Name: _____

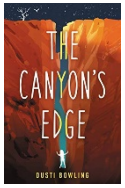
The Lone Star Reading List encourages reading for pleasure and is aimed at students in grades 6-8. Each year, up to 30 books—exploring a variety of topics, reading tastes, and maturity levels—are chosen by a committee of school and public librarians from across Texas.

2021 Lone Star List

The Companion, by Katie Alender
How this book stands out: Margot is trapped in a house of secrets and lies caring for a girl who can no longer communicate.
You might also like: *The House of Dead Maids, Bad Girls Don't Die, A Drowned Maiden's Hair*

A Match Made in Mehendi, by Nandani Bajpai
How this book stands out: When Simi launches a matchmaking app at school, she finds a potential love match and trouble from one angry user who isn't ready to give up her ex.
You might also like: *From Twinkle with Love, I Believe in a Thing Called Love, I Love You So Mochi*

The Inheritance Games, by Jennifer Lynn Barnes
How this book stands out: After inheriting billions from a man she's never met, Avery will have to match wits with his scheming relatives including three very attractive grandsons.
You might also like: *The Hidden Code, The Winterborne Home for Vengeance and Valor, Truly Devious*

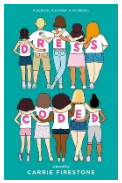


The Canyon's Edge, by Dusti Bowling
How this book stands out: Nora is plagued by PTSD from her mother's violent death a year ago, and now she must use all her skills to survive alone in the desert after she is separated from her father.
You might also like: *I Am Still Alive, Red Fox Road, Hatchet*

King and the Dragonflies, by Kacen Callender
How this book stands out: King is still grieving his older brother's unexpected death, but he may be the only one who can find his best friend after he disappears.
You might also like: *The Stars Beneath Our Feet*, *The Best at It*, *Rick*

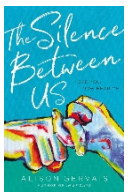
Turning Point, by Paula Chase
How this book stands out: Mo struggles to fit in at her mostly white summer ballet camp while her best friend Sheeda tries to make peace with an overbearing aunt and a cute boy at home.
You might also like: *Pretty, New Kid, So Done*

A Place at the Table, by Saadia Faruqi and Laura Shovan
How this book stands out: Elizabeth has just been dumped by her best friend, and Sara just switched to public school from her private Muslim school. Cooking club might be the answer for both of them.
You might also like: *Amina's Voice, Once Upon an Eid, A Thousand Questions*

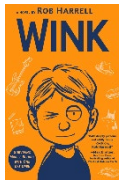


Dress Coded, by Carrie Firestone
How this book stands out: Molly is tired of the way girls are harassed and pulled out of class at her school because of the way the dress code is enforced, so she decides to act.
You might also like: *Maybe He Just Likes You, The Cat Ate My Gymsuit, Moxie*

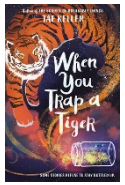
This Light Between Us, by Andrew Fukuda
How this book stands out: Alex joins the army to get out of a Japanese internment camp to go to Europe and look for his best friend, a Jewish girl, who has disappeared in Nazi occupied France.
You might also like: *We Are Not Free, Four-Four-Two, They Called Us Enemy*



The Silence Between Us, by Alison Gervais
How this book stands out: Can Maya learn to accept the feelings she has for Beau even though he is hearing and she is deaf?
You might also like: *Every Other Weekend*, *Song of Summer*, *Song for a Whale*



Wink, by Rob Harrell
How this book stands out: Ross wants a normal 7th grade year. Instead he gets cancer, radiation, and a permanently squinty eye. At least he still has his best friend.
You might also like: *OCDaniel, After Ever After, Squint*



