



# 7th and 8th Grades Summer Book List

## ***Amari and the Night Brothers* by B.B. Alston (J FANTASY ALSTON 2021)**

When Quinton mysteriously goes missing, his little sister, 13-year-old Amari, discovers a ticking briefcase in her brother's old closet. He's left her a nomination for a tryout at the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs. Amari is certain the answer to what happened to him lies inside, if only she can get her head around the idea of mermaids, yetis, and magicians all being real things.

## ***Ambushed!: the assassination plot against President Garfield* by Gail Jarrow (J973.84 JAR 2021)**

This title blends science, history, and medical mysteries to tell the story of the assassination and ultimately horrible death of President James Garfield.

## ***The Blackbird Girls* by Anne Blankman (J FICTION BLANKMAN 2020)**

On a spring morning in 1986, neighbors Valentina and Oksana wake up to an angry red sky. A reactor at the nuclear power plant where their fathers work--Chernobyl--has exploded. Before they know it, the two girls, who've always been enemies, find themselves on a train bound for Leningrad to stay with Valentina's estranged grandmother, Rita Grigorievna.

## ***Breathing Underwater* by Sarah Allen (J FICTION ALLEN 2021)**

Olivia is on the road trip of her dreams, with her trusty camera and her big sister Ruth by her side. But Ruth's depression has been getting worse, so Olivia has created a plan to help her remember how life used to be: a makeshift scavenger hunt across the country, like pirates hunting for treasure, taking pictures and making memories along the way.

## ***The Circus of Stolen Dreams* by Lorelei Savaryn (J FICTION SAVARYN 2020)**

After Andrea's brother, Francis, disappeared, everything changed. So when she discovers a magical dream world called Reverie in the woods near her home, Andrea jumps at the chance to escape her pain and go inside. But the cost of admission is high: Andrea must give up a memory in order to enter. And she knows exactly which memory she'd like to give up.

## ***Dead Wednesday* by Jerry Spinelli (J FICTION SPINELLI 2021)**

Dead Wednesday is going to be awesome. The school thinks assigning each 8th grader the name of a teen who died the past year will make them contemplate their own mortality. Yeah, sure. The kids know that being invisible to teachers means you can get away with anything. But Worm didn't count on Becca (17, car crash). Letting this girl into his head is about to change everything.

## ***Deep and Dark and Dangerous* by Mary Downing Hahn (J FICTION HAHN)**

13-year-old Ali finds an odd photo of her mother and aunt - and a 3rd unknown child. Ali thinks she'll learn more while on vacation where her mother spent the summers. There she meets mean Sissy, who keeps talking about a girl who drowned under mysterious circumstances and body was never found. Ali thinks it's just a ghost story, but soon she discovers the reason Sissy is so angry...

## ***Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson (J FICTION ANDERSON)**

It's late summer 1793, and the streets of Philadelphia are abuzz with mosquitoes and rumors of fever. But 14-year-old Mattie doesn't even get a moment to mourn the passing of her old friend. Customers have overrun her family's coffee shop, and Mattie's focus is on business. But when the fever begins to strike closer to home, Mattie's struggles must give way to a new fight--the fight to stay alive.

***Fighting Words* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (J FICTION BRADLEY 2020)**

10-year-old Della has always had her older sister, Suki: When their mom went to prison, Della had Suki. When their mom's boyfriend did something so awful they had to run fast, Della had Suki. Suki is Della's protector. But who has been protecting Suki? Then Suki tries to kill herself, and Della's world turns upside down. Maybe she's been quiet about the wrong things. Maybe it's time to be loud.

***The Good War* by Todd Strasser (J FICTION STRASSER 2021)**

Ms. Peterson is starting a video game club where the students will be playing *The Good War*, a new game based on World War II. But what starts out as friendly competition, takes an unexpected turn for the worst when one player takes the game too far. Can an afterschool club change the way the students see each other...and how they see the world?

***It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah (J BIOGRAPHY NOAH 2019)**

Trevor Noah shares his story of growing up in South Africa, with a black South African mother and a white European father at a time when it was against the law for a mixed-race child like him to exist.

***Kaleidoscope* by Brian Selznick (J FICTION SELZNICK 2021)**

A ship. A garden. A library. A key. It's the story of two people bound to each other through time and space, memory and dreams. At the center of their relationship is a mystery about the nature of grief and love which will look different to each reader.

***Linked* by Gordon Korman (J FICTION KORMAN 2021)**

Link, Michael, & Dana live in a quiet town. So it's shocking when someone sneaks into school and vandalizes it with a swastika. And because Dana's the only Jewish girl in town, everyone's treats her even more like an outsider. The mystery grows as more swastikas begin to appear. The closer the friends get to the truth, the more there is to face—the crimes of the present and the crimes of the past.

***Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* by Gary D. Schmidt (J FICTION SCHMIDT)**

Turner Buckminster is new in a small Maine town where he befriends Lizzie Bright from Malaga Island, a poor community founded by former slaves. When the town elders, including Turner's father, decide to drive the people off the island to set up a tourist business, Turner stands against them. He and Lizzie try to save her community, but there's a price to pay for going against the tide.

***Once Upon a Broken Heart* by Stephanie Garber (YA GARBER 2021)**

Evangeline has always believed in true love...until she learns that her love will marry another. To stop the wedding, Evangeline strikes a deal with the wicked Prince of Hearts. In exchange he asks for three kisses, to be given at the time of his choosing. But after the first promised kiss, she learns that bargaining with an immortal is a dangerous game.

