

GRADE 7 AND UP

# SUPERHERO SUMMER READS

**Place Hacking: Venturing Off Limits** by Michael J. Rosen  
SUMMER/TEEN/910.91732/ROSEN,M

Have you ever wondered what the rooftop view of a building was like? Or if there are secret doors behind abandoned walls? This book follows infiltrators, subway runners, rooftoppers, vertical campers, drainers and “human flies” who are all urban explorers looking for something new in the cities and towns in which they live. Every building deserves a second look, and these explorers are willing to discover every inch of them.

Read-a-like: *Chasing Shadows*

**The Rest of Us Just Live Here** by Patrick Ness  
TEEN/FICTION/NESS,P

Mikey is just a guy who’s trying to get through his senior year. The indie kids at his school always seem to be the “chosen ones” who have to save the world from vampires, zombies, ghosts and other monsters of the week—he just wants his longtime crush to go with him to prom. But Mikey and his friends find that a life of not being the “chosen ones” still comes with its challenges.

Read-a-like: *A Hero at the End of the World*

**Runaways: The Complete Collection Vol. 1** by Brian K. Vaughan  
TEEN/GN/RUNAWAYS

A group of six teenagers are forced to hang out together while their parents have a “charity” event every year. But this year, they find out their parents are actually super-criminals after witnessing a horrible ritual. They also discover they’ve inherited their parents’ superpowers, but will they follow in their parents’ footsteps, or run the other way?

Read-a-likes: *Fake ID*, *Half Bad*

**Zeroes** by Scott Westerfeld  
TEEN/FICTION/WESTERFELD,S

From Zeroes to heroes! (Maybe.) These teens have superpowers you’ve never seen before, including Scam, who’s got a voice inside him that says what you want to hear, even if it’s a lie; Crash, controller of technology; Bellwether, who can focus a crowd’s energy on a common goal; and Kelsie, who can control a mob’s emotions. What will they do with these powers?

Read-a-likes: *When We Wake*, *Legend*

UP, UP  
& AWAY

SUPERHERO SUMMER  
AT THE LIBRARY

The books on this list were chosen by Arlington Heights Memorial Library Youth Services staff. Visit [ahml.info](http://ahml.info) for more great reading ideas.

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Some of these titles may be available in another format. Please ask for help at the Hub Desk.

**Afterschool Charisma series** by Kumiko Suekane

TEEN/GN/AFTERSCHOOL

St. Kleio Academy is a very exclusive high school where all the students are famous historical figures including Freud, Florence Nightingale and Napoleon. This manga follows Shirou Kamiya, a new transfer student who is not a clone, as he befriends the students and they together see if their futures can be different than history. For fans of Super Smash Bros. and Isle of the Lost.

Read-a-likes: *Durarara!!*, *DRRR!!*. Vol. 1

**Black Canary Vol. 1: Kicking and Screaming** by Brenden Fletcher,

illustrated by Annie Wu

TEEN/GN/FLETCHER,B

Dinah Lance, a former crime-fighter who fought alongside the Justice League and Batman, trades in her superhero ways to join an up-and-coming band. But trouble seems to follow her no matter what she's doing, and it's up to her to unpack the mysteries of her bandmates and protect them at all costs.

Read-a-like: *Scott Pilgrim Vol. 1: Scott Pilgrim's Precious Little Life*

**DC Comics: Bombshells Vol. 1** by Marguerite Bennett

TEEN/GN/BENNETT,M

The Allies need help as World War II continues. Who better to join the effort than a group of heroines called the Bombshells? This twist on history also includes a twist on some of your favorite DC characters, including Wonder Woman, Batwoman and Supergirl. Read as these fierce do-gooders fight for Truth, Justice and Freedom.

Read-a-like: *Captain Marvel Vol. 1: In Pursuit of Flight*

**The Fangirl's Guide to the Galaxy: A Handbook for Geek Girls** by Sam Maggs

TEEN/302.23/MAGGS,S

Now is the perfect time to let that inner geek out. Sam Maggs provides everything from cheat codes to tips on going to your first convention. This book is the perfect handbook when it comes to nerd culture. Learn the ins and outs of all it means to be involved in a fandom.

