

SUMMER READING 2017

Public Schools of Brookline, Massachusetts



Entering 6 List



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
Colleen Carney, Heath School
Paula Ewenstein, Baker School
Teresa Gallo-Toth, Runkle School
Amanda Kretschmar, Pierce School
Jennifer Lauchlan, Upper Devotion School
Kathy Moriarty, Lawrence School
Anne Reid, Driscoll School
Julie Seifert, Devotion School

Scott Moore, Director of Educational Technology and Libraries.

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

Entering 6

Hot Off the Presses: New and Noteworthy

Barnhill, Kelly Regan. ***The Girl Who Drank the Moon*** **
An epic fantasy about a young girl raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, who must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her.

Berg, Ann E. ***Unbound: A Novel in Verse*** ***
The day nine-year-old Grace is called to work in the kitchen in the Big House, everyone warns her to keep her head down and her thoughts to herself, but the more she sees of the oppressive Master and his hateful wife, the more she questions things until one day her thoughts escape--and to avoid being separated she and her family flee into the Dismal Swamp, to join the other escaped slaves who live there.

Grimes, Nikki. ***Garvey's Choice*** **
Garvey's father has always wanted Garvey to be athletic, but Garvey is interested in astronomy, science fiction, reading—anything but sports. Garvey is kind, funny, smart, a loyal friend, and he is also overweight, teased by bullies, and lonely. When his only friend encourages him to join the school chorus, Garvey's life changes.

Hopkinson, Deborah. ***Dive!: World War II Stories of Sailors & Submarines in the Pacific*** ***
This nonfiction book tells the story of America's little known war-within-a war -- that of the "silent service" -- U.S. submarine warfare during World War II.

Nesbet, Ann. ***Cloud and Wallfish*** ***
When his parents unexpectedly pick him up from school and take him to the airport, Noah is rushed to East Berlin where he confronts secrets about his and his family's true identities.

Oh, Ellen (editor). ***Flying Lessons & Other Stories*** **
Whether it is basketball dreams, family fiascos, first crushes, or new neighborhoods, this anthology of short stories—written by the best children's authors—celebrates the uniqueness and universality in all of us.

Peck, Richard. ***The Best Man*** **
Archer has four important role models in his life--his dad, his grandfather, his uncle Paul, and his favorite teacher, Mr. McLeod. When Uncle Paul and Mr. McLeod get married, Archer's sixth-grade year becomes one he'll never forget.

Sweet, Melissa. ***Some Writer!: The Story of E.B. White*** **
A beautifully illustrated biography of the author of Charlotte's Web told through personal letters, photos, and Melissa Sweet's own artwork.

Take a Look: Picture Books for Older Readers

Deedy, Carmen Agra. ***14 Cows for America*** *
Maasai tribal members, after hearing the story of the September 11 attacks, decide to present the American people with fourteen sacred cows as a healing gift.

Hale, Dean. ***Rapunzel's Revenge*** *
In this twisted version of the classic fairy tale, Rapunzel teams up with Jack the Beanstalk in a quest to free her mother and the kingdom from the evil queen. Beautiful graphic illustrations and witty text combine for a compelling story.

Hill, Laban Carrick. ***When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop*** *
A biography of DJ Kool Herc, discussing his childhood in Jamaica and New York and his career as a hip hop DJ.

Lewis, John. ***March: Book One (series)*** **
A first-hand account of the author's lifelong struggle for civil and human rights spans his youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King Jr., and the birth of the Nashville Student Movement.

Mochizuki, Ken. ***Baseball Saved Us*** *
A Japanese American boy learns to play baseball when he and his family are forced to live in an internment camp during World War II.

Say, Allen. ***Drawing from Memory*** *
In this graphic title Caldecott medalist Allen Say chronicles his experiences as an artist during World War II, and describes his relationship with his mentor Noro Shinpei, Japan's leading cartoonist.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. ***Freedom on the Menu: the Greensboro Sit-Ins*** *
The 1960 civil rights sit-ins at the Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, are seen through the eyes of a young Southern African-American girl.

Too Good to Miss: Classics

Alcott, Louisa May. ***Little Women (series)*** **
This classic chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young ladies in nineteenth-century New England.

