SUMMER READING 2019

Entering

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Public Schools of Brookline, Massachusetts
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, Coolidge Corner School
Kathy Moriarty, Lawrence School
Anne Reid, Driscoll School
Julie Seifert, Coolidge Corner School

Scott Moore, Director of Educational Technology and Libraries
Hot Off the Presses: New and Noteworthy

Barton, Chris and Euka Holmes. *What Do You Do With a Voice Like That?***
Congressman, Barbara Jordan took her voice to places few African American women had been in the 1960s: first law school, then the Texas state senate, then up to the United States congress. In this remarkable picture book biography, learn all about her amazing career as lawyer, educator, politician, and civil rights leader and how her mission continues to inspire today.

Brown, Don. *Rocket to the Moon***
A graphic novel of the history of rockets. Did you know that the first rockets were imagined during ancient times? The book begins there and takes the reader right up to modern uses of rockets. With skillful and, at times, humorous illustrations, this book will inform and entertain readers.

Bulion, Leslie and Robert Meganck. *Superlative Birds* * 
This book of poems highlights the biggest, the smallest, even the smelliest birds in the world! Each poem informs readers about a type of bird and each page contains additional scientific facts about the bird.

Cline-Ransome, Lesa. *Finding Langston***
It’s 1946. Langston’s mother has just died. Now Langston and his dad are leaving their country home surrounded by the magnolia trees his mother once loved. Their new home is a small apartment in a noisy, busy city. At school, he’s bullied for being a country boy. But Langston finds one amazing thing. Unlike the whites-only library in Alabama, the Chicago Public Library welcomes everyone. In his trips to the library after school, Langston discovers another Langston—a poet whom he learns inspired his mother enough to name her only son after him. Reading poetry becomes Langston’s way to move beyond his grief and to grow into his own Langston. This book won the 2019 Scott O’Dell Award for Historical Fiction.

Creech, Sharon. *Saving Winslow***
A young boy named Louie befriends a sickly newborn donkey, names him Winslow, and nurses him back to health. Everyone (especially Louie’s new friend Nora) is concerned that the donkey won’t survive, but Louie is determined.

Elliott, Zetta. *Dragons in a Bag***
When Jaxon’s mother leaves him for the day with an o
dragon won’t survive, but Louie is determined.

Mass, Wendy and Rebecca Stead. *Bob***
While visiting her grandmother in Australia, ten year old Livy is reminded of the promise she made five years before to Bob, a strange, green creature who cannot recall who or what he is. This fantasy story about lasting friendship will also keep you guessing right up to the last chapter!

Mattick, Lindsay. *Winnie’s Great War***
Winnie the bear is on a great war adventure on her way to inspiring the AA Milne books about Winnie the Pooh. The author imagined the parts of Winnie’s life before she was adopted by a soldier and brought to the London Zoo.

Saeed, Aisha. *Amal Unbound***
Life is quiet and ordinary in Amal’s Pakistani village, but she had no complaints, and besides, she’s busy pursuing her dream of becoming a teacher one day. Her dreams are turned upside down when—as the eldest daughter—she must stay home from school to take care of her siblings. Then, after an accidental run-in with the son of her village’s corrupt landlord, Amal finds herself working as his family’s servant to pay off her own family’s debt. Will Amal ever become unbound?

Sotomayor, Sonia. *Turning Pages: My Life Story* *
As the first Latina Supreme Court Justice, Sonia Sotomayor has inspired young people around the world to reach for their dreams. But what inspired her? Learn about her inspirations in this picture book autobiography.

Stone, Tanya Lee and Steven Salerno. *Pass Go and Collect $200: The Real Story of How Monopoly Was Invented***
Did you know that the board game of Monopoly was invented by a woman in the late 1800s? Through many different versions and twists and turns, the game remains much the same as it was back then. Read about the invention of a popular game and its creator.

Thimmesh, Catherine. *Camp Panda***
Chinese scientists are working on returning panda cubs to the wild. This nonfiction book documents in words and photos the creative techniques they use to make the cubs feel at home in their natural habitat.

Listen to This:
Books for Families to Read Aloud

Birdsall, Jeanne. *The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy* (series)***
When the four Penderwick sisters arrive at Arundel cottage for their summer vacation, they each find that their own adventure awaits. This is the first installment in the series that has become a modern-day classic.

DiCamillo, Kate. *The Tale of Despereaux***
This Newbery award winning tale shares the adventures of a music-loving mouse, a princess named Pea, a wishful servant girl, and an evil rat determined to create destruction for all.

Juster, Norton. *The Phantom Tollbooth***
A journey through a land where Milo learns the importance of words and numbers provides a cure for his boredom.

Levy, Dana Alison. *The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher***
Follow the adventures of a family with two fathers, four adopted boys in Kindergarten through sixth grade, and a variety of pets as they make their way through a school year.

* Challenging ** More Challenging *** Most Challenging
Laugh about their plans of how to deal with their grumpy new neighbor. Learn with them that sometimes what you least expect is what you end up caring about the most.

Mattick, Lindsay. Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear *
The heartwarming true story behind the London Zoo bear that inspired the character of Winnie-the-Pooh.

