

SummerReads

Middle School

Summer 2019



Hello Pike Middle School Students!

Welcome to this year's edition of **SummerReads**, a list of reading ideas with a wide variety of genres and formats chosen especially for you. We update *SummerReads* each year with new titles, student favorites, and a commitment to sharing stories by all kinds of authors and illustrators.

Visit the library's website (pikeschool.org/academics/library) for the online version of *SummerReads* and more lists of book suggestions. During the summer, we will be sharing more ideas for reading fun on our literature blog, **Open Books, Open Minds**. Your family can subscribe at <http://blogs.pikeschool.org/openbook/> to get the latest updates.

Your local public library is a great place to check out this summer, either in person or online. This summer's theme, "**A Universe of Stories**," celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. Libraries around the country are planning fantastic science programs.

Summer is an exciting season. We hope you enjoy every minute.

Mrs. Mellin

Mrs. Moulson

Ms. Spence

And the Winner is...

Awards are listed next to some titles in *SummerReads*. These are given by the American Library Association to recognize excellence in children's literature. For more information, visit www.ala.org. Here's a brief description of each award.

American Indian Youth Literature Award: *honoring work by and about American Indians and Alaska Natives*

Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature: *honoring work about Asian/Pacific American heritage*

Mildred L. Batchelder Award: *outstanding book published internationally*

Pura Belpré Award: *excellent portrayal of the Latinx experience*

Randolph Caldecott Award: *distinguished illustration*

Coretta Scott King Book Award: *appreciation of African American culture*

John Newbery Award: *distinguished writing*

Schneider Family Award: *artistic expression of the disability experience*

Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal: *distinguished informational book*

Stonewall Award: *exceptional merit relating to the GLBT experience*

Sydney Taylor Book Award: *authentic portrayal of the Jewish experience*

Recommended by Grade 5 Students!

Iron Thunder by Avi

~ review by Alex

Are you interested in the Revolutionary War? Ben, a boy in a poor family, goes on a ship in the adventure of a lifetime. In this book, there's bravery, gold coins, and a battle.

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

~ review by Camille

Margaret talks with God all the time. Will her faith help her at a new school and with friends? I enjoyed the different traits of each character.

Shortstop from Tokyo by Matt Christopher

~ review by Hunter

Sam Suzuki is a very good shortstop from Tokyo. Stogie doesn't want Sam to take his place at short. The author shows good details about characters' thoughts and feelings.

License to Thrill (Genius Files series) by Dan Gutman

~ review by Reese

Do you like action, ciphers, and snakes? If you're one of those people who hate reading but love explosions and other cool stuff then I recommend this book.

Checked by Cynthia Kadohata

~ review by Julia

Conor's life is dedicated to hockey. When something tragic happens to his dog, Sinbad, Conor decides to take a break from hockey to pay for Sinbad's care.

The Merchant of Death (Pendragon series) by D.J. MacHale

~ review by Jaelyn

This fantasy is incredibly exciting, with fight scenes in a parallel universe you've never imagined before. MacHale offers a book full of magic, suspense, love, betrayal, and laughs.

The Candy Shop Wars by Brandon Mull

~ review by Samara

One day, Nate, Trevor, Pigeon and Summer decide to get candy from a store that could change their life forever. This book is filled with humor, mystery, curiosity...and magic.

La Belle Sauvage by Phillip Pullman

~ review by Ishaan

I liked the action and suspense, and how when you think something is going to happen the opposite does. I also liked the British style that is very different.

Holes by Louis Sachar

~ review by Lorenzo

"The second hole is the hardest," X-ray said to Stanley, who is at a camp for kids who have done bad things. In this story, the author adds events that keep changing your predictions.

Stick Cat: A Tale of Two Kitties by Tom Watson

~ review by Haley

Why does Edith think that she's so smart, when Stick Cat is way smarter? I liked that the author would build up tension and then say something funny.

Millicent Min, Girl Genius by Lisa Yee

~ review by Hazel

"I have been accused of being an overachiever and a compulsive perfectionist, like those are bad things." The author made every page of the book humorous and exciting.

