In St. Louis Public Schools, we provide all students access to high-quality literature that covers a wide range of topics. We use the “windows and mirrors” approach to literature exposure. This means that we want students to read books that reflect their own cultures, personalities, identities, etc. (mirrors) and we also want students to engage with titles that allow them a glimpse into the lives and experiences of others that may not reflect their own realities (windows).

We encourage students to engage in personal reading every day for pleasure. Reading for pleasure helps students maintain and improve academic skills learned during the school year. “Most kids know that summer reading provides benefits that extend well past the summer months. Seventy-seven percent agree that reading over the summer will help them during the school year and on average, kids read nine books in the summer of 2018.” Elementary students read more than nine books because the books are shorter in length. Secondary students tend to read fewer than nine books because the books are longer.

It is recommended that each student select titles from the lists provided for summer reading. Recommendations have been made by grade level based on the reading level and content of the text, but students may choose titles from any list if they desire. All of the titles contained in this Summer Reading List were recommended by SLPS teachers and staff and have also been endorsed by a number of reputable literacy organizations around the world. Most of these titles are national award winners and are available in eBook, audio book, braille, and large print formats. All titles are available through the St. Louis Public Library.

We recommend the following number of books for summer reading by grade level:

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<th>Grade Levels</th>
<th>Number of Books</th>
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<td>PK - 2</td>
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<td>3 - 5</td>
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St. Louis Public Library Resources

- The St. Louis Public Library offers digital library cards. There is a quick form to fill out and a library card is generated for the patron. They have an amazing collection of e-books and audiobooks available without ever needing to leave the house. They also no longer issue fines for any late materials. Click here for a list of St. Louis Public Library locations.
- E-Card: https://www.slpl.org/ecard
- All Downloadables: https://www.slpl.org/resources-types/all-downloadables
- Comics and Graphic Novels: https://www.slpl.org/resources-types/comics-graphic-novels
- E-Audiobooks: https://www.slpl.org/resources-types/audiobooks
- E-Books: https://www.slpl.org/resources-types/ebooks
- Newspapers and Magazines: https://www.slpl.org/resources-types/newspapers-magazines
Birth - Preschool

**Colors Everywhere**
Lizelot Versteeg

In this little book there are colors everywhere. On each page two hands will tell you how many things to count. Will you count with us from one to ten? A playful book about colors and numbers, with fun questions. For toddlers ages 30 months and up, with a focus on the child’s language development.”

**Counting**

Presents detailed illustrations and challenges readers to find and count lists of things in each.

**The Big Book of Counting to 100**

The pages are packed with look and find activities and entertaining questions that help children learn numbers and understand the world around them. Interactive pages include prompts to help children learn numbers, build counting skills, introduce simple mathematics, and keep little learners engaged.

**Counting Dinos**
Eric Pinder

Rodrigo the Ankylosaurus and his dinosaur friends explore their prehistoric world as they count from one to ten.

**Counting with Barefoot Critters**
Teagan White

What is a day of counting with Barefoot Critters? Reading. Making pancakes. Helping friends. Exploring. Swimming. Playing pirates. Learning about numbers! Join this adorable cast of animal characters as they explore numbers and counting over the course of a day, having fun at all stops along the way.

**Flip Flap Find! Counting 123**

Violet Peto

Simple text and colorful illustrations teach young readers to count from one to ten, inviting them to count the eggs of ten animals, guess their species, and lift interactive flaps to see what their hatched babies look like.

**Counting Cars**
Mara van der Meer

Encourages young readers to search and find specific quantities and types of motor vehicles.

**Are You My Mother?**
P.D. Eastman

A baby bird goes in search of his mother in this hilarious Beginner Book edited by Dr. Seuss. [Read Aloud Link](#)

**Put Me in the Zoo**
Robert Lopshire

Spot believes he deserves to be in the zoo with the other amazing animals. In this Beginner Book edited by Dr. Seuss, Spot shows two young friends all the exciting things he can do with his spots. From changing their color and juggling them to moving them onto everything around him, you won’t believe what Spot can do. [Read Aloud Link](#)

