



SUMMER READING LIST

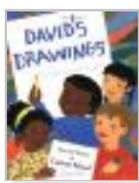
2021 SUMMER BOOK LIST



BOOKS AS MIRRORS AND WINDOWS



This summer you will have an incredible opportunity to read books that are mirrors of ourselves and windows into other worlds! Get ready to go on a literary journey as you encounter people, communities, and cultures that might be very similar or different than your own. You will find stories about family, belonging, friendship, community, empathy, and so much more. Allow yourself to get lost in the beautiful words and worlds of each book, remembering to find yourself and others on the pages and beyond!



RISING PRE-K-K

David's Drawings by Catherine Falwell

David's Drawings is a celebration of the joy of friendship. David is a shy boy who loves to draw. When he brings one of his beautiful drawings to school, his classmates have interesting reactions. Read to see how David's drawing becomes a symbol of friendship and comfort.



RISING KINDER

We're All Wonders by R. J. Palacio

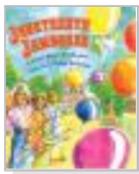
We're All Wonders taps into every child's longing to belong and to be seen for who they truly are. This story teaches empathy and kindness to young children.



RISING 1ST GRADE

Yo! Yes? by Chris Raschka

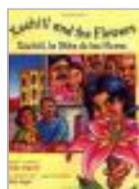
Yo! Yes? is a celebration of our differences and how it takes just a few words to turn strangers into friends. Enjoy this rhythmic story which is sure to teach everyone how to make friends with anyone!



RISING 2ND GRADE

Juneteenth Jamboree by Carole Boston Weatherford

Juneteenth Jamboree reminds us of the importance of coming home and the joy of freedom. Read this beautifully illustrated book to join Cassie on her journey toward understanding the significance of history and the significance of home.



RISING 3RD GRADE

Xochitl and the Flowers by Jorge Argueta

In *Xochitl and the Flowers*, a young Salvadoran girl, Xochitl (pronounced ZO-cheel), and her family emigrate to the United States and are determined to become an integral part of their new community. Throughout the story, the family overcomes many obstacles, which illustrates both the challenges and the triumphs of many new immigrants to the United States.



RISING 4TH GRADE

Abuela's Weave by Omar Castaneda

Abuela's Weave is about the importance of family pride and personal endurance. It introduces children to the culture of Guatemala through the eyes of little Esperanza, who works with her abuela—her grandmother—on weavings to sell at the public market.



RISING 5TH GRADE

Me, Frida, and the Secret of the Peacock Ring by Angela Cervantes

Paloma Marquez is traveling to Mexico City, the birthplace of her deceased father, for the very first time. She's hoping that spending time in Mexico will help her unlock memories of the too-brief time they spent together. Throughout the story look out for a valuable peacock ring and a mysterious brother-sister duo.



RISING 6TH GRADE

The Storm Runner by J.C. Cervantes

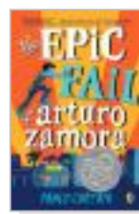
The Storm Runner is an action-packed adventure about a young boy who realizes that his supposed 'disability' which has been holding him back his whole life, will make him great. This adventurous story is full of surprising discoveries, friendship and dangerous secrets.



RISING 7TH GRADE

Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky by Kwame Mbalia

This action-packed story is about bravery, grief, and believing in yourself. Tristan finds himself in the middle of a battle. He gets unexpected help from a famous entity who comes out of hiding to help him seal up the hole in the sky and get back home. This story is based on African and African American mythologies.



RISING 8TH GRADE

The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora by Pablo Cartaya

Arturo spends his summer doing his favorite things like most teenagers, until he encounters a new friend and an unexpected event that could change his life. Will this teenager be able to make some important decisions that will have an effect on his family and community?



RISING 9TH GRADE

Love, Hate, and Other Filters by Samira Ahmed

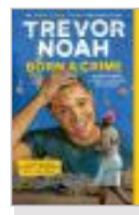
In this unforgettable debut novel, an Indian-American Muslim teen copes with Islamophobia, cultural divides among peers and parents, and a reality she can neither explain nor escape.



RISING 10TH GRADE

Summer of the Mariposas by Guadalupe Garcia McCall

Summer of the Mariposas is a magical retelling of Homer's *Odyssey*. When Odilia and her four sisters journey to Mexico to return a dead man to his family, they encounter magical creatures but must endure unimaginable trials that rival Homer's original tale. Read to see if these extraordinary trials are enough to prepare Odilia and her sisters for their final, most challenging test yet!



RISING 11TH GRADE

Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood by Trevor Noah

Born a Crime is a compelling, inspiring, and comically sublime story of one man's coming-of-age, set during the twilight of apartheid and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed.



RISING 12TH GRADE

Alicia Afterimage by Lulu Delacre

Popular, happy, fun-loving Alicia--daughter, sister, and friend to so many is gone in an instant. How would those left behind cope with such a sudden, devastating loss? Wrestling with grief, anger, mortality, and spirituality, Alicia's loved ones struggle to create a lasting place in their hearts for someone who is no longer a physical presence. They share joyful and painful memories, and discover the resilient power of enduring friendship and love.



Newark Board of Education

Roger León, Superintendent

Where Passion Meets Progress