



Fair Lawn Public Library

Super Summer Reading

Entering 5&6 Grades

Summertime is a great time to explore new books, series, and authors. Here are a few great suggestions from the Fair Lawn Public Library with included guided reading levels (in **bold**). Try other books in the series or other books by the same author. The Fair Lawn Public Library Children's Department has an extensive collection of children's books and librarians willing to help you find that perfect summer read. Stop in or check out our website www.fairlawlibrary.org/chidlrens.

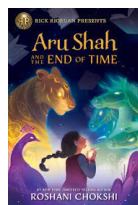
Fiction



Amina's Voice by Hena Khan

U

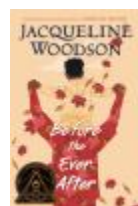
A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community. Try also the sequel *Amina's Song* and the series *Zayd Saleem* by the same author.



Aru Shah and the End of Time by Roahani Chokshi (Pandava series)

W

Aru unwittingly frees the Sleeper, an ancient demon. Her classmates and mother are frozen in time, and it's up to Aru to save them. The only way to stop the demon is to find the reincarnations of the legendary Pandava brothers and journey through the Kingdom of Death.



Before the Ever After by Jacqueline Woodson

R

ZJ's friends Ollie, Darry and Daniel help him cope when his father, a beloved professional football player, suffers severe headaches and memory loss that spell the end of his career. Try also *Brown Girl Dreaming* and *Locomotion* for more amazing books in verse by this author.



Black Brother, Black Brother by Jewell Parker Rhodes

V

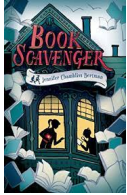
Suspended unjustly from elite Middlefield Prep, Donte Ellison studies fencing with a former champion, hoping to put the racist fencing team captain in his place. Try also *Ghost Boys* by the same author.



Blackbird Fly by Erin Entrada Kelly

Y

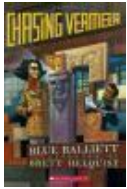
Bullied at school, eighth-grader Apple, a Filipino American who loves the music of the Beatles, decides to change her life by learning how to play the guitar. Try also *Hello, Universe* and *We Dream of Space* by the same author.



Book Scavenger by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman (Book Scavenger series)

W

Emily and her family move to San Francisco and she and her new friend, James, discover a mysterious book leading to clues. They work together to solve the book's secrets before the competition does.



Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett

T

When strange and seemingly unrelated events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal. Try other mysteries by the same author such as *The Wright 3* or *The Danger Box*.



Clean Getaway by Nic Stone

W

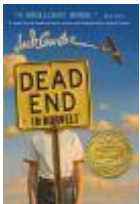
Scoob jumps at the chance to join G'ma's impromptu road trip. With G'ma's old maps and a strange pamphlet called the 'Travelers' Green Book', the pair take off on a journey down G'ma's memory lane. Check out the Shuri: Black Panther series by the same author.



Crossover by Kwame Alexander (Crossover series)

X

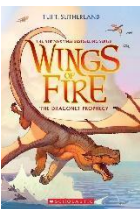
Thanks to Josh's dad, he and his twin brother, Jordan, are kings on the court, with crossovers that make even the toughest ballers cry. Josh has more than hoops in his blood; he's got a river of rhymes flowing through him. As their winning season unfolds, things begin to change.



Dead End in Norvelt by Jack Gantos

Y

Jack spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, typewriting, and countless bloody noses. Try also the sequel *From Norvelt to Nowhere* and the Joey Pigza series by the same author.



The Dragonet Prophecy by Tui Sutherland (*Wings of Fire* series)

X

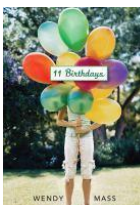
Five "chosen" dragonets were stolen from their homes, while they were still in their eggs, and hidden away for years, all to fulfill the prophecy, but not every dragonet wants a destiny.



Echo by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Y

Three children, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California find themselves caught up in the same thread of destiny in the darkest days of the twentieth century, struggling to keep their families intact, and tied together by the music of the same harmonica. Try also *Esperanza Rising* and *Mananaland* by the same author.



