

GRADES 6 - 8 • 2020 Summer Book List

To view videos about the listed books, visit our YouTube channel **CCPL Summer Reading**.

SINGLE BOOKS

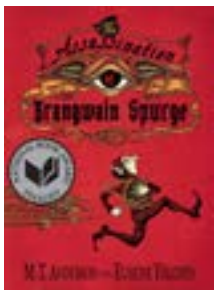


Small Spaces by Katherine Arden

Ollie Adler has only a few things left of her mother: a broken watch, a magical home in the woods she shares with her father, and a sense of bravery. That bravery leads her to discover a sobbing woman by a deserted creek, trying to dispose of a book by throwing it in the water. Ollie rescues the book, *Small Spaces*, and reads into the night. The very next day, on a class trip to the local dairy farm, Ollie starts to notice strange coincidences between her new book and the real-life farm. In both the book and in the farm's history,

there were two brothers trying to marry the same girl, a misty landscape, and a strange disappearance. Ollie reads ahead and finds out that the disappearance was caused by the Smiling Man, a creature known for making sinister deals with the souls of men who are willing to bargain for their lives.

Just as Ollie and her classmates are about to leave the farm behind, their bus breaks down. Her teacher leaves to find help, but the bus driver warns the kids that someone—or something—is coming to get them and there's nothing they can do to stop it. Ollie tries to keep calm, but notices that her mom's watch now displays a single word: run. Will Ollie and her classmates escape the farm alive or will the Smiling Man take more victims? Watch your step and run to read *Small Spaces* by Katherine Arden.



The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge

by M. T. Anderson

The kingdoms of Elfland and the Goblin Court of the Mighty Ghohg have been at war for a millennium. To secure the peace accord, Elfin Scholar Brangwain Spurge catapults into the Goblin capitol with a priceless artifact for Mighty Ghohg. Werfel the Archivist, Spurge's host and historian to the Ghohg court, is beside himself with excitement and has done everything possible to make the Elf feel at home. Despite Werfel's generosity and planning,

things go wrong from the start. Spurge seems horrified and disgusted by everything he sees, offends everyone he meets, and ignites a series of diplomatic crises wherever he goes. Soon, both Werfel and Spurge find themselves on the run, hunted on all sides, the peace accords in ruins.

In addition to Werfel's account and Spurge's Top Secret Transmissions, we see confidential reports from Ysoret Clivers, Lord Spymaster of the Order of the Clean Hand, which go directly to the King of Elves. Spurge, we learn, has a double identity as both ambassador and spy. Read *The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge* for a whole new look at diplomacy!



New Kid by Jerry Craft

Jordan Banks is starting 7th grade at a new school, but not the art school that he dreams of attending. His parents enrolled him at Riverdale Academy Day School, also known as RAD, which is a private school in a much more affluent area of the city. Every day Jordan takes the bus between the two worlds that now make up his life and doesn't feel that he really belongs in either one. Will he be able to adapt to his new school and keep his old friends in his neighborhood or will he just be the new kid?



This Was Our Pact by Ryan Andrews

This graphic novel begins in a town where every year everyone gathers to float paper lanterns on the river and watch them float away. The townspeople say the lanterns become stars, but Ben and his friends are determined to find the truth of what really happens. Riding their bikes to follow the lanterns, the friends make a pact, no one turns for home and no one looks back until they learn the truth. However, one by one, each friend turns for home as they grow tired, until only two are left: Ben and Nathaniel, a boy who never fit in with the others. Ben and Nathaniel are determined to keep going, and if you want to know where the lanterns go and what kind of strange, magical, and fantastic things they discover on the way you'll have to read the book!



In Your Shoes by Donna Gephart

Meet Miles Spagoski. He is a middle school student and loves to bowl. His family owns a bowling center, so he gets lots of practice and he is very good! Bowling is a way for him to relax and escape from the difficulties of everyday life. In bowling, there's "always a chance for a do-over." Not only is he a great bowler, Miles is also an expert on the strange ways people can die. For example, he can tell you about the guy who died when a passing eagle dropped a tortoise on his head. Miles is also a worrier. He spends

a lot of time worrying about all the things that could possibly go wrong.

Meet Amy Silverman. Amy loves to write stories. It's a way for her to relax and escape from the difficulties of everyday life. Her stories can always have a happy ending. Amy's mother has recently passed away, she and her father have moved into the apartment over her uncle's funeral home, and she is starting at a new middle school. That's a lot to deal with all at once!

