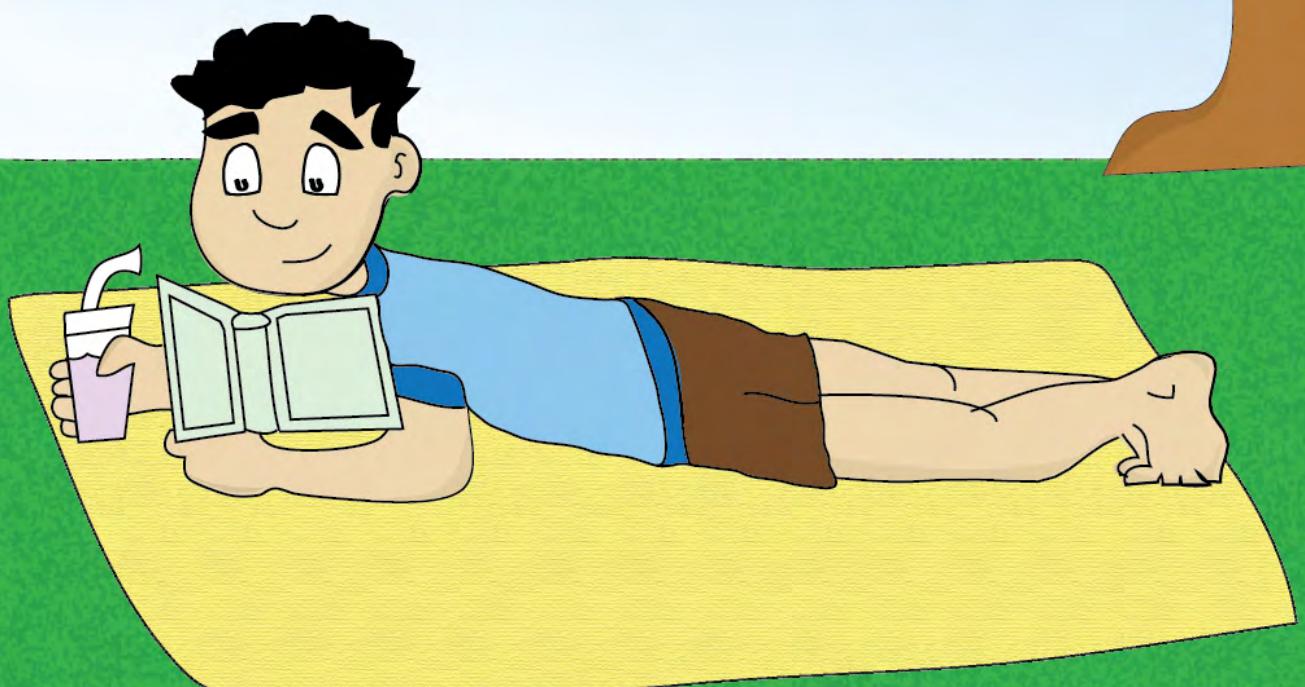


# Summer Reading

2011

Entering

7–8



Brookline Public Schools Brookline, Massachusetts



The Public Schools of Brookline, Massachusetts

## Educational Technology and Library Department

Scott Moore, Director

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Creating a school-wide culture of reading has always been a priority for the teachers, librarians, and literacy specialists in the Brookline Public Schools. In each school that culture is built and nurtured in myriad ways—through the study of literary elements, read-alouds, book talks, literature circles, genre studies, author visits, evening parent/child book events, independent reading projects, participation in Massachusetts Book Awards and summer reading.

Summer is a perfect time to find books to read for pleasure. This list is a starting point to help you select books that match your interests and includes a variety of titles across many genres, levels, and lengths. Students are encouraged to read at least 5 or 6 books. Our goal is to develop readers who not only *can* read, but who *choose* to read for enjoyment.

Summer reading is also a great opportunity to hone your reading skills and maintain your fluency. According to a recent report from John Hopkins University's Center for Summer Learning children who do not read over the summer actually lose ground in reading proficiency. The report concludes that the effect of reading four or five books during the summer is large enough to prevent a decline in reading scores from spring to fall.

In addition to this list, Brookline's public libraries and bookstores offer a wealth of titles and suggestions to help you find just the right book for your enjoyment.