Eleven Birthdays by Wendy Mass (*Willow Falls* series)

V

After celebrating their first nine same-day birthdays together, Amanda and Leo, having fallen out on their tenth. They prepare to celebrate their eleventh birthday separately, but peculiar things begin to shake up the situation. Try also *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* or *Every Soul a Star* by the same author.



Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library by Chris Grabenstein (Lemencello series) **V**

Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by the famous game-maker Luigi Lemoncello and finds that he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape.



Fever, 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson **Z**

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic. Try the author's *Chains* or *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing* by MT Anderson or for more excellent historical fiction.



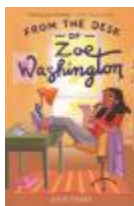
First Rule of Punk by Celia Perez **T**

Malu reluctantly moves with her Mexican-American mother to Chicago and starts seventh grade with a bang--violating the dress code with her punk rock aesthetic and spurning the middle school's most popular girl in favor of starting a band with a group of like-minded weirdos. Try also *Strange Birds* by the same author.



Found by Margaret Peterson Haddix (The Missing series) **X**

When Jonah and Chip learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies, they are pulled into a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.



From the Desk of Zoe Washington by Janae Marks **S**

Avid baker Zoe Washington receives a letter on her twelfth birthday from her biological father, who is in prison for a terrible crime he didn't commit. Try also *Some Places More Than Others* by Watson and *When You Trap a Tiger* by Keller for more books about complex family histories.



Front Desk by Kelly Yang (Front Desk series) **V**

Recent immigrants and desperate for work and money, Mia's parents take a job managing a rundown motel. The owner is an ornery miser who exploits them. While her mother does the cleaning and Dad maintains the property, Mia works the front desk and tries to cope with demanding customers.



Game Changers by Mike Lupica (Game Changers series) **V**

When the coach's son, Shawn O'Brien, is chosen to play quarterback, eleven-year-old Ben McBain is not surprised--but when he tries to be a good teammate and help the inconsistent Shawn, he is startled to learn that his new friend does not really want the position.



George by Alex Gino

Z

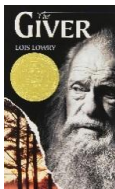
George thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever. Then her teacher announces that their class play is going to be Charlotte's Web. George really, really, REALLY wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part . . . because she's a boy. Try also *Lily and Dunkin* by Gephart and *Felix Yz* by Bunker for similar themes.



Ghost by Jason Reynolds (Track series)

Y

Ghost wants to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school track team, but his past is slowing him down.



The Giver by Lois Lowry (The Giver Quartet)

Y

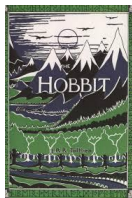
Living in a "perfect" world without social ills, Jonas approaches the time when he will receive a life assignment from the Elders, but his selection leads him to a mysterious man known as the Giver, who reveals the dark secrets behind the utopian facade.



Ground Zero by Alan Gratz

Y

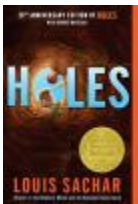
Brandon is visiting his dad on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 when the towers are attacked; Reshmina is a girl in Afghanistan who has grown up in the aftermath of 9/11, but dreams of peace and escape. Both are struggling to survive and are changed forever by these historic events. Try other historical adventures by Gratz such as *Refugee* and *Allies*.



The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien

Z

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return. Want a challenge? Crack into Tolkien's classic trilogy *The Lord of the Rings*.



Holes by Louis Sachar

V

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune, which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself. Try also *Crash* by Spinelli and *The Maze Runner* by Dashner for other books with compelling plots.



Hoot by Carl Hiaasen

W

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site. Try other Hiaasen titles such as *Chomp*, *Flush*, or *Scat*.



Inkheart by Cornelia Funke (Inkheart series)

W

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can "read" fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force him into service.



Last Kids on Earth by Max Brallier (Last Kids on Earth series)

S

It's been forty-two days since the monster apocalypse hit town and pretty much everyone ran away or got zombified. Jack Sullivan is holed up in his tree house, but is no match for the hordes of Dozers and Winged Wretches and Zombies. He better find some help. Try also the Galactic Hot Dogs series by the same author for more sci-fi fun.



