

SUMMER READING 2017

Public Schools of Brookline, Massachusetts



Entering 7-8 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/>

Hot Off the Presses: New and Noteworthy

Anderson, John David. ***Ms. Bixby's Last Day*** *
 What happens when the best teacher you've ever had gets sick? Really sick? Topher, Steve, and Brand have enough problems of their own. Then their favorite teacher suddenly announces she's leaving school for the rest of the year because she has cancer. Brainy Steve, dreamer Topher and tough-guy Brand decide they have to do something about it, and concoct a crazy scheme that is alternately heartbreaking and hilarious.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***Ashes (series)*** **
 Conclusion to the American Revolution trilogy. Curzon and Isabel locate Ruth (Isabel's beloved younger sister) in SC and begin the journey to freedom in Rhode Island. Curzon reenlists in the Continental Army and the characters grapple with the themes of freedom and liberty despite their own history of slavery. Compelling historical fiction.

Brown, Skila. ***To Stay Alive: Mary Ann Graves and the Tragic Journey of the Donner Party*** *
 In the 1840s, many people moved west across America on wagon trains. The grueling and grim trip through the Sierra Nevada mountains is retold here in free verse by Mary Ann Graves, a 19 year old who made the trip with her family. The poems lend beauty to a story full of misery, drawing the reader in deeply. The author's note at the end provides context and helps the reader divide fact from fiction.

Davis, Kenneth C. ***In the Shadow of Liberty: The Hidden History of Slavery, Four Presidents, and the Five Black Lives*** **
 Five of the first seven Presidents of the United States owned slaves or grew up in families that owned slaves. Yet it is rarely discussed when we study the Presidents, and most Americans don't know anything about the people who were enslaved by our country's first leaders. Kenneth Davis presents the stories of five of the many people who were denied their freedom by the leaders who worked to build a nation on principles of liberty and justice. This is an incredibly important book that is well written and includes reproductions of many primary sources used to learn these stories.

Gephart, Donna. ***Lily and Dunkin*** **
 Touching realistic fiction title features Lily and Dunkin who are likeable, engaging characters. Themes of gender identity, family acceptance and bipolar disorder are interwoven in a masterful manner. Readers will like these two characters and their story of bravery.

Hartley, A.J. ***Steeplejack*** ***
 Anglet, usually called Ang is the best steeplejack in the city. She's also the only girl willing to do the dangerous, grimy job of climbing chimneys sometimes hundreds of feet tall. Her difficult life takes a turn for the worse when her new apprentice is murdered minutes before he starts working with her -- and just as the most expensive gem in the city is stolen from the tallest tower on the continent. This gritty, exciting steampunk

mystery is set in a city loosely based on 19th century South Africa.

Lewis, John and Andrew Aydin. ***March: Book Three*** ***
 National Book Award for Young People's Literature Winner. Last installment in the trilogy. John Lewis shares his experiences of the Civil Rights era in a powerful graphic form. This book details the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church, the Freedom Summer murders and the 1964 Democratic National Convention.

Orgill, Roxane and Francis Vallejo. ***Jazz Day: The Making of a Famous Photograph*** *
 Poetry collection celebrating the famous 1954 photograph of American Jazz greats on a brownstone stoop in Harlem. This book describes how this photographer Art Kane took the photograph over the course of the day. Short biographies on jazz artists are included with an informative author's note.

Reynolds, Jason. ***As Brave As You*** *
 Genie Harris and his brother, born and bred New Yorkers, are sent off to live with their grandparents in the rural south for the summer in order to give their parents time to work on their troubled marriage. Genie is the nerd who has to live without the internet in VA but luckily he develops a friendship with a local girl. They work together to uncover the secret behind the poor relationship between his blind grandfather and father. Readers will appreciate the humor and the well-developed characters.

Rubin, Susan Goldman. ***Brown v. Board of Education: A Fight for Simple Justice*** *
 Engaging non-fiction narrative which traces the passage of the 1954 Supreme Court decision mandating school desegregation. Five individuals attempted and failed in their court attempts at the district level so the 5 plaintiffs joined together in a federal case. Personal stories and primary documents make this book a compelling read.

