

# Summer Reading

June 2020

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 just didn't have time for this past school year. We hope to instill in our students a lifelong reading habit of stacking their nightstands and e-readers with books they *want* to read.

When preparing our summer reading lists, our primary goal was to include titles that middle school readers would want to read over the summer. On each of the lists, you will find suggested titles, genres, and authors.

All students entering sixth, seventh and eighth grades are expected to read at least three books during the summer. However, there is no expectation that they write a response to what they have read. This will be an assignment they will have when they return to school in September. We do recommend that students use post-it notes or jot down notes in a response notebook as a way to record their thinking about what they have read.

The reading levels of the books on these lists may vary quite a bit because our readers also vary. If you feel that a book is not at an appropriate level for your child, please help them choose something else. You may want to have a mini-book club with your child so that you can have conversations around the same book throughout the summer. We are hoping that some students will choose to pair-up with friends to read along and discuss the same book.

As part of *Summer reading at New York Libraries* (<http://www.summerreadingnys.org/>), the State Education Department has a site with many resources families can utilize.

CommonLit.org is running a summer reading challenge for children in grades 3-12. Click on the link (<https://blog.commonlit.org/sign-up-your-child-for-commonlits-free-summer-reading-challenge-bbe5440a07d7>) and you will find all of the information needed to participate in this challenge.

Another option for children to continue learning over the summer is through the Middle School Choice Board. The choice board is essentially a grid with a range of activities that give students the opportunity to choose the activity they would like to do and to learn in a variety of ways. The board will represent content and strategies from the whole school year, and is designed to be self-paced. The activities will be fun, authentic and engaging for the students!

Here is to a wonderful summer awaiting us all...and to all those books waiting on our bedside tables or e-readers!

Best wishes,

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# Dobbs Ferry Middle School

## Suggested Summer Reading for Seventh and Eighth Grade

### Summer 2020

Students are expected to read any three books 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. *There is no expectation that you write a response to what you have read over the summer. This will be an assignment you will have when you return to school in September.* We do recommend that you use post-it notes or jot down notes in a response notebook as a way to record your thinking about what you have read.

#### SHORT STORY COLLECTION

##### **Flying Lessons & Other Stories** Edited by Ellen Oh

In a partnership with We Need Diverse Books, industry giants Kwame Alexander, Soman Chainani, Mat de la Pena, Tim Federle, Grace Lin, Meg Medina, Walter Dean Myers, Tim Tingle, Kelly J. Baptist, and Jacqueline Woodson have written a story collection that is humorous as it is heartfelt.

#### ADVENTURE

##### **Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky** by Kwame Mbalia

An epic adventure set in a richly imagined world populated with African American folk heroes and West African gods. This is the story of Tristan Strong who doesn't know if he can save the world.

##### **Not If I See You First** by Ally Carter

Six years ago Maddie lived in Washington D.C. with her father, a Secret Service agent assigned to the President's family, and her best friend was Logan, the President's son. After her father is wounded in a kidnapping attempt, the two of them move to a remote cabin in Alaska. Logan never replied to Maddie's letters- but now he has suddenly turned up on her doorstep.

##### **The Serpent's Secret** by Sayantani DasGupta

Up until her twelfth birthday, Kiranmala considered herself an extraordinary sixth-grader but then her parents disappear and a drooling rakkhosh demon shows up in her kitchen. Soon she is swept into another dimension. Series starter.

##### **Flame in the Mist** by Renee Ahdieh

Enroute to the imperial city of Inako, Mariko narrowly escapes a bloody ambush by a dangerous gang of bandits known as the Black Clan, who she learns has been hired to kill her before she reaches the palace. Dressed as a peasant boy, Mariko sets out to infiltrate the ranks of the Black Clan, determined to track down the person responsible for the target on her back.

##### **Other Books in the Series: Smoke in the Sun**

##### **The Witchlands Book One: Truthwitch** by Susan Dennard

First in a new series. On a continent ruled by three empires, everyone is born with a "witchery," a magical skill that sets them apart from others. Now, as the Twenty Year Truce in a centuries long war is about to end, the balance of power-and the failing health of all magic-will fall on the shoulders of a mythical pair called the Cahr Awen.

##### **Other Books in the Series: Windwitch, Bloodwitch and Sightwitch**

## **The Double Cross and Other Skills I Learned as a Superspy** by Jackson Pearce

Twelve year old Hale's superspy parents don't come home from a mission and Hale decides he must save them. He may not be the fastest or the fittest spy-in-training, but he might be the smartest!

### FANTASY

#### **Rebel** by Marie Lu

Respect the Legend. Idolize the Prodigy. Celebrate the Champion. But never underestimate the Rebel.

With unmatched suspense and her signature cinematic storytelling, #1 *New York Times*-bestselling author Marie Lu plunges readers back into the unforgettable world of Legend for a truly grand finale.