**Duck! Rabbit!**
Amy Krouse Rosenthal

This is a clever take on the age-old optical illusion: is it a duck or a rabbit? Depends on how you look at it! Readers will learn also a subtle lesson for kids who don’t know when to let go of an argument. [Read Aloud Link](#)

**Llama Llama Mad at Mama**
Anna Dewdney

Mama can’t leave Llama at home, so off they go to Shop-O-Rama. Lots of aisles. Long lines. Mama is too busy to notice that Llama Llama is getting M-A-D! And before he knows it, he’s having a full-out tantrum! [Read Aloud Link](#)
KDG. & 1ST GRADE:

**The Day the Crayons Quit**
*Drew Daywalt*

Duncan’s crayons have gone on strike. They each write Duncan a letter explaining why refuse to go back to work until their needs are met. [Read Aloud Link](#)

**Sulwe**
*Lupita Nyong'o*

Sulwe has skin the color of midnight. She is darker than everyone in her family. She is darker than anyone in her school. Sulwe just wants to be beautiful and bright, like her mother and sister. Then a magical journey in the night sky opens her eyes and changes everything. [Read Aloud Link](#)

**Swimmy**
*Leo Lionni*

The little fish in this charming classic are afraid of the dangers of the sea. When Swimmy comes along, he shows his little fish friends how they can conquer their fears with teamwork. [Read Aloud Link](#)

**I Can be Anything! Don't Tell Me I Can't** *(read aloud)*
*Leo & Diane Dillon*

Like most girls and boys, Zoe enthusiastically embraces the wonders of our world and its infinite possibilities. “I can be anything I want to be!” She tells us, presenting herself in a range of careers.

**If You Take a Mouse to School**
*Laura Numeroff*

Get excited about going back to school with this sweet tale about a mouse that is difficult to satisfy. Every time he gets something, he wants just one thing more!

**Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut**
*Derrick Barnes*

The barbershop is where the magic happens. Boys go in as lumps of clay and with princely robes draped around their shoulders, a dab of cool shaving cream on their foreheads, and a slow, steady cut, they become royalty. That crisp yet subtle line makes boys sharper, more visible, more aware of every great thing that could happen to them when they look good. [Read Aloud Link](#)

**Let’s Clap, Jump, Sing & Shout**
*Patricia C. McKissack*

Parents and grandparents will delight in sharing this exuberant book with the children in their lives. Here is a songbook, a storybook, a poetry collection, and much more, all rolled into one. Find a partner for hand claps such as “Eenie, Meenie, Sassafreeny,” or form a circle for games like “Little Sally Walker.”

**Llama Llama Mad at Mama**
*Anna Dewdney*

Mama can’t leave Llama at home, so off they go to Shop-O-Rama. Lots of aisles. Long lines. Mama is too busy to notice that Llama Llama is getting M-A-D! And before he knows it, he’s having a full-out tantrum! [Read Aloud Link](#)

**One Word From Sophia**
*Jim Averbeck*

Sophia tries varied techniques to get the giraffe she wants more than anything in this playfully illustrated story about the nuances of negotiation. Sophia has one true desire for her birthday. But she has Four Big Problems in the way: Mom, Dad, Uncle Conrad…and Grand-mama.
**2nd & 3rd Grades**

**Locomotive**  
Brian Floca  
In the summer of 1869, a family takes a ride on America’s brand-new transcontinental railroad. The book captures the images, sounds, and power of the trains.  
[Read Aloud Link](#)

**Sing to the Moon**  
Nansubuga Nagadya Isdahl  
For one little Ugandan boy, no wish is too big. First he dreams of reaching the stars and then of riding a supernova straight to Mars. But on a rainy day at his grandfather’s house, he is brought down to earth with a bump. Do adventures only happen in galaxies far away or can he find magic a little closer to home?  

**Encyclopedia Brown**  
Donald J. Sobal  
This book features junior detective Leroy (aka “Encyclopedia”) Brown. (If you love solving mysteries with Encyclopedia, read more of the books in this series this summer!)

**One Last Word**  
Nikki Grimes  
Using “The Golden Shovel” poetic method, Grimes has written a collection of poetry that is as gorgeous as it is thought-provoking. This special book also includes original artwork in full-color from some of today’s most exciting African American illustrators, who have created pieces of art based on Nikki’s original poems.