Sheinkin, Steve. ***Undeclared: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team*** **
 Who's the best athlete on Earth? How many sports does she or he excel at? One? Two? Three? How about FIVE? Jim Thorpe was an Olympic gold medalist in track and field, and a professional athlete in three major sports: football, basketball and baseball. He was also a Native American, and dealt with racism and cruel treatment due to his heritage throughout his whole life. Steve Sheinkin's biography of him is thoroughly researched and compellingly written.

Shetterly, M. L. ***Hidden Figures Young Reader's Edition*** **
 John Glenn and Neil Armstrong are well known space pioneers. However very few people knew about the African American mathematicians (human computers) who did the calculations which enabled rockets to launch into space. Readers will learn about Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson and Christine Darden and their contributions against a backdrop of the Civil Rights Era, the Cold War and the Space Race.

Entering 7 – 8

Sonnenblick, Jordan. ***Falling Over Sideways*** *

Claire is frustrated because she is not moving up to the next level of dance class with her friends. She is left with the "babies" and struggles to deal with the mean girls and the even more difficult Ryder at school. Then her father suffers from a debilitating injury which he may or may not recover from. Her family struggles to adjust to the impact of his illness while maintaining secrecy. Will Claire make a decision to help her family?

Stelson, C. ***Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story*** **

Sachiko Yasui was 6 years old when the atomic bomb fell on the city of Nagasaki. Thousands and thousands of people died in the explosion, and the survivors were left to deal with terrible losses, incomprehensible destruction, and illness from the bomb's radiation. Author Caren Stelson interviewed Sachiko many times and tells her story of survival with grace and honesty.

Yoon, Nicola. ***The Sun Is Also a Star*** **

Natasha and Daniel cross paths one fateful day in New York city. Natasha's family is about to be deported. The last thing she needs is to fall in love. Daniel always does what he is supposed to as the dutiful son. But a dutiful son doesn't drop everything he's doing to follow a girl he just met all over the city, does he? Romantics will fall hard for this book.

Take a Look: Graphic Books for Older Readers

Broskol, Vera. ***Anya's Ghost*** *

Anya, embarrassed by her Russian immigrant family and self-conscious about her body, has given up on fitting in at school but falling down a well and making friends with the ghost there just may be worse.

Chmakova, Svetlana. ***Awkward*** *

Middle school drama is the theme of this book. Peppi enters a new school and struggles to fit in. She struggles throughout the book to find a way to apologize to a friend while trying to maintain her footing with cool kids. Many diverse characters and realistic problems make a winning combination.

Hinds, Gareth. ***Romeo & Juliet*** ***

Gareth Hinds presents another excellent graphic novel adaptation of a classic (also look for his version of The Odyssey, Beowulf, and others). Shakespeare's tragic romance is made accessible and modern with a diverse cast while still using the original lines from the text. Beautiful illustrations bring the story to life and captivate the reader.

Stevenson, Noelle and Brooke Allen. ***Lumberjanes (series)*** *

This summer camp is like no other, and the five best friends at "Miss Quinzella Thiskwin Penniquiquil Thistle Crumpet's Camp for Hardcore Lady-types" (a.k.a. Lumberjanes) love every minute of it. Foxes, screaming eagles, talking statues and demonic scouting lads are no match for the Lumberjanes, who fight as hard as they laugh. Readers will laugh even harder.

Stevenson, Noelle. ***Nimona*** *

This is the print version of the popular web comic. Nimona is an impulsive shape shifter with a knack for villainy. She joins forces with Lord Blackheart to unearth the truth about Sir Ambrosius Goldenloin, but Lord Blackheart soon discovers that Nimona may not be who she seems. A rollicking adventure.

Tennapel, Doug. ***Bad Island*** *

Two stories are woven together and race to an exciting climax. Teenager Reese thinks he's too old for a family vacation, but gets dragged on the boat trip anyway. An unnamed space alien rebels against his father's wishes. Packed with monsters, skeletons, chases, and fight scenes (plus a funny -- and dead - - pet snake), this sci-fi family adventure leaps off the page.

