

Senior Reading Recommendations 2023

Here is your recommended summer reading list. Please use it as a guide to select the books you read this summer. You will notice that we have organized the titles by genre: realistic fiction; historical fiction; dystopian fiction; fantasy; science fiction; mystery and adventure; non-fiction; biography & memoir; and poetry. Most titles should be available as ebooks and audiobooks at your public library or local bookstore.

We made this list to address what we know of you as readers, but also to introduce you to new and exciting titles we've discovered this year. Of course, there are so many more great books out there for you to explore, and there are new books being published all the time! A few of our favorite curated lists can be found [here](#) and [here](#). You can use these links to find even more books to fill up your summer reading stacks.

Note: “*YA” indicates books written for Young Adults in mind. These books are targeted toward 14 -18 year olds and are suitable for more mature readers. They may include content that is uncomfortable to students and/or their families.

To a summer filled with joyful experiences of many kinds. Happy lazy-day reading!

REALISTIC FICTION

[*The Dream Weaver*](#) by Reina Luz Alegre

After befriending a group of kids practicing for a summer bowling tournament, Zoey hatches a grand plan of her own to save the bowling alley. It seems like she's found the perfect way to weave everyone's dreams together... until unexpected events turn Zoey's plan into one giant nightmare.

[*The Summer We Found the Baby*](#) by Amy Hest

Told in three distinct voices, each with a different take on events surrounding a baby found on the steps of a library, the novel captures the moments and emotions of a life-changing summer. This is a summer in which a baby gives a family hope and brings a community together.

[*Fighting Words*](#) (*YA) by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

When their mom went to prison, Della had Suki, her older sister. When their mom's boyfriend took them in, Della had Suki. When that same boyfriend did something so awful they had to run fast, Della had Suki. Suki is Della's own wolf -- her protector. But who has been protecting Suki?

[*Absolutely. Almost*](#) by Lisa Graff

Ten-year-old Albie is being forced to switch from his private New York City school to P.S. 183. His new school gives him more specialized attention, but it also means dodging a name-calling bully and making friends other than his buddy Erlan, whose family is starring in a reality TV show.

[*Amina's Voice*](#) by Hena Khan

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. This is a sweet and moving,

middle-grade novel from the award-winning author of *It's Ramadan*, *Curious George* and *Golden Domes* and *Silver Lanterns*.

[*Five Feet Apart*](#) (*YA). by Raecheal Lippincott

Seventeen-year-old Stella spends most of her time in the hospital as a cystic fibrosis patient. Her life is full of routines, boundaries and self-control -- all of which get put to the test when she meets Will, an impossibly charming teen who has the same illness. There's an instant flirtation, though restrictions dictate that they must maintain a safe distance between them.

[*The Pants Project*](#) by Cat Clarke

Liv is starting middle school, and he is nervous. Liv is transgender, but he hasn't told anyone, so everyone assumes he is a girl. He will be attending a new school in the fall, and the dress code states that all girls must wear skirts. Liv takes matters into his own hands and decides to challenge the school's dress code, and along the way he finds allies in unexpected places.

[*Tight*](#) by Torrey Maldonado

Lately, Bryan's been feeling it in all kinds of ways . . . Bryan knows what's tight for him--reading comics, drawing superheroes, and hanging out with no drama. But drama is every day where he's from, and that gets him tight, wound up. And now Bryan's friend Mike pressures him with ideas of fun that are crazy risky. At first, it's a rush following Mike, hopping turnstiles, subway surfing, and getting into all kinds of trouble. But Bryan never really feels right acting so wrong, and drama really isn't him.

[*In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse*](#) by James M. Marshall III

Bullied by classmates about his light coloring, an eleven-year-old Lakota boy embarks on a road trip with his storyteller grandfather to learn about his heritage—and himself—by visiting landmarks linked to the great 19th-century Lakota leader. This is a vividly told, emotionally multifaceted, and eye-opening journey into American history.

[*Everything Sad Is Untrue*](#) by Daniel Nayeri

In an Oklahoman middle school, Khosrou (whom everyone calls Daniel) stands in front of a skeptical audience of classmates, telling the tales of his family's history, stretching back years, decades, and centuries.

