

Read for Joy This Summer
Kris Wiley for The News Review

Roseburg Public Library's Summer Reading Program just started, and we encourage people of all ages to read for fun and prizes. I think summer is about discovering new authors, getting caught up in amazing stories and reading for joy. These books are a great place to start.

Early Chapter Book

I love Jane Austen, Bridgerton and Sarah MacLean's Regency-era books for adults, and Deanna Kizis must, too, because she created that environment in the Puggleton Park early chapter book series. Hannah Peck's delightful illustrations bring the setting and characters to life.

In the first book, "Puggleton Park," Penelope the pug chases an pesky squirrel and gets separated from her owner. Not knowing what to do, she wanders around London until she is taken in by Lady Diggleton. Soon she's loving her new life, and she gets pretty worked up when she realizes Lady Diggleton is looking for her original owner.

The laughs come not only from the pug vs. squirrel standoffs but from Lady Picklebottom's appearances. She is the know-it-all snob who can't believe her friend has adopted a stinky, dirty dog.

I adored this story about resilience and found family, and I'm looking forward to a long series featuring Penelope and her human friends.

Junior

Historical fiction fans can't go wrong with Kimberly Brubaker Bradley's latest book, "The Night War."

Set in France during World War II, this is the story of 12-year-old Miriam, whose neighbors and family are rounded up because they are Jewish. Miriam escapes, and nuns ensure her safe transport to a village boarding school, where she pretends to be Catholic. She's very near the border to Switzerland, and she longs to make her way to safety and reunite with her family.

In the meantime, she realizes others have the same dream, and she helps someone across the border. She recognizes she has a role to play in this war, and she risks her own future to give others a chance at freedom.

Bradley captures the horrors of the war as seen through a girl's eyes, and I got swept up in Miri's high-stakes world. There is a lot to talk about here – friendship, moral choices and the "what would I do in her situation" scenario.

Young Adults

Abigail Johnson's novel "Every Time You Go Away" mirrors parts of her personal story. Johnson was 17 when an accident left her paralyzed. Her book features Rebecca, who was paralyzed in a car accident that killed her father.

The book begins two years after the accident with Rebecca continuing to live a different kind of life than she planned but one that grew after she starting working for a jewelry designer who also is paralyzed. Rebecca wants to remain in her Arizona community after she graduates and develop her art, but her mom is determined that she enroll in a California college that is accessible for students who are disabled. Rebecca's relationship with her mom has always been difficult, and the past two years haven't changed that.

Enter the love interest. That's Ethan, whose grandparents live next door to Rebecca. Ethan has been a part of Rebecca's life for years. Every time his mom bottoms out because of her drug addiction, Ethan moves in with his grandparents. Until his mom swoops in and picks him up. Over the years, Ethan has saved his mom on a number of occasions.

Ethan's and Rebecca's chemistry is undeniable, but it has been four years since they last saw each other, and each has a lot to work through. They take turns narrating chapters so the reader gets both of their perspectives.

The book went places I wasn't expecting, and I appreciated the not-too-tidy ending. I recommend it for mature teens.

All of these books are available at the library. Place holds at roseburg.bibliionix.com, or contact library staff at library@cityofroseburg.org or 541-492-7050 for assistance.

This Month's Youth Programs

10 a.m. every Tuesday – Grab-and-go craft kits while supplies last at library

10:30 a.m. every Wednesday – Storytime with Aurora at Stewart Park Pavilion

10:15 a.m. every Thursday – Storytime with Aurora at library

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, June 3 through Saturday, June 8 - StoryWalk® at Stewart Park by the Half Shell

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, June 10 through Saturday, June 15 - StoryWalk® at Eastwood Park

1-2 p.m. Tuesday, June 11 – Children's program: SRP kickoff at library

1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, June 13 – Teen program: Make a T-shirt tote bag at library

10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, June 14 – Children's program: Make a library bag at Stewart Park Pavilion

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, June 17 through Saturday, June 22 – StoryWalk® at Stewart Park by the YMCA

Tuesday, June 18 through Thursday, June 20 – Anime Your Way drawing classes for ages 9 and up. Register at www.roseburgpubliclibrary.org.

3-5 p.m. Thursday, June 20 – Teen volunteer hours at library

10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, June 21 – Children's program: Make a nature journal at Stewart Park Pavilion

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, June 24 through Saturday, June 29 – StoryWalk® at Fir Grove Park

1-2 p.m. Tuesday, June 25 – Children's program: Traveling Lantern Theater: Quest for the Kakapo at library

1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, June 27 – Teen program: PS4 Crash Team Racing bracket at library

10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, June 28 – Children's program: Talk About Trees with Paula at Stewart Park Pavilion