



# READING LIST

Grades  
6–8

## BOOKS

### THE BAKER AND THE BARD: A COZY FANTASY ADVENTURE

BY FERN HAUGHT

FEIWEL & FRIENDS, 2024  
ISBN: 9781250828507

A baker's apprentice and a young bard go on an adventure to secure the final ingredient needed for a massive pastry order. Along the way, they encounter mysterious happenings and meet fantastical beings.

### BYE FOREVER, I GUESS

BY JODI MEADOWS

HOLIDAY HOUSE, 2024  
ISBN: 9780823456383

Introverted Ingrid thrives in a role-playing game online but spends school days alone until her virtual crush presents an in-real-life opportunity. A charming look at first crushes, healthy friendships, and book superfandom.

### FLYING THROUGH WATER

BY MAMLE WOLO

LITTLE, BROWN, 2024  
ISBN: 9780316703963

Sena will have to use all the survival skills he has learned from his grandfather in rural Ghana to survive and escape from the human traffickers who trapped him.

### IMPOSSIBLE CREATURES

BY KATHERINE RUNDELL, ILLUSTRATED BY ASHLEY MACKENZIE

KNOPE, 2024  
ISBN: 9780593809860

Two children fight to save a magical land where the last magical creatures are threatened with extinction.

### KAREEM BETWEEN

BY SHIFA SALTAGI SAFADI

PUTNAM, 2024  
ISBN: 9780593699263

Caught between his Syrian heritage and his desire to be seen as American, Kareem pursues his dream of being the first Syrian American football player, even if it means putting aside what is most important.

### MID-AIR

BY ALICIA D. WILLIAMS, ILLUSTRATED BY DANICA NOVGORODOFF

ATHENEUM, 2024  
ISBN: 9781481465830

When Isaiah loses his best friend in a tragic accident, he must navigate grief, fractured friendships, and his own identity in this moving novel in verse.

### THE MYSTERY OF LOCKED ROOMS

BY LINDSAY CURRIE

SOURCEBOOKS, 2024  
ISBN: 9781728259536

In an abandoned funhouse, three friends unlock clues to discover a hidden treasure.

### NEXT STOP

BY DEBBIE FONG

RANDOM HOUSE GRAPHIC, 2024  
ISBN: 9780593425183

Dealing with the grief of losing her brother, Pia embarks on a road trip that ends at a mysterious lake rumored to grant wishes. An exploration of grief and resilience told with humor and heart.

### NOT NOTHING

BY GAYLE FORMAN

ALADDIN, 2024  
ISBN: 9781665943277

While doing court ordered volunteer work at a senior home, twelve-year-old Alex meets 107-year-old

Josey who hasn't spoken in years. A bond develops, and they help each other overcome mistakes and misunderstandings.

### NOT QUITE A GHOST

BY ANNE URSU

WALDEN POND, 2024  
ISBN: 9780062275158

Amid a variety of changes in her life, Violet Hart must come to terms with her illness and a dark shadowy presence in her new home.

### THE PALE QUEEN

BY ETHAN M. ALDRIDGE

QUILL TREE, 2024  
ISBN: 9780063247215

After a chance encounter with the mysterious Lady of the Hills, Agatha learns of a hidden mist-shrouded land. But is the Lady who she appears to be, and can Agatha protect her village?

### THE PICTURE VISITORS: A CASE FOR THE VAN GOGH AGENCY

BY CHRISTINA WOLFF, TRANSLATED BY CLAIRE STOREY

ARCTIS BOOKS, 2024  
ISBN: 9781646900299

This adventure follows Vincent, who has the ability to jump in and out of paintings. As he pursues an art thief, he meets two other teens who also possess this ability.

### SHARK TEETH

BY SHERRI WINSTON

BLOOMSBURY, 2024  
ISBN: 9781547608508

In this portrait of a family in crisis, seventh-grader Sharkita struggles to care for her siblings and hold her family together as they face the possibility of separation by the foster care system.