**Dragons Love Tacos**  
Adam Rubin  
This silly story explains that the best way to get dragons to come to your party is to eat tacos. Lots of tacos! But beware of the salsa when you have fire-breathing dragons at your party!

**The Tale of Despereaux**  
Kate DiCamillo  
This is the story of the journey of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who loves stories, and music, as well as a rat named Roscuro and a little girl named Miggery Sow.

**Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race**  
Margot Lee Shetterly  
The incredibly inspiring true story of four black women who helped NASA launch men into space to picture book readers. They participated in some of NASA’s greatest successes, like providing the calculations for America’s first journeys into space. And they did so during a time when being black and a woman limited what they could do.

**Whoosh!**  
Chris Barton  
You know the Super Soaker. It’s one of top twenty toys of all time was invented entirely by accident. Trying to create a new cooling system for refrigerators and air conditioners, impressive inventor Lonnie Johnson instead created the mechanics for the iconic toy. A love for rockets, robots, inventions, and a mind for creativity began early in Lonnie Johnson’s life. Growing up in a house full of brothers and sisters, persistence and a passion for problem solving became the cornerstone for a career as an engineer and his work with NASA.  
[Read Aloud Link](#)

**Zathura**  
Chris Van Allsburg  
Take a journey into outer space with this science-fiction adventure story, a sequel to the classic Jumanji. Two brothers discover a game called Zathura and their adventure into space begins!  
[Read Aloud Link](#)
This Kid Can Fly
Aaron Philip
In this heartbreaking and ultimately uplifting memoir, Aaron Philip, a fourteen-year-old boy with cerebral palsy, shows how he isn’t defined so much by his disability as he is by his abilities.

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library
Chris Grabenstein
Kyle Keeley is the class clown and a huge fan of all games – board games, word games, and particularly video games. His hero, Luigi Lemoncello, the most notorious and creative gamemaker in the world, just so happens to be the genius behind the construction of the new town library.

The Graveyard Book
Neil Gaiman
Nobody Owens, known as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn’t live in a graveyard, being raised by ghosts, with a guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor the dead. There are adventures in the graveyard for a boy – an ancient Indigo Man, a gateway to the abandoned city of souls, the strange and terrible Sleer.
The Season of Styx Malone
Kekla Magoon
Caleb Franklin and his big brother Bobby Gene have the whole summer for adventures in the woods behind their house in Sutton, Indiana. Caleb dreams of venturing beyond their ordinary small town, but his dad likes the family to stay close to home.

Be Prepared
Vera Brosgol
In Be Prepared, all Vera wants to do is fit in – but that’s not easy for a Russian girl in the suburbs.

Ghost Boys
Jewell Parker Rhodes
Twelve-year-old Jerome is unjustly shot by a police officer. He meets another ghost, Emmett Till, with a similar situation but from a different time. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father’s actions.

The Tyrant's Tomb
Rick Riordan
The formerly glorious god Apollo, cast down to earth in punishment by Zeus, is now an awkward mortal teenager named Lester Papadopoulos. In order to regain his place on Mount Olympus, Lester must restore five Oracles that have gone dark.

Gone Crazy in Alabama
Rita Williams-Garcia
It’s the summer of 1969, and Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern are off to Alabama to visit Big Ma and her eighty-two-year-old mother, Ma Charles. Pa can’t remind them enough that the South’s not like Brooklyn, and that you can’t get more southern than Alabama.

Hatchet
Gary Paulsen
Hatchet is a story of survival. The protagonist is a thirteen-year-old city boy who ends up stranded in the Canadian wilderness when the pilot of the small plane he’s flying in has a heart attack and dies.

Julian, Secret Agent
Ann Cameron
When Julian, his little brother Huey, and their friend Gloria decide to be “crime busters,” they find themselves in one adventure after another.

Zathura
Chris Van Allsburg
Take a journey into outer space with this science-fiction adventure story, a sequel to the classic Jumanji. Two brothers discover a game called Zathura and their adventure into space begins!

