# Pennington School's 2022 Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List



The purpose of the Prince William County Public Schools Summer Reading Program is for students to enjoy quality literature and to continue developing independent reading skills. Pennington students are expected to participate in the program. They are also encouraged to participate in the Prince William County Public Library's Summer Reading Program for activities and incentives.

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# Allen, Josh. Out to Get You: 13 Tales of Weirdness and Woe (2019)

Danger lurks around every corner and only the bravest readers should consider reading this haunting horror anthology. Be warned, spooky things love hiding in plain sight.



### Alston, B.B. *Amari and the Night Brothers* (2021)

Amari Peters finds a ticking briefcase in her missing brother's closet that contains a nomination for a summer tryout at the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs. She is certain the secretive organization holds the key to finding her brother but first she must learn to navigate a world with magicians, fairies, and aliens. The second installment of this fantasy trilogy, *Amari and the Great Game*, will be available in August 2022.



## Anderson, John David. *One Last Shot* (2020)

When Malcom discovers a talent for miniature golf, his dad signs him up for lessons and enters him in tournaments. Malcom's unconventional coach is hilarious. Eighteen chapters, one for each hole in the championship tournament, tell the story.



## Calabrese, Keith. Connect the Dots (2020)

In this tech-centric mystery, apparently random events may not be random at all. Is the Butterfly Effect at work in the in the disappearance of the evil genius Preston Oglethorpe?



### Cuevas, Adrianna. *The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez* (2020)

A Cuban American 12-year-old uses his abilities to communicate with animals to save his town from a dangerous tule vieja, a witch that transforms into animals. Fast-paced fantasy with a magical twist.



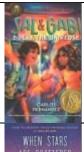
### Fipps, Lisa. Starfish (2021)

Ellie is bullied and shamed her whole life for being fat. No longer bound by a list of Fat Girl Rules, she gains the confidence to stand up for herself. "Does everybody make somebody feel like a nobody?"



## Fung, Rosena. Living With Viola (2021)

When sixth-grader Livy has trouble fitting in as the new girl in school, anxiety manifests itself as Viola, a shadowy twin that only Livy can see or hear. When things get complicated at home and at school, Viola becomes impossible to ignore. Graphic novel.



Hernanadez, Carlos. Sal & Gabi Break the Universe (2019)

In this science fiction tale, Sal opens a portal in his locker to another universe. Manipulating time and space has consequence that puts the entire universe at risk. Winner of the 2020 Pura Belpre Award. Sequel, *Sal & Gabi Fix the Universe* (2020).



Jamieson, Victoria. When Stars are Scattered (2020)

This is a true story of two brothers from Somalia growing up in a refugee camp in Kenya. This graphic novel was a 2020 Finalist, National Book Awards for Young People's Literature.



Kashiwaba, Sachiko. *Temple Alley Summer*. (Translation 2021)

Fantastical and mysterious adventure filled with the living dead, a magical pearl, and a nosy black cat. Winner of the 2022 Mildred L. Batchelder Award.



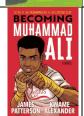
LeZotte, Ann Clare. Show Me a Sign (2020)

Mary has always felt safe until a young scientist arrives on Martha's Vineyard, determined to discover the origins of the island's widespread deafness. He makes Mary his "live specimen," by kidnapping her! This work of historical fiction was inspired by the true history of a thriving deaf community on Martha's Vineyard in the early 19th century. Sequel, **Set Me Free** (2021).



Messner, Kate. Chirp (2020)

In this mystery, Mia hides a secret as she and her friends investigate her grandmother's claim that someone is trying to sabotage her cricket farm. #METOO



Patterson, James and Kwame Alexander. *Becoming Muhammad Ali: A Novel* (2020) In this biographical novel, readers will meet Cassius Clay, in both prose and verse. Told in ten rounds, this is the story of Ali's childhood from humble beginnings to one of the greatest sport heroes of all time. This book is a knock-out!



Reynolds, Jason. Look Both Ways: A Tale told in Ten Blocks (2019)

"This story was going to begin like all the best stories. With a school bus falling from the sky." Common characters and details are woven through this collection of short stories from the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, Jason Reynolds. Winner of the 2021 Carnegie Medal, a British literary award.



Reynolds, Justin A. *It's the End of the World and I'm in My Bathing Suit* (2022) What happens when five unsupervised kids face the apocalypse under outrageously silly circumstances?



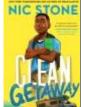
Sloan, Holly Goldberg. *The Elephant in the Room* (2021)

Missing her mother who has returned to Turkey to resolve an immigration problem, sixth grader Sila welcomes a very large distraction in her life when she helps a new friend rescue a circus elephant. This is a moving story about family separation and the importance of connection between animals and humans.