Wicks, Mavis. ***Human Body Theater*** *

Non-fiction graphic depiction of the human body and how it works. Informative and entertaining.

Too Good To Miss: Classics

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 hermitic 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.

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.

Hinton, S.E. ***That Was Then, This Is Now*** **

This book is about two best friends Bryon and Mark and is similar to the classic book The Outsiders. Mark notices dangerous changes in his best friend and has to make a choice.

Get Real: Nonfiction

Fleming, Candace. ***The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia*** ***

A fascinating account of the Romanov family who was Russia's last royal family. Photos and first person accounts make this a fast-paced non-fiction book that reads like a novel.

Entering 7 – 8

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

An introduction to World War I that explains its relevance as a conflict that involved many nations and casualties while introducing modern weaponry and military strategies that have shaped all subsequent wars.

Hillebrand, L. ***Unbroken (YA Adaptation): An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive***. ***

Louis Zamperini was a troublemaker turned Olympian track star and WWII pilot. He survived 47 days at sea after his army plane was shot down and a brutal experience as a POW in Japan. He returns home to his family after they had lost all hope of his survival. His is an unbelievable life story of an individual who survives because of grit, determination and the support of family. Violent themes and photographs.

Paulsen, Gary. ***Guts*** *

In *Guts*, Gary tells about the adventures that inspired him to write Brian Robeson's story, working as an emergency volunteer, the death that inspired the pilot's death in Hatchet, plane crashes he has seen and near-misses of his own. There's even a handy chapter on "Eating Eyeballs and Guts or Starving: The Fine Art of Wilderness Nutrition." Recipes included.

Pollan, Michael. ***The Omnivore's Dilemma: The Secrets Behind What You Eat, Young Readers Edition*** *

The New York Times best seller adapted for young readers delves into facts about food, life expectancy as it relates to consumption, and global health implications resulting from food choices made by people around the world.

Sheinkin, Steve. ***Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights*** ***

A compelling account of the 1944 civil rights protest involving hundreds of African-American Navy servicemen who were unjustly charged with mutiny for refusing to work in unsafe conditions after the deadly Port Chicago explosion.

Stone, Tanya Lee. ***Courage Has No Color, The True Story of the Triple Nickles: America's First Black Paratroopers*** **

Examines the role of African-Americans in the military through the history of the Triple Nickles, America's first black paratroopers, who fought against attacks perpetrated on the American West by the Japanese during World War II.

It Could Happen: Realistic Fiction

Benjamin, Ali. ***The Thing About Jellyfish*** *

7th grader Suzy doesn't talk. After her best friend drowns, Suzy doesn't see the point in conversation. Instead, she retreats into her own thoughts. On a trip to the New England Aquarium she becomes convinced that the true cause of Franny's death must have been a rare jellyfish sting, and begins intense research to prove her theory. Along the way, Suzy explores life, death, friendship, and the amazing wonder of the universe.

Bauer, Joan. ***Close to Famous*** *

Foster has a big secret, she can't read. With the help of a retired movie star, she overcomes her struggles and wins over hearts with her exceptional baked goods.

Budhos, Marina. ***Tell Us We're Home*** **

Three immigrant girls from different parts of the world meet and become close friends in a small New Jersey town where their mothers have found domestic work, but their relationships are tested when one girl's mother is accused of stealing a precious heirloom.

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.

Clements, Andrew. ***Extra Credit*** *

Abby lives in Illinois where school is her biggest problem. She has ignored so much work that she may fail 6th grade. For Sadeed, halfway around the world in Afghanistan, worries are bigger: the war in his country and the danger posed by the harsh climate in the mountain highlands. Their lives intersect when Abby gets an extra credit assignment to be a pen pal with a foreign student in order to save her grades.

Mass, Wendy. ***Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life*** **

Jeremy's summer takes an unexpected turn when a mysterious wooden box arrives in the mail. He is supposed to open it in one month on his thirteenth birthday. The problem is the keys are missing and his quest to find them and much more begins.

