Get ready to read!

Join our Summer of Reading program to dive into stories that will captivate you from the very first page. This list of 50 books is full of magical adventures, inspiring friendships, suspenseful mysteries, and more. Plus, enter to win books!

Take our challenge!
As part of the Summer of Reading program, we’re challenging you to read three books. The books can be from this list, but they don’t have to be. Once you read them, fill out the form on p26. Scan or photograph the form and email it to us at reading@theweekjunior.com. When you do, you’ll be entered for a chance to win books. Three winners will be drawn at random. The deadline is August 20.

Symbol key
- Graphic novel
- Author Ambassador
- Notable classic
- Newbery Medal winner

GET LOST IN A SUMMER ADVENTURE

CATERPILLAR SUMMER
By Gillian McDunn (Bloomsbury Children’s Books)
When a summer trip doesn’t go as planned, Cat (short for caterpillar) and her brother spend three weeks at their grandparents’ house on Gingerbread Island. For once, she doesn’t have to watch over her little brother. From bike rides to fishing, Cat gets to do all the things she’s missed out on through the years. Ages 8–13

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE DEEP END
By Jeff Kinney (Harry N. Abrams)
In the latest book in the bestselling series, Greg and his family hit the road for a camping trip. But in true Wimpy Kid fashion, everything that can possibly go wrong does. The story and drawings are funny and heartfelt at the same time. Ages 8–12

KATIE THE CATSITTER
By Colleen AF Venable, illustrated by Stephanie Yue (Random House Books for Young Readers)
Katie thinks summer is going to be boring because her friends are away at camp. Then she gets a job babysitting her neighbor’s 217 (that’s not a typo) cats. School break just got exciting! Watch for lots of plot twists in this first book of a new series. Ages 8–12

THE LAST LAST-DAY-OF-SUMMER
By Lamar Giles, illustrated by Dapo Adeola (Versify)
Summer is almost over, until two cousins accidentally extend it by freezing time with a magic camera. With their bikes, supernatural creatures, and robots, they try to make things right again. This story is a wild ride with lots of humor. Ages 8–12

MAYBE MAYBE MARISOL RAINEY
By Erin Entrada Kelly (Greenwillow Books)
Eight-year-old Marisol seems to be afraid of a lot of things, especially climbing the tree in her backyard. But when she spots a bird’s nest high up in the tree, she really wants to see it. Will she be able to overcome her fear? This book may remind you of the Ivy + Bean series. Ages 8–12

SUMMER OF LOST AND FOUND
By Rebecca Behrens (Aladdin)
Nell leaves New York City to spend the summer with her mom, who will be studying plants in North Carolina. At first, she’s upset to be away from her friends. Then she learns about the very intriguing Lost Colony of Roanoke and sets out to investigate. Ages 8–12

THE EPIC FAIL OF ARTURO ZAMORA
By Pablo Cartaya (Puffin Books)
Arturo is excited to be working in his family’s restaurant in Miami during summer break. But the business might have to close because a real estate developer wants to build something else where the restaurant is located. How can Arturo help save what his family has worked so hard to create? Ages 10 and up

OPERATION FROG EFFECT
By Sarah Scheerger (Yearling)
A classroom writing assignment sparks some new friendships but also leads to a big mistake. Now the whole class has to come together and put their differences aside to save their beloved teacher. Reading this story will remind you of how powerful your own voice can be. Ages 8–12

BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE

BAN THIS BOOK
By Alan Gratz (Starscape)
When a parent asks that a book be removed from a fourth-grade library, one student wages a battle to prevent that from happening. This story will help you understand what having freedom of speech means in the US — and may inspire you to stand up for what you believe is fair. Ages 8–12

HOOT
By Carl Hiaasen (Yearling)
The new kid in town tries to safeguard endangered miniature owls when their homes are threatened by new construction. The book, which was turned into a movie, may help you realize that you can make a difference when it comes to protecting wildlife. Ages 10–12
community together. Sixth-grader Wes tries to bring the afford to live in their part of town, neighbors may no longer be able to protests. When his family and Wes’s mom is a community activist, trouble getting past his appearance. wants to fit in, his classmates have for the first time. While he just difference, goes to a regular school series.

AUGGIE, a fifth-grader with a facial difference, goes to a regular school for the first time. While he just wants to fit in, his classmates have trouble getting past his appearance.

