

Upcoming 6th - 8th Grade Resource Language Arts
Recommended Summer Reading 2023
[Lexile Grade Level Chart](#)

***Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen Lexile 1020**

Description: “Brian is on his way to Canada to visit his estranged father when the pilot of his small prop plane suffers a heart attack. Thirteen-year-old Brian is forced to crash-land the plane in a lake and finds himself stranded in the remote Canadian wilderness with only his clothing and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present before his departure. A story of survival and of transformation, this riveting book has sparked many a reader's interests in venturing into the wild.” —Scholastic

***Miles Morales: Spider-Man* by Jason Reynolds Lexile 710**

Description: Miles Morales’ spidey-sense has been out of whack. He can’t shake the nightmares or the buzz every day in history class amidst his teacher’s suspicious lectures on the historical “benefits” of slavery. Something’s off, but he has no idea what it might be. After being set up and then suspended, Miles wonders if he’s even cut out to be a superhero. As his scholarship is threatened, Miles uncovers evil in his school--now all he can do is suit up.

***Rapunzel's Revenge* by Shannon Hale Lexile 500**

Description: “Rapunzel escapes her tower prison all on her own, only to discover a world beyond what she'd ever known before. Determined to rescue her real mother and to seek revenge on her kidnapper would-be mother, Rapunzel, and her very long braids team up with Jack (of Giant killing fame), and together they perform daring deeds and rescues all over the western landscape.” —Bloomsbury.com

***An Elephant in the Garden* by Michael Morpurgo Lexile 890**

Description: Lizzie, an ailing elderly woman, recounts her childhood memories of life in Dresden, Germany during the 1945 allied bombings that destroyed the city. She and her family fled the city, taking with them an orphaned elephant her mother has cared for since its birth.

***Smile* by Raina Telgemeier Lexile 410**

Description: “Raina just wants to be a normal sixth grader. But one night after Girl Scouts she trips and falls, severely injuring her two front teeth, and what follows is a long and frustrating journey with on-again, off-again braces, surgery, embarrassing headgear, and even a retainer with fake teeth attached. And on top of all that, there's still more to deal with: a major earthquake, boy confusion, and friends who turn out to be not so friendly. This coming-of-age true story is sure to resonate with anyone who has ever been in middle school, and especially those who have ever had a bit of their own dental drama.” —Scholastic.com

***Restart* by Gordon Korman Lexile 730**

Description: When Chase Ambrose falls off a roof and wakes up with amnesia, everything in his life changes. He used to be a football hero--and a total jerk. Now he's learning what everyone else used to think of him, and he doesn't like it. Is there a way to convince everyone that he's really changed--even the kid whose life he's ruined? Even his former criminally-minded friends? Even...himself?

***Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation (Pantheon Graphic Library)* Lexile 800**

Description: A timeless story rediscovered by each new generation, The Diary of a Young Girl stands without peer. For both young readers and adults, it continues to capture the remarkable spirit of Anne Frank, who for a time survived the worst horror the modern world has seen—and who remained triumphantly and heartbreakingly human throughout her ordeal.

Adapted by Ari Folman, illustrated by David Polonsky, and authorized by the Anne Frank Foundation in Basel, this is the first graphic edition of The Diary and includes extensive quotations directly from the definitive edition. It remains faithful to the original, while the stunning illustrations interpret and add layers of visual meaning and immediacy to this classic work of Holocaust literature.

***Echo* by Pam Muñoz Ryan Lexile 680**

Description: Lost and alone in the forbidden Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. The historical stories are narrated by 4 different voices.....and take us to Germany, Pennsylvania, and California.

***Locomotion* by Jacqueline Woodson Lexile 860**

Description: When Lonnie was seven years old, his parents died in a fire. Now he's eleven, and he still misses them terribly. And he misses his little sister, Lili, who was put into a different foster home because "not a lot of people want boys-not foster boys that ain't babies." His teacher, Ms. Marcus, is showing him ways to put his jumbled feelings on paper. Told entirely through Lonnie's poetry, we see his heartbreak over his lost family, his thoughtful perspective on the world around him, and most of all his love for Lili and his determination to one day put at least half of their family back together.

***The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton Lexile 750**

Description: No one ever said life was easy. But Ponyboy is pretty sure that he's got things figured out. He knows that he can count on his brothers, but not on much else besides trouble with the Socs, a vicious gang of rich kids whose idea of a good time is beating up on "greasers" like Ponyboy.

