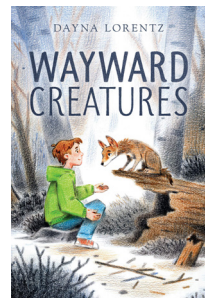




**Track series**  
by Jason Reynolds

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 compete.



**Wayward Creatures**  
by Dayna Lorentz

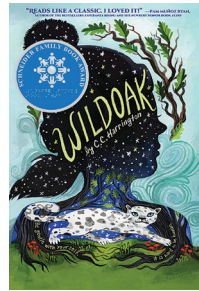
J LORENTZ  
Follow the lives of a frustrated coyote

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*.



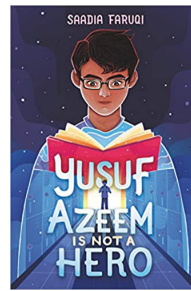
**Wilderlore series**  
by Amanda Foody

NUTMEG J FOODY  
Barclay Thorne is a law-abiding orphaned apprentice to a mushroom farmer until he strays into the Woods and encounters the mysterious and fantastical beasts he has been scared of his whole life. How will he find the special powers he needs to survive?



**Wildoak**  
by C.C. Harrington

J HARRINGTON  
When 11-year-old Maggie Stephens is sent to stay with her grandfather in the English countryside, she's supposed to be working on overcoming her stutter. Then a large white cat in the nearby Wildoak Forest catches her eye, and she thinks it's a snow leopard. But who will believe a girl who can't get her words out? This compassionate story takes place in the 1960s and is told in the alternating voices of the wild cat and Maggie.



**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.

**Summer Reading is for Everyone.**  
Welcome to our Summer Reading Program, full of special family 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, backgrounds, abilities, and experiences participate in our **2023 Summer Reading Program**, we are reminded that reading books in the summer is something **everyone** can enjoy.

**For more book lists, visit**  
[simsburylibrary.info/children/raising-readers/](https://simsburylibrary.info/children/raising-readers/)

 **SimsburyPublicLibrary**

 **SimsburyPublicLibrary**

 **SimsburyPublicLibrary: Children's Room**

725 Hopmeadow Street  
Simsbury, CT 06070  
(860) 658-7663 option 4

# Recommended Summer Reading

## Grades 5-6



## SUMMER READING



# EVERYONE

*Raising Readers*  
at the Simsbury Public Library 

***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.

***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.



***The Daredevils***  
by Rob Buyea

J BUYEA

It's the last summer before twins Loretta and Waylon are headed for middle school. After making friends with Louie next door, the trio discovers a buried box and a note daring them to "find and conquer your own rite of passage". By creating campfire challenges these fearless friends discover who they can become.

***Earthsea series***  
by Ursula Le Guin

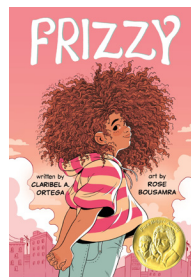
J LE GUIN

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.

***Frizzy***  
by Claribel Ortega

J GRAPHIC ORTEGA

Every Sunday, Marlene has to sit for hours at the salon to have her curly hair straightened. Her mother believes "good" hair is straight hair, and it's only when Marlene confides in her Tia (Aunt) Ruby that she finds the style that joyfully represents who she is, both inside and out. A great choice for Raina Telgemeier fans.



***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.

***The Last Mapmaker***  
by Christina Soontornvat

J SOONTORNVAT

This Newbery Honor Book fantasy adventure features 12-year-old Sai, who lies to gain an assistantship with the Mangkon Royal Navy's Master Mapmaker. Sai embarks on a dangerous ocean voyage to map the fabled Sunderlands hoping to survive the journey and delay the discovery of her true identity.

***Maizy Chen's Last Chance***  
by Lisa Yee

J YEE

Eleven-year-old Maizy visits Last Chance, Minnesota, for the summer to help her mom care for Maizy's sick Opa (grandpa) and assist her Oma (grandma) in running the family's Chinese restaurant. While Maizy

enjoys stories about of her immigrant great-great-grandfather, she struggles to understand the perspectives of her parents and grandparents and learns more about being Chinese and an American.

***The Marvellers***  
by Dhonielle Clayton

J CLAYTON

For readers who love getting lost in a detailed magical world, this book offers a global magic school in the sky where 11-year-old Ella Durand is the first Conjuror to attend. For fans of magical fantasy and wizarding books.



***Not an Easy Win***  
by Chrystal Giles

J GILES

It's been tough since Lawrence moved from the city to a small North Carolina town. His family (minus his dad) are

now living with his strict grandmother, the bullies at school are relentless, and then Lawrence gets expelled. To find a path forward, Lawrence must create new friendships, share his big secret, and land a spot on the rec center's chess team.

***The Ogress and the Orphans***  
by Kelly Barnhill

J BARNHILL

Stone-in-the-Glen was an idyllic town until the new mayor slayed all the dragons and the library burned down. When children in the town's Orphan House befriend a shy ogress neighbor, they wonder if the magic of her kindness can also bring out the truth that changed their town.

***A Rover's Story***  
by Jasmine Warga

J WARGA

This deeply moving middle grade novel is the fictional journey of a robotic Mars rover who has human emotions.

Resilience (Res for short) is filled with questions about his journey to Mars and wonders how—and if—he will ever return to Earth.



***Small Spaces series***  
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.



***Squished***  
by Megan Wagner Lloyd

J GRAPHIC LLOYD

Eleven-year-old Avery Lee is feeling squished by her six siblings. She shares a bedroom, plus babysitting and chores, and just wants time with her friends and her art. Avery hatches a plan to finance her own new bedroom, but when the family decides to make a big change, Avery considers what she really wants.

***Thirst***  
by Varsha Bajaj

J BAJAJ

Living in the poorest part of Mumbai, India, 12-year-old Minni knows she needs to rise above her situation and find work to help her family. When her neighborhood's limited water access is threatened by a local crime ring, Minni and her close friends bravely take action and fight for justice.