This book started a kindness movement around the world. Ages 8–12

EXPLORE MAGICAL AND MYSTERIOUS PLACES

GOLDILOCKS: WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE
By Chris Colfer, illustrated by Jon Proctor

(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

This graphic novel is a spin-off from the Land of Stories series. It centers on the character of Goldilocks. She has been on the run since childhood for vandalizing the house of the Three Bears. Ages 8–12

KEEPER OF THE LOST CITIES
By Shannon Messenger

(Aladdin)

In the first book of this intriguing series, Sophie thinks she can read minds. One day, she meets a mysterious boy who helps her find her roots in a land of elves. This story is full of suspense and action. Ages 8–12

SAL & GABI BREAK THE UNIVERSE
By Carlos Hernandez

(Rick Riordan Presents)

Sal, a 13-year-old magician-in-training, can punch holes in the universe and access parallel worlds. At his new school, Gabi figures out his secret and they become friends. This book includes interesting facts about Cuban culture. Ages 8–12

THE GIRL WHO DRANK THE MOON
By Kelly Barnhill

(Algonquin Young Readers)

Luna must figure out the magical powers she was given by accident. The fast-paced fables pits good against evil and will make you think about the power of love. Ages 10–14

WHEN YOU TRAP A TIGER
By Tae Keller

(Random House Books for Young Readers)

Lily moves with her family from California to Washington to be closer to her sick Halmoni (the Korean word for grandmother). Halmoni confides in Lily that she once stole something from a tiger. Lily strikes a deal with the magical creature to make her grandmother better. Will it work? Ages 8–12

THE WILD ROBOT
By Peter Brown

(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

A robot finds herself alone on a remote island and doesn’t remember how she got there. She starts to settle into a routine and cares for some of the wild creatures. But her past starts to catch up with her. Ages 8–12

ZITA THE SPACEGIRL
By Ben Hatke

(First Second)

When Zita and her friend Joseph are playing in a field, he accidentally goes through a portal to another galaxy. Full of courage, Zita reopens the portal and jumps in to rescue Joseph. She teams up with an inventor, a giant mouse, and other creatures along the way.

The fun drawings in this comic are easy to follow. Ages 8–12

DIVE INTO SCHOOL STORIES

CLASS ACT
By Jerry Craft

(Armchair Books for Young Readers)

Drew is starting eighth grade as one of the few kids of color in a fancy private school. When he hangs out at his pal Liam’s house, their friendship is challenged. While the book covers some tough topics, it also has a lot of humor. Ages 8–12

EMMY IN THE KEY OF CODE
By Aimee Lucido

(Versify)

Emmy moves from Wisconsin to California. At her new school, she takes a computer science class where she combines her passion for coding with music. This story is beautifully written in verse. Ages 8–12

RAMONA QUIMBY, AGE 8
By Beverly Cleary

(HarperCollins)

Ramona is excited for her first day of third grade. But then her shoes squeak, she cracks an egg on her head, and she thinks her teacher dislikes her. With all these challenges, will everything turn out OK? Ages 8–12

THE STRANGE CASE OF ORIGAMI YODA
By Tom Angleberger

(Harry N. Abrams)

Sixth-grader Dwight creates a Star Wars Yoda character out of paper and wears it on his finger. The Yoda gives advice to classmates. Should they listen? The book includes funny cartoons and drawings and contains directions for making your own Yoda. Ages 8–12

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TWINS
By Varian Johnson, illustrated by Shannon Wright
(Graphix)
Twins Maureen and Francine were pretty much inseparable in elementary school. But in sixth grade, they have different interests and have only two classes together. Will middle school cause them to grow apart? Ages 8–12

WEIRD KID
By Greg van Eekhout
(HarperCollins)
After being homeschooled all his life, Jake, who has shape-shifting powers, is starting middle school. He thinks the first day goes well because he makes a friend and manages to hide his powers. But he may need to shape-shift when mysterious sinkholes start to pop up around town. Ages 8–12

CRACK THE CASE
A DOG-FRIENDLY TOWN
By Josephine Cameron
(Farrar, Straus and Giroux)
A famous dog’s jeweled collar goes missing at a bed and breakfast in a California beach town that’s been voted the Most-Dog Friendly in America. Twelve-year-old Epic McDade and his siblings try to add up the clues and figure out who stole it. Ages 8–12

CITY SPIES
By James Ponti
(Aladdin)
Five kids from around the world come together to be on a top-secret spy team. The first book in the series focuses on a girl with amazing skills as she prevents a computer virus from being spread. The story contains lots of action and plot twists. Ages 8–12

Holes
By Louis Sachar
(Yearling)
Stanley is found guilty of a crime he didn’t commit and sent to a camp in the hot desert as punishment. The warden forces him and other kids to dig holes every day. What is the warden secretly looking for? Ages 10–13

