

Story Thieves by James Riley
Y/FICTION/RILEY,J

Have you ever thought that life would be so much more exciting if you could go to school at Hogwarts or travel to Narnia? That's what Owen thinks, and after seeing his classmate Bethany climb out of a book, he realizes it's possible. But what if going into your favorite story means you could possibly ruin it forever?

Echo by Pam Muñoz Ryan
Y/FICTION/RYAN,P

After receiving a prophecy, a promise and a harmonica from three mysterious sisters in a forbidden forest, Otto sets off on a puzzling quest. Decades later, three different children in three different cities each become part of his journey when the very same harmonica lands in their lives. For fans of the *Chronicles of Prydain* and *A Wrinkle in Time*.

The Toymaker's Apprentice by Sherri L Smith
Y/FICTION/SMITH,S

In this reimagining of E.T.A. Hoffmann's story *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*, Stefan Drosselmeyer must rescue a princess and his own father from the Mouse Queen and her seven-headed Mouse Prince, both of whom have sworn to destroy the Drosselmeyer family. For fans of *The Real Boy* and other fairy tale retellings.

The Lightning Queen by Laura Resau
Y/FICTION/RESAU,L

With the help of a rescued duck, a three-legged skunk, a blind goat and other unexpected allies, Teo and Esma (the Gypsy Queen of Lightning) must overcome obstacles to fulfill their impossible destiny of being lifelong friends. A magical, bittersweet story for fans of *The Bridge to Terabithia* and *Breadcrumbs*.

Reading Unbound: Why Kids Need to Read What They Want—and Why We Should Let Them

by Jeffrey Wilhelm, Michael Smith, Sharon Fransen
Y/372.409/WILHELM,K

Grown-ups, here's some reading to give you more information about our new book lists this summer, and why we're doing them this way. And make sure you stop by Info Services and ask them to help you find your next great read; don't let your kids have all the fun!

The books on this list were chosen by Arlington Heights Memorial Library Youth Services staff and Library Media Center staff from School District 25. Visit the library's website, ahml.info, for more great reading ideas.

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KIDS' WORLD

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GRADE 3 AND UP

MAGIC, MYTHS
AND MORE

UP, UP
& AWAY

SUPERHERO SUMMER
AT THE LIBRARY

Sci-fi, fantasy and the
just plain weird

Read from the beginning of the list when you're short on time but still want a good story. Read from the end of the list when you're up for a more textually and thematically challenging experience .

Not every book on every list will be right for your child. If you have questions about any title, please see Kids' World staff for guidance.

Leo: A Ghost Story by Mac Barnett

PICTURE/PEOPLE/BARNETT,M

Loyal and brave Leo finds a new friend but worries what will happen when she learns he is a ghost.

The Night Gardener by Terry Fan

PICTURE/PLAY/FAN,T

One day, William discovers the tree outside his window has been sculpted into an owl. Each morning more topiaries appear, and soon William's little town is full of color and life. For fans of *Extra Yarn*, *Somebody Loves You Mr. Hatch* and *Grandpa Green*.

Rocket and Groot: Stranded on Planet Strip Mall! By Tom Angleberger

J/FICTION/MARVEL

After battling deadly space piranhas in Sector 7 of the Cosmos, Rocket and Groot crash-land on a planet made entirely of strip malls! More fun from the hilarious duo of talking raccoon and his best friend, a tree.

Little Robot by Ben Hatke

J/GN/HATKE,B

A charming, nearly wordless story about a girl and her robot. For fans of Calvin and Hobbes, *Phoebe and Her Unicorn*, and *Zita the Spacegirl*.

Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate

Y/FICTION/APPLEGATE,K

Ten-year-old Jackson is too old for an imaginary friend! Yet there is Crenshaw, the seven-foot imaginary cat. Jackson already has to deal with too little food around the apartment and the constant garage sales. Can Crenshaw really help?

Treasury of Norse Mythology: Stories of Intrigue, Trickery, Love, and Revenge

by Donna Jo Napoli

J/293.13/NAPOLI,D

For fans of Rick Riordan, *The Sea of Trolls* and *The Avengers*, these retellings of Norse myths are sure to keep you entertained.

Cleopatra in Space

Book One: Target Practice, Book Two: The Thief and the Sword, and

Book Three: Secret of the Time Tablets by Mike Maihack

Y/GN/CLEOPATRA

Zapped away as a teenager from her home era of 52 BC, Cleopatra VII found herself in the middle of an epic war in the far, far (really far), far future. For fans of Percy Jackson, *Star Wars* and ancient Egypt.

Spell Robbers by Matthew J. Kirby

Y/SF/KIRBY,M

Take Hogwarts and add a dash of science into your magic, and add a little Mysterious Benedict Society, and you'll get *Spell Robbers*, the story of Ben Warner, a science loving kid who comes to realize the "science camp" he's been recruited into isn't quite what it seems. Series: Quantum League

The Sword of Summer by Rick Riordan

Y/FICTION/RIORDAN,R

Rick Riordan does it again, this time tackling Norse mythology.

Series: Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard

The Midnight War of Mateo Martinez by Robin Yardi

Y/FICTION/YARDI,R

Mateo Martinez is tired of having to keep an eye on his 5-year-old sister, Mila, and is having troubles at school. But these ordinary concerns pale next to the inexplicable thing Mateo sees one night: two talking skunks stealing his old tricycle. Mateo's quest to reclaim the trike morphs into a "righteous mission" when he learns that the skunks need it in order to defeat raccoons who invade the playground and bully them at night.

The Door by the Staircase by Katherine Marsh

Y/FICTION/MARSH,K

Mary fears she'll be stuck in the Buffalo Asylum for Young Ladies forever, until the day a mysterious woman named Madame Z comes to the orphanage requesting to adopt her. Her joy doesn't last long, however, because when she begins to explore the strange town she learns a dark secret about Madame Z's true identity. For fans of *A Tale Dark and Grimm*, *Egg and Spoon* and *The Dark is Rising*.

Maybe a Fox by Kathi Appelt

Y/FICTION/APPELT,K

All Sylvie wanted to do was run faster than she ever has before, and she ended up running into the forest and disappearing. Jules, her younger sister, is angry at everyone who assumes her sister is dead. And then there is the fox, who seems to beckon 11-year-old Jules into the same Vermont woods where Sylvie ran to. Should Jules follow? Or run the other way?

Circus Mirandus by Cassie Beasley

Y/FICTION/BEASLEY,C

Micah has always believed in the unbelievable stories his dying Grandpa Ephraim has told him about Circus Mirandus: the invisible tiger guarding the gates, the beautiful flying birdwoman and the powerful Man Who Bends Light. With his friend Jenny, Micah sets out to find the Circus and the man he believes has the power to save his grandfather. For fans of *The Magician's Elephant*, *The Familiars* and Roald Dahl.

What's your favorite fantasy or sci-fi book? Add it here!