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. Read after Charlotte's Web to learn the story behind the book.

White, E. B. Charlotte's Web **
This classic novel of friendship, love, life, and death tells the story of Wilbur, a little pig whose life is spared with the help of his friend Charlotte, a spider who lives in the barn.

Rusch, Elizabeth. Music of Life: Bartolomeo Cristofori & the Invention of the Piano *
In 1600s Italy, Bartolomeo Cristofori longs to create an instrument that can be played both soft and loud. He was the instrument maker for Prince Ferdinando de Medici. Through trial and error and learning from sounds in the world around him, he is credited with inventing the pianoforte, an instrument that makes both soft and loud sounds. We know it today as simply the piano!

Woodson, Jacqueline. Each Kindness **
When Ms. Albert teaches a lesson on kindness, Chloe realizes that she and her friends have been wrong to make fun of and exclude a new classmate.

Take a Look: Picture Books for Older Readers

Brown, Don. Henry and the Cannons *
Presents an illustrated account of bookseller Henry Knox's heroic contributions during the Revolutionary War, describing how he dragged fifty-nine cannons to Boston across 225 miles filled with danger and hardship.

Burcaw, Shane. Not So Different: What You Really Want to Ask about Having a Disability *
Shane Burcaw has always had a physical disability that requires him to use a wheelchair. In this book he answers questions that kids have about all aspects of his life. With humor, empathy and optimism the author explains what it's like to have Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

Burleigh, Robert. Edward Hopper Paints His World *
This beautifully illustrated book provides a detailed biographical portrait of one of the great painters of the 20th century, Edward Hopper. His story as an artist is one of determination and resilience. Even when no one wanted to buy his paintings for a long time, he pursued his childhood dream of being a painter.

Eggers, Dave. Her Right Foot *
In this fascinating and fun take on nonfiction, Dave Eggers and Shawn Harris investigate a seemingly small trait of America's most emblematic statue. What they find is more than history, more than art. What they find in the Statue of Liberty's right foot is a powerful message of acceptance.

Freedman, Russell and Peter Malone. Boston Tea Party *
Recounts the colonists' stand to control their own destinies, detailing the protest meetings at Old South Church, the defiant act of dumping the tea into the harbor, and the reaction from the British.

Lewis, C. S. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (series) ***
Four English school children find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, against the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter.

Steig, William. Abel's Island **
Castaway on an uninhabited island, Abel, a very civilized mouse, finds his resourcefulness and endurance tested to the limit as he struggles to survive and return to his home.

Enright, Elizabeth. The Saturdays (Melendy Quartet series) ***
The Melendy Quartet has an Independent Saturday Afternoon Adventure Club and readers vicariously experience all of their fabulous adventures.

This is a book with Inventive tales from Indian mythology will delight any reader.

Burnford, Sheila. The Incredible Journey ***
A young Labrador retriever, a bull terrier and a Siamese cat set out through the Canadian wilderness. Together, the three house pets face starvation, exposure, and wild forest animals as they attempt to make their way home to the family they love.

Cleary, Beverly. Ramona the Brave (series) *
Ramona Quimby has to deal with her mother's new job and a teacher who does not understand how hard it is for Ramona to grow up.

* Challenging  ** More Challenging  *** Most Challenging
Taylor, Sydney. All-of-a-Kind Family (series) ***
Glimpse into the everyday life of a turn-of-the-century tenement family. With the help of their loving parents, Ella, Henry, Sarah, Charlotte, and Gertie find fun in daily chores, visits to the library, and in venturing out into New York City.

Folklore & Mythology

d'Aulaire, Ingrī. d'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths **
This book is an introduction to the gods and goddesses of ancient Greece.

Husain, Shahrukh. The Wise Fool: Tales from the Islamic World "
This book retells the story of twenty-two Middle Eastern folktales about Mulla Nasreddin Hoca, a wise man remembered for his insightful and humorous stories.

Lin, Grace. Starry River of the Sky "
An innkeeper's young helper discovers that a visitor's stories hold the key to returning the moon to the Starry River of the Sky.

Manley, Curtis. The Crane Girl *
While gathering firewood, Yasuhiro comes upon an injured crane hidden in the snow. He rescues and comforts the bird, then watches it fly away. The next night, a mysterious young girl arrives at his home seeking shelter from the cold. This adaptation of traditional Japanese folktales is an inspirational story of friendship and the power of kindness to transform lives.

Morpurgo, Michael. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight *
When a mysterious green knight rides into King Arthur's court, interrupting a New Year's feast, he issues a challenge. Sir Gawain accepts and decapitates the green knight, only to see the enchanted knight announces that Gawain must, on his honor, meet him pick up his severed head. The enchanted knight tells him the key to returning the moon to the Starry River of the Sky.

Napoli, Donna Jo. Treasury of Greek Mythology: Classic Stories of Gods, Goddesses, Heroes & Monsters **
The tales of gods and goddesses such as Zeus, Aphrodite, Apollo, and Athena and heroes and monsters such as Helen of Troy, Perseus, and Medusa.