L'Engle, Madeline. ***A Wrinkle in Time (series)*** ***
Meg, her brother and her friend become involved with unearthly strangers as they search for Meg's father, who has disappeared. They must travel behind the shadow of an evil power that is darkening the cosmos, one planet at a time.

Entering 6

London, Jack. ***Call of the Wild*** **

The adventures of an unusual dog, part St. Bernard, part Scotch shepherd, that is forcibly taken to the Klondike gold fields where he eventually becomes the leader of a wolf pack.

Montgomery, L. M. ***Anne of Green Gables (series)*** ***

Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.

O'Dell, Scott. ***The Island of the Blue Dolphins*** *

Left alone on a beautiful but isolated island off the coast of California, a young Indian girl spends eighteen years, not only merely surviving through her enormous courage and self-reliance, but also finding a measure of happiness in her solitary life.

Paulsen, Gary. ***Hatchet (series)*** **

Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is the only survivor when the single-engine plane crashes. His body battered, his clothes in shreds, Brian must now stay alive in the Canadian wilderness with only a small hatchet as a tool. It will take all his know-how and determination, and more courage than he knew he possessed to survive.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. ***Treasure Island*** ***

When an old sea captain arrives at the Admiral Benbow Inn with a mysterious sea chest and fearful talk of a man with one leg, the scene is set for one of the most popular adventure stories of all time.

Folklore & Mythology

D'Aulaires, Ingri & Edgar. ***D'Aulaires Book of Greek Myths*** *

The classic introduction to the gods and goddesses of ancient Greece.

Lin, Grace. ***When the Sea Turned to Silver*** **

Pinmei, a storyteller's granddaughter, must find the Luminous Stone that Lights the Night to rescue her grandmother, who has been kidnapped by the Tiger Emperor. This beautifully illustrated work is a companion to *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* and *Starry River of the Sky*.

Lupton, Hugh. ***Adventures of Odysseus*** ***

Retells the classic Greek epic about Odysseus and his adventures as he tries to return home after the Trojan War.

McKissack, Patricia. ***The Dark Thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural*** *

A collection of ghost stories with African American themes, designed to be told during the Dark Thirty--the half hour before sunset--when ghosts seem all too believable.

Napoli, Donna Jo. ***Norse Mythology*** **

Contains illustrated retellings of Norse myths that introduce gods, goddesses, heroes and monsters, including the thunder

god Thor, the one-eyed god and Allfather Odin, and the trickster god Loki.

O'Connor, George. ***Zeus: King of the Gods (series)*** **

Fast-paced, high-drama adventures, with monsters, romance, and a few huge explosions. O'Connor's art bring this graphic novel series to life.

Wisniewski, David. ***Sundiata*** *

The story of Sundiata, who overcame physical handicaps, social disgrace, and strong opposition to rule Mali in the thirteenth century.

Get Real: Nonfiction

Bryant, Howard. ***Legends: The Best Players, Games, and Teams in Baseball*** **

This nonfiction book tells the story of baseball in short chapters, top ten lists, and includes all the greatest moments in the history of the sport.

Burns, Loree Griffin. ***Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion*** ***

Oceanographer, Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer aided by an army of beachcombers, tracks trash in the name of science. From sneakers to hockey gloves, Curt monitors the watery fate of human-made cargo that has spilled into the ocean. The information he collects is much more than casual news; it is important scientific data. And with careful analysis, Curt, along with a community of scientists, friends, and beachcombers alike, is using his data to understand and protect our ocean.

Chaikin, Andrew. ***Mission Control, This is Apollo: The Story of the First Voyages to the Moon*** **

Space history from the Mercury missions through Apollo 17 and beyond. This book is illustrated with full-color paintings by astronaut Alan Bean.

Hopkinson, Deborah. ***Titanic: Voices from the Disaster*** **

Award-winning author Deborah Hopkinson weaves together the voices and stories of real Titanic survivors and witnesses to the disaster with archival photographs to describe in vivid detail the history of this celebrated ship from its launch to its sinking.

Macaulay, David. ***Built to Last*** **

This book reveals the how and why behind some of the most fascinating and enduring structures humankind has ever created: the castle, the cathedral and the mosque.

