

# Summer Reading



Middle School | 2022

**McCALLIE**  
— HONOR TRUTH DUTY —



## Dear McCallie Middle School Families,

Welcome to those of you who are new to McCallie and hello to returning families! At McCallie, we strive to encourage young people to find joy in books and reading. Part of the way that we encourage McCallie students to read is our Summer Reading program, and I hope that you enjoy this year's selections.

This summer, every Middle School student will choose a book from a list of 5 options. During a Homebase meeting in the fall, students will share a creative response to the book they chose. The response can be a number of things, including but not limited to a piece of visual art, a poem or short story, or a video book trailer. You can find more ideas and examples on the Summer Reading Guide linked below.

In addition to the choice book, each grade will have an assigned book. 6th graders will read *The War that Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. 7th graders will read *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. 8th graders will read *Just Mercy [Adapted for Young Adults]: A True Story of the Fight for Justice* by Bryan Stevenson. Students will discuss the books in their grade-level curriculum.

Please see the Summer Reading Guide [link below] for more information about the 2022 book selections, the creative response, as well as recommended books for additional reading, if you choose.

Summer Reading Guide:  
<https://libguides.mccallie.org/msummerreading2022>

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Happy reading!

**Margaret Wadley**  
McCallie School Librarian

# FAQS



## How many books do I have to read?

Two. You will choose one book from the list of 5 and you will read your grade-level book. You will also prepare a creative response to your choice book to share in a small group setting.



## Can I choose a book that I have already read?

Please choose books that you have never read before.



## Am I allowed to read my book(s) on an eReader [Kindle, iPad, Nook, etc.]?

Absolutely!



## Can I listen to the audio-book version of one or more of my books?

Yes, but make sure to have a physical copy of the grade-level book for class discussions and assignments.



## There are several different versions of my book available to buy. How do I know which one to get?

We've provided an ISBN for each book to help you find a copy; however, you are not required to read that exact edition, unless noted. Please note that some of the titles have adult versions in addition to the young adult versions. Make sure you are getting the correct version of those titles.



## What summer reading materials do I need to bring with me when school starts?

Bring your grade level book with you on the first day for your English class. When we have our summer reading Homebase meeting, you should bring your choice book and your creative response to share. The date will be announced at the beginning of the school year.



## What do I need to do for the creative response?

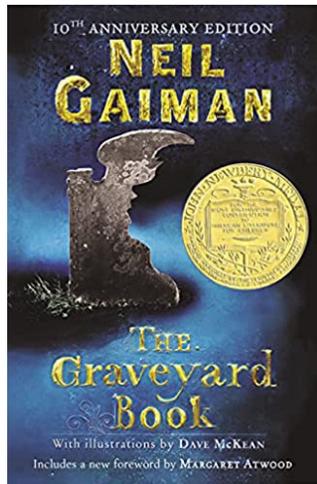
Think of your creative response as a conversation starter. What can you write, draw, or create to show your classmates something about the book you chose from the list of five? You could write a poem, make a poster, create a video or podcast – there are many options! You will share what you create with your Homebase and excellent responses will go on display in the Library.



## I have another question about summer reading. What should I do?

Contact Mrs. Wadley at [mwadley@mccallie.org](mailto:mwadley@mccallie.org).

# Choice Book



## The Graveyard Book

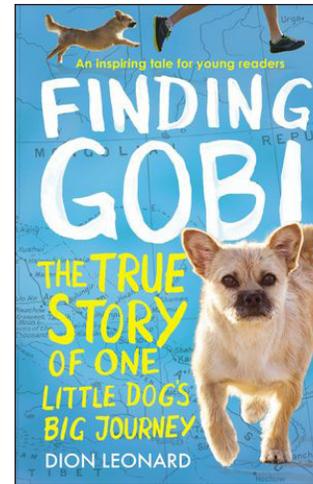
by Neil Gaiman

ISBN-13: 978-0060530921

Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a perfectly normal boy. Well, he would be perfectly normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor the world of the dead.

There are dangers and adventures for Bod in the graveyard: the strange and terrible menace of the Sleer; a gravestone entrance to a desert that leads to the city of ghouls; friendship with a witch, and so much more.

But it is in the land of the living that real danger lurks, for it is there that the man Jack lives and he has already killed Bod's family.



## Finding Gobi: The True Story of One Little Dog's Big Journey (Young Reader's Edition)

by Dion Leonard

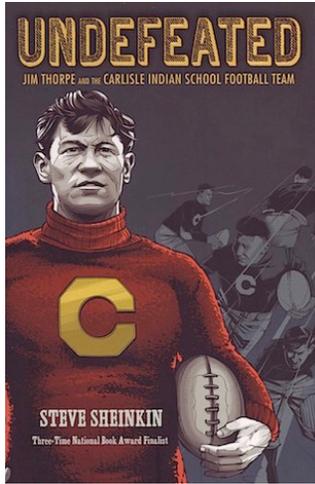
ISBN-13: 978-0718075316

*Finding Gobi: The True Story of One Little Dog's Big Journey* is the incredible true story of Dion Leonard, an athlete who was befriended by a stray dog while

running an ultramarathon through the Gobi Desert. Named for the desert in which he found her, Gobi became Dion's closest companion for 77 miles of the 155-mile race across China. The scrappy little pup ran mile after mile alongside Dion, through treacherous conditions and across raging rivers. He let her sleep in his tent and share his food, and eventually, his focus shifted from winning to the newfound friendship he and Gobi shared.

