

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As the 2021-2022 school year draws to a close, it is my pleasure to present to you our 2021 Summer Reading Assignment. Summer reading is an important activity for your child's intellectual growth and development. It encourages students to continue learning while still providing them with fun and enjoyment. What helps make reading entertaining for children is allowing them the freedom to choose books that speak to their unique interests.

Vineland Public Charter School students entering grade 8 are required to choose TWO (2) books, from the list provided, complete the "Summer Reading Information Sheet" for both books, and choose ONE (1) project to complete from the list below.

**DUE DATE:** ALL projects will be due Friday, September 10th and will count towards a project grade for the first quarter for the 2021-2022 school year.

**SUMMER READING DIRECTIONS:**

1. READ A MINIMUM OF TWO BOOKS SELECTED FROM THE ATTACHED LIST.
2. COMPLETE AN INFORMATION SHEET FOR EACH BOOK (Found on the last pages of this packet.)
3. COMPLETE ONE PROJECT BASED ON ONE OR BOTH BOOKS.

For the 8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment, we have compiled a list of novels, many recommended by students, with a variety of reading levels and subject matter. I encourage all students and their parents or guardians review this list before making their book selection. Most books are readily available and can be checked out from your local library. After reading the books, students will complete the information sheet about each book. Finally, students will create a project inspired from their reading. Carefully review the criteria and the variety of project suggestions that are provided. All students will have the opportunity to present their projects during the first week of school in September. Projects will count as a project grade for the 1st term. All projects are due to your homeroom teacher by Friday, September 10th.

**SUMMER READING INFORMATION SHEET**

Directions: Please complete an information sheet for EACH of the books you selected for Summer

Reading.

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF BOOK \_\_\_\_\_

AUTHOR \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you think the title fits the book? Why or why not? Can you think of a better title?
- Choose one of these two starters and complete it below: If I could be any character in the book, I would be \_\_\_\_\_ because... or When I finished the book I still wondered ....
- How did the book relate to you? Was there a favorite chapter, or quote that appealed to you? Did you learn something new? Explain.
- What is the opening sentence in the book? How does it relate to the book?
- Was there a connection between the two books you read?

## **Adventure**

**Daring Darleen: Queen of the Screen** Lexile 880 by Anne Nesbet  
When a publicity stunt goes terribly wrong, a 12-year-old silent-film star finds herself navigating murderous plots and a runaway airballoon to rescue a kidnapped heiress from a band of dastardly criminals.

**Of Salt and Shore** Lexile 550 by Annet Schaap  
Every night Lampie, the lighthouse keeper's daughter lights the lantern which warns the ships away from the rocks, but when the light goes out one night, a ship is wrecked and Lampie is sent to the Admiral's Black House in disgrace--there she finds and befriends the Admiral's son, who was born with a tail, and together they are pulled into an adventure of mermen and pirates, and secret identities long concealed but soon to be revealed.

**Clan** Lexile 810 by Sigmund Brouwer  
Part survival story, part animal-human friendship story and part redemption story, Clan follows the journey of Atlatl and the sabertooth cub he rescues from a dire wolf attack.

**The Invisible Boy** Lexile 630 by Alyssa Hollingsworth  
A superhero-inspired friendship adventure follows the efforts of a comic-book enthusiast's Lois Lane-style investigation into the identity of an invisible superhero who saves her from almost drowning.

**The Way Past Winter** Lexile 780 by Kiran Millwood Hargrave  
Mila lives with her sisters, Pipa and Sanna, her brother Oskar, and their sled dogs in the forest where winter has held sway for five years, ever since their father disappeared; but now a strange scary man, flanked by twelve young boys, seems to have bewitched Oskar and taken him away--and Mila, convinced her brother is in danger, leads her sisters in a desperate journey across the frozen wild-lands to find their brother, and perhaps a way past an eternal winter. (Fantasy)

## **Realistic Fiction**

**The Truth According to Blue** Lexile N/A by Eve Yohalem  
Embarking on a secret hunt for a legendary ship of gold with ties to her ancestors, 13-year-old Blue and her diabetes alert dog clash with a rival treasure hunter and a movie star's bratty daughter, who reveals her own knack for adventure.

**Turtle Boy** Lexile 640 by M. Evan Wolkenstein  
A seventh grader struggles through a new school year marked by bullying, his teacher's insistence that he return captured turtles to the wild and a bar mitzvah community service project that requires him to spend time visiting a terminally ill boy in the hospital.

**A Home for Goddesses and Dogs** Lexile 570 by Leslie Connor  
After the death of her mother, Lydia moves in with her aunts and learns to find a new family of inspiring women and loving dogs.

**Things You Can't Say****Lexile 610**

by Jenn Bishop

Nothing is going right this summer for Drew. And after losing his dad unexpectedly three years ago, Drew knows a lot about things not going right. First, it's the new girl Audrey taking over everything at the library, Drew's sacred space. Then it's his best friend, Filipe, pulling away from him. But most upsetting has to be the mysterious man who is suddenly staying with Drew's family. With an unlikely ally in Audrey, he's determined to get to the bottom of who this man really is.