Scieszka, Jon. ***Guys Read: True Stories*** *

Compiled and edited by Jon Scieszka, this is the fifth installment in the Guys Read series. It is a collection of essays, biographies, how-to guides, and more. Described as "mind-blowing stories proving that the truth is most definitely out there".

Entering 6

Smith, Charles R. **28 Days: Moments in Black History That Changed the World** *

The author summarizes twenty eight key moments in black history in the form of poems and short essays with biographical information about the people and events that shaped our country. Beautiful collage and oil paintings illustrate this nonfiction book.

Tunnell, Michael O. **Candy Bomber: The Story of the Berlin Airlift's "Chocolate Pilot"** **

A little-known post-World War II story of an international campaign to help lighten the suffering of the children of West Berlin. An airlift of food and fuel continued for almost two years; tons of candy were dropped (using tiny parachutes) for the children who waited in the flight path below.

Wicks, Maris. **Coral Reefs: Cities of the Ocean (series)** *

Part of the Science Comics series, Coral Reefs teaches readers all about these tiny sea animals! This absorbing look at ocean science covers the biology of coral reefs as well as their ecological importance.

Murphy, Jim. **Breakthrough! How Three People Saved "Blue Babies" and Changed Medicine Forever** **

This is a compelling nonfiction account of a 1944 a groundbreaking operation that repaired the congenital heart defect known as blue baby syndrome. The operation's success brought the surgeon Alfred Blalock international fame and paved the way for open-heart surgery. But the technique had been painstakingly developed by Vivien Thomas, Blalock's African American assistant.

It Could Happen: Realistic Fiction

Applegate, Katherine. **Home of the Brave** **

Kek, an African refugee, is confronted by many strange things at the Minneapolis home of his aunt and cousin, as well as in his fifth grade classroom, and longs for his missing mother, but finds comfort in the company of a cow and her owner. A novel told in verse.

Burg, Ann. **Serafina's Promise** **

Set in a small village outside of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, this novel in verse tells the story of Serafina, a young girl who wants to go to school and become a doctor. Her plans are interrupted by a devastating earthquake and her baby brother's illness. When she is separated from her father, Serafina must find the courage to help her brother and reunite her family.

Cleary, Beverly. **Dear Mr. Henshaw** *

In his letters to his favorite author Leigh reveals his problems in coping with his parents' divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world.

Clements, Andrew. **No Talking** *

The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest.

Draper, Sharon. **Out of My Mind** **

Melody has cerebral palsy and cannot walk or talk. What people do not realize is that Melody is brighter than most people, and she has a photographic memory. How does Melody learn to communicate and show her brilliance?

Graff, Lisa. **Absolutely Almost** **

Fifth grader, Abie has his own struggles. He has never been the smartest kid in his class. He has never been the tallest. He has never been the best at gym or the greatest artist or the most musical. Then, Abie gets a new sitter, Calista, and together they help him figure out all of the things he is good at and how he can take pride in himself.

Hiassen, Carl. **Chomp** **

Wahoo Cray's father is an animal handler. The good news is that his father gets a job with a reality T.V. show. The news is that the star doesn't quite understand the dangerous nature of the animals. Suddenly he disappears and Wahoo is on the trail.

Hunt, Lynda Mullaly. **Fish in a Tree** **

Ally's greatest fear is that everyone will find out that despite being in sixth grade she still doesn't know how to read. She has managed to keep it a secret from everyone but Mr. Daniels, her new teacher. Luckily he sees the bright creative kid underneath the troublemaker.

Kadohata, Cynthia. **The Thing About Luck** ***

Kouun means "good luck" in Japanese and unfortunately for Summer and her family, this year is the opposite of good luck. Her parents return to Japan to care for relatives and Summer must help her grandparents run the farming business and cope with her brother who has emotional and behavioral challenges.

Levy, Dana Alison. **The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher (series)** **

With four brothers, a dog, a cat, school projects, soccer matches, and a grumpy neighbor, the Fletchers are your typical American family...with two dads, and siblings who are adopted kids from various ethnic backgrounds.

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

Mia Winchell has synesthesia, the mingling of perceptions whereby a person can see sounds, smell colors, or taste shapes. Forced to reveal her condition, she must look to herself to develop an understanding and appreciation of her gift.