Read-a-like: *You're Never Weird on the Internet (Almost)*

**Gotham Academy Vol. 1: Welcome to Gotham Academy** by Becky Cloonan

TEEN/GN/CLOONAN,B

Gotham Academy is the most prestigious school in Gotham City, but Gotham Academy isn't like other schools—just like Olive Silverlock isn't like other students. After a mysterious incident over summer break, she's back at school with a bad case of amnesia, an even worse attitude and an unexplained fear of bats.

Read-a-like: *Young Avengers Vol. 1: Sidekicks*

**Hawkeye Vol. 1: My Life as a Weapon** by Matt Fraction

TEEN/GN/HAWKEYE

Clint Barton is a S.H.I.E.L.D. special agent whom you might know from the Avengers movies. With Kate Bishop by his side, he's out to prove he has what it takes to be a top superhero. S.H.I.E.L.D. recruits Barton to intercept a packet containing incriminating evidence. What's the Vegabond Code? What's on the Tape? When answers lead to more questions, Barton must figure out what's truly going on.

Read-a-likes: *Captain Marvel*, *I Am the Weapon*

**I am Princess X** by Cherie Priest

TEEN/FICTION/PRIEST,C

Libby and May enjoy writing a comic heroine called Princess X who destroys dragons and saves the world. That is, until Libby tragically dies in a car accident. Fast forward to now and 16-year-old May finds evidence of Princess X everywhere—there are posters on windows, telephone poles, etc. There's a whole underground following of a webcomic: IAmPrincessX.com. The similarities with her childhood comic cannot be missed, which means only one thing. Libby must be alive.

Read-a-like: *Manga Man*

**The Incredible Adventures of Cinnamon Girl** by Melissa Keil

TEEN /FICTION/KEIL,M

Alba is just a regular person who loves working in the bakery, spending time with friends while watching horrible TV and writing comics. It just so happens that her friend's boyfriend is getting a little weird, a boy she thought was gone forever is now back and her comic just isn't shaping out right. Not to mention: the world might be ending. Alba's life is thrown into chaos, and she must figure out her heart and the whole Armageddon thing.

Read-a-likes: *Green Valentine*, *Cracked*

**Lois Lane Vol. 1: Fallout** by Gwenda Bond

TEEN/FICTION/BOND,G

After witnessing a near-disaster, teenage journalist Lois Lane and her family decide to move from rural Kansas to the big city. Lois is determined to make friends and fit in, but it's hard being the new kid. When a group called the Warheads terrorize her, she's not convinced she'll be able to. Thanks to her reporting job and a boy (who might be more than just a friend), Lois makes her way through high school and a new home.

Read-a-likes: *Black Widow*, *Steelheart*

**Ms. Marvel Vol. 1: No Normal** by Wilson, G. Willow

TEEN/GN/MS/MARVEL

It's not easy growing up, and being a teen in a religious family is even harder. Kamala Kahn goes to school, loves comics and has a Muslim upbringing. While trying to figure out who she really is, she gains powers much like Ms. Marvel. She has super strength, stretch abilities and can change her size. Now it seems it's up to her to figure out where all these teens are disappearing to and how to use her newfound powers.

Read-a-likes: *Captain Marvel series*, *Supergirl series*

**Nimona** by Noelle Stevenson

TEEN/GN/STEVENSON,N

This graphic novel gives us an insider look at being a villain. Nimona, a young shape shifter, latches on to the infamous Ballister Blackheart. The two team up, with reluctance on Blackheart's part, to cause havoc around the town. Their true mission is to prove to everyone that Sir Ambrosius Goldenloin and the entire Institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics aren't heroes at all!

Read-a-likes: *I Shall Wear Midnight*, *The Books of Magic*