**A Song Only I Can Hear Lexile 660**

by Barry Jonsberg

A delightful novel about dreaming big, being brave and marching to the beat of your own drum.

**The Only Black Girls in Town****Lexile N/A**

by Brandy Colbert

In a predominately white California beach town, the only two black seventh-graders, Alberta and Edie, find hidden journals that uncover family secrets and speak to race relations in the past.

**Seven Clues to Home****Lexile 810**

by Gae Polisner

Dreading the arrival of her 13th birthday and the one-year anniversary of her best friend's senseless death, Joy opens a first clue to what used to be a shared annual birthday scavenger hunt and begins a grief-marked search for what might be the last message her friend ever wrote.

**Brave Like That****Lexile N/A**

by Lindsey Stoddard

Adopted by a heroic firefighter after being abandoned as a baby, a misfit who is desperate for a break from work, sports and immature peers bonds with an equally lonely stray while finding the courage to realize his own kind of normal.

**Clues to the Universe****Lexile N/A**

by Christina Li

Though Ro and Benji were only supposed to be science class partners, the pair become unlikely friends: Benji helps Ro finish her rocket, and Ro figures out a way to reunite Benji and his dad. But Benji hesitates, which infuriates Ro. Doesn't he realize how much Ro wishes she could be in his place?

**Take Back the Block****Lexile 670**

by Chrystal D. Giles

Wes Henderson has the best style in sixth grade. That--and hanging out with his crew (his best friends since little-kid days) and playing video games--is what he wants to be thinking about at the start of the school year, not the protests his parents are always dragging him to.

**Like Nothing Amazing Ever Happened****Lexile 620**

by Emily Blejwas

Struggling to pick up the pieces after the sudden death of his father, a young boy struggles with estranged classmates, his brother's depression and his mother's newfound religion before discovering that some things are simply not fully understandable.

**Taylor Before and After****Lexile 690**

by Jennie Englund

In journal entries alternating between two timelines, before and after a tragic accident, this coming-of-age story follows the year that changes one girl's life forever.

**Turning Point****Lexile 730**

by Paula Chase

Best friends Rasheeda and Monique navigate the ups and downs of a teenager's summer, Mo

at home in the Cove; Sheeda at asleepaway ballet intensive.

**Isaiah Dunn is my Hero** Lexile 700 by Kelly J. Baptist  
Referring to his late father's journal for advice on how to be the man of the house, young Isaiah taps the support and ideas of two school friends who help him navigate rules and manage without superpowers.

**The Queen Bee and Me** Lexile N/A by Gillian McDunn  
Twelve-year-old Meg is anxious about growing apart from her best friend Beatrix, but she is also interested in learning about the quirky new student Hazel and her backyard beehive.

**Three Things I Know are True** Lexile 780 by Betty Culley  
Life changes forever for Liv when her older brother, Jonah, accidentally shoots himself with his best friend Clay's father's gun. Now Jonah needs round-the-clock care just to stay alive, and Liv seems to be the only person who can see that her brother is still there inside his broken body.

**Tornado Brian** Lexile N/A by Cat Patrick  
In this heartfelt and powerfully affecting coming of age story, a neurodivergent 7th grader is determined to find her missing best friend before it's too late.

**Parked** Lexile N/A by Danielle Svetcov  
Newly homeless Jeanne Ann and wealthy Cal form a vital friendship as they both search for stability and community, finding it through love of books, art, and food.

**My Life in the Fish Tank** Lexile 620 by Barbara Dee  
When twelve-year-old Zinnia Manning's older brother Gabriel is diagnosed with bipolar disorder, it turns her family's world upside-down, especially since they are keeping the information private.

**When Stars are Scattered** Lexile NA by Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed

Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp, and when an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother in this intimate and touching portrayal of family and daily life in a refugee camp.

**Piecing Me Together** Lexile 680 by Renee Watson  
Tired of being singled out at her mostly-white private school as someone who needs support, high school junior Jade would rather participate in the school's amazing Study Abroad program than join Women to Women, a mentorship program for at-risk girls.

**In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse** Lexile 620 by Joseph Marshall III  
Teased for his fair coloring, eleven-year-old Jimmy McClean travels with his maternal grandfather,

Nyles High Eagle, to learn about his Lakota heritage while visiting places significant in the life of Crazy Horse, the nineteenth-century Lakota leader and warrior, in a tale that weaves the past with the present.

**The Science of Breakable Things**

**Lexile 840**

by Tae Keller

Middle schooler Natalie's year-long assignment to answer a question using the scientific process leads to truths about her mother's depression and her own cultural identity.

