

Get Ready for Summer Reading!

Academic research studies have shown that students who participate in summer reading programs, or engage in free voluntary reading during the summer, return to school in September ahead of those students who don't participate in these activities. Don't let your child fall victim to the "summer slide!" How can you help?

- Encourage your child to spend time reading for pleasure during the summer. There's no better way to spend a hot afternoon than curled up in a cool spot with a great book.
- Sign your child up for one of the great summer reading programs sponsored by the Cranford Public Library. Programs are available for children of all ages.
- Model reading for pleasure in your home. Make a variety of materials (books, magazines, newspapers, comic books) available and let your child see you enjoying them. There's no better endorsement than your example.

To help you get started, take a look at some of the books featured below. Summer reading lists are also available at the Cranford Public Library.

Have a great summer filled with great reading!

Grades 7 and 8

London Calling by Edward Bloor. An old fashioned-radio transports seventh-grader Martin from his elite prep school to the middle of World War II London, where he becomes involved in events surrounding the war.

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins. In the future, a government run reality television program pits two dozen teens against each other in a true survival test.

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman. After the loss of his family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the inhabitants take him under

their care and decide to raise him. This book is the winner of this year's Newbery Medal.

The Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of Mark Twain in the Wild, Wild West by Sid Fleischman. This biography covers Twain's early years, adventurous travels, writing career, and popularity as a lecturer, focusing on how his experiences informed his writing, from his gold-rush days in the Nevada, to his travels outside the contiguous United States.

Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer. In this taut survival story, an asteroid hits the moon, knocking it closer to Earth, which results in cataclysmic natural disasters. Sixteen-year-old Miranda's journal entries provide a riveting account of her family's struggle to survive.

The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks by E. Lockhart. Frankie Landau-Banks attempts to take over a secret, all-male society at her exclusive prep school, and her antics with the group soon draw some unlikely attention and have unexpected consequences that could change her life forever.

After Tupac and D Foster by Jacqueline Woodson. In the New York City borough of Queens in 1996, three girls bond over their shared love of Tupac Shakur's music, as together they try to make sense of the unpredictable world in which they live. This is a 2009 Newbery Honor book.

If the Witness Lied by Caroline B. Cooney. Three orphaned teenage siblings reunite to save their youngest brother from the clutches of their evil aunt, who wants to sell them out on a tell-all television show.

Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice by Phillip M. Hoose. Nine months before Rosa Parks' history-making protest on a city bus, Claudette Colvin, a 15-year-old Montgomery, Alabama, high-school student, was arrested and jailed for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger.

Nation by Terry Pratchett. A tsunami destroys everything in its path, leaving Mau, an island boy, Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, and a small group of refugees responsible for rebuilding their village and their lives.

Uprising by Margaret Peterson Haddix. Newly arrived in New York from Italy in 1911, Bella gets a job at the Triangle Shirt Factory, working long hours in terrible conditions and begins to question her new life.

Dairy Queen by Catherine Gilbert Murdock. After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.

Three Cups of Tea by Sarah L. Thompson. In 1993, while climbing one of the world's most difficult peaks, Guy Mortenson became lost and ill, and eventually found aid in the tiny Pakistani village of Korphe. He vowed to repay his generous hosts by building a school; his efforts have grown into the Central Asia Institute, which has since provided education for 25,000 children. This inspirational story highlights the power of one person to make a difference.

Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz. Fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6. This is the first installment of an action packed series.

Into the Volcano by Don Wood. This intense graphic novel follows two brothers who uncover secrets and discover courage deep inside an active volcano.