Hello, I am Kells’ Librarian, Ms. Elaina and welcome to your Summer Reading List! Did you know that there is a TON of research out there showing that students who don’t read over the summer break can lose up to 3 months of reading progress which can affect their overall achievement in the classroom come fall?

Translation: Reading over the summer will make the starting school next year MUCH easier!

With this in mind, and because I think reading is one of the true pleasures in life, I have prepared a list of suggestions for some great summer reads! Take a peek and see if anything captures your interest. Or, head to your local library or bookstore and discover a new title or author for yourself. 😊

Note: students are not required to read the titles recommended here, however, I strongly suggest that they do read over the summer be it a novel, a graphic novel/comic book or magazines.

Happy reading,
Ms. Elaina, MLIS
Librarian

Want some more suggestions? Check out these sites:
- Good Reads: Listopia - Young Adult Book Lists
- NPR Books: Young Adults
- Toronto Public Library: Recommended Books for Teens
- Vancouver Public Library: Teen Booklists
- Babelio: Listes sur le thème littérature jeunesse

A note to parents/guardians: I have included in this list books that discuss many different points of view. If you are concerned about what your child reads (ex.: you don’t want them reading anything too violent) please read the synopsis and review the book before you allow them to proceed. Though I believe that students should read about a wide variety of topics, perspectives, worldviews, etc., I leave it up to the parents’/guardians’ discretion.
Secrets: Big Dose of Lucky (Historical Fiction)

Marthe Jocelyn

Malou has just turned sixteen—hardly old enough to be out in the world on her own—and all she knows for sure is that she’s of mixed race and that she was left at an orphanage as a newborn. When the orphanage burns to the ground, she finds out that she may have been born in a small town in Ontario’s cottage country. Much to her surprise, Parry Sound turns out to have quite a few young brown faces, but Malou can’t believe they might be related to her. After she finds work as a cleaner in the local hospital, an Aboriginal boy named Jimmy helps her find answers to her questions about her parents. The answers are as stunning—and life-changing—as anything Malou could have imagined back at the orphanage.

*Top choice for ESL students

The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel (Fantasy Fiction)

Michael Scott

The truth: Nicholas Flamel was born in Paris on September 28, 1330.
The legend: Nicholas Flamel discovered the secret of eternal life.

The records show that he died in 1418. But his tomb is empty. Nicholas Flamel lives. But only because he has been making the elixir of life for centuries. The secret of eternal life is hidden within the book he protects—the Book of Abraham the Mage. It’s the most powerful book that has ever existed. In the wrong hands, it will destroy the world. That’s exactly what Dr. John Dee plans to do when he steals it. Humankind won’t know what’s happening until it’s too late. And if the prophecy is right, Sophie and Josh Newman are the only ones with the power to save the world as we know it. Sometimes legends are true. And Sophie and Josh Newman are about to find themselves in the middle of the greatest legend of all time.
Bad Girls Don’t Die (Supernatural Fiction)
Katie Alender
When Alexis's little sister Kasey becomes obsessed with an antique doll, Alexis thinks she is just being her usual weird self. Things get weirder, though, when their house starts changing. Doors open and close by themselves; water boils on the unlit stove; and an unplugged air conditioner blasts cold air. Kasey is changing, too. Her blue eyes go green, she starts using old-fashioned language, and she forgets chunks of time. Most disturbing of all is the dangerous new chip on Kasey's shoulder. The formerly gentle child is gone, and the new Kasey is angry. Alexis is the only one who can stop her sister -- but what if that green-eyed girl isn't even Kasey anymore?

250 Hours (Realistic Fiction)
Colleen Nelson
Jess and Sara Jean couldn’t be more different. He’s a loner with a criminal record, a Métis raised on the reserve, the son of a residential-school survivor. She’s from nearby Edelburg, a conservative small town. Abandoned by her mother, Sara Jean cares for her obese grandmother and writes to escape.

When Jess is found guilty of arson, he’s ordered to complete 250 hours of community service, starting with Sara Jean’s neglected garage. Sorting through boxes left by her grandfather, they discover that the secrets keeping their communities apart are the very things that will bring them together.
The Scorpion Rules (Dystopian Fiction)
Erin Bow
Greta is a Duchess and a Crown Princess. She is also a Child of Peace, a hostage held by the de facto ruler of the world, the great Artificial Intelligence, Talis. This is how the game is played: if you want to rule, you must give one of your children as a hostage. Start a war and your hostage dies. The system has worked for centuries. Parents don’t want to see their children murdered.