**Science Fiction**

**Bloom Book 1 (Series)**

**Lexile 670**

by Kenneth Oppel

The invasion begins--but not as you'd expect. It begins with rain. Rain that carries seeds. Seeds that sprout--overnight, everywhere. These new plants take over crop fields, twine up houses, and burrow below streets. They bloom--and release toxic pollens. They bloom--and form Venus flytrap-like pods that swallow animals and people. They bloom--everywhere, unstoppable. Or are they? Three kids on a remote island seem immune to the toxic plants. Anaya, Petra, Seth. They each have strange allergies--and yet not to these plants. What's their secret? Can they somehow be the key to beating back this invasion? They'd better figure it out fast, because it's starting to rain again...

**The Last Lie (Book 2)**

**Lexile 600**

by Patricia Forde

When the rebels are captured, Letta goes on the run, still striving to preserve language while the vicious new ruler of Ark plans to eliminate it once and for all. (List Book 1)

**Maximillian Fly**

**Lexile 810**

by Angie Sage

Maximillian Fly, a roach-human hybrid, helps two young humans escape from the Bartizan's eye, only to find himself a key player in a deadly war between roaches and humans.

**Bad Order**

**Lexile 730**

by B.B. Ullman

Mary Day, her mute, telepathic brother, Albie, friend Brit and her brother Lars learn there is a leak in the dimensional universe and unless Albie repairs it, evil thoughts will take over.

**Humor**

**Stand Up, Yumi Chung**

**Lexile 620**

by Jessica Kim

When eleven-year-old Yumi Chung stumbles into a kids' comedy camp she is mistaken for another student, so she decides to play the part.

**American as Paneer Pie**

**Lexile 840**

by Supriya Kelkar

Feeling like she lives two lives as the only Indian American girl in her school, Lekha Divekar is excited to meet a Desi newcomer only to discover that her proud new friend has just relocated to America and is not content to be quiet about bullying.

**Not Your All-American Girl**

**Lexile N/A**

by Madelyn

Rosenberg

Trying out for the school play to spend more time with her actress bestie when their sixth-grade

year puts them in different classes, Lauren is devastatingly cast into a lesser part because of her mixed-heritage appearance, despite having a fantastic audition.

### **Fantasy**

**York: The Map of the Stars – Book 3 (Series)**                      **Lexile 720**                      by Laura Ruby  
A conclusion to the trilogy that began with *The Shadow Cipher* and *The Clockwork Ghost* finds Tess, Theo and Jaime continuing their investigation into the Old York Cipher before discovering plans for a mysterious invention.

**Spindlefish and Stars**    **Lexile N/A**    by Christiane Andrews  
When Clo's father goes missing, she takes the mysterious items he left behind and journeys across the sea to find him but is stranded on a strange island and must learn to spin fish into yarn to unravel the secret of all that has happened. **Twilight Hauntings – Book 1 (Series)** **Lexile 850**                      by Angie Sage

A debut installment in a planned duology finds a secret practitioner of forbidden magic and her little brother forced to flee in the wake of a betrayal before finding themselves targeted by mysterious magical predators.

**A Song Below Water – Book 1 (Series)**                      **Lexile 820**    by Bethany C. Morrow  
Tavia is already at odds with the world, forced to keep her siren identity under wraps in a society that wants to keep her kind under lock and key. Never mind she's also stuck in Portland, Oregon, a city with only a handful of black folk and even fewer of those with magical powers. At least she has her bestie Effie by her side as they tackle high school drama, family secrets, and unrequited crushes. **(Mature Reader)**

**The Wolf of Cape Fen**    **Lexile 790**    by Juliana Brandt  
When a magical wolf who comes to collect a debt owed to the malevolent Baron Dire attacks her sister, Eliza places her life in danger to figure out what would have caused her sister to strike an impossible bargain.

**Paola Santiago and the River of Tears**                      **Lexile 840**    by Tehlo Kay Mejia  
In Silver Springs, Arizona, her mother's stories of the monstrous La Llorona are thrilling but unbelievable to science-loving Paola until she and her best friends Dante and Emma take a walk through a cactus field near the Gila River.

**Tristan Strong Destroys the World – Book 2 (Series)**                      **Lexile 710**                      by Kwame Mbalia  
Seventh-grader Tristan must return to Alke and enlist the help of African gods and black folktale heroes when Nana is abducted from the Strong family farm in Alabama.

**Gloom Town**    **Lexile 650**    by Ronald L. Smith  
Twelve-year-old Rory and his friend Izzy try to foil the plans of Lord Foxglove, for whom Rory works as a valet, and his inhuman accomplices from taking over the world.

**Mañanaland**    **Lexile 650**    by Pam Muñoz Ryan  
Twelve-year-old Max, who loves the legend Buelo tells him about a mythical gatekeeper who can

guide brave travelers on a journey into tomorrow, sets out on a dangerous quest to discover if he is true of heart and what the future holds, armed with a treasured compass, a mysterious stone rubbing, and Buelo's legend as his only guides.

**Kiki's Delivery Service**

**Lexile 670**

by Eiko Kadono

An uplifting new translation of the work on which the Hayao Miyazaki film was based finds half-witch Kiki selecting a seaside village to spend a year in accordance with witch tradition, before her efforts to make friends is challenged by the community's reluctance to trust strangers.