Schmidt, Gary. ***Trouble*** **

Trouble arrives to a small town divided by race and class when a truck driven by kids from the local prep school causes a tragic accident. Henry is grieving for his older brother Franklin who is in a coma and he decides to leave to hike Mt. Katahdin without telling his family to honor him. Henry also must reconcile the fact that truth and honesty may alter perceptions.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg. ***Counting by 7's*** **

Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after a tragic accident.

Sonnenblink, 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.

Stead, Rebecca. ***Goodbye Stranger*** *

7th grade is a pivotal year and readers witness Bridge Barsamian's struggles with puberty, family dynamics and friendships. Poignant and well written.

Life Stories: Biography

Busby, Maya. ***The Year We Disappeared: A Father-Daughter Memoir*** ***

When Cylin Busby was nine, she was obsessed with the Muppets and her turtle, then, one night, everything changed. Her police officer father, John, was driving to work when someone leveled a shotgun at his window. Overnight, the Busbys went from being the "family next door" to one under 24-hour armed guard. The shooter was still on the loose, and it seemed a matter of time before he'd come after John or his family. With their lives unraveling and unsafe, they left everything and everyone they had ever known and simply disappeared.

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.

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

You've probably heard of Alexander Hamilton. If you're not sure why he's famous, this book is for you. It presents the life, achievements, and failings of one of the individuals who helped create our country. If you're a Hamiltonian because of the musical, this biography will fill in some of the details Lin Manuel Miranda had to leave out!

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.

Lowery, Lynda Blackmon. ***Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the Selma Voting Rights March*** **

This is the inspiring story of the youngest person to complete the historic walk to Selma to Montgomery. This includes primary documents and her reflections on her civil rights action.

Scheinkin, Steve. ***Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War*** ***

Steve Scheinkin once again creates a gripping nonfiction narrative about Daniel Ellsberg who "leaked" the Pentagon Papers. Primary source documents and photographs add additional information to this important book about the Vietnam Era.

Woodson, Jacqueline. ***Brown Girl Dreaming*** **

Jacqueline's award winning memoir of her life composed in lyrical poetry. She grew up in the Jim Crow era and traveled between Ohio, the South and NYC and her work captures the changing climate of the time against the backdrop of familial struggles. Most importantly she shares the discovery of her voice as a writer.

Yousafzai, Malala. ***I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban*** ***

Memoir by the courageous advocate of education. Readers will be inspired by this young leader's leadership and ability to meet challenges bravely.

Out of This World: Fantasy & Science Fiction

Adams, Douglas. ***The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (series)*** **

Seconds before Earth is demolished to make room for a galactic freeway, an earthman is saved by his friend. Together they journey through the galaxy.

Carriger, Gail. ***Etiquette & Espionage (series)*** **

In an alternate England of 1851, spirited fourteen-year-old Sophronia is enrolled in a finishing school where, she is surprised to learn, lessons include not only the fine arts of dance, dress, and etiquette, but also diversion, deceit, and espionage.

Cashore, Kristin. ***Graceling (series)*** **

In a world where some people are born with extreme and often-feared skills called Graces, Katsa struggles for redemption from her own horrifying Grace of killing and teams up with another young fighter to save their land from a corrupt king.

Clayton, Emma. ***The Roar (series)*** **

In an overpopulated world where all signs of nature have been obliterated and a wall has been erected to keep out plague-ridden animals, twelve-year-old Mika refuses to believe that his twin sister was killed after being abducted, and continues to search for her in spite of the dangers he faces in doing so.

Dashner, James. ***The Maze Runner (series)*** **

Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.

Falker, Brian. ***Battlesaurus: Rampage at Waterloo*** ***

What if Napoleon had dinosaurs as a secret weapon? It sounds like a joke, but Battlesaurus is seriously written and well-researched historical fiction. This challenging read will appeal to history buffs, war story devotees and dinosaur fans alike. Faulkner's epic tale will also be a good bet for Tolkien fans, with its broad scope combined with thorough attention to detail.

