Summer Reading 2022



June 2022

Dear Families,

Reading for enjoyment during the summer is one of life's little pleasures for most of us. Our wish for your children is that they too look forward to reading those books that they didn't have time for during the school year. All students entering sixth, seventh, and eighth grade are expected to read **at least three books** over the summer. Although we recommend students use sticky notes or take notes to engage more deeply with their reading, there is no specific assignment to respond to the books.

While curating our lists, we try to choose books that are of high interest to students. The books also vary widely by reading level. If you feel that a book is not at an appropriate level, please help your child choose something else. You may want to read the books alongside your child so you can discuss them together. Some students may want to pair up with friends to read the same book together, too.

The following list is organized by genre. Each list includes a brief synopsis of the book, and some include links to book trailers or short video reviews.

You can check the <u>Dobbs Ferry Public Library</u> catalog to see if a book is available through the public library system. DFPL will be sponsoring a summer reading game this year for children ages 7-12. Please click <u>here</u> for more information. Students can also see if books are available online through <u>Sora</u>.

Another option for children to continue learning over the summer is through the <u>Middle School</u> <u>Choice Board</u>. The choice board is essentially a grid with a range of activities that gives students the opportunity to choose what they would like to learn and how they would like to show their learning. The board represents content and strategies from the whole school year, and is designed to be self-paced.

Happy reading!

Best wishes,

Ellen Elsen Library Media Specialist Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek K-8 Literacy Coordinator

The Language and Literature Department at DFMS (Claudia Ducic, Danielle Egan, Ed Feller, Melissa Gretczko, Rachael Lief, Mike Pagano, Jill Rosenblum, and Denise Rivera)

Dobbs Ferry Middle School Suggested Summer Reading for Sixth Grade Summer 2022

Students are expected to read <u>any three books</u> this summer, although we hope you will choose to read all summer. Books may be chosen from the suggestions below, but you are not limited to this list. You do not need to write a response to what you have read over the summer, but there will be an assignment when you return to school in September. We do recommend that you use sticky notes or jot down notes in a response notebook as a way to record your thinking as you read.

Short Story Collection



Black Boy Joy: 17 Stories Celebrating Black Boyhood, edited by Kwame Mbalia

This collection of stories, comics, and poems about the power of joy and the wonders of Black boyhood includes work by B.B. Alston, Jerry Craft, Lamar Giles, Varian Johnson, and Jason Reynolds, and more. \bigstar 4 starred reviews



Flying Lessons & Other Stories, edited by Ellen Oh

From basketball dreams and family fiascos to first crushes and new neighborhoods, this anthology, written by award-winning children's authors, celebrates the uniqueness and universality in all of us. Features stories by Kwame Alexander, Soman Chainani, Matt de la Peña, Grace Lin, Walter Dean Myers, Jacqueline Woodson, and more. ★4 starred reviews



Once Upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices, edited by S.K. Ali and Aisha Saeed

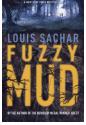
This collection showcases the most brilliant Muslim voices writing today, all about the most joyful holiday of the year: Eid! ± 5 starred reviews



Cursed Carnival and Other Calamities: New Stores About Mythic Heroes, edited by Rick Riordan A collection of ten stories that remix myths for modern readers

A collection of ten stories that remix myths for modern readers, by popular contemporary authors from the Rick Riordan Presents imprint, including J.C. Cervantes, Roshani Chokshi, Kwame Mbalia, and Rebecca Roanhorse.

<u>Adventure</u>



Fuzzy Mud by Louis Sachar

Two middle-grade kids take a shortcut home from school and discover what looks like fuzzy mud but is actually a substance with the potential to wreak havoc on the entire world. \star 3 starred reviews



Northwind by Gary Paulsen When sickness decimates his fishing village, an orphan named Leif flees north in a cedar canoe, journeying along a brutal but beautiful coastline. ★4 starred reviews Book Trailer: https://drive.google.com/file/d/12CyhPexYnV4U0U8hbIntgdUeTZ2GlbOl/view ?usp=sharing



The Serpent's Secret by Sayantani DasGupta

Up until her twelfth birthday, Kiranmala considered herself an ordinary sixth-grader but then her parents disappear and a drooling rakkhosh demon shows up in her kitchen. Soon she is swept into another dimension. (Other books in series: *Game of Stars*, *The Chaos Curse*) \star 2 starred reviews <u>Book trailer:</u>

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Louk6HSP5Uck9KoPgFFYb6-7y44w51mK/vie w?usp=sharing



Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky by Kwame Mbalia

An epic adventure set in a richly imaged world populated with African American folk heroes and West African gods. Seventh-grader Tristan Strong tumbles into the MidPass and, with allies John Henry and Brer Rabbit, must entice the god Anansi to come out of hiding and seal the hole Tristan accidentally ripped in the sky. (Other books in series: *Tristan Strong Destroys the World, Tristan Strong Keeps Punching*) ★5 starred reviews

<u>Classics</u>



From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg Having run away with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, twelve-year-old Claudia strives to keep things in order in their new home and to become a changed person and a heroine to herself. Newbery Medal



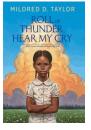
Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh

Harriet M. Welsch is a spy. In her notebook, she writes down everything she knows about everyone, even her classmates and her best friends. Then Harriet loses track of her notebook, and it ends up in the wrong hands. Before she can stop them, her friends have read the always truthful, sometimes awful things she's written about each of them. Will Harriet find a way to put her life and her friendships back together? (Other books in series: *The Long Secret, Sport, Harriet Spies Again,* and *Harriet the Spy, Double Agent*)



Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce. (Other books in series: *The River, Brian's Winter, Brian's Return,* and *Brian's Hunt*) Newbery Honor



Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor

An African-American family living in Mississippi during the Depression of the 1930s is faced with prejudice and discrimination which its children do not understand. (Other books in series: *Song of the Trees, Mississippi Bridge, Let the Circle Be Unbroken, The Friendship, The Road to Memphis, The Gold Cadillac, and All the Days Past, All the Days to Come*)



A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

Three extraterrestrial beings take Meg and her friends to another world. (Other books in series: *A Wind in the Door, A Swiftly Tilting Planet, Many Waters,* and *An Acceptable Time*) **Q** Newbery Medal

<u>Fantasy</u>



Amari and the Night Brothers by B.B. Alston

Thirteen-year-old Amari gets an invitation from her missing brother to join the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs and join in the fight against an evil magician. $\bigstar 4$ starred reviews Book Trailer:

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Ghosts by Raina Telgemeier

Catrina and her family have moved to the coast of Northern California for the sake of her little sister, Maya, who has cystic fibrosis. Cat is even less happy about the move when she is told that her new town is inhabited by ghosts. $\bigstar 4$ starred reviews

Book Trailer:

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The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhouse

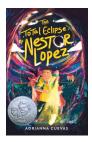
An epic fantasy about a young girl raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, who must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her. \star 6 starred reviews 2 Newbery Medal



Keeper of the Lost Cities by Shannon Messenger

Twelve-year-old Sophie discovers the abilities that have always caused her to stand out are because she is actually an elf. After she is brought to Eternalia to hone her skills, Sophie learns she harbors certain secrets that others would kill to learn. (Other books in series: *Exile, Everblaze, Neverseen, Lodestar, Nightfall, Flashback, Legacy*) Book trailer:

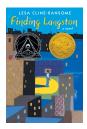
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The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez by Adrianna Cuevas

When Nestor and his mother move to a new town to live with his grandmother after his dad's latest deployment, Nestor plans to lay low. He definitely doesn't want anyone to find out his deepest secret: that he can talk to animals. But when the animals in his new town start disappearing, Nestor's grandmother becomes the prime suspect, and Nestor must investigate.

Historical Fiction

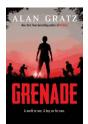


Finding Langston by Lesa Cline Ransom

Discovering a book of Langston Hughes' poetry in the library helps Langston cope with the loss of his mother, his relocation from Alabama to Chicago as part of the Great Migration, and being bullied. ± 5 starred reviews 2 Coretta Scott King Honor

Author speaking about the book:

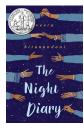
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mu7-hYVbFZUKiEhZnIYNBpbBoLhhv6-f/view ?usp=sharing



Grenade by Alan Gratz

On April 1, 1945, fourteen-year-old native Okinawan Hideki, drafted into the Blood and Iron Student Corps, is handed two grenades and told to go kill American soldiers. Hideki does not want to kill anyone, he just wants to find his family. Hideki's struggle across the island will finally bring him face-to-face with Ray, a marine in his very first battle--and the choice he makes will change Hideki's life forever. \bigstar 2 starred reviews Author speaking about the book:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ptkxA7ug_CgzYWtRsrfnJJPthaA73Yw4/view? usp=sharing



The Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani

Shy twelve-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing to her deceased Muslim mother in the pages of her diary. \star 4 starred reviews \Im Newbery Honor book