*NOTE: There is an adult version of this book that you are welcome to read. It has more detail and a higher reading level, but is the same story.*

# Choice Book



## **Undeclared: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team**

by Steve Sheinkin

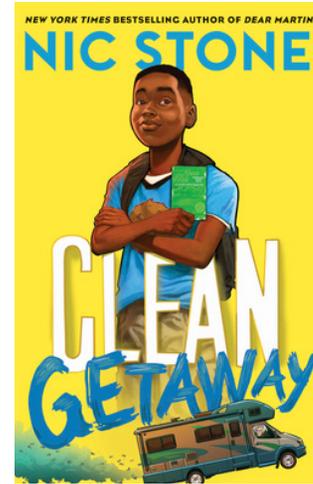
ISBN-13: 978-1596439542

Jim Thorpe: super athlete, Olympic gold medalist, Native American.

Pop Warner: indomitable coach, football mastermind, Ivy League grad.

Before these men became legends, they met in 1907 at the

Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania, where they forged one of the winningest teams in the history of America's favorite sport. Called "the team that invented football," Carlisle's innovative squad challenged the greatest, most elite teams—Harvard, Yale, Army—audaciously vowing to take their place among the nation's football powers.



## **Clean Getaway**

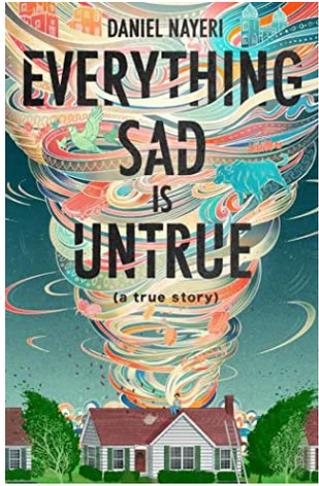
by Nic Stone

ISBN-13: 978-1984892973

How to Go on an Unplanned Road Trip with Your Grandma:

- Grab a Suitcase: Packed from the big spring break trip that got CANCELLED.
  - Fasten Your Seatbelt: G'ma's never conventional, so this trip won't be either.
  - Use the Green Book: G'ma's most treasured possession. It holds history, memories, and, most important, the way home.
- What Not to Bring:
- A Cell Phone: Avoid contact with Dad at all costs. Even when G'ma starts acting stranger than usual.

# Choice Book



## **Everything Sad is Untrue (a true story)**

by Daniel Nayeri

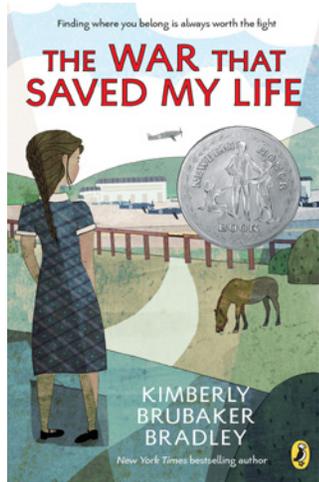
ISBN-13: 978-1646140008

At the front of a middle school classroom in Oklahoma, a boy named Khosrou (whom everyone calls “Daniel”) stands, trying to tell a story. His story. But no one believes a word he says. To them he is a dark-skinned, hairy-armed boy with a big butt whose lunch

smells funny; who makes things up and talks about poop too much. But Khosrou’s stories, stretching back years, and decades, and centuries, are beautiful, and terrifying, from the moment he, his mother, and sister fled Iran in the middle of the night, stretching all the way back to family tales set in the jasmine-scented city of Isfahan, the palaces of semi-ancient kings, and even the land of stories.

# Required Reading

## 6TH GRADE BOOK



### **The War that Saved My Life**

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

ISBN-13:978-0147510488

Ten-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him.

So begins a new adventure of Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan—and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie. But in the end, will their bond be enough to hold them together through wartime? Or will Ada and her brother fall back into the cruel hands of their mother?

## 7TH GRADE BOOK



### **The Outsiders**

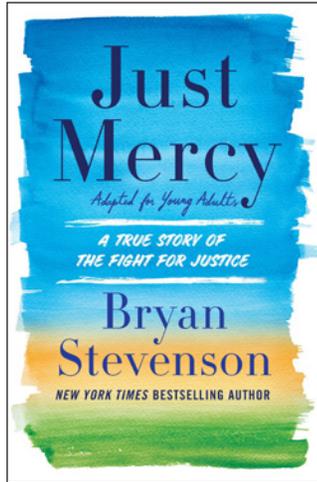
by S.E. Hinton

ISBN-13: 978-0142407332

According to Ponyboy, there are two kinds of people in the world: greasers and socs. A soc (short for "social") has money, can get away with just about anything, and has an attitude longer than a limousine. A greaser, on the other hand, always lives on the outside and needs to watch his back. Ponyboy is a greaser, and he's always been proud of it, even willing to rumble against a gang of socs for the sake of his fellow greasers—until one terrible night...

# Required Reading

## 8TH GRADE BOOK



### **Just Mercy (Adapted for Young Adults): A True Story of the Fight for Justice**

by Bryan Stevenson

ISBN-13: 978-0525580034

In this very personal work—adapted from the original #1 bestseller—acclaimed lawyer and social justice advocate Bryan Stevenson offers a glimpse into the lives of the wrongfully imprisoned and his efforts to fight for their freedom.

Stevenson’s story is one of working to protect basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society—the poor, the wrongly convicted, and those whose lives have been marked by discrimination and marginalization. Through this adaptation, young people of today will find themselves called to action and compassion in the pursuit of justice.

For more information contact:  
Margaret Wadley  
mwadley@mccallie.org

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*\*All quotations taken from book reviews on amazon.com*