Brown Girl Dreaming
Jacqueline Woodson
Brown Girl Dreaming” is a memoir by Jacqueline Woodson. She tells of her childhood as an African American in the American Northeast and South in the 1960s. Born in Columbus, Ohio, to the descendants of former slaves, Jacqueline is named after her father, Jack, much to the chagrin of her mother, Mary Ann. Jacqueline soon comes to be called Jackie.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
Mildred D. Taylor
Set in Mississippi at the height of the Depression, this is the story of one family’s struggle to maintain their integrity, pride, and independence in the face of racism and social injustice.
Look Both Ways
Jason Reynolds
Jason Reynolds conjures ten tales (one per block) about what happens after the dismissal bell rings, and brilliantly weaves them into one wickedly funny, piercingly poignant look at the detours we face on the walk home, and in life. Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book, National Book Award Finalist

New Kid
Jerry Craft
New Kid is a timely, honest graphic novel about starting over at a new school where diversity is low. Newberry Medal

Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky
Kwame Mbalia
Seventh grader Tristan Strong feels anything but strong ever since he failed to save his best friend when they were in a bus accident together. All he has left of Eddie is the journal his friend wrote stories in. This adventure finds Tristan fighting with the sticky creature to hold on to his friend’s journal and everything else he loves.

39 Clues: The Maze of Bones
Rick Riordan
The 39 Clues books feature 14-year-old Amy Cahill and her younger brother Dan on a quest to discover the secret behind their family’s power. The first 10 books follow the Clue Hunt. The 11th transitions to the pin-off series. Two companion novels just add depth to the series.

The Crossover
Kwame Alexander
“With a bolt of lightning on my kicks... The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I’m delivering,” announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he’s got mad beats, too, that tell his family’s story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood from Kwame Alexander.

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler
E.L. Konigsberg
When suburban Claudia Kincaid decides to run away, she knows she doesn’t just want to run from somewhere, she wants to run to somewhere – to a place that is comfortable, beautiful, and preferably, elegant.

This Kid Can Fly
Aaron Philip
In this heartbreaking and ultimately uplifting memoir, Aaron Philip, a fourteen-year-old boy with cerebral palsy, shows how he isn’t defined so much by his disability as he is by his abilities.
American Street
Ibi Zoboi
Lexile HL690
On the corner of American Street and Joy Road, Fabiola Toussaint thought she would finally find a good life. But after they leave Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Fabiola’s mother is detained by U.S. immigration, leaving Fabiola to navigate her loud American cousins, Chantal, Donna, and Princess; the grittiness of Detroit’s west side; a new school; and a surprising romance, all on her own. Just as she finds her footing in this strange new world, a dangerous proposition presents itself, and Fabiola soon realizes that freedom comes at a cost. Trapped at the crossroads of an impossible choice, will she pay the price for the American dream?

Ghost Boys
Jewell Parker-Rhodes
Lexile HL360, F&P Z
Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that’s been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing. Soon Jerome meets another ghost: Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances. Emmett helps Jerome process what has happened, on a journey towards recognizing how historical racism may have led to the events that ended his life. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father’s actions. Once again Jewell Parker Rhodes deftly weaves historical and socio-political layers into a gripping and poignant story about how children and families face the complexities of today’s world, and how one boy grows to understand American blackness in the aftermath of his own death.

If You Come Softly
Jacqueline Woodson
HL570, F&P Y
Jeremiah feels good inside his own skin. That is, when he’s in his own Brooklyn neighborhood. But now he’s going to be attending a fancy prep school in Manhattan, and black teenage boys don’t exactly fit in there. So it’s a surprise when he meets Ellie the first week of school. In one frozen moment their eyes lock, and after that they know they fit together—even though she’s Jewish and he’s black. Their worlds are so different, but to them that’s not what matters. Too bad the rest of the world has to get in their way.

The Mighty Miss Malone
Christopher Paul Curtis
Lexile 750L, F&P U
Deza is the smartest girl in her class in Gary, Indiana, singled out by teachers for a special path in life. But it’s 1936 and the Great Depression has hit Gary hard, and there are no jobs for black men. When her beloved father leaves to find work, Deza, Mother, and her older brother, Jimmie, go in search of him, and end up in a Hooverville outside Flint, Michigan. Jimmie leaves the camp to be a performer, while Deza and Mother find a new home, hoping to find Father. The twists and turns of their story reveal the devastation of the Depression.

