



BGA Summer Reading 2026



Part 1: Select and read 1 assigned book for your grade level & complete the “Assigned Book Reflection”

6th (Rising 7th)



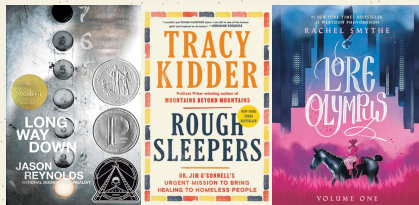
7th (Rising 8th)



8th (Rising 9th)



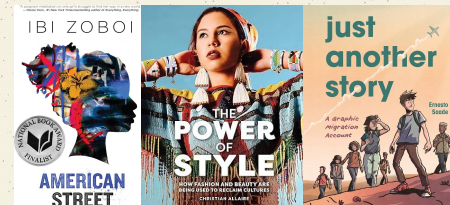
9th (Rising 10th)



10th (Rising 11th)



11th (Rising 12th)



Part 2: Optional for Extra Credit. Read an additional book of your choice this summer and complete the Independent Reading Reflection

Reminder: Summer Reading books do NOT need to be purchased. Try checking your local branch of the [Boston Public Library](#) or at [Soraapp.com](#) (login through Clever, School: Boston Public Schools) to find a copy!

Due Date:
September 10, 2026

Due to:
ELA teacher

Grade:
1 Summative

For more information go to:
[bostongreenacademy.org/library](https://www.bostongreenacademy.org/library)



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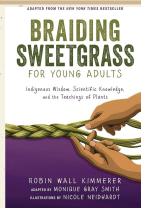


Safe Harbor By Padma Venkatraman



Novel in Verse, Realistic, Friendship, Animal Rescue

After moving to Rhode Island from India in the wake of her parents' divorce, Geetha is struggling to find her way. She becomes a target for bullies at her new school, due to her clothes, her food, and her English. Thankfully, she makes a friend in Miguel, who shares her love of music, and their bond grows when they rescue an injured harp seal stranded on the beach. While visiting the seal in the rehabilitation center, Geetha decides to get involved in helping other animals, and she and Miguel start a beach clean-up project, which leads her to meet other kind kids. Slowly but surely, Geetha starts to open up and find a safe harbor of her own among newfound friends.



Braiding Sweetgrass (for Young Adults) By Robin Wall Kimmerer



Narrative Nonfiction, Nature, Science, Indigenous Wisdom

Drawing from her experiences as an Indigenous scientist, botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer demonstrated how all living things—from strawberries and witch hazel to water lilies and lichen—provide us with gifts and lessons every day in her best-selling book Braiding Sweetgrass . Adapted for young adults by Monique Gray Smith, this new edition reinforces how wider ecological understanding stems from listening to the earth's oldest the plants around us.



Saving Sunshine By Saadia Faruqi, Saadia



Graphic Novel, Realistic, Animal Rescue, Prejudice

It's hard enough being a kid without being teased for a funny sounding name or wearing a hijab.

It's even harder when you're constantly fighting your sibling—and Zara and Zeeshan really can't stand each other. During a family trip to Florida, when the bickering, shoving, and insults reach new heights of chaos, their parents sentence them to the worst possible fate—each other's company! But when the twins find an ailing turtle, it presents a rare opportunity for teamwork—if the two can put their differences aside at last.



BGA Summer Reading 2026



7th Grade (rising 8th): Select and read 1 assigned book for your grade level & complete the "Assigned Book Reflection"

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7th
(Rising 8th)



King of the Neuro Verse

By Padma Venkatraman



Novel in Verse, Realistic, Neurodivergence, Rap

Stuck in summer school, seventeen-year-old Pernell navigates life and the challenges of ADHD while battling to become the Cypher King, leader of the lunchroom's impromptu rap circles.

But life outside the cypher isn't as forgiving and if Pernell doesn't pull himself together, he won't just lose the title of Cypher King—he'll lose his chance to graduate high school. In a world where the systems are turned against kids like him, Pernell needs to find a way to succeed with his ADHD, rather than in spite of it.



