



Summer Reading Recommendations 2011

The list of outstanding young adult literature for the year is a very lengthy list, so we've highlighted only some of the gems from the year and included a few of our very favorite classics in this year's summer reading recommendations. We don't think you'll be disappointed.

[The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe](#) by Daniel Defoe

An adaptation of "The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe," the story of an Englishman who is shipwrecked on a deserted island in the 1600s where he lives for over twenty-eight years.

[After Ever After](#) by Jordan Sonnenblick

Although Jeff and Tad, encouraged by a new friend, Lindsey, make a deal to help one another overcome aftereffects of their cancer treatments in preparation for eight-grade graduation, Jeff still craves advice from his older brother Stephen, who is studying drums in Africa.

[Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream](#) by Tanya Lee Stone

In the early 1960s, 13 women endured rigorous testing and training for the space program, as well as prejudice. Numerous photographs and a revealing text chronicle their difficulties and achievements.

[Anything But Typical](#) by Nora Raleigh Baskin

Jason, a 12-year-old autistic boy who wants to become a writer, relates what his life is like as he tries to make sense of his world.

[The Boy Who Dared](#) by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

In October 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hubener, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people.

[Bridge to Terabithia](#) by Katherine Peterson

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

[Countdown](#) by Deborah Wiles

As eleven-year-old Franny Champan deals with drama at home and with her best friend in 1962, she tries to understand the larger problems in the world after President Kennedy announces Russia is sending nuclear missiles to Cuba

[The Cupcake Queen](#) Heather Hepler

While longing to return to life in New York City, thirteen-year-old Penny helps her mother and grandmother run a cupcake bakery in Hog's Hollow, tries to avoid the beastly popular girls, to be a good friend to quirky Tally, and to catch the eye of enigmatic Marcus.

[Dead Girls Don't Write Letters](#) by Gail Giles

Fourteen-year-old Sunny is stunned when a total stranger shows up at her house posing as her older sister Jazz, who supposedly died in a fire months earlier.

[Departure Time](#) by Truus Matti.

An eleven-year-old mourns the death of her father in chapters that alternate between the real world and a dreamlike hotel staffed by odd creatures

[Feathers](#) by Jacqueline Woodson

A new boy's arrival in a sixth-grade classroom helps Frannie recognize the barriers that separate people, and the importance of hope as a bridge.

[Fort Mose and the Story of the Man Who Built the First Free Black Settlement in Colonial America](#) by Glennette Tilley Turner

Well researched and clearly written, this handsome book introduces Francisco Menendez, who lived as a slave in eighteenth-century South Carolina before gaining his freedom and leading an early black community in Spanish-held Florida.

[The Giant-Slayer](#) by Iain Lawrence

When her eight-year-old neighbor is stricken with polio in 1955, eleven-year-old Laurie discovers that there is power in her imagination as she weaves a story during her visits with him and other patients confined to iron lung machines.

[The Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio](#) by Lloyd Alexander

Naïve and bumbling Carlo, his shady camel-puller Baksheesh, and Shira, a girl determined to return home, follow a treasure map through the deserts and cities of the infamous Golden Road, as mysterious strangers try in vain to point them toward real treasures.

[Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows](#) by J.K. Rowling

In this seventh and final volume about Harry Potter, the battle of the young hero and his companions against dark evil comes to an edge-of-seat, swashbuckling conclusion.

[Heart of a Samurai](#) by Margi Preus

Shipwrecks, whaling, a search for home and a delightful exploration of cultures create a swashbuckling adventure. This historical novel is based on the true story of Manjiro (later John Mung), the young fisherman believed to be the first Japanese person to visit America, who against all odds, becomes a samurai.

[The Hive Detectives: Chronicle of a Honey Bee Catastrophe](#) by Loree Griffin Burns

Fascinating to read, this beautifully illustrated book introduces honey bees, beekeepers, and a dream team of scientists who are urgently searching for the cause of colony collapse disorder, which threatens the bees and, by extension, agriculture.

[Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot](#) by Sy Montgomery

This title introduces the kakapo parrot, a flightless bird found on Docfish Island off the coast of New Zealand, and looks at how the country's National Kakapo Recovery Team is working to save the kakapos, whose population numbers less than one hundred

[To Kill a Mockingbird](#) by Harper Lee Scout Finch, the young daughter of a local attorney in the Deep South during the 1930s, tells of her father's defense of an African-American man charged with the rape of a white girl.

[The Last Best Days of Summer](#) by Valerie Hobbs

Twelve-year-old Lucy faces difficulties when her beloved grandmother becomes more forgetful and her neighbor Eddie, who has Down syndrome, threatens Lucy's plans to be popular.

[Leviathan](#) by Scott Westerfeld

In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically-engineered beasts.

Meanwhile by Jason Shiga

In this choose-your-own adventure graphic novel, a boy stumbles on the laboratory of a mad scientist who asks him to choose between testing a min-reading device, a time machine, and a doomsday machine. With the fate of humankind in their hands first readers choose between chocolate or vanilla ice cream, and then they leap back and forth through pages tangled with tubes and panels.