***The Lion of Mars* by Jennifer L. Holm Lexile 530**

Description: Bell has spent his whole life--all eleven years of it--on Mars. But he's still just a regular kid--he loves cats and any kind of cake and is curious about the secrets the adults in the US colony are keeping. Like, why don't they have contact with anyone on the other Mars colonies? Why are they so isolated? When a virus breaks out and the grown-ups all fall ill, Bell and the other children are the only ones who can help. It's up to

Bell--a regular kid in a very different world--to uncover the truth and save his family...and possibly unite an entire planet.

***Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson Lexile 730**

Description: After severely injuring Peter Driscall in an empty parking lot, mischief-maker Cole Matthews is in major trouble. But instead of jail time, Cole is given another option: attend Circle Justice, an alternative program that sends juvenile offenders to a remote Alaskan Island to focus on changing their ways. Desperate to avoid prison, Cole fakes humility and agrees to go.

While there, Cole is mauled by a mysterious white bear and left for dead. Thoughts of his abusive parents, helpless Peter, and his own anger cause him to examine his actions and seek redemption—from the spirit bear that attacked him, from his victims, and, most importantly, from himself.

Ben Mikaelson paints a vivid picture of a juvenile offender, examining the roots of his anger without absolving him of responsibility for his actions, and questioning a society in which angry people make victims of their peers and communities. *Touching Spirit Bear* is a poignant testimonial to the power of a pain that can destroy, or lead to healing.

***A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park Lexile 720**

Description: *A Long Walk to Water* begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is a two-hour walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the “lost boys” of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay.

Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya’s in an astonishing and moving way. Includes an afterword by author Linda Sue Park and the real-life Salva Dut, on whom the novel is based, and who went on to found Water for South Sudan.

***The Skin I'm In* by Sharon G. Flake Lexile 670**

Description: Maleeka suffers every day from the taunts of the other kids in her class. If they're not getting at her about her homemade clothes or her good grades, it's about her dark, black skin. When a new teacher, whose face is blotched with a startling white patch, starts at their school, Maleeka can see there is bound to be trouble for her too. But the new teacher's attitude surprises Maleeka. Miss Saunders loves the skin she's in. Can Maleeka learn to do the same?

***When You Trap A Tiger* by Tae Keller Lexile 590**

Description: When Lily and her family move in with her sick grandmother, a magical tiger straight out of her halmoni's Korean folktales arrives, prompting Lily to unravel a secret family history. Long, long ago, Halmoni stole something from the tigers. Now they want it back. And when one of the tigers approaches Lily with a deal--return what her grandmother stole in exchange for Halmoni's health--Lily is tempted to agree. But deals with tigers are never what they seem! With the help of her sister and her new friend Ricky, Lily must find her voice...and the courage to face a tiger.

***The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill Lexile 640**

Description: Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch in the Forest, Xan, is kind. She shares her home with a wise Swamp Monster and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon. Xan rescues the children and delivers them to welcoming families on the other side of the forest, nourishing the babies with starlight on the journey.

One year, Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the ordinary child with extraordinary magic. Xan decides she must raise this girl, whom she calls Luna, as her own. As Luna's thirteenth birthday approaches, her magic begins to emerge--with dangerous consequences. Meanwhile, a young man from the Protectorate is determined to free his people by killing the witch. Deadly birds with uncertain intentions flock nearby. A volcano, quiet for centuries, rumbles just beneath the earth's surface. And the woman with the Tiger's heart is on the prowl.

***Bloom* by Kenneth Oppel Lexile 670**

Description: The invasion begins--but not as you'd expect. It begins with rain. Rain that carries seeds. Seeds that sprout--overnight, everywhere. These new plants take over crop fields, twine up houses, and burrow below streets. They bloom--and release toxic pollens. They bloom--and form Venus flytrap-like pods that swallow animals and people. They bloom--everywhere, unstoppable.

Or are they? Three kids on a remote island seem immune to the toxic plants. Anaya, Petra, Seth. They each have strange allergies--and yet not to these plants. What's their secret? Can they somehow be the key to beating back this invasion? They'd better figure it out fast because it's starting to rain again.

ONLINE READING RESOURCES

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2. Select Add to Chrome
3. Confirm download by selecting Add App

4. Login onto the app with your Learning Ally credentials and start reading!

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1. Log in with your credentials.
2. Click the Learning tab on top, then the grade level and subject area.
3. Practice any skills in that section!