[*A Good Kind of Trouble*](#) by Lisa Moore Ramee

Twelve-year-old Shayla is allergic to trouble. All she wants to do is to follow the rules. (Oh, and she'd also like to make it through seventh grade with her best friendships intact, learn to run track, and have a cute boy see past her giant forehead.) But in junior high, it's like all the rules have changed.

[*Starfish*](#) by Lisa Fipps

Ellie, a Texas girl, has been bullied relentlessly for her weight, even by her own mother. With the help of a therapist, a new friend, and her loving father, Ellie learns to stand up for herself and be unapologetically her.

[*All American Boys*](#) (*YA) by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely

All American Boys is a young adult novel that looks at a specific instance of police brutality from the perspectives of two high school classmates: Rashad, who is savagely beaten by a local policeman who (wrongly) suspects him of shoplifting and assaulting a white woman, and Quinn, who sees the beating and initially doesn't speak up. But when the school—and nation—start to divide on what happens, blame spreads like wildfire fed by ugly words like “racism” and “police brutality.” Quinn realizes he's got to understand it, because, bystander or not, he's a part of history.

[*Patina*](#) by Jason Reynolds

Track star Patina, known as Patty, struggles to maintain excellence in her sport, while simultaneously struggling with family issues at home. The story deals with adoption, race and class, grief at the loss of a parent, diabetes and dialysis, friendship, and fitting in at a new school.

[*Just Like That*](#) by Gary Schmidt

Following the death of her closest friend in summer of 1968, Meryl Lee Kowalski goes off to St. Elene's Preparatory Academy for Girls, where she struggles to navigate the venerable boarding school's traditions and a social structure heavily weighted toward students from wealthy backgrounds. In a parallel story, Matt Coffin has wound up on the Maine coast near St. Elene's with a pillowcase full of money lifted from the leader of a criminal gang, fearing the gang's relentless, destructive pursuit. Both young people gradually dispel their loneliness, finding a way to be hopeful and also finding each other.

[*The List of Things that Will Not Change*](#) by Rebecca Stead

After her parents' divorce, Bea's life becomes different in many ways. But she can always look back at the list she keeps in her green notebook to remember the things that will stay the same. The first and most important: Mom and Dad will always love Bea, and each other.

[*On the Come Up*](#) (*YA) by Angie Thomas

Bri, a sixteen-year old rapper, hopes to fill the shoes of her father and "make it" as an underground hip-hop legend. Overnight, Bri becomes an internet sensation after posting a rap hit which sparks controversy. As Bri defeats the odds to "make it" she battles controversy to achieve her dreams.

[*The Hate U Give*](#) (*YA) by Angie Thomas

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer.

[*Piecing Me Together*](#) by Renee Watson

Set in Portland, this is a story about a girl striving for success in a world that too often seems like it's trying to break her. Jade believes she must get out of her poor neighborhood if she's ever going to succeed. Her mother tells her to take advantage of every opportunity that comes her way.

HISTORICAL FICTION

[*Salt to the Sea*](#) by Ruta Sepetys

In 1945, World War II is drawing to a close in East Prussia, and thousands of refugees are on a desperate trek toward freedom, almost all of them with something to hide. Among them are Joana, Emilia, and Florian, whose paths converge en route to the ship that promises salvation, the Wilhelm Gustloff.

[*Code Talker*](#) by Joseph Bruchac

Ned, a Navajo sixteen year-old, uses his language to help win the war. It's World War II, and the United States of America is fighting against Japan. Every code the Americans have used to send secret information has been cracked by the Japanese, except one. This deeply affecting novel honors all of those young men, like Ned, who dared to serve, and it celebrates the culture and language of the Navajo.

[*It Ain't So Awful, Falafel*](#) by Firoozeh Dumas

Eleven-year-old Zomorod, originally from Iran, tells her story of growing up Iranian in Southern California during the Iranian Revolution and hostage crisis of the late 1970s.