New and Recommended

- Sweep: The Story of a Girl and her Monster*** by Jonathan Auxier, 2018 **Fantasy**
After her father's disappearance, Nan works as a "climbing boy," aiding chimney sweeps, but when her most treasured possessions end up in a fireplace, she unwittingly creates a golem. Winner of the 2019 Sydney Taylor Award.
- The Storm Runner*** by Jennifer Cervantes, 2018 **Fantasy**
Non-stop action meets Mayan mythology in a fabulous new series. Zane confronts his destiny after accidentally releasing an imprisoned troublemaking god...whoops!
- Duel at Araluen*** by John Flanagan, 2019 **Fantasy**
Latest in the *Ranger's Apprentice: The Royal Ranger* series. Castle Araluen is under seige, and it's up to Maddie to rescue her Ranger colleagues and take on the Red Fox Clan.
- The Chupacabras of the Rio Grande*** by Adam Gidwitz, 2019 **Fantasy**
Uchenna and Elliot are off to the U.S. - Mexican border with the mysterious Professor Fauna in the latest *Unicorn Rescue Society* adventure from this year's visiting author.
- The Journey of Little Charlie*** by Christopher Paul Curtis, 2018 **Historical**
To pay a debt, Charlie is forced to travel north with evil plantation overseer Cap'n Buck to retrieve "stolen property." Along the way, he realizes how divided 1850s America is.
- Louisiana's Way Home*** by Kate DiCamillo, 2018 **Historical**
Abandoned by her grandmother, Louisiana forges her own way without her steadfast friends, Raymie and Beverly. A companion novel to *Raymie Nightingale*.
- The Book of Boy*** by Catherine Murdock, 2018 **Historical**
In 1350, a boy with a large hump on his back becomes the servant of a shadowy pilgrim on his way to Rome, who pulls the boy into a dangerous expedition across Europe to gather the seven precious relics of Saint Peter. A 2019 Newbery Honor book.
- Be Prepared*** by Vera Brosgol, 2018 **Humor**
In this graphic novel memoir, the author relates her experience at Russian summer camp.
- Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid*** by Jeff Kinney, 2019 **Humor**
Greg's best friend, Rowley, finally gets to tell his own story - but as usual, Greg takes over, with hilarious results. A must for *Wimpy Kid* fans.
- It's the End When I Say It's the End*** by Stephen Pastis, 2018 **Humor**
The hilarious series finale of the hapless Timmy Failure and his detective agency.
- The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle*** by Leslie Connor, 2018 **Mystery**
Mason may be dyslexic, but he's a steadfast friend. Will he be able to help the police find his new friend Calvin, who has gone missing?
- Mr. Lemoncello's All-Star Breakout Game*** by Chris Grabenstein, 2019 **Mystery**
The latest action-packed addition to the *Mr. Lemoncello* series.
- Hidden Figures: The Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians who Helped Win the Space Race*** by Margot Lee Shetterly, 2017 **Non-fiction**
An illustrated adaptation of the adult biography and the movie of the same name.

- The Girl Who Drew Butterflies: How Maria Merian’s Art Changed Science*** by Joyce Sidman, 2018 **Non-fiction**
Learn about this trail-blazing scientist in this beautifully illustrated biography.
- Share Your Smile: Raina’s Guide to Telling Your Own Story*** by Raina Telgemeier, 2019 **Non-fiction**
Try your hand at creating stories with this interactive journal from the author of the popular graphic memoir, *Smile*.
- Breathe and Be: A Book of Mindfulness Poems*** by Kate Coombs, 2018 **Poetry**
Take this book outside and enjoy a calming afternoon with a summer breeze.
- Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship*** by Irene Latham, 2018 **Poetry**
Two very different fifth-graders learn about each other while working on a project.
- Maybe a Mermaid*** by Josephine Cameron, 2019 **Realistic**
Anthoni Gillis is ready to stop traveling around the country with her mother, but the broken-down Showboat Resort isn’t what she had in mind for a summer break.
- The Friendship War*** by Andrew Clements, 2019 **Realistic**
Grace starts a vintage-button fad at school, with unexpected results.
- The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise*** by Dan Gemeinhart, 2019 **Realistic**
Twelve-year-old Coyote and her father rush to Poplin Springs, Washington, in their old school bus to save a memory box buried in a park that will soon be demolished.
- The Lost Boy’s Gift*** by Kimberly Willis Holt, 2019 **Realistic**
Nine-year-old Daniel is sad about his boring neighborhood, until he makes friends with Tilda, who may or may not have magical gifts.
- Merci Suárez Changes Gears*** by Meg Medina, 2018 **Realistic**
At her new school, Merci tries to figure out the difference between being popular and having friends. Winner of the 2019 Newbery Medal.
- Revenge of the Sis*** by Jarrett Krosoczka, 2019 **Science Fiction**
Christina Starspeeder is up against all kinds of new challenges at the advanced Jedi Academy. Can she keep up? The latest in the *Star Wars Jedi Academy* series.
- Frank Einstein and the Space-Time Zipper*** by Jon Scieszka, 2018 **Science Fiction**
Frank, Watson, Klink, and Klank battle their arch-rival Edison in this zany adventure.
- Rebound*** by Kwame Alexander **Sports**
It’s 1988, and Charlie’s father has died unexpectedly. While spending the summer with his grandparents, he discovers a love for basketball. Prequel to *The Crossover*, winner of the 2015 Newbery Medal.
- MVP Summer (Gabby Garcia’s Ultimate Playbook)*** by Iva-Marie Palmer, 2018 **Sports**
Gabby is psyched to have the best summer ever now that she has been invited to play on an elite baseball team – but curveballs are in her future. Will she strike out?
- Lu (Track, Book 4)*** by Jason Reynolds, 2018 **Sports**
Lu has always felt different – not only is he albino, he was his parents’ miracle. As his track team prepares for the championship, he must contend with unexpected challenges. You will want to read about the other members of the team in *Ghost*, *Sunny*, and *Patina*.