Explore. Read. Enjoy,

Brookline K-8 School Librarians

Deb Abner, Lincoln School  
Rusty Browder, Lawrence School  
Colleen Carney, Heath School  
Paula Ewenstein, Baker School  
Teresa Gallo-Toth, Runkle School  
Amanda Kretschmar, Pierce School  
Christine McDonnell, Devotion School  
Amy Neale, Driscoll School

Scott, Moore, Director of Educational Technology and Libraries.

Downloadable copies of the list are available at <http://brooklinesummerreading.weebly.com/>

## Entering 7 – 8

### Hot Off the Presses: New and Noteworthy

Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***Forge (sequel to Chains)*** \*\*

The well-researched sequel to *Chains* narrated by fugitive slave Curzon who enlists in the Continental Army in 1777. Depicted are the severity of war at Valley Forge and the experiences of his reunion with slave and friend, Isabel.

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. ***They Called Themselves the K.K.K.: The Birth of an American Terrorist*** \*\*\*

Uses personal accounts from oral histories, congressional documents, and diaries, to trace the origin and the creation of the Ku Klux Klan in Pulaski, Tennessee and its spread across the American South.

Freedman, Russell. ***War to End All Wars: World War I*** \*\*\*

From the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in 1914 to the controversial Treaty of Versailles in 1918, author Freedman recounts the origins, meaning, and legacy of history's first "total" war and of trench warfare.

Myers, Walter Dean and Ross Workman. ***Kick*** \*

Veteran author Myers joins with high school student Workman to produce this novel about a soccer player who runs into trouble helping a friend.

Park, Linda Sue. ***A Long Walk to Water*** \*

The story of two children who struggle to survive in war-torn Sudan--one an 11-year-old Lost Boy, Salva, who fled in 1985 and later immigrated to the United States, and 11-year-old Nya, who collects water from a mucky pond for her village in 2008.

Preus, Margi. ***Heart of a Samurai*** \*\*

It is 1841 a freak storm washes Manjiro and his four fishing companions onto a tiny island far from their Japanese homeland when they are rescued by an American whaling ship. Based on a true story of the first Japanese person to enter the United States.

Sedgwick, Marcus. ***Revolver*** \*\*

In the snowy wilderness of the Arctic Circle during the Alaska Gold Rush, alone in his family's cabin, 14-year-old Sig confronts a stranger who has come to take revenge on his dead father.

Shulman, Polly. ***The Grimm Legacy*** \*\*

Working after school as a page in a special library, Elizabeth gains access to the Grimm collection of magical objects and is drawn into a series of frightening adventures involving mythical creatures and stolen goods.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. ***One Crazy Summer*** \*

It is the summer of 1968, and three black sisters from Brooklyn are put on a California-bound plane by their father to spend a month with their mother, a poet who ran off years before and is living in Oakland.

### Take a Look: Picture Books for Older Readers

Hale, Shannon. ***Calamity Jack*** \*

In this graphic novel interpretation of "Jack and the Beanstalk," Jack is a born schemer who climbs a magical beanstalk in the hope of exacting justice from a mean giant and gaining a fortune for his widowed mother, aided by some friends.

Hinds, Gareth. ***Odyssey*** \*\*\*

Retells, in graphic novel format, Homer's epic tale of Odysseus, the ancient Greek hero who encounters witches and other obstacles on his journey home after fighting in the Trojan War.

Telgemeier, Raina. ***Smile*** \*

The author relates, in graphic form, her experiences after she injured her two front teeth and had to have surgeries and wear embarrassing braces and headgear, all while also dealing with the trials and tribulations of middle school.

### Too Good To Miss: Classics

Asimov, Isaac. ***Foundation (series)*** \*\*\*

As the Galactic Empire declines, psychohistorian Hari Seldon and his band of psychobiologists form the Foundation, designed to form the nucleus of an eventual ideal universal ruling corporation.

Austen, Jane. ***Emma*** \*\*\*

Emma has recently lost her sister/mother-figure to marriage and appears doomed to a lifetime of seclusion with her kindly but odd and hermitied father. To avoid such a result, at least for a time, Emma sets to matchmaking. Emma is the most lightweight and openly comedic of all Jane Austen's novels, with a likable (if clueless) heroine and a multilayered plot full of half-hidden feelings.

Doyle, Arthur Conan. ***The Hound of the Baskervilles*** \*\*\*

Is it true that a ghostly hound is haunting the lonely moors, hunting down the hapless Baskervilles through the generations? If anyone can put this chilling legend to rest, it's Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson.

