

DISTRICT 65 SUGGESTED SUMMER READING

The Prom Goer's Interstellar Excursion by Chris McCooy

Minutes after eighteen-year-old Bennett Bardo of Gordo, New Mexico, asks Sophie Gilkey, his dream girl, to prom and she says yes, she is abducted by aliens and Bennett catches a ride across the galaxy with a band of misfit musicians to find her. (Science Fiction)

Slider by Pete Hautman

Entering the world's greatest pizza-eating contest after secretly putting thousands of dollars onto his mother's credit card, a young competitive eater finds his efforts complicated by family denial about his younger brother's autism. (Realistic Fiction)

Vango: Between Earth and Sky by Timothée de Fombelle

A gripping mystery-adventure set in the 1930s interwar period about a character desperately searching for his identity. (Mystery)

The Square Root of Summer by Harriet Reuter Hapgood

Gottie Oppenheimer, a seventeen-year-old physics prodigy, navigates grief, love, and disruptions in the space-time continuum in one very eventful summer. (Science Fiction)

The Prince and the Dressmaker by Jen Wang

Prince Sebastian's secret weapon (and best friend) is the brilliant dressmaker Frances—one of only two people who know the truth: sometimes this boy wears dresses. But Frances dreams of greatness, and being someone's secret weapon means being a secret. Forever. How long can Frances defer her dreams to protect a friend? (Graphic Novel)

Ashes to Asheville by Sarah Dooley

Twelve-year-old Fella is swept away on a wild road trip by her older sister Zany to fulfill their late mother's dying wish. (Realistic Fiction)

Sources of Light by Margaret McMullan

Fourteen-year-old Samantha and her mother move to Jackson, Mississippi, in 1962 after her father is killed in Vietnam, and during the year they spend there Sam encounters both love and hate as she learns about photography from a new friend of her mother's and witnesses the prejudice and violence of the segregationists of the South. (Historical Fiction)

The Girl in the Well is Me by Karen Rivers

Eleven-year-old Kammie reflects on her life as she fights claustrophobia while waiting to be rescued from a well she fell into while trying to impress some mean girls. (Realistic Fiction)

First Rule of Punk by Celia Pérez

Twelve-year-old Maraia Luisa O'Neill-Morales (who really prefers to be called Malãu) reluctantly moves with her Mexican-American mother to Chicago and starts seventh grade with a bang—violating the dress code with her punk rock aesthetic and spurning the middle school's most popular girl in favor of starting a band with a group of like-minded weirdos. (Realistic Fiction)

It All Comes Down to This by Karen English

In the summer of 1965, Sophie's family becomes the first African Americans to move into their upper middle-class neighborhood in Los Angeles. When riots erupt in nearby Watts, she learns that life and her own place in it are a lot more complicated than they had seemed. (Historical Fiction)

This is the Story of You by Beth Kephart

Seventeen-year-old Mira lives in a small island beach town off the coast of New Jersey year-round, and when a devastating superstorm strikes she will face the storm's wrath and the destruction it leaves behind alone. (Survival; Realistic Fiction)

Patina by Jason Reynolds

A newbie to the track team, Patina "Patty" Jones must learn to rely on her family and teammates as she tries to outrun her personal demons. (Realistic Fiction)

Pathfinders by Tonya Bolden

Profiles sixteen high-achieving African Americans, including magician Richard Potter, concert singer Sissieretta Jones, and architect Paul R. Williams. (Biographies)

The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora by Pablo Cartaya

Arturo's Miami summer is marked by the arrival of poetry enthusiast Carmen, who helps him use the power of protest to fight the plans of a land developer who wants to demolish his Abuela's restaurant. (Realistic Fiction)

The Witch Boy by Molly Ostertag

In thirteen-year-old Aster's family, all the girls are raised to be witches, while boys grow up to be shapeshifters. Anyone who dares cross those lines is exiled. Unfortunately for Aster, he still hasn't shifted . . . and he's still fascinated by witchery, no matter how forbidden it might be. When a mysterious danger threatens the other boys, Aster knows he can help -- as a witch. (Graphic Novel)

Warcross by Marie Lu

After hacking into the Warcross Championships' opening game to track illegal betting, bounty hunter Emika Chen is asked by the game's creator to go undercover to investigate a security problem, and she uncovers a sinister plot. (Science Fiction)

The 57 Bus by Dashka Slater

Tells the true story of an agender teen who was set on fire by another teen while riding a bus in Oakland, a crime that focuses on the concepts of race, class, gender, crime, and punishment. (Nonfiction)

Goldie Vance by Hope Larson

When in-house detective Charlie comes up against a case he can't crack, he calls upon sixteen-year-old Goldie, who uses her skills, smarts, and connections to solve the case. (Graphic Novel)

Piecing Me Together by Renée Watson

Tired of being singled out at her mostly-white private school as someone who needs support, high school junior Jade would rather participate in the school's amazing Study Abroad program than join Women to Women, a mentorship program for at-risk girls. (Realistic Fiction)

Does My Head Look Big In This? Randa Abdel-Fattah

Year Eleven at an exclusive prep school in the suburbs of Melbourne, Australia, would be tough enough, but it is further complicated for Amal when she decides to wear the hijab, the Muslim head scarf, full-time as a badge of her faith--without losing her identity or sense of style. (Realistic Fiction)

Tom's Midnight Garden by Edith

When Tom's brother gets sick, Tom's shipped off to spend what he's sure will be a boring summer with his aunt and uncle in the country. But then Tom hears the old grandfather clock in the hall chime thirteen times, and he's transported back to an old garden where he meets a mysterious girl named Hatty. (Graphic Novel)

Solo by Kwame Alexander

Seventeen-year-old Blade, who endeavors to resolve painful issues from his past to navigate the challenges of his former rockstar father's addictions, scathing tabloid rumors, and a protected secret that threatens his own identity. (Novel in Verse)

Kids Who Rule: The Remarkable Lives of Five Child Monarchs by Charis Cotter

By offering a dramatic episode from their childhoods, a profile of five juvenile royals reveals the often startling realities of the life and times of these child rulers, including Mary Queen of Scots, the Dalai Lama, and King Tutankhamun. (Nonfiction)

Vincent and Theo by Deborah Heiligman

The true story of the relationship between brothers Theo and Vincent van Gogh (Nonfiction)

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

Meg and Charles Wallace set out with their friend Calvin in a search for their father. His top secret job as a physicist for the government has taken him away and the children search through time and space to find him. (Science Fiction)

On A Clear Day by Walter Dean Myers

In 2035, Dahlia Grillo, a sixteen-year-old math whiz, joins with six other American teens traveling to England to meet with groups from around the world in hopes of stopping C8, the companies that control nearly everything for their own benefit. (Science Fiction)

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