

Elysian Charter School Summer Reading List

7th Grade - 8th Grade

Chains, Laurie Halse Anderson. Sold as a slave, 13-year-old Isabel spies for the patriot side during the American Revolution.

Waiting for Normal, Leslie Connor. Sixth-grader Addie deals with neglectful mother.

Reaching Out, Francisco Jimenez. Autobiography of young Mexican-American who is first in family to attend college.

We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball, Kadir Nelson. Well-documented history of Negro League Baseball.

After Tupac & D Foster, Jacqueline Woodson. Bonded by Tupac's music, three girls explore the lure of freedom and build a friendship.

3 Willows: The Sisterhood Grows, a by Ann Brashares. Childhood friends reconnect.

The Girl Who Threw Butterflies, by Mick Cochrane. After her father's death, Molly decides to try out for boys' baseball team.

The Graveyard Book, Neil Gaiman. Young boy raised in a graveyard after his family is killed.

Hannah's Winter, by Kierin Meehan. After being taken to Japan by her mother, 12-year-old Hannah discovers the ghost of a young boy who needs her help.

Into the Volcano, written and illustrated by Don Wood. Graphic novel of two brothers on camping trip that turns dangerous.

Whatever You Say I Am, Bozza.
The life and times of Eminem.

Bad Boy, Myers.
Fighting and writing in Harlem. One book by an amazing author. Check out his others.

Bronx Masquerade, Grimes.
Open mic: a way to deal.

Feed, Anderson.
Hackers in your head.

Hope Was Here, Bauer.
Waiting tables, falling for the cook.

Paint Me Like I Am, WritersCorps.
Teen voices from urban USA.

Whale Talk, Crutcher.
An excellent book about boys, athletics and personal honor.

Stargirl, Spinelli.
What is normal?

Al Capone Does My Shirts, Choldenko.
Living on Alcatraz with a sister who is autistic.

An Acquaintance With Darkness, Rinaldi.
Historical fiction. Civil war times.

Artemis Fowl, Colfer. (a short series)
A 12-year-old criminal mastermind.

Because of Winn-Dixie, DiCamillo.
Even better than the movie!
(Try her other books, too!)

The Canning Season, Horvath.
National Book Award Winner. Ratchet Clark spends the summer with aged relatives.

Dragon's Gate, Yep.
Teenage Chinese boy lives with his mother while his uncle and father go to America to help build the transcontinental railroad. (One of many books by a terrific author.)

Echohawk, Durrant.
A boy raised by Mohicans in the 1730's is sent to an English settlement for schooling.

The Golden Compass, Pullman.
Lyra and her daemon. Part of a trilogy.

Gold Dust, Lynch.
Baseball, friendship.

Granny Torrelli Makes Soup, Creech.
Granny helps Rosie work out problems with a friend.
(A wonderful author of many books.)

Habibi, Nye.
Arab-American girl moves from US to Palestine.

Handbook for Boys: a Novel, Myers.

16-year-old Jimmy, on probation for assault, talks about life with three old men in a Harlem barbershop and hears about the tools he can use to get what he wants.

Homeless Bird, Whelan.

An arranged marriage in India.

Hoot, Hiaasen.

Funny story of a boy trying to save a colony of owls in Florida. Better than the movie.

House of Scorpion, Farmer.

Newbery Honor Book, National Book Award Winner.

Kira-Kira, Kadohata.

Japanese family trying to adjust to small town in rural Georgia.

Kit's Wilderness, Almond.

Ghosts of the past haunt a coal mining town in England.

Lily's Crossing, Giff.

Summer in 1940's in New York.

Make Lemonade, Wolf.

14-year-old LaVaughn babysits for two children of a teenage mom.

Redwall, Jacques.

Part of a great series.

A Single Shard, Park.

13-year-old Korean orphan longs to learn how to throw celadon ceramics.

Speak, Anderson.

A traumatic summer event has devastating effects on a girl's freshman year in H.S.

Surviving the Applewhites, Tolan.

Newbery Honor Book. Jake gets kicked out of school and must be homeschooled by the eccentric Applewhites.

Whirligig, Fleischman.

Brent makes a fatal mistake and is sent on a journey of repentance.

A Wrinkle in Time, L'Engle.

A classic.

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants, Brashares.

Thrift shop pants hold seemingly magical qualities. A short series.

Ender's Game, Card.

With the use of games, Ender must save the planet.

The Chocolate War, Cormier.

Jerry Renault, high school student, must decide whether to challenge the authorities.
(Check out the other books by this wonderful author.)

Silent to the Bone, Konigsburg.

Why is Bramwell unable to speak?
(Another great author. Try her other books, too.)

Our Eleanor, Fleming.

Get to know Eleanor Roosevelt.

Uglies, Westerfeld.

In a future where everyone is Pretty, Tally Youngblood must betray her best friend to the government or stay Ugly forever.

Girls for Breakfast, Yoo.

Graduating senior Nick Park can't understand why girls have never liked him as much as he has liked them. Is it because he's Korean?

Travel Team, Lupica.

Sports, kids, life. One of several good books by this author.

Poetry

The Flag of Childhood: Poems from the Middle East, Nye

Girl Coming in for a Landing: a Novel in Poems, Wayland.

Heart to Heart: New Poems Inspired by 20th Century American Art, Greenberg.

Love That Dog, Creech.

Witness, Hesse.

Inch by Inch: 45 Haiku by Issa

I Am the Darker Brother: an Anthology of Modern Poems by African Americans, Adoff.

Motion: American Sports Poems, Blaustein.

Cool Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Growing Up Latino in the US, Carlson.

The World According to Dog: Poems and Teen Voices, Sidman.

The Pain Tree and Other Teenage Angst-Ridden Poetry, Watson and Todd.

Movin': Ten Poets Take Voice, edited by Dave Johnson.

What Have You Lost? Poems selected by Naomi Shihab Nye.

SlowDance HeartBreak Blues, by Arnold Adoff.