Frank, Anne. ***Diary of a Young Girl*** \*\*\*

In 1942, in Nazi-occupied Holland, thirteen-year-old Anne and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding to avoid being captured. For the next two years, they lived cloistered in the "Secret Annex" of an old office building. In her diary Anne Frank recorded vivid impressions of her experiences during this period.

Martel, Yann. ***The Life of Pi*** \*\*\*

Pi Patel, a young man from India, tells how he was shipwrecked and stranded in a lifeboat with a Bengal tiger for 227 days. This outlandish story is only the core of a deceptively complex three-part novel about, ultimately, memory as a narrative and about how we choose truths.

## Entering 7 – 8

Taylor, Mildred. ***The Land (series)*** \*\*

The prequel to Newbery Medal winner, Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, begins the saga of the Logan family and depicts the cruel racism in the Deep South during and after the Civil War.

White, T. H. ***Once and Future King*** \*\*\*

Describes King Arthur's life from his childhood to the coronation, creation of the Round Table, and search for the Holy Grail.

### Get Real: Nonfiction

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. ***Kids on Strike*** \*

Describes the conditions and treatment that drove workers, including many children, to various strikes, from the mill workers strikes in 1828 and 1836 and the coal strikes at the turn of the century to the work of Mother Jones on behalf of child workers.

Nelson, Pete. ***Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the U.S.S. Indianapolis*** \*\*

This story explains how the research of 11-year-old Hunter Scott uncovered the truth behind a historic WWII naval disaster aboard the USS Indianapolis and led to the reversal of the wrongful court martial of the ship's captain.

Preston, Richard. ***Hot Zone*** \*\*\*

This is the dramatic, hair-raising, and chilling story of an Ebola virus outbreak in a suburban Washington, D.C. laboratory, with descriptions of frightening historical epidemics of rare and lethal viruses.

Simpson, Joe. ***Touching the Void*** \*\*\*

Joe Simpson's gripping account of near-death in the Peruvian Andes and his struggle with issues of bravery, friendship, and sheer physical endurance.

Stone, Tanya Lee. ***Almost Astronauts*** \*

"Space gals. Astronettes. Astrodolls...Who do these women think they are?" The media mocked them. Male astronauts did not want them, and neither did then vice-president Lyndon Johnson. Nearly 20 years before the U.S. officially admitted women into the astronaut program, 13 women, known as the Mercury 13, fought for the right to soar into space. This photo-essay tells their story.

Wilson, Charles and Eric Schlosser. ***Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food*** \*\*\*

A behind-the-scenes look at the fast food industry.

### It Could Happen: Realistic Fiction

Bauer, Joan. ***Peeled*** \*\*

High-school reporter Hildy is determined to find the true story behind a death and a series of spooky happenings that have caused unrest in her small-town community.

Berk, Josh. ***The Dark Days of Hamburger Halpin*** \*\*

Having left a school for the deaf, Will survives at his first public school with a lot of lip-reading, texting, and the friendship of another social outcast, Devon Smiley. Together, the two students investigate the mystery surrounding the death of a classmate while on a field trip.

Danticat, Edwidge. ***Behind the Mountains*** \*\*

It is election time in Haiti, and bombs are going off in the capital city. After Celiane and her mother are nearly killed, they resolve to join Ceilane's father in Brooklyn, New York. Once there, the harsh winter and concrete landscape are a shock to Celiane, who witnesses her parents' struggle to earn a living, her brother's uneasy adjustment to American society, and her own encounters with learning difficulties and school violence.

Dessen, Sarah. ***Keeping the Moon*** \*\*

Fifteen-year-old Colie, a former fat girl, spends the summer working as a waitress in a beachside restaurant, staying with her overweight and eccentric Aunt Mira, and trying to explore her sense of self.

Ferris, Jean. ***Of Sound Mind*** \*\*

A coming-of-age story about high school senior Theo who faces the daily challenges that comes with being the only "hearie" in his deaf family.

Gallo, Donald, ed. ***First Crossing: Stories about Teen Immigrants*** \*\*

These stories by 11 well-known authors touch on a variety of contemporary teen immigrant experiences. The teens hail from a mix of countries -- Cambodia, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Mexico, South Korea--reflective of current immigration trends.

Hinton, S.E. ***Tex*** \*

Texas is a 15-year-old trouble-maker who painfully struggles to live within a difficult family. Trouble starts when Mason, Tex's older brother, sells Tex's horse because they are running out of money since their father hasn't been home for a very long time. There are themes of first romance, crime, drug taking, alcoholism, and facing responsibility in this compelling and emotional adventure story.