Falls, Kat. ***Dark Life (series)*** **

Ty has spent his whole life living deep undersea. When outlaws attack his homestead, he finds himself in a fight to save the only home he has ever known. Joined by Gemma, a girl from Topside, Ty ventures into the frontier's rough underworld and discovers some dark secrets to Dark Life. Secrets that threaten to destroy everything.

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

This exciting fantasy takes place during the Viking raids of the Anglo-Saxons in the late 700s. Jack thought he was just an ordinary farm boy until he became an apprentice to the local bard, who is teaching him music, but also the magic of the Life Force. When his village is attacked by Viking berserkers, and he and his little sister are taken as thralls, he doesn't know the perils in store for him. In order to survive and maybe get home, he will have to learn to deal with the Northmen, face down dragons, brave the perils of troll country, and learn more about magic than he ever thought possible.

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

Incarceron is a futuristic prison, sealed from view, where the descendants of the original prisoners live in a dark world torn by rivalry and savagery. A young prisoner, Finn, has haunting visions and memories of another world. In the outer world, Claudia, daughter of the Warden of Incarceron, is trapped in her own form of prison. She knows nothing of Incarceron, except that it exists. Finn and Claudia simultaneously both discover the crystal key and plan Finn's escape.

Page-turners: Mystery & Adventure

Hardinge, Frances. ***Cuckoo Song*** ***

A must read for horror readers. An 11 year old girl wakes up after nearly drowning in a pond. Triss discovers that she has no memory and has an insatiable appetite which means she begins to eat EVERYTHING. An unsettling chain of events begins.

Pena, Matt de la. ***The Living (series)*** ***

This story interweaves a weather related disaster on a cruise ship, a global event against a backdrop of young adolescents working out friendship and loyalty issues in a fast paced page-turner.

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.

Riordan, Rick. ***Magnus Chase*** *

Move over, Percy Jackson; there's a new demigod in town. Rick Riordan is back with another wild adventure, this time careening between the streets of Boston and the nine worlds of the Norse Tree of Life, Yggdrasil. On his 16th birthday, Magnus Chase discovers the future of the worlds, all nine of them, rest on his shoulders. Then, he dies. That's only the beginning of the mayhem and madness.

Stiefvater, Maggie. ***Scorpio Races*** **

Nineteen-year-old returning champion Sean Kendrick competes against Puck Connolly, the first girl ever to ride in the annual Scorpio Races, both trying to keep hold of their dangerous water horses long enough to make it to the finish line.

Torday, Piers. ***The Last Wild (series)*** **

A plague has killed most of the animals on Earth, and the government has moved all people to walled cities for their safety. Kester was taken away from his parents and locked up at the Spectrum Hall Academy for Challenging Children, where after many years, his sad and lonely life is interrupted by a talking cockroach. The surviving animals need his help, and they break him out of the school for an epic, dangerous and sometimes humorous adventure.

Walden, Mark. ***H.I.V.E. (Higher Institute of Villainous Education)*** *

When they are swept away to a hidden academy for training evil geniuses, Otto, a brilliant orphan, Wing, a sensitive warrior, Laura, a shy computer specialist, and Shelby, an infamous jewel thief, plot to beat the odds and escape.

Westerfeld, Scott. ***Uglies (series)*** **

Just before their sixteenth birthdays in a futuristic society, when they will be transformed into beauties whose only job is to have a great time, Tally's best friend runs away and Tally must find her and turn her in, or never become pretty at all.

Bradley, Alan. ***The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*** **

At the once-grand mansion of Buckshaw, young Flavia de Luce, an aspiring chemist with a passion for poison, is intrigued when a dead bird is found on the doorstep, a postage stamp pinned to its beak. Hours later, Flavia finds a man lying in the cucumber patch dying. For Flavia, who is both appalled and delighted, life begins in earnest when murder comes to Buckshaw.

Child, Lauren. ***Ruby Redfort: Look Into My Eyes (series)*** *

Ruby is a 13 year old code breaker who with the observational skills of Sherlock Holmes. Her sidekick Clancy Crew and Ruby discover a dangerous world and use amazing gadgets to solve the crimes. Check out the website www.rubyredfort.com for codebreaker challenges.