Global

By Eoin Colfer



Graphic Novel, Climate Change, Nature

Sami and his grandfather live in a village along the Indian Ocean, whereas Yuki lives in the far north of Canada, but both children feel the direct effects of climate change. Increasing temperatures mean rising sea levels that threaten Sami's home, and melting Arctic ice forces polar bears into Yuki's hometown looking for food. Sami and Yuki are desperate to save their homes, and their fight for survival leads them both on a life-changing journey.



Miss Quinces

By Saadia Faruqi



Graphic Novel, Realistic, Family, Identity

Sue just wants to spend the summer reading and making comics at sleepaway camp with her friends, but instead she gets stuck going to Honduras to visit relatives with her parents and two sisters. They live way out in the country, which means no texting, no cable, and no Internet! The trip takes a turn for the worse when Sue's mother announces that they'll be having a surprise quinceanera for Sue, which is the last thing she wants. She can't imagine wearing a big, floofy, colorful dress! What is Sue going to do? And how will she survive all this "quality" time with her rambunctious family?



BGA Summer Reading 2026



■ 8th Grade (rising 9th): Select and read 1 assigned book for your grade level & complete the "Assigned Book Reflection"

📖 Library Link, 📄 Ebook Link, 🎧 Audiobook Link

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8th
(Rising 9th)



Punching the Air

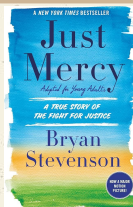
By Ibi Zoboi



📖 Novel in Verse, 📄 Realistic,
👊 Social Justice, 📚 Incarceration

Even though Amal Shahid is an artist and poet, he's still viewed as disruptive and unmotivated at his diverse art school. One fateful night at a local park, a fight breaks out between Amal and his friends and a group of white boys from a nearby gentrified neighborhood, leaving one of the white boys in a coma. Amal is convicted of the attack and sent to prison, even though he's not the one who put the boy in a coma.

His despair and rage at having his bright future destroyed threaten to overcome him until he discovers the refuge and hope that his words and art give him.



Just Mercy

(Adapted For Young Adults)

By Bryan Stevenson



👤 Memoir, 🗊 Social Justice,
📚 U.S. Justice System

Chronicles a young lawyer's founding of the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice committed to defending the poor, women and children, and the wrongly condemned, and the ways in which he was transformed by his first case, that of a man sentenced to die for a murder he claimed he didn't commit.



Fights

By Joel Christian Gill



Graphic Memoir, 🗨️ Bullying,
Overcoming Violence

Author Joel Christian Gill pens a graphic novel memoir about the brutality of his younger life as the child of a single mother whose restlessness forced him to become a survivor of bullying at new schools, abuse at home, and violence on the streets. Despite this, and being forced out of his home, Joel found solace in art, and vowed to live a life more fulfilling than the one he was raised in.



BGA Summer Reading 2026



■ 9th Grade (rising 10th): Select and read 1 assigned book for your grade level & complete the "Assigned Book Reflection"

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9th
(Rising 10th)



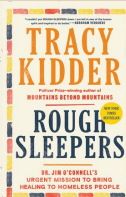
Long Way Down

By Jason Reynolds



📖 Novel in Verse, 📄 Magical Realism, Revenge, 🤝 Family

A gun. That's what fifteen-year-old Will has shoved in the back waistband of his jeans. See, his brother Shawn was just murdered. And Will knows the rules. No crying. No snitching. Revenge. That's where Will's now heading with his brother's gun. He gets on the elevator, seventh floor, stoked. He knows who he's after. Or does he? As the elevator stops on the sixth floor, on comes Buck. But Buck is dead... And so it goes, the whole long way down, as the elevator stops on each floor, and at each stop someone connected to his brother gets on to give Will a piece to a bigger story than the one he thinks he knows.



Rough Sleepers

By Tracy Kidder



💬 Nonfiction, Homelessness & Poverty, 🏠 Health Care, 🤝 Social Justice

Chronicles the life and work of Harvard Medical School graduate Dr. Jim O'Connell and how he created an organization dedicated to bringing health care to the homeless of the United States, beginning in the city of Boston. Champions O'Connell's patients-first approach to medicine, where he gives not only medicine and medical care, but soup, socks, humor, and friendship, creating with his patients and providers a "system of friends" to deal with the homeless as the human beings they are.



