

## Recommended Summer Reading List

*The list is purely for pleasure; try and read at least 3 or 4 books during the summer holiday in order to keep in touch with the language and prepare yourselves for the next school year.*

*Enjoy your summer break!*

### Collège

#### A1 - A2

***A New Atlantis*** by Victoria Heward

**BlackCat CIDEB Publishing**

**Genre: Fantastic Adventure**

**Level: A2 (step 1)**

Atlantis was once an advanced civilization where everybody lived in peace. But when the rains come everybody knows it will be destroyed. Ryan, a slave, and Daria, a princess, tell the story of its last days, how they built a new Atlantis and how two enemies eventually became friends.

<https://www.blackcat-cideb.com/en/books/a-new-atlantis>

***The Extraordinary Miss Sunshine*** by Jane Elizabeth Cammack

**BlackCat CIDEB Publishing**

**Genre: Human Interest**

**Level: A2 (step 1)**

Some children at The Fairbrother Academy don't want to learn. They like to push their classmates in the playground and call them bad names. Alice is unhappy when she starts secondary school, but when Miss Sunshine hears about the problems, she drives to the academy, determined to help.

<https://www.blackcat-cideb.com/en/books/the-extraordinary-miss-sunshine-5>

***The Lost Treasure of Bodega Bay*** by Gina D.B. Clemen

**BlackCat CIDEB Publishing**

**Genre: Mystery and Horror**

**Level: A2 (step 1)**

Kate, Mike and Carlos go on another trip to Bodega Bay near San Francisco, where more than a year ago they found a pirate's old treasure map. An incredibly exciting and dangerous adventure awaits them as they follow a mysterious clue and go on a treasure hunt to find a lost treasure from centuries ago.

<https://www.blackcat-cideb.com/en/books/lost-treasure-of-bodega-bay-the-en>

***Sherlock Holmes and The Red Circle*** by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

**BlackCat CIDEB Publishing**

**Genre: Mystery and Horror**

**Level: A2 (step 1)**

A mysterious lodger has just rented rooms at Mrs Warren's lodging house. She is frightened by this strange individual, so she asks Sherlock Holmes to help. He and Dr Watson discover cryptic messages, a sinister secret society with international roots and a terrible murder...

<https://www.blackcat-cideb.com/en/books/sherlock-holmes-and-the-red-circle-en>

## **A2-B1**

### **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon**

This wonderful, hilarious and moving book tells the story of the adventures of a young boy Christopher who has Asperger Syndrome, a form of autism. People with Asperger syndrome often have difficulty in social relationships and in communicating, and this is certainly the case with Christopher. When he discovers the murder of a neighbor's dog, he decides to investigate it. The story is told from Christopher's point of view, and his explanations for everything he sees and hears are clear, logical and easy to understand. The language used is very direct and straightforward.

My students have loved the story and Christopher, and also discovered a lot about autism.

### **Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah**

Refugee Boy tells the story of Alem, a 14-year old boy whose father is Ethiopian and his mother Eritrean, and as these two countries are at war, Alem's family is not welcome in either place. Alem has to flee from both Ethiopia and Eritrea and ends up as a refugee in Great Britain. Benjamin Zephaniah writes in a simple and clear style which students with a B1 + level have little difficulty understanding; he also exposes us to the complexity of life as a refugee. I have heard my students discussing the theme of refugees with an understanding and empathy which would not be possible without having read this beautiful and sad novel.

### **The House On Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros**

*The House on Mango Street* is the story of Esperanza Cordero, a young Latina girl, and her life growing up in Chicago. Sandra Cisneros uses quite simple language and short sentences which make it relatively easy for EFL students to understand. One of

the outstanding features of the book is that it can help students understand and empathize with a community which is very different from their own

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## **B1 +/B2+**

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### ***Matilda* by Roald Dahl**

In a small Buckinghamshire village, Matilda is a six-year-old girl of unusual precocity, but she is often ill-treated or neglected by her parents. In retaliation, she resorts to pranks such as gluing her father's hat to his head, hiding a friend's parrot in the chimney to simulate a burglar or ghost, and secretly bleaching her father's hair. At first, Matilda was naughty and used her powers to take revenge.

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### ***Summer of My German Soldier* by Bette Greene**

The summer that Patty Bergen turns 12 is a summer that will haunt her forever. When her small hometown in Arkansas becomes the site of a camp housing German prisoners during World War II, Patty learns what it means to open her heart. Even though she's Jewish, she begins to see a prison escapee, Anton, not as a Nazi, but as a lonely, frightened young man with feelings not unlike her own. In Anton, Patty finds someone who softens the pain of her own father's rejection and who appreciates her in a way her mother never will. While patriotic feelings run high, Patty risks losing family, friends -- even her freedom -- for this dangerous friendship. It is a risk she has to take and one she will have to pay a price to keep.

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### ***Dr Fischer of Geneva* by Graham Greene**

The story is narrated by Alfred Jones, a translator for a large chocolate company in Switzerland. Jones, in his 50s, lost his left hand while working as a fireman during The Blitz. Jones is a widower when he meets the young Anna-Luise Fischer in a local restaurant. Jones is surprised to learn that Anna-Luise is the daughter of Dr. Fischer, who has become rich after inventing a perfumed toothpaste and whose dinner parties are famous (or infamous) around Geneva.

