

2023-24 Summer Reading List Grades 6, 7, and 8

Instructions: Read the description of novels and select 1 book to read during the summer. Reading levels are included in each description. Please try to select a book on your reading level. Books can be checked out from the public library or purchased at a bookstore/or online. Prior to selecting your book, read your grade level assignment carefully to get an idea of the expectations for the assignment you are interested in completing. Although the assignment will be completed at school in your English class, you may sketch out or brainstorm ideas to help you complete your assignment during the summer. Please wait for your English teacher's instruction prior to completing the assignment in August.

Louisiana Readers' Choice (LYRC/LTRC) Awards Program 2023-2024 Nominated Titles

• **Ahmed Aziz's Epic Year** written by Nina Hamza

(Fiction) BL: 4.8 - AR Pts: 9.0

An Indian American boy endures a family move from Hawaii to frigid Minnesota and, with the help of three life-changing books he reads in school, he learns to like reading, and ultimately, himself.

• **Amari and the Night Brothers** written by B.B. Alston

(Fiction) BL: 4.9 - AR Pts: 14.0

Thirteen-year-old Amari, a poor African American girl from the projects, gets an invitation from her missing brother to join the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs and join in the fight against an evil magician. Book #1

• **Black Boy Joy: 17 Stories Celebrating Black Boyhood** edited by Kwame Mbalia

(Fiction) BL: 4.6 - AR Pts: 8.0

This book is a collection of stories, comics and poems about the power of joy and the wonders of Black boyhood.

• **The Chance to Fly** written by Ali Stroker

(Fiction) BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 8.0

After moving across the country, thirteen-year-old Natalie auditions for her new school's play and overcomes her fears and insecurities about performing in a wheelchair. The coauthor is Stacy Davidowitz.

• **The Curse of the Mummy: Uncovering Tutankhamun's Tomb** written by Candace Fleming

(Nonfiction) BL: 6.8 - AR Pts: 6.0

This book is the true story of the search for Tutankhamun's tomb, the Western public's belief that the dig was cursed, and the battle for ownership of the treasures within.

• **Deadman's Castle** written by Iain Lawrence

(Fiction) BL: 4.1 - AR Pts: 8.0

Twelve-year-old Igor yearns for a normal life, but since he was five and his father witnessed a crime, his family has been on the run from the sinister figure he calls the Lizard Man. Text contains bullying and negative stereotypes.

• **The Last Cuentista** written by Donna Barba Higuera

(Fiction) Petra, along with her family and a few hundred others, leaves earth to begin a new human colony on a planet nearly 400 travel years away.

No AR information found

• **Red, White, and Whole** written by Rajani LaRocca

(Fiction) BL: 5.3 - AR Pts: 3.0

Reha feels torn between two worlds: school, where she's the only Indian American student, and home, with her family's traditions and holidays. Reha's parents don't understand why she's conflicted.

- **Starfish** written by Lisa Fipps

(Fiction) BL: **4.1** - AR Pts: **4.0**

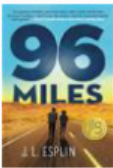
Bullied and shamed her whole life, twelve-year-old Ellie finally gains the confidence to stand up for herself, with the help of some wonderful new allies. Text includes bullying.

- **Violets Are Blue** written by Barbara Dee

(Fiction) BL: **4.4** - AR Pts: **7.0**

Twelve-year-old Wren, who is learning special effects makeup, is thrilled to be makeup artist for her new school's production of Wicked, but her parents' divorce is seriously affecting her mother. Themes include addiction.

Louisiana Readers' Choice (LYRC/LTRC) Awards Program 2022-2023 Nominated Titles



96 Miles

Esplin, J.L.

AR Quiz No. 508763 EN Fiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **5.2** - AR Pts: **11.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

During a massive blackout in rural Nevada, two brothers struggle to survive without their dad. After a robbery, they must set out across the desert to get help. Text contains moderate violence.



Bloom

Oppel, Kenneth

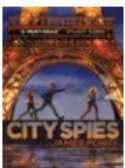
AR Quiz No. 508962 EN Fiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **4.8** - AR Pts: **10.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

The invasion begins with rain -- a rain that carries seeds that sprout overnight, everywhere. These new plants crowd out crops, release toxic pollens, and form large underground pods that swallow animals and people. They are unstoppable. Book #1



City Spies

Ponti, James

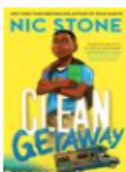
AR Quiz No. 507798 EN Fiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **5.6** - AR Pts: **10.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

Sara Martinez is facing years in the juvenile detention system for hacking into the foster care computer system to prove that her foster parents are crooks. She gets a second chance when a mysterious man offers her a chance to join a group of spies. #1



Clean Getaway

Stone, Nic

AR Quiz No. 506146 EN Fiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **5.0** - AR Pts: **5.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

For the life of him, William "Scoob" Lamar can't seem to stay out of trouble, and now the run-ins at school have led to a lockdown at home.



