Middle School Summer Reading Grade 6-8

Tips for Selecting a Book: The higher the Lexile level, the more complex the text. Please read the Synopsis/Review and the Notes/Lexile Level to help select a book.

**Denotes NEW FOR 2024

TITLE	AUTHOR(S)	SYNOPSIS/REVIEW	NOTES/LEXILE LEVEL
**Invisible INVISIBLE ORIGINATIO GROUP & ARREAD PERM	Diaz Gonzalez, Christina	This Breakfast Club inspired graphic novel in Spanish and English text pairs together with an engaging storyline centered on middle school friendships and identity.	Fiction Graphic Novel GN260L Grade 6
**New Kid What was a second of the control of the	Craft, Jerry	A semi-autobiographical graphic novel that the author, Jerry Craft, based on his and his son's experiences in private school. The novel tells the story of a 12-year-old African American boy named Jordan Banks who experiences culture shock when he enrolls at a private school. During Jordan's freshman year at a prestigious private school, he has to adjust to a new school, experiences, and witnesses microaggressions.	Fiction Graphic Novel GN400L Grade 6
**Drama	Telegmeier, Raina	Callie loves theater. And while she would totally try out for her middle school's production of <i>Moon over Mississippi</i> , she can't really sing. Instead, she's the set designer for the drama department's stage crew, and this year she's determined to create a set worthy of Broadway on a middle-school budget. But how can she, when she doesn't know much about carpentry, ticket sales are down, and the crew members are having trouble	Fiction Graphic Novel GN400L Grade 6-7

DRAMA		working together? Not to mention the onstage and offstage drama that occurs once the actors are chosen. And when two cute brothers enter the picture, things get even crazier!	
**I Survived the Great Chicago Fire, 1871	Ball, Georgia	Could an entire city really burn to the ground? One brave boy finds out in this graphic novel adaptation of Lauren Tarshis's bestselling I Survived the Great Chicago Fire, 1871, with text adapted by Georgia Ball and art by Cassie Anderson. Oscar Starling never wanted to move to Chicago. The smog, the stench, the thieves around every corner it's so different from his old life on the farm. Will the big city ever feel like home? But shortly after Oscar arrives, a huge fire breaks out. All of Chicago is ablaze and one thing is the city is like a powder keg, ready to explode. An army of firemen tries to help, but this fire is a ferocious beast that wants to devour everything in its path. Will Oscar and his new city and new friends survive one of the most famous and devastating fires in history?	Historical Fiction Graphic Novel GN400L Grade 6
Smile The first in Industrial plants Berns Triginated Smile	Telgemeier, Raina	Raina just wants to be a normal sixth grader. But one night after Girl Scouts she trips and falls, severely injuring her two front teeth, and 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. And on top of all that, there's still more to deal with: a major earthquake, boy confusion, and friends who turn out to be not so friendly.	Nonfiction Graphic Novel GN410L Grade 6

