

Need ideas for summer reading?

Recommendations for the summer after grade 6

Are you looking for something good to read over the summer? Those long summer days are a great time to relax with a good book. The books listed below are not required school reading but simply suggestions of good books from the Acton-Boxborough current and retired library staff. There are also many other wonderful books available at the public libraries. Any book that you and your parents feel is a good choice for you is a good book for summer reading! Happy Reading!

AT THE BEACH – *About the beach and light “beach reading”*

Plastic Ahoy: Investigating the Great Pacific Garbage Patch - Patricia Newman - Readers learn about the formation of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch from millions of pieces of plastic, its' effect on ocean life and helpful ways to reduce our reliance on plastic.

Shimmer and Splash - Jim Arnosky - What can you see in the deep blue sea? Acclaimed author and artist Jim Arnosky captures the endless variety of spectacular marine species from the beautiful to the scary to the yucky! (also, other books by Jim Arnosky)

Masterminds - by Gordon Korman - A group of kids discovers that they were cloned from the DNA of some of the greatest criminal masterminds in history. They soon realize they can trust no one--least of all their own parents!

The Forget-Me-Not Summer - Leila Howland - Three California sisters are unexpectedly sent to spend the summer on Cape Cod with their aunt where they must face their fears, adjust to change, and learn how to band together. (also available is the sequel, The Brightest Stars of Summer)

Touch Blue - by Cynthia Lord - When the state of Maine threatens to shut down their tiny island's school because there are too few students, 11-year-old Tess' family takes in a foster child. (also, other books by Cynthia Lord)

TAKE A TRIP – *To real or fantasy places . . .*

Locomotive – by Brian Floca - Learn what it was like to travel on the transcontinental railroad in the 1860s.

Time Cat – by Lloyd Alexander - Jason and his magic cat Gareth travel through time to visit countries all over the world during different periods of history. (also, other books by Lloyd Alexander)

Treasure Island – by Robert Louis Stevenson - After Jim Hawkins finds the map to a mysterious treasure, he sets sail on a pirate ship in search of the fortune. (also recommended, other books by Robert Louis Stevenson)

Wizard of Oz – by Frank Baum - After being transported by a cyclone to the land of Oz, Dorothy and her dog are befriended by a scarecrow, a tin man, and a cowardly lion, all of whom accompany her to the Emerald City in search of a wizard who can help Dorothy return home to Kansas. (also others in the series)

Heart of a Samurai – by Margi Preus - Rescued by an American whaler after his boat capsizes, fourteen-year-old Manjiro learns new laws and customs as he becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States.

Mark of the Thief (first in a series) – by Jennifer Nielsen - Nic, a Roman slave, discovers a magic amulet and finds himself at the center of a conspiracy to overthrow the emperor and destroy Rome.

Inside Out and Back Again – by Thanhha Lai - A young Vietnamese girl is forced by the Vietnam War to leave her country and must adjust to a new life in Alabama. (also, Listen Slowly by the same author)

Astrotwins: Project Blastoff - by Mark Kelly with Martha Freeman - Based on the childhood of real-life astronauts Mark and Scott Kelly, twin brothers build their own rocket ship one summer. (also Astrotwins: Project Rescue)

Echo - by Pam Munoz Ryan - Otto becomes involved in a quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Decades later, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California each face daunting challenges and all are pulled together by destiny and the music of the same harmonica. (other books by Pam Munoz Ryan)

FUN AND GAMES – *Crafts, funny poetry, sports, silly books*

If You Were a Chocolate Mustache: Poems - by Patrick Lewis

Trash Origami: 25 paper folding projects - by Michael G. LaFosse

Swifter, Higher, Stronger: A Photographic History of the Summer Olympics - by Sue Macy

STORMY DAYS – *Tales to give you a bit of “the shivers”*

The Night Gardener: A Scary Story - by Jonathan Auxier - Irish orphans Molly and Kip travel to England to work as servants. A mysterious stranger and secrets of a cursed house soon confront the siblings.

The Graveyard Book- by Neil Gaiman - Can a boy raised by ghosts face the wonders and terrors of the worlds of both the living and the dead in this Newbery Medal award winner?

Absolutely Truly - by Heather Vogel Frederick - Truly finds an undelivered letter stuck in a valuable autographed first edition of *Charlotte’s Web*. She and her friends find themselves chasing clues that could spell danger.

Tesla’s Attic - by Neal Shusterman and Eric Elfman - With a plot combining science and the supernatural, four kids are caught up in a dangerous plan concocted by the eccentric inventor, Nikola Tesla.

A Tale Dark & Grimm – by Adam Gidwitz - Hansel and Gretel walk out of their own story and into eight other classic Grimm-inspired tales. Fairy tales have never been more irreverent or subversive!

Ask the Bones: Scary Stories from Around the World – selected and retold by Arielle North Olson and Howard Schwartz - (also More Bones: Scary Stories from Around the World)

Splendors and Glooms – Laura Amy Schlitz - A dark Newbery Honor book involving an evil puppeteer named Grisini, his two orphaned assistants, a young girl who mysteriously vanishes, and a witch who is Grisini’s rival.

Guys Read: Thriller – edited by Jon Scieszka - A collection of stories featuring a teenaged mummy, a homicidal turkey, and the world's largest pool of chocolate milk. Written by well-known children’s book authors.

PLACES TO FIND MORE BOOK IDEAS, DESCRIPTIONS, REVIEWS

Acton Memorial Library – (<http://www.actonmemoriallibrary.org>) Minuteman (<http://find.minlib.net/iii/encore/?lang=eng>)

Sargent Memorial Library, Boxborough – (<http://www.boxborough-ma.gov/sargent-memorial-library>) C/W MARS libraries (<http://boxboro.cwmars.org/eg/opac/home>) and the Commonwealth Catalog (<https://commonwealthcatalog.org/MVC/>)

Association for Library Service to Children - (<http://www.ala.org/alsc/2016-summer-reading-list>)