





Summer Reading 2021 Grades 3-5

*Dear Parents/Guardians,
Some books may contain graphic content in the form of themes, language, violence, and/or explicit sexual content:*

Mild 
Moderate  
High   

Title	Author	Description
The Parker Inheritance	Johnson, Varian	Scholastic, 2019 Twelve-year-old Candice Miller is spending the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, in the old house that belonged to her grandmother, who died after being dismissed as city manager for having the city tennis courts dug up looking for buried treasure--but when she finds the letter that sent her grandmother on the treasure hunt, she finds herself caught up in the mystery and, with the help of her new friend and fellow bookworm, Brandon, she sets out to find the inheritance, exonerate her grandmother, and expose an injustice once committed against an African American family in Lambert. 
Freddie Ramos Takes Off	Jules, Jacqueline	Albert Whitman, 2010 Freddie finds a mysterious package outside his apartment containing sneakers that allow him to run faster than a train, and inspire him to perform heroic deeds.
Blackbird Fly	Kelly, Erin Entrada	Greenwillow, 2015 Apple has always felt a little different from her classmates. She and her mother moved to Louisiana from the Philippines when she was little, and her mother still cooks Filipino foods and chastises Apple for becoming too American. When Apple's friends turn on her and everything about her life starts to seem weird and embarrassing, Apple turns to music. If she can just save enough to buy a guitar and learn to play, maybe she can change herself. It might be the music that saves her... or it might be her two new friends, who show her how special she really is--- 



The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher	Levy, Dana Alison	Delacorte, 2014 Relates the adventures of a family with two fathers, four adopted boys, and a variety of pets as they make their way through a school year, Kindergarten through sixth grade, and deal with a grumpy new neighbor. 🍎
The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora	Cartaya, Pablo	Viking, 2017 Arturo's Miami summer is marked by the arrival of poetry enthusiast Carmen, who helps him use the power of protest to fight the plans of a land developer who wants to demolish his Abuela's restaurant. 🍎
Meet Yasmin	Faruqi, Saadia	Picture Book Windows, 2018 Pakistani American second grader Yasmin learns to cope with the small problems of school and home, while gaining confidence in her own skills and creative abilities.
George	Gino, Alex	Scholastic, 2015 When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl. George thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever. Then her teacher announces that their class play is going to be Charlotte's Web. George really wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part because she's a boy. George comes up with a plan. 🍎
The Princess in Black	Hale, Shannon	Candlewick, 2014 Who says princesses don't wear black? When trouble raises its blue monster head, Princess Magnolia ditches her flouncy dresses and becomes the Princess in Black!
Fish in a Tree	Hunt, Lynda Mullaly	Nancy Paulsen Books, 2015 Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher, Mr. Daniels, sees the bright, creative kid underneath the troublemaker. 🍎



Spirit Week Showdown	Alan, Crystal	Blazer and Bray, 2019 9-year-old Mya is excited about participating in School Spirit Week, even making a pinky promise with her best friend Naomi to be her partner, but when she accidentally gets paired with the biggest bully in school, Mean Connie, Naomi is mad at Maya for breaking her promise. She must learn to work with Mean Connie and try and get her friend back. 🍎
El Deafo	Bell, Cece	Amulet Books 2014 The author recounts in graphic novel format her experiences with hearing loss at a young age, including using a bulky hearing aid, learning how to lip read, and determining her "superpower." 🍎
Lola Levine is Not Mean!	Brown, Monica	Little Brown, 2016 2nd-grader Lola has a wonderful family, teacher, and best friend, Josh, and they all help her feel better after she is teased and forbidden to play team sports at recess for having accidentally hurt classmate Juan during a soccer game. 🍎
New Kid	Craft, Jerry	Harper, 2019 After his parents send him to a prestigious private school known for its academics, Jordan Banks finds himself torn between two worlds.
The Year of the Dog	Lin, Grace	Little Brown, 2006 Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog, those of making best friends and finding oneself, to her own life
Rock Star	Lyons, Kelly Starling	Penguin Workshop, 201 Fourth-grader Jada's best friend moved away but a class project on rocks and minerals, her favorite topic, could mean new friends. For Jada, rocks are easier to find than friends. Or are they? 🍎
Lulu and the Duck in the Park	McKay, Hilary	Albert Whitman, 2012 Lulu, who loves animals, brings an abandoned duck egg to school, even though her teacher has banned Lulu from bringing animals to school ever again. 🍎