Tonatiuh, Duncan. The Princess and the Warrior A Tale of Two Volcanoes *
A bold and beautifully illustrated adaptation of the ancient Aztec story of love and loyalty that explains the origins of two volcanoes in Mexico: Iztaccihuatl and Popocatépetl. Included is an author's note and a glossary of words of Nahuatl origin that have become part of Spanish as it is spoken today.

Get Real: Nonfiction

Applegate, Katherine and G. Brian Karas. Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla *
Want to know the true story behind Katherine Applegate’s Newbery Award winning The One and Only Ivan? Read this book to learn the extraordinary real story of Ivan, known as the Shopping Mall Gorilla, who lived alone in a small cage for almost 30 years before being relocated to the gorilla habitat at Zoo Atlanta.

Bishop, Nic. Nic Bishop Animals (series) *
This book introduces young nature enthusiasts to the beauty and diversity of lizards, in a volume that combines facts with full-page images and a double-gatefold spread.

Brown, Martin. Lesser Spotted Animals: The Coolest Creatures You've Never Heard Of "
Find out all about the amazing animals you need to know but never get to see, from the numbat to the zorilla, and everything in between.

Cherry, Lynne. A River Ran Wild: An Environmental History *
An environmental history of the Nashua River, from its discovery by Indians, through the polluting years of the Industrial Revolution, to the ambitious clean-up that revitalized it.

Chin, Jason. Grand Canyon *
Home to an astonishing variety of plants and animals that have lived and evolved within its walls for millennia, the Grand Canyon is much more than just a hole in the ground. Follow a father and daughter as they make their way through the cavernous wonder, discovering life both present and past.

Davies, Nicola. Tiny Creatures: The World of Microbes **
Find out how the smallest things on the planet do some really big jobs. This science picture book explores the fascinating world of the microbes that live in, on and around us.

DK. The Elements **
Created in association with the Smithsonian, this highly visual introduction to the 118 chemical elements catalogs them by type while explaining each element’s properties, atomic structure and presence in everyday objects.

Downer, Ann. Wild Animal Neighbors: Sharing Our Urban World *
Did you know that flying foxes are a problem in parts of urban Australia? Or that crows are a big nuisance in Tokyo? Each chapter in this book uncovers a wild animal species that has moved into an urban neighborhood. The author suggests ways that people and animals can peacefully coexist.

Heast, Michael. Unusual Creatures: A Mostly Accurate Account of the Earth's Strangest Animals ***
Which animal can be found at the top of Mount Everest, 10,000 feet under the sea, and in your backyard? Which animal poops cubes? Which animal can disguise itself as a giant crab? These fascinating facts and hundreds more await curious minds, amateur zoologists, and anyone who has ever
laughed at a funny-looking animal. Read the book, then watch the PBS Digital series.

Jenkins, Steve. *Animals by the Numbers: A Book of Infographics* **
Fascinating animal facts presented in amazing graphics, from the talented author/illustrator Steve Jenkins.

Jenkins, Steve. *The Top of the World: Climbing Mount Everest* ***
Ever dream of climbing the tallest mountain in the world? This book details everything you need to know about Mount Everest with Steve Jenkins’ signature cut-paper illustrations.

Follow science-in-action with marine biologist Brent Hughes as he conducts research that led to a major discovery on the delicate balance of ecosystems. What did he find out about the relationship between seagrass and sea otters in Elkhorn Slough, an inlet on the California coast? Read this amazing story to find out!

Silvey, Anita. *Untamed: The Wild Life of Jane Goodall* ***
Ever since she was a child, wandering the English countryside with her stuffed chimpanzee Jubilee, Jane Goodall knew she wanted to learn about animals. This biography uses fascinating details and beautiful photographs to follow her life through a childhood full of unusual pets and outdoor adventure, to her time in Africa living with and studying the chimpanzees of Gombe.

St. George, Judith. *So You Want to Be An Inventor?* *
Did you know there’s a bowling alley in the White House? That Teddy Roosevelt practically kept a zoo at the White House? That the first George Bush hated broccoli? A collection of fun facts about U.S. presidents, from George Washington to Bill Clinton.

Tarshis, Lauren. *I Survived True Stories (series)* **
You’ve read the fiction I Survived series books. Now try true stories of some of the most destructive disasters of all times including floods, tornadoes and blizzards.

**It Could Happen: Realistic Fiction**

Blume, Judy. *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing (series)* **
Peter, who is tired of having to keep mischievous two-year-old Fudge out of trouble, discovers that his pet turtle is missing.

Cavanaugh, Nancy J. *This Journal Belongs to Ratchet* **
This is a great choice for fans of diary style books. Homeschooled by her mechanic-environmentalist father, eleven-year-old Rachel "Ratchet" Vance records her efforts to make friends, save a park, remember her mother, and find her own definition of "normal."

Davies, Jacqueline. *The Lemonade War (series)* **
Normally buddies, brother and sister Evan and Jessie find themselves at odds over trifles and increasingly determined to earn more money than the other before school starts.

DiCamillo, Kate. *Raymie Nightingale* ***
Hoping that if she wins a local beauty pageant her father will come home, Raymie practices twirling a baton and performing good deeds as she is drawn into an unlikely friendship with a drama queen and a saboteur. The girls each come to another person’s rescue in unexpected ways.

