

# REVERE'S SUMMER READING RECOMMENDATIONS

Reading suggestions for students entering 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades

## **Personal favorites:**

### ***The Red Pyramid (The Kane Chronicles, Book 1) by Rick Riordan.***

Separated since their mother's mysterious death, siblings Carter and Sadie embark on a "research experiment" at the British Museum with their father, archeologist Julius Kane. Dr. Kane blows up the Rosetta Stone, unleashing five Egyptian gods and causing his own disappearance banishing him to oblivion and forces the children to flee for their lives. Soon, Sadie and Carter discover that the gods of Egypt are waking, and the worst of them —Set— has his sights on the Kane family. To stop him, the siblings embark on a dangerous journey across the globe - a quest that brings them ever closer to the truth about their family and their links to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs. If you like Riordan's Percy Jackson series, then you'll love the Kane Chronicles. Get ready for a memorable adventure of epic proportions.

### ***Heist Society by Ally Carter.***

After a childhood spent assisting her father, one of the world's most talented art thieves, Katarina Bishop tries to leave the family business behind when she forges her way into a New England boarding school. She quickly discovers, though, that her past is inescapable. Her father has been accused of stealing already stolen masterpieces from a dangerous Italian billionaire. Certain that her father is innocent; Kat resolves to find the missing paintings and return them to their unsavory owner, who has given her a two-week deadline. Sprinkled with humor and a mixture of intrigue, espionage, and suspense, this is a must-have summer read.

## **Fiction**

### ***13: Thirteen Stories that Capture the Agony and Ecstasy of Being Thirteen* edited by James Howe.**

A collection by contemporary authors, this anthology of humorous and heart-wrenching stories is authentic and fun to read.

### ***The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom***

On his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday, an amusement park maintenance man, Eddie, dies trying to save a little girl. He wakes up in heaven, where five people are waiting to show him the true meaning and value of his life.

### ***Stand Tall by Joan Bauer***

Twelve-year-old Tree is six feet three inches tall and is therefore expected to do well in basketball. He is only a mediocre athlete, however, and this coupled with dealing with his parent's recent divorce makes his life a bit difficult. He relies on his grandfather, a wounded war veteran, and a new girl in school named Sophie to help him learn how to "stand tall".

### ***Heart of a Champion by Carl Deuker***

Seth loves baseball and wishes his father were alive to play it with him. Then he meets Jimmy and his father at the park. This is a story of baseball and friendship, but also of loss as Jimmy's father isn't the role model Seth wanted him to be, and his friendship with Jimmy is strained.

### ***Tears of a Tiger by Sharon Draper***

Andy's drunk driving caused Rob's death, and this story relates how the accident disrupts several lives including Andy's, his girlfriend's, and the other members of his basketball team.

### ***The Skin I'm In by Sharon Flake***

7<sup>th</sup> graders taunt Maleeka because of her extremely dark skin and lack of nice clothes. When she gets a new teacher who has a large birthmark on her face, Maleeka watches how her teacher deals with her looks and the taunting she experiences. This short book packs a big punch with its characters: brutally mean girls, a timid and fearful main character with a distant mother, some strong teachers, and a sweet, smart boy.

***When Zachary Beaver Came to Town* by Kimberly Willis Holt**

When “The World’s Fattest Boy,” comes to town, 13-year-old Toby begins to realize that there are people who have it worse than him. Winner of the 1999 National Book Award for Young People’s Fiction.

***Lemonade Mouth* by Mark Peter Hughes**

Join five ninth graders as they recount the strange way they formed a rebellious rock band and at the same time found lasting friendships and the respect of their peers.

***Buddha Boy* by Kathe Koja**

Jinsen, the new boy at school, is bullied and tormented for being different.

***Hidden Talents* by David Lubar**

13-year-old Martin ends up at a last-stop boarding school. Teachers always hate him, and he doesn’t know why. He and his new group of nice but trouble-making friends slowly come to realize they all have paranormal powers that seem to cause these misdeeds. Great news: this humorous book has a sequel!

