The benefits of summer reading have been well documented, from preventing that “summer slide” and improving basic reading comprehension, to developing and growing life-long readers. Continued reading during the summer months is imperative to developing and maintaining reading skills that are absolutely essential for a successful student. The Sawgrass Springs Literacy Department (language arts and reading teachers, media specialist and literacy coach) has chosen some exciting books recommended for summer reading. Below you will find a list of suggested titles and authors for each grade level. Enjoy!

**Grade 6**

- *Skink – No Surrender* by Carl Hiaasan
- *Counting by 7’s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan
- *Waiting for Normal* by Leslie Connor
- *Schooled* by Gordon Korman
- *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson
- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L’Engle
- *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls
- *Tuck Everlasting* by Kathi Appelt
- *Schooled* by Gordon Korman
- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
- *The Lions of Little Rock* by Kristin Levine
- *The Underneath* by Kathi Appelt
- *Booked* by Kwame Alexander
- *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O’Dell
- *The Egypt Game* by Zilpha Keatley Snyder
- *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli
- *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster
- *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds
- *Alex Rider: Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz

**Grade 7**

- *The Sea Wolf* by Jack London
- *Mockingbird* by Kathryn Erskine
- *Paper Boy* by Vince Vawter
- *Dragon’s Gate* by Laurence Yep
- *Crossover* by Kwame Alexander
- *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith
- *Main Street* by Sinclair Lewis
- *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London
- *Hoops* by Walter Dean Myers
- *Travel Team* by Mike Lupica
- *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Saint George and the Dragon* by Margaret Hodges
- *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane
- *Nothing But the Truth* by Avi
- *Scar Island* by Dan Gemeinhart
- *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill
- *Flipped* by Wendelin Van Draanen
- *The Third Eye* by Lois Lowry
- *The Cay* by Theodore Taylor
- *Middle School, the Worst Years of My Life* by James Patterson

**Grade 8**

- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
- *Turtles All the Way Down* by John Green
- *Bread Givers* by Anzia Yezierska
- *Abe Lincoln Grows Up* by Carl Sandburg
The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
Something Wicked This Way Comes by Ray Bradbury
The Underdogs by Mike Lupica
Sing Down the Moon by Scott O’Dell
Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli
Gulliver’s Travels by Jonathan Swift
Amos Fortune, Free Man by Elizabeth Yates
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie
Scythe (Arc of a Scythe series) by Neal Shusterman
Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson
Uglies by Scott Westerfeld
Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie
Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse
Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko
Journey to the Center of the Earth by Jules Verne
The Pact – Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream by Lisa Frazier

Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books
2020-2021 List for Grades 6-8

New Kid by Jerry Craft
Scouts by Shannon Greenland
Lifeboat 12 by Susan Hood
Deep Water by Watt Key
Inkling by Kenneth Oppel
We’re Not From Here by Geoff Rodkey
Charlie Hernandez and the League of Shadows by Ryan Calejo
Marcus Vega Doesn’t Speak Spanish by Pablo Cartaya
The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise by Dan Gemeinhart
Spark by Sarah Beth Durst
Game Changer by Tommy Greenwald
Song For a Whale by Lynne Kelly
Float by Laura Martin
City Spies by James Ponti
The Bridge Home by Padma Venkatraman