



2022 Grade 6 Summer School Suggested Titles

2022 ALA Notable Children's Books

***Amari and the Night Brothers.* By B. B. Alston. HarperCollins/Balzer+Bray (9780062975164). Int Lvl: 3-6; Rd Lvl: 4.9**

Amari investigates her brother's disappearance while navigating a magic-filled summer internship at the secret Bureau of Supernatural Affairs.

***Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids.* Ed. by Cynthia Leitich Smith. HarperCollins/Heartdrum (9780062869944). Int Lvl: 3-6; Rd Lvl: 5.0**

An enlightening collection of short stories about Indigenous young people attending an intertribal powwow in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

***Bad Sister.* By Charise Mericle Harper. Illus. by Rory Lucey. First Second (9781250219053). Int Lvl: 3-6; Rd Lvl: 2.6**

In this honest and moving graphic memoir, Charise and her younger brother, Daniel, don't always get along, sometimes getting physically and emotionally hurt as a result.

***Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna.* By Alda P. Dobbs. Sourcebooks (9781728234656). Int Lvl: 5-8; Rd Lvl: 4.8**

Petra dreams of going to school and learning how to read. Instead, she must lead her grandmother and younger siblings to safety across the US border during the Mexican Revolution. (A 2022 Pura Belpré Children's Author Honor Book)

***The Beatryce Prophecy.* By Kate DiCamillo. Illus. by Sophie Blackall. Candlewick (9781536213614). Int Lvl: 3-6**

A prophecy sets a medieval adventure in motion that involves a mysterious girl, a feisty goat, a boy with a tragic sword, a missing king, and an empathetic monk.

***Borders.* By Thomas King. Illus. by Natasha Donovan. Little, Brown (9780316593069). Int Lvl: 3-6; Rd Lvl: 5.4**

This graphic novel tells the story of a mother and son trapped between Canada and America because their Blackfoot citizenship is not recognized by border security.

***Cece Rios and the Desert of Souls.* By Kaela Rivera. Harper (9780062947550). Int Lvl: 5-8**

Rivera draws upon Mexican American legends in her account of Cece, a girl confronting dark forces and social expectations while on a quest to rescue her sister.

***Child of the Flower-Song People: Luz Jiménez, Daughter of the Nahua.* By Gloria Amescua. Illus. by Duncan Tonatiuh. Abrams (9781419740206). Int Lvl: 3-6; picture book**

This picture-book biography of Luz Jiménez explores her life and efforts to preserve the Nahua language and culture. (A 2022 Pura Belpré Children's Author Honor Book)

***Healer of the Water Monster.* By Brian Young. HarperCollins/Heartdrum (9780062990402). Int Lvl: 5-8**

While visiting his grandmother, a Navajo boy enlists help from Holy Beings and tribal members as he tries to help heal an ailing Water Monster and his own uncle.

***How to Become a Planet.* By Nicole Melleby. Algonquin (9781643750361). Int Lvl: 5-8**

Pluto is a happy child until a black hole of depression opens inside of her, leading her to find a way forward through self-acceptance, professional help, and new relationships.

***How to Find What You're Not Looking For.* By Veera Hiranandani. Penguin/Kokila (9780525555032). Int Lvl: 3-6; Rd Lvl: 4.6**

Set after the Loving v. Virginia ruling, a family struggles with shifting beliefs around interracial marriage, prejudice, and traditional Jewish values.

***The Leak.* By Kate Reed Petty. Illus. by Andrea Bell. First Second (9781250217950). Int Lvl: 3-6; Rd Lvl: 4.2; LEX GN350L**

Ruth Keller begins investigating sludge at a local lake when she suspects ties between the water supply and her plethora of cavities in this eco-driven graphic novel.

***The One Thing You'd Save.* By Linda Sue Park. Illus. by Robert Sae-Heng. Clarion (9781328515131). Int Lvl: 3-6; Rd Lvl: 3.9**

Using traditional and modified sijo poetic structure, Park explores what children would save if they were ever in a house fire.

***Playing the Cards You're Dealt.* By Varian Johnson. Scholastic (9781338348538). Int Lvl: 5-8; Rd Lvl: 4.0**

Ten-year-old Ant questions his relationships with his best friend and alcoholic father while learning to work with a new Spades partner for an upcoming tournament.

***Red, White, and Whole.* By Rajani LaRocca. HarperCollins/Quill Tree (9780063047426). Int Lvl: 3-6**

In this novel in verse set during the 1980s, Reha struggles with her cultural identity as an Indian American girl while coping with the realities of her mother's leukemia. (A 2022 Newbery Honor Book)

***Root Magic.* By Eden Royce. HarperCollins/Walden Pond (9780062899576). Int Lvl: 3-6; Rd Lvl: 4.6**

When her Gullah Geechee family is threatened by racist policemen and supernatural entities, Jezebel embraces her cultural heritage to protect her family and herself.

***Saving American Beach: The Biography of African American Environmentalist MaVynne Betsch.* By Heidi Tyline King. Illus. by Ekua Holmes. Putnam (9781101996294). Int Lvl: 3-6**

Rich collage artwork brings depth and detail to the story of MaVynne Betsch and how she used her voice to save formerly segregated American Beach from developers.

***The Sea in Winter.* By Christine Day. HarperCollins/Heartdrum (9780062872043). Int Lvl: 3-6; Rd Lvl: 5.4**

Struggling to recover from a ballet injury, Maisie overcomes hopelessness by finding solace in her blended family, her culture, and the natural surroundings of the Pacific Northwest.

***Sona Sharma, Very Best Big Sister?* By Chitra Soundar. Illus. by Jen Khatun. Candlewick (9781536214826). Int Lvl: 3-6**

Sona helps choose a name in preparation for the baby's Hindu naming ceremony, ultimately embracing her new role as a big sister.

***Stamped (For Kids): Racism, Antiracism, and You.* By Sonja Cherry-Paul, Jason Reynolds, and Ibram X. Kendi. Illus. by Rachelle Baker. Little, Brown (9780316167581). Int Lvl: 3-6**

This young reader's adaptation of *Stamped* explores the origin of racist ideas, their impact today, and how readers can work to practice antiracism.

***Starfish.* By Lisa Fipps. Penguin/Nancy Paulsen (9781984814500). Int Lvl: 5-8; Rd Lvl: 4.7**

Ellie's struggles to find her voice and self-worth unfold in verse as she stands up to those who bully and fat-shame her.

***Temple Alley Summer.* By Sachiko Kashiwaba. Illus. by Miho Satake. Tr. by Avery Fischer Udagawa. Restless (9781632063038). Int Lvl: 3-6**

Upon seeing a ghostly figure slip out of his home, Kazu grows convinced it's connected to an ancient temple and the sudden appearance of a mysterious new classmate. (The 2022 Mildred L. Batchelder Award winner)

***Ten Thousand Tries.* By Amy Makechnie. Atheneum (9781534482296). Int Lvl: 3-6**

Golden, a natural leader on the soccer field, struggles to accept his Dad's incurable ALS and finds support in his family and community.

***Too Bright to See.* By Kyle Lukoff. Dial (9780593111154). Int Lvl: 3-6**

In rural Vermont, Bug spends the summer preparing for middle school, grieving Uncle Roderick's death, and grappling with a ghost and gender identity. (A 2022 Newbery Honor Book)

***Twenty-One Steps: Guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.* By Jeff Gottesfeld. Illus. by Matt Tavares. Candlewick (9781536201482). Int Lvl: 3-6; Rd Lvl: 5.8**

A picture-book tribute to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the sentinels who guard it.

***Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre.* By Carole Boston Weatherford. Illus. by Floyd Cooper. Carolrhoda (9781541581203). Int Lvl: 3-6; Rd Lvl: 7.3; LEX 1100L**

A powerful look into the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921, one of the worst racial attacks in American history. (A 2022 Caldecott Honor Book and a 2022 Sibert Honor Book)

***We Are Still Here! Native American Truths Everyone Should Know.* By Traci Sorell. Illus. by Frané Lessac. Charlesbridge (9781623541927). Int Lvl: 3-6; Rd Lvl: 8.6**

For Indigenous People's Day, 12 students present on historical and contemporary issues related to Native Americans. (A 2022 Sibert Honor Book)

OLDER

***Amber and Clay.* By Laura Amy Schlitz. Illus. by Julia Iredale. Candlewick (9781536201222). Int Lvl: 5-8**

Set in Ancient Greece, this epic novel in verse traces the converging journeys of two children, a slave and an aristocrat.

***Boy, Everywhere.* By A. M. Dassu. Lee & Low/Tu (9781643791968). Int Lvl: 5-8**

The Syrian civil war uproots a boy and his family, forcing them to leave the comforts of home and journey toward safety in England.

***Call and Response: The Story of Black Lives Matter.* By Veronica Chambers. illus. HarperCollins/Versify (9780358573418). Int Lvl: 5-8; Rd Lvl: 6.9**

This reference book about the Black Lives Matter movement and its historical context includes helpful lists, timelines, and photographs.

***Dawn Raid.* By Pauline Vaeluaga Smith. Illus. by Mat Hunkin. Levine Querido (9781646140411). Int Lvl: 5-8; Rd Lvl: 5.9**

Sofia's life and values change when she is affected by the injustices of 1970s New Zealand and learns about the Polynesian Panthers' fight for civil rights.

***Fallout: Spies, Superbombs, and the Ultimate Cold War Showdown.* By Steve Sheinkin. Roaring Brook (9781250149015). Int Lvl: 5-8**

This thrilling history of the Cold War breaks down the events preceding, and key players involved in, the Cuban Missile Crisis. (A 2022 Sibert Honor Book)

***The Genius under the Table: Growing up behind the Iron Curtain.* By Eugene Yelchin. Illus. by the author. Candlewick (9781536215526). Int Lvl: 5-8**

Yevgeny, a Jewish boy growing up in the Soviet Union, hopes to identify a talent that will allow him to rise above his circumstances in this comical memoir.

***The In-Between.* By Rebecca K. S. Ansari. HarperCollins/Walden Pond (9780062916099). Int Lvl: 3-6**

Cooper and his little sister, Jess, stumble upon a dark mystery when they become curious about their new neighbor across the alley.