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### ***Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson, Donna Diamond (illus.)**

An extraordinarily powerful tribute to friendship, this Newbery Award-winning novel recounts the unlikely friendship of a country boy, Jess, and his neighbor, an uprooted city girl named Leslie. When Leslie is killed during a storm while trying to reach Terabithia, their secret hiding place, Jess must gather all his strength to come to terms with his loss and find a way to heal.

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### ***Catherine, Called Birdy* by Karen Cushman**

Catherine, the spirited and inquisitive daughter of an English country knight, narrates in diary form the story of her 14th year -- in the year 1290. Here, she records the events

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of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off.

***The Egypt Game* by Zilpha Keatley Snyder, Alton Raible (illus.)**

Even to Melanie, who knew that you could never predict what a new kid would be like, April Hall was something of a surprise. One look at her stringy upswept hair, false eyelashes, and ragged fox-fur collar, convinced Melanie that April was not going to be easy to integrate into the sixth grade at Wilson School. Within a month, April and Melanie had developed a common interest in ancient Egypt and had begun to develop a land of Egypt in an abandoned storage yard. Complications arose when other people joined the original Egyptians, when a murderer ranged the neighborhood, and when an oracle predicted strange things. But it was all in the game, which gave even April a fall and winter to remember.

***Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen**

Brian, a thirteen-year-old from New York City, boards a plane headed from Hampton, New York to the Canadian north woods to visit his father. His parents' recent divorce weighs heavily on him, as does "The Secret" that his mother is having an affair. The pilot gives him a very brief flying lesson in which Brian has control of the plane for a few minutes. The pilot seems to be experiencing increasing pain in his shoulder, arm, and stomach. At first Brian does not think it is very serious, but as the pilot begins jerking in his seat it becomes clear that he is having a heart attack. The attack stops and the pilot is dead; Brian is forced to take over the controls. After a harrowing descent, the plane crashes into a lake in the Canadian woods, where Brian is stranded.

***The River* by Gary Paulsen**

In this exciting sequel to *Hatchet*, 15-year-old Brian Robeson, who survived alone in the wilderness for 54 days, returns to the wilderness at the request of a government survival school. This time, however, he won't be alone: Derek Holtzer, a government psychologist, will accompany him to observe and take notes. But during a freak storm, Derek is hit by lightning and falls into a coma. Afraid that Derek will die of dehydration unless he can get him to a doctor, Brian's only hope is to build a raft and try to transport Derek a hundred miles down the river to a trading post.

***The Island* by Gary Paulsen**

Every morning 15-year-old Wil Neuton gets up, brushes his teeth, leaves the house, and rows away from shore. He's discovered the island, a place where he can go to be alone and learn to know nature -- and himself. On the island he watches the loons and the fish in the lake, and he writes and paints. It feels good to get away from the tension rising between his parents -- tension brought on by yet another move to a new town. But Wil can't stay away from the outside world forever. He must face Ray Bunner, the bully determined to challenge him, and his parents, who worry when Wil decides to stay on the island indefinitely. Can Wil bridge the growing gap between himself and the rest of the world?

***Sarah, plain and tall* by Patricia Mac Lachlan**

Caleb asks his big sister, Anna, about their mama. She tells him that Mama used to sing every day. Papa sang too, but both children know he does not sing anymore. They are lonely for Mama, who is gone, and in a way they are lonely for Papa, too, because he is no longer the same man he was when their Mama was alive. Anna bakes bread, and Caleb presses her to tell the story of his birth. She says he came out looking like dough, but he wants the story the way he knows it. Anna gives in and tells how their Mama looked at Caleb and said, "Isn't he beautiful, Anna?" Anna does not say what she thought at the time—that the baby was ugly, loud, and smelly. She keeps one more thought to herself, too: "Mama died the next morning. That was the worst thing about Caleb."

### ***The Giver* by Lois Lowry**

Eleven-year-old Jonas lives in a seemingly ideal world. There is no war or pain, and there are no choices. Every person is assigned a role in the community. When Jonas turns 12, he is chosen to receive special training from The Giver himself -- a man who alone holds the key to the true pain and pleasure of life: memories. Now it is time for Jonas to receive the truth. What will Jonas do once he experiences the power of deep emotions? This gripping and provocative Newbery Award-winning novel keeps readers turning the pages and exploring the special qualities that make us each human.

### ***Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry**

Ten-year-old Annemarie Johansen and her best friend Ellen Rosen often think about life before the war. But it's now 1943, and their life in Copenhagen is filled with school, food shortages, and the Nazi soldiers marching in their town. When the Nazis begin "relocating" the Jews of Denmark, Ellen moves in with the Johansens and pretends to be part of the family. And as Annemarie helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis and embarks on a dangerous mission, she learns how to be brave and courageous -- to save her best friend's life.