**The Magnificent Monsters of Cedar Street**

**Lexile 830**

by Lauren Oliver

Helping to protect the remarkable creatures that her neighbors in late 19th-century Boston call "monsters," Cordelia teams up with human and fantastical friends when her beloved father and several of the creatures in his care go missing.

**Curse of the Night Witch: Emblem Island – Book 1**

**Lexile 770**

by Alex Aster

After changing the fate, he has known since birth, twelve-year-old Tor Luna, accompanied by his friends Engle and Melda, must visit the notorious Night Witch to break the curse he now faces.

**The Artifact Hunters**

**Lexile 740**

by Janet Fox

During World War II, a Czechoslovakian Jewish boy is sent to northern Scotland to live in a castle that houses gifted children who are learning to harness their magical powers to support the Allies' cause.

**Ignite the Sun**

**Lexile N/A**

by Hanna C. Howard

Sixteen-year-old Siria Nightingale has never seen the sun. The light is dangerous, according to Queen Izabel, a witch who shrouded the kingdom in shadow. But what Siria discovers at the Choosing Ball sends her on a quest that could bring back the Light ... or doom the kingdom to shadow forever.

**(Mature Readers)**

**Ikenga**

**Lexile N/A**

by Nnedi Okorafor

In southeastern Nigeria, twelve-year-old Mnamdi is determined to avenge his police chief father, who was murdered while trying to rid the town of criminals, but Mnamdi feels powerless until he receives a magical object which gives him superpowers.

**Elatsoe**

**Lexile N/A**

by Darcie Little

Badger

Elatsoe lives in this slightly stranger America. She can raise the ghosts of dead animals, a skill passed down through generations of her Lipan Apache family. Her beloved cousin has just been murdered, in a town that wants no prying eyes. But she is going to do more than pry. The picture-perfect facade of Willowbee masks gruesome secrets, and she will rely on her wits, skills, and friends to tear off the mask and protect her family. **(Mature Readers)**

**Deeplight**

**Lexile N/A**

by Frances Hardinge

The gods are dead. Decades ago, they turned on one another and tore each other apart. Nobody knows why. But are they really gone forever? When 15-year-old Hark finds the still-beating heart of a terrifying deity, he risks everything to keep it out of the hands of smugglers, military scientists, and a secret fanatical cult so that he can use it to save the life of his best friend, Jelt. But with the heart, Jelt

gradually and eerily transforms. How long should Hark stay loyal to his friend when he's becoming a monster—and what is Hark willing to sacrifice to save him? **(Mature Readers)**

**The Language of Ghosts** Lexile 820 by Heather Fawcett  
Princess Noa, aged eleven, Prince Julian, sixteen, and Princess Mite, five, flee their palace when a coup leads to their mother's death, and unlock a long-forgotten magic to reclaim the stolen throne.

### Classic Fiction

**The Light in the Forest** Lexile 870 by Conrad Richter  
John Cameron Butler was taken captive as a child and raised as a Lenne Lenape Indian, but when required to return to his white family at 15 years of age, adjustment is more than difficult.

**Murder on the Orient Express** Lexile 640 by Agatha Christie  
When a wealthy American is found dead on the Orient Express train while traveling from Istanbul to Paris, Belgian Detective Hercule Poirot suspects that one of thirteen passengers may have committed the crime.

**The Red Badge of Courage** Lexile 340 by Stephen Crane  
Henry Fleming, a young Union soldier, struggles with his conflicting emotions about violence, death, and the nature of bravery in this ironic, skeptical account of the Civil War.

**The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde** Lexile 380 by Robert Lewis Stevenson  
A kind and well-respected doctor is transformed into a murderous madman by taking a secret drug of his own creation.

**Julius Caesar: The Young Reader's Shakespeare (Series)** Lexile 650 by Adam McKeown  
Infusing Shakespeare's verse with modern language, a retelling of the classic play introduces Imperial Rome and an unforgettable cast of characters to a new generation of readers. (Any title in series)

**Uncle Tom's Cabin** Lexile 1050 by Harriet Beecher Stowe  
Uncle Tom's master sells him, separating him from his wife, and he becomes attached to the gentle daughter of his new owner, but after her death, he is sold to the evil Simon Legree. (Mature Readers)

**Redwall (Series)** Lexile 800 by Brian Jacques  
When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy.

**The Tower of Treasure – Book 1 (Series)** Lexile 740 by Franklin Dixon  
After a dying criminal confesses that his loot has been stashed "in the tower," the Hardy boys make an astonishing discovery.

### Mystery Fiction

**The Deceivers: Greystone Secrets – Book 2 (Series)** Lexile 750 by Margaret Peterson

Haddix

Told from separate viewpoints, as Finn, Emma, and Chess Greystone and Natalie Mayhew, ages eight to thirteen, continue their quest to rescue their mothers they must return to the alternate dimension where truth is illegal.

**Lucy Crisp and Vanishing House** Lexile 990 by Janet Hill

Moving to a deceptively quaint and quiet new community, a floundering high school graduate gains acceptance into an exclusive arts college before increasingly threatening phenomena reveal the town's otherworldly history.

