

**Wayward
Creatures**
by Dayna Lorentz

J LORENTZ
Follow the lives of a frustrated coyote named Rill and a troubled 12-year-old boy who both have to develop trust and new skills after a devastating forest fire impacts their communities. A great pick for fans of *Pax* and *The One and Only Ivan*.

**We Dream of
Space**
by Erin Entrada
Kelly

J KELLY
Meet the Thomas siblings, 13-year-old Cash and 12-year-old 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

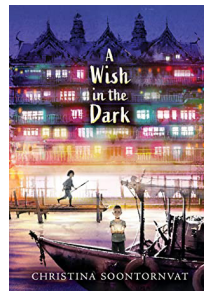
NUTMEG J GRAPHIC
JAMIESON

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

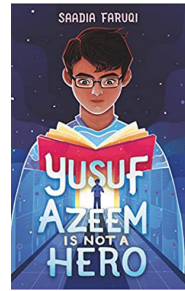
The winner of the 2021 Newbery Medal, this magical story is based in reality as Lily, a Korean-American middle schooler, believes she must negotiate with a mystical tiger to save her sick Halmoni (grandmother). Who will believe Lily's story enough to help her?



**A Wish in the
Dark**
by Christina
Soontornvat

J SOONTORNVAT
Born in prison, 12-year-old Pong is focused on escaping and rising above his low social status. While he is chased through the fantasy city of Chattana and beyond, Pong learns that people are

rising up against the privileged classes who magically control the light.



**Yusuf Azeem is
Not a Hero**
by Saadia Faruqi

J FARUQI

Yusuf Azeem is 11 years old when his small Texas town prepares to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. He's more excited about entering the regional robotics competition (and winning it) until bullies, town leaders, and his school and church community force him to stand up against prejudice to defend his friendships, and personal beliefs.

Celebrate Simsbury Summers.

Welcome to our in-person summer reading program, full of special outdoor Simsbury events and wonderful summer reads.

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 **2022 Summer Reading program**, we are reminded that reading books we enjoy has always been a celebrated part of summertime in Simsbury.



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For more book lists, visit
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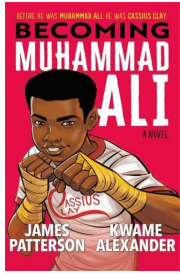
SimsburyPublicLibrary



SimsburyPublicLibrary:
Children's Room

**Recommended
Summer Reading
Grades 5-6**





Becoming Muhammad Ali
by Kwame Alexander & James Patterson

J PATTERSON

This illustrated fictionalized biography of Cassius Clay's first 17 years alternates between page-turning 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 series
by James Ponti

J PONTI

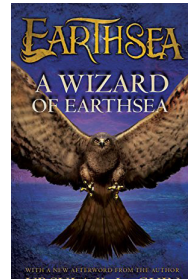
Meet the kids who were chosen as agents for Britain's MI6 to solve mysteries using their special skills in math, hacking, planning operations, and generally "spy stuff". These fast-paced thrillers offer exciting adventures with mysteries and teamwork.

Cleo Porter and the Body Electric
by Jake Burt

J BURT

In this timely sci-fi adventure, 12-year-old Cleo and her parents are sealed in an apartment complex to keep them safe from a disease that nearly destroyed 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 lay within him. This classic fantasy series chronicles Ged's coming of age and magical adventures.

Gold Rush Girl
by Avi

J AVI

It's the 1840s, and Victoria (Tory) Blaisdell's father sails from Rhode Island to California

with his young son to find gold—with Tory as a stowaway. Life in San Francisco is dangerous, and when her brother disappears, Tory 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

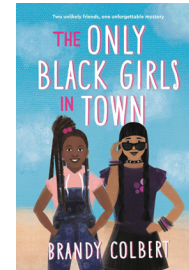
In this intense mystery trilogy, the three Greystone siblings start to worry when their dependable and always-present mom might be in serious danger. Their adventures take exciting turns and lead readers into other dimensions to find the missing pieces to their puzzles.

Northwind
by Gary Paulsen

J PAULSEN

This ocean survival adventure by an award-winning author takes readers on a page-turning

solo canoe journey with Leif, an orphan and survivor of a devastating plague. From paddling with orcas to avoiding bears and ravens, Leif's journey is tough and full of calming self-discovery. For fans of *Hatchet* and the *I Survived* series.



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 and Set Me Free
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. Mary must rely on her own sharp senses when an opinionated scientist comes to the island to study her unique community.



Small Spaces quartet
by Katherine Arden

J ARDEN

This horror series set in Vermont features 11-year-old 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.

Track series
by Jason Reynolds

J REYNOLDS

This four-book series is about members of an elite middle school city track team who narrate their own stories. Ghost, Lu, Sunny, and Patina have different backgrounds, but share a desire

to prove to themselves—and to each other—that they can really compete.



The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez
by Adrianna Cuevas

NUTMEG J 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.