



Middle School, Grade 8 Summer Reading Suggestions

Accused! The Trials of the Scottsboro Boys: Lies, Prejudice, and the Fourteenth Amendment. By Larry Dane

Brimner. illus. Boyds Mills/Calkins Creek. The impeccably

researched story of nine African American young men falsely accused of raping two white girls in 1931 Scottsboro, Alabama. Young Adult

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

Games of Deception: The True Story of the First U.S. Olympic Basketball Team at the 1936 Olympics in Hitler's Germany. By Andrew Maraniss. illus. Philomel. This brief history of how basketball became an Olympic sport looks at the ethical issues surrounding the U.S. team's decision to participate in the 1936 Olympics. YA

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

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People. By Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. Adapted by Jean Mendoza and Debbie Reese. illus. Beacon. This unflinching adaptation makes crucial history accessible for children and teens. YA

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

Ordinary Hazards: A Memoir. By Nikki Grimes. WordSong. This distinguished memoir in verse highlights bestselling author and poet Nikki Grimes' formative years, detailing the people, places, and events that shaped her life. (Sibert Honor Book) YA

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, ¹Lexile 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) InterestLevel 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

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.

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

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

They Called Us Enemy. By George Takei, Justin Eisinger, and Steven Scott. Illus. by Harmony Becker. Top Shelf. A graphic memoir of a Japanese American family during the internment years in California. YA

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

We Are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls around the World. By Malala Yousafzai. Little, Brown. Yousafzai recounts her story of displacement and introduces refugee girls worldwide, putting faces and stories to the demographics of immigration. YA

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 306, 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