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**Maybe an Artist	Montague, Liz	When Liz Montague was a senior in college, she wrote to the <i>New Yorker</i> , asking them	Fiction
Antist		why they didn't publish more inclusive comics. The <i>New Yorker</i> wrote back asking if she could recommend any. She responded: yes, me.	Graphic Novel
		Those initial cartoons in the <i>New Yorker</i> led to this memoir of Liz's youth, from the age of	GN510L
CO 5		five through college-how she navigated life in her predominantly white New Jersey town,	High-Interest
		overcame severe dyslexia through art, and found the confidence to pursue her passion.	Low Level
LIZ MONTAGUE		Funny and poignant, Liz captures the age-old adolescent questions of "who am I?" and	Reader
		"what do I want to be?" with pitch-perfect clarity and insight.	
			Grade 6
		This brilliant, laugh-out-loud graphic memoir offers a fresh perspective on life and social	
		issues.	
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**When Stars are	Jamieson,	Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, have spent most of their lives in Dadaab, a	Fiction
Scattered	Victoria Mohamed, Omar	refugee camp in Kenya. Life is hard there: never enough food, achingly dull, and without access to the medical care Omar knows his nonverbal brother needs. So, when Omar has	Graphic Novel
WHEN STARS ARE SCATTERED		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.	GN530L
Service Room			Grades 6-7
TANUS)		Heartbreak, hope, and gentle humor exist together in this graphic novel about a	
		childhood spent waiting, and a young man who is able to create a sense of family and	
		home in the most difficult of settings. It's an intimate, important, unforgettable look at the	
OMAR MOHAMED		day-to-day life of a refugee, as told to <i>New York Times</i> Bestselling author/artist Victoria	
		Jamieson by Omar Mohamed, the Somali man who lived the story.	
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**Monday's Not Coming	Jackson, Tiffany D.	Monday Charles is missing, and only Claudia seems to notice. Claudia and Monday have always been inseparable—more sisters than friends. So, when Monday doesn't turn up for the first day of school, Claudia's worried.	Fiction 620L Grade 6-7
**Playing the Cards You're Dealt PLAYING THE CARDS YOU'RE DEALT	Johnson, Varian	Playing the Cards You're Dealt by Varian Johnson is about a boy named Anthony who loves playing poker and dreams of becoming a professional player. But when his family faces financial troubles and he has to move to a new neighborhood and school, Anthony's dreams seem impossible. However, with the help of new friends and his passion for poker, Anthony learns valuable lessons about resilience, friendship, and making the best of the hand life deals you. As he navigates the challenges of his new life, Anthony discovers that sometimes, winning isn't just about the cards you're dealt, but how you play them.	Fiction 630L Grade 6-7
**The Last Kids on Earth THE LAST KIDS ON EARTH	Brallier, Max	Ever since the monster apocalypse hit town, average 13-year-old Jack Sullivan has been living in his tree house, which he's armed and enhanced with catapults and a moat, not to mention video games and an endless supply of Oreos and Mountain Dew scavenged from abandoned stores. But even in his fortified tree house, Jack alone is no match for the hordes of zombies and winged wretches and vine thingies, and especially not for the eerily intelligent monster known only as Blarg. So, Jack builds a team: his dorky best friend, Quint; the reformed middle school bully, Dirk; Jack's loyal pet monster, Rover; and Jack's crush, June. With their help, Jack is going to slay Blarg, achieve the ultimate Feat of Apocalyptic Success, and be average no longer!	Fiction Graphic Novel GN650L Grades 6-7
**Revenge of the Happy Campers	Ziegler, Jennifer	Revenge of the Happy Campers by Jennifer Ziegler follows the adventures of three friends, Haley, Stella, and Ashley, as they embark on a summer camp journey. Excited to spend time together away from home, they quickly realize that their summer camp experience is not what they expected. With quirky counselors, unexpected challenges, and new friendships, the girls navigate through camp life, learning valuable lessons about	Fiction 660L Grade 6

REVENGE WE HAPPY CAMPERS		teamwork, friendship, and self-discovery along the way. As they face various camp activities and dilemmas, they discover the true meaning of resilience and the importance of staying true to themselves.	
Mister and Me MISTER AND ME BRANK WILLIA FOR	Holt, Kimberly Willis	In a small Louisiana mill town in 1940, Jolene doesn't remember her father, but that doesn't mean she wants a new one. As far as she's concerned, she and Momma and Grandpa are doing just fine on their own. So, when Leroy Redfield, a tall logger with a booming laugh, starts taking Momma dancing on Friday nights, Jolene is determined to get him out of their lives. Somehow, though, the man just won't go away, and as he patiently works to gain Jolene's acceptance, Jolene finds herself letting go of her resentment.	Fiction 710L Grade 6
**The Long Way Down	Reynolds, Jason	A fiercely stunning novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds—the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother. Fifteen-year-old Will's brother Shawn was just murdered. And Will knows the rules. No crying. No snitching. <i>Revenge</i> . That's where Will's now heading, with that gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, the gun that was his brother's gun. He gets on the elevator, seventh floor, stoked. And so it begins, the whole long way down, as the elevator stops on each floor, and at each stop someone connected to his brother gets on to give Will a piece to a bigger story than the one he thinks he knows. A story that might never know an ENDif WILL gets <i>off</i> that elevator.	Fiction 720L Grade 8
**Ghost	Reynolds, Jason	Ghost is about a middle schooler named Castle "Ghost" Cranshaw who lives in a tough neighborhood. He's haunted by a painful memory involving his dad. Trying to escape, he discovers he's great at running after challenging a fast track team and winning. The coach offers him a spot on the team, but Ghost faces many challenges. He has to deal with his	Fiction 730L Grade 7