Danny Constantino's First (and Maybe Last?) Date

Acampora, Paul

AR Quiz No. 509410 EN Fiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **4.2** - AR Pts: **6.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

Between spending time with his celebrity crush and watching his mom campaign to be the next town mayor, Danny has a lot to learn about life in the spotlight.



Dress Coded

Firestone, Carrie

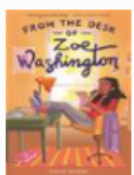
AR Quiz No. 508530 EN Fiction

IL: **MG+** - BL: **4.8** - AR Pts: **8.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

An eighth grader starts a podcast to protest the unfair dress code enforcement at her middle school and sparks a rebellion. The story contains gender bias and themes of substance use.



From the Desk of Zoe Washington

Marks, Janae

AR Quiz No. 506687 EN Fiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **4.4** - AR Pts: **8.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

Avid baker Zoe Washington receives a letter on her twelfth birthday from her biological father, who is in prison for a terrible crime.



When Life Gives You Mangos

Getten, Kereen

AR Quiz No. 511716 EN Fiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **4.7** - AR Pts: **6.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: **Not yet rated.**

Living on an island that visitors call exotic, 12-year-old Clara struggles with her increasingly distant relationship with a best friend and her inability to clearly recall the traumatizing events that occurred a year earlier.



When Stars Are Scattered

Jamieson, Victoria

AR Quiz No. 508950 EN Nonfiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **3.7** - AR Pts: **4.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp, and when an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother.



Wink

Harrell, Rob

AR Quiz No. 508415 EN Fiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **3.9** - AR Pts: **8.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

After being diagnosed with a rare eye cancer, twelve-year-old Ross discovers how music, art, and true friends can help him survive both treatment and middle school.



A Wish in the Dark

Soontornvat, Christina

AR Quiz No. 508811 EN Fiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **5.2** - AR Pts: **11.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

After escaping from prison, Pong hides out in a city run by a governor who magically controls all light. Nok, whose father oversaw the prison, vows to find Pong and restore her family's good name.



Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky

Mbalia, Kwame

AR Quiz No. 505341 EN Fiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **4.8** - AR Pts: **15.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

Seventh-grader Tristan Strong tumbles into the MidPass and, with allies John Henry and Brer Rabbit, must entice the god Anansi to come out of hiding and seal the hole Tristan accidentally ripped in the sky. The story contains violence. Book #1



Storm Blown

Courage, Nick

AR Quiz No. 503962 EN Fiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **6.6** - AR Pts: **10.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

A major hurricane is raging across the southern United States, and two unsuspecting kids are about to have the adventure of a lifetime.



The Boy Who Grew Dragons

Shepherd, Andy

AR Quiz No. 506130 EN Fiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **5.5** - AR Pts: **4.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

Tomas discovers a strange old tree at the bottom of his grandfather's garden. He takes the funny fruit from the tree back into the house and gets the shock of his life when a tiny dragon hatches.



Other Words for Home

Warga, Jasmine

AR Quiz No. 504111 EN Fiction

IL: **MG** - BL: **5.3** - AR Pts: **5.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

Jude is sent with her mother to the safety of a relative's home in Ohio when their Syrian hometown is overshadowed by violence. Jude adjusts to a new life with unexpected surprises.

Summer Reading Assignment Grades 6, 7, and 8

Directions: Read the assignments below carefully before selecting your Accelerated Reader book from the Summer Reading List. Every Magnet student is required to complete one of the following assignments in English class once school starts. Your English teacher will explain the assignment expectations and provide a rubric prior to completing the assignment. It is recommended that students wait to receive specific instruction from their teacher prior to completing the assignment as changes may be made.

6th Grade Options (Choose one assignment to complete)

- A. Use a small box like a shoe box to create a diorama of a major or important scene from the novel. Be able to explain.
- B. Create a flier announcing your book as a blockbuster movie coming soon to theaters. On your flier include the title of the book and tell who will play the roles of your main characters (use real actors and famous people of today). On your flier write at least two movie reviews that tell the most exciting parts of your book/coming movie.
- C. Make a mobile or digital presentation showing pictures or symbols of happenings in the book. (at least 5 pictures with detailed explanations of what the symbol represents and how it is significant to the story)

7th Grade Options (Choose one assignment to complete)

- A. Write a letter from one character to another character. (3 paragraphs in letter format; include the parts of a letter)
- B. Make a hand written or digital comic strip of your story (Make sure to include major plot developments in the story). Must have 8 frames and a title.
- C. Create a radio ad for your book. Write out the script and record an audio of your ad as it would be heard on the radio. Don't forget appropriate background music! (2 minutes minimum)

8th Grade Options (Choose one assignment to complete)

- A. Write a Literary Analysis (must be 12 point font typed with an introduction, 2 body paragraphs on Plot Elements & Theme, and a conclusion; length may vary).
- B. Write a Book Review and Recommendation (must be at least 1 page in length).
- C. Prepare a list of 15 to 20 questions for use in determining if other people have read the book carefully. At least 5 questions true and false, 5 multiple choice and 5 short answer essay questions and the answers must be provided using complete sentences.

**THIS ASSIGNMENT IS NOT OPTIONAL
Please do not wait until school starts to begin reading your AR Book.**