## SIDE QUEST: A VISUAL HISTORY OF ROLEPLAYING GAMES

BY SAMUEL SATTIN,  
ILLUSTRATED BY STEENZ

VERSIFY, 2024  
ISBN: 9780358616368

This graphic novel is a dive into the world of role-playing games (RPG), presenting stories from the creators about their RPG experiences and fascinating tidbits about the medium with origins dating back to ancient Asia.

## SPYING ON SPIES: HOW ELIZABETH SMITH FRIEDMAN BROKE THE NAZIS' SECRET CODES

BY MARISSA MOSS

ABRAMS, 2024  
ISBN: 9781419767319

A great addition to books about women's contributions to science. Readers will enjoy learning about the brilliant Friedman in this narrative nonfiction title featuring photographs and graphic novel-style drawings. The back matter includes codes and ciphers to learn and practice.

## TAKE IT FROM THE TOP

BY CLAIRE SWINARSKI

QUILL TREE, 2024  
ISBN: 9780063321731

Their tremendous talent and love for performing arts first brought besties Eowyn and Jules together at Lamplighter Lake summer camp, but this sixth summer finds the girls barely speaking. Through flashbacks and chapters from each girl's perspective, readers piece together their current tension as the pair prepare for starring roles in a production of *Wicked*.



ALSC reading lists are created by children's librarians as a resource to share with patrons. These titles may also be available in ebook, audio book, braille, and large print formats. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to explore this list to find resources that may match or spark their child's interest. Connect with your local library to find out what's happening this summer.

## THE TENTH MISTAKE OF HANK HOOPERMAN

BY GENNIFER CHOLDENKO

KNOPF, 2024  
ISBN: 9781524718923

Left to care for his little sister while facing eviction and an uncertain future after the disappearance of their mother, eleven-year-old Hank reaches out to a stranger on an emergency contact form for help.

## UNSINKABLE CAYENNE

BY JESSICA VITALIS

GREENWILLOW, 2024  
ISBN: 9780063314450

After being homeschooled by her parents while living out of their van, Cayenne starts seventh grade at a middle school. A fascinating story told in verse.

## WE ARE BIG TIME

BY HENA KHAN, ILLUSTRATED  
BY SAFIYA ZERROUGUI

KNOPF, 2024  
ISBN: 9780593430484

This heartfelt graphic novel follows Aliya as she joins the struggling all-girls basketball team at her new Islamic school.

## WEIRDO

BY TONY WEAVER, JR., ILLUSTRATED  
BY JES WIBOWO AND CIN WIBOWO

FIRST SECOND, 2024  
ISBN: 9781250772879

When relentless bullying at school leads to a mental crisis for seventh-grader Tony, a move to a new school

helps him find his own pack of "nerds" and embrace his own weirdness.

## DIGITAL

### 1 SECOND EVERYDAY APP

<https://1se.co/>

By taking one photo or video each day, young adults will create a visual record of their daily life. Journaling is important for a young adult to do each day, and this app provides a new way to capture a moment from their day. At the end of the year, a highlight reel is created.

### EXPLORE: LIVE WEBCAMS

<https://explore.org/livecams>

Explore the world's largest nature live-cam network, providing live views in real time of bears fishing, wildfires in action, eagle eggs hatching, and so much more. Hours of fun and entertainment along with information about the animals, locations, maps, viewing information, and more.

### KIDSTHINKDESIGN: A KIDS DESIGN COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

<https://kidsthinkdesign.org/>

This site is dedicated to the inspiration and education of future designers. Activities include access to books on design, a design lab that connects kids with professionals, and a website that showcases kids' original designs and thinking.

[www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc)

The 2025 Summer Reading List was created by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). Titles on this list were selected by members of ALSC's Quicklists Consulting Committee.

For more booklists, please visit [www.ala.org/alsc/booklists](http://www.ala.org/alsc/booklists).

© 2025 American Library Association