[*Inside Out and Back Again*](#) by Thanhha Lai

A young girl named Ha lives in Vietnam with her father, who is missing in action during the Vietnam War. Ha, her mother, and her three brothers flee across the sea to Alabama after the fall of Saigon.

[*Show Me a Sign*](#) by Ann Claare Lezotte

Set in 1805, LeZotte's engrossing historical novel explores prejudice and racism through the eyes of eleven-year-old Mary Lambert, who is deaf. Following her older brother's death, Mary lives with her parents in a close-knit Martha's Vineyard town made up of both English and Wampanoag members.

[*How High the Moon*](#) by Karyn Parsons

At 12, Ella has only seen her small town of Alcolu, South Carolina, in the Jim Crow South. When her mother, a struggling jazz singer trying to make it in Boston, invites Ella to come to the city for Christmas, Ella is incredibly excited. She has no idea that the visit will change her life.

[*The Seventh Most Important Thing*](#) by Shelley Pearsall

For the rest of the country, it is the year President Kennedy was assassinated, but for Arthur Owens, it will always be the year his Dad died. When Arthur sees his Dad's hat being worn by the neighborhood "Junk Man," he is overwhelmed with anger. Arthur isn't a bad kid, but he picks up that brick and throws it just the same. The judge decides that Arthur must spend every weekend of his community service helping "Junk Man," James Hampton, complete his artistic masterpiece. Inspired by real life artist James Hampton's life and work.

[*The Yearling*](#) by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

First published in 1938, this book still resonates with readers today. Living in the lush, vividly wrought environs of early 20th-century central Florida, Jody is allowed to adopt an orphaned fawn. Their tender relationship thrives amid the harsh wilderness, roughhousing neighbors, and subsistence farming. Readers will enjoy this poignant, funny, compelling novel of Jody and his beloved yearling deer, Flag.

[*Playing Atari with Saddam Hussein*](#) by Jennifer Roy, with Ali Fadhil

Ali Fadhil is an ordinary boy living in Basra, Iraq in 1991. He loves to play soccer with his brothers and his friends, worries about school bullies, spends a lot of time playing video games, and watches American television shows. Then the dictator of his country, Saddam Hussein, invades a neighboring country, Kuwait. Based on co-author Ali Fadhil's real experiences, *Playing Atari with Saddam Hussein* skillfully portrays war from a child's perspective, mixing relatable obsessions with comics and video games and battles with bullies with larger concerns.

[*The Door of No Return*](#) by Kwame Alexander

Eleven-year-old West African, Kofi, fights for his survival when he is betrayed by a neighboring village. What happens next sends him on a harrowing journey across land and sea, and away from everything he loves.

[*Louisa Jane and the Nazis in the Waves*](#) by LM Elliott

When a German submarine kills her older brother, Louisa Jane is determined to do what she can, from her home in Virginia, to battle the Nazis.

[*Paper Wishes*](#) by Lois Sepahban

Taking place in 1942, *Paper Wishes* is a historical novel that begins on Bainbridge Island with a Japanese-American family's peaceful life. That all changes when they are sent to a prison camp in the desert following the Pearl Harbor bombing. While the themes explore a dark spot in American history, the story also carries elements of hope, family, and finding one's voice.

[*Code Name Verity*](#) and [*The Pearl Thief*](#) by Elizabeth Wein

Code Name Verity focuses on the friendship of two young British women in World War II: a spy captured by Nazis in German-occupied France and the pilot who took her there. *The Pearl Thief* is a prequel to *Code Name Verity*. It isn't necessary to have read *Code Name Verity* to enjoy this prequel, but readers who fell in love with Julia the spy will appreciate learning about where she first discovered what it means to be a friend.

[*One Crazy Summer*](#) (*Gaither Girls* series) by Rita Williams-Garcia

Set in 1968, Delphine Gaither and her two younger sisters, Vonetta and Afua "Fern" Gaither, spend a month in Oakland, California, with Cecile Johnson, the mother who abandoned them almost six years prior. This vibrant novel shows the subtle ways that political movements affect personal lives; but just as memorable is the finely drawn, universal story of children reclaiming a reluctant parent's love.

