

Soddy-Daisy
Community Library
2025 Summer Reading
Recommendations

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The Soddy-Daisy Community Library proudly presents 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

Breakfast at Tiffany's

by Truman Capote

A young writer becomes captivated by his enigmatic neighbor, Holly Golightly, a charming and elusive socialite searching for love and belonging in 1940s New York City.

Animal Farm

by George Orwell

A group of farm animals overthrow their human owner to establish an egalitarian society, only to see it corrupted by tyranny and inequality under their own kind.

The Time Machine

by H.G. Wells

A Victorian scientist invents a time machine and journeys to the distant future, where he discovers the haunting consequences of humanity's social divisions.

Swiss Family Robinson

by Johann David Wyss

After being shipwrecked on a deserted island, a resourceful Swiss family uses ingenuity and teamwork to survive, adapt, and build a new life in the wilderness.

SciFi / Fantasy / Horror

The Secret Heart of Maeve MacGowan

by Stephanie Ascough

While trying to save her village's dying apple trees, Maeve uncovers dark secrets, faces forbidden love, and is forced to question everything she's ever believed about her home and herself.

The Bone Witch

by Rin Chupeco

When Tea accidentally resurrects her brother and discovers she's a rare and feared bone witch, she must master her dark magic in a distant land to confront rising dangers and make a life-altering choice.

Sunrise on the Reaping

by Suzanne Collins

The origin story of Haymitch, Katniss' trainer in the Hunger Games.

Compass and Blade

by Rachel Greenlaw

When her father is arrested for their island's deadly wrecking trade, Mira—drawn to the sea by a mysterious power—must

uncover a hidden family secret beneath the waves to save him before time runs out.

Rebel of the Sands

by Alwyn Hamilton

In the unforgiving desert of Miraji, orphaned gunslinger Amani Al'Hiza seizes a chance to escape her bleak fate with a mysterious foreigner, only to discover a world of mythical beasts, djinn magic, and a destiny far beyond Dustwalk.

Anatomy: A Love Story

by Dana Schwartz

In 19th-century Edinburgh, aspiring surgeon Hazel Sinnett teams up with resurrection man Jack Curren to study anatomy and uncover a deadly mystery threatening the city's forgotten souls—and her future.

The Sunbearer Trials

by Aiden Thomas

Semidioses (demigods) compete in a series of challenges to see who will replenish the sun to keep darkness at bay - and who will die for the honor.

Historical Fiction

We are All that's Left

by Carrie Arcos

After a bombing puts her mom in a coma, teen photographer Zara teams up with an unexpected new friend to uncover her mom's secrets, face her own trauma, and figure out who she really is.

All the Broken Places

by John Boyne

When a troubled family moves in downstairs, 91-year-old Gretel Fernsby forms an unlikely bond with a young boy that drags her secret past as a Nazi commandant's daughter back into the light—forcing her to face the truth she's spent a lifetime hiding.

Artifice

by Sharon Cameron

During the Nazi occupation of Amsterdam, Isa de Smit risks everything by forging priceless artwork to fund the rescue of Jewish children—walking a dangerous line between resistance and collaboration in a world where both art and people can be deceiving.

Rima's Rebellion

by Margarita Engle

In 1920s Cuba, Rima—an outcast girl labeled illegitimate—finds love, courage, and a reason to fight when she joins a group of fearless revolutionary women determined to change the world.

American Daughters

by Piper Huguley

In the early 1900s, Portia Washington and Alice Roosevelt—daughters of two powerful men—forge an unexpected lifelong friendship that helps them push back against the rules, drama, and chaos of their high-pressure worlds.

The Red Car to Hollywood

by Jennie Liu

In 1920s Los Angeles, sixteen-year-old Ruby Chan defies her traditional Chinese parents and society's expectations with help from film star Anna May Wong, as she fights to reclaim her future and identity amid love, betrayal, and self-discovery.

Realistic Fiction

He Should Have Told the Bees

by Amanda Cox

After her dad dies, beekeeper Beckett is furious to learn she has to share the family hives with a total stranger, Callie—but as secrets surface and struggles mount, the two must decide if they'll fight for the past or build something new together.

A Long Stretch of Bad Days

by Mindy McGinnis

When a graduation glitch forces overachiever Lydia to partner with rebellious Bristol on a podcast about their town's darkest week, their investigation into a long-buried murder uncovers dangerous secrets some would kill to keep hidden.

Radio Silence

by Alice Oseman

Focused solely on getting into an elite university, Frances finds unexpected freedom in her friendship with shy

podcast creator Aled—until fame, secrets, and a missing girl force her to confront who she truly is and what she really wants.

Louder Than Hunger

by John Schu

Struggling with an eating disorder and desperate to fit in, Jake finds comfort volunteering at a nursing home—but as he tries to disappear, his pain grows louder in this powerful, poetic journey of self-worth and healing.