Dominguez, Angela. *Stella Diaz Has Something to Say* **
Stella Diaz loves marine animals, especially her betta fish, Pancho. But Stella Diaz is not a betta fish. Betta fish like to be alone, while Stella loves spending time with her mom and brother and her best friend Jenny. Trouble is, Jenny is in another class this year, and Stella feels very lonely.

Florence, Debbi Michiko. *Jasmine Toguchi Mochi Queen (series)* **
Jasmine is tired of following in her big sister’s footsteps. With the New Year approaching she decides she’ll do something her sister has never done: pound mochi rice with the boys.

Gino, Alex. *George* ***
When people see ten year old George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she’s not a boy. She knows she’s a girl. With the help of her best friend, George sees an opportunity to let the world know who she really is through her class’s performance of the play Charlotte’s Web.

Glaser, Karina Yan. *The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street (series)* **
The Vanderbeekers have always lived in the brownstone on 141st Street. It’s practically another member of the family. So when their landlord, Mr. Beiderman, decides not to renew their lease, the five siblings have eleven days to do whatever it takes to stay in their beloved home and convince the dreaded Beiderman just how wonderful they are. A sequel was published in 2018-- The Vanderbeekers and the Hidden Garden.

Korman, Gordon. *Restart* **
The story of a kid with a messy past who has to figure out what it means to get a clean start. Chase doesn’t remember falling off the roof. He doesn’t remember hitting his head. He doesn’t, in fact, remember anything. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again ... starting with his own name.

Look, Lenore. *Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things (series)* **
A boy in Concord, Massachusetts, who loves superheroes and comes from a long line of brave Chinese farmer-warriors, wants to make friends, but first he must overcome his fear of everything.

* Challenging  ** More Challenging  *** Most Challenging
Martin, Ann M. *Rain Reign***
Rose Howard is a fifth grader who loves homonyms. That’s why she names her dog "Rain" because it has an interesting homonym: "reign." When Rain runs away during a tremendous storm, Rose has to break out of her usual routines to find her. An adventure that will make you laugh and cry and wonder what you’d do if faced with the difficult decision that Rose faces.

Medina, Juana. *Juana & Lucas*
A young girl from Colombia loves playing with her dog and resists boring school activities, especially learning English. When her grandmother tells her about a special trip the family has planned where knowing English will be important, she has a change of heart.

Mills, Claudia. *How Oliver Olson Changed the World***
Oliver’s teacher says everyone has the power to change the world. But how is he supposed to change the world when his parents won’t let him do anything on his own? He desperately wants to go to his school’s “space sleepover” but how can he convince his parents that it’s safe?

Sailsbury, G. *Calvin Coconut: Trouble Magnet (series)***
Calvin is growing up in Hawaii with his mom and little sister. His mom calls him “the man of the house”, but he’s having trouble keeping up with his responsibilities and having fun with his friends. And trouble seems to keep finding him! This humorous book is the beginning of a series.

Sloan, Holly. *Short***
While others may see Julia as short for her age, after performing in a summer production of The Wizard of Oz, she realizes just how big she is on the inside, where it counts. Filled with humor and tenderness, this is an irresistible story of self-discovery and of the role models who forever change us.

Weeks, Sarah and Gita Varadarajan. *Save Me A Seat***
Joe and Ravi don’t think they have anything in common -- but soon enough they have a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and a common mission: to take control of their lives over the course of a single crazy week.

**Life Stories: Biography**

Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem. *What Color is My World: The Lost History of African-American Inventors***
This book identifies African American inventors of many important scientific and technological advances. This well-designed book includes profiles of many inventors with foldouts and flaps to lend reader interest.

Andrews, Troy. *Trombone Shorty***
This biography of child prodigy New Orleans native “Trombone Shorty” is all the more amazing because of Bryan Collier’s award winning illustrations.

Barton, Chris and Don Tate. *Whooosh!: Lonnie Johnson’s Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions*
Budding engineers and inventors will be inspired by this biography of Lonnie Johnson, an engineer at NASA who is best known for inventing the Super Soaker water gun.

Bryant, Jen. *Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille*
Louis Braille was just five years old when he lost his sight. He was a clever boy, determined to live like everyone else, and what he wanted more than anything was to be able to read. Even at the school for the blind in Paris, there were no books for him. And so he invented his own alphabet—a whole new system for writing that could be read by touch. A system so ingenious that it is still used by the blind community today.

Calkhoven, Laurie and Patricia Castelao. *Women Who Changed the World: 50 Amazing Americans***
Get inspired by meeting fifty of the most influential and inspirational American women who had a lasting impact on our nation and the world.

Harrison, Vashit. *Maya Lin: Artist-Architect of Light and Lines*
This is the story of an inspiring American artist: the visionary artist-architect who designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

I Ink Think Tank. *30 People Who Changed the World***
In this collection of 30 essays, each historical figure has a short piece -- called a "nonfiction minute" -- dedicated just to them. These nonfiction "appetizers" are quick and easy-to-read and may tempt you to find out more about these fascinating figures.