Greta will be free if she can make it to her eighteenth birthday. Until then she is prepared to die with dignity, if necessary. But everything changes when Elian arrives at the Precepture. He’s a hostage from a new American alliance, and he defies the machines that control every part of their lives—and is severely punished for it. His rebellion opens Greta’s eyes to the brutality of the rules they live under, and to the subtle resistance of her companions. And Greta discovers her own quiet power.

Relish: My Life in the Kitchen (Graphic Novel Biography)
Lucy Knisley
Lucy Knisley loves food. The daughter of a chef and a gourmet, this talented young cartoonist comes by her obsession honestly. In her forthright, thoughtful, and funny memoir, Lucy traces key episodes in her life thus far, framed by what she was eating at the time and lessons learned about food, cooking, and life. Each chapter is bookended with an illustrated recipe—many of them treasured family dishes, and a few of them Lucy’s original inventions.

A welcome read for anyone who ever felt more passion for a sandwich than is strictly speaking proper, Relish is a graphic novel for our time: it invites the reader to celebrate food as a connection to our bodies and a connection to the earth, rather than an enemy, a compulsion, or a consumer product.
Dogs of War (Graphic Novel)
Sheila Keenan
Some war heroes heard wind whistling over a hidden trip wire.
Some war heroes sniffed out a sniper 1,000 yards away.
Some war heroes stood tall . . . on four legs!
DOGS OF WAR is a graphic novel that tells the stories of the canine military heroes of World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War. This collection of three fictional stories was inspired by historic battles and real military practice. Each story tells the remarkable adventures of a soldier and his service dog and is rendered with fascinating and beautiful detail, bringing to life the faithful dogs who braved bombs, barrages, and battles to save the lives of countless soldiers.
Based on the real-life roles of military dogs that served as Red Cross rescuers, messengers, scouts, search-and-rescue teams, sentries, and mascots, DOGS OF WAR captures both the adventure and the devastation brought on by war, as well as the celebrations of life and friendship between boys and their dogs.

*Top choice for reluctant readers*

Black Like Me (Nonfiction)
John Howard Griffin
In the Deep South of the 1950s, journalist John Howard Griffin decided to cross the color line. Using medication that darkened his skin to deep brown, he exchanged his privileged life as a Southern white man for the disenfranchised world of an unemployed black man. His audacious, still chillingly relevant eyewitness history is a work about race and humanity-that in this new millennium still has something important to say to every American.
Les Aveux (French Fiction)
Martine Latulippe
Quand un nouvel élève séduisant et mystérieux joint son école secondaire en plein mois de janvier, Mia tombe sous son charme. Sa bande d'amis, les Inséparables, est plus méfiante. Quel lourd secret cache-t-il ?

Pacific Express : terreur sur la ligne d’acier (French Fiction)
Anne Bernard Lenoir
Luke MacAllan, un jeune orphelin, travaille à la construction du chemin de fer transcontinental dans l'Ouest canadien. Entraîné malgré lui dans une suite d'événements dangereux, il découvrira des indices sur un attentat à la bombe qui vise le chantier. Luke doit agir. Et il n'a que quelques heures?...
Lou! Journal infime (French Comic Book)
Julien Neel
Lou est une petite fille qui ne connaît pas son papa, qui vit seule avec sa maman et le petit chat qu'elles ont adopté. Toutes les deux ont une grande complicité, elles jouent à la console, dînent dans des pizzerias... Lou est amoureuse de son voisin d'en face mais, bien sûr, n'ose pas lui avouer... C'est une petite fille très à la mode avec des dons de styliste. Sa meilleure copine s'appelle Mina, et ensemble elles partagent beaucoup de choses. Lou se dit aussi que Richard, qui vient d'emménager sur son palier, pourrait très bien plaire à sa mère. D'ailleurs, elle va se débrouiller pour les faire se rencontrer...
Nouvelle série de Tchô ! la collec , Lou nous conte la vie d'une petite fille d'aujourd'hui, croquée avec énormément de tendresse, d'intelligence et de poésie... Une bande dessinée pleine de charme qui séduira autant les enfants et les adolescents que les adultes.

Adventure time (French Comic Book)
Ryan North
Jake le chien et Finn l'humain, deux amis inséparables, n'ont d'autre but dans la vie que de vivre un maximum d'aventures dans le fabuleux Royaume de Ooo. Accompagnés de la Princesse Chewing gum et de Marceline, la Reine vampire, les deux aventuriers croisent souvent le fer avec leur pire ennemi, le Roi des glaces. Mais aujourd'hui, une menace plus grande jette son ombre sur le royaume.

*Top choice for students who have difficulty with French*