

The Summer Reading Challenge

*“You’re off to Great Places! Today is your day! ...
Your mountain is waiting, So...get on your way!”
—Dr. Seuss (Oh, the Places You’ll Go!)*

Suggested Reading List

Poetry

Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars: Space Poems and Paintings - by Douglas Florian. Ages 5-10.

Tap Dancing on the Roof: Sijo (Poems) - by Linda Sue Park. Ages 5-8.

Harlem: A Poem - by Walter Dean Myers. Ages 9+.

Picture Books

The Babe & I - by David A. Adler, Terry Widener. It’s 1932 and hard times are everywhere, but America still loves baseball, and Babe Ruth is the star. Two boys discover that with hard work, some imagination and Babe Ruth, they can help their team. Ages 4-8.

Silent Movie - by Avi, C.B. Mordan. In the early years of the 20th century, a Swedish family encounters separation and other hardships upon emigrating to New York City until the son is cast in a silent movie. Ages 4-8.

Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity - by Mo Willems. A toy bunny is lost and found again. Ages 4-8.

Early Readers

Eloise and the Snowman - by Lisa McClatchy, Kay Thompson, Hilary Knight. When snow starts falling in NYC, Eloise skips breakfast to rush out to Central Park to build a snowman.

The Copper Lady - by Alice Ross. After helping Monsieur Bartholdi build the Statue of Liberty, a Parisian orphan stows away on the ship carrying the statue to America.

Elementary Readers

Exploring Our World

The Up and Down Spring - by Johanna Hurwitz. While 11-year-old Rory vacations at Bolivia’s house in Ithaca, N.Y., he tries to hide his fear of flying after Bolivia suggests a trip in her uncle’s airplane.

What To Do About Alice - by Barbara Kerley, Edward Fotheringham. Theodore Roosevelt’s daughter, Alice, proved to be a handful to her father. She was hungry to go places, meet people, do things, but her father called it running riot. Alice called it eating up the world.

Fantasy and Mystery

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow - by Washington Irving, illustrated by Gris Grimly. It’s a comic book styled after the original Irving story about the headless horseman.

The Catskill Witch and Other Tales of the Hudson Valley - by James McMurry, Jeff Jones. Folklore about the Hudson Valley.

Friendship

The Broken Bike Boy and the Queen of 33rd Street - by Sharon G. Flake. Ten-year-old Queen, a spoiled and conceited African-American girl who is disliked by most of her classmates, learns a lesson about friendship from an unlikely “knight in shining armor.”

Drita, My Homegirl! - by Jenny Lombard. When 10-year-old Drita and her family, refugees from Kosovo, move to New York, Drita is teased about not speaking English well. But after a popular student named Maxine is forced to learn about Kosovo as punishment for teasing Drita, the two girls soon bond.

Humor

2095 - by Jon Scieszka, Adam McCauley. This time around, the Time Warp Trio gets sent to New York City in 2095 and encounters a number of surprising adventures. Some very funny things happen before the three can figure out how to get back to their own time.

History

The Amazing Impossible Erie Canal - by Cheryl Harness. Tells the story of building the Erie Canal.

Drums at Saratoga (Stories of the States) - by Lisa Banim. Lured by the glamour and excitement of a soldier’s life, 11-year-old Nathaniel follows the British army down the Hudson Valley during the American Revolution and witnesses the true hardships of war.

Sports

Winning Words: Sports Stories and Photographs - by Charles R. Smith Jr. This collection of short stories and photographs shows young athletes overcoming their fears and challenging themselves to do their best.

Patrick Doyle is Full of Blarney - by Jennifer Armstrong. In New York City’s Hell’s Kitchen section of New York City from 1915, Patrick Doyle gets access to a baseball diamond through his skill and the help of Giants hitter, Larry Doyle.

Middle-School Readers/Tweens

Exploring Our World

The Seer of Shadows - by Avi. In New York City in 1872, 14-year-old Horace becomes entangled in a plot to create fraudulent spirit photographs. When Horace accidentally frees the real ghost of a dead girl bent on revenge, his life takes a frightening turn.

Steel Drumming at the Apollo: The Road to Super Top Dog - by Trish Marx. A photo-essay about a high school steel drum band from upstate New York that won Super Top Dog on Amateur Night at the Apollo Theater in Harlem.

Fantasy and Mystery

Spaceheadz - by Jon Scieszka, Shane Prigmore, Francesco Sedita. On his first day at Brooklyn’s P.S. 858, fifth-grader Michael K. is teamed with two very strange students. He gradually comes to believe they are aliens who need his help, but he has trouble convincing anyone else of the truth.

When You Reach Me - by Rebecca Stead. Sixth-grader Miranda begins to receive mysterious notes about the future. These notes are eerily reminiscent of her favorite novel, “A Wrinkle in Time.”

Friendship

All the Way Home - by Patricia Reilly Giff. In 1941, circumstances bring together Brick, a boy from New York’s apple country, and Mariel, a young girl made shy by her bout with polio. The two make a journey from Brooklyn to upstate New York to help Brick’s elderly neighbors save their apple crop and to help Mariel learn about her past.

Nothing’s Fair in the Fifth Grade - by Barthe DeClements. This story follows Elsie, who has no friends in school and is disliked by everyone for stealing lunch money until a girl named Jenny befriends her. This is a read full of friendship, the real world, and fifth grade.

Humor

A Fate Totally Worse Than Death - by Paul Fleischman. In this horror novel parody, three self-centered members of Cliffside High School’s ruling clique, who are beginning to age rapidly, become convinced that the beautiful new exchange student is the ghost of the girl whose death they caused the year before.

Historical

You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton? - by Jean Fritz. Convinced from an early age that women should have the same rights as men, Lizzie embarked on a career that changed America.

Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire - by Donna Getzinger. A historical account of the tragic 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, 100 years ago, on the top floors of a Manhattan high-rise that killed 146 factory workers, most of whom were immigrant women.

Sports

Heat - by Mike Lupica. A young Cuban immigrant, Michael Arroyo, is a great little league pitcher in the Bronx. When a rival player’s team questions his age and ability, he is sidelined and the young star athlete cannot help get his team to the Little League World Series.

Bug Boy - by Eric Luper. The setting is Saratoga Springs in the summer of 1934, and 15-year-old Jack is promoted to apprentice jockey – his lifelong dream. With all the pressure to stay in the game, the dream turns out to be more of a nightmare.