

# Summer Reading 2024



June 2024

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. We recommend students use sticky notes or take notes to engage more deeply with their reading. Although there is no specific summer assignment to respond to the books, teachers may ask students to respond to their summer reading when they return to school in September.

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 [Dobbs Ferry Public Library](#) 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 [here](#) for more information. Continuing students can also see if books are available online through [Sora](#).

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 gives students the opportunity to choose what they would like to learn and how they would like to show their learning.

Happy reading!

Best wishes,

Ellen Elsen  
Library Media Specialist

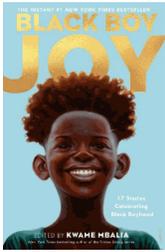
Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek  
K-8 Literacy Coordinator

The Language and Literature Department at DFMS (Lisa Alfonzetti, Claudia Ducic, Ed Feller, Christine Grenier, Melissa Gretczko, Rachael Lief, Denise Rivera, and Jill Rosenblum)

**Dobbs Ferry Middle School**  
**Suggested Summer Reading for Seventh Grade**  
**Summer 2024**

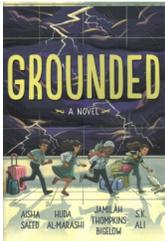
Students are expected to read any three books this summer, although we hope you will choose to read all summer. Books may be chosen from the suggestions below, but you are not limited to this list.

**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. ★4 starred reviews



**Grounded** by Aisha Saeed, Huda Al-Marashi, Jamilah thompkins-Bigelow, & S.K. Ali

Four unlikely kids' lives are changed forever when their flight is grounded by weather following a Muslim convention. Told in alternating points of view.



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

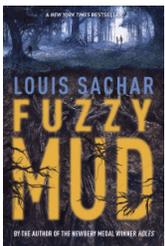
This collection showcases the most brilliant Muslim voices writing today, all about the most joyful holiday of the year: Eid! ★5 starred reviews



**You Are Here: Connecting Flights**, edited by Ellen Oh

Twelve young Asians Americans cross paths, meeting challenges and victories, in a busy airport. ★5 starred reviews

**Action, Adventure & Mystery**



**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. ★3 starred reviews



### **I Am Princess X** by Cherie Priest

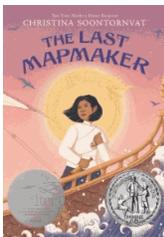
Years after writing stories about a superheroine character she created with a best friend who died in a tragic car accident, sixteen-year-old May is shocked to see stickers, patches and graffiti images of the superheroine appearing all over town. ★3 starred reviews



### **The Inheritance Games** by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

A Connecticut teenager inherits vast wealth and an estate from the richest man in Texas, but she must also live with his surviving family and solve a series of puzzles to discover how she earned her inheritance. (Other books in series: *The Hawthorne Legacy*, *The Final Gambit*, *The Brothers Hawthorne*)

★2 starred reviews

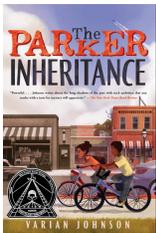


### **The Last Mapmaker** by Christina Soontornvat

Joining an expedition to chart the southern seas, twelve-year-old mapmaker's assistant Sai, posing as a well-bred young lady with a glittering future, realizes she's not the only one on board harboring secrets when she discovers the ship's true destination. ★3 starred reviews 🏆 Newbery Honor Book

Book trailer:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gma6WHCcUAP8TnS6fbNXXxD3QNR41TIw/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gma6WHCcUAP8TnS6fbNXXxD3QNR41TIw/view?usp=share_link)



### **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.

★5 starred reviews 🏆 Coretta Scott King Author Honor

Author speaking about the book:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1g6yVw1HyDpkE2i6FyYcGNY4Sg6KiIncm/view?usp=sharing>



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

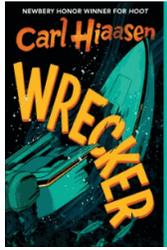
An epic adventure set in a richly imaged world populated with African American folk heroes and West African gods. Seventh-grader Tristan Strong tumbles into the MidPass and, with allies John Henry and Brer Rabbit, must entice the god Anansi to come out of hiding and seal the hole Tristan accidentally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

