

South Portland Middle School Incoming 6th Grade Summer Reading List 2025

Check out this list for some great summer reading recommendations!



Battle for the Park (Futureland #1) by H.D. Hunter (Sci-Fi)

When the flying theme park Futureland arrives in Atlanta, Cam Walker, the son of its creators, is excited for its biggest opening yet. But when attractions start malfunctioning and kids begin to disappear, Cam realizes something sinister is at play. With his parents under suspicion, Cam must uncover the truth and stop a mysterious enemy from stealing the park's technology and taking over the world.



A Game of Noctis by Deva Fagan (Fantasy)

In the sinking city of Dantessa, where the Great Game dictates everyone's fate, rule-following Pia Paro joins a daring team called the Seafoxes to save her grandfather from a life of servitude. As she faces deadly challenges, including clockwork soldiers and a match against Death, Pia begins to question the fairness of the system she once trusted.



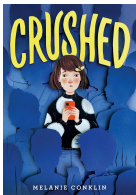
Code Name Kingfisher by Liz Kessler (Historical Fiction)

When Liv discovers a hidden box from her grandmother's past, she uncovers a powerful World War II story that reshapes her understanding of her family. In 1942 Holland, sisters Mila and Hannie must hide their identities to survive, but Hannie joins the Dutch resistance as a spy known as Code Name Kingfisher. As danger closes in and trust becomes a rare commodity, their bravery and choices echo through generations.



Spooky Lakes: 25 Strange and Mysterious Lakes that Dot Our Planet by Geo Rutherford (Nonfiction)

Spooky Lakes takes readers on a thrilling journey beneath the surface to explore some of Earth's eeriest and most mysterious bodies of water. From lakes that mummify animals to stormy bays that unleash constant lightning, each strange site is backed by real science and environmental insights. With vivid watercolor illustrations and a focus on hydrology and conservation, this book blends spooky wonders with the urgent need to protect our planet.



Crushed by Melanie Conklin (Realistic Fiction)

Sophie Valentine is devastated when her best friend Eve returns to school acting like a stranger and falling in with the popular but reckless Crash Crew. As Eve pulls away and rumors swirl about a painful secret she's hiding, Sophie is determined to find out what really happened. Armed with skills from her forensics class and help from a new ally, Sophie investigates the Crash Crew and uncovers a truth more dangerous than she expected.



Any Way You Look by Maleeha Siddiqui (Realistic Fiction)

Ainy is looking forward to a fun summer working at her mom's boutique and possibly starting to wear the hijab, but unwanted attention from boys in her community makes her feel pressured to wear it for the wrong reasons. When the harassment doesn't stop—even after she puts on the hijab—Ainy realizes she needs to find a different way to stand up for herself. With support from her best friend and sister, she discovers her inner strength and learns to demand the respect she deserves while staying true to who she is.

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Same Page by Elly Swartz (Realistic Fiction)

Bess Stein is excited to be 6th grade class president, especially with her idea for a book vending machine and her friend June as vice-president. But when some books they want to include become controversial—led by June’s mom—Bess is torn between standing up for kids’ right to read and her friendship with June. As their opinions clash, Bess must decide what matters most and whether their friendship can survive the conflict.



Anzu and the Realm of Darkness by Mai K. Ngyuen (Graphic Novel)

Anzu doesn't feel much like celebrating Obon this year. Not since her beloved obaachan passed away. But everything changes when a mysterious stray dog leads her into the Shinto underworld, Yomi. There, Anzu discovers the dog is a magical Gatekeeper, and she must escape before sunrise or be trapped forever. As she faces mythical beasts, frees lost spirits, and stands up to the fearsome Queen Izanami, Anzu draws on her courage, and her grandmother’s stories, to find her way home.



On Thin Ice by Jessica Kim (Sports)

Twelve-year-old twins Phoebe and Dex Bae are total opposites: she’s a figure skater, he’s a hockey player, but they both love the ice. When Phoebe’s partner gets injured and Dex is cut from his team, their mom suggests they team up to compete in pairs skating. As they train together, the twins must overcome their differences, reconnect after their father’s death, and learn what it truly means to be a team.



Call Me Adnan by Reem Faruqi (Novel-in-Verse, Realistic Fiction)

Adnan Zakir dreams of playing in the Ultimate Table Tennis Championship and spending Eid with his cousins. But when a devastating tragedy strikes during the trip, Adnan vows never to play again. With the support of his family, he must find a way to heal and rediscover what brings him joy.