



[2022 Grade 8 Summer Reading Suggestions](#)

[2022 ALA Notable Children's Books](#)

***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 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.

***Race Against Time: The Untold Story of Scipio Jones and the Battle to Save Twelve Innocent Men.* By Sandra Neil Wallace and Rich Wallace. illus. Astra/Calkins Creek (9781629798165). Int Lvl: YA; Rd Lvl: 7.6; 1120 Lexile**

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

***Revolution in Our Time: The Black Panther Party's Promise to the People.* By Kekla Magoon. illus. Candlewick (9781536214185). Int Lvl: YA**

Providing historical and contemporary context, this thorough account of the Black Panther Party details its history, evolution, and impact.

***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.

***Six Crimson Cranes.* By Elizabeth Lim. Knopf (9780593300916). Int Lvl: YA; LEX HL710L**

Lim draws upon Andersen's "The Wild Swans" and Asian folklore in her story of Princess Shiori's efforts to escape her stepmother's dark magic and save her brothers.

***A Snake Falls to Earth.* By Darcie Little Badger. Levine Querido (9781646140923). Int Lvl: YA**

Applying conventions of traditional Lipan Apache storytelling, this lyrical novel follows the entwining stories of Native teen Nina and Oli, a snake boy from the spirit world. (A 2022 Newbery Honor Book)

***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.