★5 starred reviews



### **What Happened to Rachel Riley?** by Claire Swinarski

Anna Hunt may be the new girl at East Middle School, but she can already tell there's something off about her eighth-grade class. Rachel Riley, formerly one of the most popular girls in school, has become a social outcast. But no one, including Rachel Riley herself, will tell Anna why. As a die-hard podcast enthusiast, Anna knows there's always more to a story than meets the eye. So she decides to put her fact-seeking skills to the test and create her own podcast around the question that won't stop running through her head: What happened to Rachel Riley? ★2 starred reviews



### **Wrecker** by Carl Hiaasen

When fifteen-year-old Valdez Jones VIII, a.k.a. Wrecker, unwittingly becomes entangled with a group of smugglers and grave robbers, he must deep dive into their shady dealings in order to escape their twisted net. ★1 starred review

Book trailer:

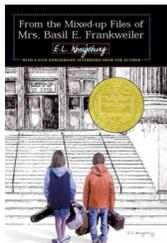
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fYZRfMXfTOYaTXKf-sk90luHpQtFmV7s/view?usp=sharing>

## **Classics**



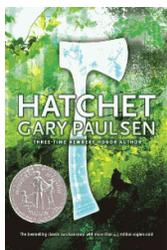
### **Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret.** by Judy Blume

Faced with the difficulties of growing up and choosing a religion, a twelve-year-old girl talks over her problems with her own private God.



### **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



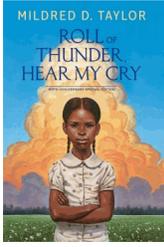
### **Hatchet** by Gary Paulsen

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



### **Little Women** by Louisa May Alcott

This book chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young ladies in nineteenth-century New England. (Other books in series: *Good Wives*, *Little Men*, *Aunt Jo's Scrap-Bag*, and *Jo's Boys*)



**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*)

🏆 Newbery Medal

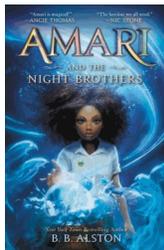


**A Wrinkle in Time** by Madeleine L'Engle

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*) 🏆 Newbery Medal

**Fantasy, Dystopia & Science Fiction**



**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. (Sequel: *Amari and the Great Game*) ★4 starred reviews

Book trailer:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pmC1ayOmHk0ppE1xHh-7oe2HyhAVi4VA/view?usp=sharing>



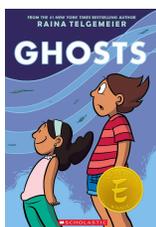
**Elatsoe** by Darcie Little Badger

Elatsoe lives in an alternate contemporary America shaped by the ancestral magics and knowledge of its Indigenous and immigrant groups. She can raise the spirits of dead animals—most importantly, her ghost dog Kirby. When her beloved cousin dies, all signs point to a car crash, but his ghost tells her otherwise: He was murdered. Who killed him and how did he die? With the help of her family, her best friend Jay, and the memory of great, great, great, great, great, great grandmother, Elatsoe must track down the killer and unravel the mystery of this creepy town and its dark past.

★3 starred reviews

Author speaking about the book:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/13eth\\_T-l7gm7Xa39RDkMPwgp5T67NasM/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/13eth_T-l7gm7Xa39RDkMPwgp5T67NasM/view?usp=sharing)



**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.

★4 starred reviews

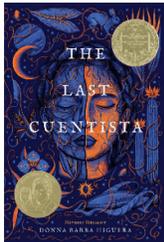
Book Trailer:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gwOz33nljXEEDjtzZQJXiL205PXA9GYw/view?usp=sharing>



### **The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea** by Axie Oh

In this retelling of the Korean legend The Tale of Shim Cheong, sixteen-year-old Mina is swept away to the Spirit Realm, where, assisted by a motley crew of demons, gods, and lesser spirits, she sets out to awaken the sleeping Sea God and save her homeland and family from deadly storms.



