

# Summer Reading 2023



June 2023

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 [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. 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

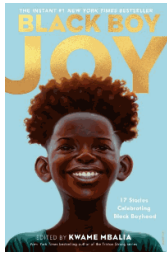
Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek  
K-8 Literacy Coordinator

The Language and Literature Department at DFMS (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 2023**

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. 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. ★4 starred reviews



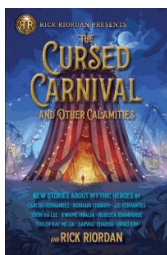
**Flying Lessons & Other Stories**, edited by Ellen Oh

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, Tim Tingle, and Jacqueline Woodson. ★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

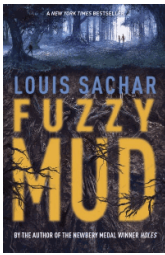


**Cursed Carnival and Other Calamities: New Stories About Mythic Heroes**, edited by Rick Riordan

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. ★2 starred reviews

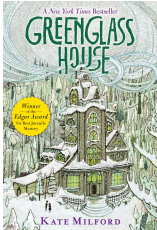


## **Action, Adventure & Mystery**



### **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



### **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*)

★3 starred reviews

One Minute Book Review:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10dbyowGxsQEKpApiqkRTXE0NfvtS149/view?usp=sharing>



### **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:

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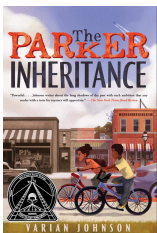
### **Northwind by Gary Paulsen**

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:

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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.

★5 starred reviews 🏆 Coretta Scott King Author Honor

Author speaking about the book:

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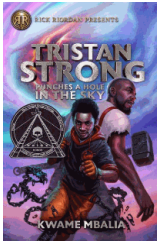


**The Serpent's Secret** by Sayantani DasGupta

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*) ★2 starred reviews

Book trailer:

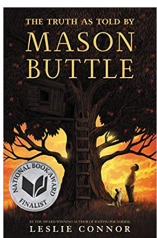
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**Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky** by Kwame Mbalia

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



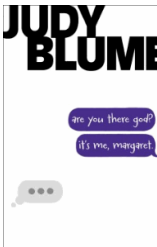
**The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle** by Leslie Connor

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. ★3 starred reviews 🧡 Schneider Family Book Award

One Minute Book review:

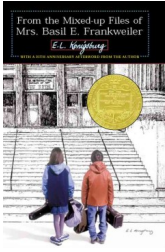
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## Classics



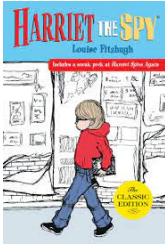
**Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret.** by Judy Blume

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.



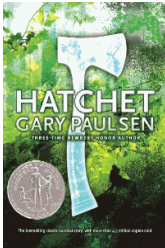
**From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler** by E.L. Konigsburg  
Having run away with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, twelve-year-old Claudia strives to keep things in order in their new home and to become a changed person and a heroine to herself.

🏆 Newbery Medal



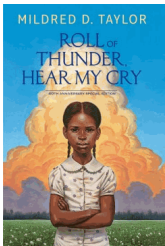
**Harriet the Spy** by Louise Fitzhugh

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*)

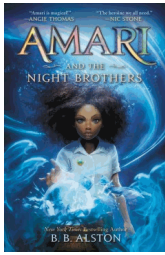
🏆 Newbery Medal



**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:

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### **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. (Sequel: *Tiger Honor*)

★3 starred reviews



### **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:

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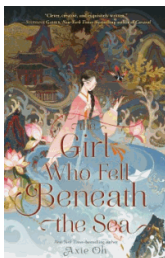
### **Ghosts** by Raina Telgemeier

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.

★4 starred reviews

Book trailer:

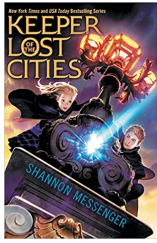
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### **The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea** by Axie Oh

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.