<p>Merci Suárez Changes Gears</p>	<p>Medina, Meg</p>	<p>Candlewick, 2018 Merci Suárez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just how different. For starters, Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. So when bossy Edna Santos sets her sights on the new boy who happens to be Merci's school- assigned Sunshine Buddy, Merci becomes the target of Edna's jealousy. 🍎</p>
<p>Block Party Surprise</p>	<p>Nolen, Jerdine</p>	<p>HMH Books for Young Readers, 2015 Mr. Perkins has a big surprise for the annual block party, but when the truck carrying it there breaks down, twins Jada and Jamal and their best friends, Josh and Carlita propose a different form of Transportation.</p>
<p>The Turtle of Oman</p>	<p>Nye, Naomi Shihab</p>	<p>Greenwillow, 2014 When Aref, a third-grader who lives in Muscat, Oman, refuses to pack his suitcase and prepare to move to Michigan, his mother asks for help from his grandfather, his Siddi, who takes Aref around the country, storing up memories he can carry with him to a new home. 🍎</p>
<p>The First Rule of Punk</p>	<p>Perez, Celia</p>	<p>Viking, 2017 Twelve-year old Maria Luisa O'Neill-Morales (who really prefers to be called Malu) reluctantly moves with her Mexican-American mother to Chicago and starts seventh grade with a band - violating the dress code with her punch rock aesthetic and spurning the middle school's most popular girl in favor of starting a band with a group of like- minded weirdos. 🍎</p>
<p>Ghost</p>	<p>Jason, Reynolds</p>	<p>Atheneum, 2016 Ghost, a naturally talented runner and troublemaker, is recruited for an elite middle school track team. He must stay on track, literally and figuratively, to reach his full potential.</p>
<p>Amal Unbound</p>	<p>Saeed, Aisha</p>	<p>Nancy Paulsen Books, 2018 In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family. 🍎</p>



<p>Shai & Emmie Star in Break and Egg!</p>	<p>Wallis, Quvenzhané</p>	<p>Simon & Schuster, 2017 When Shai Williams, who plans to become a star on Broadway, loses the lead role in the third -grade musical at her performing arts elementary school in Atlanta, she learns an important lesson about adaptability, from her mother, aunt, and grandmother, all actresses.</p>
<p>Ellray Jakes is Not a Chicken!</p>	<p>Warner, Sally</p>	<p>Penguin/Puffin, 2012 Eight-year old EllRay Jakes is sick of getting picked on. But every time he tried to defend himself against class bully Jared Matthews, EllRay is the one who ends up in trouble.</p>
<p>Mia Mayhem is a Superhero!</p>	<p>West, Kara</p>	<p>Little Simon, 2018 Eight-year-old Mia Macarooney is delighted to learn she is from a family of superheroes, but her acceptance into the Program for in Training Superheroes requires she take a placement exam.</p>
<p>Karma Khullar's Mustache</p>	<p>Wientge, Kristi</p>	<p>Simon & Schuster, 2017 A biracial Indian/Caucasian girl is nervous to begin middle school, especially since her mother is now the breadwinner of the family, her best friend may no longer be a bestie, and the appearance of the seventeen hairs over her lip that form a very unwanted mustache.</p>
<p>Clayton Byrd Goes Underground</p>	<p>Williams-Garcia, Rita</p>	<p>Amistad, 2017 Feeling most alive, when he's playing the blues with his grandfather Clayton is devastated when his grandfather dies and his mother forbids him from playing music, losses that compel him to run away and join bluesmen on the road.</p>
<p>Brown Girl Dreaming</p>	<p>Woodson, Jacqueline</p>	<p>Nancy Paulsen Books, 2014 Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 60s and 70s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. 🍎</p>