Schmidt, Gary. **Okay for Now** ***

Fourteen-year-old Doug Swietek faces many challenges, including an abusive father, a brother traumatized by Vietnam, suspicious teachers and police officers, and isolation, but when he meets a girl known as Lil Spicer, he develops a close relationship with her and finds a safe place at the local library.

Weeks, Sarah & Gita Varadarajan. **Save Me a Seat** **

Joe and Ravi might be from very different places, but they're both stuck in the same place: school. Joe's lived in the same town all his life, and was doing just fine until his best friends moved away and left him on his own. Ravi's family just moved to America from India, and he's finding it pretty hard to figure

Entering 6

out where he fits in. In the course of a single eventful week the boys find out they have more in common than they thought.

Yee, Lee. ***Stanford Wong Flunks Big Time*** **

Stanford has to go to summer school and if he doesn't pass, then he won't move up to 7th grade. Most importantly he will not be able to play on the "A" basketball team. Bad enough he has to go to summer school but then he discovers his tutor is the very annoying Millicent Min. Find out how Stanford deals with his very annoying summer.

Life Stories: Biography

Andrews, Troy. ***Trombone Shorty*** *

New Orleans jazz musician Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews tells the story of how he got his nickname and his start in jazz music.

Benson, Kathleen. ***Draw What You See: The Life and Art of Benny Andrews*** *

Chronicles the life of the artist Benny Andrews, from his childhood and youth in rural Georgia, through his studies in Chicago and his activism and artistic success in New York City. Images of his art are included.

Blumenthal, Karen. ***Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Differently*** ***

Steve Jobs was given up for adoption at birth, dropped out of college after one semester, and at the age of twenty, created Apple in his parents' garage with a friend. A devoted husband, father, and Buddhist, he battled cancer for over a decade, became the ultimate CEO and made the world want every product he touched.

Fleischman, Sid. ***Escape!: The Story of Great Houdini*** ***

A biography of the magician, ghost chaser, aviator, and king of escape artists whose amazing feats are remembered long after his death in 1926. Profiling his early years, personal life, and great accomplishments in show business, the story of the famous magician, Harry Houdini, comes to life through a review of his greatest tricks and most amazing feats, complete with index, photos, and author's notes.

Freedman, Russell. ***Martha Graham: A Dancer's Life*** **

A photo-biography of the American dancer, teacher, and choreographer who was born in Pittsburgh in 1895 and who became a leading figure in the world of modern dance.

Fritz, Jean. ***Alexander Hamilton: The Outsider*** **

An introduction to the life and accomplishments of Founding Father Alexander Hamilton.

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

Nine months before Rosa Parks' history-making protest on a city bus, Claudette Colvin, a 15-year-old Montgomery, Alabama high school student, was arrested and jailed for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger. Hoose draws from numerous personal interviews with Colvin in this exceptional title that is part historical account, part memoir.

Montgomery, Sy. ***Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World*** **

This compelling biography and Temple's personal photos take us inside her extraordinary mind and open the door to a broader understanding of autism.

Myers, Walter Dean. ***The Greatest: Muhammad Ali*** ***

An introduction to Ali's life from his childhood to the present day, focusing on his career and the controversies surrounding him. Both his talent in the boxing ring and his showmanship earned him fame, while his refusal to accept the stereotypical role of a black athletic star in the 1960s brought him notoriety. Sheinkin, Steve.

Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism, and Treachery ***

This is an engaging, highly readable biography of Benedict Arnold. It brings to life the full story of Arnold who was one of the American Revolution's greatest heroes and also America's first, most notorious traitor. Read pages of personal accounts, vivid Revolutionary battle scenes, and plot twists to experience this adventure tale from history

Yousafzai, Malala and Patricia McCormick. ***I am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (young readers edition)*** ***

Malala Yousafzai who was only ten years old when the Taliban took control of her region of Pakistan. They said music was a crime. They said women weren't allowed to go to the market. They said girls couldn't go to school. Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes, so she fought for her right to be educated. And on October 9, 2012, she nearly lost her life for the cause.

Out of This World: Fantasy & Science Fiction

Avi. ***The Book Without Words: A Fable of Medieval Magic*** **

The Book Without Words appears to be a volume of blank parchment pages. But for a green-eyed reader filled with great desire, it may reveal the forgotten magical arts of making gold and achieving immortality. On a terrible day of death and destruction, the Book Without Words falls into the hands of a desperate boy.