Hughes, Mark Peter. ***Lemonade Mouth*** \*\*

A group of high school students thrown together in detention form a band to play at a school talent show and end up competing with a wildly popular local rock band.

Kent, Rose. ***Kimchi and Calamari*** \*

Fourteen-year-old Korean adoptee Joseph Calderaro is stumped when his teacher assigns an ancestry essay. Joseph knows very little about his background or the circumstances surrounding his adoption into an Italian-American family, so he pretends that Olympic marathoner Sohn Kee Chung was his grandfather, and writes an award-winning essay to that effect. Once his lie is unmasked, Joseph must redo the assignment, which prompts him to begin a committed search for his birth family.

## Entering 7 – 8

Korman, Gordon. ***The Juvie Three*** \*\*

After the director of their halfway house has an accident, Gecko, Arjay, and Terence, all in trouble with the law, must find a way to keep the facility open without him in order to stay out of juvenile detention.

Lockhart, E. ***The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks*** \*\*

Frankie Landau-Banks, having gone from geeky to gorgeous over the course of the summer, is intent on making changes at her elite boarding school. Her boyfriend belongs to a long-standing secret society on campus. The Loyal Order of the Basset Hounds, known mostly for silly pranks and a history of male-only membership. Frankie manipulates the Loyal Order to do her bidding with pranks meant to make a political statement about the male-dominated and classist nature of the school.

Mass, Wendy. ***A Mango-Shaped Space*** \*\*

Teenager Mia Winchell is keeping a huge secret from everyone who knows her: sounds, numbers, and words appear in color for her. Mia has synesthesia, the mingling of perceptions whereby a person can see sounds, smell colors, or taste shapes. When trouble in school forces Mia to reveal her condition, her friends and family can't relate to her, and she must look to herself to develop an understanding and appreciation for her gift.

McCormick, Patricia. ***Purple Heart*** \*\*

When Private Matt Duffy wakes up in an army hospital in Iraq, he's honored with a Purple Heart. Matt doesn't feel like a hero because of a war memory that haunts him and a head injury that makes it hard for him to put his experiences together.

Mikelson, Ben. ***Touching Spirit Bear (series)*** \*\*

Cole, a violent teenage offender, elects to participate in Circle Justice, an alternative sentencing program based on traditional Native American practices that results in his being banished to a remote Alaskan Island where he is left to survive for a year and ultimately becomes deeply changed by this experience.

Perkins, Mitali. ***Secret Keeper*** \*\*

Calcutta, India, in 1957 and told from the viewpoint of Asha Gupta, 16. With her father seeking work in America, Asha, together with her older sister, Reet, and their depressed mother, must move in with relatives, who are not at all welcoming. Unlike Reet, Asha is dismissed as having little chance of snaring a good husband, which is all a "good" Bengali girl should do. She keeps quiet about her college dreams except with the boy next door, whom she befriends in secret, but as things get worse at home, she must rescue Reet from a horrific arranged marriage.

Sonnenblin, Jordan. ***After Ever After*** \*

This sequel to Drums, Girls, & Dangerous Pie focuses on Jeffrey's year in eighth grade and his determination to adjust to a learning disability and a physical handicap, as well as changes in his family structure.

Sonnes, Sonya. ***Stop Pretending*** \*

In a story based on real events, and told in poems, Sonnes explores what happened and how she reacted when her

adored older sister suddenly began screaming and hearing voices in her head, and was ultimately hospitalized. She copes with friends who snub her, and worries that she, too, will go mad, and watches her sister's slow recovery.

Woodson, Jacqueline. ***After Tupac and D Foster*** \*\*

The day D Foster enters Neeka and her best friend's lives, the world opens up for them. Suddenly they're keenly aware of things beyond their block in Queens, things that are happening in the world--like the shooting of Tupac Shakur--and in search of their Big Purpose in life. When—all too soon—D's mom swoops in to reclaim her, and Tupac dies, they are left with a sense of how quickly things can change and how even all-too-brief connections can touch deeply.

### Life Stories: Biography

Angelou, Maya. ***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*** \*\*\*

Superbly told, with the poet's gift for language and observation, Angelou tells the story of her childhood in Arkansas.

Engle, Margarita. ***The Poet Slave of Cuba: A Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano*** \*\*

Juan Francisco Manzano was born in 1797 into the household of wealthy slave-owners in Cuba. He spent his early years at the side of his owner's wife, entertaining her friends. His poetry was his outlet, reflecting the beauty and cruelty of his world.

