

Summer Reading List:

49 Books to Get You Ready to Go Back to School



Children and young adult literature influence who K-12 students become and help them learn about the world. That's why it's important for professional educators to stay updated on books written for K-12 students. Reading for professional development is equally important as it can inform and challenge educators at all stages of their careers.

Kerri Brown Parker, director of the NC State College of Education's Media and Education Technology Resource Center (METRC), curated two lists of book recommendations for summer reading to jump start back to school preparations. The first focuses on culturally diverse texts that resonate and move young readers, as well as increase their social-emotional learning. The second list includes recently published works related to education that will add to your professional development.

Books Promoting Cultural Diversity and Empathy in Young Readers

Middle Grades & Young Adult:

- > *Refugee* by Alan Gratz
- > *Her Right Foot* by Dave Eggers
- > *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds
- > *Train I Ride* by Paul Mosier
- > *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
- > *The Prince and the Dressmaker* by Jen Wang
- > *A Boy Called Bat* by Elana K. Arnold and Charles Santoso
- > *Amal Unbound* by Aisha Saeed
- > *Love, Hate and Other Filters* by Samira Ahmed
- > *Lucky Broken Girl* by Ruth Behar
- > *Ashes to Asheville* by Sarah Dooley
- > *Beyond the Bright Sea* by Lauren Wolk
- > *The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Perez
- > *Hello, Universe* by Erin Entrada Kelly
- > *Patina* by Jason Reynolds
- > *Piecing Me Together* by Renee Watson
- > *The Stars Beneath our Feet* by David Barclay Moore
- > *The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue* by Mackenzi Lee

Picture Books:

- > *My Heart Fills with Happiness* by Monique Gray Smith and Julie Flett
- > *You Hold Me Up* by Monique Gray Smith and Danielle Daniel
- > *A Day with Yayah* by Nicola I. Campbell and Julie Flett
- > *When We Were Alone* by David Robertson and Julie Flett
- > *Love* by Matt de La Pena and Loren Long
- > *A Different Pond* by Bao Phi and Thi Bui
- > *Chef Roy Choi and the Street Food Remix* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin and June Jo Lee
- > *Ruth Bader Ginsburg: The Case of R.B.G. vs. Inequality* by Jonah Winter and Stacy Innerst
- > *Lost and Found Cat: The True Story of Kunkush's Incredible Journey* by Doug Kuntz and Amy Shrodes
- > *Happy Dreamer* by Peter H. Reynolds
- > *We're all Wonders* by R.J. Palacio
- > *Jabari Jumps* by Gaia Cornwall
- > *My Night in the Planetarium* by Innosanto Nagara
- > *Why Am I Me?* by Paige Britt
- > *Julian is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love
- > *Stella Brings the Family: A Tale of Two Dads on Mother's Day* by Miriam B. Schiffer
- > *Wolf in the Snow* by Matthew Cordell



14 Books That Will Help You Grow as an Educator

- > *Passionate Readers: The Art of Reaching and Engaging Every Child* by Pernille Ripp
- > *For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood...and the Rest of Y'all Too: Reality Pedagogy and Urban Education* by Christopher Emdin
- > *Culturally Responsive Teaching and The Brain: Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rigor Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students* by Zaretta L. Hammond
- > *Power Play: How Video Games Can Save the World* by Asi Burak
- > *The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice Are Undermining Education* by Diane Ravitch
- > *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover
- > *Poor Students, Rich Teaching: Mindsets for Change: Data-Driven Strategies for Overcoming Student Poverty and Adversity in the Classroom to Increase Student Success* by Eric Jensen
- > *Fostering Resilient Learners: Strategies for Creating a Trauma-Sensitive Classroom* by Kristin Souers and Pete Hall
- > *Excellence Through Equity: Five Principles of Courageous Leadership to Guide Achievement for Every Student* by Alan M. Blankstein, Pedro Noguera, and Lorena Kelly
- > *Culturize: Every Student. Every Day. Whatever It Takes.* by Jimmy Casas
- > *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo
- > *Disrupting Thinking: Why How We Read Matters* by Kylene Beers and Robert E. Probst
- > *What School Could Be: Insights and Inspiration from Teachers across America* by Ted Dintersmith
- > *The EduProtocol Field Guide: 16 Student-Centered Lesson Frames for Infinite Learning Possibilities* by Marlena Hebern and Jon Corippo