Lee, Paula. *Sixteen Years in Sixteen Seconds***
Sixteen seconds: the moment of a three-and-a-half somersault dive. Sammy Lee overcame formidable odds to become an Olympic diving champion in 1948.

Levy, Debbie and Elizabeth Baddeley. *I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark*
Get inspired by this biographical picture book of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who has spent a lifetime disagreeing: disagreeing with inequality, arguing against unfair treatment, and standing up for what’s right for people everywhere.

McDonough, Yona Zeldis and John O’Brien. *Who was Louie Armstrong? (Who Was? series)***
This biography of singer, songwriter, and jazz musician Louis Armstrong chronicles his childhood in New Orleans and rise in the entertainment industry. This series, also known as "Big Head Books", this series offers entertaining biographies of trailblazers, legends, innovators, and creators throughout history.
Wallace, Sandra Neil. *Between the Lines: How Ernie Barnes Went from the Football Field to the Art Gallery* **
A biography for both sports fans and artists! Ernie Barnes was an NFL football player who longed to be an artist. Growing up in the segregated South, he didn’t know how to make a living with his artwork. For years, he focused on his equally strong athletic abilities, but never gave up on his true dream. Be inspired by the determination and talent of this American original!

Foxlee, Karen. *Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy* ***
A story of an unlikely heroine named Ophelia who doesn’t believe in anything that can’t be proven by science. She and her sister Alice are still grieving for their dead mother when their father takes a job in a strange museum in a city where it always snows. On her very first day in the museum Ophelia discovers a boy locked away in a long forgotten room. He is a prisoner of Her Majesty, the Snow Queen, and he has been waiting for Ophelia’s help.

Graff, Lisa. *A Tangle of Knots* **
This fast-paced fun novel combines a lost suitcase, talents, and recipes in a fantasy which is compelling read. Many characters with their own stories are brought together or woven together with a satisfying conclusion.

Gutman, Dan. *Flashback Four: The Lincoln Project (series)* **
Miss Z, a mysterious billionaire and a collector of rare photographs, is sending her four recruits back in time on a mission to capture, for the first time, one of the most important moments in American history—Abraham Lincoln giving his famous Gettysburg address. Students love these time traveling adventures.

Holm, Jennifer L. *The Fourteenth Goldfish* **
Eleven year old Ellie is surprised when a new student in her class turns out to be her grandfather, a scientist who has found the secret to eternal youth! Grandpa Melvin is a cranky, bossy addition to the family. Ellie tries to keep his true age a secret while helping him to get back into his laboratory. Part realistic fiction, part science fiction, this funny novel is a real page-turner.

Ibbotson. Eva. *Which Witch?* ***
Deciding that he wants a son to carry on his tradition of Loathing Light and Blighting the Beautiful, the Great Wizard Arriman announces a competition among the witches of Tadcaster, one of whom will marry him.

Lin, Grace. *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* **
Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish, and then joins a dragon who cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon and change her family’s fortune. The author blends traditional Chinese folktales with a fantasy adventure.

Mlynowski, Sarah, Lauren Myracle, and Emily Jenkins. *Upside Down Magic (series)* **
In a world of elite magic academies, weird and wonderful things happen when you’re sent off to public school. . . . and put in the Upside-Down Magic class. A hilarious and heartfelt series about a group of magical misfits.

Fantasy lovers will enjoy this amazing tale featuring 3 siblings, Kate, Michael, and Emma. They travel unhappily from one orphanage to another until one fateful day. They open a door and find a mysterious green book and are transported to magic land. They travel back and forth in time in this fast paced book. Will they uncover the secret of the evil queen and save the world?

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

Applegate, Katherine. *The One and Only Ivan* **
Poignant story of Ivan the gorilla and his friends at a decrepit animal show and how he uses his talent to save them. Lyrical writing and gorgeous illustrations combine to make this Newbery winner a must read. To learn more about Ivan, read Applegate’s true story of this remarkable gorilla, listed in the non-fiction section.

Applegate, Katherine. *Wishtree* **
Red is an oak tree who is many rings old. Red is the neighborhood “wishtree”—people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red’s branches. Along with a crow named Bongo and other animals who seek refuge in Red’s hollows, this wishtree watches over the neighborhood. When a new family moves in not everyone is welcoming, and Red’s experience as a wishtree is more important than ever.

Barrows, Annie. *Magic in the Mix (series)* **
Life seems to be back to normal for the “newly twinned” sisters Miri and Molly (from the first books in the series, The Magic Half) until their magical house sends them on a new time-traveling adventure to the Civil War.

Brown, Peter. *The Wild Robot Escapes (series)* **
Sequel to The Wild Robot. Shipwrecked on a remote, wild island, Robot Roz learned from the unwelcoming animal inhabitants and adapted to her surroundings—but can she survive the challenges of the civilized world and find her way home to Brightbill and the island?

DiTerlizzi, Tony. *The Field Guide (Spiderwick Chronicles series)* **
When the Grace children go to stay at their Great Aunt Lucinda’s worn Victorian house, they discover a field guide to fairies and other creatures and begin to have some unusual experiences.

