

HB Thompson and South Woods Middle School Summer Reading List

Fiction

The Apocalypse of Elena Mendoza by Shaun David Hutchinson. Simon Pulse/Simon & Schuster.

16-year old Elena discovers that she has the ability to save people, but in the process, raptures others in a golden light. Now, the voices Elena has been hearing since she was little are telling her it's the end of the world, and the people disappearing in a golden light are being saved. Elena must make the difficult choice whether to condemn humanity, or "save the world" like the voices are telling her to do. Grade 8+

Darius The Great Is Not Okay by Adib Khorram. Dial Books/Penguin Random House.

Darius doesn't feel like he fits in anywhere, not at home and definitely not at school. When his family decides to take a trip to Iran to visit his mom's family, Darius is certain things will be even worse there than at home. Lonely and depressed, Darius feels utterly lost, until Sohrab shows up and changes everything. Grade 8+

Dragon Pearl by Yoon Ha Lee.

Min, a thirteen-year-old girl with fox-magic, stows away on a battle cruiser and impersonates a cadet in order to solve the mystery of what happened to her older brother in the Thousand World Space Forces. Grade 4-6.

Illegal by Eoin Colfer, Andrew Donkin ; art by Giovanni Rigano ; lettering by Chris Dickey. (Graphic novel)

A powerfully moving graphic novel by New York Times bestselling author Eoin Colfer and the team behind the Artemis Fowl graphic novels that explores the current plight of undocumented immigrants. Ebo is alone. His brother, Kwame, has disappeared, and Ebo knows it can only be to attempt the hazardous journey to Europe, and a better life—the same journey their sister set out on months ago. But Ebo refuses to be left behind in Ghana. He sets out after Kwame and joins him on the quest to reach Europe. Ebo's epic journey takes him across the Sahara Desert to the dangerous streets of Tripoli, and finally out to the merciless sea. But with every step he holds on to his hope for a new life, and a reunion with his family. Grades 6-8.

On the come up by Angie Thomas.

When sixteen-year-old Bri, an aspiring rapper, pours her anger and frustration into her first song, she finds herself at the center of a controversy. Grade 8+

Pride by Ibi Zoboi.

After the wealthy Darcy family moves in across the street, Zuri is forced to find common ground with Darius, while struggling with her four wild sisters, a handsome boy vying for her attention, and college applications. Grade 8+

Restart by Gordan Korman. Scholastic Press.

Chase's memory just went out the window. Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't, in fact, remember anything. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again...starting with his own name. He knows he's Chase. But who is Chase? When he gets back to school, he sees that different kids have very different reactions to his return. It becomes clear that it is not only a question of who Chase is, it is a question of who he was and who he is going to be.

Song for a whale by Lynne Kelly.

Twelve-year-old Iris and her grandmother, both deaf, drive from Texas to Alaska armed with Iris's plan to help Blue-55, a whale unable to communicate with other whales. Grades 4-6

The unsung hero of Birdsong USA by Brenda Woods.

Gabriel, twelve, gains new perspective when he becomes friends with Meriwether, a Black World War II hero who has recently returned to the unwelcoming Jim Crow South. Grades 4-6

Non-Fiction

The Unwanted: Stories of the Syrian Refugees by Don Brown. HMH Books for Young Readers/Houghton Mifflin

The Unwanted illustrates the refugee crisis in its beginning and its ongoing course of misery, bombings, and death that leave the refugees in constant fear. It explores the stories of refugees just searching for hope and a future, not only for themselves but for their children. Grade 8+

Boots on the Ground: America's War in Vietnam written by Elizabeth Partridge.

A chronological account of the Vietnam War as experienced at home and in the field, from a wide variety of perspectives. Stories of eight young soldiers are highlighted by means of personal interviews and thoughtfully chosen photographs. Grades 7-8.

Taking cover: one girl's story of growing up during the Iranian Revolution by Nioucha Homayoonfar ; foreword by Firoozeh Dumas.

This coming-of-age memoir, set during the Iranian Revolution, tells the true story of a young girl who moves to Tehran from the U.S. and has to adjust to living in a new country, learning a new language, and starting a new school during one of the most turbulent periods in Iran's history. Grade 6+

The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler written and illustrated by John Hendrix.

A true and gripping spy story, this graphic biography describes pivotal moments in the career of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, whose religious faith led him to devote his life to the German Resistance to Hitler. Visual metaphors in the powerful illustrations convey the looming danger. Grade 7+

The grand escape: the greatest prison breakout of the 20th century by Neal Bascomb.

The story of a group of Allied POWs in WWI who dared to escape from Germany's most notorious prison camp, Holzminden. Grade 8+