ONE CAME HOME
By Amy Timberlake
(Yearling)
This book, set in the Wild West in the late 1800s, will keep you guessing. Georgie, 13, tries to find her older sister, Agatha, who ran away. As Georgie uncovers clues about what happened to her sister, she learns a lot about herself in the process. Ages 10–13

ALICE’S FARM: A RABBIT’S TALE
By Maryrose Wood
(Feiwel & Friends)
A brave rabbit joins forces with other animals to help a human family save the farm they recently bought. The story alternates perspectives between the humans and the animals. It’s a fun book to read aloud. Ages 8–12

BEFRIEND AN ANIMAL
A WOLF CALLED WANDER
By Rosanne Parry, illustrated by Mónica Armiño
(Greenwillow Books)
Inspired by the true story of a wolf, this book follows a young cub that travels more than 1,000 miles to the Pacific Northwest. He encounters many challenges along the way, including a fire and the need to find food. There are beautiful black-and-white illustrations on many pages. Ages 8–12

SUPER PUZZLEASTIC MYSTERIES
By Chris Grabenstein and the Mystery Writers of America
(HarperCollins)
This collection of 20 short stories from different authors gives you the chance to solve riddles. If you read each story closely and look for clues, you’ll be able to figure out who committed each crime. You can check whether you were right by turning to the explanations in the back of the book. Ages 8–12

WHEN YOU REACH ME
By Rebecca Stead
(Yearling)
Twelve-year-old Miranda keeps receiving mysterious notes that instruct her to write down the story of what happens to her. She’s not to show the notes to anyone. This suspenseful story is told in her first-person responses to the mystery writer. The book has an element of time travel. Ages 8–12

WARRIORS: INTO THE WILD, BOOK 1
Written by Erin Hunter, illustrated by Dave Stevenson
(HarperCollins)
This series kicks off with Rusty, a house cat, meeting a kitten from a group of wildcats. They live in the forest and battle for more territory...
starts to make friends. What will she think she’s the dog’s owner, and she will leave California and head to the railroad town where they’ll settle down. Hanna begs to attend school, but her father is worried about how her classmates will treat her because she is half-Asian. Hanna’s determination may inspire you. Ages 10–12


**Fever 1793**
By Laurie Halse Anderson
(Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)

In the summer of 1793, an illness called yellow fever breaks out in Philadelphia, where Mattie lives. When a friend dies suddenly from the plague, Mattie finds the strength she didn’t know she had. Ages 10–14

**Nathan Hale’s Hazardous Tales:**
Lafayette!
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This book is a must-read for fans of the Broadway musical Hamilton. It tells the true story of Marquis de Lafayette, a prominent character in Hamilton. Lafayette was from France and became a US military hero during the Revolutionary War (1775–1783). The book contains a lot of humor. Ages 8–12

**Travel Back in Time**

BEFORE THEY WERE ARTISTS: FAMOUS ILLUSTRATORS AS KIDS
By Elizabeth Haidle
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Did you ever wonder what some well-known artists were like as kids? This book shares interesting details about six famous illustrators. One is Maurice Sendak, who created the classic book Where the Wild Things Are. Ages 8–12

Ophie’s Ghosts
By Justina Ireland
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When Ophie’s home in Georgia is attacked in 1922, her father dies. She and her mom flee to Pennsylvania to start a new life. They end up working in a house that’s haunted—and Ophie has the ability to see ghosts. Ages 8–12

**Bluffton**
By Matt Phelan
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Henry wishes his life could be like that of Buster Keaton, a famous actor who performs in Michigan during the summers in the early 1900s. While Henry is fictional, Buster Keaton was a real person who lived from 1895–1966. The illustrations will immerse you in the story. Ages 9–12

**The Call of the Wild**
By Jack London
(Reader’s Library Classics)

Buck, a St. Bernard-Shepherd mix, is living in a comfortable home when he is stolen from his family and put to work as a sled dog in Alaska. He has to learn how to adapt if he wants to survive in the wild and harsh environment. Ages 8–12

**Meet our Author Ambassadors**

These authors, all of whom have books on this list, have teamed up with The Week Junior to inspire kids to enjoy reading this summer. In Issues 64–68, we will feature one of them on the Book Club page. If you have a question you’d like any of them to answer, email it to us at hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more at theweekjunior.com/summerofreading.

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with other cat tribes. Rusty trains to become part of their clan. You might like the different personalities of all the characters. Ages 8–12

**Pawcasso**
By Remy Lai
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Every Saturday, an adorable dog comes into town to go grocery shopping. A lonely girl spots him from her window and they hang out together. Other kids soon think she’s the dog’s owner, and she starts to make friends. What will happen when the truth comes out? Ages 8–12

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