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

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.

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

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Shadow and the Bone (Fantasy Fiction)
Leigh Bardugo
Surrounded by enemies, the once-great nation of Ravka has been torn in two by the Shadow Fold, a swath of near impenetrable darkness crawling with monsters who feast on human flesh. Now its fate may rest on the shoulders of one lonely refugee. Alina Starkov has never been good at anything. But when her regiment is attacked on the Fold and her best friend is brutally injured, Alina reveals a dormant power that saves his life—a power that could be the key to setting her war-ravaged country free. Wrenched from everything she knows, Alina is whisked away to the royal court to be trained as a member of the Grisha, the magical elite led by the mysterious Darkling. Yet nothing in this lavish world is what it seems. With darkness looming and an entire kingdom depending on her untamed power, Alina will have to confront the secrets of the Grisha . . . and the secrets of her heart.

Monster (Realistic Fiction)
Walter Dean Myers
This New York Times bestselling novel and National Book Award nominee from acclaimed author Walter Dean Myers tells the story of Steve Harmon, a teenage boy in juvenile detention and on trial. Presented as a screenplay of Steve’s own imagination, and peppered with journal entries, the book shows how one single decision can change our whole lives.

Fade In: Interior: Early Morning In Cell Block D, Manhattan Detention Center.

Steve (Voice-Over)
Sometimes I feel like I have walked into the middle of a movie. Maybe I can make my own movie. The film will be the story of my life. No, not my life, but of this experience. I’ll call it what the lady prosecutor called me ... Monster.
**Dumplin’ (Realistic Fiction)**
**Julie Murphy**
Dubbed “Dumplin’” by her former beauty queen mom, Willowdean has always been at home in her own skin. Her thoughts on having the ultimate bikini body? Put a bikini on your body. With her all-American-beauty best friend, Ellen, by her side, things have always worked . . . until Will takes a job at Harpy’s, the local fast-food joint. There she meets Private School Bo, a hot former jock. Will isn’t surprised to find herself attracted to Bo. But she is surprised when he seems to like her back.
Instead of finding new heights of self-assurance in her relationship with Bo, Will starts to doubt herself. So she sets out to take back her confidence by doing the most horrifying thing she can imagine: entering the Miss Teen Blue Bonnet Pageant—along with several other unlikely candidates—to show the world that she deserves to be up there as much as any twiggy girl does. Along the way, she’ll shock the hell out of Clover City—and maybe herself most of all.

**Ready Player One (Science Fiction)**
**Ernest Cline**
In the year 2044, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he’s jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade’s devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world’s digital confines—puzzles that are based on their creator’s obsession with the pop culture of decades past and that promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them.

But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade’s going to survive, he’ll have to win—and confront the real world he’s always been so desperate to escape.
I Hunt Killers (Suspense Fiction)
Barry Lyga
It was a beautiful day. It was a beautiful field. Except for the body. Jazz is a likable teenager. A charmer, some might say. But he's also the son of the world's most infamous serial killer, and for Dear Old Dad, "Take Your Son to Work Day" was year-round. Jazz has witnessed crime scenes the way cops wish they could--from the criminals' point of view. And now, even though Dad has been in jail for years, bodies are piling up in the sleepy town of Lobo's Nod. Again. In an effort to prove murder doesn't run in the family, Jazz joins the police in the hunt for this new serial killer. But Jazz has a secret--could he be more like his father than anyone knows?

From acclaimed author Barry Lyga comes a riveting thriller about a teenager trying to control his own destiny in the face of overwhelming odds.

*Top choice for reluctant readers*

Boxers & Saints (Graphic Novel)
Gene Luen Yang
One of the greatest comics storytellers alive brings all his formidable talents to bear in this astonishing new work.

In two volumes, Boxers & Saints tells two parallel stories. The first is of Little Bao, a Chinese peasant boy whose village is abused and plundered by Westerners claiming the role of missionaries. Little Bao, inspired by visions of the Chinese gods, joins a violent uprising against the Western interlopers. Against all odds, their grass-roots rebellion is successful.

But in the second volume, Yang lays out the opposite side of the conflict. A girl whose village has no place for her is taken in by Christian missionaries and finds, for the first time, a home with them. As the Boxer Rebellion gains momentum, Vibiana must decide whether to abandon her Christian friends or to commit herself fully to Christianity.
Maximum Ride: The Manga v.1 (Graphic Novel)
James Patterson
Fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride knows what it's like to soar above the world. She and all the members of her "flock" - Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman, and Angel - are just like ordinary kids, except they have wings and can fly! It may seem like a dream come true to some, but for the flock it's more like a living nightmare. When the mysterious lab known as the "School" turns up and kidnaps their youngest member, it's up to Max to organize a rescue, but will help come in time?

*Top choice for ESL students

A Backpack, a Bear, and Eight Crates of Vodka A Memoir (Biography)
Lev Golinkin
Lev Golinkin's memoir is the vivid, darkly comic, and poignant story of a young boy in the confusing and often chilling final decade of the Soviet Union. It's also the story of Lev Golinkin, the American man who finally confronts his buried past by returning to Austria and Eastern Europe to track down the strangers who made his escape possible . . . and say thank you. Written with biting, acerbic wit and emotional honesty in the vein of Gary Shteyngart, Jonathan Safran Foer, and David Bezmozgis, Golinkin's search for personal identity set against the relentless currents of history is more than a memoir—it's a portrait of a lost era. This is a thrilling tale of escape and survival, a deeply personal look at the life of a Jewish child caught in the last gasp of the Soviet Union, and a provocative investigation into the power of hatred and the search for belonging. Lev Golinkin achieves an amazing feat—and it marks the debut of a fiercely intelligent, defiant, and unforgettable new voice.
Ne t’inquiète pas pour moi (French Fiction)
Alice Kuipers
Par le biais de post-it sur le réfrigérateur, une mère et une fille mènent une correspondance vivante, enjouée, parfois coléreuse. Des petits tracas du quotidien aux doutes et souffrances de l'adolescence, cette correspondance offre un instantané de leur vie, jusqu'au jour où la mère découvre qu'elle est gravement malade.

*Top choice for students who have difficulty with French

L'Initiation (French Fiction)
Alain M. Bergeron
« Si tu protestes, ça va empirer. Alors, tu te la fermes et tu serres les dents. C’est juste un mauvais moment à passer, me glisse à l’oreille Samuel Bernard, le préposé à l’équipement. J’ai déjà été initié depuis le temps que je joue au hockey. Mais là, je sais qu’aux mains des vétérans de mon équipe je suis sur le point de vivre la pire soirée de toute ma vie. (...) Alexandre Parent ne s’est pas présenté au match d’ouverture de la nouvelle saison de hockey scolaire. Il a quitté l’équipe. Personne, parmi les joueurs, n’a voulu faire de commentaires sur l’histoire Parent. »
Studio danse v.1 (French Comic Book)

Crip

Julie, Luce et Alia sont les meilleures amies du monde et partagent une même passion : la danse. Entre les cours de danse classique et moderne, elles s'initient au hip-hop auprès du séduisant professeur Kader, qui ne les laisse pas indifférentes.

Légendaires origins: Danaël (French Comic Book)

Patrick Sobral

Récit du passé de Danaël, l'un des héros de Les Légendaires. D'un caractère impétueux, le jeune Faucon d'argent ne parvient pas à s'intégrer au corps d'armé dirigé par son frère.