One Crazy Summer
Rita Williams-Garcia
Lexile 750, F&P W
Three sisters travel to Oakland, California, in 1968 to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

The Stars Beneath Our Feet
David Barclay Moore
Lexile 650L, F&P Z+
It’s Christmas Eve in Harlem, but twelve-year-old Lolly Rachpaul and his mom aren’t celebrating. They’re still reeling from his older brother’s death in a gang-related shooting. Then Lolly receives a gift that will change everything: two enormous bags filled with Legos. Faced with a pile of Legos and no instructions, Lolly must find his own way forward. His path isn’t clear and the pressure to join a “crew,” as his brother did, is always there. When Lolly and his friend are beaten up and robbed, joining a crew almost seems like the safe choice. But building a Lego city at the community center provides Lolly with an escape and a bridge back to the world.

Tight
Torrey Maldonado
Lexile 600L
Bryan’s mom has always encouraged his quiet, thoughtful nature, but his dad is different. He thinks it’s time for the 6th grader to toughen up. With a quick temper and recently out of jail on probation, he tells Bryan it’s better for a man to be feared than to be liked. Bryan’s not really sure about this, and it doesn’t seem to even matter when he befriends new kid Mike. Things get uncomfortable when it turns out Mike has some risky ideas about how to have fun. Bryan starts cutting school, jumping subway turnstiles and going train surfing, with Mike in the lead. But when Mike takes things a step too far and shows his true colors, Bryan has a difficult decision to make.
Sal and Gabbi Break the Universe
Carlos Hernandez
Lexile HL700
A brilliant sci-fi romp with Cuban influence that poses this question: What would you do if you had the power to reach through time and space and retrieve anything you want, including your mother, who is no longer living (in this universe, anyway)?

The Best At It
Maulik Pancholy
Lexile HL360, F&P Z
Rahul Kapoor is heading into seventh grade in a small town in Indiana. The start of middle school is making him feel increasingly anxious, so his favorite person in the whole world, his grandfather, Bhai, gives him some well-meaning advice: Find one thing you’re really good at and become the BEST at it.
As Brave As You
Jason Reynolds
Lexile 750
Genie’s summer is full of surprises. He and his big brother, Ernie, are leaving Brooklyn for the very first time to spend the summer with their grandparents all the way in Virginia - in the COUNTRY! The second surprise comes when Genie figures out that their grandfather is blind. Genie thinks Grandpop must be the bravest guy he’s ever known, but he starts to notice that his grandfather never leaves the house. When he finds the secret room that Grandpop is always disappearing into, he begins to wonder if his grandfather is really so brave after all. Then Ernie lets him down in the bravery department. It’s his birthday, and Grandpop says to become a man you have to learn how to shoot a gun. Dumbfounded by Ernie’s reluctance, Genie is left to wonder, are bravery and becoming a man only about proving something, or is it just as important to own up to what you won’t do?

The Boy in the Black Suit
Jason Reynolds
Lexile HL760
Just when Matt thinks he can’t handle one more piece of terrible news, he meets a girl who’s dealt with a lot more--and who just might be able to clue him in on how to rise up when life keeps knocking him down. Matt wears a black suit every day. He wears the suit for his gig at the local funeral home, which pays way better than the Cluck Bucket, and he needs the income since his dad can’t handle the bills on his own. Then Matt meets Lovey. Crazy name, and she’s been through more crazy stuff than he can imagine. Yet Lovey never cries. She’s tough. Tough in the way Matt wishes he could be. There is nothing more hopeful than finding a person who gets your loneliness and who can help take it away.

Challenger Deep
Neal Schusterman
Lexile HL800
A captivating novel about a teenage boy who struggles with schizophrenia that lingers long beyond the last page. Caden Bosch is on a ship that’s headed for the deepest point on Earth: Challenger Deep, the southern part of the Marianas Trench. Caden Bosch is a brilliant high school student whose friends are starting to notice his odd behavior. Caden Bosch is designated the ship’s artist in residence to document the journey with images. Caden Bosch pretends to join the school track team but spends his days walking for miles, absorbed by the thoughts in his head.