GHO ST		past, control his temper, and learn about teamwork. With the help of his coach and teammates, Ghost starts feeling like he belongs and finds meaning in running. The book talks about resilience, friendship, family, and overcoming tough times, making it a relatable read for middle schoolers.	
RESTART FESTART FORMAN KORMAN FORMAN MARK MARK FORMAN MARK MARK FORMAN MARK MARK FORMAN MA	Korman, Gordon	A boy who's been a bully and hanging out with the wrong friends gets a new start after a memory-loss-inducing accident. But can someone really change who he is, or will the old him merely come back over time?	Fiction 730L Grade 6
**We Are Not from Here WE ARE NOT FROM HERE	Torres Sanchez, Jenny	Jenny Torres Sanchez's fifth young adult novel, <i>We Are Not From Here</i> , is an unforgettable story of three teens forced to leave their homeland in search of safety and the possibility of a better life. In the town of Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, Pequeña is laboring to give birth to an unplanned baby.	Fiction 740L Grade 7
A Long Way from Chicago A Long Way from Chicago	Peck, Richard	Each summer Joey and his sister, Mary Alice, two city slickers from Chicago, visit Grandma Dowdel's seemingly sleepy Illinois town. Soon enough, they find that it's far from sleepy, and Grandma is far from your typical grandmother. From seeing their first corpse (and he isn't resting easy) to helping Grandma trespass, catch the sheriff in his underwear, and feed the hungry all in one day, Joey and Mary Alice have nine summers they'll never forget!	Fiction 750L Grade 6

Hoot	Hiaasen, Carl	Roy Eberhardt is new to his small Florida community of Coconut Cove. Unfortunately,	Fiction
Carl Miaasen		Roy's first acquaintance in Florida is Dana Matherson, a well-known bully. Then again, if Dana hadn't been sinking his thumbs into Roy's temples and mashing his face against the	760L
H 0 0 T		school-bus window, Roy might never have spotted the running boy. And the running boy is intriguing: he was running away from the school bus, carried no books, and - here's the odd part – wore no shoes.	Grade 6
**Tuck Everlasting	Babbitt, Natalie	Doomed to - or blessed with - eternal life after drinking from a magic spring, the Tuck	Fiction
		family wanders about trying to live as inconspicuously and comfortably as they can. When ten-year-old Winnie Foster stumbles on their secret, the Tucks take her home and	770L
Expanding NATALLE BASSITI		explain why living forever at one age is less a blessing that it might seem. Complications arise when Winnie is followed by a stranger who wants to market the spring water for a fortune.	Grade 7
**Before the Ever After	Woodson,	For as long as ZJ can remember, his dad has been everyone's hero. As a charming,	Fiction
JACQUELINE WOODSON	Jacqueline	talented pro football star, he's as beloved to the neighborhood kids he plays with as he is to his millions of adoring sports fans. But lately life at ZJ's house is anything but	780L
Before Ne Ster After		charming. His dad is having trouble remembering things and seems to be angry all the time. ZJ's mom explains it's because of all the head injuries his dad sustained during his career. ZJ can understand thatbut it doesn't make the sting any less real when his own father forgets his name. As ZJ contemplates his new reality, he has to figure out how to hold on tight to family traditions and recollections of the glory days, all the while wondering what their past amounts to if his father can't remember it. And most importantly, can those happy feelings ever be reclaimed when they are all so busy aching for the past?	Grade 8
**The Mona Lisa	Day, Nicholas	On a hot August day in Paris, just over a century ago, a desperate guard burst into the	780L
Vanishes: A Legendary Painter, A Shocking		office of the director of the Louvre and shouted, <i>La Joconde, c'est partie</i> ! The <i>Mona Lisa,</i> she's gone!	Grade 7-8