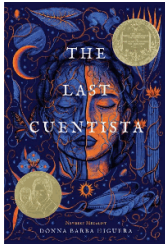


### **Keeper of the Lost Cities** by Shannon Messenger

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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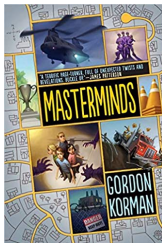
### **The Last Cuentista** by Donna Barba Higuera

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

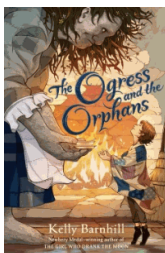
Author speaking about the book:

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### **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



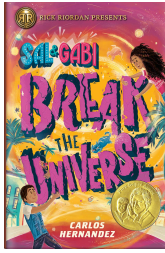
### **The Ogress and the Orphans** by Kelly Barnhill

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

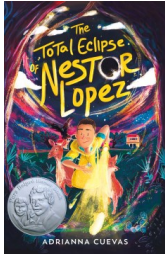
Book trailer:

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**Sal and Gabi Break the Universe** by Carlos Hernandez

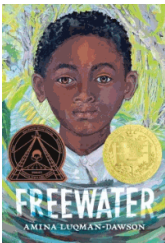
In order to heal after his mother's death, thirteen-year-old Sal learns to reach into time and space to retrieve things--and people--from other universes. (Sequel: *Sal and Gabi Fix the Universe*) ★4 starred reviews 🏳️ Pura Belpré Author Winner



**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. 🏳️ Pura Belpré Author Award

## Historical Fiction

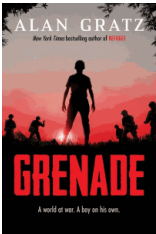


**Freewater** by Amina Luqman-Dawson

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:

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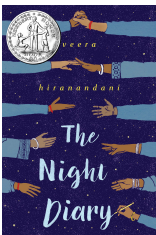


**Grenade** by Alan Gratz

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. ★2 starred reviews

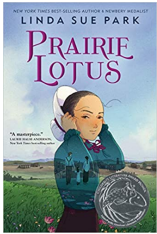
Author speaking about the book:

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**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. ★4 starred reviews 🏳️ Newbery Honor book

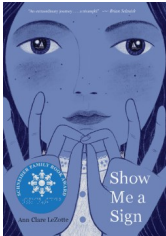


### **Prairie Lotus** by Linda Sue Park

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:

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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 🏆 Schneider Family Book Award

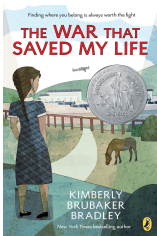
Author speaking about the book:

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### **Room to Dream** by Kelly Yang

After years of hard work, Mia Tang finally gets to go on vacation with her family--to China! A total dream come true. Mia can't wait to see all her cousins and grandparents again, especially her cousin Shen. As she roams around Beijing, witnessing some of the big changes China's going through, Mia thinks about the changes in her own life. (Other books in series: *Front Desk*, *Three Keys*, *Key Player*) ★2 starred reviews



### **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 🏆 Newbery Honor

## **Horror**



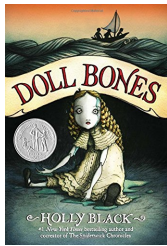
### **Bloom** by Kenneth Oppel

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:

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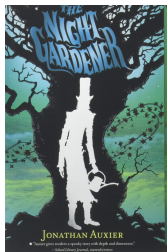


**Doll Bones** by Holly Black

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. ★6 starred reviews 🟡 Newbery Honor book

Book trailer:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aD7fKKsYOTXuEOaVQBCMRMgjy8z5Pkqw/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

## **Humor**



**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. ★3 starred reviews

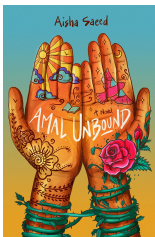


**To Night Owl from Dogfish** by Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer  
 Unhappy about being sent to the same summer camp after their fathers start dating, Bett and Avery, eleven, eventually begin scheming to get the couple back together after a break-up. Told entirely through emails. ★ 1 starred review  
Book trailer:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1i20UfvGgPonZYh19LbwSiaS\\_ava7ceyb/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1i20UfvGgPonZYh19LbwSiaS_ava7ceyb/view?usp=sharing)

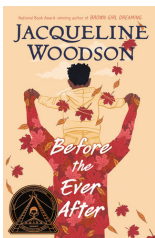


**The Unteachables** by Gordon Korman  
 The Unteachables are a wayward medley of characters: Parker the dyslexic farm boy; Aldo, who is perpetually angry; Elaine (rhymes with pain); Barnstorm the jock; Rahim the sleep-deprived artist; and Mateo, lost in fantasy worlds. Plus Kiana, who isn't even registered 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:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Z4ej9SIVm\\_bduMG9PH6n1tQEFVEupUBR/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Z4ej9SIVm_bduMG9PH6n1tQEFVEupUBR/view?usp=sharing)