**Adventure/Survival Fiction**

***The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins**

Twenty-four are forced to enter. Only the winner survives. This is the first book in the highly praised trilogy. Read this title then the sequel *Catching Fire* and be ready for the release of the third and final installment, *Mockingjay* in late August.

***A Girl Named Disaster* by Nancy Farmer**

While running away to Zimbabwe after the death of her mother, Nhamo struggles to escape drowning and starvation and in so doing comes close to the luminous world of the African spirits.

***The Angel Experiment (Maximum Ride #1)* by James Patterson**

In this exciting page-turner, a band of friends previously used as science experiments try to save Angel, the youngest of their group. Each member of their group possesses different special abilities, and all can fly. But they don’t know why they were used for science, nor do they know who their real parents are. You will want to get the whole series!

***Peak* by Roland Smith**

After getting arrested for scaling a New York skyscraper, 14-year-old Peak goes with his father, who wants him to be the youngest person to ever climb Mt. Everest. The plot thickens when the difficulty of the climb plus Peak’s suspicion of his father’s motives threaten the adventure.

***Bone: Out from Boneville* by Jeff Smith**

Volume one of this nine volume epic graphic novel (also available in one huge tome) is about Bone and his two cousins, all separated yet trying to find each other and trying to get back to Boneville, but finding instead a land filled with scary creatures and funny characters.

## **Historical Fiction**

### ***Anna of Byzantium* by Tracy Barrett**

Loosely based on a real person in history, Anna is a princess and a scholar. She is the successor to the throne until her baby brother is born. Read about her struggle for power in this exciting historical novel.

### ***My Life with the Lincolns* by Gayle Brandeis**

Mina is convinced her family is the reincarnation of the Lincoln's; as in Abe, Mary Todd and Willie Lincoln and decides it is her duty to make sure they don't suffer their same fate. Mina's overactive imagination takes a humorous spin while touching on some important civil rights issues of the 1960's in this great new historical fiction title.

### ***The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd**

In the 1950's, when Lily was a young child, her mother was killed. When teenaged Lily's fierce-hearted "stand-in mother," insults three of the town's fiercest racists, Lily decides they should both escape to Tiburon, South Carolina—a town that holds the secret to her mother's past.

### ***Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialog* by Julius Lester**

This book fictionalizes the biggest slave auction in American history, which took place in Georgia, in 1859. We read the story from many perspectives: adults, children, slaves up for sale, the auctioneer, and the white masters and their families.

### ***47* by Walter Mosley**

14-year-old Forty-seven, a slave, is helped by Tall John, who believes there are no masters and no slaves, and who carries a yellow carpet bag of magical healing potions and futuristic devices. Who is this Tall John? And what is his purpose? Part mystery, part science fiction and part historical fiction, this compelling novel is original and well-written.

### ***Elephant Run* by Roland Smith**

In 1941, Nick's mother sends him to live with his father in Burma, thinking it will be safer than London during the war. But as soon as he gets there, the war does too, and Nick's father is kidnapped from their elephant village. This is an exciting survival story in a setting we don't read about too often.

### ***Under the Blood-Red Sun* by Graham Salisbury**

After the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, 8<sup>th</sup> grader Tomi and his Japanese parents are targets of cruelty and suspicion in their home state of Hawaii. Tomi struggles with friendship, family, and loyalty during a terrifying time to be Japanese-American.

### ***A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith**

In this American classic, Francie Nolan's family is poor and her father is an alcoholic, but she has a rich childhood in Brooklyn in the early 1900s. Declared by many as the best book they ever read.

### ***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**

Death is the narrator in this challenging and award-winning novel, set during the beginning of the Holocaust. Liesel is the book thief, and the book follows her new relationships with her foster family, her best friend, and the Jewish man who hides in her basement. This is a powerful and memorable book set in Germany which adults are reading as well.

## **Mystery and Horror**

### ***And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie**

Ten strangers are brought together, and one by one they die after sharing their secrets. Read this or any other books by the famous mystery-writer Agatha Christie, and you are sure to have a good time.

### ***We All Fall Down* by Robert Cormier**

Thrown down the basement stairs, Karen slips into a coma while the three teenagers trashing her house get away. The Avenger is the only witness. Read this or another of Robert Cormier's many unique and suspenseful psychological thrillers.

