

Summit Reads 2018 Wildfires Suggested Titles

Adult

Smokejumper: A Memoir By One of America's Most Select Airborne Firefighters (Summit Reads Selection, 2018)

Jason A. Ramos

A select group of tremendously skilled and highly experienced wildland firefighters jump out of planes to fight increasingly dangerous and damaging forest fires. Ramos relates stories of his training, and life as a smokejumper.

The Fire Line: The Story of the Granite Mountain

Hotshots

Fernanda Santos

In June 2013, the town of Yarnell, Arizona, suffered a deadly wildfire. Nineteen elite hotshot firefighters died in the effort to contain the blaze as it roared out of the mountains and into town. Santos provides an intimate look at the lives of the men and their families and the results of that tragic event.

Firestorm: How Wildfire Will Shape Our

Future

Edward Struzik

Canada has as big a wildfire problem as we do. It also has several agencies and scientific organizations trying to find solutions to control them and protect both the firefighters and the public. The comparison to the U.S. firefighting groups and the situations when they've worked together are topics Struzik, a fellow at the Institute for Energy and Environmental Policy at Queen's University, is highly qualified to write about.

Big Burn

(Summit Reads selection, 2012)

Timothy Egan

Subtitled: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire That Saved America, this award winning book details the story of Teddy Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot and their battle against the robber barons who controlled the mining and logging interests in the Rockies. In 1910, the largest forest fire in U.S. history destroyed woods, towns and many people including heroic, young forest rangers. It turned the tide of public opinion allowing for expansion of the national parks and forest services.

Megafire: The Race to Extinguish a Deadly Epidemic of Flame

Michael Kudas

While visiting fire sites all across the globe, Kudas, a reknowned journalist, carefully and exhaustively explores the natural and human reasons for the rising phenomenon of megafires. He artfully blends lots of science with a lively look at those in the front lines of firefighting to create a thorough look at the issues surrounding these fires.

Between Two Fires: A Fire History of Contemporary
America

Stephen J. Pyne

Pyne, award-winning author of over a dozen books on fire, tackles the history of and present day battles within the government agencies and scientific community about how to fight wildfires. The revolution in the thinking of how and when to suppress wildfires started in the 1960s and continues to this day with limited success.

Young Men and Fire

Norman Mclean

The 1949 Mann Gulch, Montana, fire killed 13 smokejumpers. Mclean spent 14 years researching the tragedy. His book offers both a vivid description of the fire and an introspective look at his life and relationship to the land. Like the "Big Burn", The Mann Gulch fire prompted changes in the way fires are fought and fire fighters are trained.

Fire on the Mountain: the True Story of the South Canyon Fire

John N. Mclean

In 1994, fire hit Storm king Mountain in Colorado. Due to "management failure", miscommunications and sending manpower to the wrong location, the fire burned for 10 days and killed 14 firefighters. While Fire on the Mountain lacks some of the passion of Young Men and Fire, it is told with a reporters objectivity and great location descriptions.

Under a Flaming Sky: The Great Hinkley Firestorm of
1894

Daniel James Brown

Brown sets out to research and write the story of his great-grandfather who perished in the fire. He ends up writing an "unputdownable" story of Hinkley, Minnesota, when two fires converged on the town creating a firestorm with hurricane strength winds and a 1600 degree F. inferno that killed over 400 people.

Fire Season: Field Notes From a Wilderness Lookout

Philip Connors

Connors left The Wall Street Journal to take up seasonal residence in a two-room cabin and a 7'x7' fire tower in the Gila National Forest of New Mexico. He kept a month-by-month journal. He wrote of day-to-day life as well as the history of the mountains. His observations, passion for the territory and personal anecdotes are written in beautiful poetic prose.

Land on Fire: The New Reality of Wildfire in the West

Gary Ferguson

Mr. Ferguson focuses on the particular challenges of wildfires in the western U.S. His clear and incisive writing style and the many dramatic fire photographs make this a very readable book for adult and young adult readers.

Young Adult Readers

Flashpoint

Snead Collard

Luther lives in a Montana logging town which is being threatened by a forest fire. After school, he works for a vet who rescues injured birds of prey. He and his friend, Alexandra, whose father is a forest ranger, start to question the wisdom of forestry as practiced by the loggers. Luther's story is a well-written coming-of-age adventure.

Firestorm

Joan Hiatt Harlow

Poppy is a street urchin picking pockets for her "Ma". Justin is the son of a wealthy jeweler. They have nothing in common other than living in Chicago at the time of the Great Fire. Can they escape the flames and save Justin's sweet little goat, Ticktock. Can their friendship survive their different backgrounds?

Dark Water

Laura McNeal

In this National Book Award Finalist, fifteen-year-old Pearl is living in southern California on her uncle's avocado grove. She befriends Amiel, an illegal migrant working on the farm. When a wildfire threatens, she risks her life by turning back into the path of the fire to rescue Amiel.

Intermediate Readers

Fighting Fire!

