

Johnson, Varian | **The Parker Inheritance** | Scholastic, 2019 | Twelve-year-old Candice Miller is spending the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, in the old house that belonged to her grandmother, who died after being dismissed as city manager for having the city tennis courts dug up looking for buried treasure--but when she finds the letter that sent her grandmother on the treasure hunt, she finds herself caught up in the mystery and, with the help of her new friend and fellow book-worm, Brandon, she sets out to find the inheritance, exonerate her grandmother, and expose an injustice once committed against an African American family in Lambert. 🍏

Jules, Jacqueline | **Freddie Ramos Takes Off** | Albert Whitman, 2010 | Freddie finds a mysterious package outside his apartment containing sneakers that allow him to run faster than a train, and inspire him to perform heroic deeds.

Kelly, Erin Entrada | **Blackbird Fly** | Greenwillow, 2015 | Apple has always felt a little different from her classmates. She and her mother moved to Louisiana from the Philippines when she was little, and her mother still cooks Filipino foods and chastises Apple for becoming too American. When Apple's friends turn on her and everything about her life starts to seem weird and embarrassing, Apple turns to music. If she can just save enough to buy a guitar and learn to play, maybe she can change herself. It might be the music that saves her... or it might be her two new friends, who show her how special she really is--- 🍏

Levy, Dana Alison | **The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher** | Delacorte, 2014 | Relates the adventures of a family with two fathers, four adopted boys, and a variety of pets as they make their way through a school year, Kindergarten through sixth grade, and deal with a grumpy new neighbor. 🍏

Cartaya, Pablo | **The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora** | Viking, 2017 | Arturo's Miami summer is marked by the arrival of poetry enthusiast Carmen, who helps him use the power of protest to fight the plans of a land developer who wants to demolish his Abuela's restaurant. 🍏

Faruqi, Saadia | **Meet Yasmin** | Picture Book Windows, 2018 | Pakistani American second grader Yasmin learns to cope with the small problems of school and home, while gaining confidence in her own skills and creative abilities.

Gino, Alex | **George** | Scholastic, 2015 | When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl. George thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever. Then her teacher announces that their class play is going to be Charlotte's Web. George really, really wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part because she's a boy. George comes up with a plan. 🍏

Hale, Shannon | **The Princess in Black** | Candlewick, 2014 | Who says princesses don't wear black? When trouble raises its blue monster head, Princess Magnolia ditches her flouncy dresses and becomes the Princess in Black!

Hunt, Lynda Mullaly | **Fish in a Tree** | Nancy Paulsen Books, 2015 | Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher, Mr. Daniels, sees the bright, creative kid underneath the troublemaker 🍏

### Let's Read!

Summer reading is necessary for students to continue using good literacy practice beyond school. It's also a great way to spend time together! Many of the titles on the list are available to borrow for free at the Free Library of Philadelphia. Check the website at [www.freelibrary.org](http://www.freelibrary.org) for locations, book title availability, and other great summer programs for students.



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PHILADELPHIA

Grade 3-5



## Summer Reading

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Some books may contain graphic content in the form of themes, language, and/or violence.

🍏 Mild  
🍏🍏 Moderate  
🍏🍏🍏 High

Alan, Crystal | **Spirit Week Showdown** | Blazer and Bray, 2019 | 9-year-old Mya is excited about participating in School Spirit Week, even making a pinky promise with her best friend Naomi to be her partner, but when she accidentally gets paired with the biggest bully in school, Mean Connie, Naomi is mad at Maya for breaking her promise. She must learn to work with Mean Connie and try and get her friend back. 🍏

Bell, Cece | **El Deafo** | Amulet Books 2014 | The author recounts in graphic novel format her experiences with hearing loss at a young age, including using a bulky hearing aid, learning how to lip read, and determining her "superpower." 🍏

Brown, Monica | **Lola Levine is Not Mean!** | Little Brown, 2016 | 2nd-grader Lola has a wonderful family, teacher, and best friend, Josh, and they all help her feel better after she is teased and forbidden to play team sports at recess for having accidentally hurt classmate Juan during a soccer game 🍏

Craft, Jerry | **New Kid** | Harper, 2019 | After his parents send him to a prestigious private school known for its academics, Jordan Banks finds himself torn between two worlds.

