

SUMMERTIME ADVENTURES AUGUST 2022

This month's book list explores themes of **travel** and **adventure** with a special emphasis on space, road trips, and camping. From adventures involving a feline friend to being stranded in space, you will find books that spark an otherworldly sense of transformation.

All titles can be found in the Waterbury Public Library catalog.



The Traveling Cat Chronicles

by Hiro Arikawa

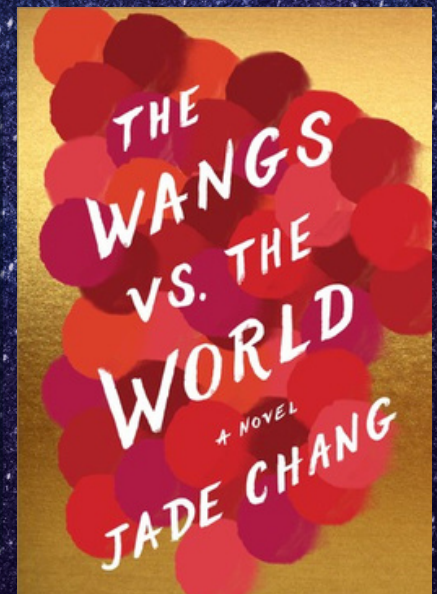
In just 277 pages, this translation of Hiro Arikawa's bestselling novel is full of wisdom and life lessons. When a friendly cat with a crooked tail sustains an injury, Satoru Miyawaki takes the stray in, nurses him back to health, and names him Nana. The Traveling Cat Chronicles begins when Satoru takes Nana on a road trip throughout Japan, yet he doesn't reveal why. Filled with love, adventure, and friendship, readers will laugh and cry with sadness and joy.

FIC ARIKAWA, H.

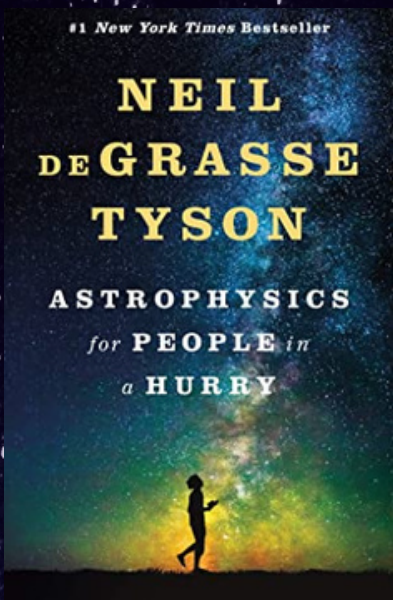
The Wangs Vs. the World

by Jade Chang

In this riches to rags road trip story, Charles Wang is financially ruined when his cosmetics empire collapses during the economic crisis. He pulls his son and daughter out of their expensive private schools and they drive from their foreclosed home in Bel-Air to Catskills, NY. The Wangs' journey across America brings a family of disparate interests and opinions closer than ever. With quirky stories and much comedic relief, *The Wangs Vs. the World* explores how our familial relationships can make a bad situation a little easier.



FIC CHANG, J.



Astrophysics for People in a Hurry by Neil DeGrasse Tyson

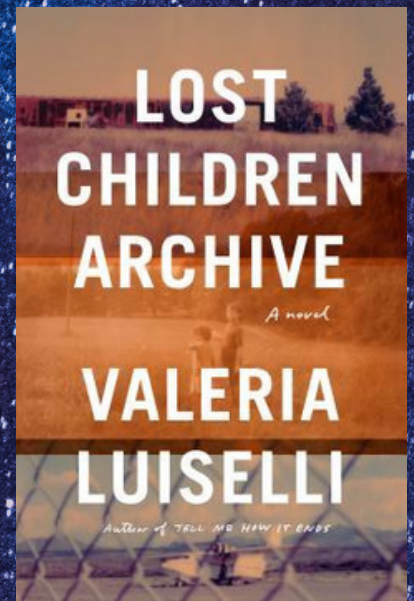
From everyone's favorite astrophysicist comes a work of down-to-Earth explanations about the universe. Neil DeGrasse Tyson answers deep questions about "star stuff" that instill a sense of awe and wonder in the reader without using jargon. With the goal of making astrophysics accessible to everyone, *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry* is the type of nonfiction readers can easily fit into their busy days while learning about concepts beyond our known world.

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Lost Children Archive by Valeria Luiselli

How do we reckon with systems of inequality and oppression? What steps do we take in the midst of a crisis of injustice? Luiselli tells the story of a family who road trips from New York to the Arizona-Mexico border during an immigration crisis. Throughout their journey, the mother shares poetry, stories, and music with her children. She also documents the trip as tensions rise between her and her husband. For those who want a heartfelt and heart wrenching story with strong writing and ethical dilemmas.

FICTION Luiselli, V.



Me (Moth) by Amber McBride

Written-in-verse, *Me (Moth)* is a lyrical, soft spoken story of a girl named Moth coping with the aftermath of a car accident that left her as the sole survivor in her immediate family. Moth moves to Virginia to live with her Aunt, and she meets fellow outsider, Sani at her new school. Together, they decide to go on a road trip to his former home on a Navajo Reservation in New Mexico. McBride weaves themes of racism, anger, guilt, grief, friendship, and spiritual traditions with delicate, otherworldly poetry.

YA FICTION McBride, A.