**Other Books in the Series: Legend, Prodigy and Champion**

#### **Pashmina** by Nidhi Chanani

Priyanka Das has so many unanswered questions: Why did her mother abandon her home in India years ago? What was it like there? And most importantly, who was her father, and why did her mom leave him behind? But Pri's mom avoids these questions - the topic of India is permanently closed. That is until she finds a mysterious pashmina tucked away in a forgotten suitcase. When she wraps herself in it, she is transported to a place that is vivid and colorful. But is this the real India? Graphic novel.

#### **Six of Crows** by Leigh Bardugo

Set in the same world as the Grisha trilogy, a group of six outcasts take a chance on a deadly heist that will make them rich - if they survive. First book in the series.

**Other Books in the Series: Crooked Kingdom**

#### **DC Icons Catwoman: Soulstealer** by Sarah J Maas

Two years after escaping Gotham City's slums, Selina Kyle returns as the mysterious and wealthy Holly Vanderhees. She quickly discovers that with Batman off on a vital mission, Gotham city looks ripe for the taking.

**Other Books in the Series: Batman: Nightwalker by Marie Lu, Wonder Woman:**

**Warbringer by Leigh Bardugo, Superman: Dawnbreaker by Matt de la Pena**

#### **Renegades** by Marissa Meyer

The Renegades are a syndicate of prodigies - humans with extraordinary abilities - who emerged from the ruins of a crumbled society and established peace and order where chaos reigned.

**Other Books in the Series: Archenemies and Supernova**

#### **Red Queen** by Victoria Aveyard

Seventeen year old Mare Barrow's life is determined by blood color. Red serves the Silver, a genetically gifted group of people with supernatural abilities. After a chance encounter with a prince, she discovers she is Red and Silver, and could be just the spark to start a rebellion against the oppression.

**Other Books in the Series: The Glass Sword, King's Cage, War Storm**

#### **Miles Morales: Spider-Man (A Marvel Novel)** by Jason Reynolds

Brooklyn Visions Academy student Miles Morales may not always want to be a super hero, but he must come to terms with his identity - and deal with a villainous teacher - as the new Spider Man.

### HISTORICAL FICTION

#### **The Downstairs Girl** by Stacey Lu

In Atlantes in 1890, Jo Kuan is the anonymous author of the column "Miss Sweetie." This advice column is incredibly popular but it also challenges its readers about race and gender.

## **Fountains of Silence** by Ruta Septys

Daniel Matheson is visiting Spain with his parents from Texas. It is during the Franco era. Daniel wants to take pictures of what's happening there. While staying at the Hilton, Daniel will fall for one of the Spanish maids - Ana.

## **Nine, Ten: A September 11 Story** by Nora Raleigh Baskin

A few days before September 11, 2001, four kids in different parts of the country are going about their lives. These four do not know one another, but their lives are about to intersect in ways they could never have imagined.

## **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.

## **Rebound** by Kwame Alexander

Prequel to *The Crossover*. In the summer of 1988, twelve-year-old Chuck Bell is sent to stay with his grandparents, where he discovers jazz and basketball and learns more about his family's past.

## **The Breadwinner: A Graphic Novel** by Deborah Ellis

This beautiful graphic novel adaptation of *The Breadwinner* tell the story of eleven-year-old Parvana who must disguise herself as a boy to support her family during the Taliban's rule in Afghanistan. Graphic novel.

## **Alex & Eliza: A Love Story** by Melissa De La Cruz

When Alex and Eliza meet one fateful night, so brings an epic love story that would forever change the course of American History.

## **Wolf Hollow** by Lauren Wolk

In a small Pennsylvania town during WWII, Anabelle confronts a bully but finds that a troubled WWI veteran is the new target.

## **The Inquisitor's Tale, or, the Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog** by Adam Gidwitz

In 1242, travelers cross paths at an Inn and begin to tell stories of three children who are said to be able to perform miracles of saints. William, Jacob and Jeanne chase through France trying to save precious holy texts from being burned. They're taken captive by knights, sit alongside a king and save the land from a farting dragon, accompanied by Jeanne's greyhound, recently brought back from the dead.

## H O R R O R

### **Lockwood & Co. Book One: The Screaming Staircase** by Jonathan Stroud

The plucky and talented Lucy Carlyle teams up with Anthony Lockwood, the charismatic leader of Lockwood & Co, a small agency that runs independent of any adult supervision.

**Other Books in the Series: The Whispering Skull, The Hollow Boy, The Dagger in the Desk, The Creeping Shadow, The Empty Grave**

### **The Charmed Children of Rookskill Castle** by Janet Fox

During WWII, to escape the London Blitz, Katherine and her siblings are sent to a crumbling Scottish estate that's been turned into a boarding house where mysterious things are happening.

