

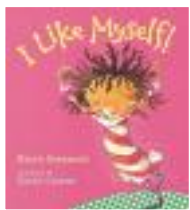
SUMMER READING LIST 2024



WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

This summer, you will have the opportunity to explore books that delve into the themes of family, friendship, and community support. Through these literary works, you will immerse yourself in the stories and experiences of others, both real and imagined. Within these pages, you will discover the power and potential you possess to impact the lives of your family, friends, and community.

<https://www.nps.k12.nj.us/summer-reading-list/2024-books>



I Like Myself

by Karen Beaumont

RISING PRE-K4

Here's a little girl who knows what really matters. Even as she imagines herself with increasingly silly physical features, this indomitable little girl's sense of self-worth remains strong. Sassy and soulful, this book is sure to inspire every child to revel in his or her own special uniqueness.



Jabari Jumps

by Gala Cornwall

RISING K

Jabari is the story of a little boy finding the courage to take his first jump off the diving board. His supportive family helps him find the moment that is just right for him.



Just Help! How to Build a Better World

by Sonia Sotomayor

RISING 1ST GRADE

In a story inspired by her own family's desire to help others, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor takes young readers on a journey through a neighborhood where kids and adults, activists and bus drivers, friends and strangers all help one another to build a better world for themselves and their community.



The Water Princess

by Susan Verde

RISING 2ND GRADE

As a child in Burkina Faso, Georgie and the other girls in her village had to walk for miles each day to collect water. This vibrant, engaging picture book sheds light on this struggle that continues all over the world today, instilling hope for a future when all children will have access to clean drinking water.



Ada Twist and the Perilous Pants

by Andrea Beaty

RISING 3RD GRADE

Ada must rely on her curious mind, her brave spirit, and her best pals Rosie Revere and Iggy Peck to solve a mystery in her own backyard. When Rosie Revere's Uncle Ned gets a little carried away wearing his famous helium pants, it's up to Ada and friends to chase him down. As Uncle Ned floats farther and farther away, Ada starts asking lots of questions: How high can a balloon float? Is it possible for Uncle Ned to float into outer space? And what's the best plan for getting him down?



J.D. and the Great Barber Battle

by J. Dillard

RISING 4TH GRADE

J. Dillard's debut book is filled with haircuts and humor...but it's also about community, being creative, fitting in, and standing out. It's a book that's fun to read, with a healthy opportunity to learn some on-the-ground financial literacy fundamentals. Readers will cheer for J.D. as he pushes down barriers that keep him from being his dope self.

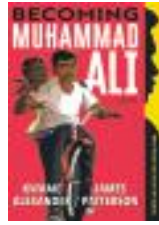


The Last Kids on Earth

by Max Brallier

RISING 5TH GRADE

Ever since the monster apocalypse hit town, average thirteen year old Jack Sullivan has to battle hordes of Zombies, Winged Wretches and Vine Thingies, and so he builds a team to achieve the ultimate Feat of Apocalyptic Success. Can he do it?



Becoming Muhammad Ali

by James Paterson

RISING 6TH GRADE

Before he was a household name, Cassius Clay was a kid with struggles like any other. Kwame Alexander and James Patterson join forces to vividly depict his life up to age seventeen in both prose and verse, including his childhood friends, struggles in school, the racism he faced, and his discovery of boxing.



Esperanza Rising

by Pam Munoz Ryan

RISING 7TH GRADE

Esperanza thought she'd always live a privileged life on her family's ranch in Mexico. She'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home filled with servants, and Mama, Papa, and Abuelita to care for her. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp. Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances—because Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.



We Beat the Street

by Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, Rameck Hunt, Sharon Draper

RISING 8TH GRADE

Growing up on the rough streets of Newark, New Jersey, Rameck, George, and Sampson could easily have followed their childhood friends into drug dealing, gangs, and prison. But when a presentation at their school made the three boys aware of the opportunities available to them in the medical and dental professions, they made a pact among themselves that they would become doctors. The three would have to display determination and support each other if they were to succeed.



Clap When You Land

by Elizabeth Acevedo

RISING 9TH GRADE

Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people. In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash.



Children of Blood and Bone

by Tomi Adeyemi

RISING 10TH GRADE

Zélie Adebola remembers when the soil of Orisha hummed with magic. Burners ignited flames, Tiders beckoned waves, and Zélie's Reaper mother summoned forth souls.

But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, maji were killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope.

Now Zélie has one chance to bring back magic and strike against the monarchy. With the help of a rogue princess, Zélie must outwit and outrun the crown prince, who is hell-bent on eradicating magic for good.



Dear Martin

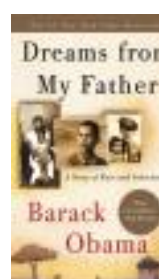
by Nic Stone

RISING 11TH GRADE

Justyce McAllister is a good kid, an honor student, and always there to help a friend—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. Despite leaving his rough neighborhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates.

Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a journal to Dr. King to find out.

Then comes the day Justyce goes driving with his best friend, Manny, windows rolled down, music turned up—way up, sparking the fury of a white off-duty cop beside them. Words fly. Shots are fired. Justyce and Manny are caught in the crosshairs. In the media fallout, it's Justyce who is under attack.



Dreams From My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance

by Barack Obama

RISING 12TH GRADE

In this lyrical, unsentimental, and compelling memoir, the son of a black African father and a white American mother searches for a workable meaning to his life as a black American. It begins in New York, where Barack Obama learns that his father—a figure he knows more as a myth than as a man—has been killed in a car accident. This sudden death inspires an emotional odyssey—first to a small town in Kansas, from which he retraces the migration of his mother's family to Hawaii, and then to Kenya, where he meets the African side of his family, confronts the bitter truth of his father's life, and at last reconciles his divided inheritance.



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