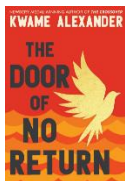


Name: _____

The Lone Star Reading List encourages reading for pleasure and is aimed at students in grades 6-8. Each year, up to 30 books—exploring a variety of topics, reading tastes, and maturity levels—are chosen by a committee of school and public librarians from across Texas.



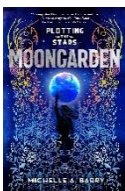
2024 Lone Star List



The Door of No Return by Kwame Alexander

How this book stands out: Eleven-year-old Kofi Offin is thrust into a fight for survival, forcing him on an unexpected journey away from all he holds dear.

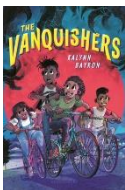
You might also like: *Copper Sun, The Paper Daughters of Chinatown: Adapted for Young Readers, We Are Wolves*



Plotting the Stars: Moongarden by Michelle A. Barry

How this book stands out: In the year 2448, humans have abandoned earth due to toxic plants. Myra Hodger, who lives on the moon, discovers a secret garden growing in her boarding school and works to take care of the plants, even though it is forbidden. Her discovery could help humanity survive a looming food shortage.

You might also like: *The Secret Garden, Two Degrees, The Last Cuentista*



The Vanquishers by Kalyann Bayron

How this book stands out: Malika “Boog” Wilson and her friends have always looked to The Vanquishers, a group of infamous vampire hunters. When a new friend goes missing, Boog’s group begin to question if vampires have actually been wiped out or if they still exist.

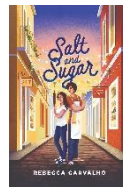
You might also like: *Valentina Salazar is Not a Monster Hunter, Don’t Want to Be Your Monster, Camp Sylvania*



Simon Sort of Says by Erin Bow

How this book stands out: Despite the comedy and unique occurrences, Simon's PTSD, grief, fear, and his conflicting desires of wanting to be seen and not seen play out in a realistic, heartfelt way.

You might also like: *A Perfect Mistake, Aftermath, The Shape of Thunder*



Salt and Sugar by Rebecca Carvalho

How this book stands out: Two Brazilian bakeries are in constant competition with each other. Lani’s family owns Salt and Pedro’s owns Sugar. As both families are struggling to hold on to their businesses, Lani and Pedro devise a plan to try to save them both despite their rivalry.

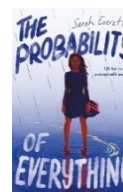
You might also like: *The Davenports, My Second Impression of You, A Taste for Love*



We Still Belong by Christine Day

How this book stands out: Wesley has high hopes for Indigenous People’s Day, but all her plans go awry. With the help of her family and friends, she attempts to find her place in her Native community.

You might also like: *Attack of the Black Rectangles, Barely Floating, Lotus Bloom and the Afro Revolution*



The Probability of Everything by Sarah Everett

How this book stands out: Eleven-year-old Kemi, fascinated by science, confronts a seismic threat when asteroid Amplus-68 endangers Earth. In an unwelcoming new town, she creates a time capsule to preserve her family's essence. Eventually, she must face the hardest part of life: saying goodbye.

You might also like: *Call Me Adnan, The Order of Things, Half Moon Summer*



The Grace of Wild Things by Heather Fawcett

How this book stands out: Follow Grace as she channels her inner book heroine on her quest to learn 100-and-a-half spells to become a witch’s apprentice or lose her magic forever!

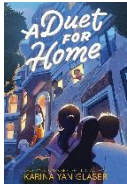
You might also like: *The Lion of Lark-Hayes Manor, Anne of Green Gables, Wild Bird*



The Puttermans are in the House by Jacquetta Nammar Feldman

How this book stands out: Life just keeps on pitching hard balls at Matty, Sammy, and Becky. Matty: walks away from the game he has LOVED his whole life. Sammy doesn't understand why Matty is being so distant. Becky just wants to be noticed by her, and to make matters worse, life decides to throw in a Hurricane.

You might also like: *Morning Sun in Wuhan, Figure it Out, Henri Weldon, Ode to a Nobody*



A Duet for Home by Karina Yan Glaser

How this book stands out: Twelve-year-old June has to move into a homeless shelter after a family tragedy. Following her journey shows us the impact we can make for any community.

You might also like: *Lasagna Means I Love You, Towers Falling, Remember Us*



Dinged by Tommy Greenwald

How this book stands out: Caleb is the star quarterback for his varsity football team, even though he's only a freshman. When his father, a former NFL legend, starts behaving erratically, Caleb becomes concerned that injuries from the game he loves are the cause of his father's escalating health problems.

You might also like: *In Honor of Broken Things, Hands, Before the Ever After*



Unraveller by Frances Hardinge

How this book stands out: Kellen has a talent of unraveling curses put upon others. He and his close companion, Nettle, make it their mission to help those who need it, when they discover that Kellen, the Unraveller, has a curse himself.

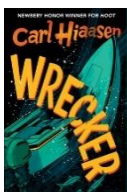
You might also like: *The Devouring Wolf, Gallant, The Bone Spindle*



No One Leaves the Castle by Christopher Healy

How this book stands out: There is more to being a bounty hunter in a fantasy world with magic than The Lilac ever considered - politics, secrets, blackmail, and so much more with a full-on murder-mystery plot.

You might also like: *The International House of Dereliction, The Swifts: A Dictionary of Scoundrels, This Appearing House*



Wrecker by Carl Hiaasen

How this book stands out: Wrecker lives in the Florida Keys with his stepsister. He runs into some unsavory characters out on the ocean and gets sucked into activities he has a feeling are not quite legal. With his friend's help, he is able to turn the tables in his favor.