Herriot, James. ***All Creatures Great and Small*** \*\*\*

Take an unforgettable journey through the English countryside and into the homes of its inhabitants--four-legged and otherwise--with the world's best-loved animal doctor.

Hoose, Phillip. ***Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice***

Presents an account of fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin, an African-American girl who refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, nine months before Rosa Parks, and covers her role in a crucial civil rights case.

Kamkwamba, William. ***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*** \*

Forced to drop out of school when famine hits his village, which has no electricity or running water, a Malawi boy tinkers with scrap metal and builds a windmill that lights a few bulbs and catches the world's attention.

Li, Moying. ***Snow Falling in Spring: Coming of Age in China During the Cultural Revolution*** \*\*

Moying Li is twelve years old when the Cultural Revolution sweeps across China. Studying at a prestigious language school in Beijing, she seems destined for a promising future, but everything changes when student Red Guards orchestrate brutal assaults, violent public humiliations, and forced confessions throughout the country.

Paulsen, Gary. ***How Angel Peterson Got His Name*** \*

When you grow up in a small town in the north woods, you have to make your own excitement. High spirits, idiocy, and showing off for the girls inspire Gary Paulsen and his friends to attempt a number ofreckless stunts.

## Entering 7 – 8

### Out of This World: Fantasy & Science Fiction

Anderson, M. T. ***Feed*** \*\*\*

This brilliantly ironic satire is set in a future world where television and computers are connected directly into people's brains when they are babies. The result is a chillingly recognizable consumer society where empty-headed kids are driven by fashion, shopping and the avid pursuit of silly entertainment and by constant customized murmurs in their brains of encouragement to buy, buy, buy. A Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor Award.

Berry, Julie. ***The Amaranth Enchantment*** \*\*

When Lucinda was small, her parents left for a royal ball and never returned. Since then, Lucinda has been stuck in servitude at her evil aunt's jewelry store until a mysterious visitor and an unusual piece of jewelry both enter the shop, setting in motion events that will forever alter Lucinda's life.

Christopher, John. ***The White Mountains (series)*** \*\*

Long ago, the Tripods--huge, three-legged machines--descended upon Earth and took control. Now people unquestioningly accept the Tripods' power. They have no control over their thoughts or their lives, but for a brief time in each person's life--in childhood--he is not a slave. For Will, his time of freedom is about to end, unless he can escape to the White Mountains, where the possibility of freedom still exists.

Collins, Suzanne. ***Hunger Games (series)*** \*\*

In a future North America, the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition that pits young people from each of the twelve districts against one another. Sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place.

Fisher, Catherine. ***Incarceron (series)*** \*\*\*

Incarceron is a prison so vast that it contains not only cells, but also metal forests, dilapidated cities, and vast wilderness. Finn, a seventeen-year-old prisoner, has no memory of his childhood but is sure that he came from Outside Incarceron. Escape seems impossible until Finn meets Claudia, the daughter of the Warden.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. ***Found: The Missing (series)*** \*\*

When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.

Hautman, Pete. ***Rash*** \*\*

In a future society that has decided it would "rather be safe than free," sixteen-year-old Bo's anger control problems land him in a tundra jail where he survives with the help of his running skills and an artificial intelligence program named Bork.

Herbert, Frank. ***Dune*** \*\*\*

Set on the desert planet Arrakis, Dune is the story of the boy Paul Atreides, who would become the mysterious man known as Maud'dib. He would avenge the traitorous plot against his noble family--and would bring to fruition humankind's most ancient and unattainable dream.

Marsh, Katherine. ***The Night Tourist (series)*** \*\*

After fourteen-year-old classics prodigy Jack Perdu has a near fatal accident, he meets Euri, a young ghost who introduces him to New York's Underworld. When Jack realizes those who died in New York reside in this Underworld until they are ready to move on, he vows to find his dead mother there.

Mull, Brandon. ***Fablehaven*** \*\*

When Kendra and Seth go to stay at their grandparents' estate, they discover that it is a sanctuary for magical creatures and that a battle between good and evil is looming.

Patterson, James. ***Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment (series)*** \*\*

After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, they take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose.

Pfeffer, Susan Beth. ***Life As We Knew It (series)*** \*\*

Through journal entries, sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

Scott, Michael. ***The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel (series)*** \*\*

While working at pleasant but mundane summer jobs in San Francisco, fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, suddenly find themselves caught up in the deadly, centuries-old struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient and powerful book holding the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life.

