of Scarleteen.com takes a head-on approach to discussing gender, sexuality, identities, and more. Interest Level 5-8

Where the Heart Is. By Jo Knowles. Candlewick. Rachel negotiates a summer of changing friendships, family financial disaster, a new job, and a growing awareness of her sexual identity. Interest Level 5-8, Lexile 680L

Words on Fire. By Jennifer Nielsen. Scholastic. Set during the nineteenth-century Russian occupation of Lithuania, Audra and her family smuggle books to save Lithuanian language and culture. Interest Level 3-6, Lexile 820L

The Year We Fell from Space. By Amy Sarig King. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine. As Liberty's family struggles with divorce and mental illness, her life begins to spin out of control. Interest Level 3-6, Lexile 580L