

WCGS Summer Reading Challenge for
Rising 7th and 8th Graders
2025 Reading List



Action

Beneath by Roland Smith
The Last Thing I Remember by Andrew Klavan
Stormbreaker (Alex Rider) by Anthony Horowitz

Classics

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
Animal Farm by George Orwell
***Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery (YABOB)**
Call of the Wild by Jack London
Christy by Catherine Marshall
The Fellowship of the Ring by J.R.R. Tolkien
The Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle
Journey to the Center of the Earth by Jules Verne
The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood by Howard Pyle
Out of the Silent Planet by C.S. Lewis
The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton
The Pilgrim's Progress adapted by Gary Schmidt
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
The Story of King Arthur and His Knights by Howard Pyle
The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells

Fantasy/Science-Fiction

Amari and the Night Brothers* by B. B. Alston
Dragon Slippers by Jessica Day George
Dragon's Tooth by N.D. Wilson
Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card
The False Prince by Jennifer Nielsen
The Giver by Lois Lowry
The Golden Braid by Melanie Dickerson
House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer
Leviathan by Scott Westerfield
Matched by Ally Condie
The Maze Runner by James Dashner
The Ogress and the Orphans by Kelly Regan Barnhill
On the Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness (Wingfeather Saga) by Andrew Peterson
Powerless* by Matthew Cody (YABOB)
The Ruins of Gorlan (Ranger's Apprentice) or *The Outcasts (Brotherband)* by John Flanagan
Skyward* by Brandon Sanderson
Sweep by Jonathan Auxier
The Unwanteds by Lisa McMann

Historical Fiction

The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak
Chains or Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson
Everything Sad is Untrue (A True Story) by Daniel Nayeri
Full Cicada Moon by Marilyn Hilton
The Many Assassinations of Samir: Seller of Dreams* by Daniel Nayeri
***Refugee** or *Ground Zero* by Alan Gratz**
Shadow on the Mountain by Margi Preus
The Star That Always Stays by Anna Rose Johnson
A Night Divided* by Jennifer Nielsen (YABOB)

Mystery

And Then There Were None or Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie

The Bletchley Riddle* by Ruta Sepetys and Steve Sheinkin

The Case of the Missing Marquess: An Enola Holmes Mystery by Nancy Springer

City Spies by James Ponti

Death Cloud* by Andy Lane

School for Whatnots by Margaret Peterson Haddix

The Shadow Cipher (York series) by Laura Ruby

Nonfiction/Biography

Billy Graham or Elisabeth Elliot by Janet and Geoff Benge

Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy (Young readers edition) by Eric Metaxas

The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible (Schindler's List) by Leon Leyson

The Boys in the Boat by Gregory Mone (Young readers' edition)

The Plot to Kill Hitler: Dietrich Bonhoeffer* by Patricia McCormick

The Case for Christ, Student Edition by Lee Strobel

Don't Check Your Brains at The Door by Sean McDowell and Bob Hostetler

Epic Athletes: Stephen Curry by Dan Wetzel

Fallout or Bomb by Steve Sheinkin

Hidden Figures (Young Readers' Edition) by Margot Lee Shetterly

Joni Eareckson Tada: Swimming Against the Tide* by Catherine MacKenzie

Kisses from Katie: A Story of Relentless Love and Redemption by Katie Davis

The Mona Lisa Vanishes: A Legendary Painter, a Shocking Heist, and the Birth of a Global Celebrity
by Nicholas Day

The Story of My Life by Helen Keller

Titanic: Voices from the Disaster by Deborah Hopkinson

Unbroken: An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive by Laura Hillenbrand (Young readers' edition)

Realistic Fiction

Counting By 7's by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish* by Pablo Cartaya

Genesis Begins Again by Alicia D. Williams

Holes by Louis Sachar

Homecoming by Cynthia Voigt

***Nowhere Boy* by Katherine Marsh (YABOB)**

You Bring the Distant Near* by Mitali Perkins

Award Winners

As Brave as You by Jason Reynolds--Coretta Scott King, Schneider Family Book Award (Realistic Fiction)

Echo* by Pam Munoz Ryan—Newbery Honor (Historical Fiction)

Enchanted Air by Margarita Engle-Pura Belpre Award (Biography/memoir)

Freewater by Amina Luqman-Dawson—Newbery Medal '23 (Historical Fiction)

Heart of a Samurai by Margi Preus-Newbery Honor (Historical Fiction)

The Inquisitors Tale by Adam Gidwitz—Newbery Honor (Fantasy)

The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley—Newbery Honor (Historical Fiction)

Sports

Change Up: Mystery at the World Series* by John Feinstein

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander (Newbery Medal)

Travel Team by Mike Lupica

The Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen (YABOB)

Unstoppable or Touchdown Kid by Tim Green

Ghost by Jason Reynolds

* Indicates a title in the 2025-26 Jr. High Reading Program that would earn credit toward the program.

YABOB—Indicates a title on the 2025 Young Adult Battle of the Books List