Youth Services September Book List

The books listed below are just a starting point. Please read whatever you and your adult think is a good choice for you and your reading level and interests. Call us at 1-800-252-9605 or email us at tbp.ral@tsl.texas.gov to get more suggestions!

For Younger Readers (Pre-school through about 2nd grade)

¡VAMOS! LET’S GO TO THE MARKET by Raúl the Third
DB 106756
As Little Lobo and his dog, Bernabé, make deliveries, they stop to visit his friends who sell candy, comic books, and puppets in the bustling border town market. Commercial audiobook. A Pura Belpré Award Honor Book. For grades 2-4. 2019.

SEPARATE IS NEVER EQUAL by Duncan Tonatiuh
DB 82429
Recounts how young Sylvia Mendez and her brothers wanted to go to the school closest to their new home in California but were told they must attend a Mexican school. Their family organized, sued, and helped end segregation in the state. For grades 2-4 and older readers. Honorary mention for the 2015 Pura Belpré and the 2015 Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children Book Award. 2014.

JULIAN IS A MERMAID by Jessica Love
DB 105725
While riding the subway home from the pool with his abuela one day, Julián notices three women spectacularly dressed up. Julián decides to dazzle the world with his own mermaid costume and uses a potted fern for his headdress! Commercial audiobook. Stonewall Book Award. For preschool- grade 2. 2018.

For Middle-Grade Readers (about 3rd – 7th grades)

BRAVO! POEMS ABOUT AMAZING HISPANICS by Margarita Engle
DB 88894
Collection of eighteen poems that celebrate famous and lesser-known Hispanics from varied backgrounds who have faced life’s challenges in creative ways and made a positive impact. For grades 3-6. 2017.
FIRST RULE OF PUNK by Celia C. Pérez
DB 89161
Twelve-year-old Mal reluctantly moves to Chicago and starts seventh grade with a bang. She violates the dress code with her punk rock aesthetic and spurns the most popular girl in favor of starting a band with kids like herself. For grades 4-7. 2017.

BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA by Katherine Patterson
DB 12343
Jess finds his biggest rival and best friend in Leslie, a girl who moves to his rural Virginia community from the city. Together they create Terabithia, a secret kingdom in the woods where they reign supreme--until tragedy strikes. A haunting story for grades 5-8. Newbery Medal Winner.

For Teen and YA Readers (generally high school level)

LAST CUENTISTA by Barbra Higuera
DB 105729
Petra Peña’s world is ending, and only the chosen few will journey to a new planet. Hundreds of years later, Petra wakes to discover that she alone remembers Earth. A sinister Collective has taken over the ship during its journey, bent on erasing the sins of humanity’s past. Commercial audiobook. For grades 5-8. 2021.

I AM NOT YOUR PERFECT MEXICAN DAUGHTER by Erika L. Sánchez
DB 89358
After her older sister, Olga, dies suddenly, Julia knows she cannot live up to her sister’s standards in the eyes of her traditional family. But she soon discovers that Olga may not have been as perfect as everyone thought. Some violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2017.

ALL BOYS AREN’T BLUE by George M. Johnson
DB 99758
In a series of personal essays, prominent journalist and LGBTQIAP+ activist George M. Johnson explores his youth, and ties together the trials and triumphs faced by Black queer boys. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2020.