

Woodside School Upper School Summer Reading List 2026

5th Grade - one book is required

Locomotion by, Jacqueline Woodson (required)

Locomotion by Jacqueline Woodson

In a series of poems, eleven-year-old Lonnie writes about his life after the death of his parents, separated from his younger sister, living in a foster home and finding his poetic voice at school.

This novel touches on themes, such as belonging, that are also present in the novels students read in fifth grade.

6th Grade - two books are required

El Deafo by, Cece Bell (first required)

El Deafo is a biographical graphic novel in which the author recounts her experiences with hearing loss at a young age, including using a bulky hearing aid, learning how to lip read, and determining her "superpower."

This graphic novel contains themes of acceptance, overcoming adversity, disability and friendship that are also present in the first novel students read in sixth grade.

Choose and read one book by Alan Gratz
(second required- pick book by this author)

Books by Alan Gratz:

<https://www.alangratz.com/writing-type/novels/>

7th Grade - Two books are required

They Called Us Enemy by, George Takei
(first required)

Choose and read one book by Jennifer Nielsen
(second required- pick book this author)

8th Grade - two books are required

White Bird by, R.J. Palaco (first required)

Choose and read one book by Rupta Sepetys
(second required - pick one book by this author
that is NOT in graphic novel format)

A stunning graphic memoir recounting actor/author/activist George Takei's childhood imprisoned within American relocation centers during World War II. Experience the forces that shaped an American icon, and America itself, in this gripping tale of courage, country, loyalty, and love.

This graphic novel contains themes about belonging that are also present in the first novel students will read in seventh grade.

Books by Jennifer Nielsen
<https://jennielsen.com/books>

Grandmere's childhood as she, a Jewish girl, was hidden by a family in a Nazi-occupied French village during World War II and how the boy she once shunned became her savior and best friend.

This historical fiction graphic novel directly connects to our first unit of study, which includes World War II, the Holocaust, and the play adaptation of the *Diary of Anne Frank*.

Books by <https://rutasepetys.com/books/>