Michael L. Cooper

"Ten of the Deadliest Fires in American History and How We Fought Them" is the subtitle of this dramatic narration of catastrophes ranging from 1760 fire that burned down most of Boston to the San Diego County fire of 2007. These highly readable stories are written for readers aged 10-14.

National Geographic Kids: Extreme Wildfire

Mark Thiessen

As both a photo-journalist and certified wildland firefighter, Thiessen is uniquely qualified to bring the excitement and danger of fighting wildfires around the world. The subtitle of the book, Smoke Jumpers, High-Tech Gear, Survival Tactics, and the Extraordinary Science of Fire, barely scratches to surface of this fact filled book.

Fire: Chicago, 1871 (Survivors series)

K. Duey and K. Bale

For one terrifying night, Nate Copper and Julie Flynn must put aside their different upbringings and work together to escape the fire and smoke to survive the great Chicago fire of 1871. Dry, windy weather and a city made, in large part, of wooden buildings, sidewalks, and raised roadways combined to create an unstoppable conflagration.

The Great Fire

Jim Murphy

This Newbery Honor Book is the carefully researched story of The Great Fire of Chicago of 1871. Photographs and actual personal stories by survivors add to this lively retelling of a famous fire. It concludes with the triumphant rebuilding of Chicago.

Smoke Jumpers: Choose Your Own Adventure #29

R. A. Montgomery

You and your fellow smoke jumper trainees are about to make your first jump. Suddenly, a nearby fire changes all your plans. What will you do? Your trainers give you several options. This book gives readers 12 possible endings to choose from.

Earth, Wind, Fire, and

Rain

Judy Dodge Cummings

Subtitled, Real Tales of Temperamental Elements, this book tells the story of five of America's deadliest natural disasters. The 1871 wildfire in Peshtigo, Wisconsin and the 1906 San Francisco earthquake are included. Both the power of natural disasters and the ways humans can negatively impact them are discussed.

Elementary School Aged Readers

Wildfires: All About Fires, Prevention, Renewal, and More!

Seymour Simon

Simon has written over 250 books to educate and entertain children on many scientific topics.. Beautiful, full-page photographs blend well with clear, language. Much of this book focuses on the 1988 Yellowstone Park.

National Geographic Kids: Wildfires

Kathy Furgang

A level three reader that covers topics from the causes of forest fires to descriptions of the tools and equipment employed by fire fighters. "Weird But True" factoids, "Hot Word" definitions and interactive quizzes add to the fun.

Blazing Bush and Forest Fires

Louise & Richard Spilsbury

What is a bush fire and how is it or a forest fire fought? This book examines case studies of recent disastrous fires in the U.S., Australia and Indonesia to answer questions about fire fighting. Good for readers ages 7 - 10.

Turbulent Planet: Forest Furnace, Wildfires

Mary Colson

Wonderful photographs add to a thorough introduction to the types of forest fires and how they are fought. It explains what happens when a forest bursts into flame and how to survive a forest furnace. The book is an excellent read-aloud for 1st - 3rd graders or 9 - 11 year-old readers.

Forest Firefighter (Cool Adventure Series)

William David Thomas

Readers learn about the requirements, training and job descriptions of the various professions related to wildland fire fighting and protection. Planes parachutes and equipment are described.

Forest Fires: Run for Your Life!

Josephine Nobisso

Each chapter of this book tells of a single fire disaster: the fire in Yellowstone Park, the Hinkley Fire of Minnesota, and the Matheson fire in Ontario, Canada. The last chapter is an exploration of the questions of how and when a forest fire should be allowed to burn. This book is well written for 10 - 12 year-olds.

Smoke Flame Fire! An Illustrated History of Firefighting

Roy Apps

Take a look at the history of firefighting in England and Europe. Almost 2,000 years ago, the Romans formed the first fire brigades. After the Great Fire of London, in 1666, the British started to build their own fire companies. The book covers the evolution of British firefighting through WW II and to the present.

Picture Books and Read Aloud

Curious George and the
Firefighters

H. A. Rey

As usual, George's curiosity gets him in trouble, and as usual, his friendliness and good nature turn his misadventure into an opportunity to make the children happy. When the pizza parlor catches fire, George rides the fire truck to the scene. The book is also available in a Spanish/English version: Jorge el Curioso y los Bomberos.

The Berenstain Bears Visit the Firehouse

Mike Berenstain

The Bear family visit their Cousin Wilbur, a firefighter, at the firehouse. They tour the facility, learn about the equipment, and ride along to a fire.

Meet My Neighbor, The Firefighter

Marc Crabtree

Women are firefighters, too. Spend the day with Ruth Lancashire in the fire station and at a fire.

People in the Community: Firefighters

Diyan Leake

For our youngest book lovers, this is a simple explanation of what firefighters do and s description of their tools.

Fire Trucks

Judith Jango-Cohen

Lively dialog and bright photographs make this a good choice for young lovers of fire trucks.

Fire! Fire!

Gail Gibbons

Typical Gibbons brightly colored illustrations and simple, lively language.