Recommended Summer Reading Options from the Park Ridge Public Library
For grades 7-9
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- **Little Women (Alcott)** classic, levels up, for the future English major
- **The Poet X (Acevedo)** verse narrative, for a kid who doesn’t feel seen
- **Wonder (Palacio)** middle-of-the-road level, to learn to embrace differences
- **The Hobbit (Tolkien)** classic, levels up, for an adventure
- **The Never-ending Story (Ende)** classic, literature in translation, levels up, better than the movie
- **The Hunger Games Series (Collins)** fun series, middle-of-the-road level, catches reluctant readers
- **Percy Jackson Series (Riordan)** fun series, levels down, catches reluctant readers
- **Sideways Stories from Wayside School (Sachar)** funny short stories, levels down, good for hesitant readers
- **Matilda (Dahl)** classic, middle-of-the-road level, for the future English major
- **A Wrinkle in Time (L’Engle)** classic, levels up, for the budding sci-fi kid
- **The Absolute True Diary of a Part-Time Indian (Alexie)** levels up topically, for the kid trying to fit in
- **Tuck Everlasting (Babbitt)** a fan favorite, magical realism, teen romance vibes (better than Twilight)
- **George (Gino)** LGBTQ+ representation, middle-of-the-road reading level
- *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* (Konigsburg) for a kid who loves museums
- *Harry Potter Series* (Rowling) the first is the easiest for middle school readers, the book is better than the movie (!)
- *Phantom Tollbooth* (Juster) unsung hero, levels down, good for hesitant readers
- *Hoot* (Hiaasen) perfect middle school novel, for the budding Journalist
- *Powerless* (Cody) perfect middle school novel, part of a trilogy, catches reluctant boys