

Cool Reads for Hot Summer Days

Challenger Middle School 2016 Suggested Summer Reading

All descriptions are taken from the publisher's descriptions or from Mackin.com.
Some titles may not be appropriate for all readers, so please choose your books with care.

Retro Reads

These are two award-winning books from Challenger's past: 1966, when the school opened as Air Academy Junior High and 1986, when the name and philosophy changed to Challenger Middle School. Enjoy!

This book was the winner of the prestigious Newbery medal in 1966. It follows the story of Juan de Pareja and his life as the slave of Diego de Velázquez, the leading painter in the court of King Philip IV of Spain. Told through the eyes of Velasquez's slave and assistant, this vibrant novel depicts 17th century Spain and tells the story of Juan, who was born a slave and died a respected artist. (publisher description)

I, Juan de Pareja
by Elizabeth
Borton de
Treviño



Sarah, Plain and Tall
by Patricia
MacLachlan

In The 1986 Medal Winner for 1986 is set in the late nineteenth century and told from young Anna's point of view. Sarah Elisabeth Wheaton comes from Maine to the prairie to answer Papa's advertisement for a wife and mother. Before Sarah arrives, Anna and her younger brother, Caleb, wait and wonder. Will Sarah be nice? Will she sing? Will she stay? This is a great book for fans of *Little House on the Prairie*.

T.A. Barron

We would like to honor T.A. Barron, conservationist, author, and Air Academy Junior High School alumnus. Here, we highlight his first and latest middle school fantasy series. Visit his website at www.tabarron.com.

The Merlin Saga. This best-selling series follows the adventures and training of young Merlin on the mist-shrouded isle of Fincayra, an enchanted land between earth and sky that is being destroyed by blight. With this land's inhabitants to guide him, the boy will learn that Fincayra's fate and his own quest are strangely intertwined. He is destined to become the greatest wizard of all time--known to all as Merlin. (publisher description).



The Atlantis Saga. "This is not just another tale of the destruction of Atlantis. Instead, it is the secret, untold story of the creation of Atlantis. You will discover exactly how Atlantis was created, what people — young heroes, greedy masterminds, and all sorts of bizarre, surprising creatures — fought to make it happen, and how this magical place gained such power from the wonders of nature." (from author's website)

2016 Blue Spruce Award Nominees

Get a head start on these books, which were nominated by high school and middle school students. Adults are not part of the nominating or voting. If a student reads three by mid-December, he or she may vote for their favorite. Go to www.coloradobluespruceaward.org for descriptions of the books.

The Amazing Book is Not on Fire by Dan Howell, Phil Lester
An Ember in the Ashes by Sabaa Tahir
Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell
I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousafzai, Christina Lamb
I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson
Ice Like Fire by Sara Raasch

The Longest Ride by Nicholas Sparks
The Program by Suzanne Young
Rebel Spring by Morgan Rhodes
Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard
The Selection by Kiera Cass
The Young Elites by Marie Lu

(over)

New Fiction, Nonfiction and Notable Reads!



Paperboy by Vince Vawter (historical fiction). An 11-year-old boy living in Memphis in 1959 throws the meanest fastball in town, but talking is a whole different ball game. He can barely say a word without stuttering, not even his own name. So when he takes over his best friend's paper route for the month of July, he knows he'll be forced to communicate with the customers. The paper route poses challenges, but it's a run-in with the neighborhood junkman, a bully and thief, that stirs up real trouble.

Nimona by Noelle Stevenson (graphic novel). Nimona is an impulsive young shapeshifter with a knack for villainy. Lord Ballister Blackheart is a villain with a vendetta. As sidekick and supervillain, Nimona and Lord Blackheart are about to wreak some serious havoc. But as small acts of mischief escalate into a vicious battle, Lord Blackheart realizes that Nimona's powers are as murky and mysterious as her past.



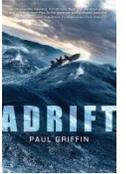
Finding Audrey by Sophie Kinsella (realistic fiction). An anxiety disorder disrupts fourteen-year-old Audrey's daily life. She has been making slow but steady progress with Dr. Sarah, but when Audrey meets Linus, her brother's gaming teammate, she is energized. As their friendship deepens and her recovery gains momentum, a sweet romantic connection develops, one that helps not just Audrey but also her entire family.

Darkest Part of the Forest by Holly Black (dark fantasy). In the woods is a glass coffin. It rests on the ground, and in it sleeps a boy with horns on his head and ears as pointed as knives. Hazel and her brother, Ben, live in Fairfold, where humans and the Folk exist side by side. Tourists drive in to see the lush wonders of Faerie and the beautiful horned boy. Hazel and Ben know he will never wake. Until one day, he does.



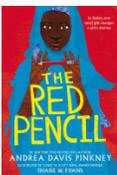
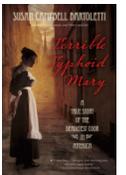
Challenger Deep by Neal Shusterman (realistic fiction). Caden's life is in two parts, dream and reality. In the dream, he is on a submarine headed for the lowest point on Earth: Challenger Deep. In reality, Caden is a brilliant high school student, but there are some things about him that are odd, and his friends are starting to notice. Caden feels torn between both worlds as his family and friends try to help.

Adrift by Paul Griffin (survival fiction). Raised in blue-collar Queens, friends Matt and John meet 17-year-old Driana Gonzaga, who invites the boys to her family's Hamptons mansion, along with her Brazilian cousin, Estefania, and Stef's boyfriend. Then, Stef attempts some nighttime surfing. Stealing a small boat to rescue her, the others have engine trouble, and quickly find themselves stranded, with few supplies, in bad weather.



Three Bird Summer by Sara St. Antoine (mystery). Every summer, Adam's entire family goes to grandmother's cabin on Three Bird Lake. This year Adam is going to visit his grandmother alone, and his grandmother has started to become a bit absent-minded. She starts leaving vague notes in his room about a treasure and a long lost love. Adam meets Alice, a girl next door. Together, they investigate the secrets of Three Bird Lake and have a great summer. A fun, quiet mystery perfect for summer reading.

Terrible Typhoid Mary: A True Story of the Deadliest Cook in America by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (nonfiction). With archival photographs and text among other primary sources, this riveting biography of Mary Mallon looks beyond the tabloid scandal of Mary's controversial life. How she was treated by medical and legal officials reveals a lesser-known story, entangled with the science of pathology and enduring questions about who Mary Mallon really was.



The Red Pencil by Andrea Davis Pinkney (novel told in verse). Amira is old enough to wear a toob, old enough for new responsibilities, and dream. But life in her peaceful Sudanese village is shattered when terrifying attackers ravage the town and unleash unspeakable horrors. Amira must journey to safety at a refugee camp. Her days are tough at the camp, until the gift of a simple red pencil opens all kinds of possibilities.

Wild at heart : mustangs and the young people fighting to save them by Terri Farley (nonfiction). Mustangs have thrived for thousands of generations. But now they are under attack from people who see them as pests. But courageous young people are standing up to the government and big business to save these American icons. This is a beautiful and moving glimpse into the world of mustangs in all its beauty, and profile the young people leading the charge to keep horses wild and free.