## **Guys Read: Terrifying Tales** by Jon Scieszka

Ten stories by a variety of well known scary storywriters.

### MYSTERY

#### **Time Bomb** by Joelle Charbonneau

Six students are trapped in their school after a bomb goes off and must fight to survive while discovering who among them is the bomber.

#### **Theodore Boone: The Accomplice** by John Grisham

Theo has been worried about his good friend Woody Lambert. Woody is struggling at school and making bad choices. But when Woody is arrested-an unwitting accomplice to armed robbery-Theo knows he is innocent. Racing against the clock while Woody sits in jail, Theo will do everything in his power to help his friend and save Woody from an unforgiving system where justice is not always equal for all.

**Other Books in the Series: Kid Lawyer, The Abduction, The Accused, The Activist, The Fugitive, The Scandal**

#### **Truly Devious** by Maureen Johnson

New at Ellington Academy, Stevie Bell tries to both solve a murder at campus and the cold case of a double kidnapping.

**Other Books in the Series: The Vanishing Stair and The Hand on the Wall**

#### **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 Kilmartin, turned up dead in the Buttle family's orchard. An investigation drags on, and Mason, honest as the day is long, can't understand why Lieutenant Baird won't believe the story Mason has told about that day.

#### **A Study in Charlotte: A Charlotte Holmes Novel** by Brittany Cavallaro

The great-great-great grandchildren of Holmes and Watson attend the same private boarding school in New England and are framed for murder of another student.

**Other Books in the Series: The Last of August and The Case for Jamie**

#### **Take the Key and Lock Her Up (Embassy Row Book Three)** by Ally Carter

For the past three years, Grace Blakely has been desperate to find out the truth about her mother's murder. She thought it would bring her peace. She thought it would lead her to answers. She thought she could put the past to rest. But the truth has only made her a target. Final book in the series.

**Other Books in the Series: All Fall Down, See How They Run**

### REALISTIC FICTION

#### **A Good Kind of Trouble** by Lisa Moore Ramee

Shayla is a twelve-year-old girl allergic to trouble. All she wants to do is follow the rules. But in junior high, it's like all the rules have changed.

#### **Stargazing** by Jen Wang

Moon is everything Christine isn't. She's confident, impulsive, artistic,,and though they both grew up in the same Chinese American suburb, Moon is somehow unlike anyone Christine has ever known. But after Moon moves in next door, these unlikely friends are soon best friends. Moon even tells Christine her deepest secret: that she has visions, sometimes of celestial beings that speak to her from the stars. Graphic novel.

## **New Kid** by Jerry Craft

Seventh grade Jordan Banks stars in an honest graphic novel about starting over at a new school where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real.

## **Look Both Way: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks** by Jason Reynolds

This story is going to begin like all the best stories. With a school bus falling from the sky, But no one saw it happen. They were all too busy.

## **The Bridge Home** by Padma Venkatraman

Four determined homeless children make a life for themselves in Chennai, India.

## **I Can Make This Promise** by Christine Day

All her life, Edie has known that her mom was adopted by a white couple. So, no matter how curious she might be about her Native American heritage, Edie is sure her family doesn't have any answers.

## **Other Words For Home** by Jasmine Warga

Written in free-verse we travel with Jude and her mother as they leave Syria and travel to Cincinnati to live with her uncle. Jude's emotions go up and down as she learns a new language, experiences Islamophobia, and new family dynamics.

## **Amal Unbound** by Aisha Saeed

Life is quiet and ordinary in Amal's Pakistani village, but she had no complaints, and besides, she is busy pursuing her dream of becoming a teacher one day. Her dreams are temporarily dashed when - as the eldest daughter - she must stay home from school to take care of her siblings. Amal is upset, but she doesn't lose hope and finds ways to continue learning, until the unimaginable happens.

## **Blended** by Sharon M Draper

Eleven-year-old Isabella's parents are divorced, so she has to switch lives every week. Being split between Mom and Dad is more than switching houses, switching nicknames, switching backpacks: it's also about switching identities. Her dad is black and her mom is white. What does it mean to be half white and half black? To belong to half mom and half dad? And if you are only seen as half of this and half of that, how can you ever feel whole?

## **Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus** by Dusti Bowling

Aven Green loves to tell people that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match, or a wildfire in Tanzania, but the truth is she was born without them. And when her parents take a job running Stagecoach Pass, a rundown western theme park in Arizona, Aven moves with them across the country knowing that she will have to answer the question over and over again.

## **Harbor Me** by Jacqueline Woodson

When six students are chosen to participate in a weekly talk with no adults allowed, they discover that when they are together, it is safe to share the hopes and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world.

## **Clayton Byrd Goes Underground** by Rita Williams-Garcia

Clayton feels most alive when he is with his grandfather, Cool Papa Byrd, and the band of Bluesmen-he can't wait to join them, just as soon as he has a blues song of his own. When his grandfather dies and his mother forbids him from playing the blues, he runs away to the subways to join a band.