Masterminds by Gordon Korman (Masterminds series)

V

Eli and his friends live in the peaceful, crime-free town of Serenity, New Mexico. After biking to the edge of town, Eli discovers secrets that link their idyllic community to criminal masterminds. An investigation reveals that all is not as it seems in Serenity.



Merci Suarez Changes Gears by Meg Medina

V

Merci Suárez begins the sixth grade and knows things will change, but she did not count on her grandfather acting strangely, not fitting in at her private school, and dealing with Edna Santos' jealousy. Try also the sequel *Merci Suarez Can't Dance*.



Midsummer's Mayhem by Ranji LaRocca

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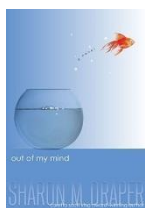
Eleven-year-old Mimi Mackson entangles herself and her family with mischievous fairies when she seeks to win a baking contest. Try also *Love, Sugar, and Magic* by Meriano and *Sugar and Spite* by Gail Villanueva for more magical cooking concoctions.



Other Words for Home by Warga

W

After her Syrian hometown is overshadowed by violence, Jude and her mother are uprooted to relatives in a sleepy Cincinnati suburb. Jude learns to navigate American culture while dealing with the worries of back home. For other great novels in verse try *Inside Out and Back Again* by Lai son or *Starfish* by Fipps.



Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper

S

Considered by many to be cognitively delayed, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time. Try also *Blended* by the same author and soon to be released sequel *Out of My Heart*.



Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson

Y

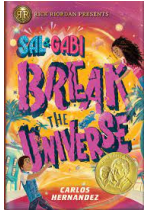
Candice is spending the summer in her recently deceased grandmother's old house. A lost letter leads her on a treasure hunt, uncovering secrets from the past. For some variety try *Twins*, a graphic novel by the same author or his nonfiction *What Were the Negro Leagues?*



***Pie in the Sky* by Remy Lai**

T

When Jingwen moves to a new country, he feels like he's landed on Mars. He daydreams about making all the cakes on the menu of Pie in the Sky, the bakery his father had planned to open before he passed away. The only problem is his mother's one major rule: Do not use the oven while she's at work. Try also *Fly in the Wall* by this author or her new graphic novel *Pawcasso*.



***Sal & Gabi Break the Universe* by Carlos Hernandez (Sal & Gabi series)**

U

Sal prides himself on being an excellent magician, but for this sleight of hand, he relied on a talent no one would guess (except maybe Gabi). There's only one slight problem: their manipulation of time and space could put the entire universe at risk. Try other Rick Riordan Presents series such as *Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky* by Mbalia.



***The Screaming Staircase* by Jonathan Stroud (Lockwood & Co. series)**

Z

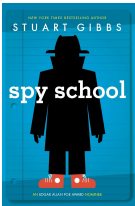
Meet the team behind Lockwood & Co., three young operatives of a Psychic Detection Agency, as they battle an epidemic of ghosts in London. Try also the *Bartimaeus Trilogy* by the same author.



***See You in The Cosmos* by Jack Cheng**

Y

Eleven-year-old Alex Petroski, along with his dog, Carl Sagan, makes big discoveries about his family on a road trip and he records it all on a golden iPod he intends to launch into space. Try also *Mockingbird* by Erskine or *Rain Reign* by Martin.



***Spy School* by Stuart Gibbs (Spy School series)**

W

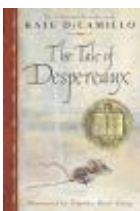
Twelve-year-old Ben Ripley is not leaving his hum-drum public school for an elite science school; he is actually recruited for a top-secret, prestigious Espionage Academy. The new school proves to be just as secret as the CIA operatives running it. Try other mystery series by Gibbs such as *Funjungle* or *Moon Base Alpha*.



***The Strange Case for Origami Yoda* by Tom Angleberger (Origami Yoda series)**

T

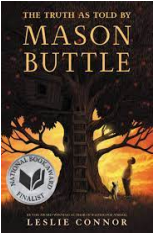
Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future.



***Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo**

U

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin. Try other titles by the same author such as *Because of Winn Dixie* and Newbery winner *Flora and Ulysses*.



***The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle* by Leslie Connor**

T

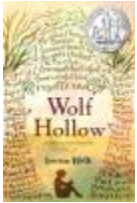
Mason Buttle is the biggest, sweatiest kid in his grade, and everyone knows he can barely read or write. Mason's learning disabilities are compounded by grief since Mason's best friend, Benny Kilmartin, turned up dead in the Buttle family's orchard. An investigation drags on, and Mason, honest as the day is long, can't understand why Lieutenant Baird won't believe the story he has told about that day. Try other novels by the author such as *Waiting for Normal* and *Crunch*.



***The Wishing Spell* by Chris Colfer (Land of Stories series)**

X

Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, Alex and Conner leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic, where they come face-to-face with the fairy tale characters they grew up reading about.



***Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk**

X

Annabelle must learn to stand up for what's right in the face of a manipulative and violent new bully who targets people Annabelle cares about, including a homeless World War I veteran. Try also *Echo Mountain* and *Beyond the Bright Sea* for more great historical fiction by the same author.

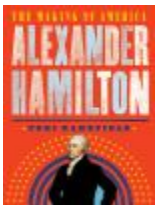


***Wonderstruck* by Brian Selznick**

W

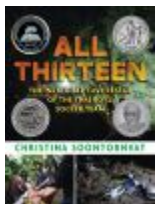
Having lost his mother and his hearing in a short time, twelve-year-old Ben leaves his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he never knew in New York City, and meets Rose, who is also longing for something missing from her life. Ben's story is told in words; Rose's in pictures. Try also *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* and *The Marvels* by the same author told in a similar format.

Non-Fiction



***Alexander Hamilton* by Teri Kanefield (The Making of America series)**

The America that Alexander Hamilton knew was largely agricultural and built on slave labor. In contrast, he envisioned something different: along with agriculture and small towns, he imagined a multiracial, urbanized, capitalistic America with a strong central government. Here is the story that epitomizes the American dream--a poor immigrant who makes good in America



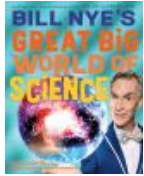
***All Thirteen: the Incredible Rescue of the Thai Boys Soccer Team* by Christina Soontornvat**

Twelve young players of the Wild Boars soccer team and their coach became trapped in a cave in Thailand. A 17 day rescue operation involving thousands of rescuers from around the globe was launched. Try also *We Had to Be Brave: Escaping Nazi's on the Kindertransport* by Hopkinson and *Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Minors from 2,00 Feet Below the Chilean Desert* by Aronson for more true tales of daring rescues.



***Amelia Lost* by Denise Fleming**

Highlights the life and disappearance of female pilot, Amelia Earhart, while generously enhanced by maps and photographs. Try also *The Great and Only Barnum* or *Ben Franklin's Almanac* by the same author.



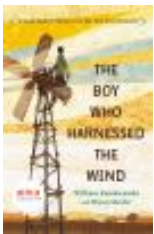
***Bill Nye's Great Big World of Science* by Bill Nye**

Featuring a range of subjects, this profusely illustrated book covers the basic principles of each science, key discoveries, experiments, recent revolutionary advances, and the problems that science still needs to solve for our Earth. Try also *Explanatorium Science* by the Smithsonian or *The Wonders of Nature* by Hoare for more great books filled with science facts.



***The Book of Terrifyingly Awesome Technology* by Sean Connolly (Irresponsible Science series)**

Here are 27 terrific experiments using basic stuff from around the house that will help you understand the fascinating and potentially scary world of driverless cars, artificial intelligence, robots and androids, 3-D printing, test-tube meat, smart clothing, and more.



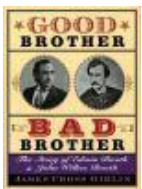
***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kankwamba**

When a terrible drought struck William Kamkwamba's tiny village in Malawi, his family lost all of the season's crops, leaving them with nothing to eat or sell. After weeks of research in the library he came up with the idea that would change his family's life forever: he could build a windmill. try also *A Long Walk to Water* by Park and *Energy Lab for Kids* by Hawbacker for similar themes.