As Amy is walking into her new school, on the very first day, she gets hit in the head by Miles' bowling shoe. Not a great start for Miles and Amy, but read *In Your Shoes* to find out what comes next - because things don't always turn out the way you expect.



It Wasn't Me by Dana Alison Levy

Theo's school photography display has been destroyed in an attack that feels quite personal, there are five kids at the scene: the Nerd, the Princess, the Jock, the Weirdo, and the Screw-Up. No one is admitting to anything, and in fact all anyone will say is "it wasn't me". In order to try and discover what happened and why, a teacher gathers Theo and five student suspects together for a week-long justice circle meant to reveal the truth and heal the underlying damage that caused and resulted from

the incident. Theo knows everything he needs to know about his classmates and he's sure this Justice Circle is going to be a total waste of time. The others aren't buying it either but before long all the students will find that there might be something to this restorative justice concept. As they share their secrets, Theo realizes that he doesn't know anyone as well as he thought, not even himself. New connections are made, perspectives are changed, surprises abound, and plenty of laughs and high-jinks ensue.

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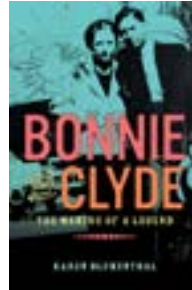
SINGLE BOOKS



The Lonely Dead by April Henry

This book is told from the perspective of a teenage girl named Adele who has the ability to speak to ghosts. She is one of the only people who can communicate with the dead, who cannot go far from the location of their physical body, and she has not spoken with a ghost in years, as she is forbidden from doing so by her grandfather. As the book begins, Adele has just attended a party where she has a huge argument with her former best friend Tori, so she is surprised to hear Tori calling to her as she walks through the park.

However, when Adele finds Tori, she also finds a shallow grave; Tori has been murdered and is now a ghost, who has no idea who killed her. Adele is now the prime suspect since several people saw her arguing with Adele the night before. To clear her name and solve the murder, Adele must work with her former friend's ghost to find the real killer before they find her.



Bonnie and Clyde: The Making of a Legend by Karen Blumenthal

Bonnie and Clyde have been dead for almost 100 years, but their story is still popular. Bonnie and Clyde were young, in love, and grew up very poor during the Great Depression. Clyde was already a criminal when they first met and Bonnie was very intrigued by his behavior. They started spending time together and eventually stole a car and went on a multi-state crime spree, robbing places and killing at least 10 people.

They were even on the FBI's Most Wanted list; you can still see their posting and wanted information on the FBI's website archives. If you are a fan of true crime or if you're a real history buff, this book is for you!



The Agony House by Cherie Priest

After moving away following Hurricane Katrina, Denise and her family return to New Orleans and move into an old rundown house, one local teenagers have been daring each other to explore for years. As they begin fixing the old house, Denise begins to notice strange things, a set of footprints on a dusty floor that were not there before, a strange voice from the attic, and other mysterious occurrences. When a neighbor with interest in ghost hunting invites himself in to investigate the house, Denise learns that

a famous writer of 1940s detective comics died there. This fact is made even creepier when she and the neighbor find an unpublished horror comic in the attic, and when the events of the comic begin to parallel Denise's life.

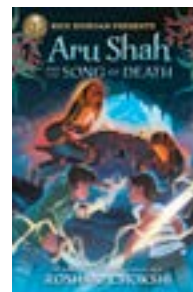


The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA by Brenda Woods

Twelve-year-old Gabriel Haberlin lives a picture-perfect life in his picture-perfect hometown. Birdsong, South Carolina is a quiet country town with a five-and-dime, its own soda fountain, and even a movie theater. The people are honest and polite, and hold parades for the "gen-u-wine war heroes" coming home from WWII.

The pretty picture is nearly shattered when Gabriel is almost hit by an oncoming car, but he's saved at the last second by a man named Meriwether. Gabriel thinks he's returning the favor by asking his father, who owns a gas station, to hire Meriwether as a mechanic. But as happy as Gabriel is to befriend Meriwether and his family, he also discovers a side of Birdsong that he never knew. Underneath the ticker-tape parades is another world where heroes have to lie about their past and the bad guys operate in plain sight. Will things ever be truly right in this All-American town?

BOOK SERIES



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Aru Shah and the End of Time by Roshani Chokshi

Aru Shah and the Song of Death by Roshani Chokshi

Sal and Gabi Break the Universe by Carlos Hernandez

Dragon Pearl by Yoon Ha Lee