## **Lu (Track Series Book 4)** by Jason Reynolds

Lu must learn to leave his ego on the sidelines if he wants to finally connect with others on the track team.

**Other Books in the Series:** *Ghost*, *Patina*, *Sunny*

## **All's Faire in Middle School** by Victoria Jamieson

Homeschooled by Renaissance Fair enthusiasts, eleven-year-old Imogene has a hard time fitting in when her wish to enroll in public school is granted. Graphic novel.

## **Goodbye Stranger** by Rebecca Stead

Long ago, best friends Bridge, Emily, and Tab made a pact: no fighting. But it's the start of seventh grade, and everything is changing. Emily is attracting attention and Tab is suddenly a member of the Human Rights Club. And then there's Bridge. She's started wearing cat ears and is the only one who's still tempted to draw funny cartoons on her homework.

## **The Crossover** by Kwame Alexander

Told in verse. Twins and star basketball players, Josh and Jordan, must deal with basketball season, girls and the failing health of their father, a former ball player.

## SCIENCE FICTION

### **Carve the Mark** by Veronica Roth

Globally bestselling *Divergent* author Veronica Roth delivers a breathtaking fantasy featuring an unusual friendship, an epic love story, and a galaxy-sweeping adventure.

**Other Books in the Series:** *Fates Divide*

### **Warcross** by Marie Lu

When teenage coder Emika Chen hacks her way into the opening tournament of the Warcross Championships, she glitches herself into the game as well as a sinister plot with major consequences for the entire Warcross empire.

**Other Books in the Series:** *Wildcard*

### **The Lunar Chronicles Book Four: Winter** by Marissa Meyer

Final book in the Lunar Chronicles series. Can Cinder, Scarlet, Cress, and Winter defeat Levana and find their happily ever afters?

**Other Books in the Series:** *Scarlet*, *Cress*, *Fairest*, *Stars Above*

### **The Diabolic** by S.J. Kincaid

*Red Queen* meets *The Hunger Games*. What happens when the galaxy's most deadly weapon masquerades as a senator's daughter and a hostage of the galactic court? A Diabolic is ruthless. A Diabolic is powerful. A Diabolic is powerful. A Diabolic has a single task - kill in order to protect the person you have been created for.

### **Redeemed (The Missing Book Eight)** by Margaret Peterson Haddix

In the eighth and final book of *The Missing* series, Jonah's new twin must time travel and face off against his siblings' worst enemy in order to save the future—and his family.

**Other Books in the Series:** *Found*, *Sent*, *Sabotaged*, *Torn*, *Caught*, *Risked*, *Revealed*

## INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

### **They Called Us Enemy** by George Takei

George Takei has never been quiet about his family's interment during WWII. This graphic novel tells the story from Takei's perspective as a young child. It does include all the historical facts and figures showing this time in history as the black eye it was.

### **The Undeclared** by Kwame Alexander

Originally performed for ESPN's *The Undeclared*, this poem is a love letter to black life in the United States.

### **Becoming RBG: Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Journey to Justice** by Debbie Levy

Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is a modern feminist icon—a leader in the fight for equal treatment of girls and women in society and the workplace. She blazed trails to the peaks of the male-centric worlds of education and law, where women had rarely risen before. *Graphic novel.*

### **One Person, No Vote (Young Reader's Edition)** by Carol Anderson

In this young reader's edition, Anderson takes a look at voting rights and racial discrimination. It will take you up to the current election of this president.

### **Rising Water: The Story of the Thai Cave** by Marc Aronson

This is the story of the twelve boys and their soccer coach that were rescued from a cave in Thailand. This book includes photos and notes.

### **Proud: Living My American Dream** by Ibtihaj Muhammad

An autobiography of the Olympic fencer, Ibtihaj Muhammad, and how she became the first American woman to compete in the Olympics wearing a hijab.

### **The Grand Escape: The Greatest Prison Breakout of the 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Survivor's Club: The True Story of a Very Young Prisoner of Auschwitz** by Michael Bornstein

The incredible true story of Michael Bornstein - who at age four was one of the youngest children to be liberated from Auschwitz - and of his family.

### **I Remember: Poems and Pictures of Heritage** by Lee Bennett Hopkins (editor)

From the joyous to the poignant, poems by award-winning, diverse poets are paired with images by celebrated illustrators from similar backgrounds to pay homage to what is both unique and universal about growing up in the United States.

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

In 1956, one year before federal troops escorted the Little Rock 9 into Central High School, fourteen-year-old Jo Ann Allen was one of the twelve African American students who broke the color barrier and integrated Clinton High School in Tennessee. This is the story of her four months thrust into the national spotlight and as a trailblazer of history.