### ***Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J. K. Rowling**

Orphaned as a baby, Harry Potter has spent 11 awful years living with his mean aunt, uncle, and cousin. But everything changes for Harry when an owl delivers a mysterious letter inviting him to attend a school for wizards. At this special school, Harry finds friends, fun, and magic in everything from classes to meals, as well as a great destiny that's been waiting for him...if Harry can survive the encounter. Fans of C. S. Lewis and Roald Dahl will love this enchanting, funny book! Also recommended: *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*.

### ***I Heard the Owl Call My Name* by Margaret Craven**

Amid the grandeur of the remote Pacific Northwest stands Kingcome, a village so ancient that, according to Kwakiutl myth, it was founded by the two brothers left on earth after the great flood. The Native Americans who still live there call it Quee, a place of such incredible natural richness that hunting and fishing remain primary food sources. But the old culture of totems and potlatch is being replaced by a new culture of prefab housing and alcoholism. Kingcome's younger generation is disenchanted and alienated from its

heritage. And now, coming upriver is a young vicar, Mark Brian, who has two years to live. Sent to this Indian parish in British Columbia, Mark embarks on a journey of discovery that can teach him -- and us -- about life, death, and the transforming power of love.

***The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster, Jules Feiffer (illus.)**

This ingenious fantasy centers around Milo, a bored ten-year old who comes home to find a large toy tollbooth sitting in his room. Joining forces with a watchdog named Tock, Milo drives through the tollbooth's gates and begins a memorable journey. He meets such characters as the foolish yet lovable Humbug, the Mathemagician, and the not-so-wicked "Which," Faintly Macabre, who gives Milo the "impossible" mission of returning two princesses to the Kingdom of Wisdom. Along his journey, Milo learns the importance of words and numbers -- and learns to appreciate life.

***Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor**

The Logans, a black family living in the South during the 1930s, are faced with prejudice and discrimination which their children don't understand. It takes the events of one turbulent year -- the year of the night riders and the burnings, the year a white girl humiliates Cassie in public simply because she is black -- to show Cassie that having a place of their own is the Logan family's lifeblood. It is the land that gives the Logans their courage and pride, for no matter how others may degrade them, the Logans possess something no one can take away.

***Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls**

A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters. Together, the three of them experience danger, adventure, love, and sorrow

## ***Collège-Lycée***

### ***Novels based on true stories***

***Three cups of Tea (young reader edition): one man's mission to promote peace one school at a time* by Greg Mortenson**

The astonishing, uplifting story of a real-life Indiana Jones and his humanitarian campaign to use education to combat terrorism in the Taliban's backyard. Anyone who despairs of the individual's power to change lives has to read the story of Greg Mortenson, a homeless mountaineer who, following a 1993 climb of Pakistan's treacherous K2, was inspired by a chance encounter with impoverished mountain villagers and promised to build them a school.

***A long journey home* by Saroo Brierley also known as *Lion* (the movie is based on that novel)**

Saroo was only five years old when he got lost. He was travelling with his older brother, working as a sweeper on India's trains. "It was late at night. We got off the train, and I was so tired that I just took a seat at a train station, and I ended up falling asleep. "That fateful nap would determine the rest of his life. "I thought my brother would come back and wake me up but when I awoke he was nowhere to be seen. I saw a train in front of me and thought he must be on that train. So I decided to get on it and hoped that I would meet my brother." Saroo did not meet his brother on the train. Instead, he fell asleep and had a shock when he woke up 14 hours later. Though he did not realize it at first, he had arrived in Calcutta, India's third biggest city and notorious for its slums.

***I am Malala: how one girl stood up for education and changed the world  
by Malala Yousafzai***

Malala Yousafzai was only ten years old when the Taliban took control of her region. They said music was a crime. They said women weren't allowed to go to the market. They said girls couldn't go to school. Raised in a once-peaceful area of Pakistan transformed by terrorism, Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes. So she fought for her right to be educated. And on October 9, 2012, she nearly lost her life for the cause: She was shot point-blank while riding the bus on her way home from school.

***Lycée B2/B2+***

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

A Small World by David Lodge

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Sidmouth Letters (short stories) by Jane Gardam

Dr Fischer of Geneva by Graham Greene

An Unsuitable Job for a Woman by P.D. James

Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy by John Le Carré

Atonement by Ian McEwan

A Room with a View by E.M. Forster

Tender is the night by E.M. Forster

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

How to kill a mockingbird by Harper Lee

About a Boy by Nick Hornby

Any novel by Hemingway (The Sun also rises/ Farewell to Arms)

Short stories by Edgar Allan Poe

Beloved by Toni Morrison

A Streetcar named Desire by Tennessee Williams

A Cat on a Hot Tin Roof by Tennessee Williams

The Help by Kathryn Stockett

And still I rise by Maya Angelou

The Heart of a woman by Maya Angelou

### **19th Century Writers**

Pride and Prejudice Jane Austen

The Europeans Henry James

Vanity Fair W.M. Thackeray

Wuthering Heights Emily Bronte

Jane Eyre Charlotte Bronte

Great Expectations Charles Dickens

The Time Machine H.G. Wells

The Heart of Darkness (1902) Joseph Conrad