Cirrone, Dorian. ***The First Last Day*** **

What if you could have a do-over—a chance to relive a day in your life over and over again until you got it right? Would you? Eleven-year-old Haleigh must save the future by restarting time after she realizes that her wish to relive the last day of summer may not have been such a great thing after all!

Dahl, Roald. ***James and the Giant Peach*** *

James enters a peach as big as a house where he meets wonderful new friends.

Duprau, Jeanne. ***The City of Ember (series)*** **

Lina and Doon live in Ember, an isolated city whose only light comes from the electricity supplied by a huge underground

generator, a generator that is beginning to fail. Can Lina and Doon find a way to save themselves and their city.

Farmer, Nancy. ***The Sea of Trolls (series)*** ***

The year is 793, and fierce Vikings pass through a Saxon village and enslave two of its residents: Jack, an 11-year-old apprentice Mage and his 5-year-old sister Lucy. Jack and Lucy must embark on a perilous journey through lands filled with trolls, dragons, giant spiders, and talking crows to get back home.

Flanagan, John. ***The Ruins of Gorlan (Ranger's Apprentice series)*** **

The villagers believe the Rangers practice magic that makes them invisible to ordinary people. Now fifteen year-old Will, always small for his age, has been chosen as a Ranger's apprentice. Highly trained in the skills of battle and surveillance, the Rangers fight the battles before the battles reach the people, and as Will is about to learn, there is a large battle brewing.

Haddix, Margaret. ***Under Their Skin*** ***

Nick and Eryn's mom is getting remarried, and the twelve-year-old twins are skeptical when she tells them their lives won't change much. But Mom tells them not to worry. They won't ever have to meet their step siblings. Fans of author Margaret Haddix know that she is a master of suspense and this science fiction puzzle is a real page-turner!

Hagen, George. ***Gabriel Finley and the Raven's Riddle*** ***

Gabriel Finley finds he has a special bond with a raven named Paladin. Together Paladin, Gabriel, and two of Gabriel's friends work to find Gabriel's father who has been missing for some time. This slightly scary fantasy novel will make you wish for a sequel!

Kessler, Liz. ***The Tail of Emily Windsnap*** *

After finally convincing her mother that she should take swimming lessons, twelve-year-old Emily discovers a terrible and wonderful secret about herself that opens up a whole new world.

Messner, Kate. ***Wake Up Missing*** **

After suffering a concussion, Cat is attending I-CAN, a clinic in the Everglades that promises to cure her of constant headaches and lost memory. But I-CAN is state-of-the-art in its secrets, too. When Cat and her fellow patients discover the truth, they're in serious danger and must make a daring escape from the clinic to expose the secrets of I-CAN and save its subjects from losing themselves forever.

Stead, Rebecca. ***When You Reach Me*** ***

A twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

Page-turners: Mystery & Adventure

Abrahams, Peter. ***Into the Dark (series)*** **

Thirteen-year-old Sherlock Holmes aficionado Ingrid Levin-Hill tries to clear her grandfather's name when he is accused of murdering an environmental activist found dead on his farm.

Auxier, Jonathan. ***The Night Gardener*** ***

Two abandoned Irish siblings travel to work as servants at a creepy, crumbling English manor house. But the house and its family are not quite what they seem. Soon the children are confronted by a mysterious ghost who enters the house each night and an ancient curse that threatens their very lives.

Clements, Andrew. ***We the Children*** *

Ben and friends find themselves in danger when they discover the secret history of their Massachusetts school and set out to derail a developer's plan to level the building to make way for an amusement park.

Dowd, Siobhan. ***The London Eye Mystery*** **

While Ted, his sister Kat, and their cousin Salim wait in line to ride the London Eye, a huge ferris wheel, a stranger from the front of the line offers one free ticket and Salim takes it. Ted and Kat see him enter the capsule and follow his ride, but to their shock, he doesn't exit with his fellow riders. It's up to them to find him.

Grant, Michael. ***The Magnificent Twelve (series)*** **

Mack is your average 12 year boy with a few minor phobias, but one day Mack discovers a 3000 year old man in his bathroom who informs him that he is one of the 12 "Magnifica". Mack must accept the call to save the world from an evil force, will he do it in time?