Cooper, Susan. ***Ghost Hawk*** *

A Wampanoag boy named Little Hawk survives the loss of his village to a plague contracted from the Pilgrims, who have recently founded Plymouth. Later he befriends a white boy, John Wakeley, only to have a shocking act of violence irrevocably alter their lives.

Cummings, Priscilla. ***Red Kayak*** *

Tragedy strikes when a kayak turns over in the Chesapeake Bay. Thirteen year old Brady who is on the rescue team, investigates the cause of the accident, and he doesn't like what he finds out.

Gibbs, Stuart. ***Spy School (series)*** **

Ben's life suddenly becomes a lot more exciting when the CIA recruits him to join a secret spy school. Too exciting, in fact, as his life is constantly in danger and he still has to deal with everything he thought he would escape: bullies, homework, boring teachers, and being totally ignored by girls. When he discovers a plot against the school and no one believes him, the stakes get even higher. This series is action-packed and full of fun.

Hiassen, Carl. **Skink: No Surrender** **

When his cousin Malley runs away, 14-year-old Richard is sure she's in danger and sets off in secret to find her. Skink, a former governor turned outlaw eco-terrorist, comes to the rescue by teaming up with Richard for an unpredictable and event-filled search through the wilds of Florida.

Lane, Andrew. **Death Cloud: Sherlock Holmes-The Legend Begins** **

It is the summer of 1868, and Sherlock Holmes is fourteen. On break from boarding school, he is staying with eccentric strangers, his uncle and aunt, in their vast house in Hampshire. When two local people die from symptoms that resemble the plague, Holmes begins to investigate what really killed them, helped by his new tutor, an American named Amyus Crowe. So begins Sherlock's true education in detection, as he discovers the dastardly crimes of a brilliantly sinister villain of exquisitely malign intent.

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

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

Sedgwick, Marcus. **She Is Not Invisible** ***

Laureth's family is falling apart, and she's the only one who can put it back together. Her father has disappeared and she has to decipher the clues to find him -- fast. Unfortunately, the clues point to New York, and Laureth is in London. She's also blind. So she does the only thing she can think of: kidnaps her 7 year old brother and sets off across the ocean. Sedgwick's complex puzzle of a novel investigates family, coincidence, bravery, trust, and more.

Silvey, Craig. **Jasper Jones** ***

Charlie Bucktin, a bookish thirteen year old, is startled one summer night when Jasper Jones, an outcast in their small Australian mining town, comes to ask for Charlie's help. Charlie follows him into the night where Charlie witnesses Jasper's horrible discovery. With the secret like a brick in his belly, Charlie is pushed and pulled by a town closing in on itself in fear and suspicion. In the simmering summer where everything changes, Charlie learns why the truth of things is so hard to know, and even harder to hold in his heart.

Stroud, Jonathan. **The Whispering Skull** *

Ghost-hunter agency Lockwood & Co. takes on its second big-ticket case, this one involving sinister artifacts with possible links to the genesis of Britain's ghost "Problem." A smart and creepy book full of action and deadpan humor.

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

Alexander, Kwame. **The Crossover** **

Newbery winner novel in verse. Twin brothers are competitors on and off the court. Their conflict explodes on the court during the championship. Their parents provide positive guidance and help the boys work through problems. A tragedy unfolds. Readers will delight in the wordplay found in the poems.

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.

Brooks, Bruce. **The Moves Make the Man** **

Jerome Foxworthy, the Jayfox to his friends, likes to think he can handle anything. He handled growing up without a father. He handled being the first black kid in school. And he sure can handle a basketball. Then Jerome meets Bix Rivers, mysterious and moody, but a great athlete. So Jerome decides to teach Bix his game. He can tell that Bix has the talent. All he's got to do is learn the right moves.

Bruchac, Joseph. **Warriors** *

Jake has left the reservation for Weltime 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.