**Two Can Keep a Secret...If One is Dead** (Series) Lexile 730 by Karen M. McManus

The town is picture-perfect, but it's hiding secrets. And before school even begins for Ellery, someone's declared open season on homecoming, promising to make it as dangerous as it was five years ago. Then, almost as if to prove it, another girl goes missing. **(Mature Readers)**

**Chirp** Lexile N/A by Kate Messner

Moving to Vermont the summer after seventh grade, a young gymnast hides a secret as she makes new friends and investigates her grandmother's claim that someone is trying to destroy her cricket farm.

**Deepfake** Lexile 710 by Sarah Darer Littman

Dara Simons and Will Halpern are head of the senior class at Greenpoint High, competitors for valedictorian, but also dating each other, a fact that they kept secret until Rumor Has It, an anonymous gossip site, spilled the beans--but worse is to come because the site posts a video that seems to show Dara accusing Will of paying someone to take the SAT for him and suddenly Will is under investigation and his relationship with Dara is on the rocks, even though she denies ever having said anything of the sort, and it becomes imperative to find out who is responsible for the fake video and why they are trying to wreck two lives. (Mature Readers)

**Aggie Morton Mystery Queen: The Body Under the Piano – Book 1 (Series) Lexile 750** by

Marthe Jocelyn Aggie Morton lives in a small town on the coast of England in 1902. Adventurous and imaginative but deeply shy, Aggie hasn't got much to do since the death of her beloved father . . . until the fateful day when she crosses paths with twelve-year-old Belgian immigrant Hector Perot and discovers a dead body on the floor of the Mermaid Dance Room! As the number of suspects grows and

the murder threatens to tear the town apart, Aggie and her new friend will need every tool at their disposal -- including their insatiable curiosity, deductive skills and not a little help from their friends -- to solve the case before Aggie's beloved dance instructor is charged with a crime Aggie is sure she didn't commit.

**Premeditated Myrtle: A Myrtle Hardcastle Mystery – Book 1 (Series) Lexile 740** by

Elizabeth C. Bunce When twelve-year-old aspiring detective Myrtle Hardcastle learns her neighbor in

quiet Swinburne, England, a breeder of rare flowers, has died she is certain it was murder and that she must find the killer.

### **Horror & Suspense**

**Fractured Tide** Lexile 700 by Leslie Karen Lutz  
Seventeen-year-old Sia Gianopoulos writes to her incarcerated father as she and a handful of other survivors reach a mysterious island after a monster sinks their charter boats.

**The Girl and the Ghost** Lexile 840 by Hanna Alkaf  
Suraya is delighted when her witch grandmother gifts her a pelesit. She names her ghostly companion Pink, and the two quickly become inseparable. But Suraya doesn't know that pelesits have a dark side--and when Pink's shadows threaten to consume them both, they must find enough light to survive . . . before they are both lost to the darkness.

### **Historical Fiction**

**A Ceiling Made of Eggshells** Lexile 670 by Gail Carson Levine  
From age seven, Loma relishes traveling with her beloved grandfather across fifteenth-century Spain, working to keep the Jews safe, but soon realizes she must also make sacrifices to help her people. Includes historical notes, recipe, glossary, and a link to a bibliography.

**Village of Scoundrels** Lexile N/A by Margi Preus  
In the 1940s, remote Les Lauzes, France, houses Jews, unregistered foreigners, forgers, and others who take great risks to shelter refugees and smuggle them to safety in Switzerland.

**We Dream of Space** Lexile by Erin Entrada Kelly  
Cash, Fitch, and Bird Thomas are three siblings in seventh grade together in Park, Delaware. In 1986, as the country waits expectantly for the launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger, they each struggle with their own personal anxieties.

**The Blackbird Girls** Lexile 560 by Anne Blankman  
Told in alternating perspectives among three girls--Valentina and Oksana in 1986 and Rifka in 1941--this story shows that hatred, intolerance, and oppression are no match for the power of true friendship.

**Flooded: Requiem for Johnstown** Lexile 900 by Ann E. Burg  
On May 31, 1889, the South Fork Dam built to create a man-made lake for America's wealthiest businessmen collapsed, unleashing twenty million tons of water onto the town of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, below; told in the voices of six children and many others this is the story of the ordinary people of the town, their losses and their survival--and of the bitter aftermath when those for whom the dam was built denied all responsibility for the shoddy dam and the unnatural disaster which it caused.

**Daughter of the White Rose** Lexile N/A by Diane Zahler  
In fifteenth-century England, commoner Nell and her best friend since infancy, Prince Ned, the future king, try to escape after being wrongfully imprisoned in the Tower of London.

**Prairie Lotus** Lexile 730 by Linda Sue Park  
In Dakota Territory in the 1880s, half-Chinese Hanna and her white father face racism and resistance

to change as they try to make a home for themselves.