***Paradise on Fire* by Jewell Parker Rhodes (J FICTION RHODES 2021)**

Addy is haunted by the tragic fire that killed her parents. Now, years later, Addy's grandmother has enrolled her in a summer wilderness program. There, Addy joins five other Black city kids—each with their own troubles—to spend a summer out west. Deep in the forest the kids learn new skills. Most important, they learn to depend upon each other. But then comes a devastating forest fire...

***Part of Your World: A Twisted Tale* by Liz Braswell (YA BRASWELL 2018)**

What if Ariel had never defeated Ursula? Ariel is now the queen of Atlantica, and Ursula is running Eric's kingdom on land. But when the sea witch threatens Atlantica once more, Ariel finds herself returning to a world she thought she'd left behind forever.

***Posted* by John David Anderson (J FICTION ANDERSON)**

When cell phones are banned at school, Frost and his friends come up with a new way to communicate: leaving sticky notes for each other around the school. Soon all the kids in school are leaving notes—though for every kind one, there is a cruel one as well. As the sticky-note war escalates, Frost realizes that after this year, nothing will ever be the same.

***Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure Island: The Graphic Novel* by Tim Hamilton (YA GRAPHIC NOVEL STEVENSON)**

When Jim Hawkins uncovers the key to a pirate's treasure map he sets out on a quest to find the buried treasure with the help of pirate captain Long John Silver.

***Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys (YA SEPETYS 2016)**

While the Titanic is well known, the greatest tragedy in maritime history is the 1945 sinking of the *Wilhelm Gustloff*, a German cruise liner where more than 9,000 people died. This is a fictional story of 4 people on board: Joana, a Lithuanian nurse; Florian, a Prussian soldier fleeing the Nazis; Emilia, a Polish girl close to the end of her pregnancy; and Albert, a Nazi peon assigned to the *Gustloff* decks.

***The Sea of Trolls* by Nancy Farmer (J FANTASY FARMER)**

The year is A.D. 793; Jack and his sister have been kidnapped by Vikings, but things get even worse when Jack finds himself on a dangerous quest to find the magical Mimir's Well in a far-off land, with his sister's life forfeit if he fails.

***The Selection* by Kiera Cass (YA PAPERBACK CASS)**

For girls, the Selection is the chance of a lifetime - to live in a palace and compete for the heart of Prince Maxon. But for America, being Selected is a nightmare. It means leaving home & her secret love with Aspen to enter a competition she doesn't want. But when America meets Maxon she starts to realize that the life she's dreamed of may not compare to a future she never imagined.

***The Shape of Thunder* by Jasmine Warga (J FICTION WARGA 2021)**

Cora is still grappling with the death of her beloved sister in a school shooting, and Quinn is carrying the guilt of what her brother did. On the day of Cora's twelfth birthday, Quinn leaves a box on her doorstep with a note. She has decided that the only way to fix things is to go back in time to the moment before her brother changed all their lives forever—and stop him.

***Shuri: A Black Panther Novel* by Nic Stone (J FICTION SUPERHEROES 2020)**

Shuri is a skilled martial artist, a genius, and a master of science and technology. But, she's also a teenager. The Heart-Shaped Herb is essential to the survival and prosperity of Wakanda. But something is wrong. The plants are dying. And their supply is running short. It's up to Shuri to discover what is killing the Herb, and how she can save it.

***Story Thieves* by James Riley (J FICTION RILEY)**

Everything changes the day Owen sees the impossible happen—his classmate Bethany climb out of a book in the library. It turns out Bethany's half-fictional and has been searching every book she can find for her missing father. Bethany can't let anyone else learn her secret, so Owen makes her a deal: take him into a book in Owen's favorite series, and he'll never say a word.

***Suggested Reading* by David Connis (YA CONNIS 2019)**

Clara Evans is horrified when she discovers her principal's "prohibited media" list. The books on the list have been pulled from the library and aren't allowed at school - so Clara starts an underground library in her locker. But when one of the books she loves is connected to a tragedy she never saw coming, Clara must face her role in it. Can she make peace with her conflicting feelings?

***Treasure of the World* by Tara Sullivan (J FICTION SULLIVAN 2021)**

12-year-old Ana wants to escape the future set for her and her classmates in her small mining village. Boys her age are leaving school to become silver miners and girls are destined to be the wives of miners. But when her ill 11-year-old brother is forced to work in the mines, Ana gives up her dreams of school to go in his place. Ana must find the courage to both survive and save her family.

***When Stars are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed (J GRAPHIC NOVEL JAMIESON 2020)**

Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, have spent most of their lives in a refugee camp in Kenya. There's never enough food and no access to the medical care his nonverbal brother needs. So when Omar has the opportunity to go to school, he knows it might be a chance to change their future . . . but it would also mean leaving his brother, the only family member he has left, every day.

***When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead (J FICTION STEAD)**

Miranda starts receiving mysterious messages from somebody who knows all about her, including things that have not even happened yet. Each message brings her closer to believing that only she can prevent a tragic death.

***Wishing Upon The Same Stars* by Jacquetta Nammar Feldman (J FICTION FELDMAN 2022)**

When 12-year-old Yasmeen moves with her family to San Antonio, her classmates are nothing like her friends in the predominantly Arab neighborhood where she grew up. Then Yasmeen meets her neighbor, Ayelet, a 1st-generation Israeli American. As the two girls grow closer, Yasmeen is grateful to know someone who understands. But when Yasmeen's grandmother moves in after her home in Jerusalem is destroyed, Yasmeen and Ayelet must grapple with how much closer the events of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are than they'd realized.