Dear Manny

by Nic Stone

As Jared runs for junior class president on a progressive platform, a new rival challenges his ideals, sparking a whirlwind of political tension, personal reflection, and unexpected romance—all while he writes letters to his late friend to make sense of it all.

Challenger Deep

by Neal Shusterman

Torn between reality and a vivid, symbolic seafaring world in his mind, brilliant teen Caden Bosch battles the depths of mental illness in a powerful and

Realistic Fiction

(cont)

haunting journey of self-discovery.

Where Wolves Don't Die

by Anton Treuer

When Ezra Cloud is blamed for a fire he didn't start, his family sends him to the Canadian wilderness to stay safe—where he must navigate survival, suspicion, and his own identity while those seeking vengeance close in.

Sunrise Nights

by Jeff Zentner and Brittany Cavallaro

At a sleepaway art camp's magical dusk-to-dawn celebration, aspiring photographer Jude and dancer Florence form a deep connection bound by a one-night-a-year rule, discovering love, loss, and self-discovery over the course of three Sunrise Nights.

Non-Fiction

A Place Called Home

by David Ambroz

In this powerful memoir, David Ambroz recounts his harrowing journey through poverty, foster care, and rejection, revealing the systemic failures he endured and the resilience that led him from homelessness to advocacy and hope.

Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking

by Malcolm Gladwell

Blink explores the power of rapid cognition, revealing how our best decisions often come from instinctive, split-second judgments—when we've learned to focus on what truly matters and ignore the noise.

This is Your Brain on Stereotypes

by Tanya Lloyd Kyi

This accessible and engaging overview explores the science behind stereotypes—why our brains form them, how they shape our identities and

biases, and what we can do to challenge them for a fairer, more inclusive world.

Inaugural Ballers

by Andrew Maraniss

The inspiring true story of the groundbreaking 1976 U.S. Women's Olympic Basketball team, a group of underdog athletes who defied expectations and laid the foundation for the future of women's sports in America.

You Can't Say That!: Writers for Young People Talk About Censorship, Free Expression, and the Stories They Have to Tell

by Leonard S. Marcus

Hear from 13 top YA and kids' authors as they get real about what it's like to have their books banned, why people try to silence certain stories, and why the fight for your right to read matters now more than ever.

Authors interviewed include: Dav Pilkey, Angie Thomas, R.L. Stine, and David Levithan.

My Name is Jason. Mine Too. Our Story. Our Way.

by Jason Reynolds and Jason Griffin

Once, there were two Jasons—one Black, one white; one a poet, one an artist—chasing big dreams in New York City, ready to face whatever struggles came their way as long as they had their art, their friendship, and a shot at something real.

Impossible Escape

by Steve Sheinkin

A true story of two Jewish teens racing against time, plotting escape during the Holocaust - one in hiding in Hungary, and the other in Auschwitz.

Accountable

by Dashka Slater

The true story of a racist social media account and the teenagers whose lives it changed. It started as a joke, but in the end, no one was laughing. Where does accountability end for online speech that harms? And what does accountability even mean?

Graphic Novels

The Pale Queen

by Ethan Aldridge

Agatha dreams of the stars, but when she stumbles into a hidden magical world ruled by the mysterious Lady of the Hills, she's torn between enchantment and danger—especially as she uncovers dark secrets that could threaten everyone she cares about.

Sunshine

by Jarrett J. Krosoczka

In high school, Jarrett J. Krosoczka thought being a counselor at a camp for seriously ill kids would be depressing—but instead, he found wild camp adventures, unforgettable friendships, and the kind of hope that can change your whole outlook on life.

An Outbreak of Witchcraft

by Deborah Noyes

Step into the chaos of the Salem witch trials in this gripping graphic novel that brings to life a time when lies spread like wildfire, paranoia ruled, and no one—friend, neighbor, or family—was safe from accusation.

The Deep Dark

by Molly Knox Ostertag

Everyone has secrets, but Mags's secrets have teeth—literally—and as her world starts to unravel with an old friend's return, forbidden love, and a darkness she can't keep buried, she'll have to decide if hiding who she is is worth losing everything.

Covenant

by Lysandra Vuong

In a demon-infested world where priests rock holy tattoos and machine guns, a snarky exorcist and a mysterious college student with a bloody past are forced together by fate, sparking romance, epic battles, and questions about faith, destiny, and what it means to be good.

Ash's Cabin

by Jen Wang

Tired of being ignored by everyone—including a world sleepwalking through the climate crisis—Ash sets out to find their late grandpa's hidden cabin in the California wilderness, hoping for a fresh start...but living alone in the wild might be way harder and lonelier than they ever expected.

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



Soddy-Daisy Community Library
9619 Dayton Pike * Soddy-Daisy, TN 37379
423.800.2367

KELCURTFoundation.org
founders@kelcurtfoundation.org



@TheSDCL