### **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 🏆 Newbery Medal & Pura Belpré Author Award

Author speaking about the book:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15HH98QO5faZYZfVKivdsE7RYHnhDLeHK/view?usp=sharing>



### **The Manifestor Prophecy (Nic Blake and the Remarkables)** by Angie Thomas

Thomas

All Nic Blake wants is to be a powerful Manifestor like her dad. But before she has a chance to convince him to teach her the gift, a series of shocking revelations and terrifying events launch Nic and two friends on a hunt for a powerful magic tool she's never heard of so she can save her father from imprisonment for a crime she refuses to believe he committed. ★3 starred reviews

Book trailer:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Aw2d0mrIQTo5E6a930Yu568Lz3GeUhrY/view?usp=sharing>



### **The Ogress and the Orphans** by Kelly Barnhill

When a child goes missing from the Orphan House in the town of Stone-in-the-Glen, the mayor suggests the kindly Ogress is responsible, but the orphans do not believe that and try to make their deluded neighbors see the real villain among them. ★4 starred reviews 🏆 National Book Award Finalist

Book trailer:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/11G5i-PQpmdqguZSSyxZI27YSxxQwTIQR/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11G5i-PQpmdqguZSSyxZI27YSxxQwTIQR/view?usp=share_link)

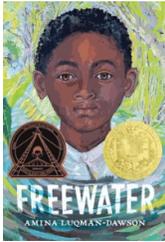


### **Warcross** by Marie Lu

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.

(Sequel: *Wildcard*) ★3 starred reviews

## **Historical Fiction**

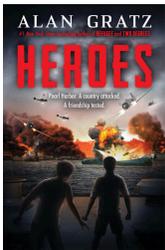


### **Freewater** by Amina Luqman-Dawson

After fleeing the plantation where they were enslaved, siblings Ada and Homer discover the secret community of Freewater, and work with freeborn Sanzi to protect their new home from the encroaching dangers of the outside world. ★3 starred reviews 🏆 Newbery Medal & Coretta Scott King Author Award

Author speaking about the book:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/10pZJA4\\_4eYItxs2zl7oywiKNH7pc5J\\_B/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/10pZJA4_4eYItxs2zl7oywiKNH7pc5J_B/view?usp=share_link)



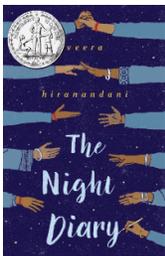
### **Heroes** by Alan Gratz

December 6, 1941: Best friends Frank and Stanley have it good. Their dads are Navy pilots stationed at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, and the boys get a front-row view of the huge battleships and the sparkling water. Yes, World War II is raging in Europe and in Asia, but the US isn't involved in the war.

December 7th, 1941: Everything explodes. That morning, Frank and Stanley are aboard the battleship the USS Utah when Japanese planes zoom overhead and begin dropping bombs on the ships below. Chaos ensues as everyone scrambles to dive for safety. As the boys fight to make their way home amidst the carnage, it's clear that everything has changed. ★1 starred review

Book trailer:

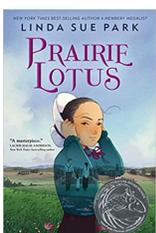
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YIEwoUvc2M1OKoYOCLjenR88JpRhZ\\_CI/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YIEwoUvc2M1OKoYOCLjenR88JpRhZ_CI/view?usp=sharing)



### **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. (Sequel: *Amil and the After*) ★4 starred reviews

🏆 Newbery Honor book



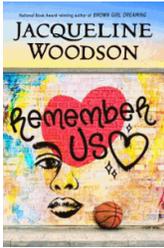
### **Prairie Lotus** by Linda Sue Park

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. ★5 starred reviews

🏆 Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature Honor book

### One Minute Book Review:

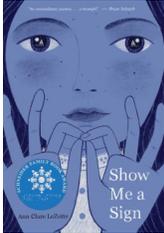
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xQ\\_6BssrFlbw6nQ8M-87Q3VZLulgcnlp/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xQ_6BssrFlbw6nQ8M-87Q3VZLulgcnlp/view?usp=sharing)



#### **Remember Us** by Jacqueline Woodson

The summer before seventh grade, as the constant threat of housefires looms over her Brooklyn neighborhood, basketball-loving Sage is trying to figure out her place in her circle of friends, when a new kid named Freddy moves in.

★5 starred reviews



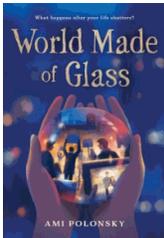
#### **Show Me a Sign** by Ann Clare LeZotte

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. (Other books in series: *Set Me Free*, *Sail Me Away Home*)

★5 starred reviews 🧡 Schneider Family Book Award

Author speaking about the book:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rnD0LuKptFayfoA7w\\_F9phThR\\_McthQq/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rnD0LuKptFayfoA7w_F9phThR_McthQq/view?usp=sharing)



#### **World Made of Glass** by Ami Polonsky

Iris opens her eyes to hard truths and the power of her voice when her father dies of AIDS in 1987. ★4 starred reviews

## **Horror**



#### **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*)

★1 starred review

Video book review:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H8eBspymYI8312w-5xsuZ76X5Ep3rncw/view?usp=sharing>



**Guest: A Changeling Tale** by Mary Downing Hahn

Young Mollie traverses eerie, perilous lands to retrieve her baby brother, Thomas, from the Kinde Folke, malicious sprites who snatched him and left a hideous changeling in his place.

Book trailer:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11CTGwe-kh17AN1QMerzdtAXfEvpB4mYw/view?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. ★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.

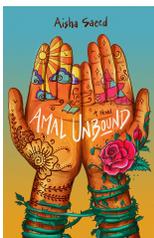
★3 starred reviews



**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

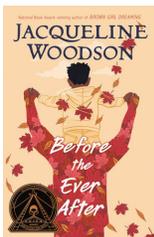
## Realistic Fiction



**Amal Unbound** by Aisha Saeed

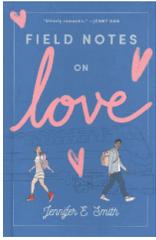
In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family. (Sequel: *Omar Rising*)

★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. Novel in verse. ★5 starred reviews 🏳️‍🌈 Coretta Scott King Author Honor

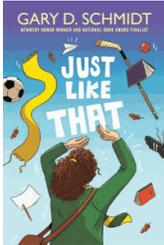


### **Field Notes on Love** by Jennifer E. Smith

Two teens, Hugo and Mae, are strangers until they share a cross-country train trip that teaches them about love, each other, and the futures they can build for themselves. ★1 starred review

Book trailer:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JS3LtfXBbeUiCjrBEmU2Zd6bF-eyQCfD/view?usp=sharing>



### **Just Like That** by Gary D. Schmidt

Following the death of her closest friend in summer 1968, Meryl Lee Kowalski goes off to St. Elene's Preparatory Academy for Girls, where she struggles to navigate the venerable boarding school's traditions and a social structure heavily weighted toward students from wealthy backgrounds. In a parallel story, Matt Coffin has wound up on the Maine coast near St. Elene's with a pillowcase full of money lifted from the leader of a criminal gang, fearing the gang's relentless, destructive pursuit. Both young people gradually dispel their loneliness, finding a way to be hopeful and also finding each other. ★4 starred reviews

One Minute Book Review:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hizDpcRxN4OzA9e8noj6kWRZLycLajxk/view?usp=sharing>

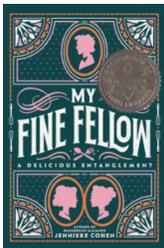


### **Maizy Chen's Last Chance** by Lisa Yee

Eleven-year-old Maizy Chen visits her estranged grandparents, who own and run a Chinese restaurant in Last Chance, Minnesota. As her visit lengthens, she makes unexpected discoveries about her family's history and herself. ★2 starred reviews 🏆 Newbery Honor Book & Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature

Author reading first chapter:

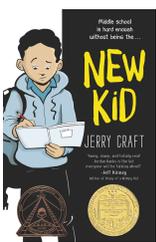
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uV3W0z2FRefbyi5Nj7X0iHCHhgE2zlkH/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uV3W0z2FRefbyi5Nj7X0iHCHhgE2zlkH/view?usp=share_link)



### **My Fine Fellow** by Jennieke Cohen

In 1830s England, where the Culinarians, who create gorgeous food and confections, are the crème de la crème of high society, three individuals combine forces to pull off a delectable caper that will bring them fame, fortune, and a little romance, in a gender-reversed reimagining of "My Fair Lady."