Heist, and the Birth of a Global Celebrity		No one knew who was behind the heist. Was it an international gang of thieves? Was it an art-hungry American millionaire? Was it the young Spanish painter Pablo Picasso, who was about to remake the very art of painting? Travel back to an extraordinary period of revolutionary change: turn-of-the-century Paris. Walk its backstreets. Meet the infamous thieves—and detectives—of the era. And then slip back further in time and follow Leonardo da Vinci, painter of the <i>Mona Lisa</i> , through his dazzling, wondrously weird life. Discover the secret at the heart of the <i>Mona Lisa</i> —the most famous painting in the world should never have existed at all.	
**Same But Different: Teen Life on the Autism Express Helly Relinion Rets SAME DIFFERENT TIEN LIFE ON THE APPEAL EVALUATION.	Peete, RJ; Peete, Ryan Elizabeth; Peete, Holy Robinson	Same But Different: Teen Life on the Autism Express is a book that shares the real-life experiences of twins, RJ and Ryan, as they navigate teenage life, one of whom has autism. Through their stories, the book sheds light on the challenges and triumphs they face as siblings, friends, and individuals. It highlights the importance of understanding, acceptance, and celebrating differences while showcasing the unique perspectives and strengths of each individual.	Nonfiction 780L Grade 7-8
The House with a Clock in its Walls	Bellairs, John Gorey, Edward	When Lewis Barnavelt, an orphan, comes to stay with his uncle Jonathan, he expects to meet an ordinary person. But he is wrong. Uncle Jonathan and his next-door neighbor, Mrs. Zimmermann, are both magicians! Lewis is thrilled. At first, watching magic is enough. Then Lewis experiments with magic himself and unknowingly resurrects the former owner of the house: a woman named Serenna Izard. It seems that Serenna and her husband built a timepiece into the walls – a clock that could obliterate humankind. And only the Barnavelts can stop it!	Fiction 800L Grade 7

A Dog's Life: Autobiography of a Stray Ann M. Martin Dog's Life THE PROMOTE AND ADDRESS	Martin, Ann M.	Squirrel and her brother Bone begin their lives in a toolshed behind someone's summer house. Their mother nurtures them and teaches them the many skills they need to survive as stray dogs. But when their mother is taken from them suddenly and too soon, the puppies are forced to make their own way in the world, facing humans both gentle and brutal, busy highways, other animals, and the changing seasons. When Bone and Squirrel become separated, Squirrel must fend for herself, and in the process makes two friends who in very different ways define her fate.	Fiction 800L Grade 7
A Week in the Woods Andrewclements	Clements, Andrew	The fifth-grade Week in the Woods is a beloved tradition of Hardy Elementary, where Mark Chelmsley (the Fourth) is pretty much killing time before his parents send him off to an exclusive prep school. But then Mark realizes the Week might be a chance to prove to Mr. Maxwell that he's not just another of the slacker rich kids the teacher can't stand. But it may be too late for Mark to change Mr. Maxwell's opinion of him. On the first day of the Week, the tension between teacher and student explodes, and in a reckless moment, Mark puts not only himself, but also Mr. Maxwell, in grave danger. Can two such strong adversaries work together to save their lives?	Fiction 820L Grade 7
The Graveyard Book REIL GAIMAN GRAVEYARD BOOK BOOK	Gaiman, Neil McKean, Dave	Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a sprawling graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor of the dead. There are dangers and adventures in the graveyard for a boy. But if Bod leaves the graveyard, then he will come under attack from the man Jack, who has already killed Bod's family.	Fiction 820L Grade 7

