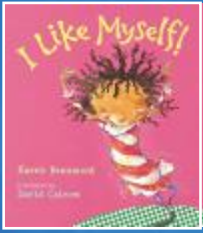


# SUMMER READING LIST 2023

CELEBRATE THE  
JOY OF READING

Reading a good book is one of the great joys in life and once you start you don't want to stop. This summer you will get to read books that foster joy, make you think, and inspire you. You will read stories about the lives and experiences of others, both real and imagined. In these pages you will find joy and the desire to read the next great book!



#### RIISING PRE – K4

##### **I Like Myself** by Karen Beaumont

Here's a little girl who knows what really matters. Even as she imagines herself with increasingly silly physical features, this indomitable little girl's sense of self-worth remains strong. Sassy and soulful, this book is sure to inspire every child to revel in his or her own special uniqueness.



#### RIISING K

##### **Jabari Jumps** by Gaia Cornwall

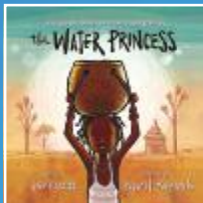
Jabari is the story of a little boy finding the courage to take his first jump off the diving board. His supportive family helps him find the moment that is just right for him.



#### RIISING 1ST GRADE

##### **Just Help! How to Build a Better World** by Sonia Sotomayor

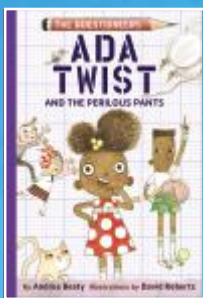
In a story inspired by her own family's desire to help others, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor takes young readers on a journey through a neighborhood where kids and adults, activists and bus drivers, friends and strangers all help one another to build a better world for themselves and their community.



#### RIISING 2ND GRADE

##### **The Water Princess** by Susan Verde

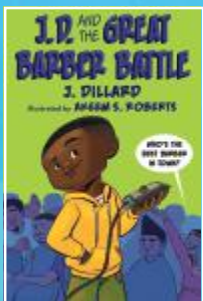
As a child in Burkina Faso, Georgie and the other girls in her village had to walk for miles each day to collect water. This vibrant, engaging picture book sheds light on this struggle that continues all over the world today, instilling hope for a future when all children will have access to clean drinking water.



#### RIISING 3RD GRADE

##### **Ada Twist and the Perilous Pants** by Andrea Beaty

Ada must rely on her curious mind, her brave spirit, and her best pals Rosie Revere and Iggy Peck to solve a mystery in her own backyard. When Rosie Revere's Uncle Ned gets a little carried away wearing his famous helium pants, it's up to Ada and friends to chase him down. As Uncle Ned floats farther and farther away, Ada starts asking lots of questions: How high can a balloon float? Is it possible for Uncle Ned to float into outer space? And what's the best plan for getting him down?



#### RIISING 4TH GRADE

##### **J.D. and the Great Barber Battle** by J. Dillard

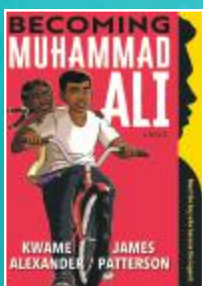
J. Dillard's debut book is filled with haircuts and humor...but it's also about community, being creative, fitting in, and standing out. It's a book that's fun to read, with a healthy opportunity to learn some on-the-ground financial literacy fundamentals. Readers will cheer for J.D. as he pushes down barriers that keep him from being his dope self.



#### RIISING 5TH GRADE

##### **The Last Kids on Earth** by Max Brallier

Ever since the monster apocalypse hit town, average thirteen year old Jack Sullivan has to battle hordes of Zombies, Winged Wretches and Vine Thingies, and so he builds a team to achieve the ultimate Feat of Apocalyptic Success. Can he do it?



#### RIISING 6TH GRADE

##### **Becoming Muhammad Ali** by James Paterson

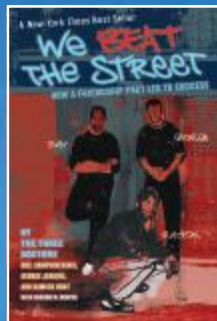
Before he was a household name, Cassius Clay was a kid with struggles like any other. Kwame Alexander and James Patterson join forces to vividly depict his life up to age seventeen in both prose and verse, including his childhood friends, struggles in school, the racism he faced, and his discovery of boxing.



#### RIISING 7TH GRADE

##### **Esperanza Rising** by Pam Munoz Ryan

Esperanza thought she'd always live a privileged life on her family's ranch in Mexico. She'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home filled with servants, and Mama, Papa, and Abuelita to care for her. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp. Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances-because Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.



#### RIISING 8TH GRADE

##### **We Beat the Street** by Sampson Davis

Growing up on the rough streets of Newark, New Jersey, Rameck, George, and Sampson could easily have followed their childhood friends into drug dealing, gangs, and prison. But when a presentation at their school made the three boys aware of the opportunities available to them in the medical and dental professions, they made a pact among themselves that they would become doctors. The three would have to display determination and support each other if they were to succeed.



#### RIISING 9TH GRADE

##### **Clap When You Land** by Elizabeth Acevedo

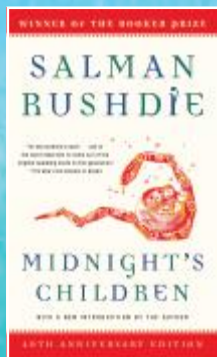
Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people. In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash.



#### RIISING 10TH GRADE

##### **Things Fall Apart** by Chinua Achebe

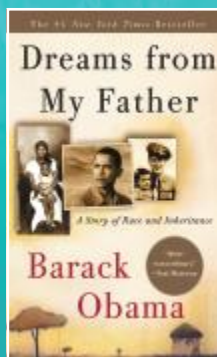
Things Fall Apart is the first of three novels in Chinua Achebe's critically acclaimed African Trilogy. It is a classic narrative about Africa's cataclysmic encounter with Europe as it establishes a colonial presence on the continent. Told through the fictional experiences of Okonkwo, a wealthy and fearless Igbo warrior of Umuofia in the late 1800s, Things Fall Apart explores one man's futile resistance to the devaluing of his Igbo traditions by British political and religious forces and his despair as his community capitulates to the powerful new order.



#### RIISING 11TH GRADE

##### **Midnight's Children** by Salman Rushdie

Saleem Sinai was born at the stroke of midnight on August 15, 1947, the very moment of India's independence. Saleem grows up to learn the ominous consequences of this coincidence. His every act is mirrored and magnified in events that sway the course of national affairs; his health and well-being are inextricably bound to those of his nation; his life is inseparable, at times indistinguishable, from the history of his country. Perhaps most remarkable are the telepathic powers linking him with India's 1,000 other "midnight's children," all born in that initial hour and endowed with magical gifts.



#### RIISING 12TH GRADE

##### **Dreams From My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance** by Barack Obama

In this lyrical, unsentimental, and compelling memoir, the son of a black African father and a white American mother searches for a workable meaning to his life as a black American. It begins in New York, where Barack Obama learns that his father—a figure he knows more as a myth than as a man—has been killed in a car accident. This sudden death inspires an emotional odyssey—first to a small town in Kansas, from which he retraces the migration of his mother's family to Hawaii, and then to Kenya, where he meets the African side of his family, confronts the bitter truth of his father's life, and at last reconciles his divided inheritance.



# Newark

## Board of Education

Roger León, Superintendent

# CELEBRATE THE JOY OF READING

Where Passion Meets Progress