<p>Front Desk</p>	<p>Yang, Kelly</p>	<p>Scholastic, 2018 Recent immigrants from China and desperate for work and money, ten year old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California, even though the owner, Mr. Yao is a nasty skinflint who exploits them; while her mother (an engineer in China) does the cleaning, Mia works the front desk and tries to cope with demanding customers and other recent immigrants not to mention being only one of two Chinese in her fifth grade class, the other being Mr. Yao's son, Jason. 🍎</p>
<p>Peter Lee's Notes From the Field</p>	<p>Ahn, Angela</p>	<p>Eleven year-old Peter Lee has one goal in life: to become a paleontologist. Okay, maybe two: to get his genius kid-sister, L.B., to leave him alone. But his summer falls apart when his real-life dinosaur expedition turns out to be a bust, and he watches his dreams go up in a cloud of asthma-inducing dust.</p> <p>Even worse, his grandmother, Hammy, is sick, and no one will talk to Peter or L.B. about it. Perhaps his days as a scientist aren't quite behind him yet. Armed with notebooks and pens, Peter puts his observation and experimental skills to the test to see what he can do for Hammy. If only he can get his sister to be quiet for once -- he needs time to sketch out a plan.</p>
<p>Fearless</p>	<p>Gonzalez, Mandy</p>	<p>Twelve-year-old Monica Garcia has arrived in NYC with her grandmother and a few suitcases to live her dream on Broadway. She's been chosen as understudy to the star of <i>Our Time</i>, the famed Ethel Merman Theater's last chance to produce a hit before it shuts its doors for good. Along with her fellow castmates—a.k.a. "the squad"—Monica has a big and very personal reason to want this show to succeed.</p> <p>But rumors of a long-running curse plague the theater. And when strange and terrible things start to threaten their hopes for a successful opening night, Monica and the rest of the squad must figure out how to reverse the curse before their big Broadway debuts.</p>



<p>Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories For Kids</p>	<p>Bruchac, Joseph</p>	<p>Native families from Nations across the continent gather at the Dance for Mother Earth Powwow in Ann Arbor, Michigan.</p> <p>In a high school gym full of color and song, people dance, sell beadwork and books, and celebrate friendship and heritage. Young protagonists will meet relatives from faraway, mysterious strangers, and sometimes one another (plus one scrappy rez dog).</p> <p>They are the heroes of their own stories.</p> <p>Featuring stories and poems by: Joseph Bruchac, Art Coulson, Christine Day, Eric Gansworth, Carole Lindstrom, Dawn Quigley, Rebecca Roanhorse, David A. Robertson, Andrea L. Rogers, Kim Rogers, Cynthia Leitich Smith, Monique Gray Smith, Traci Sorell, Tim Tingle, Erika T. Wurth, Brian Young</p>
<p>Ana On The Edge</p>	<p>Sass, A.J.</p>	<p>Twelve-year-old Ana-Marie Jin, the reigning US Juvenile figure skating champion, is <i>not</i> a frilly dress kind of kid. So, when Ana learns that next season's program will be princess themed, doubt forms fast. Still, Ana tries to focus on training and putting together a stellar routine worthy of national success.</p> <p>Once Ana meets Hayden, a transgender boy new to the rink, thoughts about the princess program and gender identity begin to take center stage. And when Hayden mistakes Ana for a boy, Ana doesn't correct him and finds comfort in this boyish identity when he's around. As their friendship develops, Ana realizes that it's tricky juggling two different identities on one slippery sheet of ice. And with a major competition approaching, Ana must decide whether telling everyone the truth is worth risking years of hard work and sacrifice.</p>