[*The Year the Maps Changed*](#) by Danielle Blinks

When 400 Kosovar-Albanian refugees arrive in the middle of the night to be housed at one of Australia's "safe havens" on an isolated headland not far from Sorrento, their fate becomes intertwined with the lives of eleven-year-old Fred and her family, as she navigates one extraordinary year that will change them all.

[*Beyond the Bright Sea*](#) by Lauren Wolk Abandoned and set adrift on a small boat when she was just hours old, twelve-year-old Crow's only companions are Osh, the man who rescued and raised her, and Miss Maggie, their fierce and affectionate neighbor across the sandbar. Crow has always been curious about the world around her, but it isn't until the night a mysterious fire appears across the water that the

unspoken question of her own history forms in her heart. Soon, a chain of events is triggered, leading Crow down a path of discovery and danger.

DYSTOPIAN

[*The City of Ember*](#) by Jeanne DuPrau

Ember, a post-apocalyptic underground city, is threatened by aging infrastructure and corruption. The young protagonists, Lina Mayfleet and Doon Harrow, follow clues left behind by the original builders of the City of Ember, to safety in the outside world.

[*Dreambender*](#) by Ronald Kidd

Jeremy Finn is a dreambender. His job is to adjust people's dreams. He and others like him quietly remove thoughts of music and art to keep the people in the City from becoming too focused on themselves and their own feelings rather than on the world. They need to keep the world safe from another Warming.

[*Divergent*](#) (*YA) by Veronica Roth

Sixteen-year-old Tris Prior lives in a futuristic world in which society is divided into five factions. As each person enters adulthood, they must choose a faction and commit to it for life. Tris, raised in the Abnegation faction, chooses Dauntless, shocking her family (and herself). However, after discovering that she is a Divergent and will never be able to fit into just one faction, Tris is forced to conceal her identity as she uncovers a looming war which threatens everyone she loves.

[*Feed*](#) (*YA) by M. T. Anderson

The novel takes place in a futuristic society where technology has expanded greatly. Instead of computers and cell phones, the technology is implanted right into the human brain. While students are fascinated with this idea at first, they quickly come to understand the negative consequences that follow. The story tracks teenage Titus as he navigates life, love, and the dark side of technological advancement.

[*The Maze Runner*](#) by James Dashner

One day, sixteen-year-old Thomas arrives in a glade at the center of a giant labyrinth. Like the other youth dumped there before him, he has no memory of his previous life. Thomas quickly becomes part of a group and soon after demonstrates a unique perspective that scores him a promotion to Runner status -- those who patrol the always-changing maze to find an escape route. Alongside a girl named Teresa, Thomas tries to convince his cohorts that he knows a way out.

[*The Marrow Thieves*](#) (*YA) by Cherie Dimaline

In this futuristic society, global warming has totally changed the world as we know it. People have lost the ability to dream, hope, and feel inspired. The result? A downward spiral of madness and ultimately death. That is, until "recruiters" steal the bone marrow from the indigenous people—the only ones left with the ability to dream. By taking their marrow, the rest of the population is able to steal their dreams, and consequently, their lives.

[*The Fog Diver*](#) by Joel Ross

In this world, everything is covered by a deadly “fog” that kills. Humans live on the highest mountain peaks. Our heroes, a band of scavenging orphans, search for something in the world below that they can sell. They need the money so they can travel to another city to get medical treatment for their cloud-sick beloved mother figure.

[Internment](#) (*YA) by Samira Ahmed

Set in a horrifying near-future United States, seventeen-year-old Layla Amin and her parents are forced into an internment camp for Muslim American citizens. With the help of newly made friends also trapped within the internment camp, her boyfriend on the outside, and an unexpected alliance, Layla begins a journey to fight for freedom, leading a revolution against the internment camp's Director and his guards.

[The Giver](#) by Lois Lowry

Set in a dystopian society, this Newbery medal winner grabs your attention and keeps it until the end. When Jonas is assigned his job as “Receiver of Memory,” he learns just how much is hidden and controlled. Now he’ll have to decide just what he’ll do with this horrifying information.