Becoming Naomi Leon	Munoz Ryan,	Naomi Soledad Leon Outlaw has had a lot to contend with in her young life, her name for	Fiction
PAM MUNOZ RYAN Becoming Raoming Lecture	Pam	one. Then there are her clothes (sewn in polyester by Gram), her difficulty speaking up, and her status at school as "nobody special." But according to Gram, most problems can be overcome with positive thinking. And with Gram and her little brother, Owen, life at Avocado Acres Trailer Rancho in California is happy and peacefuluntil their mother reappears after seven years of being gone, stirring up all sorts of questions and challenging Naomi to discover and proclaim who she really is.	830L Grade 8
**Girl in Translation GIRL TRANSLATION	Kwok, Jean	When Kimberly Chang and her mother emigrate from Hong Kong to Brooklyn squalor, she quickly begins a secret double life: exceptional schoolgirl during the day, Chinatown sweatshop worker in the evenings. Disguising the more difficult truths of her life—like the staggering degree of her poverty, the weight of her family's future resting on her shoulders, or her secret love for a factory boy who shares none of her talent or ambition—Kimberly learns to constantly translate not just her language but herself back and forth between the worlds she straddles.	Fiction 840L Grade 7-8
**The Great American Dustbowl	Brown, Don	A graphic novel account of the giant dust storms in the Midwest in the 1930s discusses the ecological and agricultural damage caused by the storms.	Nonfiction Graphic Novel GN860L Grade 6

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens: The Ultimate Teenage Success Guide THABITS THENS SEAN OVEY Angelie for through off	Covey, Stephen R.	Being a teenager is both wonderful and challenging. In The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, author Sean Covey applies the timeless principles of the 7 Habits to teens and the tough issues and life-changing decisions they face. In an entertaining style, Covey provides a step-by-step guide to help teens improve self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve their goals, get along with their parents, and much more.	Nonfiction 870L All grade levels
The Roar	Clayton, Emma	Mika and Ellie live in a future behind a wall, safe from the plague of animals beyond. Or so they've been told. But when one of them vanishes and the other takes part in a sinister virtual reality game, they discover their concrete world is built on lies. Lies spun by a government that decades ago conspired to "save" the world – but only for the chosen few.	Fiction 910L Grade 8
**Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina & New Orleans DROWNED CITY	Brown, Don	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. One thousand eight hundred and thirty-three people lost their lives. The riveting tale of this historic storm and the drowning of an American city is one of selflessness, heroism, and courage—and also of incompetence, racism, and criminality.	Nonfiction Graphic Novel GN920L Grade 8