You might also like: *Charlie Thorne series, Concealed, Unplugged*



The Demon Sword Asperides by Sarah Jean Horwitz

How this book stands out: Nack attempts to gain the favor of his family and become a proper knight by binding himself to the sentient demon sword, Asperides.

You might also like: *The Lock-Eater, The Mirrorwood, Ellie Engle Saves Herself*



Lumara by Melissa Landers

How this book stands out: Boarding school student Talia Morris discovers her boyfriend Nathaniel is a Mystic. When the couple attends a magical Mystic wedding, the celebration takes a dark turn, and Talia must prove her innocence where her past may put her in more danger than she ever imagined.

You might also like: *We Are All So Good at Smiling, The Carrefour Curse, Live Your Best Lie*



Thieves' Gambit by Kayvion Lewis

How this book stands out: This high-octane thriller about teen thieves competing in a show-stopping battle royale goes zero-to-sixty in the first sentence and does not stop till the last page has turned.

You might also like: *Unselie, City Spies, Children of the Fox*



Los Monstruos: Felice and the Wailing Woman by Diana López

How this book stands out: Tres Leches is a magical town where the monstruos are real, and Felice and her friends, children of other monstruos try to help Felice's own mother, La Llorona. Are you brave enough to read along and help the Weeping Woman?

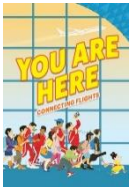
You might also like: *The Cursed Moon, The Ghosts of Rancho Espanto, The Storyteller*



Virtually Me by Chad Morris and Shelly Brown

How this book stands out: Everyone has their own set of challenges to overcome, but in this novel, we really get to see just how much we all have in common despite all our differences.

You might also like: *No Matter the Distance, Roll for Initiative, Zachary Ying and the Dragon Emperor*



You Are Here: Connecting Flights by Ellen Oh (editor)

How this book stands out: The paths of 12 Asian Americans cross in one afternoon in a Chicago airport. The stories weave together to highlight themes of prejudice, belonging, friendship and hope.

You might also like: *Flying Lessons & Other Stories, Grounded*



Ghosts Come Rising by Adam Perry

How this book stands out: Liza and her younger brother help create fraudulent “ghost photographs,” tricking grieving customers. When they arrive at a Spiritualist community, Liza begins to question everything as strange things begin to happen.

You might also like: *Darkroom, The Clackity, What Stays Buried*



The Fire, the Water, and Maudie McGinn by Sally J. Pla

How this book stands out: The realistic depiction of what it’s like to have Autism and learning how to be true to one’s self set Maudie McGinn above many characters and highlights the different ways teenagers - neurodiverse or not - have to find their own way.

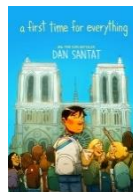
You might also like: *Good Different, The First Magnificent Summer*



A Seed in the Sun by Aida Salazar

How this book stands out: Set in 1960 California, Lula tells her story of being a migrant farm worker. Readers get a glimpse at her struggles to live, her health, meeting famous activists and a looming strike.

You might also like: *The Bluest Sky, Three Strike Summer*



A First Time for Everything by Dan Santat

How this book stands out: This middle-grade graphic memoir is the story of Dan finding his self-confidence, falling in love, and finding himself all against the backdrop of a European tour with his peers.

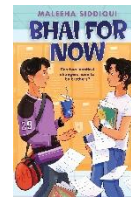
You might also like: *El Deafo, Button Pusher, One Last Shot*



The Labors of Hercules Beal by Gary D. Schmidt

How this book stands out: Herc Beal tackles a school assignment to replicate the legendary Twelve Labors of Hercules. With the help of new friends, Herc discovers that he doesn't have to face challenges alone and makes new discoveries along the way.

You might also like: *Nightmare Island, Dust, Nic Blake and the Remarkables*



Bhai for Now by Maleeha Siddiqui

How this book stands out: Ever wondered what it might feel like to meet your doppelganger? Asher and Shaheer know what it feels like! Watch these long-separated twins find each other by chance and fight to stay together by choice.

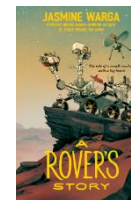
You might also like: *The House Swap, Not an Easy Win, Control Freaks*



What Happened to Rachel Riley? by Claire Swinarski

How this book stands out: Being in the 8th grade isn't easy especially when you are the new girl. As Anna attends school, she notices that one girl is ostracized and starts to wonder why. As she digs, she uncovers a whole mystery. Can she uncover why everyone hates Rachel Riley?

You might also like: *Maybe He Just Likes You, Dress Coded, Select*



A Rover's Story by Jasmine Warga

How this book stands out: Told in the perspective of a rover named Resilience, we get a glimpse at how human emotions and struggles are not always exclusive to the living.

You might also like: *The Wild Robot, One Giant Leap, Big Tree*



Mascot by Charles Waters and Traci Sorell

How this book stands out: The question of whether a small town should change their Native American mascot is explored in this novel in verse. Each of the six middle school students who have been assigned to debate the hot topic learn new things about themselves and their community.

You might also like: *Linked, The Secret Battle of Evan Pao, Harvest House*



Stateless by Elizabeth Wein

How this book stands out: Set in 1937, amidst the rise of the Nazi party, Stella North is the lone female competitor representing Britain in the first air race. The friendly competition quickly turns as there is direct sabotage, making Stella question who she can trust among the other racers.

You might also like: *The Lost Year, I Must Betray You, Over and Out*