### ***Full Tilt* by Neal Schusterman**

Blake has to chase his younger dare-devil brother Quinn into a crazy phantom carnival in order to save him, and he must pass the test of each ride to get to the next. Will they ever get out?

### ***Cirque Du Freak: A Living Nightmare* by Darren Shan**

This first in a series is about 2 boys who visit a freak show and end up in the dark world of the vampires.

## **Fantasy and Science Fiction**

### ***Skellig* by David Almond**

As Michael worries about his seriously ill baby sister, he finds and tries to help a man-bird-angel creature that he finds in his garage.

### ***Fantastic Voyage* by Isaac Asimov**

Five people are shrunk down to a fraction of their original size and sent in an atomic sub through a dying man's carotid artery to destroy a blood clot in his brain. The fate of the world rests with their success.

### ***Eighth Grade Bites (Chronicle of Vladimir Tod #1)* by Heather Brewer**

Eighth grade is difficult enough, but Vladimir is half-vampire and that is a secret he'd like to keep.

### ***Stranger in a Strange Land* by Robert Heinlein**

This classic science fiction work is about a human who returns from living on Mars with much to teach to humankind.

### ***Everlost* by Neal Shusterman**

Nick and Allie have died, and they are now stuck in a magical yet dangerous limbo called Everlost.

### ***The New Policeman* by Kate Thompson**

On a hunt for more time to relieve his hectic contemporary lifestyle, J.J. ventures to a fairy world of eternal youth. He discovers that time has actually been leaking out of his world. The two worlds are mesmerizing and believable. If you like Harry Potter or Artemis Fowl, this book will be a winner for you!

**More Suggestions:** The Mortal Instruments series by Cassandra Clare, The Inkspell Trilogy by Cornelia Funke, The Hollow Kingdom Trilogy by Clare B. Dunkle, The Chronicles of Narnia series by C.S. Lewis, *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan, *Dread Locks (Dark Fusion#1)* by Neal Schusterman, *War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells, *The Midnighters series* by Scott Westerfeld.

## **Non-Fiction and Poetry**

### ***Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: the Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance* by Jennifer Armstrong**

In 1914, Shackleton and 27 sailors attempted to cross the frozen Antarctic continent from one side to the other. Read this amazing true story of survival.

### ***I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing up in the Holocaust* by Livia Bitton-Jackson**

A vivid and haunting memoir about how a 13-year-old and her mother struggled to survive the horrors of the war including the death camp, Auschwitz.

### ***Forgotten Heroes: The Story of the Buffalo Soldiers* by Clinton Cox**

The story of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry, the thousands of African American men recruited after the Civil War to protect the settlers of the west by carrying mail, escorting wagon trains, and fighting the Native Americans.

### ***The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream* by Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, Lisa Frazier Page, Rameck Hunt**

Three young, African-American friends from a lower class neighborhood make a pact to help each other reach the goal of becoming doctors, despite many hurdles.

### ***Phineas Gage: a Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science* by John Fleischman**

The fascinating story from 1848 of the construction foreman who survived for 10 years after a 13-pound iron rod shot through his brain. Gage's misfortune actually played an intriguing and important role in the development of our knowledge of the brain, and this tale is told in a gripping and exciting manner.

### ***All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot**

The first volume of memoirs by Dr. James Herriot, a country veterinarian, is full of humorous and heartwarming tales that many will enjoy, not only those who love animals.

***Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Journey to Save the World ... one Child at a Time* by Greg Mortenson** The author fell ill in a Pakistani village and vowed to repay the kindness of the villagers who cared for him. He helped to rebuild a school, and then did much, much more. The young reader's edition updates the bestseller.

### ***I Feel a Little Jumpy around You: a Book of Her Poems and His Poems Collected in Pairs* edited by Naoimi Shihab Nye and Paul Janeczko**

This is an exceptional anthology of almost 100 pairs of poems, each pair reflecting the female and male perspectives on a chosen topic.

***Chew on This: Everything you Don't Want to Know about Fast Food* by Eric Schlosser** After reading this best-selling book you may choose never to eat fast food again!

**Happy Reading!**