Prairie Lotus by Linda Sue Park

In Dakota Territory in the 1880s, half-Chinese Hanna and her white father face racism and resistance to change as they try to make a home for themselves. Includes author's note. \pm 5 starred reviews 2 Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature Honor book

One Minute Book Review:

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Show Me a Sign by Ann Clare LeZotte

It is 1805 and Mary Lambert has always felt safe among the deaf community of Chilmark on Martha's Vineyard where practically everyone communicates in a shared sign language. Recent events have shattered Mary's life: her brother George has died, land disputes between English settlers and the Wampanoag are becoming increasingly bitter, and a "scientist" comes to town to study the origins of the island's widespread deafness–and Mary doesn't trust him. ★5 starred reviews 2 Schneider Family Book Award Author discussing book:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rnD0LuKptFayfoA7w_F9phThR_McthQq/view ?usp=sharing



The War that Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother. (Sequel: *The War I Finally Won*) ★4 starred reviews 2 Newbery Honor

<u>Horror</u>



Bloom by Kenneth Oppel

The invasion begins-- with rain. Rain that carries seeds. Seeds that sprout--overnight, everywhere. These new plants take over crop fields, twine up houses, and burrow below streets. They bloom--and release toxic pollen. They bloom--and form Venus flytrap-like pods that swallow animals and people. Three kids on a remote island seem immune to the toxic plants. They each have strange allergies--and yet not to these plants. What's their secret? Can they somehow be the key to beating back this invasion? (Other books in series: *Hatch, Thrive*) \bigstar 1 starred review

Video book review:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H8eBspymYI8312w-5xsuZ76X5Ep3rncw/view?us p=sharing



Doll Bones by Holly Black

Zach, Alice, and Poppy, friends from a Pennsylvania middle school who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real-life quest to Ohio to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl. \star 6 starred reviews 2 Newbery Honor book <u>Book trailer:</u>

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aD7fKKsYOTXuEOaVQBCMRMgjy8z5Pkqw/vie w?usp=sharing



The Night Gardener by Jonathan Auxier

Irish orphans Molly, fourteen, and Kip, ten, travel to England to work as servants in a crumbling manor house where nothing is quite what it seems to be. Soon the siblings are confronted by a mysterious stranger and secrets of the cursed house. $\bigstar 4$ starred reviews



Ophie's Ghost by Justina Ireland

Discovering her ability to see ghosts when a cruel act ends her father's life and forces her to move in with relatives in 1920s Pittsburgh, young Ophelia forges a helpful bond with a spirit whose own life ended suddenly and unjustly. \bigstar starred reviews



Small Spaces by Katherine Arden

After eleven-year-old Ollie's school bus mysteriously breaks down on a field trip, she has to take a trip through scary woods, and must use all of her wits to survive. (Other books in series: *Dead Voices, Dark Waters, Empty Smiles*) ★3 starred reviews

<u>Humor</u>

Stand Up, Yumi Chung! by Jessica Kim



When eleven-year-old Yumi Chung stumbles into a kids' comedy camp, she is mistaken for another student. She decides to play the part. \pm 3 starred reviews



To Night Owl from Dogfish by Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer Unhappy about being sent to the same summer camp after their fathers start dating, Bett and Avery, eleven, eventually begin scheming to get the couple back together after a break-up. Told entirely through emails. \star 1 starred review <u>Book trailer</u>:

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The Unteachables by Gordon Korman

The Unteachables are a wayward medley of characters: Parker the dyslexic farm boy; Aldo, who is perpetually angry; Elaine (rhymes with pain); Barnstorm the jock; Rahim the sleep-deprived artist; and Mateo, lost in fantasy worlds. Plus Kiana, who isn't even registered with the school. Not to mention their teacher, who remains in disgrace after a 25-year-old cheating scandal and is just killing time, waiting to take early retirement. Are they really incorrigible, or is it possible they are just misunderstood?

One Minute Book Review:

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Mystery



Book Scavenger by Jennifer Chambliss Bertram

Just after twelve-year-old Emily and her family move to San Francisco, she teams up with new friend James to follow clues in an odd book they find, hoping to figure out its secrets before the men who attacked Emily's hero, publisher Garrison Griswold. (Sequels: *The Unbreakable Code*, *The Alcatraz Escape*) ★1 starred review

Link to information on the Book Scavenger game: https://bookscavenger.com/

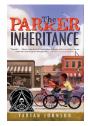


Greenglass House by Kate Milford

At Greenglass House, a smuggler's inn, twelve-year-old Milo, the innkeepers' son, plans to spend his winter holidays relaxing, but soon guests arrive with strange stories about the house that send Milo and Meddy, the cook's daughter, on an adventure. (Other books in series: *Ghosts of Greenglass House, Bluecrowne, The Thief Knot, The Raconteur's Commonplace Book*) \bigstar 3 starred reviews

One Minute Book Review:

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The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson

Twelve-year-old Candice Miller is spending the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, in the old house that belonged to her grandmother, who died after being dismissed as city manager for having the city tennis courts dug up looking for buried treasure. When she finds the letter that sent her grandmother on the treasure hunt, Candice finds herself caught up in the mystery and, with the help of a new friend, she sets out to find the inheritance, exonerate her grandmother, and expose an injustice.