Binti: The Complete Trilogy

by Nnedi Okorafor

You won't have to choose between road trip story or space odyssey with this omnibus edition of The Complete Binti Trilogy. Binti is on a journey to attend the prestigious Oomza University to study mathematics. On her way there, a jellyfish-like space monster attacks her ship, leaving Binti as the sole survivor. Now she must attempt to make peace with this alien race if she wants to stay alive. Readers who enter the world of Binti will be starstruck by this unique science fiction novel.

FICTION OKORAFOR, N.



To Sleep in a Sea of Stars

by Christopher Paolini

Want to read a big 900 pager? No problem. This action-adventure science fiction journey stars Kira Navárez, a xenobiologist sent on a survey mission to an uncharted planet with a team of scientists, including her boyfriend, Alan. Everything is going great - Kira is assigned to the next mission of her choice and Alan has proposed. But when she stumbles into a cave and discovers a strange dust-like life force, her plans for the future have to change. To Sleep in a Sea of Stars offers readers a story about embracing the unexpected and fighting for what you believe in.

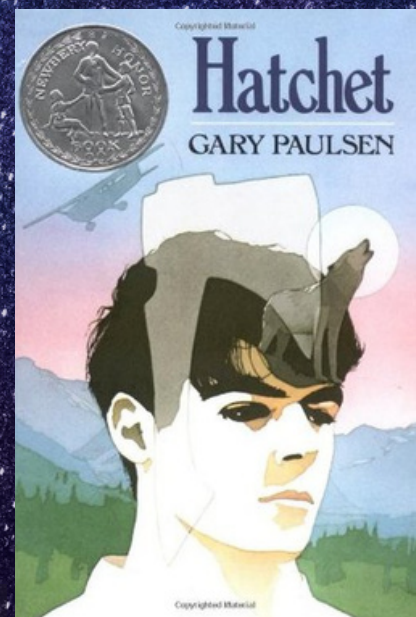
FICTION Paolini, C.

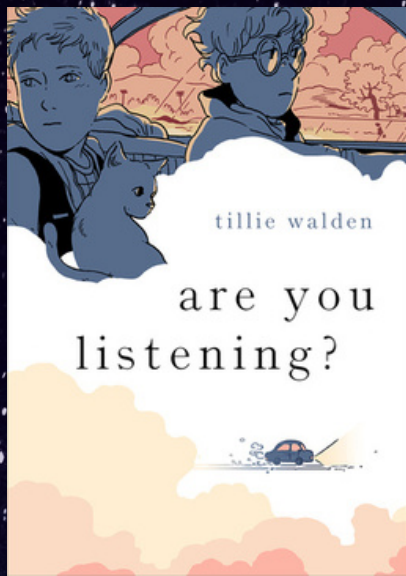
Hatchet

by Gary Paulsen

A pilot suffers a heart attack while flying a small plane, leaving Brian stranded in the Canadian wilderness with only a hatchet and his clothing. Unsure of what to do and with little knowledge of survival skills, Brian must adapt quickly to stay alive. Upset from his parents impending divorce, he must now cope with his feelings while being truly alone in the wilderness. Hatchet is a coming-of-age story about survival for all ages to enjoy. Whether you are an adult rediscovering this beloved story or a parent reading to your children, Hatchet is sure to become a favorite.

J FIC PAULSEN, G.





Are You Listening? by Tillie Walden

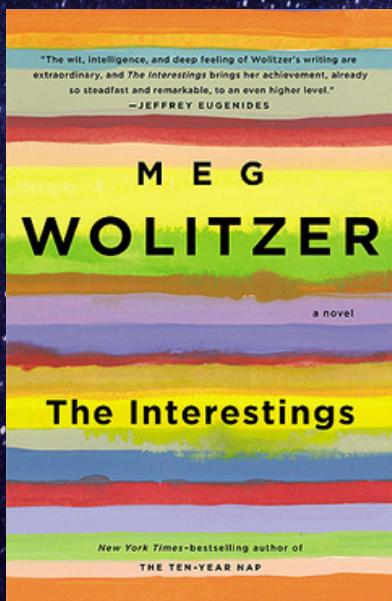
While on the run from her family, Bea stumbles into Lou at a gas station. As they drive through West Texas, Bea and Lou begin sharing stories of their past trauma and heartbreak. Filled with metaphor, LGBTQIA+ themes, and surreal artwork, *Are You Listening?* evokes the vulnerability, sadness, and anxiety of Bea and Lou. Highly emotional yet transformational, this graphic novel encapsulates the spirit of life-changing road trips.

YA GRAPHIC WALDEN, T.

Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir

Ryland Grace wakes up on a space ship beside two deceased crew members. He has no idea what happened or why there's a robot doctor trying to evaluate him. In a whirlwind of mystery and comedy, *Project Hail Mary* is for anyone looking for the adrenaline rush of a high-stakes space adventure.

YA FICTION Weir, A.



The Interestings by Meg Wolitzer

The Interestings begins with the lives of six teenagers in 1974 who spend an auspicious summer at an artsy summer camp. For these teens, the future is full of possibilities. Jules, Ash, Ethan, Cathy, and Goodman spend the summer bonding and discovering who they are. The story follows these six characters into adulthood and chronicles how their dreams, goals, and aspirations play out. *The Interestings* is a character-driven story in which life is the journey.

FIC WOLITZER, M.