<p>Sitti's Secrets</p>	<p>Nye, Naomi Shihab</p>	<p>Mona's grandmother, her Sitti, lives in a small Palestinian village on the other side of the earth. Once, Mona went to visit her.</p> <p>They couldn't speak each other's language, so they made up their own. They learned about each other's worlds, and they discovered each other's secrets. Then it was time for Mona to go back home, back to the other side of the earth. But even though there were millions of miles and millions of people between them, they remained true neighbors forever.</p>
<p>The Librarian of Basra: A True Story From Iraq</p>	<p>Winters, Jeanette</p>	<p>Alia Muhammad Baker's library in Basra, Iraq, has been a meeting place for those who love books for the past fourteen years. Now war has come, and Alia fears that the library—along with the thirty thousand books within it—will be destroyed forever.</p> <p>In this incredible true story of a war-stricken country where civilians seem powerless in the face of battle, this feminist and inspirational tale about a librarian's struggle to save her community's priceless collection of books reminds us how, throughout the world, the love of literature can unite us all. 🍎</p>
<p>More to the Story</p>	<p>Khan, Hena</p>	<p>When Jameela Mirza is picked to be feature editor of her middle school newspaper, she's one step closer to being an award-winning journalist like her late grandfather. The problem is her editor-in-chief keeps shooting down her article ideas. Jameela's assigned to write about the new boy in school, who has a cool British accent but doesn't share much, and wonders how she'll make his story gripping enough to enter into a national media contest.</p> <p>Jameela, along with her three sisters, is devastated when their father needs to take a job overseas, away from their cozy Georgia home for six months. Missing him makes Jameela determined to write an epic article—one to make her dad extra proud. But when her younger sister gets seriously ill, Jameela's world turns upside down. And as her hunger for fame looks like it might cost her a blossoming friendship, Jameela questions what matters most, and whether she's cut out to be a journalist at all...</p>



<p>It Ain't So Awful, Falafel!</p>	<p>Dumas, Firoozeh</p>	<p>Zomorod (Cindy) Yousefzadeh is the new kid on the block . . . for the fourth time. California's Newport Beach is her family's latest perch, and she's determined to shuck her brainy loner persona and start afresh with a new Brady Bunch name—Cindy. It's the late 1970s, and fitting in becomes more difficult as Iran makes U.S. headlines with protests, revolution, and finally the taking of American hostages. Even puka shell necklaces, pool parties, and flying fish can't distract Cindy from the anti-Iran sentiments that creep way too close to home. A poignant yet lighthearted middle grade debut from the author of the best-selling <i>Funny in Farsi</i>.</p>
<p>Wink</p>	<p>Rob Harrell</p>	<p>Ross Maloy just wants to be a normal seventh grader. He doesn't want to lose his hair, or wear a weird hat, or deal with the disappearing friends who don't know what to say to "the cancer kid." But with his recent diagnosis of a rare eye cancer, blending in is off the table.</p> <p>Based on Rob Harrell's real life experience, and packed with comic panels and spot art, this incredibly personal and poignant novel is an unforgettable, heartbreaking, hilarious, and uplifting story of survival and finding the music, magic, and laughter in life's weirdness.</p>
<p>The Deep and Dark Blue</p>	<p>Niki Smith</p>	<p>After a terrible political coup usurps their noble house, Hawke and Grayson flee to stay alive and assume new identities, Hanna and Grayce. Desperation and chance lead them to the Communion of Blue, an order of magical women who spin the threads of reality to their will.</p> <p>As the twins learn more about the Communion, and themselves, they begin to hatch a plan to avenge their family and retake their royal home. While Hawke wants to return to his old life, Grayce struggles to keep the threads of her new life from unraveling, and realizes she wants to stay in the one place that will allow her to finally live as a girl.</p>



Spin With Me	Ami Polonsky	<p>In this elegant dual narrative, Essie is a thirteen-year-old girl feeling glum about starting a new school after her professor dad takes a temporary teaching position in a different town. She has 110 days here and can't wait for them to end. Then she meets Ollie, who is nonbinary. Ollie has beautiful blue eyes and a confident smile. Soon, Essie isn't counting down the days until she can leave so much as she's dreading when her time with Ollie will come to an end.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Ollie is experiencing a crush of their own . . . on Essie. As Ollie struggles to balance their passion for queer advocacy with their other interests, they slowly find themselves falling for a girl whose stay is about to come to an end. Can the two unwind their merry-go-round of feelings before it's too late?</p>
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