

2026

Summer Reading Suggestions

girl scouts
of central california
south

Kindergarten

- The Day the Crayons Quit — Drew Daywalt
- Dragons Love Tacos — Adam Rubin
- Ada Twist, Scientist — Andrea Beaty
- The Gruffalo — Julia Donaldson
- We Don't Eat Our Classmates — Ryan T. Higgins

1st Grade

- Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea! — Ben Clanton
- Mercy Watson to the Rescue — Kate DiCamillo
- Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus — Barbara Park
- Pete the Cat and the Missing Cupcakes — James Dean
- Princess in Black — Shannon Hale

2nd Grade

- The Wild Robot — Peter Brown
- Dog Man — Dav Pilkey
- Zoey and Sassafras — Asia Citro
- Magic Tree House — Mary Pope Osborne
- Because of Winn-Dixie — Kate DiCamillo

3rd Grade

- The One and Only Ivan — Katherine Applegate
- The Tale of Despereaux — Kate DiCamillo
- Wings of Fire — Tui T. Sutherland
- Front Desk — Kelly Yang
- The Bad Guys — Aaron Blabey



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4th Grade

- Wonder — R. J. Palacio
- Amari and the Night Brothers — B. B. Alston
- Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief — Rick Riordan
- New Kid — Jerry Craft
- A Rover's Story — Jasmine Warga

5th Grade

- The Girl Who Drank the Moon — Kelly Barnhill
- Keeper of the Lost Cities — Shannon Messenger
- Refugee — Alan Gratz
- The Last Cuentista — Donna Barba Higuera
- Smile — Raina Telgemeier

6th Grade

- A Wrinkle in Time — Madeleine L'Engle
- Ghost — Jason Reynolds
- City Spies — James Ponti
- The Mysterious Benedict Society — Trenton Lee Stewart
- The School for Good and Evil — Soman Chainani

7th Grade

- The Hunger Games — Suzanne Collins
- Scythe — Neal Shusterman
- The Outsiders — S. E. Hinton
- Cinder — Marissa Meyer
- The Maze Runner — James Dashner



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8th Grade

- Six of Crows — Leigh Bardugo
- The Inheritance Games — Jennifer Lynn Barnes
- Divergent — Veronica Roth
- The Giver — Lois Lowry
- Renegades — Marissa Meyer

9th Grade

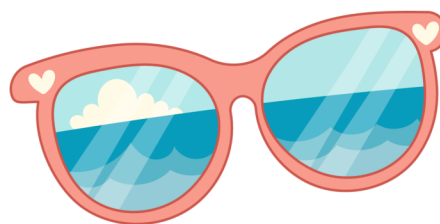
- They Both Die at the End — Adam Silvera
- Fable — Adrienne Young
- One of Us Is Lying — Karen M. McManus
- Caraval — Stephanie Garber
- The Naturals — Jennifer Lynn Barnes

10th Grade

- A Good Girl's Guide to Murder — Holly Jackson
- Legend — Marie Lu
- Daisy Jones & The Six — Taylor Jenkins Reid
- Heartstopper — Alice Oseman
- Truly Devious — Maureen Johnson

11th Grade

- The Book Thief — Markus Zusak
- An Ember in the Ashes — Sabaa Tahir
- I Must Betray You — Ruta Sepetys
- Firekeeper's Daughter — Angeline Boulley
- Legendborn — Tracy Deonn



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12th Grade

- Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow — Gabrielle Zevin
- Atomic Habits — James Clear
- The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo — Taylor Jenkins Reid
- Circe — Madeline Miller
- Project Hail Mary — Andy Weir

Adults

- The Midnight Library — Matt Haig
- Remarkably Bright Creatures — Shelby Van Pelt
- Big Magic — Elizabeth Gilbert
- The House in the Cerulean Sea — TJ Klune
- Project Hail Mary — Andy Weir

How the challenge works:

This challenge is designed to be self-paced and honor-based, allowing every Girl Scout and family to set goals that work best for them. Whether your goal is to read a little more each day, finish a certain number of books, explore new genres, or help your Girl Scout discover a book they truly love, every reading adventure counts. Most importantly, we hope this challenge encourages a lifelong love of reading and learning.

Patches will be mailed to participants who register for the challenge by the end of August 2026.