Lore Olympus, vol. 1

Rachel Smythe



📖 Graphic Novel, 🦄 Fantasy, ❤️ Romance, Mythology Retelling

Persephone, the young goddess of spring, has spent her entire life in the mortal realm, but is allowed to move to Olympus to train as a sacred virgin in the swanky land of the gods, filled with wild parties, the rich and powerful, and damning gossip. Her roommate, Artemis, takes her to a party one night, and her world is turned upside down after she meets Hades, the ruler of the Underworld. The two find themselves falling in love, running from the paparazzi, and getting entangled in the politics and motivations of the gods.



BGA Summer Reading 2026



10th Grade (rising 11th): Select and read 1 assigned book for your grade level & complete the “Assigned Book Reflection”

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10th
(Rising 11th)



Clap When You Land By Elizabeth Acevedo

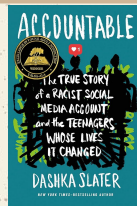


Novel in Verse, Realistic,
 Death & Grief, Family

Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people...

In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal’s office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash.

Separated by distance—and Papi’s secrets—the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered. And then, when it seems like they’ve lost everything of their father, they learn of each other.



Accountable By Dashka Slater



Narrative Nonfiction, Social Justice,
 Bullying, Racism,

When a high school student started a private Instagram account that used racist and sexist memes to make his friends laugh, he thought of it as “edgy” humor. Over time, the edge got sharper. Then a few other kids found out about the account. Pretty soon, everyone knew and no one in Albany, CA, was safe from the repercussions of the account’s discovery.

In the end, no one was laughing. And everyone was left asking: Where does accountability end for online speech that harms? And what does accountability even mean?



Big Jim and the White Boy By David Walker



Graphic Novel, Historical Fiction,
Slavery & Racism, Classic Retelling

A radical retelling of this American classic, centering the experiences of Jim, an enslaved Black man in search of his kidnapped wife and children, along with his cheeky sidekick, Huckleberry Finn. Jim and Huck’s high-stakes adventures take them on an epic voyage across the antebellum South and Midwest, through Confederate war camps and runaway safe houses, into Old West standoffs, and on the road as covert Underground Railroad agents.



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11th
(Rising 12th)



American Street

By Ibi Zoboi



Magical Realism, Immigration, Family, Social Justice

On the corner of American Street and Joy Road, Fabiola Toussaint thought she would finally find *une belle vie*—a good life. But after leaving Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Fabiola’s mother is detained by U.S. immigration, leaving Fabiola to navigate her loud American cousins, Chantal, Donna, and Princess; the grittiness of Detroit’s west side; a new school; and a surprising romance, all on her own.

Just as she finds her footing in this strange new world, a dangerous proposition presents itself, and Fabiola soon realizes that freedom comes at a cost. Trapped at the crossroads of an impossible choice, will she pay the price for the American dream?



The Power of Style

By Christian Allaire



Nonfiction, Fashion,



Cultural Representation, Social Justice

As a fashion-obsessed Ojibwe teen, Christian Allaire rarely saw anyone that looked like him in the magazines or movies he looked to for inspiration. Now the Fashion and Style Writer for Vogue, he is working to change that—because clothes are never just clothes. Men’s heels are a statement of pride in the face of LGBTQ+ discrimination, while ribbon shirts honor Indigenous ancestors and keep culture alive. Allaire takes the reader through boldly designed chapters to discuss additional topics like cosplay, make up, hijabs, and hair, probing the connections between fashion and history, culture, politics, and social justice.



Just Another Story

By Ernesto Saade



Graphic Memoir, Immigration, Social Awareness

When Carlos was nineteen years old, his mother decided to leave her life in El Salvador for a new start in the United States. Reluctant to follow, but unwilling to let his mother go without him, Carlos joined her on the journey north. During their trip through Mexico and into the US, they experienced the risks and fears countless people from Central American countries have faced while migrating to different lands. Ten years later, Carlos shared these memories with his cousin, cartoonist Ernesto Saade.