



# Summer Reading

For Students Entering 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Summer 2021



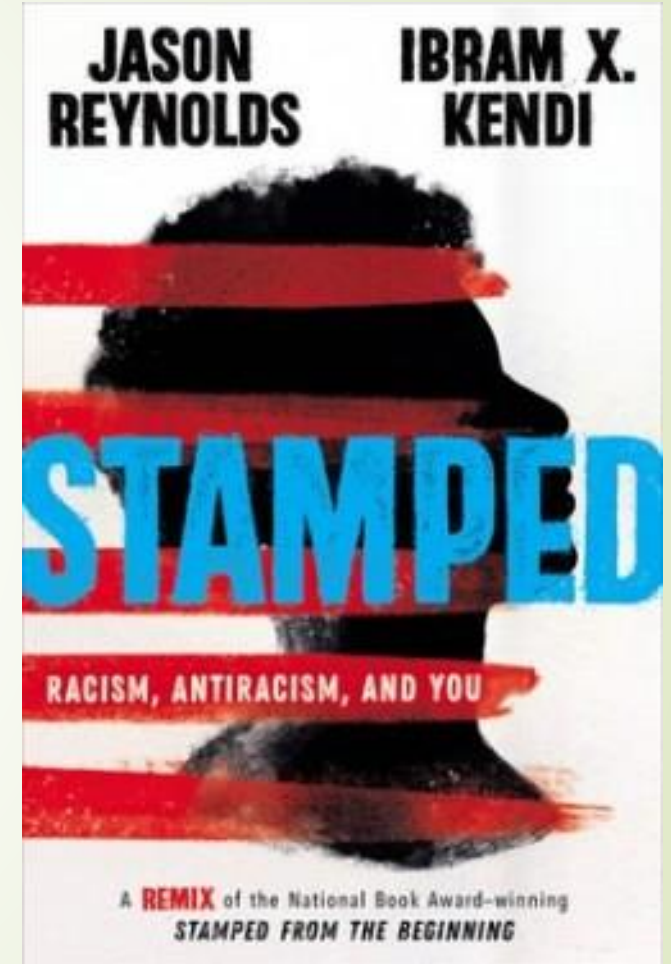
# Summer Reading Titles for Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Graders

Choose **one** of the following titles:

- ▶ *Just Mercy* YA (Bryan Stevenson)
- ▶ *Stamped* (Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi)
- ▶ *Booked* (Kwame Alexander)
- ▶ *Call of the Wild* (Jack London)

# Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi

- Jason Reynolds is an award-winning writer. His books include *Long Way Down*, the *Track* series, *Look Both Ways*, and many more.
- Ibram X. Kendi is a writer and professor. He is the director of the Center for Antiracist Research at Boston University.
- Reynolds took Kendi's book *Stamped from the Beginning* and remixed it for young adults.





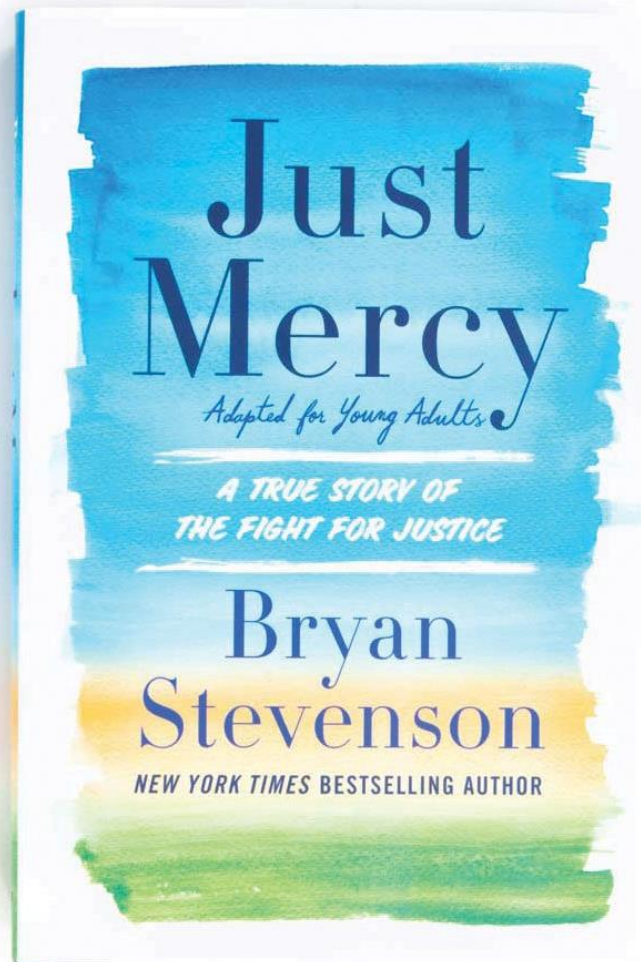
# Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*

- This is one of the books on both the **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>** grade summer reading lists.
- Jason Reynolds decided to create a “remix” of Ibram X. Kendi’s book, *Stamped from the Beginning*. The book has been added at many schools, and it has been challenged and banned in some places.
- Reynolds speaks directly to young people in the book. He also reads his own work in the audiobook version—a great listening experience.



Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi appeared on *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah* to promote their book.

[Interview with Reynolds and Kendi](#)

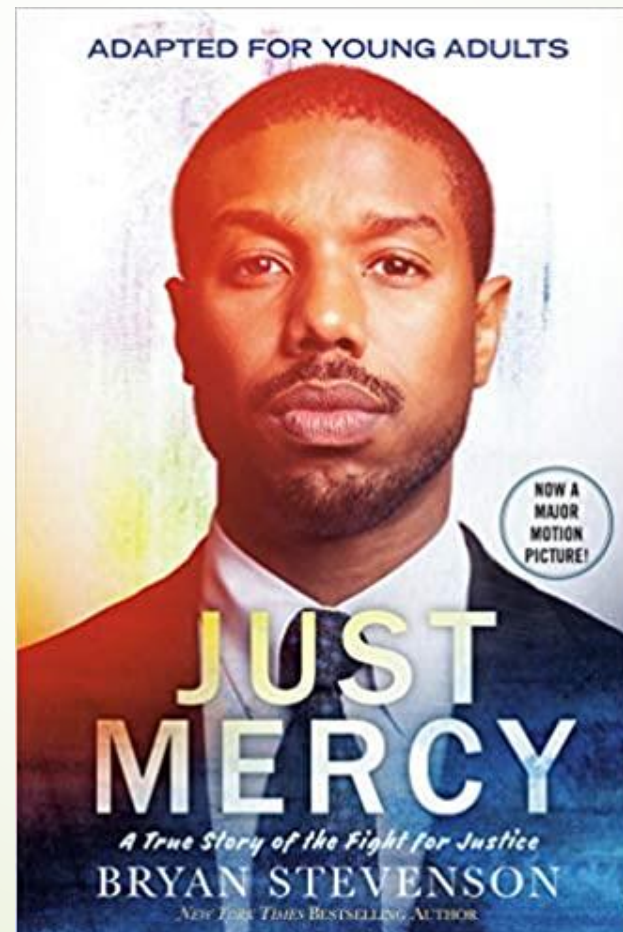



## *Just Mercy: A True Story of the Fight for Justice (Adapted for YA)* by Bryan Stevenson

- ▶ Bryan Stevenson is a lawyer who started the Equal Justice Initiative.
- ▶ His book was adapted for younger readers. This is the second book on the summer reading list for students going into 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades next year.
- ▶ The book has been made into an excellent movie.



# Cover of movie tie-in





## Bryan Stevenson, Attorney and Author

Attorney Bryan Stevenson founded and is the director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a human rights organization in Alabama.

Mr. Stevenson and EJI staff have represented hundreds of people. EJI has won dozens of cases. They have won cases that ban excessive imprisonment and unfair sentencing, have exonerated 135 wrongfully condemned people on Death Row, and have exonerated hundreds of wrongly convicted people.

A 2012 case EJI brought to the Supreme Court has successfully banned mandatory life sentences for children 17 or younger.