Sleator, William. ***Interstellar Pig*** \*

Barney's boring seaside vacation suddenly becomes more interesting when the cottage next door is occupied by three exotic neighbors who are addicted to a game they call "Interstellar Pig."

Stroud, Jonathan. ***Amulet of Samarkand (Bartimaeus Trilogy)*** \*\*\*

Nathaniel, a young magician's apprentice, becomes caught in a web of magical espionage, murder, and rebellion, after he summons the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Loveland.

Zahn, Timothy. ***Dragon and Thief: The First Dragonback Adventure (series)*** \*\*

Fourteen-year-old Jack Morgan pilots his uncle's spaceship to a distant planet to escape being framed and tries to ally himself with the alien K'da warrior, Draycos, who crashes there after a space battle.

## Entering 7 – 8

### Page-turners: Mystery & Adventure

Bruchac, Joseph. ***Dark Pond*** \*

After he feels a mysterious pull drawing him toward a dark, shadowy pond in the woods, Armie looks to old Native American tales for guidance about the dangerous monster lurking in the water.

Cormier, Robert. ***The Rag and Bone Shop*** \*\*\*

Trent, an ace interrogator from Vermont, works to procure a confession from an introverted twelve-year-old accused of murdering his seven-year-old friend in Monument, Massachusetts.

Hahn, Mary Downing. ***Closed for the Season*** \*\*

When Logan and his family move into a run-down old house in rural Virginia, he discovers that a woman was murdered there and becomes involved with his neighbor in a dangerous investigation to try to uncover the killer.

Herlong, M.H. ***The Great Wide Sea*** \*\*

Still mourning the death of their mother, three brothers go with their father on an extended sailing trip off the Florida Keys and have a harrowing adventure at sea.

Hoobler, Dorothy. ***The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn (series)*** \*

While attempting to solve the mystery of a stolen jewel, Seikei, a merchant's son who longs to be a samurai, joins a group of kabuki actors in eighteenth-century Japan. When a priceless ruby intended for the shogun--the military governor of Japan--is stolen by a ghost, Seikei finds himself having to display all the courage of a samurai.

Lee, Y. S. ***The Agency: A Spy in the House (series)*** \*\*

Rescued from the gallows in 1850s London, young orphan and thief Mary Quinn is offered a place at Miss Scrimshaw's Academy for Girls where she is trained to be part of an all-female investigative unit called The Agency.

Morton-Shaw, Christine. ***The Hunt for Seventh*** \*\*

"Find the Seventh." That whispered phrase haunts Jim in this eerie mystery of death, ghosts, family secrets, and ancient rites and prophecy.

Smelcer, John. ***The Trap*** \*

In alternating chapters, seventeen-year-old Johnny Least-Weasel, who is better known for brains than brawn, worries about his missing grandfather, and the grandfather, Albert Least-Weasel, struggles to survive, caught in his own steel trap in the Alaskan winter.

Werlin, Nancy. ***Black Mirror*** \*\*

Convinced her brother's death was murder rather than suicide, sixteen-year-old Frances begins her own investigation into suspicious student activities at her boarding school.

### Play Ball!: Sports Books

Blais, Madeleine. ***In These Girls, Hope Is a Muscle*** \*\*\*

They were a talented team with a near-perfect record but a reputation for choking in the crunch of the state playoffs. Finally, after five straight years of disappointments, the Amherst Lady Hurricanes found they just might have what it took to go all the way. This is a fierce, funny, and intimate look into their minds and hearts during one very special season.

Bruchac, Joseph. ***Warriors*** \*

Jake has left the reservation for Weltimore Academy and entered a different world. Others at the school loved lacrosse, too, but not like Jake. Coach Scott trained them hard, offering violent stories about Indians that Jake knew were untrue. How could he make them understand the real game?

Carlin, John. ***Invictus: Nelson Mandela and the Game that Made a Nation*** \*\*\*

After being released from prison and winning South Africa's first free election, Nelson Mandela presided over a country still deeply divided by fifty years of apartheid. His plan was ambitious if not far-fetched: use the national rugby team, the Springboks, long an embodiment of white-supremacist rule, to embody and engage a new South Africa as they prepared to host the 1995 World Cup. The string of wins that followed not only defied the odds, but capped Mandela's miraculous effort to bring South Africans together again in a hard-won, enduring bond.