Fiction

Fantasy

The Enchanted Sisters series
Wishtree (2017)
Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes (2011)
Circus Mirandus (2015)
Serafina series
The Serpent's Secret (2018)
Ranger's Apprentice series
The Graveyard Book (2009 Newbery Medal)
Handbook for Dragon Slayers (2014 Schneider Book Award)
The Mighty Odds (2017)
Earwig and the Witch (2014)
When the Sea Turned to Silver (2017)
Whatever After series
Pax (2016)
West of the Moon (2015)
Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard series
Harry Potter series
Echo (2016 Newbery Honor)
The Septimus Heap series
Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel series
Orphan Island (2017)
The Fairyland series
Dragon's Guide series

Elise Allen
Katherine Applegate
Jonathan Auxier
Cassie Beasley
Robert Beatty
Sayatani DasGupta
John Flanagan
Neil Gaiman
Merrie Haskell
Amy Ignatow
Diana Wynne Jones
Grace Lin
Sarah Mlynowski
Sara Pennypacker
Margi Preus
Rick Riordan
J. K. Rowling
Pam Muñoz Ryan
Angie Sage
Michael Scott
Laurel Snyder
Catherynne Valente
Laurence Yep

Historical Fiction

Curiosity (2014)
The Mighty Miss Malone (2012)
It Ain't So Awful, Falafel (2016)
The Birchbark House series
90 Miles to Havana (2011 Belpré Honor)
The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, the Three Magical Children and their Holy Dog
(2017 Newbery Honor, Taylor Award)
Ahimsa (2017)
Mister Orange (2014 Batchelder Award)
*A Soldier's Secret: The Incredible True Story of Sarah Edmonds, a Civil
War Hero* (2013)
A Night Divided (2015)
The Marvels (2015)
I Survived... series

Gary Blackwood
Christopher Paul Curtis
Firoozeh Dumas
Louise Erdrich
Enrique Flores-Galbis
Adam Gidwitz
Supriya Kelkar
Truus Matti
Marissa Moss
Jennifer Nielsen
Brian Selznick
Lauren Tarshis

Humor

<i>Guys Read: Funny Business</i> (2010)	---
<i>Origami Yoda</i> series	Tom Angleberger
<i>Lowriders to the Center of the Earth</i> (2017 Belpré Award)	Cathy Camper
<i>The Legend of Diamond Lil: A J.J. Tully Mystery</i> (2012)	Doreen Cronin
<i>The Key that Swallowed Joey Pigza</i> (2015)	Jack Gantos
<i>Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Not Reading</i> (2011)	Tom Greenwald
<i>Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer</i> (2015)	Kelly Jones
<i>43 Old Cemetery Road</i> series	Kate Klise
<i>The Grand Plan to Fix Everything</i> (2011)	Uma Krishnaswami
<i>Platypus Police Squad</i> series	Jarrett Krosoczka
<i>Gum Girl</i> series	Rhode Montijo
<i>Timmy Failure</i> series	Stephan Pastis
<i>My Life as a Joke</i> (2017)	James Patterson
<i>Dog Man</i> series	Dav Pilkey
<i>Alcatraz versus the Evil Librarians</i> series	Brendan Sanderson
<i>Frank Einstein</i> series	Jon Scieszka
<i>My Life as a ...</i> series	Janet Tashjian