Eager, Edward. *Half Magic (series)* ***
Faced with a dull summer in the city, four children suddenly find themselves involved in a series of extraordinary adventures after one of them discovers an ordinary-looking coin that seems to grant wishes.
Babbitt, Natalie. *The Search For Delicious***  
When the court can’t agree on a meaning for the word delicious in the King’s dictionary, young Galen is sent out to poll the kingdom and has unexpected adventures.

Butler, Dori Hillestad. *The Buddy Files: The Case of the Lost Boy (series)***  
Meet King, loyal dog detective, while searching for his mysteriously lost human family, Buddy the dog is adopted by another family and helps solve the mystery of their missing boy. Dog lovers will appreciate this series.

Butler, Dori Hillestad. *The Haunted Library (series)***  
When ghost boy Kaz’s haunt is torn down and he is separated from his ghost family, he meets a real girl named Claire, who lives above the town library with her parents and her grandmother. The two join forces to solve the mystery of the ghost that’s haunting the library.

Draper, Sharon M. *The Buried Bones Mystery (series)*  
Four friends named Ziggy, Rico, Rashawn and Jerome build a clubhouse in Ziggy’s backyard, where they uncover a box of bones while digging to bury their secret treasures. Who could have buried bones behind their clubhouse?

Gibbs, Stuart. *Spy Camp (Spy School series)***  
School may be out for summer, but top-secret training continues for aspiring spy Ben Ripley and so does the danger. Will Ben be able to manage the threats from SPYDER, an enemy spy organization, keep his cover and his cool?

Grabenstein, Chris. *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library (series)***  
Lucky Kyle wins a coveted spot as one of twelve kids invited for an overnight sleepover in his town’s new library, hosted by Mr. Lemoncello and riddled with lots and lots of games. But when morning comes, the doors stay locked. Kyle and the other kids must solve every clue and figure out every secret puzzle to find the hidden escape route.

Johnson, Terry Lynn. *Survivor Diaries: Overboard! (series)*  
Eleven-year-old Travis and his family are on a whale watch off the coast of Washington when disaster strikes. The boat capsizes, throwing everyone into the ice-cold chaotic waves. Separated from their families and struggling to stay afloat, Travis and twelve-year-old Marina must use all of their grit and knowledge to survive.

Koningsburg, E. L. *From the mixed-up files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler***  
This is the story of Claudia and Jamie who run away from home to New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art and find themselves in the heart of a mystery.

Milford, Kate. *Greenglass House (series)***  
It’s the winter holidays when the story begins and so, although Milo’s family runs an inn, Milo is expecting fewer guests and a real vacation. He’s surprised and disappointed when, one after another, guests begin to arrive despite a wild winter storm.

Each guest tells a story that is somehow connected to the Greenglass House and, instead of relaxing, Milo finds he has several mysteries to solve.

Phelan, Matt. *Knights vs. Dinosaurs (series)***  
Let me tell you a secret about the Knights of the Round Table: they don’t have much to do. The kingdom is at peace and dragons are few and far between. So Merlin decides to send the knights out on a real adventure to a world filled with the most terrible lizards of all: DINOSAURS! This book tells an exciting story in words and illustrations.

Ponti, James. *Framed (series)***  
In Washington, D.C., twelve-year-old Florian Bates, a consulting detective for the FBI, and his best friend Margaret help thwart the biggest art heist in United States history. Can Florian decipher the clues and finish his homework in time to help the FBI solve the case?

Rundell, Katherine. *The Explorer***  
Fred, Con, Lila, and Max are on their way back to England from Manaus, Brazil when the plane they’re on crashes and the pilot dies upon landing. For days they survive alone in the Amazon jungle, until Fred finds a map that leads them to a ruined city, and to a secret.

Junior sleuth Maisie Hitchins, who lives in Victorian London, uncovers a mysterious plot involving an abandoned dog, stolen money and sausages, and a bicycle chase.

Wood, Maryrose. *The Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place: The Mysterious Howling (series)***  
Set in 19th-century England, the novel tells the story of 15-year-old Penelope Lumley, a newly hired governess to Alexander, Beowulf, and Cassiopeia. Previously raised by wolves, the three children are now the trophies and property of the shady Lord Fredrick of Ashton Place. Humorous antics and a climactic cliff-hanger ending will keep you turning pages and clamoring for the next volume.

Asher, Diana Harmon. *Sidetracked***  
If middle school were a race, Joseph Friedman wouldn’t even be in last place—he’d be on the sidelines. But then, on the first day of seventh grade, two important things happen. First, his Resource Room teacher encourages him to join the school track team, and second, he meets Heather, a crazy-fast runner who isn’t going to be pushed around by anyone.

Barber, Tiki. *Go Long! (Barber Game Time books series)***  
When Coach Spangler leaves at the start of their second year of junior high school, thirteen-year-old twins Tiki and Ronde wonder if his replacement, history teacher Mr. Wheeler, can coach the Eagles to another winning football season.
Frost, Helen. Salt *
Twelve-year-olds Anikwa, of the Miami village of Kekionga, and James, of the trading post outside Fort Wayne, find their friendship threatened by the rising fear and tension brought by the War of 1812. A novel in verse.

