

South Portland Middle School Incoming 6th Grade Summer Reading List 2024

You are asked to read 2 books this summer. Check out this list for some great recommendations!



The Secret Library by Kekla Magoon (Fantasy)

After her grandfather's passing, eleven-year-old Dally finds solace in a mysterious map hidden in an envelope, leading her to an ancient vault filled with books that transport her through time. As she embarks on thrilling adventures, Dally delves into her family's hidden past, seeking escape from her mother's strict plans for her future. However, she soon discovers that the library holds its own secrets, ones that could alter her destiny as much as her mother's meticulous designs.



What Stays Buried by Suzanne Young (Horror, Paranormal)

With her thirteenth birthday approaching, twelve-year-old Calista faces losing her ability to communicate with the dead. As children start vanishing, Calista encounters The Tall Lady, a vengeful spirit linked to the disappearances. Calista, the only one who can see her, must stop The Tall Lady before losing not only her powers but also everyone she holds dear.



Good Different by Meg Eden Kuyatt (Novel-in-Verse, Realistic Fiction)

Selah lives by her strict rules to appear normal, suppressing her emotions like a dragon hiding in a human world. When she finally explodes and hits a classmate, her life unravels. Yet, as she explores her identity, Selah learns that being different doesn't equate to being damaged.



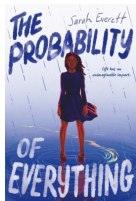
Plasticus Maritimus: An Invasive Species by Ana Pêgo (Nonfiction)

There's an invasive species in our oceans: *Plasticus maritimus*. When she was young, biologist Ana Pêgo didn't play in a backyard, but on a beach. As she grew older, Pêgo noticed a new species at the seaside: plastic. She decided to collect it, study it, and give it a Latin name—*Plasticus maritimus*—to warn people of its dangers to our planet. Filled with engaging science and colorful photographs.



Aru Shah and the End of Time by Roshani Chokshi illus. Anu Chouhan (Graphic Novel)

Aru Shah, a 12-year-old prone to exaggeration, accidentally unleashes an ancient demon when she lights a supposedly cursed lamp in her mother's museum. Now, with time frozen and her loved ones at risk, she must find the reincarnations of legendary heroes to save them from destruction.

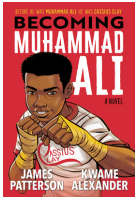


The Probability of Everything by Sarah Everett (Realistic Fiction)

Kemi Carter, a lover of scientific facts, faces a seismic shift when an asteroid threatens Earth. As she grapples with the impending disaster and her new unwelcoming town, Kemi decides to preserve her family's essence in a time capsule, seeking solace in the memories they've shared. But no time capsule can change the truth behind all of it, that Kemi must face the most inevitable and hardest part of life: saying goodbye.

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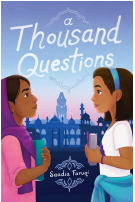
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Becoming Muhammad Ali by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander

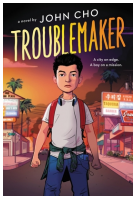
(Sports, Novel-in-Verse)

This book delves into Cassius Clay's early life until he turned seventeen, depicting his challenges and the racial discrimination he endured growing up in Louisville, Kentucky. Readers witness his journey from a kid facing everyday struggles to discovering boxing after a thief stole his bike at age twelve, leading to his remarkable transformation into the legendary Muhammad Ali.



A Thousand Questions by Saadia Faruqi (Realistic Fiction)

In Karachi for the summer, Mimi hopes to find her absent father while keeping a secret journal. Meanwhile, Sakina, the cook's daughter, grapples with her family's expectations and the pressure to improve her English for school. Despite their differences, as the summer unfolds, Mimi and Sakina discover shared goals and rely on each other for support.



Troublemaker by John Cho. (Historical Fiction)

12-year-old Jordan struggles to meet his family's expectations and feels overshadowed by his sister's example. Amidst societal unrest in Los Angeles following significant racial incidents, Jordan's father leaves to protect their family store, prompting Jordan and his friends to confront racism within their community while aiding him.



The Carrefour Curse by Dianne K. Salerni (Mystery, Fantasy)

Twelve-year-old Garnet longs to know her mysterious family but is kept at a distance by her mother. When she finally visits the Carrefour clan at their eerie mansion, Crossroad House, Garnet discovers dark family secrets. As she unravels the truth about a deadly curse, Garnet must confront her role in breaking it. With a chilling atmosphere and captivating mystery, this tale is a perfect late-night read for preteens.