A Long Way Gone:	Beah, Ishmael	The book is a firsthand account of Beah's time as a child soldier during the civil war in	Nonfiction
Memoirs of a Boy Soldier a long way gone Pennes of a By solder ishmael beah		Sierra Leone (1990s). Beah ran away from his village at the age of 12 after it was attacked by rebels, and he became forever separated from his immediate family. He wandered the war-filled country and was forced to join an army unit who brainwashed him into using guns and drugs. By 13, he had perpetrated and witnessed a great deal of violence. At the age of 16, however, UNICEF removed him from the unit and put him into a rehabilitation program. He was then given an opportunity to teach others about child soldiers. He traveled the United States recounting his story.	920L Grade 8
Rosa Parks: My Story	Haskins, James	Rosa Parks is widely known as perhaps the single most important symbol of the civil rights movement. Her refusal to give up her seat to a white man in the colored section of a segregated bus in December 1955 could be said to have incited the movement that eventually led to the end of segregation laws in the South. Rosa narrates in a calm, direct fashion how this singular act grew out of a lifetime of being dissatisfied with any kind of disrespectful treatment.	Nonfiction 970L Grade 7
Locked in Time	Duncan, Lois	Nore Roberts didn't ask for a new life, but now that her mom is gone and her dad is newly married, she has to settle in at Shadow Grove, the old Civil War mansion her stepfamily calls home. When she meets her stepmother, Lisette, Nore is shocked by Lisette's youth and beauty, which give her chills and a hint of something sinister. When she begins to feel like the target of a deadly plan, Nore starts digging into her stepfamily's past. The skeletons in their closet are more real than she ever imagined. Can Nore expose her stepmother's dark secret before an old and evil magic swallows her up?	Fiction 990L Grade 8
Lockdown – Escape from Furnace	Smith, Alexander Gordon	Furnace Penitentiary: the world's most secure prison for young offenders, buried a mile beneath the earth's surface. Convicted of a murder he didn't commit, sentenced to life without parole, Alex Sawyer knows he has two choices: find a way out, or resign himself to a death behind bars in the darkness at the bottom of the world.	Fiction 1010L Grade 8

LOCKDOWN CONTROL OF THE STATE			
Love that Dog	Creech, Sharon	A boy named Jack finds his voice with the help of a teacher, a pencil, some yellow paper, and of course, a dog. Written as a series of free-verse poems from Jack's point of view, this novel begins with Jack hating poetry. Only girls write it and every time he tries to, his brain feels empty. But his teacher, Miss Stretchberry, won't stop giving her class poetry assignments – and Jack can't avoid them. But then something amazing happens. The more he writes, the more he learns that he does have something to say.	Fiction 1010L Grade 8
Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America PROMISES TO REP	Robinson, Sharon	Sharon Robinson shares memories of her famous father in this warm, loving biography of the man who broke the color barrier in baseball. Jackie Robinson was an outstanding athlete, a devoted family man and a dedicated civil rights activist.	Nonfiction 1030L All grade levels
Blizzard: The Storm that Changed America	Murphy, Jim	On March 12, 1888, the skies from Virginia to Maine turned an angry gray, and snow began to fall. Long-range weather forecasts didn't exist at the time, so no one knew that a howling white monster was about to strike. Snow began falling over New York City. What no one realized was that in a very few hours, the wind and snow would bury the city in nearly 21 inches of snow and bring it to a standstill.	Nonfiction 1080L Grade 8

**Noise: A Graphic Novel Based on a True Story	Kathleen Raymundo	An introverted girl who just wanted to be left alone. A talkative little boy with a very important wish. Based on a true story, Noise is the heartwarming tale of finding joy in unexpected places. Short and sweet, a full-color comic book for both children and adults alike.	Fiction Graphic Novel Based on a true story Lexile unavailable All grade levels
** Almost American Girl	Ha, Robin	When Robin and her mom travel from Korea to the US for vacation, Robin expects it to be a short trip. Instead, her mom announces she is getting married, and they'll be staying in Alabama for good. Suddenly, Robin is cut off from her friends and stuck at a high school where she doesn't even speak the language.	Fiction Lexile unavailable Grade 7-8
**Swim Team	Christmas, Johnnie	Bree can't wait for her first day at her new middle school, Enith Brigitha, home to the Mighty Manatees—until she's stuck with the only elective that fits her schedule, the dreaded Swim 101. The thought of swimming makes Bree more than a little queasy, yet she's forced to dive headfirst into one of her greatest fears. Lucky for her, Etta, an elderly occupant of her apartment building and former swim team captain, is willing to help. With Etta's training and a lot of hard work, Bree suddenly finds her swim-crazed community counting on her to turn the school's failing team around. But that's easier said than done, especially when their rival, the prestigious Holyoke Prep, has everything they need to leave the Mighty Manatees in their wake.	Fiction Lexile unavailable Grade 6