Hill, Kirkpatrick. The Year of Miss Agnes *
Ten-year-old Fred (short for Frederika) narrates this story of school and village life in Alaska during the year that Miss Agnes arrived as the new teacher.

Hitchcock, Shannon. Ruby Lee and Me **
When a formerly segregated North Carolina town hires its first African-American teacher in 1969, two girls, one black, one white confront the prejudice that challenges their friendship.

Hoberman, Mary Ann. Strawberry Hill *
Ten-year-old Allie’s family moves from urban New Haven to rural Stamford, Connecticut, in the midst of the Great Depression.

Hughes, Shirley. Hero on a Bicycle ***
When their mother reluctantly joins the Italian Resistance against Nazi occupying forces in World War II Florence, Paolo and his sister, Costanza, devise a clever way to use their bicycle to assist the movement.

Lai, Thanhha. Inside Out & Back Again ***
“No one would believe me but at times I would choose wartime in Saigon over peacetime in Alabama.” For all the ten years of her life, Ha has only known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, the warmth of her friends close by and the beauty of her very own papaya tree. When the Vietnam War reaches her home, the family flees to America and the transition is difficult. This beautiful novel in verse conveys the pain of the adjustment.

Larson, Kirby. Liberty **
Set in New Orleans in the 1940’s, this is the moving story of a young boy who, with a dad fighting in Europe and a sister working at the Higgins Boat factory, longs to have a dog of his own.

Lowry, Lois. Number the Stars ***
In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

MacLachlan, Patricia. Sarah, Plain and Tall (series) *
When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. Riding Freedom **
Disguised as a man her whole life, Charley Parkhurst became an expert horse rider and a legendary stagecoach driver at a time such things were outlawed for women.

Sepahban, Lois. Paper Wishes ***
It’s 1942, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and Manami and her family are Japanese American, which means that the
government says they must leave their home by the sea and
join other Japanese Americans at a prison camp in the desert.
Manami is sad to go, but even worse is that they are going to
have to give her dog, Yujin, to a neighbor to take care of.
Students who love historical fiction or dog stories will enjoy
this book.

Tarshis, L. The Shark Attack of 1916 (I Survived series) **
Chet Roscow is fascinated by news accounts of the great
white shark said to be attacking people along the New Jersey
shore not far from his home, but when he goes swimming in
Matawan Creek he discovers the truth of the stories.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. One Crazy Summer (series) ***
Eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters spend
the summer of 1968 in Oakland, California to visit their mother.
While the girls hope to go to Disneyland, their mother sends
them to a day camp run by the Black Panthers. The girls learn
much about their family, their country, and themselves during
one truly crazy summer.

Illustrated Tales: Graphic Novels

Bell, Cece. El Deafo **
An autobiography in the form of a graphic novel. Cece Bell
grew up needing two hearing aids. To cope with that
challenge, she imagined herself a caped superhero named "El
Deafo." In this book she writes about the funny and
challenging things that happened to her. This 2015 Newbery
Honor book will make you laugh along with the author.

Hale, Nathan. One Trick Pony **
This graphic novel is set in the future at a time when
electronics are being gobbled up by an alien force. Strata and
her family are part of a caravan of digital rescuers, hoping to
keep the memory of civilization alive by saving electronics
wherever they can. They must rely on a particularly beautiful
and rare robot pony to escape the outlaws and aliens—and
defeat the invaders once and for all. The author is also known
for the popular Nathan Hale’s Hazardous Tales series.

Hale, Shannon. Rapunzel’s Revenge **
Fans of Calamity Jack will enjoy this twisted version of
Rapunzel. 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 the witty text combine for a
compelling story.

Jamieson, Victoria. Roller Girl **
A graphic novel adventure about a girl, Astrid, who signs up
for roller derby only to find out that her best friend is going to
dance camp instead. As their friendship is tested, Astrid
discovers her own strengths and interests. For fans of Raina
Telgemeier’s Smile.

Mardsen, Mariah. Anne of Green Gables: A Graphic Novel *
This is an illustrated version of the classic novel of 11 year old
orphan Anne Shirley who comes to Prince Edward Island to
help Matthew and Marilla on their farm. Her imagination and
spunk bring exciting times to the residents of Green Gables!

Scott, Mairghread and Jacob Chabot. Science Comics:
Robots and Drones: Past, Present, Future (series) **
Robots are everywhere! And they have been for a lot longer
than you might realize. Robots have been humanity’s partners,
helpers, and protectors for centuries! This graphic book
explores where robots came from, how they work, and where
they’re going in an informative and hilarious way!

Yang, Gene. Secret Coders (series) *
An entertaining graphic novel series that combines logic
puzzles and basic programming instruction with a
page-turning mystery plot.

Just for Fun: Humor

Angleberger, Tom. Strange Case of Origami Yoda **
Meet Dwight, a sixth-grade oddball, he does a lot of weird
things, like wearing the same T-shirt for a month or telling
people to call him "Captain Dwight," but Dwight does one cool
thing; he makes origami. One day he makes an origami finger
puppet of Yoda and that’s when things get mysterious.
Origami Yoda can predict the future and suggest the best way
to deal with a tricky situation. His advice actually works, and
soon most of the sixth grade is lining up with questions.

