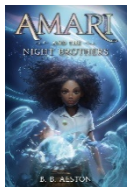


Name: _____

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.



2022 Lone Star List



Amari and the Night Brothers, by B.B. Alston

How this book stands out: Amari joins a secret supernatural society tasked with saving the world from dark magic, but she quickly becomes a target herself.

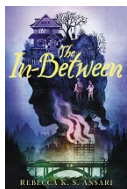
You might also like: *Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky*, *Cinders and Sparrows*, *Maya and the Rising Dark*



Thirteen Witches: The Memory Thief, by Jodi Lynn Anderson

How this book stands out: Rosie's mother has never seemed to care much about her daughter. When Rosie learns her mother has been cursed by a witch who steals memories, she goes on a quest to find them.

You might also like: *The Circus of Stolen Dreams*, *The Wide Starlight*, *Shadow Weaver*



The In-Between, by Rebecca K.S. Ansari

How this book stands out: Cooper is hooked by a mystery when he realizes the creepy girl next door has the same crest on her jacket as two unidentified children from an historical disaster.

You might also like: *Lost in the Sun*, *The House that Wasn't There*, *The Midnight Hour*



Letters from Cuba, by Ruth Behar

How this book stands out: Esther and her father escape the Nazis in Poland to live in Cuba where they work to make money to save the rest of their family.

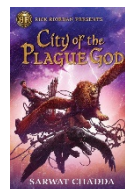
You might also like: *Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna*, *Refugee*, *The Elephant in the Room*



The Blackbird Girls by Anne Blankman

How this book stands out: Valentina and Oksana have always been more enemies than friends, but when the nearby Chernobyl nuclear power plant explodes, they must rely on each other for survival.

You might also like: *Chernobyl's Wild Kingdom: Life in the Dead Zone*, *Resistance*, *Breaking Stalin's Nose*



City of the Plague God by Sarwat Chadda

How this book stands out: Sik's world turns upside down when Nergal, the Mesopotamian god of plagues destroys his family's deli. Now it's up to Sik to stop him or the whole city will be overrun with a deadly plague.

You might also like: *Aru Shah and the End of Time*, *The Serpent's Secret*, *The Storm Runner*



Scritch Scratch by Lindsay Currie

How this book stands out: Claire has always been embarrassed by her dad's ghost tours, but one night she has to be his assistant, and she sees a ghost for herself. Now she is being haunted and the only way out is to solve the mystery of the ghost's death.

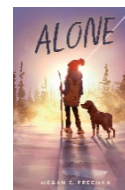
You might also like: *Spirit Hunters*, *One for Sorrow*, *The Screaming Staircase*



Starfish by Lisa Fipps

How this book stands out: Ellie just wants to be herself and be happy, but the kids at school bully her about her weight. Even her mother is obsessed with Ellie's size. Will she find the courage to stand up for herself?

You might also like: *Dear Sweet Pea*, *Chirp*, *Violets Are Blue*



Alone by Megan E. Freeman

How this book stands out: Maddie is accidentally left behind when her entire state is evacuated. She doesn't know what happened, but now she will have to survive on her own with no prospect of rescue in sight.

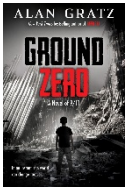
You might also like: *Canyon's Edge*, *The Raft*, *Dry*



When Life Gives You Mangos by Kereen Getten

How this book stands out: Clara loves life on her small Caribbean island, but things haven't been right lately. Her best friend Gayna is acting weird, and Clara can't remember anything that happened last summer.

You might also like: *Ikenga, When You Trap a Tiger, The Year of the Buttered Cat*



Ground Zero by Alan Gratz

How this book stands out: Brandon is trapped on an elevator and fighting to survive when an airplane hits the World Trade Center. Eighteen years later, Rashmina is in a struggle of her own as war ravages her Afghan village.

You might also like: *Nine, Ten: a September 11 Story, Code of Honor, Towers Falling*



Hide and Seeker by Daka Hermon

How this book stands out: Justin and his friends are trapped in a nightmare world with the Seeker who makes them constantly relive their greatest fears.

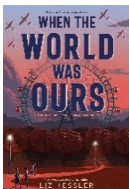
You might also like: *Small Spaces, The Jumbies, The Hiddenseek*



Lupe Wong Won't Dance by Donna Barba Higuera

How this book stands out: Lupe just wants to focus on becoming the first female pitcher in the MLB, but her worst fears come true when she is forced to square dance in PE.

You might also like: *Gabby Garcia's Ultimate Playbook, Fast Pitch, Patina*



When the World Was Ours by Liz Kessler

How this book stands out: Leo, Max, and Elsa are best friends in Austria in 1936, but when Hitler invades their lives go in three very different directions.

You might also like: *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, The Girl in the Blue Coat, The Boys Who Challenged Hitler*



The Last Fallen Star by Graci Kim

How this book stands out: Because she is adopted, Riley has always been an outsider to her family's magical community. When her sister tries a spell to share her magic, things go terribly wrong, and Riley is the only one who can save her.