**Stealing Mt. Rushmore** Lexile 720 by Daphne Kalmar  
In the summer of 1974 Nellie turns thirteen, her best friend has a crush on a boy, her mom has run off, the money for their family roadtrip to see Mt. Rushmore is missing, and her dad has crawled into bed and will not get up, but when Nellie decides the trip out West will fix her family, she will do almost anything to come up with the cash.

**Leaving Lymon** Lexile N/A by Lesa Cline-Ransome  
In a companion to, Finding Langston, young Lymon is uprooted by tragedy from his life in the Deep South of 1946 before the limits of his talents and resilience are tested in two Northern cities.

**All he Knew** Lexile 760 by Helen Frost  
In 1939 six-year-old Henry, who is deaf, is taken from his family and placed in a home for the feeble-minded where, years later, his friends include a conscientious objector serving there during World War II. Includes historical notes. **(Written in free verse and sonnets)**

**Just Like That** Lexile N/A by Gary D. Schmidt  
With insight and a light touch, this story tells two poignant, linked stories: that of a grieving girl and a boy trying to escape his violent past. (Companion to The Wednesday Wars and Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy)

**Peace Maker** Lexile N/A by Joseph Bruchac  
A twelve-year-old Iroquois boy rethinks his calling after witnessing the arrival of a mystical figure with a message of peace in this historical novel based on the creation of the Iroquois Confederacy.

**Brother's Keeper** Lexile N/A by Julie Lee  
Twelve-year-old Sora and her eight-year-old brother, Youngsoo, must try to escape North Korea's oppressive Communist regime on their own in 1950. Includes historical notes, photographs of the author's mother, glossary of Korean words, and timeline.

**In a Flash** Lexile 550 by Donna Jo Napoli  
Caught in Japan and separated from their father when World War II begins, Italian sisters Simona, thirteen, and Carolina, ten, embark on a trying journey hoping to reach safety.

**Front Desk** Lexile 640 by Kelly Yang  
After emigrating from China, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel, despite the nasty owner, Mr. Yao, who exploits them, while she works the front desk and tries to cope with fitting in at her school.

### **Sports Fiction**

**One Last Shot** Lexile 680 by John David Anderson  
For as long as he can remember, Malcolm has never felt like he was good enough. Not for his parents, who have always seemed at odds with each other, with Malcolm caught in between. And

especially not for his dad, whose competitive drive and love for sports Malcolm has never shared. That is, until Malcolm discovers miniature golf, the one sport he actually enjoys. Maybe it's the way in which every hole is a puzzle to be solved. Or the whimsy of the windmills and waterfalls that decorate the course. Or maybe it's the slushies at the snack bar. But whatever the reason, something about mini golf just clicks for Malcolm. And best of all, it's a sport his dad can't possibly obsess over. Or so Malcolm thinks.

**Black Brother, Black Brother** Lexile N/A by Jewell  
Parker Rhodes Suspended unjustly from elite Middlefield Prep, Donte Ellison studies fencing with a former champion, hoping to put the racistfencing team captain in his place.

**The Turnover** Lexile 750 by Mike Lupica  
Thrilled when his legendary coach grandfather comes out of retirement for Lucas' basketball season, Lucas chooses his grandfather as a role model for a biography assignment only to discover other truths about his grandfather's nature.

**Ana on the Edge** Lexile N/A by A.J. Sass  
Twelve-year-old Ana-Marie Jin, the reigning US Juvenile figure skating champion, is not a frilly dress kind of kid. So, when Ana learns that next season's program will be princess themed, doubt forms fast. Once Ana meets Hayden, a transgender boy new to the rink, thoughts about the princess program and gender identity begin to take center stage. And when Hayden mistakes Ana for a boy, Ana doesn't correct him and finds comfort in this boyish identity when he's around. As their friendship develops, Ana realizes that it's tricky juggling two different identities on one slippery sheet of ice. And with a major competition approaching, Ana must decide whether telling everyone the truth is worth risking years of hard work and sacrifice.

**Triple Threat** Lexile 680 by Mike Lupica  
When twelve-year-old Alex makes up her mind to join her middle school's football team, she doesn't expect it to be easy. But she also never anticipated she'd be met with scorn and derision from her exclusively male teammates. Football has always been a source of happiness for Alex. She and her single father never miss a Steelers game on TV, and Alex knows she has a talent for throwing the perfect spiral. But the guys suck the joy right out of the game for Alex--going out of their way to trip her up during tryouts, and teaming up against her just to watch her fail. Suddenly, Alex is the lowest she's ever felt. But if getting QB is worth it to her, she's going to have to fight for it.

**Dan Unmasked** Lexile 690 by Chris Negron  
Fearing that he caused an accident on the baseball field that has rendered his best friend comatose, Dan immerses himself in the adventures of a favorite comic-book superhero for ideas on how to make things right.

**Before the Ever After** (Prose) Lexile N/A by Jacqueline Woodson  
ZJ's friends Ollie, Darry and Daniel help him cope when his father, a beloved professional football player, suffers severe headaches and memory loss that spell the end of his career.