 \star 5 starred reviews 2 Coretta Scott King Author Honor Author speaking about the book:

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The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle by Leslie Connor

Mason Buttle is the biggest, sweatiest kid in his grade, and everyone knows he can barely read or write. Mason's learning disabilities are compounded by grief. Fifteen months ago, Mason's best friend, Benny, turned up dead in the Buttle family's orchard. An investigation drags on, and Mason can't understand why Lieutenant Baird won't believe what Mason has told him about that day. Mason's new friend, tiny Calvin Chumsky, goes missing, Mason finds himself in trouble again. \bigstar 3 starred reviews \roldsymbol{Q} Schneider Family Book Award One Minute Book review:

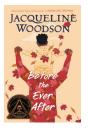
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Realistic Fiction



Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed

In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family. (Sequel: *Omar Rising*) ★4 starred reviews



Before the Ever After by Jacqueline Woodson

ZJ's friends Ollie, Darry and Daniel help him cope when his father, a beloved professional football player, suffers severe headaches and memory loss that spell the end of his career. ± 5 starred reviews 2 Coretta Scott King Author Honor



The Best Man by Richard Peck

Archer Magill has spent grade school with one eye out in search of role models. Three of the best are his grandpa, the great architect; his dad, the great vintage car customizer; and his uncle Paul, who is just plain great. Along the way he finds a fourth—Mr. McLeod, the first male teacher in the history of Archer's school. $\bigstar 6$ starred reviews



King and the Dragonflies by Kacen Callender

In a small but turbulent Louisiana town, one boy's grief takes him beyond the bayous of his backyard, to learn that there is no right way to be yourself. ★5 starred reviews 2 Coretta Scott King Author Honor & National Book Award for Young People's Literature

Author speaking about the book:

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New Kid by Jerry Craft

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds--and not really fitting into either one. Graphic novel. (Sequel: *Class Act*) ± 4 starred reviews 2 Newbery Medal & Coretta Scott King Author Award

Author speaking about the book:

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Other Words for Home by Jasmine Varga

When things in her hometown in Syria become volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives. The American movies Jude has always loved haven't prepared her for starting school in the US. But this life also brings unexpected surprises--new friends, a whole new family, and a school musical that Jude just might try out for. Novel in verse.

★5 starred reviews ♀ Newbery Honor book One Minute Book Review:

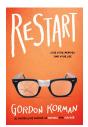
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The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise by Dan Gemeinhart Twelve-year-old Coyote and her father rush to Poplin Springs, Washington, in their old school bus to save a memory box buried in a park that will soon be demolished. \bigstar 1 starred review

Book trailer:

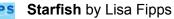
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Restart by Gordon Korman

Chase does not remember falling off the roof, in fact he does not remember anything about himself, and when he gets back to middle school he begins to learn who he was through the reactions of the other kids--trouble is, he really is not sure he likes the Chase that is being revealed. \star 2 starred reviews <u>Author speaking about the book:</u>

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Wink by Rob Harrell

After being diagnosed with a rare eye cancer, twelve-year-old Ross discovers how music, art, and true friends can help him survive both treatment and middle school. \bigstar 4 starred reviews

Bullied and shamed her whole life for being fat, twelve-year-old Ellie finally gains the confidence to stand up for herself, with the help of some wonderful new

Author speaking about the book:

allies. Novel in verse. $\bigstar 4$ starred reviews

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Science Fiction



Dragon Pearl by Yoon Ha Lee

Min, a thirteen-year-old girl with fox-magic, stows away on a battle cruiser and impersonates a cadet in order to solve the mystery of what happened to her older brother in the Thousand World Space Forces. \bigstar 3 starred reviews



The Fourteenth Goldfish by Jennifer L. Holm

Ellie's scientist grandfather has discovered a way to reverse aging, and consequently has turned into a teenager--which makes for complicated relationships when he moves in with Ellie and her mother, his daughter. \bigstar 3 starred reviews

Author speaking about the book:

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The Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera

Petra Pena wanted nothing more than to be a storyteller, like her abuelita. But Petra's world is ending. Earth has been destroyed by a comet, and only a few hundred scientists and their children - among them Petra and her family - have been chosen to journey to a new planet. Hundreds of years later, Petra wakes to this new planet - and the discovery that she is the only person who remembers Earth. A sinister Collective has taken over the ship during its journey, bent on erasing the sins of humanity's past. They have systematically purged the memories of all aboard - or purged them altogether. Petra alone now carries the stories of our past, and with them, any hope for our future. Can she make them live again?