***The Last Cuentista.* By Donna Barba Higuera. Levine Querido (9781646140893). Int Lvl: 5-8**

Centuries after Earth is destroyed, Petra arrives on a new planet, where she uses traditional stories and cunning to outwit enemies and rescue other survivors. (The 2022 Newbery Medal winner and the 2022 Pura Belpré Children's Author Award winner)

***The Legend of Auntie Po.* By Shing Yin Khor. Illus. by the author. Penguin/Kokila (9780525554882). Int Lvl: 5-8; Rd Lvl: 3.5**

This graphic novel interweaves historical fiction and surreal adventure as Mei reimagines the tale of Paul Bunyan with a Chinese heroine to cope with ramifications of the Chinese Exclusion Act.

***A Place to Hang the Moon.* By Kate Albus. Holiday/Margaret Ferguson (9780823447053). Int Lvl: 3-6**

This account details the successful efforts of African American attorney Scipio Jones to free 12 wrongly convicted Black men in 1924.

***Recognize!: An Anthology Honoring and Amplifying Black Life.* Ed. by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson. illus. Crown (9780593381595). Int Lvl: 3-6**

Employing a variety of formats and subjects, this powerful collection proclaims the importance of Black lives past, present, and future.

***Salt Magic.* By Hope Larson. Illus. by Rebecca Mock. Holiday/Margaret Ferguson (9780823450503). Int Lvl: 5-8; Rd Lvl: 3.3**

In a twisty graphic novel set after WWI, a mysterious lady in white turns the local water supply salty, leading Vonceil to try to undo the curse.

***Thanks a Lot, Universe.* By Chad Lucas. Abrams/Amulet (9781419751028). Int Lvl: 5-8; Rd Lvl: 4.8**

Brian and Ezra navigate their changing relationship while also dealing with challenges related to foster care, sexual identity, and anxiety.

***While I Was Away.* By Waka T. Brown. HarperCollins/Quill Tree (9780063017115). Int Lvl: 5-8; Rd Lvl: 4.4**

This novel, based on the author's childhood, chronicles 12-year-old Waka's culture shock as she spends a summer in Japan with her grandmother to improve her Japanese language skills.

ALL AGES

***Hear My Voice / Escucha mi voz: The Testimonies of Children Detained at the Southern Border of the United States.* By Warren Binford for Project Amplify. illus. Workman (9781523513482). Int Lvl: 3-6; Rd Lvl: 3.8**

Striking illustrations by Latinx artists complement the bilingual testimonies of children detained in inhumane conditions at the U.S.-Mexico border.

***I Am an American: The Wong Kim Ark Story.* By Martha Brockenbrough and Grace Lin. Illus. by Julia Kuo. Little, Brown (9780316426923). Int Lvl: K-3**

In a defining court case, Wong Kim Ark's victory guaranteed birthright citizenship for all Americans.

***Legacy: Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance.* By Nikki Grimes. illus. Bloomsbury (9781681199443). Int Lvl: 3-6; Rd Lvl: 3.6**

This collection of oft-overlooked works by women poets of the Harlem Renaissance is interwoven with Grimes' own golden shovel poetry.

***Make Meatballs Sing: The Life and Art of Corita Kent.* By Matthew Burgess. Illus. by Kara Kramer. Enchanted Lion (9781592703166). Int Lvl: K-3**

This biography explores the life of artist and Catholic nun Corita Kent, who used her art as a form of activism and inspired people to see the sacred in the everyday.

***¡Mambo Mucho Mambo! The Dance that Crossed Color Lines.* By Dean Robbins. Illus. by Eric Velasquez. Candlewick (9781536206081). Int Lvl: 3-6; Rd Lvl: 4.3**

By exploring the history of mambo and Latin Jazz, this book demonstrates the power of music and dance to transcend racial and cultural barriers. Simultaneously published in Spanish and English.

***Nano: The Spectacular Science of the Very (Very) Small.* By Jess Wade. Illus. by Melissa Castrillón. Candlewick (9781536217667). Int Lvl: K-3; Rd Lvl: 5.0**

Vivid illustrations and helpful diagrams complement this engaging and kid-friendly exploration of nanoscience.

***Niños: Poems for the Lost Children of Chile.* By María José Ferrada. Illus. by María Elena Valdez. Tr. by Lawrence Schimel. Eerdmans (9780802855671). Int Lvl: 3-6; Rd Lvl: 4.5; LEX 780**

This book is an ode to the 34 Chilean children who lost their lives during the years of Pinochet's regime.

***The Sea-Ringed World: Sacred Stories of the Americas.* By María García Esperón. Illus. by Amanda Mijangos. Tr. by David Bowles. Levine Querido (9781646140152). Int Lvl: 5-8**

Poetry, prose, and artwork combine in this collection of traditional tales from 18 Indigenous cultures that span from Argentina to Alaska. (A 2022 Batchelder Honor Book)

"Notable Children's Books - 2022." *Association for Library Service for Children*, American Librarian Association, www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb. Accessed 23 Mar. 2022.