Middle School Is Worse Than Meatloaf: A Year Told through Stuff by Jennifer Holm

Ginny Davis chronicles the ups and downs of her seventh-grade year in a colorful collage of newspaper clippings, report cards, school assignments, notes to self, and more. Ginny makes a to do list for the year, including landing a role in the school play, trying to make friends, ignoring her horoscope, and going to see her grandpa Joe in Florida, but she always seems to come up short in accomplishing any of it.

Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine.

Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.

Mockingjay by Suzanne Collins.

The highly anticipated conclusion to the Hunger Games trilogy does not disappoint. If anything, it gives readers more than they bargained for—in action, in love, and in grief.

Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool.

Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up, and where she hopes to find out some things about his past.

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia

In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

Ranger's Apprentice by John Flanagan

When Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt, and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger. There are now ten books in the series.

Red Moon at Sharpsburg by Rosemary Wells

The bloodiness of the Civil War (red moon) and the complex issues of divided loyalties are seen through the eyes of India Moody, coming-of-age in Virginia and determined, despite all, to become a scientist.

[Revolver](#) by Marcus Sedgwick

Fourteen-year-old Sig is stranded at a remote cabin in the Arctic wilderness with his father, who died just hours earlier after falling through the ice, when a terrifying man arrives, claiming Sig's father owes him a share of a horde of stolen gold and that he will kill Sig if he does not get his money.

[The Rock and the River](#) by Kekla Magoon

Seeing the injustice in his 1968 Chicago neighborhood after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is killed, Sam Childs knows he can't be patient like his Civil Rights leader father nor join the Black Panthers like his brother: he must struggle to be his own man.

[Ship Breaker](#) by Paolo Bacigalupi

Nailer, a teenage scavenger, works to take apart ancient oil tankers in a future world where he must choose between harvesting riches or saving a girl.

[Stargirl](#) by Jerry Spinelli

Sixteen-year-old Leo reflects on his junior year of high school when eclectic and naive Stargirl arrives, wearing hippie clothes, strumming a ukulele, and gaining popularity and Leo's attention. When she falls from grace, Leo faces a difficult choice between siding with his peers or with his first love.

[Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion](#) _Loree Griffin Burns.

An introduction to the science of ocean motion describing the work of Dr. Curt Ebbesmeyer who tracks the distribution of trash, like sneakers and bathtub toys spilled at sea, through the Pacific Ocean.

[Troll's Eye View: A Book of Villainous Tales](#) Edited by Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling

Fifteen deeply twisted, fantastically funny, and hauntingly human fairy tales are told from the point of view of the villain in this excellent collection of very grim short stories.

[Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting](#) by Jim Murphy

In the middle of World War I, British and German forces quit fighting to celebrate Christmas together peacefully. First person details present the human side of this bloody war.

[Turtle in Paradise](#) by Jennifer L. Holm

In 1935, when her mother gets a job housekeeping for a woman who does not like children, eleven-year-old Turtle is sent to stay with relatives she has never met in far away Key West, Florida.

[Return to Sender](#) by Julia Alvarez

After his family hires migrant Mexican workers to help save their Vermont farm from foreclosure, eleven-year-old Tyler befriends the oldest daughter, but when he discovers they may not be in the country legally, he realizes that real friendship knows no borders.

[Rex Zero and the End of the World](#) by Tim Wynne-Jones

When ten-year-old Rex's family moves to Ottawa in 1962, he finds new friends outside his immediate neighborhood, comes to grips with living during the Cold War, and discovers the mystery of a missing panther.

[Take Me with You](#) by Carolyn Marsden

Raised in an Italian orphanage in the years following World War II, a biracial girl named Susanna and her best friend Pina want to be adopted but fear being separated.

[Ubiquitous: Celebrating Nature's Survivors](#) by Joyce Sidman

Three books in one! This amazing book of poetry is also a beautiful picture book and a nonfiction tribute to the adaptability of life on earth.

[The Unsinkable Walker Bean](#) by Aaron Renier

Walker Bean is happiest when he gets to spend time tinkering on his inventions in his grandfather's workshop, but when his grandfather acquires a curse, Walter must embark on a dangerous quest to return a pearl skull to the witches who made it.

[Warriors in the Crossfire](#) by Nancy Bo Flood

Near the end of WWII on the island of Saipan, Joseph's native family gets caught in the ruthless fight between the Japanese and American armies. Their intense battle for survival is reflected by their powerful longing for peace.

[The Wednesday Wars](#) by Gary D. Schmidt

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

[Wild Things](#) by Clay Carmichael

Spunky eleven-year-old Zoe comes to live with Uncle Henry who is a metal sculptor and learns that a safe home and acceptance are possible, even for wild things like her.

[Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland](#) by Sally M. Walker.

Crime Scene Investigation meets early American History—exposing ancient crimes and describing patterns of everyday life as told and written on the bones of the early Jamestown settlers.