Soontornvat, Christina. A Wish in the Dark (2020)

Set in a Thai-inspired fantasy world, this twist on Victor Hugo's **Les Misrables** is a fast-paced adventure that expores the difference between law and justice and ask whether one child can shine a light in the dark.



Stone, Nic. Clean Getaway (2020)

A biracial boy retraces the South's segregationist past on an impromptu road trip with his white grandmother. Why does G'ma keep changing the license plate and refusing to check Dad's voice mails?



Venkatraman, Padma. Born Behind Bars (2021)

After spending his whole life in jail with his mother, nine-year-old Kabir is suddenly released and must learn how to survive on his own. Set in India, struggles with the caste system, a troubled justice system, and water shortages are explored in this story of family and hope.



Yelchin, Eugene. *The Genius Under the Table: Growing up Behind the Iron Curtain* (2021) In his memoir, award-winning author and artist Eugene Yelchin shares informative and hilarious details about growing up in Cold War Russia.

# Pennington School's 2022 Rising 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List



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Baptist, Kelly. The Swag is in the Socks (2021)

For his twelfth birthday, Xavier receives a pair of funky socks and a challenge from his great-uncle to "swag out and speak up." He challenges Xavier to get in the Scepter League, an elite boy's after-school club, a family tradition.



Braden, Ann. Flight of the Puffin (2021)

Told in multiple voices, seventh-grader Libby sets off a chain of events that brings hope and encouragement to four different individuals across the country who are dealing with bullies, acceptance, homelessness, and grief.



Bunce, Elizabeth. *Premeditated Myrtle* (2020)

Twelve-year-old Myrtle is a plucky sleuth with a passion for justice and an obsession for criminal science. Set in Victorian England, Myrtle sets out to prove her neighbor, a wealthy spinster, was murdered. Winner of the 2021 Edgar Award for best juvenile mystery. Read all the books in the *Myrtle Hardcastle Mystery* series.



Colbert, Brandy. The Only Black Girls in Town (2020)

Set in a predominately white beach community, black neighbors Alberta and Edie have little in common except their age and the color of their skin. The girls become friends as they seek to unravel a mystery involving race relations in the past.



Dee, Barbara. Maybe He Just Likes You (2019)

In this timely #MeToo story of sexual harassment, seventh grader Mila is targeted by a group of boys for unwanted hugging, inappropriate comments, and touching. Is she overreacting? Can she summon the courage to speak out?



Harrell, Rob. Wink: Surviving Middle School with One Eye Open (2020)

After being diagnosed with a rare eye cancer, twelve-year-old Ross discovers how music, art, and true friends can help him survive both treatment and middle school. Based on the author's real-life experience, this book is both hilarious and heart breaking. Follow with the graphic comic *Batpig: When Pigs Fly* (2021).



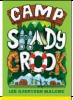
Ireland, Justine. *Ophie's Ghost* (2021)

Ophie discovers her ability to see ghosts when a cruel act ends her father's life. Relocated from Georgia to Pittsburgh, Ophie finds more ghosts at Daffodil Manor, a place haunted by memories and prejudices of the past. Winner of the 2022 Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction.



Kim, Jessica. Stand Up, Yumi Chung! (2020)

Yumi is supposed to be spending her summer in test-prep tutoring to earn a private school scholarship, but when she stumbles into a comedy camp, it feels like her dream to be a standup comic is coming true. In a case of mistaken identity, she gets tangled in a web of lies. Can Yumi live up to her Korean parent's high expectations?



Malone, Lee Gjertsen. Camp Shady Crook (2019)

Budding con artists Archie and Vivien spend the summer at camp, trying to one-up each other in a con competition.



McAnulty, Stacy. Millionaires for the Month (2020)

Seventh graders Felix and Benji have nothing in common until a social media billionaire challenges them to spend five million dollars in thirty days. They can't tell anyone and there's lots of other rules. Challenge accepted! Could you do it?



Oh, Ellen. *Finding Junie Kim* (2021)

Korean American Junie is motivated by an act of racism at school to learn about her ancestral heritage and her grandparents experiences during the Korean War.
Based on true events, the story sheds light on the effect racism can have on mental health.



Patrick, Cat. *Tornado Brain* (2020)

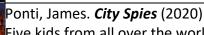
Frankie, a neurodivergent 7th grader is determined to unravel the mystery of her best friend's disappearance before it's too late.

Read the companion book, *Paper Heart* (2021) to see what happens to Frankie's sister Tess as she struggles with the grief of losing a friend.



Pennypacker, Sara. *Here in the Real World* (2020)

Introvert Ware goes AWOL from summer rec camp to find refuge next door in the rubble of an abandoned church. He meets a secretive girl and together, working side-by-side they transform the space.



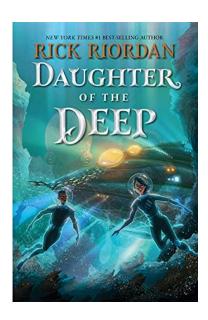
Five kids from all over the world are transformed into an elite group of spies, all under the age of 16. If you like entertaining plot twists, action, and suspense, you will want to read all the books in the *City Spies* series.



