



Chattanooga
Public Library

SUMMER READING PICKS 2020 GRADES 9 » 12

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Chattanooga Public Library is proud to present its 2020 List of recommended Summer Reading Picks. Chosen by local expert librarians, these titles are great reads and are highly regarded in the book community, receiving many awards, excellent reviews and popular appeal. We hope that the 2020 List will help your family pick the best books for your child, grades K-12. All of the books on the List are available at your local library. Your local librarian can suggest additional titles.

Reading in the summer helps build on the skills obtained during the school year so that learning continues into the next grade year. We need the support and encouragement of families to ensure that all of our children become excellent readers.

Happy Reading!

Corinne Hill
Executive Director
Chattanooga Public Library

CLASSICS

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

by Douglas Adams
Just before Earth is obliterated, Arthur Dent and his friend, an alien researcher, hitch a ride on a spaceship.
F Ada

The Perks of Being a Wallflower

by Stephen Chbosky
A shy teenager navigates the intricacies of life during his freshman year of high school.
Y Chb

A Lesson Before Dying

by Ernest Gaines
Sentenced to death, a young African American finds strength while maintaining his dignity.
F Gai

The Outsiders

by E. S. Hinton
Misunderstood teens deal with gangs and violence in 1960s Oklahoma.
Y Hin

CLASSICS

The Joy Luck Club

by Amy Tan
A mahjong game brings together four Chinese immigrant mothers to share stories of their lives with their American-raised daughters.
F Tan

FANTASY & SCI-FI

Children of Blood and Bone

by Tomi Adeyemi
A hero fights against the oppression of the maji, magical people thought to be eradicated by an evil king.
Y Ade

The Hazel Wood

by Melissa Albert
After Alice's mother goes missing, she enters a supernatural world to find answers.
Y Alb

The Ocean at the End of the Lane

by Neil Gaiman
A man returning to his childhood home remembers the encounter he had with a strange girl and her family.
F Gai

How Long 'til Black Future Month?

by N. K. Jemisin
Incredible collection of science fiction and fantasy stories.
S-C Jem

The Hive

by Barry Lyga
After posting a tasteless joke, Cassie faces condemnation from a crowdsourced justice system.
Y Lyg

Cinder

by Marissa Meyer
A cyborg meets the Prince and helps save Lunar from a deadly plague.
Y Mey

FANTASY & SCI-FI

Scythe
by Neal Shusterman
When illness and death are eradicated on Earth, it is up to Scythes to decide who lives and who dies.
Y Shu

HISTORICAL FICTION

The War Outside
by Monica Hesse
Two girls form a bond at an internment camp during WWII.
Y Hes

Let Me Hear a Rhyme
by Tiffany D. Jackson
After Steph's murder, his friends come up with a way to let his music live on.
Y Jac

The Tattooist of Auschwitz
by Heather Morris
A Jewish man remarkably finds love under atrocious conditions.
F Mor

The Bluest Eye
by Toni Morrison
A young African American girl longs for blond hair and blue eyes, believing they will protect her from the injuries of racism and abuse.
F Mor

Esperanza Rising
by Pam Muñoz Ryan
During the Depression, a family's life changes and they are forced to move into a farm labor camp.
J Rya

I Capture the Castle
by Dodie Smith
An old English castle is brought to life, thanks to the imagination and wit of its young residents.
F Smi

HISTORICAL FICTION

The Nickel Boys

by Colson Whitehead

In the Jim Crow South of the early 1960s, Elwood Curtis is sent to a horrific juvenile reformatory.

F Whi

The Book Thief

by Markus Zusak

Recognizing the power of words, a girl learns to read from books she steals from the Nazis.

Y Zus

MODERN REALISM

With the Fire on High

by Elizabeth Acevedo

Becoming a mother while in high school has not stopped Emoni's dream of becoming a chef.

Y Ace

Sorry For Your Loss

by Jessie Ann Foley

Pup Flanagan, the youngest of 8 siblings, uses photography to help him through the grieving process after the sudden death of his older brother.

Y Fol

Darius the Great is Not Okay

by Adib Khorram

A teen visiting his family in Iran comes to terms with his identity while building his self-confidence.

Y Kho

Slay

by Brittney Morris

A high-schooler doubles as an honor student and online role-playing gamer.

Y Mor

MODERN REALISM

Forward Me Back to You

by Mitali Perkins

Two teens from different backgrounds come together after one of them suffers a great trauma.

Y Per

Patron Saints of Nothing

by Randy Ribay

Jay travels to the Philippines to find out how and why his cousin was murdered.

Y Rib

On the Come Up

by Angie Thomas

Bri aspires to follow in the footsteps of her famous father's rap career.

Y Tho

Frankly In Love

by David Yoon

Frank's first love will upset his Korean parents, so he and a friend devise a complicated plan to keep them from disappointment.

Y Yoo

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Black Panther Part One: Avengers of the New World

by Ta-Nehisi Coates

T'Challa searches for the gods of Wakanda.

Graphic Bla

I am Alfonso Jones

by Tony Medina

After being killed, Alfonso wakes up on a ghost train filled with other victims of police shootings.

Y Graphic I

GRAPHIC NOVELS

One Punch Man

by Yusuke Murata

Saitama, a different kind of superhero, has no problem punching out his opponents.

Y Graphic One

The Prince and the Dressmaker

by Jen Wang

A seamstress makes dresses for a Prince whose secret identity is Lady Crystallia.

Y Graphic Pri

Pumpkinheads

by Rainbow Rowell

Two friends spend their last shift at the pumpkin patch together before graduating high school and having to say goodbye.

Y Graphic Pum

They Called Us Enemy

by George Takei

Takei recalls his childhood experience living in an American concentration camp.

Graphic The

NONFICTION

Shout: A Poetry Memoir

by Laurie Halse Anderson

An honest and raw look at women's rights and the real-life struggles women are facing.

Y 811.54 And

The Grand Escape: The Greatest Prison Breakout of the 20th Century

by Neal Bascomb

During WWI, a group of POWs plan their incredible escape from Holzminden.

NONFICTION

Y 940.4724 Bas

Parkland: Birth of a Movement

by David Cullen

High school students outraged by the mass shooting that killed their classmates start a worldwide movement.

371.782 Cul

The Boys Who Challenged Hitler

by Phillip Hoose

Young adults in Denmark sabotage Nazis occupying their country.

J 940.5348 Hoo

Steal Like an Artist

by Austin Kleon

Observe, study and transform the world around you while learning to be your creative self.

153.35 Kle

What If?: Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions

by Randall Munroe

Laugh-out-loud, but accurate, answers to odd scientific questions.

500 Mun

The 57 Bus

by Dashka Slater

The true story about both the victim and offender of a violent hate crime.

Y 364.1555 Sla

The Girl Who Smiled Beads

by Clemantine Wamariya

Two young sisters flee the Rwandan genocide and journey together across Africa looking for safety.

B Wam

Because this list includes books for a range of grades, please be aware that some titles may contain advanced content that might not be appropriate for everyone. If you need help making selections, ask your librarian for guidance.



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