Cochrane, Mick. ***The Girl Who Threw Butterflies*** \*

Eighth-grader Molly's ability to throw a knuckleball earns her a spot on the baseball team, which not only helps her feel connected to her recently deceased father, who loved baseball, it helps in other aspects of her life as well.

Coy, John. ***Crackback*** \*\*

Miles Manning is really good at one thing--football. This year, his team is favored to win the conference and go to State. Now Miles faces a tough decision: Is he willing to do what it takes to be the best?

Feinstein, John. ***Change-up: Mystery at the World Series (series)*** \*

While covering the World Series, teen reporters Stevie Thomas and Susan Carol uncover some inconsistencies in the life story of a popular new pitcher and begin to investigate.

Heldring, Thatcher. ***Toby Wheeler: Eighth Grade Benchwarmer*** \*

When Toby finally decides to join the middle school basketball team, he does not anticipate the changes that will occur in his relationship with his best friend JJ, who is the team's star player, as well as in other areas of his life.

Kephart, Beth. ***Undercover*** \*\*

High school sophomore Elisa is used to observing while going unnoticed except when classmates ask her to write love notes for them, but when she falls for one of those classmates, her life takes an unexpected turn.

## Entering 7 – 8

### Lee, Marie. *Necessary Roughness* \*\*

Sixteen-year-old Korean American Chan moves from Los Angeles to a small town in Minnesota, where he must cope not only with racism on the football team but also with the tensions in his relationship with his strict father.

### Myers, Walter Dean. *Game* \*\*

Drew Lawson knows basketball is taking him places. It has to, because his grades certainly aren't. Lately his plan has run squarely into a pick. Coach's new offense has made another player a star, and Drew won't let anyone disrespect his game. Just as his team makes the playoffs, Drew must come up with something big to save his fading college prospects.

### Roberts, Kristi. *My Thirteenth Season* \*

Already downhearted due to the loss of her mother and her father's overwhelming grief, thirteen-year-old Fran decides to give up her dream of becoming the first female in professional baseball after a coach attacks her just for being a girl.

## Way Back When: Historical Fiction

### Bradford, Chris. *Young Samurai: The Way of the Sword* \*\*\*

After a vicious ninja attack left him orphaned and stranded in Japan, Jack Fletcher managed to complete his first year of samurai school. Still, his troubles are far from over. The prejudice of his Japanese classmates has gained him dangerous enemies within his school, and Dragon Eye - the ninja who killed his father - is still after him.

### Chevalier, Tracy. *Girl with a Pearl Earring* \*\*\*

The world of 1660 Holland comes alive and history and fiction merge in this novel about Vermeer's artistic vision, observed through the eyes of a sixteen-year-old girl who inspired one of his most celebrated paintings.

### Cushman, Karen. *Catherine, Called Birdy* \*\*

The thirteen-year-old daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off.

### Davis, Tanita. *Mare's War* \*\*

Teens Octavia and Tali learn about strength, independence, and courage when they are forced to take a car trip with their grandmother, who tells about growing up Black in 1940s Alabama and serving in Europe during World War II as a member of the Women's Army Corps.

### Dowell, Frances O'Roark. *Shooting the Moon* \*

When her brother is sent to fight in Vietnam, twelve-year-old Jamie begins to reconsider the army world that she has grown up in.

### Fleischman, Paul. *Bull Run* \*\*

Northerners, Southerners, generals, couriers, dreaming boys, and worried sisters describe the glory, the horror, the thrill, and the disillusionment of the first battle of the Civil War.

### Hughes, Dean. *Soldier Boys* \*\*

Two boys, one German and one American, are eager to join their respective armies during World War II, and their paths cross at the Battle of the Bulge.

### Levine, Kristin. *Best Bad Luck I Ever Had* \*\*

In Moundville, Alabama, in 1917, twelve-year-old Dit hopes the new postmaster will have a son his age, but instead he meets Emma, who as an African-American child is used to a different life in the North. Their friendship challenges accepted ways of thinking as they try to devise a way to save a condemned man.

### Magoon, Kelka. *The Rock and the River* \*\*

In 1968 Chicago, fourteen-year-old Sam Childs is caught in a conflict between his father's nonviolent approach to seeking civil rights for African Americans and his older brother, who has joined the Black Panther Party.

### Morpurgo, Michael. *Private Peaceful* \*\*\*

In this shocking, honest and unforgettable World War I story, fifteen-year-old Thomas lies about his age in order to follow his older brother, Charlie, to fight in France. The author details the horrific details of trench warfare: the mud, rats, gas attacks, and slaughter.

