

Stepping Stones
by Lucy Knisley

J GRAPHIC
KNISLEY

When Jen moves to Peapod Farm with her mom and her mom's new boyfriend, Jen doesn't really want two new "sisters." She also doesn't want to work on the farm, or have to try to fit in, but eventually Jen finds her place in the family.

The Storm Keeper's Island and The Lost Tide Warriors
by Catherine Doyle

J DOYLE

Escape into Finn Boyle's summer adventures on the Irish island of Arranmore. Start with *The Storm Keeper's Island*, as Finn discovers the history of (and the magic behind) his family's losses and special powers as he is forced to battle with an evil sorceress to defend his family and the magic of the island.

The Tornado
by Jake Burt

J BURT

Bell Kirby is a smart fifth grader who has been bullied for years by the middle school principal's son. Bell has just worked out a complex strategy that keeps him out of harm's way, but watches as a new girl becomes the bully's new victim. Bell must decide whether he'll step in, or steer clear of conflict.



Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky
by Kwambe Mbalia

J MBALIA

In this epic fantasy, seventh grader Tristan Strong leaves Chicago to spend the summer on his grandparents' Alabama farm. When magical heroes and gods from African American folktales appear, Tristan must travel to another dimension, through a hole in the sky.

When Stars are Scattered
by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed

J GRAPHIC
JAMIESON

This realistic graphic novel is based on the true story of Omar, a Somali refugee, and his younger brother, Hassan, who grow up in a Kenyan refugee camp. This novel illustrates the brothers' heartbreak, hope, and their inspiring focus on escaping their difficult daily realities.

Wink
by Rob Harrell

J HARRELL

Seventh-grade cartoonist Ross Maloy is diagnosed with a rare eye tumor, and must deal with radiation treatments, partial blindness, and losing his closest friends. But when rock music he's never heard of becomes part of his treatment sessions, Ross picks up a guitar, and finds a way to be completely himself.



A Wolf Called Wander
by Rosanne Parry

J PARRY

This page-turning 1,000-mile journey in the Pacific Northwest is told from the point of view of a wolf. Based on a true story of a specific wolf who searched to find his pack, this "animal voiced" book is full of real-world outdoor drama.

Worse Than Weird
by Jody Little

J LITTLE

It's almost the end of sixth grade, and technology-loving MacKenna "Mac" MacLeod wants to go to a girls coding camp this summer. But money is tight (and her parents are weird), so Mac and her friends scheme to win a food cart treasure hunt for the prize money.

This summer, let's **take care** to read **books** with our families.

These diverse books are highly recommended by librarians, educators, and professional reviewers because they offer compelling stories, complex and appealing characters, and expressive language and vocabulary. Books enable older children to personally connect with the inner lives of characters, consider decision making strategies, and learn more about the world and how we live in it.

When Simsbury readers of all ages take care to read books and participate in our 2020 Summer Reading program, we are making community connections by sharing stories, information, and finding joy when we read during tough times and hopeful ones.

Recommended Summer Reading

Grades 5-6



Take Care.

Summer Reading 2020

Read Books.

Raising Readers

at the Simsbury Public Library

For more book lists, visit simsburylibrary.info/children/raising-readers/

725 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070
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SimsburyPublicLibrary:
Children's Room



Ben of All Trades
by Michael Rosen

J OLDER ROSEN

When Benjamin Franklin was a kid, he wanted to be a sailor. But his father had other plans, so Ben tried lots of other jobs, and while most ended in failure, Ben learned something from every experience.

Click, Camp, and Act
by Kayla Miller

J GRAPHIC MILLER

These popular middle grade graphic novels chronicle the fifth and sixth grade experiences of Olive, a girl with friends, dreams, and struggles.

Earthsea series
by Ursula Le Guin

J LE GUIN

Ged is the greatest sorcerer in all of Earthsea. But when he was young, Ged was known as Sparrowhawk, a young man who didn't know the magic that lay within him. This classic fantasy series chronicles Ged's coming of age

and the saga of his incredible magical adventures.

Echo Mountain
by Lauren Wolk

J WOLK

When the Great Depression forces Ellie's family to move to a mountain cabin in Maine, they all have new skills to learn. Then an accident puts her father into a coma, and Ellie doesn't know how to heal him, or who lives high up on the mountain with a seemingly wild dog.

From the Desk of Zoe Washington
by Janae Marks

J MARKS

When Zoe turns twelve, she receives a letter from her estranged father in prison. He wants to get to know her and claims that he's innocent of his crime. Serious topics like inequality and wrongful conviction are balanced by the love and support of Zoe's family that shine throughout this warm-hearted story.

Greystone Secrets series
by Margaret Haddix

J HADDIX

The Strangers and *The Deceivers* make up this suspenseful and unusual mystery series. Three siblings (ranging from second to sixth grade) start to seriously worry that their dependable and always-present mom might be in danger. (Warning: *The Strangers* ends in a cliffhanger, so reserve both titles!)



Hatchet
by Gary Paulsen

J PAULSEN

Brian is traveling to Canada to visit his father after his parents' recent divorce, when he becomes the sole survivor of a plane crash. This classic wilderness survival story is fast-paced and gripping, as Brian uses his wits, grit, and a hatchet to live another day.

A Home for Goddesses and Dogs
by Leslie Connor

J CONNOR

After 13-year-old Lydia loses her mother to heart disease, she moves to rural Connecticut to live with her mother's older sister, Aunt Brat. There, Lydia learns how to live with her loss, eventually finds joy in new friendships, and falls in love with the best big bad yellow dog ever.

Kiranmala and the Kingdom Beyond series
by Sayantani Dasgupta

J DASGUPTA

Until her twelfth birthday, Kiranmala thought she was an ordinary New Jersey sixth grader. But when her parents disappear and a human-eating demon invades her home, Kiranmala is swept into another dimension where magical creatures and a pair of royal princes insist that she is an Indian princess who must save their world.

The List of Things That Will Not Change
by Rebecca Stead

J STEAD

Narrated by her 12-year-old self, Bea tells the story of when she was ten and navigated her parent's divorce, her father's second marriage, and her opportunity to (finally) have a sister. Bea often sees things as she wants them to be, so when things do not go as planned, her angry outbursts take over, and bad things seem to happen.

Miraculous
by Jess Redman

J REDMAN

Beginning with the crisis of faith of 11-year-old Wunder who is grieving the death of his baby sister, this compelling story follows the grief process through an adventure that includes friendship, healing, and miracles.



Other Words for Home
by Jasmine Warga

J WARGA

To escape political unrest and violence, 12-year-old Jude leaves her hometown in Syria to go live in Cincinnati with her mother. Leaving her father and brother behind is difficult, but trying to feel at home in the fast-paced, consumer-driven culture of the U.S. proves even harder.



Prairie Lotus
by Linda Sue Park

J PARK

This recasting of a *Little House on the Prairie* storyline introduces readers to 14-year-old Hanna and her father, who are trying to find a home in the Dakota Territory. While they face racism and aggressions, Hanna also finds friendship and inspiration to persevere.

Santiago's Road Home
by Alexandra Diaz

J DIAZ

To escape the abuse of his abuela's family, 12-year-old Santiago joins a young mother and daughter as they travel to cross from Mexico into the United States. They experience harrowing and realistic circumstances, but the story of kind and savvy Santiago thoughtfully presents challenges families may face at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Show Me a Sign
by Ann Clare LeZotte

J LEZOTTE

Set in 1805 on Martha's Vineyard, 11-year-old Mary Lambert lives in a community where one in four residents is deaf, and nearly everyone can communicate in sign language. A compelling narrator, Mary gives insight into what should be considered "normal", especially when an arrogant scientist arrives and wants to study her unique community.

Stand Up, Yumi Chung!
by Jessica Kim

J KIM

Eleven-year-old aspiring comic Yumi Chung is spending her summer helping in her family's struggling Korean BBQ restaurant and taking prep classes to hopefully win a scholarship. When Yumi discovers a comedy class for kids, her passion is ignited, but she has to keep so many secrets from so many people—until she just can't.

Stella By Starlight
by Sharon Draper

J DRAPER

In Bumblebee, North Carolina, 10-year-old Stella plays by the rules of Depression-era segregation laws, until the Ku Klux Klan reappears in her community. Will Stella find the inner strength and support of others to battle this level of prejudice?