★3 starred reviews 2 Newbery Medal & Pura Belpré Author Award

<u>Author speaking about the book</u>: <u>https://drive.google.com/file/d/15HH98QO5faZYZfVKivdsE7RYHnhDLeHK/view?</u> <u>usp=sharing</u>



Masterminds by Gordon Korman

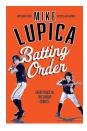
Eli Frieden has never left Serenity, New Mexico...why would he ever want to? Then one day, he bikes to the edge of the city limits and something so unexpected happens, it changes everything. Eli convinces his friends to help him investigate, and soon it becomes clear that nothing is as it seems in Serenity. (Other books in series: *Criminal Destiny; Payback*) ★2 starred reviews



Sal and Gabi Break the Universe by Carlos Hernandez

In order to heal after his mother's death, thirteen-year-old Sal learns to reach into time and space to retrieve things--and people--from other universes. (Sequel: *Sal and Gabi Fix the Universe*) ★4 starred reviews 2 Pura Belpré Author Winner

Sports Fiction



Batting Order by Mike Lupica

Twelve-year-old Matt Baker is the best all-rounder on his baseball team, but can he help Big Ben Roberson improve his hitting and stand up to his father?



The Crossover by Kwame Alexander Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health. Novel in verse.

★6 starred reviews 🙎 Newbery Medal & Coretta Scott King Author Honor



Get a Grip, Vivy Cohen! by Sarah Kapit

Eleven-year-old knuckleball pitcher Vivy Cohen, who has autism, becomes pen pals with her favorite Major League baseball player after writing a letter to him as an assignment for her social skills class. \bigstar 3 starred reviews 2 Schneider Family Book Honor



Patina by Jason Reynolds A newbie to the track team, Patina 'Patty' Jones must learn to rely on her family and teammates as she tries to outrun her personal demons. (Other books in series: *Ghost, Sunny, Lu*) \bigstar 5 starred reviews

Informational Texts/Biographies/Memoirs



Becoming RBG: Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Journey to Justice by Debbie Levy Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a modern feminist icon--a leader in the fight for equal treatment of girls and women in the workplace and in society. She blazed trails to the peaks of the male-centric worlds of education and law, where women had rarely risen before. Graphic format. <u>Book trailer</u>:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Cdnz1p-DL2Es82wUP2BBXy6tygsaTbjk/view?us p=sharing

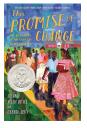


The Grand Escape: The Greatest Prison Breakout of the 20th Century by Neal Bascomb

The story of a group of Allied POWs in WWI who dared to escape from Germany's most notorious prison camp. \bigstar 3 starred reviews

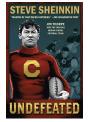


Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly (Young Readers' Edition) Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as "human computers" used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. \bigstar 3 starred reviews



This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality by Jo Ann Allen Boyce

In 1956, one year before troops escorted the Little Rock Nine into Central High School, Jo Ann Allen was one of twelve students who broke the color barrier and integrated Clinton High School in Tennessee. This is the heartbreaking and relatable story of her four months into the national spotlight and as a trailblazer in history. \bigstar 5 starred reviews $\ref{eq:starred}$ Robert F. Silbert Informational Book Honor



Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian High School Football Team by Steve Sheinkin

Before they became legends, Jim Thorpe and Pop Warner met at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania, where they forged one of the winningest teams in American football history. ★5 starred reviews Author speaking about the book:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/169REgoB79jsxWKj9lfA7leryh0bUbKM5/view?usp =sharing



When Stars Are Scattered by Omar Mohamed and Victoria Jamieson Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp. When an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother in this intimate and touching portrayal of family and daily life in a refugee camp. Graphic format. ★6 starred reviews ♀ Schneider Family Book Honor, National Book Award Finalist

Book trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=111ztD-2QaU

Starred Reviews are from the following publications:

Booklist Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Horn Book Guide Horn Book Magazine Kirkus Publisher's Weekly School Library Connection School Library Journal Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)