***Dinosaurs* by National Geographic (Weird by True series)**

Calling all dino dynamos! Get ready to devour wacky wonders, facts, stats, and trivia about all things dinosaur. Meet dinosaurs with horns and feathers, razor-sharp claws and gigantic teeth. You'll encounter the places they lived, the bizarre art they inspired, and the amazing paleontologists who discovered them



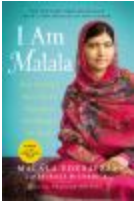
***Good Brother, Bad Brother* by James Giblin**

Traces the parallel, yet opposite lives of beloved American actor, Edwin Booth and his notorious brother, John Wilkes, assassin of Abraham Lincoln. Try also *The Mystery of the Mammoth Bones* and *When Plague Strikes* by the same author.



***How We Got to the Moon* by John Rocco**

A beautifully illustrated, oversized guide to the people and technology that made the moon landing possible. Try also *Moon Mission* by Brower or *Disaster Strikes! The Most Dangerous Space Missions of All Times* by Kluger for more out of this world reading.



I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

Documents the educational pursuits of the Nobel Peace Prize nominee who became an international symbol of hope and inspiration when she challenged the traditions of her Pakistan community. Try the young readers edition of *Becoming* by Michelle Obama or *Becoming RBG: Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Journey to Justice* by Levy for more inspirational reads.



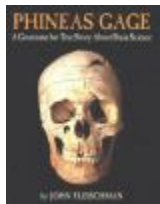
Leonardo da Vinci by Kathleen Krull (Giants of Science series)

Krull presents a vivid and highly accessible portrait of a true renaissance man--an artist, scientist, and inventor of unparalleled genius.



Path to the Stars : My Journey from Girl Scout to Rocket Scientist by Sylvia Acevedo

An inspiring memoir for young readers about a Latina whose early life was transformed by joining the Girl Scouts. She continued reaching for the stars and became a rocket scientist and then the CEO of the Girl Scouts of the USA. Try also *Reaching for the Moon* by Johnson or *Rising Above: Inspiring Women in Sports* by Zuckerman for more stories of women who dared.



Phineas Gage: a Gruesome by True Story about Brain Science by John Fleischman

Phineas was blasting rock near Cavendish, Vermont, in 1848 when a thirteen-pound iron rod was shot through his brain. Miraculously, he survived and became a textbook case in brain science. What happened and what didn't inside the brain of Phineas will tell you a lot about how your brain works. Try also *More Deadly Than War: The Hidden History of the Spanish Flu* by Davis and *The Poison Eaters* by Jarrow for more medical mysteries revealed.



Start Now! You Can Make a Difference by Chelsea Clinton

With information on problems both large and small, Clinton breaks down the concepts of health, hunger, climate change, endangered species and bullying, so readers can understand the world around them and how they can make a difference in their own lives, communities, and the world. Try also *She Persisted*, Clinton's new series of inspirational biographies about famous women.



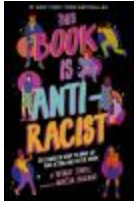
Tarantula Scientist by Sy Montgomery (Scientists in the Field series)

Describes Samuel Marshall and his students' research on tarantulas, including the largest spider on earth, the Goliath bird eating tarantula.



There's no Ham in Hamburgers by Kim Zachman

Why is there no ham in hamburgers? From the origins of pizza to the invention of chicken fingers, this book has all the ingredients for an entertaining read about the origins of some of America's most popular foods. Try also *Food Fight!* by Steel and *What the World Eats* by Menzel and D'Aluisio for more food fun.



***This Book is Antiracist* by Tiffany Jewell**

Teaches young readers about social identities, the history of racism and resistance against it, and how you can use your anti-racist lens and voice to move the world toward equity and liberation. Try also *Stamped (for Kids): Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Reynolds and Kendi and *The Talk: Conversations about Race, Love, and Truth* for books with similar themes.