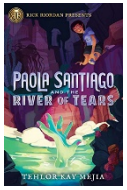
When You Trap a Tiger, by Tae Keller
How this book stands out: Lily makes a deal with a magical tiger to cure her grandmother in exchange for the item her grandmother stole from the tiger when she was a girl.
You might also like: *A Snicker of Magic, All the Impossible Things, The Year We Fell from Space*

I'll Be the One, by Lyla Lee
How this book stands out: Skye Shin is determined to win her spot on a K-pop reality competition and get the cute guy in spite of her mother's disapproval.
You might also like: *There's Something About Sweetie, Dumplin', Geekerella*

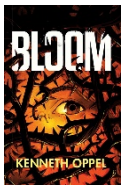
The Bone Houses, by Emily Lloyd-Hughes
How this book stands out: When her village is overrun by the dead, Ryn and Ellis journey into the mountains to solve a mystery and break an ancient curse.
You might also like: *The Book of Three, The Forest of Hands and Teeth, The Guinevere Deception.*

Don't Turn Out the Lights, edited by Jonathan Maberry
How this book stands out: This collection of short stories will have you reading with the lights on!
You might also like: *Thirteen Chairs, Out to Get You, The Wrong Train*

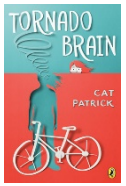
Thirteens, by Kate Alice Marshall
How this book stands out: Eleanor and her friends must find a way to stop the evil Mr. January before they become the latest victims of an ancient pact.
You might also like: *Coraline, Ghost Squad, Embassy of the Dead*



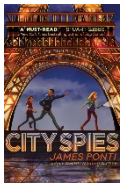
Paola Santiago and the River of Tears, by Tehlor Kay Mejia
How this book stands out: Paola and Dante must journey to the land of dreams to rescue their friend from La Llorona.
You might also like: *Storm Runner, Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky, The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez*



Bloom, by Kenneth Oppel
How this book stands out: An alien invasion of killer plants is taking over the earth, and Anaya, Petra, and Seth may be the only ones who can stop it.
You might also like: *In the After, Kalahari, Stung*



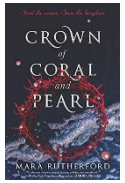
Tornado Brain, by Cat Patrick
How this book stands out: Frankie struggles to fit in at school and find friends, but when her former best friend goes missing, she may be the only one who can solve the clues to find her.
You might also like: *Fish in a Tree, Counting by Sevens, The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl*



City Spies, by James Ponti
How this book stands out: Thanks to her hacking skills, Sara is in danger of years in juvenile detention unless she accepts an offer to become an international spy instead.
You might also like: *Moving Target, Ali Cross, Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation*

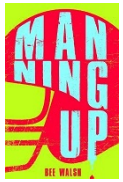
Black Brother, Black Brother, by Jewell Parker Rhodes
How this book stands out: When Donte is suspended and arrested after being falsely accused, he decides to beat his bullies at their own game.
You might also like: *What Lane?, Clean Getaway, The Season of Styx Malone*

The Barren Grounds, by David A. Robertson
How this book stands out: Morgan and Eli cross through a portal to a magical land where they must help the people who are trapped in a permanent winter and running out of food.
You might also like: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, The Marrow Thieves, Elatsoe*



Crown of Coral and Pearl, by Mara Rutherford
How this book stands out: Nor leaves home to marry a prince she's never met, but her new life is not a fairy tale. Prince Ceren is cruel and the court is full of gossip and plotting.
You might also like: *Song of the Crimson Flower, Grace and Fury, Everless*

The June Boys, by Court Stevens
How this book stands out: Thea is obsessed with stopping a serial kidnapper after her cousin is one of the victims even if the clues lead back to her own father.
You might also like: *Shelter, The Girl in the White Van, The Game*



Manning Up, by Bee Walsh
How this book stands out: Everyone thinks Jack is happy as a football star with good grades, but he's sure he will never be good enough. At first, it's just diets and exercise, but then he starts using steroids.
You might also like: *Gym Candy, The Big Game, A Trick of the Light*