Mystery and Adventure

<i>Mary Bowser and the Civil War Spy Ring</i> (2016)	Enigma Aberti
<i>Pieces and Players</i> (2015)	Blue Balliett
<i>The Sherlock Files</i> series	Tracy Barrett
<i>Doll Bones</i> (2014 Newbery Honor)	Holly Black
<i>The Eerie Elementary</i> series	Jack Chabert
<i>Finding Mighty</i> (2017)	Sheela Chari
<i>Recipe for Adventure</i> series	Giada DeLaurentiis
<i>FunJungle</i> series	Stuart Gibbs
<i>Mr. Lemoncello's Library</i> series	Chris Grabenstein
<i>Hoot</i> (2003 Newbery Honor)	Carl Hiaasen
<i>Charlie and Frog: A Mystery</i> (2018)	Karen Kane
<i>Masterminds</i> (2015)	Gordon Korman
<i>Robyn Hoodlum</i> series	Kekla Magoon
<i>The Candymakers</i> (2010)	Wendy Mass
<i>Tiger Boy</i> (2015)	Mitali Perkins
<i>Nick and Tesla</i> series	Bob Pflugfelder
<i>Chronicles of Egg</i> series	Geoff Rodkey
<i>Fuzzy Mud</i> (2015)	Louis Sachar
<i>The Creeping Shadow</i> (Lockwood & Co. series)	Jonathan Stroud
<i>Secret Coders</i> series	Gene Luen Yang

Realistic

Dancing Home (2011)
Lucky Broken Girl (2018 Belpré Award)
Because of Mr. Terupt series
Moo (2016)
The Lemonade War series
Out of My Mind (2010)
Mikis and the Donkey (2015 Batchelder Award)
Operation Redwood (2009)
George (2016 Stonewall Book Award)
Dyamonde Daniel series
Roller Girl (2016 Newbery Honor)
My Beijing: Four Stories of Everyday Wonder (2019 Batchelder Honor)
Hello Universe (2018 Newbery Award)
Restart
This Would Make a Good Story Someday (2017)
In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse
(2016 American Indian Youth Literature Award)
Rain Reign (2015 Schneider Book Award)
Mission Mumbai (2016)
The Turtle of Oman (2014)
Wonder (2012)
The Red Pencil (2015)
Wonderstruck (2012 Schneider Book Award)
The Great Wall of Lucy Wu (2012 Asian/Pacific American Book Award)
Jake and Lily (2012)
When You Reach Me (2010 Newbery Medal)
Clayton Byrd Goes Underground (2017)
The Midnight War of Mateo Martinez (2016)

Alma Flor Ada
Ruth Behar
Rob Buyea
Sharon Creech
Jacqueline Davies
Sharon Draper
Bibi Dumon Tak
Terrell French
Alex Gino
Nikki Grimes
Victoria Jamieson
Nie Jun
Erin Entrada Kelly
Gordon Korman
Dana Alison Levy
Joseph Marshall III

Ann M. Martin
Mahtab Narsimhan
Naomi Shihab Nye
R. J. Palacio
Andrea Davis Pinkney
Brian Selznick
Wendy Shang
Jerry Spinelli
Rebecca Stead
Rita Williams-Garcia
Robin Yardi

The Reading Without Walls Challenge

- 1 Read a book about a **character** who doesn't look like you or live like you
- 2 Read a book about a **topic** you don't know much about
- 3 Read a book in a **format** that you don't normally read for fun (a chapter book, a graphic novel, a book in verse, etc)



Science Fiction

The Wild Robot (2016)
Space Station Rat (2016)
The Boy from Tomorrow (2018)
Star Wars: The Adventures of Luke Skywalker (2014)
City of Ember (2011)
Sky Jumpers (2014)
Space Case (2014)
Found series
Aliens on Earth (2017)
The Last Panther (2017)
Galaxy Zack series
Black Panther: The Young Prince (2018)
First Light (2016)
Zorgamazoo (2016)

