Soddy-Daisy Community Library 2025 Summer Reading Recommendations

6 - 8

The Soddy-Daisy Community Library is proud to present our 2025 Classic Summer of Reading Recommendations. These books were chosen by a panel of librarians, educators and book industry professionals, and represent a diverse cross-section of interests. There's something here for every reader.

We hope these recommendations will support your child's education, improve their reading skills and provide plenty of relaxation and fun.

Happy Reading!

These recommendations cover a wide range of grades, ages, content, and subject matter. If you need help making choices or would like additional recommendations, we're happy to assist.

Classics

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

by L. Frank Baum
An exciting adventure where a
girl named Dorothy teams up
with a scarecrow, a tin man,
and a cowardly lion to find her
way home through a magical
land filled with surprises and
danger.

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

by lan Fleming
A fast-paced, fun-filled story
about a magical car that flies,
floats, and zooms a family into
wild adventures and daring
escapes from criminals.

A Wrinkle in Time

by Madeline L'Engle
A thrilling sci-fi adventure
where a brave girl travels
through space and time with
her brother and a friend to
rescue her missing father and
save the universe from
darkness.

Stargirl

by Jerry Spinelli
A heartwarming and
unforgettable story about a
unique girl who dares to be
different in a high school where
everyone just wants to fit in.

Fantasy / SciFi

True Colors

by Abby Cooper
In the always-positive town of
Serenity, 12-year-old Mackenzie
—whose emotions show up as
colorful haze—accidentally
reveals everyone's true feelings,
turning the town upside down
and forcing everyone to face
what's really going on inside.

The Lion of Lark-Hayes Manor

by Aubrey Hartman
When Poppy moves to a spooky
old mansion and feels invisible at
her new school, she makes a
magical deal that gives her a
flying lion—but as books start
vanishing and strange things
happen, she must find a way to
fix the mess before everyone's
stories, including her own, are
lost forever.

Sona and the Golden Beasts

by Rajani LaRocca
In a land where music is banned
and magic is dangerous, Sona
hides her powers—until a journey
to save a loved one, a mysterious
wolf pup, and a Devan boy lead
her to uncover powerful secrets
that could change the future of
her world forever.

The Lost Library

by Rebecca Stead and Wendy Mass
When 11-year-old Evan finds two old books in a mysterious little free library guarded by a big orange cat, he and his best friend Rafe uncover a hidden town secret that could change everything—and everyone—in Martinville.

Not Quite a Ghost

When Violet moves into a creepy old house on Katydid Street and gets stuck in a shadowy attic room with strange yellow wallpaper, she starts to get mysteriously sick—and begins to wonder if something, or someone, is hiding in the dark with her.

The Labyrinth of Souls

by Leslie Vedder
In a kingdom where
Nightmares lurk and no one
dares enter the Labyrinth of
Souls, outcast Ix Tatterfall—
who can see terrifying
creatures no one else can—
must join a secret academy to
stop a monstrous scarecrow
named Jack from unleashing
darkness on the world.

Historical Fiction

Rebellion 1776

by Laurie Halse Anderson In 1776 Boston, as cannons boom and smallpox spreads, 13-year-old Elsbeth—alone and immune to the deadly disease—takes a job helping a wealthy family while searching for her missing father and trying to survive the chaos of war and sickness.

The Blood Years

by Elana K. Arnold
As war and antisemitism tear
through her once-safe city, 13year-old Rieke must fight to
protect her family, her home,
and herself—even if it means
letting go of everything she's
ever known.

Resist

by Alan Gratz
During World War II in Nazioccupied France, young spy
Samira must race through
dangerous battles on D-Day—
armed with secret codes and
her tiny dog Cyrano—to rescue
her captured mother before it's
too late.

We Built This City by Cat Patricks

In the summer of 1985, twelve-year-old Stevie hits the road with her performing troupe on a cross-country tour full of dancing, big hair, first crushes, and unforgettable adventures that help her discover who she really wants to be.

The Bletchley Riddle

by Ruta S<mark>epetys</mark> and Steve Sheinkin

In the summer of 1940, teen codebreaker Jakob and his puzzle-loving sister Lizzie find themselves caught in a web of secrets at Bletchley Park, where they must team up to crack mysterious codes, uncover what happened to their missing mother, and help stop the Nazis—before time runs out.

Operation: Happy

by Jenni L. Walsh
In 1940, as Jody adjusts to
life on a naval base in Pearl
Harbor with her aging dog
Happy, she creates
"Operation: Happy" to stay
positive—until the attack on
Pearl Harbor turns her world
upside down and she must
find the courage to keep her
family together through the
chaos.

Realistic Fiction

The Tenth Mistake of Hank Hooperman

by Gennifer Choldinko
When 11-year-old Hank's
mom disappears and he's left
caring for his little sister,
asking for help brings big
changes—new schools, tough
questions, and the fear of
being separated—but it might
also be the start of a second
chance for a better life.

The Mystery of the Locked Rooms

by Lindsay Currie
When 12-year-old Sarah and
her best friends enter an
abandoned 1950s funhouse
to find a legendary hidden
treasure and save her home,
they discover mind-bending
puzzles, eerie challenges, and
secrets that feel way too
personal—like the funhouse
was made just for them.

Tear This Down

by Barbara Dee
When Freya discovers her
town's famous hero wasn't as
heroic as everyone thinks, she
sets out to replace his statue
with one of a forgotten

suffragette—sparking a big town debate and learning what it really means to stand up for what's right.