Lin, Grace | **The Year of the Dog** | Little Brown, 2006 | Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog, those of making best friends and finding oneself, to her own life

Lyons, Kelly Starling | **Rock Star** | Penguin Workshop, 2011 | Fourth-grader Jada's best friend moved away but a class project on rocks and minerals, her favorite topic, could mean new friends. Or for Jada, rocks are easier to find than friends. Or are they? •

McKay, Hilary | **Lulu and the Duck in the Park** | Albert Whitman, 2012 | Lulu, who loves animals, brings an abandoned duck egg to school, even though her teacher has banned Lulu from bringing animals to school ever again. •

Medina, Meg | **Merci Suarez Changes Gears** | Candlewick, 2018 | Merci Suarez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just how different. For starters, Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roll, are scholarship students. So when bossy Edna Santos sets her sights on the new boy who happens to be Merci's school-assigned Sunshine Buddy, Merci becomes the target of Edna's jealousy. •

Nolen, Jerdine | **Block Party Surprise** | HMH Books for Young Readers, 2015 | Mr. Perkins has a big surprise for the annual block party, but when the truck carrying it there breaks down, twins Jada and Jamal and their best friends, Josh and Carita, propose a different form of transportation.

Nye, Naomi Shihab | **The Turtle of Oman** | Greenwillow, 2014 | When Aref, a third-grader who lives in Muscat, Oman, refuses to pack his suitcase and prepare to move to Michigan, his mother asks for help from his grandfather, his Sidi, who takes Aref around the country, storing up memories he can carry with him to a new home. •

Perez, Celia | **The First Rule of Punk** | Viking, 2017 | Twelve-year-old Maria Luisa O'Neill-Morales (who really prefers to be called Malú) reluctantly moves with her Mexican-American mother to Chicago and starts seventh grade with a bang--violating the dress code with her punk rock aesthetic and spurning the middle school's most popular girl in favor of starting a band with a group of like-minded weirdos. •

Reynolds, Jason | **Ghost** | Atheneum, 2016 | Ghost, a naturally talented runner and troublemaker, is recruited for an elite middle school track team. He must stay on track, literally and figuratively, to reach his full potential. •

Saeed, Aisha | **Amal Unbound** | Nancy Paulsen Books, 2018 | In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family. •

Wallis, Quvenzhané | **Shai & Emmie Star in Break an Egg!** | Simon & Schuster, 2017 | When Shai Williams, who plans to become a star on Broadway, loses the lead role in the third-grade musical at her performing arts elementary school in Atlanta, she learns an important lesson about adaptability, from her mother, aunt, and grandmother, all actresses.

Warner, Sally | **Ellray Jakes is Not a Chicken!** | Penguin/Puffin, 2012 | Eight-year-old Ellray Jakes is sick of getting picked on. But every time he tries to defend himself against class bully Jared Matthews, Ellray is the one who winds up in trouble.

West, Kara | **Mia Mayhem is a Superhero!** | Little Simon, 2018 | Eight-year-old Mia Macaroney is delighted to learn she is from a family of superheroes, but her acceptance into the Program for In Training Superheroes requires she take a placement exam.

Wientge, Kristi | **Karma Khullar's Mustache** | Simon & Schuster, 2017 | A biracial Indian/Caucasian girl is nervous to begin middle school, especially since her mother is now the breadwinner of the family, her best friend may no longer be a bestie, and the appearance of the seventeen hairs over her lip that form a very unwanted mustache

Williams-Garcia, Rita | **Clayton Byrd Goes Underground** | Amistad, 2017 | Feeling most alive when he's playing the blues with his grandfather, Clayton is devastated when his grandfather dies, and his mother forbids him from playing music, losses that compel him to run away and join bluesmen on the road.

Woodson, Jacqueline | **Brown Girl Dreaming** | Nancy Paulsen Books, 2014 | Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 60s and 70s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. •

Yang, Kelly | **Front Desk** | Scholastic, 2018 | Recent immigrants from China and desperate for work and money, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California, even though the owner, Mr. Yao is a nasty skinflint who exploits them; while her mother (an engineer in China) does the cleaning, Mia works the front desk and tries to cope with demanding customers and other recent immigrants--not to mention being only one of two Chinese in her fifth grade class, the other being Mr. Yao's son, Jason. •