Horowitz, Anthony. ***Stormbreaker (series)*** **

When his uncle and guardian dies in a mysterious accident, fourteen year-old Alex Rider finds out that his uncle was a spy for the MI6, Britain's equivalent of the CIA. Alex is recruited by the agency to continue his uncle's mission, kicking off his career as the youngest-ever international British spy.

Korman, Gordon. ***The Contest (series)*** *

Four climbers, winners of an American Junior Alpine Association contest, vie to become the youngest person ever to reach the peak of Mount Everest.

Raskin, Ellen. ***Westing Game*** ***

The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

Springer, Nancy. ***Case of the Missing Marquess (series)*** ***

Enola Holmes, much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, must travel to London in disguise to unravel the disappearance of her missing mother.

Entering 6

Van Draanen, Wendelin. ***Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief (series)*** **

Thirteen-year-old Sammy's penchant for speaking her mind gets her in trouble when she involves herself in the investigation of a robbery at the hotel across the street from the seniors' building where she is living with her grandmother.

Walden, Mark. ***H.I.V.E. (series)*** **

Otto ends up at the Higher Institute of Villainous Education with other kids who are equally talented and elite. When they realize they are trapped, they hatch a plan to escape. Can it be done?

Play Ball!: Sports Books

Alexander, Kwame. ***Booked*** **

Twelve-year-old Nick, a soccer player, learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. Helping him along are his best friend Coby, and The Mac, a rapping librarian who gives Nick inspiring books to read. This novel-in-verse will quickly pull you into Nick's world.

Bauer, Joan. ***Soar*** **

Jeremiah loves baseball and he knows just about everything there is to know about his favorite sport. So when he's told he can't play baseball following an operation on his heart, Jeremiah decides he'll do the next best thing and become a coach.

Green, Tim. ***Football Genius (series)*** ***

Troy White can predict any football play before it happens. And when his single mom gets a job with the Atlanta Falcons, Troy knows it's his big chance to help them out of their slump and finally prove his football genius. But unless Troy can convince star linebacker that he's telling the truth, the Falcons' championship and Troy's mom's job are in serious jeopardy.

Gutman, Dan. ***Ray and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure (series)*** **

Joe can travel back in time using baseball cards with magic powers. This time, Joe goes back to try to save Ray Chapman, the only player in major league history to get hit by a pitched ball and die.

Lupica, Mike. ***Batboy*** ***

Even though his mother feels baseball ruined her marriage to his father, she allows fourteen-year-old Brian to become a batboy for the Detroit Tigers, who have just drafted his favorite player back onto the team.

Lupica, Mike. ***Shoot-Out: Mike Lupica's Comeback Kids (series)*** **

What happens when a star player ends up on the worst team? He either learns to lose or he stops playing the game he loves. These are the choices facing Jake, who has gone from champion to last place, testing his sportsmanship every time his soccer team gets soundly beaten.

Scieszka, Jon. ***Guys Read: The Sports Pages (series)*** **

A collection of sports stories featuring everything from fighting to friendship, set everywhere from the tennis court to the hockey rink.

Wittenstein, Barry. ***Waiting for Pumpsie*** *

Did you know that the Boston Red Sox were the last major baseball league team to integrate? In 1959 Bernard is a young Red Sox fan, troubled by the lack of black players in major league baseball, especially as there are none at all on his favorite team--but change is coming in the form of a rookie named Pumpsie Green.

Way Back When: Historical Fiction

Avi. ***The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*** **

As the lone "young lady" on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious.

Choldenko, Gennifer. ***Al Capone Does My Shirts (series)*** **

It's 1935. Moose Flanagan lives on Alcatraz with his family, the other families of the guards, and a few hundred hit men, con men, mad dog murderers and a handful of bank robbers too.

Draper, Sharon M. ***Stella by Starlight*** ***

Stella lives in the segregated South in Bumblebee, North Carolina, to be exact. Some stores she can go into, some stores she can't. Some folks are pleasant, others are a lot less so. To Stella, it sort of evens out, and heck, the Klan hasn't bothered them for years. But one late night, Stella and her little brother see something they're never supposed to see, something that is the first flicker of change to come, unwelcome change by any stretch of the imagination.