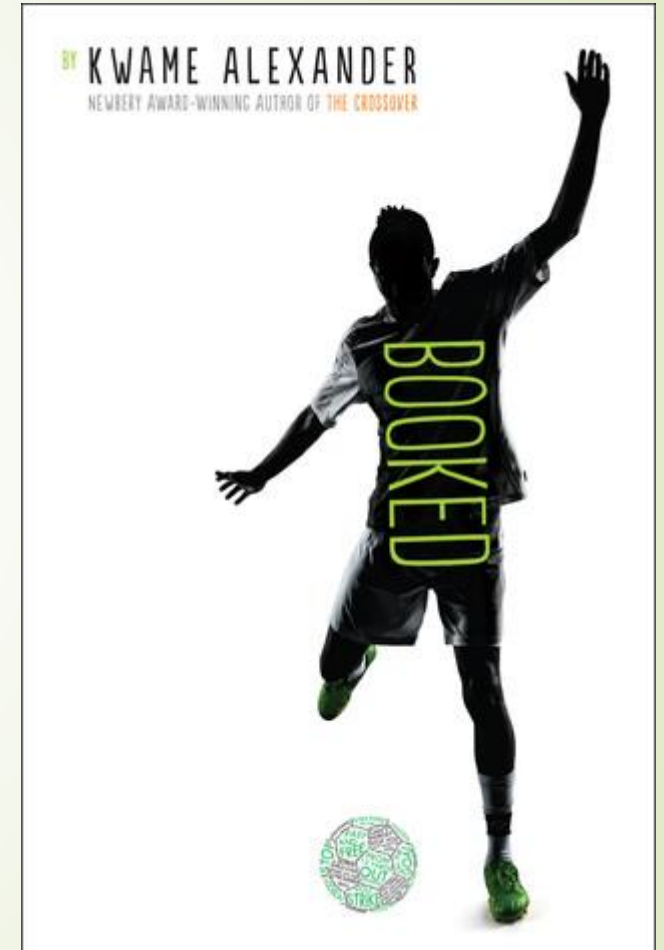
- Stevenson's memoir tells the story of how EJI came about.
- It focuses on the powerful story of Walter MacMillan, who was wrongly accused of murder and sentenced to Death Row.
- Stevenson talks about that case as an example of an unjust system that exists not only in Alabama but around the country.
- Stevenson talks about his work here:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Al8RXiMPQNI&ab\\_channel=EqualJusticeInitiative](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Al8RXiMPQNI&ab_channel=EqualJusticeInitiative)
- And here:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=002gGgbGE6U&ab\\_channel=DetroitPublicTV](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=002gGgbGE6U&ab_channel=DetroitPublicTV)



# Booked

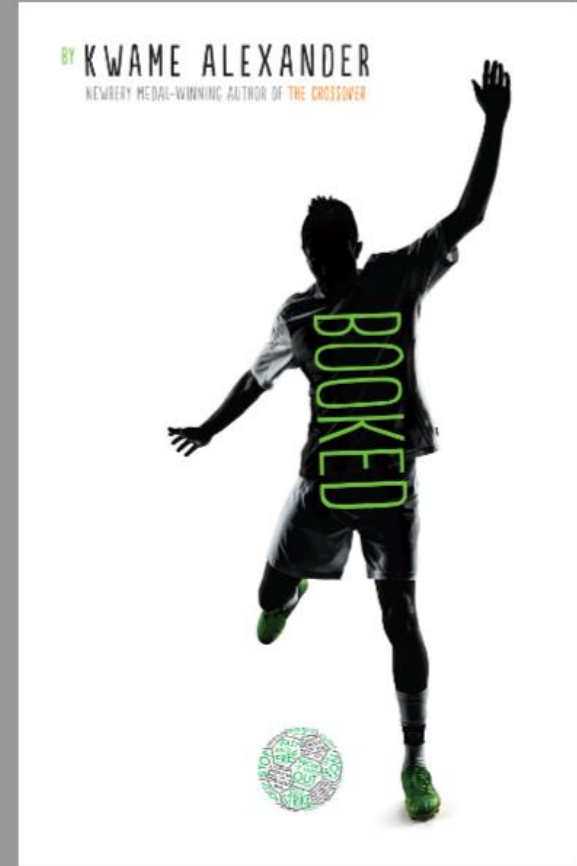
by Kwame Alexander

- This is one of the choices for **incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders.**
- Nick is 12 years old and a soccer player.
- He has to stand up to a bully, deal with home troubles, and find a way to keep up with his team.
- A novel-in-verse and the second in *The Crossover* series (but it can stand alone).



# Kwame Alexander on his books

- Here is Alexander reading from his novel:
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEbLVPpZ5pw&ab\\_channel=BookTrust](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEbLVPpZ5pw&ab_channel=BookTrust)



**Booked by Kwame Alexander**  
Shortlisted for the CLIPPA (Centre for Literacy  
in Primary Poetry Award) 2017



# *The Call of the Wild*

by Jack London

- This is one of the choices for incoming **7<sup>th</sup> graders**.
- Jack London's book about a dog named Buck has been a favorite of young people and adults since it was first published in 1903.
- Buck is stolen from his California home and sold as a sled dog in Alaska, during the Klondike Gold Rush of the 1890s.
- It has been made into a movie.

# *The Call of the Wild* in Films

- 2020 film with Harrison Ford
- 2000 television series
- 1997 film with Rutger Hauer
- 1992 TV movie
- 1972 film with Charlton Heston
- 1935 film with Clark Gable
- 1923 silent film