D'Orso, Michael. **Eagle Blue: A Team, a Tribe, and a High School Basketball Season in Arctic Alaska** ***

Author Michel D'Orso shadows the Fort Yukon Eagles through an Arctic winter of fifty-below-zero temperatures and near-round-the-clock darkness as the Eagles criss-cross Alaska in pursuit of their, and their village's dream, to win the basketball championship.

Deuker, Carl. **Payback Time** ***

Student sports reporter Mitch investigates his football coach on suspicion of corruption in order to determine why the best athlete at his high school, Angel, does nothing but stand on the sidelines.

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Green, Tim. ***Kid Owner*** **

Ryan Zinna lives and breathes football. But he's the smallest kid in seventh grade, so even though he's on the team he never gets to play. Then he receives news that turns his world upside down: the father he never knew died and he inherited his dad's NFL football team. Owning the team doesn't magically improve his life, though, and it turns out that his ownership is at risk unless he can get on the field and defeat the rival middle school football team, whose star quarterback just happens to be his half brother.

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.

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.

Lupica, Mike. ***Fantasy League*** *

When a sports radio host notices Charlie's podcast, his fantasy football picks get played for all of Los Angeles to hear. National fame follows when an NFL team owner starts following Charlie's advice. Although fun at first, it's not long before all the press conferences and media attention get to be a bit much for a kid just trying to stay on top of his grades and hang on to his friends.

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.

Scieszka, Jon and Gordon Korman. ***Guys Read: The Sports Pages*** *

Ten short stories written by notable writers on all things sports! Authors include Tim Green, Dan Gutman, Gordon Korman, Anne Ursu and Jacqueline Woodson and the illustrations are by Dan Santat.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. ***The Running Dream*** **

Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run?

Volponi, Paul. ***Final Four*** **

Four players with one thing in common: the will to win. Malcolm wants to get to the NBA ASAP. Roko wants to be the pride of his native Croatia. Crispin wants the girl of his dreams. M.J. just wants a chance. March Madness is in full swing, and there are only four teams left in the NCAA basketball championship. As the last moments tick down on the game clock, you'll learn how each player went from being a kid who loved to shoot hoops to a powerful force in one of the most important games of the year. Which team will leave the Superdome victorious?

Yelchin, Eugene. ***Arcady's Goal*** *

Soccer is Arcady's only hope of surviving and perhaps even getting out of the orphanage in Stalinist Russia, but even with his impressive skills it won't be easy. Author Yelchin based his story on his father's experiences in the Red Army Soccer Club in the 1940s. Exciting sports action is combined with historical fact and an emotional storyline to create a powerful, taut narrative.

Way Back When: Historical Fiction

Burg, Ann E. ***All the Broken Pieces*** **

Two years after being airlifted out of Vietnam in 1975, Matt Pin is haunted by the terrible secret he left behind and, now, in a loving adoptive home in the United States, a series of profound events forces him to confront his past.

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.

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.

Gonzalez, Christina Diaz. ***The Red Umbrella*** *

In 1961 after Castro has come to power in Cuba, fourteen-year-old Lucia and her seven-year-old brother are sent to the United States when her parents fear that the children will be taken away from them as others have been.

Hopkinson, Deborah. ***The Great Trouble: A Mystery of London, the Blue Death, and a Boy Called Eel*** **

This story of the 1854 cholera outbreak in London is told through the eyes of Eel, a 13-year-old orphan who works as an errand boy at the Lion Brewery, cares for Dr. Snow's animals and moonlights as a "mudlark," scavenging the Thames for scraps of coal until he is unjustly accused of stealing.

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. ***The Lions of Little Rock*** **

In 1958 Little Rock, Arkansas, painfully shy twelve-year-old Marlee sees her city and family divided over school integration, but her friendship with Liz, a new student, helps her find her voice and fight against racism.

Lynch, Chris. ***I Pledge Allegiance (Vietnam Series)*** *

Morris, Rudi, Ivan, and Beck are best friends for life. So when one of them is drafted into the Vietnam War, the others sign up, too, each with a different branch of the US military. Morris joins the US Navy, and he makes it his personal mission to watch over his friends from the USS Boston. But the Boston

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itself isn't safe from attack. And although Morris means to keep his friends safe, he may have his hands full just watching out for himself.

