

## OOJH Summer Reading List 2018

### Skokie Public Library's "Hot Summer Reads"

#### *Becoming Kareem: Growing Up On and Off the Court*

by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (recommended for Grades 6-8)

990L

**Genre:** Autobiography/Memoir

**Summary:**

An autobiography about Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and his life growing up in New York, becoming the basketball star he's known to be, and getting involved in the world around him as an activist for social change

#### *The Best Kind of Magic* by Crystal Cestari (recommended for Grades 6-8)

820L

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction (Magical Realism)

**Summary:**

Amber Sand has the magical ability to envision anyone's soul mate, but when Charlie Blitzman, the Chicago mayor's son and most-desired boy in school, comes to Amber for help in finding his father's missing girlfriend, Amber sadly sees that Charlie is not destined for her.

#### *Cold Cereal* by Adam Rex (recommended for Grades 6-8)

770L

**Genre:** Fantasy/Humor

**Summary:** A boy who may be part changeling, twins involved in a bizarre secret experiment, and a clurichaun (a leprechaun-like creature) in a red tracksuit try to save the world from an evil cereal company whose ultimate goal is world domination. Part realistic fiction, part mythology, all fun!

#### *Refugee* by Alan Gratz (recommended for Grades 6-8)

800L

**Genre:** Historical Fiction/Realistic Fiction

**Summary:** Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together.

#### *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds (recommended for Grades 6-8)

HL 720L

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction (Novel in Verse)

**Summary:** There are three rules in the neighborhood: Don't cry ; Don't snitch ; Get revenge. Will takes his dead brother Shawn's gun, and gets in the elevator on the 7th floor. As the elevator stops on each floor, someone connected to Shawn gets on. Someone already dead. Dead by teenage gun violence. And each has something to share with Will.

- Features: Gun Violence

***Ms. Marvel*** by Willow G. Wilson (recommended for Grades 6-8)

**GN 420L**

**Genre:** Graphic Novel

**Summary:** "Kamala Khan is an ordinary girl from Jersey City--until she's suddenly empowered with extraordinary gifts. But who truly is the new Ms. Marvel? Teenager? Muslim? Inhuman? Find out as she takes the Marvel Universe by storm!"

***Nyxia*** by Scott Reintgen (recommended for Grades 7 & 8)

**HL 650L**

**Genre:** Science Fiction

**Summary:** The number of zeroes on the Babel Corporation's contract has Emmett Atwater boarding their lightship and hoping to return to Earth with enough money to take care of his family-- forever. But it turns out he's one of ten recruits, all of whom have troubled pasts and are a long way from home. Now each recruit must earn the right to travel down to the planet of Eden-- a planet that Babel has kept hidden. There they will mine a substance called Nyxia that has quietly become the most valuable material in the universe. Emmett has a choice: win the fortune at any cost, or find a way to fight that won't forever compromise what it means to be human.

***Piecing Me Together*** by Renée Watson (recommended for Grades 6-8)

**680L**

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

**Summary:** Tired of being singled out at her mostly-white private school as someone who needs support, high school junior Jade would rather participate in the school's amazing Study Abroad program than join Women to Women, a mentorship program for at-risk girls.

***Thornhill*** by Pam Smy (recommended for Grades 6-8)

**730L**

**Genre:** Horror/Graphic Novel

**Summary:** A boarded-up orphanage holds a chilling secret. One girl is determined to find out what it is. Parallel plotlines set in different times, one told in text and one in art, inform each other as a young girl unravels the mystery of a ghost next door.

**Plus these additions from [OOJH LMC](#):**

***Rad American Women A-Z*** by Kate Schatz (recommended for Grades 6-8)

**1040L**

**Genre:** Nonfiction

**Summary:** Profiled are 26 American women from the 18th through 21st centuries, who have made-or are still making-history as artists, writers, teachers, lawyers, or athletes. The women come from a variety of economic and ethnic backgrounds and many had to overcome extreme hardships. One woman represents each alphabetical letter beginning with Angela Davis, an activist, teacher, and writer, and concludes with Zora Neale Hurston, an anthropologist and writer.

***So Hard to Say*** by Alex Sanchez (recommended for Grades 6-8)

**630L**

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

**Summary:** Thirteen-year-old Xio, a Mexican American girl, and Frederick, who has just moved to California from Wisconsin, quickly become close friends, but when Xio starts thinking of Frederick as her boyfriend, he must confront his feelings of confusion and face the fear that he might be gay.

- Features: LGBT relationships

***Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline** (recommended for Grade 8)

**990L**

**Genre:** Science Fiction

**Summary:** Imagine if Willie Wonka had been a video-game designer. Now imagine a world in which most people spend their time as avatars in a virtual reality. The founder of this virtual reality leaves his fortune to the first to win a contest, comprised of puzzles and tasks based on 1980s popular culture. Three teens compete to win against an evil conglomerate.