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SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS 2022 Grades 6-8

<https://www.nashualibrary.org/explore/teens/reading-suggestions>

This is a list of suggested quality titles for summer reading. Feel free to read anything else that interests you!

Baskin, Nora Raleigh. ***Consider the Octopus.***

Told in alternating voices, twelve-year-olds JB Barnes and Sidney Miller meet aboard a scientific research ship after JB is tasked to invite a renowned scientist named Sidney Miller and mistakenly invites a girl with the same name who will do anything to get out of going to camp.

Benjamin, Ali. ***The Thing about Jellyfish.***

Twelve-year-old Suzy Swanson wades through her intense grief over the loss of her best friend by investigating the rare jellyfish she is convinced was responsible for her friend's death.

Braden, Ann. ***The Benefits of Being an Octopus.***

Seventh-grader Zoey Albrow focuses on caring for three younger siblings and avoiding rich classmates at school until her fascination with octopuses gets her on the debate team and she begins to speak out.

Doleski, Shannon. ***Mary Underwater.***

Gaining courage from Joan of Arc, fourteen-year-old Mary Murphy navigates the waters of Chesapeake Bay in a submersible built with her friend, Kip, escaping the home where her violent father has returned from prison. Includes facts about domestic violence and submersibles.

Durham, Paul (Paul Joseph)., ***The Last Gargoyle.***

Penhallow Fitch, a gargoyle assigned to protect a Boston apartment building, must fight against evil spirits called Netherkin and the Boneless King to keep the residents of the building and the city safe.

Fipps, Lisa. ***Starfish.***

Bullied and shamed her whole life for being fat, twelve-year-old Ellie finally gains the confidence to stand up for herself, with the help of some wonderful new allies.

Firestone, Carrie. ***Dress Coded.***

An eighth grader starts a podcast to protest the unfair dress code enforcement at her middle school and sparks a rebellion.

Gibbs, Stuart. ***Spy School at Sea.***

While on a mission aboard the The Emperor of the Seas, Ben Ripley faces off against his arch enemy, Murray Hill, on the high seas and quickly finds himself in hot water as things take a dangerous turn.

Kelkar, Supriya. ***American as Paneer Pie.***

When a racist incident rocks her small Michigan town, eleven-year-old Lekha must decide whether to speak up or stay silent, even as she struggles to navigate her life at home, where she can be herself, and at school, where she is teased about her culture.

Li, Christina. ***Clues to the Universe.***

The only thing Rosalind Ling Geraghty loves more than watching NASA launches with her dad is building rockets with him. When he dies unexpectedly, all Ro has left of him is an unfinished model rocket they had been working on together. Benjamin Burns doesn't like science, but he can't get enough of Spacebound, a popular comic book series. When he finds a sketch that suggests that his dad created the comics, he's thrilled. Too bad his dad walked out years ago, and Benji has no way to contact him. Though Ro and Benji were only supposed to be science class partners, the pair become unlikely friends: As the two face bullying, grief, and their own differences, Benji and Ro must try to piece together clues to some of the biggest questions in the universe.

Montgomery, Sy. ***The Octopus Scientists: exploring the mind of a mollusk.***

Explores the octopus, discussing how it changes colors, how their behavior can reveal the health of the world's oceans, and more, as well as the work of scientists to learn more about it.

Palacio, R. J. ***Pony.***

Accompanied by a ghost and a pony, a young boy goes on a quest to find his father.

Riordan, Rick. ***Daughter of the Deep.***

Ana Dakkar, a freshman at Harding-Pencroft Academy, a five-year high school that graduates the best marine scientists, naval warriors, navigators, and underwater explorers in the world, makes astounding discoveries about her heritage and puts her leadership skills to the test against deadly enemies from a rival school.

Santat, Dan. ***The Aquanaut.***

With her father lost at sea, Sophie wanders aimlessly around Aqualand, a marine theme park, until an "aquanaut" breaks into the park's research lab, revealing Aqualand's dark side, and vowing to free the captive marine life with her help.

Schaap, Annet. ***Of Salt and Shore.***

Every night Lampie, the lighthouse keeper's daughter lights the lantern which warns the ships away from the rocks, but when the light goes out one night, a ship is wrecked and Lampie is sent to the Admiral's Black House in disgrace--there she finds and befriends the Admiral's son, who was born with a tail, and together they are pulled into an adventure of mermen and pirates, and secret identities long concealed but soon to be revealed.

Schmidt, Gary D. ***Just Like That.***

In this poignant, perceptive, witty novel, Gary D. Schmidt brings authenticity and emotion to multiple plot strands, weaving in themes of grief, loss, redemption, achievement, and love. Following the death of her closest friend in summer 1968, Meryl Lee Kowalski goes off to St. Elene's Preparatory Academy for Girls, where she struggles to navigate the venerable boarding school's traditions and a social structure heavily weighted toward students from wealthy backgrounds. In a parallel story, Matt Coffin has wound up on the Maine coast near St. Elene's with a pillowcase full of money lifted from the leader of a criminal gang, fearing the gang's relentless, destructive pursuit. Both young people gradually dispel their loneliness, finding a way to be hopeful and also finding each other.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg. ***The Elephant in the Room.***

Missing her mother who has returned to Turkey to resolve an immigration problem, sixth-grader Sila welcomes a very large distraction in her life when she helps a surprising new friend rescue a circus elephant.

Taylor, Mildred D. ***All the Days Past, All the Days Yet to Come***

Cassie Logan, first met in Song of the Trees and Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, is a young woman now, searching for her place in the world, a journey that takes her from Toledo to California, to law school in Boston, and, ultimately, in the 60s, home to Mississippi to participate in voter registration. She is witness to the now-historic events of the century: the Great Migration north, the rise of the civil rights movement, preceded and precipitated by the racist society of America, and the often violent confrontations that brought about change. Rich, compelling storytelling is Ms. Taylor's hallmark, and she fulfills expectations as she brings to a close the stirring family story that has absorbed her for over forty years. It is a story she was born to tell.

Warga, Jasmine. ***Other Words for Home***

Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives. At first, everything in America seems too fast and too loud. The American movies that Jude has always loved haven't quite prepared her for starting school in the US --and her new label of 'Middle Eastern,' an identity she's never known before. But this life also brings unexpected surprises--there are new friends, a whole new family, and a school musical that Jude just might try out for. Maybe America, too, is a place where Jude can be seen as she really is.

The Hero Next Door

A collection of short stories by diverse authors that explores acts of bravery by heroes trying to make the world a better place.

The Cursed Carnival and Other Calamities : new stories about mythic heroes.

A collection of ten stories that remix myths for modern readers.

Nashua Reads Connections

Kops, Deborah. ***The great molasses flood, Boston, 1919.***

Lunchtime near the harbor -- A terrible wave -- Hundreds to the rescue -- Who is to blame? -- A flood of stories -- A real or mythical bomber?. Chronicles the events surrounding the Great Molasses Flood, during which a large storage tank burst in a Boston neighborhood in 1919 and caused a deadly wave of molasses to flood the streets.

Tarshis, Lauren. ***I survived the great molasses flood, 1919.***

It's been four years since Carmen and Papa moved from Italy to Boston. Life here is exciting, but not always easy. And then there's the massive metal tank that rises up over their crowded North End neighborhood. The ugly tank, filled with sticky brown molasses, has always leaked. But nobody imagined that it could one day explode apart, sending a tsunami of molasses into the streets. Caught in the flood, Carmen must fight for her life, the life that she and Papa built together in America.



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