And Then, Boom!

by Lisa Fipps
In this powerful novel in verse,
Joe Oak uses his drawings and
love of superheroes to stay
strong as he faces life without
his mom, a place to live, or
enough food—until a scruffy
dog, a true friend, and a twist
of fate help him discover the
hero inside himself.

The Secret Language of Birds

by Lynne Kelly
While trying to fit in at summer camp, bird-loving Nina spots a pair of rare whooping cranes—one of which no expert can identify—and as she investigates the mystery, she might just find where she truly belongs.

Someone's Gonna End Up Crying

by Jo Knowles
Ten-year-old Maple uses her
sketchbook and imagination to
make sense of growing family
troubles, friendship drama, and
her dad's sudden absences—

Realistic Fiction (cont)

but as summer unfolds, she realizes it might take more than drawings to face what's really going on.

The Fire, the Water, and Maudie McGinn

by Sally J. Pla
Maudie, a neurodivergent girl
spending summer with her dad
in California, must find the
courage to speak up about a
scary secret at home—all while
navigating wildfires, learning to
surf, and discovering just how
strong and brave she really is.

Kareem Between

by Shifa Saltagi Safadi
Seventh grade isn't going well
for Kareem—his best friend
moved, football tryouts
flopped, and now he's caught
between helping a new kid,
dealing with his mom stuck in
Syria, and making a tough
choice that could cost him
everything—unless he can find
the courage to do what's right.

Non-Fiction / Biography

Facing the Mountain (Young Reader Edition)

by Daniel James Brown
The powerful true story of
three Japanese American
soldiers who bravely fought in
World War II while their families
were sent to camps back
home and one young man who
stood up for justice—even
when his own country treated
him unfairly.

The Mona Lisa Vanishes

by Nicholas Day
When the Mona Lisa vanished
from the Louvre in 1911, it set
off a wild mystery involving
sneaky thieves, famous artists
like Picasso, and a secret from
Leonardo da Vinci's past—all
in the thrilling, twisty world of
turn-of-the-century Paris.

The Enigma Girls

by Candace Fleming
During World War II, teenage
girls were secretly recruited to
a mysterious place called
Bletchley Park, where they
used their smarts to crack Nazi
codes, run giant machines,

and help win the war—all while keeping their top-secret work totally hidden.

Indigenous Ingenuity

by Deirdre Haverlock and Edward Kay
From chocolate and canoes to fishing hooks, architecture, and even brain surgery, this book explores the incredible scientific discoveries and inventions of Indigenous North Americans, with fun hands-on activities and experiments for readers to try.

The Mythmakers

by John Hendrix
Told through stories and comic
panels, this book follows the
friendship of C.S. Lewis and
J.R.R. Tolkien—from their
childhoods and time in World
War I to their writing, rivalries,
and how they helped each
other create the magical worlds
that reimagined fantasy forever.

Unseen Jungle: The Microbes That Secretly Control Our World

by Eleanor Spicer Rice Get ready to explore the wild, weird world of microbes—tiny creatures that live all over (and inside) us. The microbes that help us digest food and turn bugs into zombies are revealed in this hilarious, gross, and totally fascinating science adventure.

Impossible Escape

by Steve Sheinkin
In 1944, teenage Rudi Vrba
risks everything to escape
Auschwitz and expose the
Nazis' deadly secret to the
world—racing against time to
save lives, including that of his
friend Gerta, who is hiding from
danger in Hungary.

More than a Dream: The Radical March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom

by Yohura Williams
This powerful book looks
beyond Dr. King's famous "I
Have a Dream" speech to show
how the 1963 March on
Washington was a bold, urgent
protest for jobs and freedom—
led by Black activists, women,
and organizers whose impact
still matters today.

Graphic Novels

Shock City

by Aaron Alexovich
When shy Milo dares to knock
on a spooky castle door, he's
swept into a wild adventure
with a hyper monster BFF,
uncovering dark secrets,
battling fear, and fighting to
save their crumbling city before
it's too late.

Taxi Ghost

by Sophie Escabasse
Adèle's quiet winter break turns
upside down when she gets her
first period and discovers she
can see ghosts—who've been
joyriding in her sister's car and
now need her help to solve
their unfinished business!

Next Stop

by Debbie Fong
Quiet and curious Pia joins a
quirky bus tour to escape her
grief, only to discover that the
weird roadside stops—and the
friends she makes along the
way—might just help her heal
in ways she never imagined.

The Ghostkeeper

by Johanna Taylor
A teen who talks to ghosts
must race against time to find a

stolen key to the afterlife—before the spirits he's sworn to help are lost forever... and he goes down with them.

The Cartoonists Club

by Raina Telgemeier and Scott McCloud
Four creative kids team up to turn their ideas, doodles, and dreams into awesome comics—proving that with a little teamwork and imagination, anyone can tell a great story!

Pizza Face

by Rex Ogle and Dave Valeza
Rex's first day of seventh grade kicks off with a giant pimple and only gets worse as he battles body odor, bullies, and confusing friendships. Rex must try to survive the chaos of puberty without the stuff he needs to get through it.

Dog Trouble

by Kristin Varner
When Ash gets sent to a tiny island for the summer and stuck doing community service at an animal shelter, he thinks it's the worst punishment ever—until a goofy dog named Cooper helps him turn things around.

Get ready for the
SDCL Classic
Summer of Reading!
When you read this summer, you can
earn this Classic T-Shirt!



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