**Graphic Novels**— These selections are a mix of Fiction and Non-fiction.

**When Stars are Scattered** Lexile N/A by Victoria Jamieson & Omar

Mohamed

Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp, and when an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother in this intimate and touching portrayal of family and daily life in a refugee camp.

**5 Worlds: The Amber Anthem – Book 4 (Series)** Lexile N/A by Mark Siegel (et.al)

Oona Lee arrives on Salassandra determined to light the yellow beacon and continue her quest to save the Five Worlds from the evil Mimic's influence.

**What Lane?** Lexile N/A by Torrey

Maldonado Biracial sixth-grader Stephen questions the limitations society puts on him after he notices the way strangers treat him when he hangs out with his white friends and learns about the Black Lives Matter movement.

**The League of Super Feminists** Lexile N/A by Mirion Malle

This hilarious and helpful primer on feminism teaches young readers what it is and why it matters.

**Science Comics: Crows Genius Birds (Series)** Lexile N/A by Kyla Vanderklugt

Did you know that crows make their own tools, lead complex social lives, and never forget a human face? Scientists are just beginning to unlock the secrets of the crow's brain to discover how these avian Einsteins can be as smart as some primates, and even perform some of the same cognitive feats as human children! Crows have problem-solving skills that will make you rethink what it means to be a bird brain! (Series covers various topics)

**Beetle and the Hollowbones** Lexile 380 by Aliza Layne

Twelve-year-old goblin and witch-in-training Beetle enlists her former best friend, Kat Hollowbones, to help stop Kat's sorceress aunt from demolishing the mall where Beetle's friend Blob Ghost is trapped.

**Superman Smashes the Klan** Lexile N/A by Gene Luen Yang

When Dr. Lee moves his family to Metropolis, his son Tommy adjusts to the new neighborhood while daughter Roberta feels out of place, so when the evil Klan of the Fiery Cross begins a string of terrorist attacks on the city, Superman fights them, and Roberta and Superman soon learn to embrace their own unique features that set them apart.

**History Smashers: Women's Right to Vote (Series)** Lexile N/A by Kate Messner

In 1920, Susan B. Anthony passed a law that gave voting rights to women in the United States. RIGHT? – WRONG! Susan B. Anthony wasn't even alive when the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified. Plus, it takes a lot more than one person to amend the constitution.

**Snapdragon** Lexile 210 by Kat Leyh

Snap's town had a witch. At least, that's how the rumor goes. But in reality, Jacks is just a crocks-wearing, internet-savvy old lady who sells roadkill skeletons online--after doing a little ritual to put their spirits to rest. It's creepy, sure, but Snap thinks it's kind of cool, too. They make a deal: Jacks will teach Snap how to take care of the baby opossums that Snap rescued, and Snap will help Jacks with her work. But as Snap starts to get to know Jacks, she realizes that Jacks may in fact have real magic--and a connection with Snap's family's past.

**Mister Invincible: Local Hero** Lexile N/A by Pascal Jousselin  
There's a new superhero in town -- Mr. Invincible! Sure, he wears a mask and cape and helps widows and orphans as any self-respecting hero would, but he also thwarts the mad scientists and bad guys with his amazing super-power that makes him the only true comic book hero: he can reach outside the comic strip panels to affect both space and time! By breaking the boundaries of 'comic book physics' he and his companions are able to do amazing things that are only possible thanks to the magic of comics!

**Twins** Lexile 360 by Vaian Johnson  
Twins Maureen and Francine distinguish themselves for the first time by pursuing separate interests at the beginning of the sixth grade.

**Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales: Major Impossible (Series)** Lexile N/A by Harry N. Abrams  
The ninth book in the bestselling series tells the story of John Wesley Powell, the one-armed geologist who explored the Grand Canyon.

**Séance Tea Party** Lexile 190 by Reimena Yee  
After watching her circle of friends seemingly fade away, Lora is determined to still have fun on her own, so when a tea party leads Lora to discovering Alexa, the ghost that haunts her house, they soon become best friends.

**The Magic Fish** Lexile 400 by Trung Le Nguyen  
Real life isn't a fairytale. But Tien still enjoys reading his favorite stories with his parents from the books he borrows from the local library. It's hard enough trying to communicate with your parents as a kid, but for Tien, he doesn't even have the right words because his parents are struggling with their English. Is there a Vietnamese word for what he's going through? Is there a way to tell them he's gay?  
**(Mature Readers)**

**Class Act** Lexile N/A by Jerry Craft  
Eighth grader Drew Ellis recognizes that he isn't afforded the same opportunities, no matter how hard he works, that his privileged classmates at the Riverdale Academy Day School take for granted, and to make matters worse, Drew begins to feel as if his good friend Liam might be one of those privileged kids and is finding it hard not to withdraw, even as their mutual friend Jordan tries to keep their group of friends together.