★2 starred reviews 🏆 Sydney Taylor Book Honor



### **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 🏆 Newbery Medal & Coretta Scott King Author Award

Author speaking about the book:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/18qSKxzw65uCFGCEu51WtEPab\\_yqRwvA/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18qSKxzw65uCFGCEu51WtEPab_yqRwvA/view?usp=sharing)



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

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. Maybe America, too, is a place where Jude can be seen as she really is. Novel in verse. ★5 starred reviews 🏆 Newbery Honor

One Minute Book Review:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KW-q6FCj7K\\_n1Xf3uzmDMa7O4eGs8Q3I/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KW-q6FCj7K_n1Xf3uzmDMa7O4eGs8Q3I/view?usp=sharing)



### **Rain Is Not My Indian Name** by Cynthia Leitich Smith

Tired of staying in seclusion since the death of her best friend, a fourteen-year-old Native American girl takes on a photographic assignment with her local newspaper to cover events at the Native American summer youth camp.

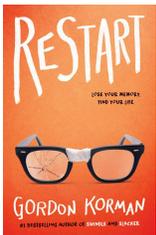


### **The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise** by Dan Gemeinhart

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. (Sequel: *Coyote Lost and Found*) ★1 starred review

Book trailer:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/19cSWMMkne2-qw7HDZtBk3AKi1RfbWAtA/view?usp=sharing>



### **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. ★2 starred reviews

Author speaking about the book:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gl3zhSqF0PUgCk4fmV5oFzgvubMkEAtQ/view?usp=sharing>



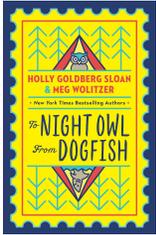
### **The Stars Beneath Our Feet** by David Barclay Moore

A boy tries to steer a safe path through the projects in Harlem in the wake of his brother's death. ★5 starred reviews



**Starfish** by Lisa Fipps

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 allies. Novel in verse. ★4 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. ★1 starred review

Book trailer:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1i20UfvGgPonZYh19LbwSiaS\\_ava7ceyb/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1i20UfvGgPonZYh19LbwSiaS_ava7ceyb/view?usp=sharing)



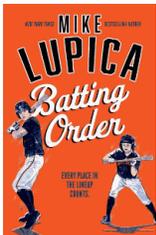
**Wink** by Rob Harrell

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. ★4 starred reviews

Author speaking about the book:

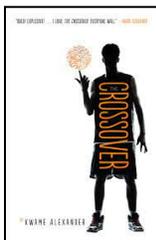
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n8yp7XJ0vMo7N\\_txRQMbz-fNSJ9BsuBC/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n8yp7XJ0vMo7N_txRQMbz-fNSJ9BsuBC/view?usp=sharing)

**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



**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*)

★5 starred reviews



### **Swim Team** by Johnnie Christmas

Bree can't wait for her first day at her new middle school, Enith Brigitha, home to the Mighty Manatees--until she's stuck with the only elective that fits her schedule, the dreaded Swim 101. The thought of swimming makes Bree more than a little queasy, yet she's forced to dive headfirst into one of her greatest fears. Lucky for her, Etta, an elderly occupant of her apartment building and former swim team captain, is willing to help. Graphic novel. ★4 starred reviews  
🏆 National Book Award Finalist & Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor

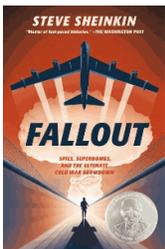
## **Informational Texts/Biographies/Memoirs**