Hill, Kirkpatrick. ***The Year of Miss Agnes*** *

Frederika (Fred for short) doesn't have much faith that the new teacher in town will last very long. After all, they never do. Most teachers who come to their one-room schoolhouse in remote, Alaska leave at the first smell of fish. But Miss Agnes is different -- she doesn't get frustrated with her students, and she throws away old textbooks and reads Robin Hood instead! For the first time, Fred and her classmates begin to enjoy their lessons and learn to read and write -- but will Miss Agnes be like all the rest and leave as quickly as she came?

Hopkinson, Deborah. ***A Bandit's Tale*** ***

Eleven-year-old Rocco is an Italian immigrant working as a street musician when he meets the boys of the infamous Bandits' Roost, who teach him the art of pickpocketing. Turns out, he's very good at it! But when he meets a strong-hearted Irish girl who's determined to help the horses of New York City, things begin to change.

Kadohata, Cynthia. ***Weedflower*** **

After twelve-year-old Sumiko and her Japanese-American family are relocated from their flower farm in southern California to an internment camp on a Mojave Indian reservation in Arizona, she helps her family and neighbors,

Entering 6

becomes friends with a local Indian boy, and tries to hold on to her dream of owning a flower shop.

Klages, Ellen. ***The Green Glass Sea (series)*** ***

In 1943, eleven-year-old Dewey Kerrigan lives with her scientist father in Los Alamos, New Mexico, as he works on a top-secret government program. The mystery and tension surrounding what Dewey knows only as "the gadget" trickles down to the kids on the compound who often do without adult supervision.

Preus, Margi. ***Heart of a Samurai: Based on the True Story of Nakahama Manjiro*** ***

In 1841 a Japanese fishing vessel sinks. Its crew is forced to swim to a small, unknown island, where rescued by a passing American ship, they set off to America, learning English on the way. Manjiro, a 14-year-old boy, is curious and eager to learn everything he can about this new culture. After many years, he makes it back to Japan, only to be imprisoned as an outsider. With his hard-won knowledge of the West, Manjiro is in a unique position to persuade the emperor to ease open the boundaries around Japan; he may even achieve his unlikely dream of becoming a samurai.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. ***Echo: A Novel*** ***

Three children, struggling to keep their families intact in the darkest days of the twentieth century, find themselves caught are tied together by the music of the same harmonica.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. ***Riding Freedom*** *

In this fast-paced story, readers adventure with Charlotte Parkhurst as she finds work as a stable hand, becomes a famous stage-coach driver (performing brave feats and outwitting bandits), and ultimately settles out west on the farm she'd dreamed of having since childhood. It wasn't until after her death that anyone discovered she was a woman.

Schmidt, Gary D. ***Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*** ***

In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers--and Turner's--want to change into a tourist spot.

Timberlake, Amy. ***One Came Home*** ***

In 1871 Wisconsin, thirteen-year-old Georgia sets out to find her sister Agatha, presumed dead when remains are found wearing the same dress she was last seen in, and before the end of the year gains fame as a sharpshooter and foiler of counterfeiters.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. ***One Crazy Summer (series)*** **

In the summer of 1968, Delphine's father decides that it's time the girls got to know their mother. Delphine boards a plane with her sisters to Cecile's home in Oakland. What they find there is far from their California dreams of Disneyland and movie stars.

Just for Fun: Humor

Foley, Lizzie K. ***Remarkable*** **

Ten-year-old Jane Doe, the only student average enough to be excluded from the town of Remarkable's School for the Remarkably Gifted, is joined at her public school by the trouble-making Grimlet twins, who lead her on a series of adventures involving an out-of-control science fair project, a pirate captain on the run from a mutinous crew, and a lonely dentist.

Gantos, J. ***Heads or Tails: Stories From the Sixth Grade*** ***

Jack's diary helps him deal with his problems which include dog-eating alligators, a terror for an older sister, a younger brother who keeps breaking parts of himself, and next-door neighbors who are really weird.

Grabenstein, Chris. ***Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics*** **

Mr. Lemoncello has invited teams from all across America to compete in the first ever Library Olympics. But something suspicious is going on, books are missing from Mr. Lemoncello's library. Is someone trying to censor what the kids are reading?! In between figuring out mind-boggling challenges, the kids will have to band together to get to the bottom of this humorous mystery.