Divergent (series)
Veronica Roth
Lexile HL700
In Beatrice Prior’s dystopian Chicago, society is divided into five factions. On an appointed day of every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. For Beatrice, the decision is between staying with her family and being who she really is. So she makes a choice that surprises everyone. During the competitive initiation that follows, Beatrice renames herself Tris. Tris has a secret; one she’s kept hidden from everyone because she’s been warned it can mean death. As she discovers a growing conflict that threatens to unravel her perfect society, she learns that her secret might help her save those she loves.

Illegal
Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin
Lexile GN490
A moving graphic novel that explores the current plight of undocumented immigrants. Ebo is alone. His brother, Kwame, has disappeared, and Ebo knows it can only be to attempt the journey to Europe, and a better life Ebo refuses to be left behind in Ghana. He sets out after Kwame and joins him on the quest to reach Europe. But with every step he holds on to his hope for a new life, and a reunion with his family.

The Maze Runner (series)
James Dashner
Lexile HL770, F&P X
When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He’s surrounded by strangers—boys whose memories are also gone. Outside the towering stone walls that surround them is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It’s the only way out--and no one’s ever made it through alive. Then a girl arrives. The first girl ever. And the message she delivers is terrifying: Remember. Survive. Run.

The Girl Who Drank the Moon
Kelly Barnhill
Lexile 640, F&P X
Each year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from ruining their town. But the witch in the Forest, Xan, is kind. Xan rescues the children and delivers them to families on the other side of the forest, feeding the babies starlight on the journey. One year, Xan feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the ordinary child with extraordinary magic. Xan decides she must raise this girl, whom she calls Luna, as her own. As Luna’s 13th birthday approaches, her magic begins to emerge with dangerous consequences.
Imagine you had a guide to help you get from where you are now, to where you want to be in the future. You just need the tools to help you get there. This book provides a simple approach to help teens improve self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve their goals, and appreciate their parents, as well as tackle the new challenges of our time, like cyberbullying and social media. In addition, this book is stuffed with cartoons, clever ideas, great quotes, and incredible stories about real teens from all over the world.

Two teens—one black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension.

Under Yellowstone National Park is a super volcano. Most people don’t know it’s there. It just could be overdue for an eruption, which would change the landscape and climate of our planet. For Alex, being left alone for the weekend means having the freedom to play computer games and hang out with his friends without hassle from his mother. Then the volcano erupts, plunging his hometown into a nightmare of darkness, ash, and violence. Alex begins a harrowing trek to search for his family and finds help in Darla, a travel partner he meets along the way. Together they must find the strength and skills to survive and outlast an epic disaster.

The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to flicker. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she’s sure it holds a secret that will save the city. She and her friend Doon must race to figure out the clues before the lights go out on Ember forever!

For the life of him, ‘Scoob’ Lamar can’t seem to stay out of trouble—and now the run-ins at school have led to lockdown at home. So when Grandma, Scoob’s favorite person on Earth, asks him to go on an impromptu road trip, he’s in the RV faster than he can say freedom. With Grandma’s old maps at their side, the pair set off on a journey down Grandma’s memory lane. But adventure quickly turns to uncertainty: Grandma keeps changing the license plate, dodging Scoob’s questions, and refusing to check Dad’s voice mails. The farther they go, the more Scoob realizes that things aren’t always what they seem—Grandma included.

Set in an exotic Eastern landscape peopled by magicians and fantastic talking animals, Haroun and the Sea of Stories inhabits the same imaginative space as The Lord of the Rings, The Alchemist, The Arabian Nights, and The Wizard of Oz. Twelve-year-old Haroun sets out on an adventure to restore his father’s gift of storytelling by reviving the poisoned Sea of Stories. On the way, he encounters many foes, all intent on draining the sea of all its storytelling powers. In this wondrously delightful story, Salman Rushdie gives us an imaginative work of extraordinary power and endearing humor that is, at its heart, an illumination of the necessity of storytelling in our lives.

Two kids with the same name lived in the same city. One went on to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated combat veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader. The other is serving a life sentence in prison.