**Astronauts: Women on the Final Frontier** Lexile 590 by Jim Ottaviani  
The U.S. may have put the first man on the moon, but it was the Soviet space program that made Valentina Tereshkova the first woman in space. It took years to catch up, but soon NASA's first female astronauts were racing past milestones of their own. The trail-blazing women of Group 9, NASA's first mixed gender class, had the challenging task of convincing the powers that be that a woman's place is in space, but they discovered that NASA had plenty to learn about how to make space travel possible for everyone.

**Catherine's War** Lexile N/A by Julia Billet  
A survival story based on true events follows the experiences of a young Jewish photographer who is forced to go into hiding and make a perilous journey to the free zone when Germany seizes France during World War II.

**City of Secrets** Lexile 390 by Vicoria Ying  
Since his father's death, Ever Barnes has secretly been in charge of an amazing mechanical building but now, ruffians are after him and his new friend Hannah, the building owner's spunky daughter.

**Measuring Up** Lexile 360 by Lily LaMotte  
Having just moved to Seattle from Taiwan, twelve-year-old Cici enters a cooking competition to win the chance to see her grandmother again, but she only knows how to cook Taiwanese food.

**American Born Chinese** Lexile 530 **Graphic Novel/Realistic** by Gene Luen Yang  
Alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in the popular culture.

### Non-Fiction

**The Eighty-Dollar Champion** - Adapted for Young Readers Lexile 940 by Elizabeth Letts  
An inspiring true story of a man and horse duo who rose to the top of the competitive equestrian world is one of unstoppable hope, inconceivable dreams, and the chance to have it all, perfect for animal lovers and history buffs alike.

**This is Your Brain on Stereotypes: How Science is Tracking Unconscious Bias** Lexile 910 by Tanya Lloyd Kyi  
As businesses, schools, and other communities consider the impact of unconscious bias, why not get young people thinking about its causes and effects, too? This informational book does just that, breaking down this complicated subject into short, easy-to-comprehend sections. Following an introduction that recognizes how the brain naturally sorts objects—by types of clothing or food, for example—the author delves into the harmful ways that people might sort individuals or groups, particularly through racism and sexism.

**On the Horizon: World War II Reflections** Lexile N/A by Lois Lowry  
On the Horizon is a reflection of Lois Lowry's experience living in Hawaii and Japan during and after World War II. She combines this with research and experience from others and putting them in poem form.

**The Stanley Cup Playoffs** Lexile 1040 by Matt Doeden  
Hockey is a thrilling, fast-paced sport, and the action gets even more intense during the Stanley Cup Playoffs. Fans can't get enough of the booming slap shots, the devastating body checks, and the overtime finishes.

**Wolf Pack: How Young People Will Find their Voice...** Lexile N/A by Abby Wambach  
In this young readers adaptation, two-time Olympic gold medalist and FIFA World Cup champion Abby Wambach inspires the next generation to find their voice, unite their pack, and change the world.

**Raise Your Voice: 12 Protests that Shaped America** Lexile 1220 by Jeffrey Kluger  
Protests and demonstrations have spread throughout the United States in recent years. They have pushed for change on women's rights, racial equality, climate change, gun control, LGBTQI+ rights, and more. And while these marches may seem like a new

phenomenon, they are really the continuation of a long line of Americans taking to their feet and raising their voices to cry out for justice.

**Cast Away: Poems for our Time** Lexile N/A by Naomi Shihab Nye

A spotlight on the things we cast away, from plastic water bottles to those less fortunate, in this collection of more than eighty original and never-before-published poems. A deeply moving, sometimes funny, and always provocative poetry collection for all ages.

**How We Got to the Moon** Lexile 1170 by John Rocco

A beautifully illustrated, oversized guide to the people and technology of the moon landing.

**Blood and Germs: The Civil War Battle Against Wounds & Disease** Lexile 1030 by

Gail Jarrow

The science and grisly history of U.S. Civil War medicine, using actual medical cases and first-person accounts by soldiers, doctors, and nurses, is explored in this fascinating nonfiction book for young readers. **This is not a title for the sensitive stomach!**

**Who Gives a Poop? Surprising Science from One End to the Other** Lexile N/A by Heather

L. Montgomery

A fascinating and funny look at the science of poop--and how it can change the world!

### **Biography**

**Cy Young: An American Baseball Hero**

Lexile 1060

by Scott H. Longert

(Biography for Young Readers Series)

Well researched and illustrated with archival photos, this biography tells a straightforward story with clarity and plenty of human interest, while providing related information in sidebars. Fans will enjoy learning why Major League Baseball's annual pitching awards honor Young as well as such matters as how the sport's rules have changed over time. An informative sports biography

**The Impossible First** (Adapted for Young Readers) Lexile N/A by Colin O'Brady

An account of O'Brady's 54-day solo crossing of Antarctica describes the accident that should have ended his career and the experiences that inspired his achievements as a record-setting endurance athlete.

**Baseball's Leading Lady** Lexile N/A by Andrea Williams

The true story of Effa Manley, the first and only woman in the Baseball Hall of Fame, and her ownership role in the Negro Leagues leading up to the integration of Major League Baseball.