Atwater, Richard. Mr. Popper’s Penguins **
The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an
Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Popper,
a house painter obsessed by dreams of the Polar regions.

Barnett, Mac. The Terrible Two (series) **
What happens when you are known as the best prankster
in your class but then move to a new school? Worse yet, what
can you do when you find out your new school already has a
well-known prankster? Answer: join forces as The Terrible
Two, pull off the ultimate prank together, and become friends
along the way. Fans of Diary of a Wimpy Kid will enjoy this
book!

Becker, Suzy. Kate the Great (series) *
Meet 5th-grader Kate Geller, a sassy flute-playing artist, who
comes up with an original way to redefine friendship. Kate
faces a challenge when her mother asks her to be especially
nice to Nora, a classmate and fellow flute player who is
sometimes mean.

Cleary, Beverly. The Mouse and the Motorcycle (series) **
Ralph and Keith enjoy hilarious mouse-and-boy adventures in
this series by a beloved author.

Falatko, Julie. Two Dogs in a Trench Coat Go to School
(series) *
Sassy and Waldo are two dogs who are content with their life
at home. They take naps in the sun and protect the family from
invading squirrels. When their boy Stewart comes home
seeming nervous, they decide to go undercover and spend
time in his classroom. They put on a trench coat, stand on
each other’s shoulders and join Stewart’s class as the new kid
from Liver, Ohio!
Lowry, Lois. The Willoughbys ***
The four Willoughby children set about to become "deserving orphans" after their neglectful parents embark on a treacherous around-the-world adventure, leaving them in the care of an odious nanny.

Peirce, Lincoln. Big Nate (series) **
Cartoon and prose combine for a winning combination in all the Big Nate books. Nate hates school and is always having some misadventure or trouble that makes for plenty of laughs.

Pennypacker, Sara. Waylon! One Awesome Thing *
Waylon, who you might know from Pennypacker's Clementine books, is a boy with the mind of a scientific genius. But it's impossible for him to concentrate on his inventions when he is trying to understand his older sister and deal with changes among his friends at school.

Tashjian, Janet. My Life As a Book (series) ***
Twelve-year-old Derek spends summer vacation learning important lessons even though he does not complete his summer reading list. Cartoons created by the author's son illustrate the text.

A Way With Words: Poetry

Alexander, Kwame (ed.). Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets *
Newbery Award–winning author and poet Kwame Alexander, along with Chris Colderley and Marjory Wentworth, present original poems that pay homage to twenty famed poets who have made the authors' hearts sing and their minds wonder. Stunning mixed-media images by Ekua Holmes, winner of a Caldecott Honor, complete this beautiful poetry book.

Giovanni, Nikki. Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry With a Beat *
Compiler Giovanni states "Poetry with a beat. Hip Hop Speaks to Children is a delightful and enlightening collection of poetry from various poets.

Kennedy, Caroline. Poems to Learn by Heart **
This diverse collection of over 100 poems cover all topics and emotions with beautiful illustrations by Jon Muth. Caroline Kennedy's reflections about the selection of poems enhances the reading.

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 apology poems imagines how tricksters really feel about the mischief they make.

This book combines photography with lyrical text celebrating the animal world, in a compilation that includes works by such poets as Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost and Rudyard Kipling.

Prelutsky, Jack. Pizza, Pigs, and Poetry: How to Write a Poem **
Poet Jack Prelutsky starts each chapter of this book with a scene from his own life which inspired a poem. He then shares a poem he created and gives readers tips for writing poems of their own.

Rosen, Michael J. The Cuckoo's Haiku: And Other Birding Poems *
In sparse and graceful words, poet and birder Michael J. Rosen captures essential characteristics of more than twenty commonly seen North American birds.

Wardlaw, Lee. Won-Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku *
Won-Ton's story is told in haiku. This title shows that poetry can be fun, free, and immediate, even as it follows traditional structure.

Worth, Valerie. All the Small Poems and Fourteen More *
These small poems celebrate ordinary things. In lines of one or two words, Worth captures the essence of a thing, and with her keen observations, makes us see it sharp and fresh.

Books on Summer Math Calendar

Adler, David. Fraction Fun
A basic introduction to the concept of fractions. This book takes the fear out of math and puts the fun back in.

Miller, Marcia and Martin Lee. 40 Fabulous Math Mysteries Kids Can't Resist
Humorous, reproducible math mystery stories will give your math sleuths a chance to have fun while practicing important math problem solving skills.

Neuschwander, Cindy. Amanda Bean's Amazing Dream
Amanda loves to count everything, but not until she has an amazing dream does she finally realize that being able to multiply will help her count things faster.

Pinczes, Elinor. A Remainder of One
When the queen of the bugs demands that her army march in even lines, Private Joe divides the marchers into more and more lines so that he will not be left out of the parade.

Tang, Greg. The Best of Times
Simple rhymes offer hints on how to multiply any number by zero through ten without memorizing the multiplication tables.

Tang, Greg. The Grapes of Math
Illustrated riddles introduce strategies for solving a variety of math problems in using visual clues.

* Challenging  ** More Challenging  *** Most Challenging