Peter Brown
Michael Daley
Camille DeAngelis
Tony DiTerlizzi
Jeanne Duprau
Peggy Eddleman
Stuart Gibbs
Margaret Haddix
Wendy Mass
Todd Mitchell
Ray O’Ryan
Ronald Smith
Rebecca Stead
Robert Weston

Classics

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (1964)
Teammates (1990)
M.C. Higgins, the Great (1975 Newbery Medal)
Finn Family Moomintroll series
La Mariposa (1998)
The Phantom Tollbooth (1961)
From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler
(1968 Newbery Medal)
*King Arthur: Sir Thomas Malory’s History of King Arthur and his Knights
of the Round Table* (2018 ed.)
Catwings (1988)
A Wrinkle in Time (1963 Newbery Medal)
John Henry (1995 Caldecott Honor)
The Chronicles of Narnia series
All About Sam (1988)
Beauty: A Retelling of Beauty and the Beast (1978)
Anne of Green Gables series
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH (1972 Newbery Medal)
The Great Gilly Hopkins (1979 Newbery Honor)
Hatchet (1989 Newbery Honor)
The Keeping Quilt (1988)
Tar Beach (1992 Caldecott Honor)
Baseball in April and Other Stories (1996 Belpré Honor)
Charlotte’s Web (1953 Newbery Honor)

Roald Dahl
Peter Golenbock
Virginia Hamilton
Tove Jansson
Francisco Jiménez
Norton Juster
E. L. Konigsburg
Sidney Lanier
Ursula Le Guin
Madeleine L’Engle
Julius Lester
C. S. Lewis
Lois Lowry
Robin McKinley
L. M. Montgomery
Robert O’Brien
Katherine Paterson
Gary Paulsen
Patricia Polacco
Faith Ringgold
Gary Soto
E. B. White

Graphic Novels, Graphic Non-fiction

El Deafo (2015 Newbery Honor)
Bad Guys series
Galactic Hot Dogs series
Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales series
The Dragon Slayer: Folktales from Latin America (2017)
Amulet series
Lunch Lady series
Cleopatra in Space series
Around the World: Three Remarkable Journeys (2011)
The Adventures of John Blake: Mystery of the Ghost Ship (2017)
Lumberjanes series
Nnewts series
Amazing Greek Myths of Wonder and Blunders (2014)
Robot Dreams (2016)
Superman series

Cece Bell
Aaron Blabey
Max Brallier
Nathan Hale
Jaime Hernandez
Kazu Kibuishi
Jarrett Krosoczka
Mike Maihack
Matt Phelan
Phillip Pullman
Noelle Stevenson
Doug TenNapel
Michael Townsend
Sara Varon
Gene Luen Yang

Sports

The Playbook (2017)
A Whole New Ballgame (2016)
The Warriors (2003)
Serena Williams (2017)
Mo'ne Davis: Remember My Name; My Story from First Pitch to Game Changer (2015)
Ten: A Soccer Story (2015)
Left Out (2016)
Roberto and Me (*Baseball Card Adventures* series)
The Gold Medal Mess (2016)
Power Forward (2018)
Step Up to the Plate, Maria Singh
(2018 Asian/Pacific American Book Award)
Comeback Kids series
Team Jake Maddox series
Win or Lose (*The Kicks* series)
Storm Cliff Stables series
Arcady's Goal (2015)