## Realistic Fiction



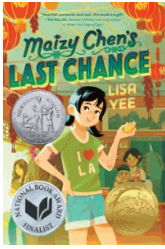
**Amal Unbound** by Aisha Saeed  
 In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family. (Sequel: *Omar Rising*)  
 ★4 starred reviews



**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 🏳️ Coretta Scott King Author Honor



**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 🏳️ Coretta Scott King Author Honor & National Book Award for Young People's Literature  
Author speaking about the book:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vpoAoakuFoTVwOFzfG1ts3rB1DzN8wxQ/view?usp=sharing>

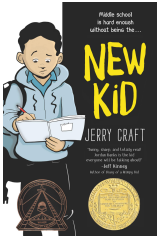


### **Maizy Chen's Last Chance** by Lisa Yee

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)



### **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. (Other books in series: *Class Act*, *School Trip*) ★4 starred reviews 🏆 Newbery Medal & Coretta Scott King Author Award

Author speaking about the book:

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### **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. Novel in verse.

★5 starred reviews 🏆 Newbery Honor book

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)

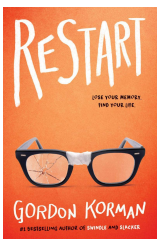


### **The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise** by Dan Gemeinhart

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. ★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

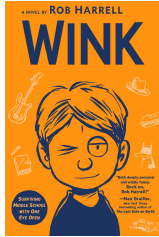
Author speaking about the book:

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



**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



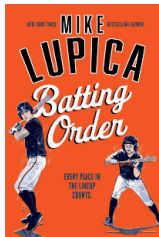
**Wink** by Rob Harrell

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:

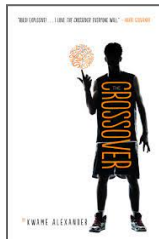
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n8yp7XJ0vMo7N\\_txRQMbz-fNSJ9BsuBC/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n8yp7XJ0vMo7N_txRQMbz-fNSJ9BsuBC/view?usp=sharing)

**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

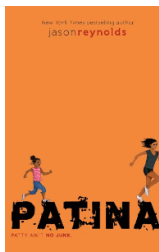
Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health. Novel in verse.

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



**Get a Grip, Vivvy Cohen!** by Sarah Kapit

Eleven-year-old knuckleball pitcher Vivvy 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. ★3 starred reviews 🏆 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*)

★5 starred reviews



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

Bree can't wait for her first day at her new middle school, Enith Brightha, 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**



**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.

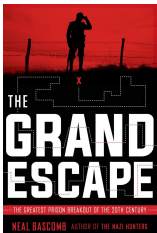
Book trailer:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Cdnz1p-DL2Es82wUP2BBXy6tygsaTbjk/view?usp=sharing>



**Buzzkill: A Wild Wander through the Weird and Threatened World of Bugs** by Brenna Maloney

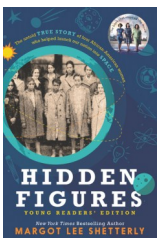
Insects play a critical role on our planet, from sustenance to pollination to medicines and more. The author tackles both the wacky and weird, as well as threats to insects and their habitats, their possible extinction, and ways that everyday people, like you, can prevent their decline. ★4 starred reviews



**The Grand Escape: The Greatest Prison Breakout of the 20th Century**

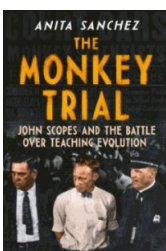
by Neal Bascomb

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



**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. ★3 starred reviews



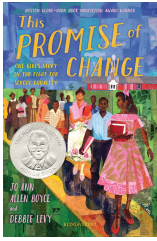
**The Monkey Trial: John Scopes and the Battle over Teaching Evolution**

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

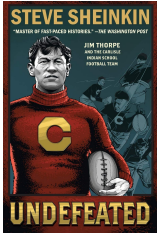




### **This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality**

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 in the national spotlight and as a trailblazer in history. ★5 starred reviews 🏳️ Robert F. Silbert Informational Book Honor



### **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>



### **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)*