***This Book Stinks!* by Sarah Wassner Flynn (National Geographic Kids series)**

Get up close and personal in the wonderful world of waste. From composting and recycling, to landfills and dumps, to, finally, how creative people are finding new ways to reuse rubbish.



***This is Rocket Science* by Gloria Skurzynski**

Explore the past, present and future of space travel in this compelling work. Try also *Are We Alone?* Or *Waves: The Electromagnetic Universe* by the same author.



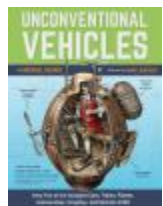
***Titanic: Voices from the Disaster* by Deborah Hopkinson**

Critically acclaimed nonfiction author pieces together the story of the Titanic and that fateful April night, drawing on the voices of survivors and archival photographs. Try also *Shutting out the Sky: Life in the Tenements of New York* or *A Boy Called Dickens* by the same author.



***The Undeclared* by Kwame Alexander**

The Newbery Award-winning author of *The Crossover* pens an ode to black American triumph and tribulation, with art from a two-time Caldecott Honoree. Try also *Becoming Muhammad Ali* by this author and James Patterson.



***Unconventional Vehicles* by Michael Hearst (Uncommon Compendiums series)**

In this illustrated compendium, readers will learn about forty-five of the strangest, most unconventional vehicles that have ever existed--from submersibles to dirigibles, and everything in between.



***We are Power: How Non-Violent Activism Changes the World* by Todd Hasak-Lowy**

This book brings to light the incredible individuals who have used nonviolent activism to change the world and shows how nonviolent movements have succeeded in a variety of ways, in all sorts of places, and always in the face of overwhelming odds. Try *We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices* and *Have I Told You Black Lives Matter* by King for books with similar social justice themes.



***We are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball* by Kadir Nelson**

Using an "Everyman" player as his narrator, Nelson tells the story of Negro League baseball from its beginnings in the 1920s through the decline after Jackie Robinson crossed over to the majors in 1947. Try also *Heart and Soul* and *Nelson Mandela* by the same author.



Women's Right to Vote by Kate Messner (History Smashers series)

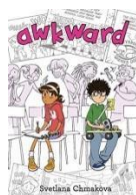
This book smashes myths surrounding the history of women's rights in the US and sets the record straight. Learn all the historical figures and events leading to the ramification of the 19th amendment and women's right to vote.

Great Graphic Novels



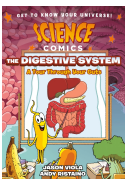
Amulet: The Stonekeeper by Kazu Kibuishi (Amulet series)

Em and Navin follow their mother into an underground world inhabited by demons, robots, and talking animals. Eventually, they enlist the help of a small mechanical rabbit named Miskit. Together they face the most terrifying monster of all, and Em finally has the chance to save someone she loves.



Awkward by Chmakova (Berrybrook Middle School series)

On her first day at her new school, Peppi tries to remember the "rules" to survive middle school, but when she trips into a quiet boy in the hall, she's already broken the first rule and the mean kids start calling her the "nerder girlfriend." How does she handle this crisis?



The Digestive System: A Tour Through Your Guts by Jason Viola (Science Comics series)

Introduction to the human gastrointestinal tract that discusses the science behind digestion, ranging from saliva and nutrient processing to illness and friendly bacteria.



Beware the Kitten Holy by Noelle Stevenson (Lumberjanes series)

Best friends Jo, April, Mal, Molly, and Ripley spend a fun summer at Lumberjane scout camp where they encounter yetis, three-eyed wolves, and giant falcons while solving a mystery that holds the fate of the world in the balance.



The Boy Who Crashed to Earth by Judd Winick (Hilo series)

When a mysterious boy falls from the sky, friends D.J. and Gina must discover the secrets of his identity and help him save the world.



Donner Dinner Party by Nathan Hale (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales series)

Revolutionary War spy, Nathan Hale, tells a hangman and British officer the story of the Donner Party, a doomed wagon train traveling from Illinois to California in 1846.



Get with the Program by Gene Yang (Secret Coders series)

Welcome to Stately Academy, a school which is crawling with mysteries to be solved! The founder of the school left many clues and puzzles to challenge his enterprising students. Using their wits and their growing prowess with coding, Hopper and her friend Eni are going to solve the mystery of Stately Academy, no matter what it takes.



