Keene Middle School

KMS Grade 8 Suggested Summer Reading

The following list offers **suggestions, not requirements,** for **incoming eighth graders** looking for great books to read during the summer months. All students are encouraged to read at least two free choice books over the vacation.Other fabulous resources for suggestions are the ALA 2026 Summer Reading List for grades 6-8 and New Hampshire's own Isinglass Teen Book Award.



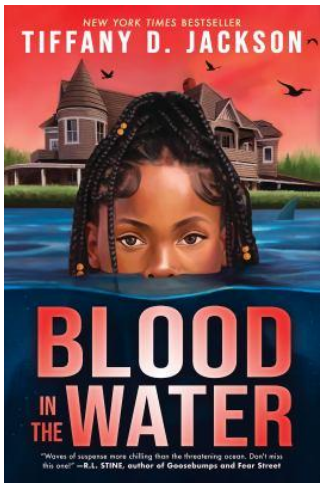
New Kid by Jerry Craft: 3 book Graphic Novel Series

Reviews & Awards:
Booklist starred, Coretta Scott King Author Award, Kirkus Reviews starred, New York Times, Newbery Medal, 2020, Publishers Weekly starred, School Library Journal starred

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade.

As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds--and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?

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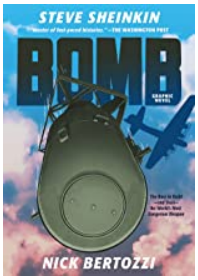
Blood in the Water by Tiffany Jackson -Thriller
Starred reviews from Booklist, School Library Journal & Publishers Weekly, Winner of the Edgar Award!

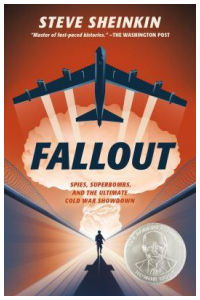
Mega bestselling and award-winning author Tiffany D. Jackson makes her thrilling middle-grade debut with a can't-put-it-down murder mystery set on Martha's Vineyard.

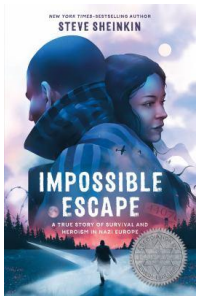
This summer, beware of sharks...
Brooklyn girl Kaylani McKinnon feels like a fish out of water. She's spending the summer with family friends in their huge house on Martha's Vineyard, and the vibe is definitely snooty. Still, there are beautiful beaches, lots of ice cream, and a town full of fascinating Black history. Plus a few kids her age who seem friendly.

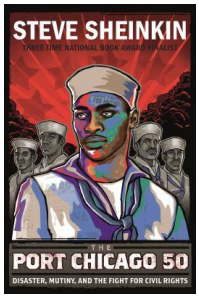
Until the shocking death of a popular teenage boy rocks the community to its core. Was it drowning? A shark attack? Or the unthinkable--murder?

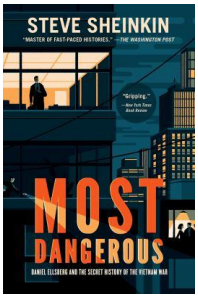
Kaylani is determined to solve the mystery. But her investigation leads her to uncover shocking secrets that could change her own life as she knows it... if she survives.











Steve Sheinkin's books offer some great choices for history fans. Pick up one of these narrative nonfiction books this summer!

Short bio from his website: A former textbook writer, Steve Sheinkin is now making amends by writing books young people might actually want to read. He's the author of fast-paced, cinematic nonfiction including Bomb, Fallout, Undefeated, Born to Fly, The Port Chicago 50, and Impossible Escape, as well as The Bletchley Riddle, a middle grade historical mystery written with Ruta Sepetys. Steve's accolades include a Newbery Honor, three Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards, a Sibert Medal and Honor, three National Book Award finalist honors, and the Margaret A. Edwards Award. He lives with his family in Saratoga Springs, New York.

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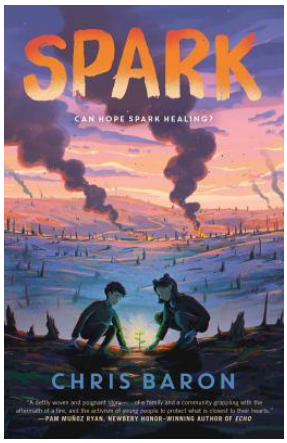


Keeper of the Lost Cities (Keeper Of The Lost Cities, Book 1) by Shannon Messenger - Fantasy

One of the most popular series at KMS for the last several years!

Twelve-year-old Sophie Foster has a secret. She's a Telepath—someone who hears the thoughts of everyone around her. It's a talent she's never known how to explain. Everything changes the day she meets Fitz, a mysterious boy who appears out of nowhere and also reads minds. She discovers there's a place she does belong, and that staying with her family will place her in grave danger. In the blink of an eye, Sophie is forced to leave behind everything and start a new life in a place that is vastly different from anything she has ever known.

Sophie has new rules to learn and new skills to master, and not everyone is thrilled that she has come "home."
There are secrets buried deep in Sophie's memory—secrets about who she really is and why she was hidden among humans—that other people desperately want. Would even kill for.



Spark by Chris Baron - Adventure
Reviews & Awards: Booklist starred, School Library Journal Xpress starred

Finn and his friend, nicknamed Rabbit, live in a rural area that's been hit hard by wildfires. Families were displaced and school was interrupted. Moreover, their beloved forest is suffering -- animals and plants haven't been able to come back, and the two friends wonder if there's anything they can do to help. Rabbit's uncle, a science teacher, is part of a study that may help bring the forest back to life, but Finn and Rabbit wonder if the forest can wait. And what if another fire comes in the meantime? They believe a small part of the forest -- the forest heart -- that survived the wildfire may hold the key to regrowth, but first, they have to find it and then convince the adults around them to listen.

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Bye Forever, I Guess by Jodi Meadows - Realistic Reviews and Awards: A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year * A Booklist Best Book of the Year

An Indiana Young Hoosier Award Nominee
Shortlisted for the Hong Kong Golden Dragon Book Awards

An American Booksellers Association Indie Next Selection

Thirteen-year-old Ingrid's been living a double life. At school, she's her popular friend Rachel's charity case. Online, she crushes it in her favorite MMORPG, geeks out in her favorite fantasy fandom, and runs a popular social media account. If only real life were that easy.
But when Ingrid finally stands up to Rachel, it suddenly feels like she has no life at all.

Until she gets a super-sweet wrong-number text from a mystery boy at her school. Spending time together gaming as "Stitches" and "Traveler" makes her feel like she's really connecting with someone. But when she begins to suspect that Traveler may be a popular classmate who is WAY above her in the cool-kid food chain--and whose original text was actually intended for Rachel--she faces a difficult choice. Can they be friends IRL? She wants to open up, but getting close to people has hurt her before. Is making real friends only fantasy after all?