Kwame Alexander
Phil Bildner
Joseph Bruchac
Matt Christopher
Mo'ne Davis

Shamini Flint
Tim Green
Dan Gutman
David A. Kelly
Hena Khan
Uma Krishnaswami

Mike Lupica
Jake Maddox
Alex Morgan
Lisa Mullarkey
Eugene Yelchin



Non-Fiction

<i>Animal Ark: Celebrating Our Wild World in Poetry and Pictures</i> (2017)	Kwame Alexander
<i>Boys Dancing: From School Gym to Theater Stage</i> (2017)	George Ancona
<i>Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla</i> (2014)	Katherine Applegate
<i>Buried Sunlight: How Fossil Fuels Have Changed the Earth</i> (2014)	Molly Bang
<i>Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table</i> (2013)	Jacqueline Briggs
<i>Older Than Dirt: A Kinda-Sorta Biography of Earth</i> (2017)	Don Brown
<i>Grand Canyon</i> (2018 Caldecott Honor and Sibert Honor)	Jason Chin
<i>The Story of Buildings: From the Pyramids to the Sydney Opera House and Beyond</i> (2014)	Patrick Dillon
<i>Cooking Step by Step</i> (2018)	DK Publishing
<i>The Superhero Comic Kit</i> (2015)	Jason Ford
<i>Be the Change: A Grandfather Gandhi Story</i> (2016)	Arun Gandhi
<i>Calling All Minds: How to Think and Create Like an Inventor</i> (2018)	Temple Grandin
<i>Guinness World Records: Amazing Animals</i> (2017)	Guinness Publishers
<i>Mission to Space</i> (2018 American Indian Youth Literature Award)	John Herrington
<i>Top Secret: A Handbook of Codes, Ciphers, and Secret Writing</i> (2004)	Paul Janeczko
<i>Tales from the Arabian Nights</i> (2016)	Donna Jo Napoli
<i>Kids' Guide to Hiking</i> (2018, Ranger Rick Kids' Guides)	Helen Olsson
<i>Mummies and Pyramids</i> (2017, Magic Tree House Fact Tracker)	Will Osborne
<i>The LEGO Animation Book: Make Your Own LEGO Movies</i> (2016)	David Pagano
<i>The Girl Who Ran: Bobbi Gibb, the First Woman to Run the Boston Marathon</i> (2017)	Frances Poletti
<i>A Boy and a Jaguar</i> (2015 Schneider Award)	Alan Rabinowitz
<i>Mesmerized: How Ben Franklin Solved a Mystery that Baffled All of France</i> (2017)	Mara Rockliff
<i>How to be an Elephant: Growing up in the African Wild</i>	Katherine Roy
<i>Every Month is a New Year: Celebrations Around the World</i> (2018)	Marilyn Singer
<i>Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag</i> (2018)	Rob Sanders
<i>Math-terpieces: The Art of Problem-Solving</i> (2003)	Greg Tang
<i>Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation</i> (2015 Belpré Honor)	Duncan Tonatiuh
<i>The World is Not a Rectangle: A Portrait of Architect Zaha Hadid</i> (2017)	Jeanette Winter
<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> (2015 King, Newbery, Sibert Awards)	Jacqueline Woodson



Expand your reading options with **Sora**, our e-book and digital audio collection from the Massachusetts Library System!



Start a Summer Book Club!



There are so many fabulous stories that take place in summertime. We've listed some of our favorites below that are perfect for sharing with family and friends. Why not start a book club to read together and share your ideas? Don't forget the snacks!

All books are also available on audio.

The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy by Jeanne Birdsall, 2005.

Spending the summer at a cottage in the Berkshires sounds like heaven to Rosalind, Skye, Jane, and Batty, and they quickly make friends with Jeffrey – until his snobby mother intervenes. Enjoy more adventures with the Penderwicks in the rest of the series.

Crunch by Leslie Connor, 2010.

Dewey and his siblings have a major problem: there's a nationwide fuel shortage, and his parents aren't able to return home to run the family bike-repair business. On the flip side, business has never been better – since no one can buy gas, bikes are essential transportation, even on the Turnpike!

Dead End in Norvelt by Jack Gantos. 2012 Newbery Medal winner.

It's the summer of 1962, and Jack has just been grounded for the entire summer for firing a World War II rifle. That's not going to stop this crazy kid from getting into more trouble as he tries to solve the mystery of why the town's elderly women are dying like flies.

Macy McMillan and the Rainbow Goddess by Shari Green. 2018 Schneider Award winner.

Macy's got to face up to a lot of challenges as 6th grade comes to an end: Mom is getting re-married, their new "family" has to move, and to top it off, she has to help an elderly neighbor pack for a move of her own. This novel is told in verse, making it a quick read.

The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson. A 2019 Coretta Scott King Honor book.

While spending the summer in her mother's South Carolina home town, Candice discovers a letter from her dead grandmother detailing a historical mystery involving an illegal tennis match, racism, and a lot of money. Will she and her new friend Brandon find answers? This complex novel shifts between the past and the present, and offers plenty of ideas to discuss.

The Family Fletcher Takes Rock Island by Dana Alison Levy, 2016.

Sam, Jax, Eli, and Frog, along with their dads, can't wait for the annual vacation to their beloved New England island. Along with decisions about which ice cream to buy, there are new neighbors to meet, and a mystery surrounding the nearby lighthouse to solve.