

A Note:

I curated this list with several things in mind: variety of stories, variety of genres, and variety of reading purposes. Some of you just want fun things to read over the summer, and some of you want good reading that will also challenge you. I've tried to include a good mix of both, while also including a variety of genres. I've even included my two favorite plays from Shakespeare, which are their own categories because...Shakespeare.

Books that are considered classics or often show up on AP Lit summer reading lists are marked with an asterisk. These books may likely challenge you beyond a fun summer read; however, don't let that discourage you. They are also examples of rich storytelling, and summer is a great time to stretch your reading skills without the pressure of grades or expectations.

During summer reading, I would encourage you to give the book at least 50 pages. If it doesn't have your attention within the first 50 pages, maybe try another book. The joy of summer reading is that you get to explore the kind of writing and stories that appeal to YOU. Don't force yourself to read something that is abhorrent to you, unless you're stubborn, which, in that case, all the best to you in your misery. :)

I would love to have included a synopsis for each book, but there are a lot of books on this list. Do some initial browsing here, and then google a synopsis for the book. Remember, your local library is an amazing place to get these books. Our school also has SORA available for FREE, so you can get your books on your phone, much like Kindle. Check out our school library website to access SORA. As satisfying as it is to buy my own books, it is equally dissatisfying spending money on a book and then being deeply disappointed by it.

Realistic Fiction: Stories that aren't true, but feature realistic people in realistic situations.

- ☐ *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks* by E. Lockhart
- ☐ *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston *
- ☐ *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens
- ☐ *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte *
- ☐ *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini *
- ☐ *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini *
- ☐ *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barabara Kingsolver *
- ☐ *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger *
- ☐ *Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth E. Wein
- ☐ *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte *
- ☐ *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque *
- ☐ *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley

Fantasy: Heroes, dragons, monsters, and magic

- ☐ *The Sword of Shannara* by Terry Brooks
- ☐ *Killer of Enemies* by Joseph Bruchac
- ☐ *Trail of Lightning* by Rebecca Roanhorse
- ☐ *The Name of the Wind* by Patrick Rothfuss
- ☐ *Neverwhere* by Neil Gaiman
- ☐ *The Eye of the World* by Robert Jordan
- ☐ *City of Brass* (part 1 of a trilogy) by S.A. Chakraborty
- ☐ *Thistlefoot* by GennaRose Nethercott

Mythology/Folklore: Classic mythology, classic mythology retold, or stories based in classic mythology (mainly GREEK mythology)

- ☐ *Mythos* by Stephen Fry
- ☐ *Norse Mythology* by Neil Gaiman
- ☐ *American Gods* by Neil Gaiman *
- ☐ *Lore Olympus* by Rachel Smythe
- ☐ *Circe* by Madeline Miller

Sci-Fi: Space stories, stories about pushing the boundaries of science, futuristic technology

- ☐ *Dune* by Frank Herbert
- ☐ *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley *
- ☐ *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card
- ☐ *The Martian* by Andy Weir
- ☐ *Kindred* by Octavia E. Butler *

Dystopia: oppressive societies and rebellious heroes

- ☐ *Scythe* Trilogy (*Scythe*, *Thunderhead*, and *Toll*) by Neil Shusterman
- ☐ *A Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood *

Mystery/Horror: equal parts thrilling and chilling, these books will keep you on the edge of your seat

- ☐ *It* by Stephen King
- ☐ *Mexican Gothic* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia
- ☐ *World War Z* by Max Brooks
- ☐ *The Stand* by Stephen King
- ☐ *Bird Box* by Josh Malerman
- ☐ *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier *

Non-fiction: Memoirs, extended essays, investigative journalism - all real stories about real people.

- ☐ *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson
- ☐ *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah *
- ☐ *Just Mercy* by Brian Stevenson *
- ☐ *Educated* by Tara Westover *
- ☐ *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer *

Shakespeare:

- ☐ *A Midsummer Night's Dream* *
- ☐ *Macbeth* *

Good Beach Reads: Engaging writing, interesting plots, memorable characters - easy books to sink into while basking in the sun on a boat or on the beach.

- ☐ *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks*
- ☐ *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier
- ☐ *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill
- ☐ *Scythe* Trilogy (*Scythe*, *Thunderhead*, and *Toll*) by Neil Shusterman
- ☐ *The Sword of Shannara* by Terry Brooks
- ☐ *Killer of Enemies* by Joseph Bruchac
- ☐ *Trail of Lightning* by Rebecca Roanhorse
- ☐ *The Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller
- ☐ *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens
- ☐ *Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth E. Wein
- ☐ *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley