

# The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez by Adrianna

J CUEVAS

Cuevas

Cuban-American Nestor Lopez has moved a lot during his 12 years. This fantasy story is not just about being the "new kid". First. Nestor can talk to animals. Second, there's a witch who is snatching up livestock and pets and Nestor and his new friends decide to take a stand. For readers who enjoy Rick Riordan presents books, and scary stories.

## War Stories by Gordon Korman

**J KORMAN** 

Twelve-year-old Trevor adores his great-grandfather, G.G., a World War II veteran, and is excited to travel to a World War II anniversary event in France with G.G. and his dad. Chapters alternate between Trevor's family trip and G.G.'s actual wartime experiences, making it a great option for readers who enjoy the *I Survived* series by Lauren Tarshis.



## We Dream of Space by Erin Entrada

JKFITY

Kellv

Meet the Thomas siblings, 13-year-old Cash and 12-vearold twins Fitch and Bird, as they learn about outer space before the 1986 Challenger space shuttle launch. Most of their middle school challenges are universal, but in their dysfunctional family each sibling must find tough solutions to their own issues.

## When Stars are Scattered

#### by Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed

J GRAPHIC JAMIESON

This award-winning realistic graphic novel is based on the true story of Somali brothers Omar and Hassan, who grow up in a Kenyan refugee camp. Readers experience the brothers' heartbreak, hope, and their inspiring focus on escaping daily realities.

#### When You Trap a Tiger by Tae Keller

J KELLER

The winner of the 2021 Newbery Medal, this magical story is based in reality as Lily, a Korean-American middle schooler, believes she must negotiate with a mystical tiger to save her sick Halmoni (grandmother). Who will believe Lilv's story enough to help her?



## A Wish in the Dark

#### by Christina Soontornvat

J SOONTORNVAT

Born in prison. 12-vear-old Pong is focused on escaping and rising above his low social status. While he is chased through the city of Chattana and bevond. Pong learns that people are rising up against the privileged classes who magically control the light. This fantasy tale is a 2021 Newbery Honor Book.

**Reading reconnects us.** That's why your family's summer reading experience is even more meaningful this year.

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 participate in our **2021 Summer Reading program**, we can share the stories and information we find within books and discover how reading helps us all reconnect to each other.





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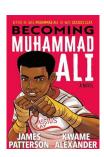
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# Recommended Summer Reading Grades 5-6





#### **Becoming** Muhammad Ali

#### **Kwame Alexander** & James **Patterson**

J PATTERSON

This illustrated fictionalized biography of Cassius Clay's first 17 years alternates between pageturning free verse stories and sections narrated by Cassius' best friend, Lucky. This authorized account of Ali's Kentucky childhood portrays the consistent hard work (and quick wit) that helped make him a boxing champion.

#### The Bridge Home

#### by Padma Venkatraman

J VENKATRAMAN

When runaway sisters arrive on the streets of Chennai.

India, they are barely surviving until two homeless boys become their allies and an abandoned bridge becomes their home. This family of children survives as trash scavengers. until something goes wrong and the sisters must seek help from the society beyond their bridge.

#### City Spies and Golden Gate by James Ponti

J PONTI

Meet the kids who were chosen as agents for Britain's MI6 to solve mysteries using their special skills in math, hacking, planning operations, and generally "spy stuff". These fastpaced thrillers offer exciting adventures with mysteries and teamwork.

#### Cleo Porter and the Body Electric by Jake Burt

J BURT

In this timely sci-fi J CD VENKATRAMAN adventure, 12-yearold Cleo and her parents are sealed in an apartment complex to keep

them safe from a disease that nearly destroved the human population decades ago. But when a drone brings medicine for someone else to their apartment. Cleo feels compelled to deliver the medicine herself. even though she has no idea what the outside world contains.

#### Earthsea series by Ursula Le Guin

J LE GUIN

Ged is the undisputed greatest sorcerer in all of Earthsea. But when he was young, he didn't know the powerful magic that lav within him. This classic fantasy series chronicles Ged's coming of age and magical adventures.

#### Fighting Words by Kimberly **Brubaker Bradley**

**J BRADLEY** 

This moving story of 10-year-old Della and her older sister, Suki, includes their incarcerated mother, foster care, mental crises, and the aftermath of abuse. While not explicit, tough content is

at the heart of this story, and the reality is heartbreaking vet hopeful, offering an essential perspective for middle grade readers.



#### Gold Rush Girl by Avi

J AVI

It's the 1840s, and Victoria (Torv) Blaisdell's father sails from Rhode Island to California with his young son to find gold—with Tory as a stowaway. Life is San Francisco is dangerous. and when her brother disappears, Torv begins a treacherous search on land and sea, relying on new friends. and her newfound independence to keep her family together.

#### Greystone **Secrets** series

#### by Margaret Haddix

**J HADDIX** 

In this intense mystery trilogy, the three Grevstone siblings start to worry when their dependable and always-present mom might be in serious danger. Their adventures take exciting turns and lead readers into other dimensions to find the missing pieces to their puzzles.

#### One Came Home by Amy

J TIMBERLAKE

**Timberlake** 

In 1871 in the town of Placid, Wisconsin, 13-year-old Georgie Burkhart is a sharpshooter and a straight talker. But when Georgie's older sister, Agatha, takes off, the sheriff declares that Agatha is dead. Georgie rejects that notion, and hits the trail to solve the mystery of Agatha's disappearance in this suspenseful western adventure.



#### The Only Black Girls in Town by Brandy Colbert

J COLBERT

Twelve-year-old surfer Alberta has lived in her California beach town her whole life. and she's always been the only Black girl. But when a Black family moves in across the street. Alberta struggles to find common ground with Edie from Brooklyn. Both girls face the challenges of middle school, and the must-solve mystery about Edie's new home.

#### Show Me a Sign **bv 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. Mary must rely on her own sharp senses when an opinionated scientist comes to the island to study her unique community.



#### Small Spaces and **Dead Voices** series by Katherine

Arden **J ARDEN** 

This horror series set in Vermont features 11-yearold Ollie, who finds a mysterious book about a local family's tragedy. When a school field trip and a ski vacation put Ollie and friends into the path of the frightening "smiling man" and ghosts that haunt their dreams, be ready to be properly scared.

#### Take Back the Block by Chrystal Giles

J GILES

When a real estate developer starts buying the homes in Wes Henderson's neighborhood, the 6th grader turns to his teacher and some friends for strategic help. Once he learns about gentrification. community, and social justice, Wes and his supporters are prepared to take back the block.

### **bv Liesl Shurtliff**

Time Castaways

J SHURTLIFF

When Mateo and twins Corev and Ruby break their parents' rule of NEVER taking public transportation on their own, they time travel from the New York subway to a sailing warship in 1911—in Paris. The race to untangle the truth of their family's history and how to escape the past involves pirates, excitement. and lots of twists and turns.