FANTASY

[The Water and the Wild](#) by KE Ormsbee

Every year on her birthday, Lottie receives a letter granting her birthday wish from a magic apple tree in her front yard. So, when her best friend's illness takes a turn for the worse, Lottie asks for one thing, a cure to save his life. Instead of a letter though, Lottie receives two sprites who take her through the apple tree to their world. There she must weigh the importance of her friend's life against the lives of an entire world of sprites.

[When you Reach Me](#) by Rebecca Stead

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, “the \$20,000 Pyramid,” 12 year-old, Miranda, tries to make sense of mysterious notes received from anonymous sources that seem to defy the laws of time and space.

[Every Bird a Prince](#) by Jenn Reese

Recruited by birds to protect animals and humans against creatures who weaponize doubt, seventh grader Eren Evers must find her inner truths in order to succeed.

[The Graveyard Book](#) by Neil Gaiman

After escaping the hitman hired to kill his entire family, newly orphaned “Bod” is taken in by ghosts in a cemetery. There he learns how to become invisible, haunt people’s dreams, and face his destiny against those who want to kill him.

[Healer and Witch](#) by Nancy Werlin

In 1551, Sylvie, a healer, makes a tragic mistake that forces her to leave her small town, seeking to learn how to use her special powers less destructively.

[The Ogress and The Orphans](#) by Kelly Barnhill

In a once-lovely town, a houseful of orphans teams up with a misunderstood ogress to reveal the mayor's deceitfulness and restore goodwill among the townspeople.

[The Goblin Emperor](#) (*YA) by Katherine Addison

The youngest, half-goblin son of the Emperor has lived his entire life in exile, distant from the Imperial Court and the deadly intrigue that suffuses it. But when his father and three sons in line for the throne are killed in an "accident," he has no choice but to take his place as the only surviving rightful heir.

[The Girl Who Drank the Moon](#) by Kelly Barnhill

Winner of the 2017 Newbery Award, this is part-fairy tale and part-coming-of-age book. After being raised by a witch named Xan, Luna must figure out how to handle the magical powers she was accidentally given and control her powers before it's too late.

[Every Heart A Doorway](#) (*YA) by Seanan McGuire

Children have always disappeared under the right conditions; slipping through the shadows under a bed or at the back of a wardrobe, tumbling down rabbit holes, and emerging somewhere... else. Nancy tumbled once, but now she's back. The things she's experienced have changed her, something the children under Miss West's care understand all too well. And each of them is seeking a way back to their own fantasy world. When tragedy strikes, it's up to Nancy and her new-found schoolmates to get to the heart of the matter.

SCIENCE FICTION

[The House of the Scorpion](#) by Nancy Farmer

In the futuristic country of Opium, a scientist grows a clone from the cells of the powerful drug lord, Matteo "El Patrón" Alacrán. The clone, known as Matt, spends the first six years of his life hidden away inside a house in a poppy field with his beloved caretaker, Celia. When he is discovered by three children, his life is completely upended, and secrets are revealed that will shape his future.

Old Kingdom book series including [Sabriel](#), [Lirael: Daughter of the Clayr](#), and [Clariel](#) by Garth Nix
Clariel is the daughter of one of the most notable families in the Old Kingdom, with blood relations to the Abhorsen and, most important, to the King. She dreams of living a simple life but discovers this is hard to achieve when a dangerous Free Magic creature is loose in the city, her parents want to marry her off to a killer, and there is a plot brewing against the old and withdrawn King Orrikan. When Clariel is drawn into the efforts to find and capture the creature, she finds hidden sorcery within herself, but her magic carries great dangers.

[Felix Yz](#) by Lisa Bunker.

When he was three, a freak accident left Felix fused with a fourth-dimensional being, Zyx, with whom he communicates with through a keyboard. Now, at ten years old, Felix is preparing for a dangerous experiment in which he and Zyx are to be separated. Felix is keeping a secret blog about the run-up to the separation, detailing his experiences at school, his first crush and family secrets. A unique and touching science fiction book.