Magoon, Kekla. ***Fire in the Streets*** *

In the aftermath of Dr. King's assassination in 1968, Chicago fourteen-year-old Maxie longs to join the Black Panthers, whether or not her brother Raheem, ex-boyfriend Sam, or her friends like it, and is soon caught up in the violence of anti-war and civil rights demonstrations.

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.

Myers, Walter Dean. ***Fallen Angels*** **

Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.

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.

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

Calcutta, India, in 1977 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.

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

Manjiro and his friends are washed out to sea during a fishing expedition in 1841. They land on a island far from their native Japan. They are rescued by an American whaling boat. The Japanese and Americans distrust each other but he forms a relationship with the childless Captain Whitfield. He decides to go to America for an adventure and realizes the views of America he had were not valid and Americans in turn learn about Japan. Based on the a real event and character.

Schlitz, Laura Amy. ***The Hired Girl*** **

This historical fiction book provides a window into turn of the century Pennsylvania. A young girl becomes the servant to a wealthy Jewish family and her journal chronicles her foibles, impressions and relationships.

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.

Whelan, Gloria. ***Small Acts of Amazing Courage*** **

In 1919, independent-minded fifteen-year-old Rosalind lives in India with her English parents, and when they fear she has fallen in with some rebellious types who believe in Indian self-government, she is sent "home" to London, where she has never been before and where her older brother died, to stay with her two aunts.

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

Gantos, Jack. ***Jack's Black Book: What Happens When You Flunk an IQ Test? (series)*** **

In just a few months, Jack is humiliated by a gorgeous synchronized swimmer, gets a tattoo the size of an ant on his big toe, flubs an IQ test and nearly fails wood shop, and has to dig up his dead dog not once but twice. It's all here in Jack's black book.

Korman, Gordon. ***Ungifted*** *

Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at middle school.

Mack, W.C. ***Athlete vs. Mathlete (series)*** *

Two twins are opposites in every way. Owen is the sports superstar while brother Russell is the scholastic genius. What happens when the new coach recruits Russell for the basketball team? Funny read with realistic portrayal of the ins and outs of brotherly relationships.

Patterson, James. ***Superhero: Public School*** *

Kenny dreams about assuming his secret identity: Stainezz Steel, defender of the weak and bullied. In reality, he is known as "Grandma's Boy" and a chess player. Ultimately Kenny faces a choice. Will he do the right thing? Funny and touching. Comic book panels add to the appeal.

Perkins, Lynne Rae. ***As Easy as Falling Off the Face of the Earth*** *

A teenaged boy encounters one comedic calamity after another when his train strands him in the middle of nowhere, and everything comes down to luck.

Rex, Adam. ***Cold Cereal (series)*** *

Mythology and magic collide with breakfast cereal in this dry-humored adventure when a boy who may be part changeling, twins involved in a bizarre secret experiment, and a clurichau

in a red tracksuit try to save the world from an evil cereal company whose ultimate goal is world domination. Book one of a trilogy.

A Way with Words: Poetry

Aquado, Bill and Richard Newirth. ***Paint Me Like I Am*** *
Teens who have taken part in writing programs run by a national nonprofit organization called Writers Corps are represented in this collection of poems which convey the words in the diverse voices of teenagers everywhere.

Greenberg, Jan. ***Heart to Heart*** *
A compilation of poems by Americans writing about American art in the twentieth century, including such writers as Nancy Willard, Jane Yolen, and X. J. Kennedy.

Holt, Kimberly. ***House Arrest*** *
This is a sensitive realistic fiction novel in verse about a boy who ends up in legal trouble when he tries to do the right thing for his severely ill brother. Would you make the same choice in order to save your brother's life?

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 is forced to stay at home for months to recuperate. 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 and 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, Walter Dean. ***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.

Nye, Naomi Shihab. ***What Have You Lost?*** **
What have you lost? A friend? A brother? A wallet? A memory? A meaning? A year? Each Night Images, dream news, fragments, flash then fade. These darkened walls. Here, I say. Climb into this story.

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