In 2000, the Baltimore Sun ran a small piece about Wes Moore, a student who had received a Rhodes Scholarship. The same paper also ran an article about four young men who had allegedly killed a police officer in a botched armed robbery. One was named Wes Moore. After following the story of the robbery, the manhunt, and the trial to its conclusion, Wes wrote a letter to the other Wes, now a convicted murderer serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole. Wes discovered that the other Wes had a life not unlike his own: Both had grown up in similar neighborhoods and had hard childhoods, both were fatherless; they’d hung out on similar corners with similar crews. At each stage of their young lives, they had come across similar moments of decision, yet their choices would lead them to astonishingly different destinies.
Grade 9-10

**Children of Blood and Bone**
Tomi Adeyemi  
Lexile HL670  
Seventeen-year-old Zelie, her brother Tzain, and Princess Amari fight to restore magic to the land and activate a new generation of magi, but they are ruthlessly pursued by Prince Inan, who believes the return of magic will mean the end of the monarchy.

**Dear Martin**
Nic Stone  
HL720  
Justice McAllister is a good kid, an honor student, and always there to help a friend—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. Despite leaving his rough neighborhood behind, he can’t escape. Justice looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a journal to Dr. King to find out. Then comes the day Justice goes driving with his best friend, Manny, windows rolled down, music turned up—way up, sparking the fury of a white off-duty cop beside them. Words fly. Shots are fired. Justice and Manny are caught in the crosshairs. In the media fallout, it’s Justice who is under attack.

**Hidden Figures: Young Readers’ Edition**
Margot Lee Shetterly  
Lexile 1120L, F&P Y  
Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of female mathematicians known as “human computers” used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets and astronauts, into space. This book brings to life the stories of four women who lived through the Civil Rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War, and the movement for gender equality, and whose work forever changed the face of NASA and the country.

**Long Way Down**
Jason Reynolds  
Lexile HL720  
As Will, fifteen, sets out to avenge his brother Shawn’s fatal shooting, seven ghosts who knew Shawn board the elevator and reveal truths Will needs to know. Told in short, fierce staccato narrative verse, Long Way Down is a fast and furious, dazzlingly brilliant look at teenage gun violence, as could only be told by Jason Reynolds.

**Pride**
Ibi Zoboi  
Lexile HL760  
Pride and Prejudice gets remixed in this smart, funny, gorgeous retelling of the classic, starring all characters of color. Zari Benitez has pride. Brooklyn pride, family pride, and pride in her Afro-Latino roots. But pride might not be enough to save her rapidly gentrifying neighborhood from becoming unrecognizable. When the wealthy Darcy family moves in across the street, Zari wants nothing to do with their two teenage sons, even as her older sister, Janae, starts to fall for the charming Ainsley. She especially can’t stand the judgmental and arrogant Darius. Yet as Zari and Darius are forced to find common ground, their initial dislike shifts into an unexpected understanding. But with four wild sisters pulling her in different directions, cute boy Warren vying for her attention, and college applications hovering on the horizon, Zari fights to find her place in Bushwick’s changing landscape or lose it all.

**Red Queen (series)**
Victoria Aveyard  
Lexile HL740  
In a world divided by blood—those with common, Red blood serve the Silver-blooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities—seventeen-year-old Mare, a Red, discovers she has an ability of her own. To cover up this impossibility, the king forces her to play the role of a lost Silver princess and betroths her to one of his own sons. But Mare risks everything and uses her new position to help the Scarlet Guard—a growing Red rebellion—even as her heart tugs her in an impossible direction.

**Speak**
Laurie Halse Anderson  
Lexile 690L, F&P Z  
“Speak up for yourself—we want to know what you have to say.” From the first moment of her freshman year, Melinda knows this is a big fat lie, part of the nonsense of high school. She is friendless, outcast, because she busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, so now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. As time passes, she becomes increasingly isolated and practically stops talking altogether. Only her art class offers any solace, and it is through her work on an art project that she is finally able to face what really happened at that terrible party: she was raped by an upperclassman, a guy who still attends her school and is still a threat to her. Her healing process has just begun when she has another violent encounter with him. But this time Melinda fights back, refuses to be silent, and thereby achieves a measure of vindication.
In Shaker Heights, everything is planned—from the layout of the roads, to the colors of the houses, to the lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules. Enter Mia Warren—an artist and single mother who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenaged daughter Pearl and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community. When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town—and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia’s past. But her obsession will come at unexpected and devastating cost.

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