Giants Beware! by Jorge Aguirre (The Chronicles of Claudette series)

Claudette wants nothing more than to slay a giant, but her little village is too safe and quiet.



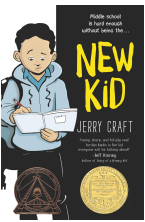
Invisible Emmie by Terri Libenson (Emmie and Friends series)

This is the story of two totally different girls--quiet, shy, artistic Emmie and popular, outgoing, athletic Katie--and how their lives unexpectedly intersect one day, when an embarrassing note falls into the wrong hands. . . . All the crushes, humiliation, boredom, and drama of middle school are compressed into one surprising day.



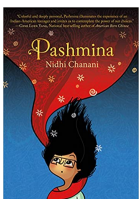
Mighty Jack by Ben Hatke (Mighty Jack series)

One day at the local flea market, Jack trades mom's car for a box of mysterious seeds. What starts as a normal little garden behind the house quickly grows up into a wild, magical jungle with tiny onion babies running amok, huge, pink pumpkins that bite, and, on one moonlit night that changes everything...a dragon. Try also Zita the Spacegirl series by the same creator.



New Kid by Jerry Craft

Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life, but instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his identity? Try also the sequel *Class Act*.



Pashmina by Nidhi Chanani

Why did Pri's mother abandon her home in India? Who is her father, and why did her mom leave him behind? Pri finds a mysterious pashmina tucked away in a forgotten suitcase that transports her to a place more vivid and colorful than any guidebook or Bollywood film and her questions are answered. Try *Stargazing* by Wang or *Be Prepared* by Broskol for more cultural explorations.



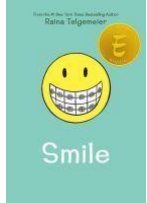
Phoebe and Her Unicorn by Dana Simpson (Phoebe and her Unicorn series)

When Phoebe meets a unicorn named Marigold who grants her one wish, Phoebe wishes Marigold would become her best friend, and the two set off on adventures big and small.



Rocket to the Moon by Don Brown (Big Ideas That Changed the World series)

The book takes readers through the history of rocket building: from ancient Chinese rockets, to "bombs bursting in air" during the War of 1812, to Russia's Sputnik program, to the moon landing. Beautifully illustrated and well-researched, this book is the perfect resource for curious readers and tomorrow's scientists.



Smile by Raina Telgemeier

One night Raina trips and falls, severely injuring her two front teeth. What follows is a long and frustrating journey with on-again, off-again braces, surgery, embarrassing headgear, and even a retainer with fake teeth attached. Try other realistic graphic novels by the same author or *El Deafos* by Bell, *Sunny Side Up* by Holm, *Real Friends* by Hale or *Roller Girl* by Jamieson.



Sanity & Tallulah by Molly Brooks (Sanity & Tallulah series)

Sanity and Tallulah live in a space station at the end of the galaxy. When Sanity's illegally created three-headed kitten escapes, the girls have to turn their home upside down to find her. Try *The 5 Worlds* series by Siegel or *Lowriders in Space* by Camper for more out of this world sci-fi.



This Was Our Pact by Ryan Andrews

It's the night of the annual Autumn Equinox Festival, when the town gathers to float lanterns down the river. Legend has it that after drifting out of sight, they'll soar off to the Milky Way and turn into stars, but could that actually be true? This year, Ben and his classmates are determined to find out. Try *Fake Blood* by Gardner or *The Witch Boy* series by Ostetag for more creepy fun.



When Stars are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson

Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp and when an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother in this intimate and touching portrayal of family and daily life in a refugee camp. Try also *Roller Girl* and *All's Faire in Middle School* by the same author/illustrator.



The Witches of Brooklyn by Sophie Escabasse (Witches of Brooklyn series)

Effie moves to Brooklyn to live with her strange aunts and soon discovers that she might be a witch. Try also *Queen of the Sea* by Meconis or *Baba Yaga's Assistant* by McCoola for more graphic fantasy fun.