MYSTERY & ADVENTURE

[*Twelfth*](#) By Janet Key

Twelve-year-old Maren is sure theater camp isn't for her. Theater camp is for loud, confident, artsy people: people like her older sister, Hadley—the last person Maren wants to think about—and her cinema-obsessed, nonbinary bunkmate, Theo. But when a prank goes wrong, Maren gets drawn into the hunt for a diamond ring that, legend has it, is linked to the camp's namesake, Charlotte “Charlie” Goodman, a promising director in Blacklist Era Hollywood.

[*The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*](#) by Alan Bradley

The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie is a 2009 mystery by Alan Bradley. Set in the English countryside in 1950, it features Flavia de Luce, an 11 year-old amateur sleuth who pulls herself away from her beloved chemistry lab in order to clear her father in a murder investigation.

[*What Elephants Know*](#) by Eric Dinerstein

Abandoned in the jungle of the Nepalese Borderlands, two-year-old Nandu is found living under the protective watch of a pack of wild dogs. From his mysterious beginnings, fate delivers him to the King's elephant stable, where he is raised by unlikely parents—the wise head of the stable, Subba-sahib, and Devi Kali, a fierce and affectionate female elephant.

[*What If a Fish*](#) by Anika Fajardo

Eddie—who's never left Minnesota—is invited to spend the summer in Colombia with his older half-brother. But as his adventure unfolds, he feels more and more like a fish out of water. Figuring out how to be a true Colombiano might be more difficult than he thought.

NON-FICTION

[*Crafting Change: Handmade Activism, Past and Present*](#) by Jessica Vitkus

Full-color photographs accompany a history of craftivists, artistic social justice advocates who create empowering, inspiring, and sometimes iconic objects through mediums such as embroidery, architecture, sculpting, and knitting.

[*Votes for Women!: American Suffragists and the Battle for the Ballot*](#) by Winifred Conkling

The story of the tenacious American women who demanded, fought for—and finally won—their right to vote; paving the way for generations of civil rights activists. By turns illuminating, harrowing, and empowering, *Votes for Women!* paints a vibrant picture of the women whose tireless battle still inspires political, human rights, and social justice activism.

[*The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and The Churchill Club*](#) by Phillip Hoose

Set during the Nazi occupation of Denmark in World War II, *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler* is the true account of a group of righteously rebellious Danish teens who dared to defy their own government, as well as their deadly captors, to defend their endangered beliefs in humanity and freedom.

[*Thing Explainer: Complicated Stuff in Simple Words*](#) by Randall Munroe

Thing Explainer: Complicated Stuff in Simple Words is a 2015 illustrated non-fiction book created by Randall Munroe, in which the author attempts to explain various complex subjects using only the 1,000 most common English words.

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You by Jason Reynolds

This book establishes several patterns through which to organize and understand historical racism in the United States. The authors divide “racist” and “not racist” into three categories: “segregationist” racism, the commitment to the separation and hierarchy of races; “assimilationist” racism, the push to integrate Black people into white society and abandon Blackness; and “antiracism,” the school of thought that believes in full racial equality.

The Complete Cookbook for Teen Chefs: 70+ Teen-Tested and Teen-Approved Recipes to Cook, Eat, and Share by America’s Test Kitchen Kids

A mouth-watering collection, for both novices and experienced cooks, of recipes for main meals and snacks. Global cuisines and vegetarian dishes featured. Includes cooking safety tips.

Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War by Steve Sheinkin It is the summer of 1964, Daniel Ellsberg is a Pentagon employee who is helping to plan the Vietnam War. Vietnam has secretly been involved with the United States in the cold war against Russia. Ellsberg is fully committed to the government's military undertaking, hoping to stop the spread of communism.

Undeclared: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian Football Team by Steve Sheinkin

Undeclared: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team is an astonishing underdog sports story—and more. It's an unflinching look at the U.S. government's violent persecution of Native Americans and the school that was designed to erase Indian cultures.

Star Talk: Everything You Ever Need to Know About Space Travel, Sci-Fi, the Human Race, the Universe, and Beyond by Neil deGrasse Tyson

This illustrated companion to the popular podcast and National Geographic Channel show is an eye-opening journey for anyone curious about our universe, space, astronomy and the complexities of the cosmos.

Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans by Don Brown

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's monstrous winds and surging water overwhelmed the protective levees around low-lying New Orleans, Louisiana. Eighty percent of the city flooded, in some places under twenty feet of water. Property damages across the Gulf Coast topped \$100 billion. (Graphic novel.)

The Owner's Manual for Driving Your Adolescent Brain by JoAnn Deak and Terrence Deak

The manual explains in detail what adolescence is and how it affects the entire body, starting in the brain. By comparing the brain to a car, it covers brain functions, nervous system, spinal cord, and cells.

BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR

Becoming Kareem by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

The book recounts Kareem’s childhood and timid teenage years in NYC, his transformation into a basketball phenomenon, his success on the court, and his spiritual growth and conversion to Islam.

Maya Lin: Architect of Light and Lines by Jeanne Walker Harvey

As a child, Maya Lin loved to study the spaces around her. She explored the forest in her backyard, observing woodland creatures, and used her house as a model to build tiny towns out of paper and scraps. The daughter of a clay artist and a poet, Maya grew up with art and learned to think with her hands as well as her mind. From her first experiments with light and lines to the height of her success nationwide, this is the story of an inspiring American artist: the visionary artist-architect who designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

[*Galaxy Girls: 50 Amazing Stories of Women in Space*](#) by Libby Jackson

Galaxy Girls tells the amazing true stories of fifty remarkable women who conquered the impossible and forever changed the world of space exploration. Since the very beginning, women have helped fuel some of the greatest achievements in space.

[*Becoming Muhammad Ali*](#) by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander

Becoming Muhammad Ali spans the years 1954 to 1958, and it centers on how elements of Cassius Clay's childhood laid the foundation for his adulthood, describing not only Clay's beginnings as a boxer but the racism that permeated Louisville, Kentucky, where he grew up.

[*Drawing from Memory*](#) by Allen Say

Caldecott Medalist Allen Say presents a graphic novel chronicling his journey as an artist during WWII, when he apprenticed under Noro Shinpei, Japan's premier cartoonist. Part memoir, part graphic novel, part narrative history, *Drawing from Memory* presents a complex look at the real-life relationship between a mentor and his student. With watercolor paintings, original cartoons, vintage photographs, and maps, we learn about a fellow Portlander's journey.

[*Samurai Rising: the Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune*](#) by Pamela S. Turner

This sweeping tale of warriors and bravery, rebellion and revenge, reads like a novel, but is the true story of the greatest samurai in Japanese history. The book is a riveting page-turner in ways not commonly associated with nonfiction.

[*Brown Girl Dreaming*](#) by Jacqueline Woodson

This is a verse memoir of Woodson's childhood in the 1960s and 1970s growing up in both New York and South Carolina. Remnants of Jim Crow were lived through and the book serves as a powerful and creative history lesson on civil rights, as well as exploring memories of struggling learning to read and discovering her voice as a writer.

POETRY

[*On the Move: Home is Where you Find It*](#) by Michael Rosen, illustrated by Quentin Blake

The Polish-Jewish poet explores his childhood in postwar London, his family's experiences of war, the fate of missing relatives, and migration today.

[*Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice*](#) by Mahogany Browne

Historically, poets have been on the forefront of social movements. *Woke* is a collection of poems by women that reflects the joy and passion in the fight for social justice, tackling topics from discrimination to empathy, and acceptance to speaking out.

Legacy: Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance by Nikki Grimes

From award-winning author Nikki Grimes comes a collection of poetry celebrating the little-known women poets of the Harlem Renaissance. Each poem is paired with full-color, original art from African-American women illustrators. In this poetry collection, bestselling author Nikki Grimes uses "The Golden Shovel" poetic method to create wholly original poems based on the works of these groundbreaking women and to introduce readers to their work.

Voices in the Air: Poems for Listeners by Naomi Shihab Nye

Full of words of encouragement, solace, and hope, this collection offers a message of peace and empathy. *Voices in the Air* focuses on the inspirational people who strengthen and motivate us to create, to open our hearts, and to live rewarding and graceful lives.