Rhodes, Jewel Parker. *Black Brother, Black Brother* (2020)

Biracial brothers, one who presents as white, the other as black, navigate the world of a prep school. Dubbed the "Black Brother," by classmates, Donte discovers the sport of fencing gives him the discipline to refine his talent and overcome the inequities he experiences.

# Pennington School's 2022 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List



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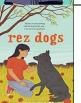
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Armstrong, Jade. Scout is Not a Band Kid (2022)

In this graphic novel, eighth-grader Scout joins her school band to go on the band's annual trip. The only problem is, Scout doesn't know how to play an instrument, and that's a big problem.



Bruchac, Joseph. Rez Dogs (2021)

When the COVID-19 pandemic starts, a young Wabanaki girl is quarantined with her grandparents on the reservation, where she befriends a local dog. Traditional stories are shared in this contemporary novel in verse.



Engle, Margarita. *Dreams from Many Rivers: A Hispanic History of the United States told in Poems*. (2019)

From eighteenth century slaves to modern-day students, the varied people in this moving narrative speak to the experiences and contributions of Latinos throughout U.S. history.



Fajardo, Kat. *Miss Quinces* (2022)

Sue just wants to spend the summer reading and at sleep away camp with her friends. Instead, she is stuck going to Honduras to visit relatives and celebrate her quinceanera. Fans of Raina Telgemeier, this graphic novel is for you!



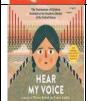
Firestone, Carrie. *Dress Coded* (2020)

An eighth grader starts a podcast to protest the unfair dress code enforcement at her middle school.



Gibbs, Stuart. *Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation* (2019)

The CIA forces twelve-year-old Charlotte "Charlie" Thorne to use her code-breaking skills on an epic global chase to locate Einstein's last equation. Charlie's life is in grave danger as she races to solve the riddle. If you like non-stop action, this book is for you. Sequel: **Charlie Thorne and the Lost City** (2021)



Hear My Voice / Escucha Mi Voz : The Testimonies of Children Detained at Southern Border of the United States (2021)

This is a moving account of children in migration, separated from their families and detained by the U.S. Government, in their own words. Illustrated by seventeen Latinx authors. Winner of the 2022 Flora Stieglitz Straw Award for Nonfiction.



Higuera, Donna Barba. *The Last Cuentista* (2021)

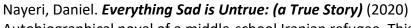
Cuentista is Spanish for storyteller, and that's what Petra aspires to be. When the world is destroyed by a comet, a few hundred scientists and their families are chosen to journey to a new planet. This is their story, more than 300 years later.

Winner of both the 2022 John Newbery Award and the 2022 Pura Belpre Award.



LaRocca, Ranjani. *Red, White, and Whole* (2021)

Reha feels torn between two worlds: school, where she's the only Indian American student, and home, with her family's traditions and holidays. Her world is turned upside down when her mother is diagnosed with a serious illness. This novel in verse is realistic and heartbreaking. Winner of the 2022 Golden Kite Award for Middle Grade Fiction.



Autobiographical novel of a middle-school Iranian refugee. This story is heavy with loss, sometimes cruel, yet filled with humor and love. Winner of the 2021 Printz Award for literary excellence in young adult literature.



Reynolds, Jason. Ain't Burned All the Bright (2022)

This smash-up of art and text viscerally captures what it is to be Black in America. Right now. This is a project about oxygen and the symbolism attached to that word. Powerful and moving, from the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, Jason Reynolds.



Riordan, Rick. Daughter of the Deep (2021)

Ana is a freshman at Harding-Pencroft Academy, a high school that produces world class marine scientists, naval warriors, navigators, and undersea explorers. End-of-year survival trials put her leadership skills to the test against deadly enemies from a rival school. Inspired by Jules Vernes' **20,000 Leagues Under the Sea**.



Schmidt, Gary. Just Like That (2021)

Set during the turmoil of the Vietnam War, Meryl Lee Kowalski attends St. Elene's Preparatory Academy for Girls. In a parallel story, Matt Coffin escapes from a criminal gang with a pillowcase full of money. Suspenseful and satisfying story. "Bless us in the unexpected."



Sepetys, Rita. I Must Betray You (2022)

Historical thriller about communist Romania, a country governed by isolation, fear, and a tyrannical dictator. Seventeen-year-old Cristian is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer, part of the citizen spy network. He risks everything to expose to the world what is happening in his country.



Yang, Gene Luen. Superman Smashes the Klan: The Graphic Novel (2020)

The year is 1946. When the evil Klan of the Fiery Cross begins a string of terrorist attacks on Metropolis, Superman fights them.

Adaptation of a 1940's storyline from the *Adventures of Superman* radio show.