You might also like: *Dragon Pearl, The Dragon Warrior, Paula Santiago and the River of Tears*



Thanks a Lot, Universe by Chad Lucas

How this book stands out: Brian's anxiety intensifies when his father leaves and his mother is hospitalized for depression. Ezra and Brian aren't best friends, but he can tell something is going on. Will he be able to help his friend before it's too late?

You might also like: *King and the Dragonflies, Fighting Words, My Life in the Fish Tank*



Ten Thousand Tries by Amy Makechnie

How this book stands out: Golden is convinced he can become perfect at anything if he practices 10,000 times. He's determined to be a soccer star and beat his dad's incurable ALS diagnosis.

You might also like: *Before the Ever After, Crossover, Final Season*



From the Desk of Zoe Washington by Janae Marks

How this book stands out: Zoe unexpectedly gets a letter from the father she's never met on her twelfth birthday. He's been in prison her whole life, but he swears he's innocent.

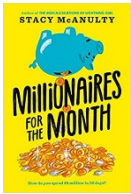
You might also like: *Stand Up, Yumi Chung, Clean Getaway, All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook*



Glitch by Laura Martin

How this book stands out: Regan and Elliot have always been rivals, but they will have to work together as they travel back in time to save the future.

You might also like: *Invictus, Throwback, The Reluctant Assassin*



Millionaires for the Month by Stacy McAnulty

How this book stands out: If Benji and Felix can spend \$5 million in 30 days, they will each get \$10 million to keep.

You might also like: *Death by Toilet Paper, The Boys in the Back Row, Slacker*



Curses by Lish McBride

How this book stands out: When Merit refuses to marry the man her mother chooses for her, a fairy curses her into the form of a beast.

Tevin is a con artist, but he may be able to help her break the curse.

You might also like: *Gold Spun, A Curse So Dark and Lonely, Among the Beasts and Briars*



Gone the Woods: Surviving a Lost Childhood by Gary Paulsen

How this book stands out: Despite being neglected by his parents and abused by bullies, Gary Paulsen has moments of happiness and companionship in his childhood and young adult years.

You might also like: *Hatchet, I Am Still Alive, Four-Four-Two*



Time Villains by Victor Piñeiro

How this book stands out: Javi's homework assignment takes a turn when his antique dining table actually transports kid Mozart, the Earl of Sandwich, and Blackbeard the pirate into his dining room!

You might also like: *The Last Last Day of Summer, Abigail Adams Pirate of the Caribbean, Saving Fable*



The Great Destroyers by Caroline Tung Richmond

How this book stands out: In Jo's world, wars are fought with mechas, giant robotic suits of armor, and the atomic bomb was never invented. She's trained her whole life to be a fighter, and now she's in the Pax Games matched against the best fighters in the world.

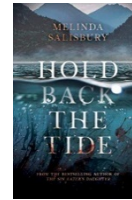
You might also like: *Wolf by Wolf, Live in Infamy, The Hunger Games*



CeCe Rios and the Desert of Souls by Kaela Rivera

How this book stands out: When CeCe's sister is stolen by one of the magical creatures outside her village, she trains to become a bruja and get her sister back.

You might also like: *Charlie Hernandez and the League of Shadows, The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez, Root Magic*



Hold Back the Tide by Melinda Salisbury

How this book stands out: Alva knows her father murdered her mother, but there isn't any proof. She can't wait to save enough money to leave her small village, but then she hears a strange scream in the night, and everything changes.

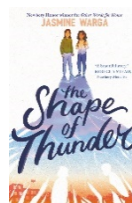
You might also like: *Small Favors, The Bone Houses, The Forest of Hands and Teeth*



Bump by Matt Wallace

How this book stands out: Everything in MJ's life seems to be getting worse until she discovers her new neighbor trains luchadores. She's always wanted to be a wrestler, and now she's getting her chance!

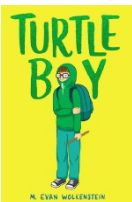
You might also like: *Maximilian and the Lucha Libre Club, Life in the Balance, Chirp*



The Shape of Thunder by Jasmine Warga

How this book stands out: Cora and Quinn have always been best friends. But when Quinn's older brother takes a gun to school, their lives change forever.

You might also like: *Other Words for Home, The Lost Things Club, What Comes Next*



Turtle Boy by M. Evan Wolkenstein

How this book stands out: Kids at school bully Will because of his facial deformity, but when he is paired with RJ for his bar mitzvah community service, he begins to see life differently. RJ may never leave the hospital again, so he needs Will to complete his bucket list for him.

You might also like: *Wink, The World Ends in April, A Boy Called Bat*



A Taste for Love by Jennifer Yen

How this book stands out: When her overbearing mother turns a local baking competition into a dating competition with her daughter as the prize, Liza is furious, embarrassed, and maybe even a little interested in some of the guys.

You might also like: *I'll Be the One, There's Something About Sweetie, A Match Made in Mehendi*