

2025 Junior Summer Reading Choices



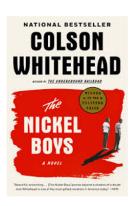
1. Just Mercy, by Bryan Stevenson

An unforgettable true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us and a clarion call to end mass incarceration in America — from one of the most inspiring lawyers of our time.

Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a nonprofit law office in Montgomery, Alabama, dedicated to defending the poor, the incarcerated, and the wrongly condemned.

2. Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead

Elwood Curtis has taken the words of Dr Martin Luther King to heart: he is as good as anyone. Abandoned by his parents and brought up by his loving, strict, and clear-sighted grandmother, Elwood is about to enroll in the local black college. But given the time and the place, one innocent mistake is enough to destroy his future, and so Elwood arrives at The Nickel Academy, which claims to provide 'physical, intellectual and moral training' that will equip its inmates to become 'honorable and honest men.





3. Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice by Phillip Hoose

The true story of 15-year-old Claudette Colvin, a smart and inquisitive teenager who refused to give up her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama during 1955.

4. This Boy's Life by Tobias Wolff [Not available at PMSA]

Thirty years ago Tobias Wolff wrote a memoir that changed the form. The "unforgettable" (*Time*) *This Boy's Life* is the story of the young, tough-on-the-outside but vulnerable Toby Wolff. Separated by divorce from his father and brother, Toby and his mother travel from Florida to Utah to a small village in Washington state, with many stops along the way. As each place doesn't quite work out, they pick up to find somewhere new. In the story of their journey, Wolff masterfully recreates the frustrations, cruelties, and joys of adolescence and presents a deeply poignant exploration of memory, dreams, and how we create a self.





5. Sunrise on the Reaping by Suzanne Collins [Not available at PMSA]

As the day dawns on the fiftieth annual Hunger Games, fear grips the districts of Panem. This year, in honor of the Quarter Quell, twice as many tributes will be taken from their homes.

Back in District 12, Haymitch Abernathy is trying not to think too hard about his chances. All he cares about is making it through the day and being with the girl he loves.

When Haymitch's name is called, he can feel all his dreams break. He's torn from his family and his love, shuttled to the Capitol with the three other District 12 tributes: a young friend who's nearly a sister to him, a compulsive oddsmaker, and the most stuck-up girl in town. As the Games begin, Haymitch understands he's been set up to fail. But there's something in him that wants to fight . . . and have that fight reverberate far beyond the deadly arena.

Select one of the books from Page 1 or above and check out from the PMSA bookroom during Final Exam Week on WED-FRI between the hours of 11:45am-1:45pm (while supplies last) or acquire the book on Amazon, other online source, or a big box store like Target or Walmart. You could also check it out from your local library with a library card.