Grabenstein, Chris. ***The Island of Dr. Libris*** *

Billy and his mom are renting a house near a lake for their summer vacation. The house is owned by the mysterious Dr. Libris who has given Billy permission to read any book he finds in the home's library. When Billy reads any of the books, however, he hears mysterious noises from the island in the middle of the lake--noises that make him believe that the book characters are coming to life on the island! With a cast of characters that includes Hercules, Robin Hood, Maid Marian, and the Sheriff of Nottingham, to name a few, this book is full of humorous adventure!

Paulsen, Gary. ***Masters of Disaster*** *

Twelve-year-old Henry's grand adventures spell disaster for best chums Riley and Reed, who always seems to land in a pile of "smelly goo."

Scieszka, Jon (ed.). ***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

Carlson, Lori Marie. ***Cool Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Growing Up Latino in the United States*** *

Poems celebrate themes and moods from Hispanic-American teenage life, from the passion of learning English to the pain of ethnic prejudice.

Hopkins, Lee Bennett. ***America at War*** **

A collection of poems about America at war from the Revolution to the Iraq war.

Entering 6

Kennedy, Caroline. ***A Family of Poems*** **

An anthology of poems celebrating poetry's ability to connect us like family.

Levine, Gail Carson. ***Forgive Me, I Meant to Do It: False Apology Poems*** *

Inspired by William Carlos Williams's famous poem, "This Is Just to Say," a collection of ironic apology poems imagines how tricksters really feel about the mischief they make.

Lewis, J. Patrick. ***Voices from the March on Washington*** **

A collection of poems telling the story of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. ***The Red Pencil*** **

Amira has just turned twelve when the story begins. She is living in Sudan which is constantly under threat from the Janjaweed militia. When the militia arrives in her village, her family is forced to move to a refugee camp away from everything they know. Life in the camp is dreary until one of the workers gives out pencils, opening the world of reading and writing to Amira who desperately wants to tell her story. This novel is written in verse and is illustrated by Shane Evans.

Rose, Caroline Starr. ***May B: A Novel*** ***

In this historical verse novel, Pa pulls twelve-year-old May, who struggles to read because of dyslexia, from school and hires her out to a couple new to the Kansas frontier.

Sidman, Joyce. ***Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature*** *

Poems and lush illustrations celebrate the shape of a spiral in nature, from rushing rivers to flower buds and even the shape of an ear.

Thanhha, Lai. ***Inside Out and Back Again*** **

Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama.

Wong, Janet S. ***A Suitcase of Seaweed and Other Poems*** *

With a sense of pride in her Korean, Chinese, and American background, Janet Wong's poetry reflects some of the differences between Chinese and Korean customs and culture and the American way of life.

wacky neighbors, even a juggler. They create a bar graph to track the rise and fall of their lemonade sales.

Schwartz, David. ***G is for Googol***

Explains the meaning of mathematical terms which begin with the different letters of the alphabet from abacus, binary, and cubit to zillion.

Schwartz, David. ***How Much is a Million***

Text and pictures try to make possible the conceptualization of a million, a billion, and a trillion

Smith, David J. ***If the World Were a Village***

The author condenses the world's population into an imaginary village of one hundred people, then gives data on topics such as nationalities, languages, and education.

Books on Summer Math Calendar

Demi. ***One Grain of Rice***

A reward of one grain of rice doubles day by day into millions of grains of rice when a selfish raja is outwitted by a clever village girl.

Mitsumasa, Anno. ***Anno's Mysterious Multiplying Jar***

Simple text and pictures introduce the mathematical concept of factorials.

Murphy, Stuart. ***Lemonade for Sale***

Four kids and their sidekick, Petey the parrot, run a sometimes thriving lemonade stand whose patrons include all kinds of

Notes

SUMMER READING ONLINE

<http://brooklinesummerreading.weebly.com>



Visit us online for access to:

- ◆ Downloadable copies of our lists
- ◆ Summer reading resources
- ◆ Access to audiobooks and e-books
- ◆ Access to online encyclopedias and databases
- ◆ Additional reading lists