### Myers, Walter Dean. *Sunrise Over Fallujah* \*\*

Robin "Birdy" Perry, a new army recruit from Harlem, isn't quite sure why he joined the army, but he's sure where he's headed: Iraq. Birdy and the others in the Civilian Affairs Battalion are supposed to help secure and stabilize the country and successfully interact with the Iraqi people. Officially, the code name for their maneuvers is Operation Iraqi Freedom, but the young men and women in the CA unit have a simpler name for it: War.

### Napoli, Donna Jo. *Alligator Bayou* \*\*

Fourteen-year-old Calogero Scalise and his Sicilian uncles and cousin live in small-town Louisiana in 1898 when Jim Crow laws rule and anti-immigration sentiment is strong, so despite his attempts to be polite and to follow American customs, disaster strikes his family at every turn.

### Nuzam, K.A. *A Small White Scar* \*

Fifteen-year-old Will Bannon leaves his family and begins life as a cowboy, but his developmentally delayed twin brother follows him and joins the journey.

### Paulsen, Gary. *Woods Runner* \*

Paulsen provides a stark glimpse of just how awful the American Revolutionary war really was for those who suffered through it. Soon after the uprising in Concord and Lexington, 16 year old Samuel, returns home to find his home burned down, the neighbors slaughtered, and his parents missing. Samuel tracks his captured parents through the countryside to British-held New York encountering grave dangers along the way.

### Stuber Barbara. *Crossing the Tracks* \*\*

In Missouri in 1926, fifteen-year-old Iris Baldwin discovers what family truly means when her father hires her out for the summer as a companion to a country doctor's invalid mother.

## Entering 7 – 8

### Venkatraman, Padma. *Climbing the Stairs* \*\*

In India, in 1941, when her father becomes brain-damaged in a non-violent protest march, fifteen-year-old Vidya and her family are forced to move in with her father's extended family and become accustomed to a totally different way of life.

### Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief* \*\*\*

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel, a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

## Just For Fun: Humor

### Ferris, Jean. *Once Upon a Marigold* \*\*

A young man with a mysterious past and a penchant for inventing things leaves the troll who raised him, meets an unhappy princess he has loved from afar, and discovers a plot against her and her father.

### Korman, Gordon. *Born to Rock (series)* \*\*

High school senior Leo Caraway, a conservative Republican, learns that his biological father is a punk rock legend.

### Paulson, Gary. *Lawn Boy (series)* \*

Things get out of hand for a twelve-year-old boy when a neighbor convinces him to expand his summer lawn mowing business.

### Prachett, Terry. *Wee Free Men: A Story of Discworld (series)* \*\*

A young witch-to-be named Tiffany teams up with the Wee Free Men, a clan of six-inch-high blue men, to rescue her baby brother and ward off a sinister invasion from Fairyland.

### Rex, Adam. *The True Meaning of Smekday* \*\*

Twelve-year-old Gratuity Tucci has a hard time writing an essay on "The True Meaning of Smekday" due to her complex life after Earth was overtaken by aliens and her mother was kidnapped and taken to Happy Mouse Kingdom in Florida.

### Scieszka, Jon. *Guys Read: Funny Business* \*

A collection of humorous stories featuring a teenaged mummy, a homicidal turkey, and the world's largest pool of chocolate milk.

## A Way with Words: Poetry

### Grandits, John. *Blue Lipstick* \*

A 15-year-old girl named Jessie voices typical--and not so typical--teenage concerns in this unique, hilarious collection of poems.

### Koertge, Ron. *Shakespeare Bats Cleanup (series)* \*\*

Fourteen-year-old Kevin Boland is an MVP first baseman whose whole life revolves around baseball. Diagnosed with

mono, he is forced to stay at home for months while he recuperates. Bored, Kevin borrows his father's book of poetry and starts writing his own. At first, he just has fun imitating haiku and sonnets, but he soon begins writing insightful verse, both funny and serious, in which he records his candid observations about life in junior high, romance, his dreams of baseball stardom, and his grief over the recent death of his mother.

### Myers, W.D. *Street Love* \*\*

This story, told in free verse, is set against a background of street gangs and poverty in Harlem in which seventeen-year-old African-American Damien takes a bold step to ensure that he and his new love will not be separated.

# Notes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

# My Reading Log

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The Public Schools of Brookline, Massachusetts  
Educational Technology and Library Department