### **Buzzkill: A Wild Wander through the Weird and Threatened World of Bugs**

by Brenna Maloney

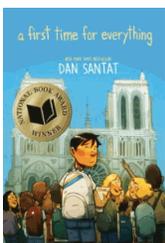
Insects play a critical role on our planet, from sustenance to pollination to medicines and more. The author tackles both the wacky and weird, as well as threats to insects and their habitats, their possible extinction, and ways that everyday people, like you, can prevent their decline. ★4 starred reviews



### **Fallout: Spies, Superbombs, and the Ultimate Cold War Showdown** by Steve Sheinkin

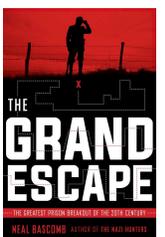
As World War II comes to a close, the United States and the Soviet Union emerge as the two world superpowers. After the United States shows its hand with the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, the Soviets refuse to be left behind. With communism sweeping the globe, the two nations begin a neck-and-neck competition to build even more destructive bombs and conquer the Space Race. In their battle for dominance, spy planes fly above, armed submarines swim deep below, and undercover agents meet in the dead of night. The decades-long showdown culminates in the Cuban Missile Crisis, the world's close call with the third-and final-world war.

★3 starred reviews 🏆 Robert F. Silbert Informational Book Honor



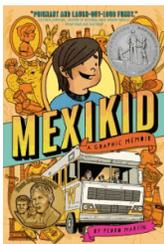
### **A First Time for Everything** by Dan Santat

In this feel-good coming-of-age memoir, the best-selling author and Caldecott Medalist shares his life-changing middle school trip to Europe during which he experiences a series of firsts, including first love. Graphic memoir. ★4 starred reviews  
🏆 National Book Award for Young People's Literature



### **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. ★3 starred reviews

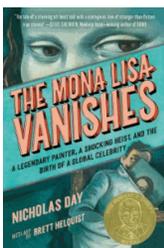


### **MexiKid** by Pedro Martin

Pedro Martin's grown up in the U.S. hearing stories about his legendary abuelito. During a family road trip to Mexico, he connects with his grandfather and learns more about his own Mexican identity. Graphic memoir. ★3 starred reviews 🏆 Newbery Honor Book and Pura Belpré Author and Illustrator Award

Book trailer:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XCEG-meAPTHHYRspPtz-X9JjOp88CENq/view?usp=sharing>

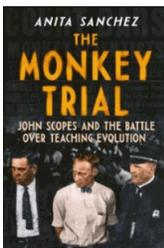


### **The Mona Lisa Vanishes: A Legendary Painter, a Shocking Heist, and the Birth of a Global Celebrity** by Nicholas Day

A narrative nonfiction about how the Mona Lisa was stolen from the Louvre, how the robbery made the portrait the most famous artwork in the world-and how the painting by Leonardo da Vinci should never have existed at all. ★3 starred reviews 🏆 Robert F. Silbert Informational Book Winner

Video book review:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ND8QvjpS7QIzH4iGM6a6\\_MBN68iXTkrr/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ND8QvjpS7QIzH4iGM6a6_MBN68iXTkrr/view?usp=sharing)



### **The Monkey Trial: John Scopes and the Battle over Teaching Evolution**

by Anita Sanchez

An in-depth examination of the dramatic 1925 “Monkey Trial,” which pitted science against religion as a teacher fought to teach his students about evolution, shows how this trial still reverberates a hundred years later.

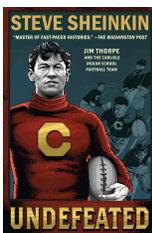
★3 starred reviews



### **Revolution in Our Time: The Black Panther Party’s Promise to the People** by Kekla Magoon

In this comprehensive history of the Black Panther Party, Magoon introduces readers to the Panthers' community activism, grounded in the concept of self-defense, which taught Black Americans how to protect and support themselves in a country that treated them like second-class citizens. For too long the Panthers' story has been a footnote to the civil rights movement rather than what it was: a revolutionary socialist movement that drew thousands of members--mostly women--and became the target of one of the most sustained repression efforts ever made by the U.S. government against its own citizens.

Author speaking about the book: <https://vimeo.com/527321243>



### **Undeclared: 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>

**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)*