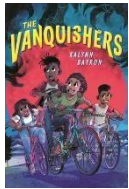


The Lone Star Reading List encourages reading for pleasure and is aimed at students in grades 6-8. Each year, up to 30 books—exploring a variety of topics, reading tastes, and maturity levels—are chosen by a committee of school and public librarians from across Texas.

2024 Lone Star List



The Vanquishers by Kalynn 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*



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 timecapsule 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*



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*



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.

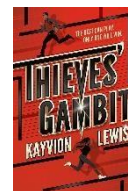
You might also like: *Charlie Thorne series, Concealed, Unplugged*



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.

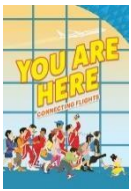
You might also like: *We Are All So Good at Smiling, The Carrefour Curse, Live Your Best Lie*



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: *Unseelie, City Spies, Children of the Fox*



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.

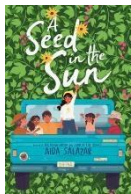
You might also like: *Darkroom, The Clackity, What Stays Buried*



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 oneself set Maudie McGinn above many characters and highlights the different ways teenagers - neurodiverse or not - have to find their own way.

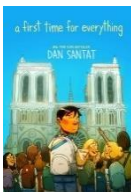
You might also like: *Good Different, The First Magnificent Summer*



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.

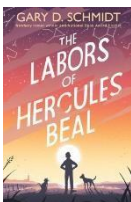
You might also like: *The Bluest Sky, Three Strike Summer*



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*



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*



Two Degrees by Alan Gratz

How this book stands out: When three children endure separate climate change disasters--a wildfire in the California woods, a close encounter with a hungry polar bear in Canada, and a massive hurricane in Florida--they emerge from their experiences committed to changing the world. **You might also like:** *Lines of Courage, Paradise on Fire, Between Two Skies*