



Otherwood by Pete Hautman

Stuey never really knew what his grandpa meant when he used to talk about quantum physics or ghosts on their overgrown golf course. But then one day, when something totally unbelievable happens to Stuey and his best friend Elly Rose, all the things Grandpa Zach used to say start to make a lot more sense and they must struggle to come to grips with a reality-splitting mystery.

Challenge Read companion: *Something Deeply Hidden* by Sean Carroll



Refugee by Alan Gratz

Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together.

Challenge Read companion: *We are Displaced* by Malala Yousafzai



Counting By 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan

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 her parents are killed in a car accident.

Challenge Read companion: *Fatal Fever: Tracking Down Typhoid Mary* by Gail Jarrow



When Stars are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed*

*Maud Hart Lovelace Nominee 2021-22

Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp, and when an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother in this intimate and touching portrayal of family and daily life in a refugee camp.

Challenge Read companion: *Running for my Life* by Lopez Lomong



The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle by Leslie Connor

Mason is a sweet kid with learning disabilities and fifteen months ago, his best friend, Benny Kilmartin, turned up dead in the family's orchard. An investigation drags on, and Mason, honest as the day is long, can't understand why Lieutenant Baird won't believe the story Mason has told about that day. When Mason's new friend Calvin goes missing, Mason finds himself in trouble again. He's desperate to figure out what happened to Calvin, and eventually, Benny. But will anyone believe him?

Challenge Read companion: *Dear Bully* edited by Megan Kelley Hall & Carrie Jones.

Reading Suggestions

* Titles on the Maud Hart Lovelace Readers' Choice Award List

Realistic Fiction

- *New Kid* by Jerry Craft
- *Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga*
- *Cyclone* by Doreen Cronin
- *One for the Murphys* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
- *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander
- *Game Changer* by Tommy Greenwald*
- *Ancestor Approved* edited by Cynthia Leitich Smith
- *It Wasn't Me* by Dana Alison Levy*
- *King and the Dragonflies* by Kacen Callender
- *Twins* by Varian Johnson

Historical Fiction

- *Resistance* by Jennifer A. Nielsen
- *The War that Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- *Pax* by Sara Pennypacker
- *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park
- *Becoming Muhammad Ali* by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander

Fantasy/Science Fiction

- *Harry Potter Series* by J.K. Rowling
- *Wings of Fire Series* by Tui Sutherland
- *Amulet Series* by Kazu Kibuishi
- *Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- *The City of Ember* by Jeanne Duprau
- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- *Spirit Animals Series* by Various Authors

Mystery/Adventure

- *Framed!* by James Ponti
- *Spirit Hunters* by Ellen Oh
- *Holes* by Louis Sachar
- *Spy School* by Stuart Gibbs
- *Stolen Children* by Peg Kehret
- *The Girl in the Locked Room* by Mary Downing Hahn
- *A World Below* by Wesley King*

Nonfiction

- *They Lost Their Heads* by Carlyn Beccia
- *All Thirteen* by Christina Soontornvat
- *Weird but True* by National Geographic
- *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler* by Phillip M. Hoose
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson

Join Cohort Read!

Extra Challenge Opportunity for Avid Readers

Cohort Read is an extra challenge opportunity for avid readers. Here's how it works!

1. Read at least **three books** from the list on pages 5-6.
2. If you want to, you could also read the "Challenge Read" companions book to go even deeper into the books!
3. Do a **creative project** for one of the books. Here are some ideas:
 - An informative poster or slideshow
 - Create a piece of art related to the book (drawing, sculpture, poem, etc.)
 - Figure out which zodiac sign or Hogwarts house the characters would be in
 - Create costumes for characters
 - Make a video book trailer
 - Create a playlist based on a character
 - Adapt the book into a song, play, graphic novel, or video
 - Make a website or social media post for the characters
4. In the fall you will have the chance to discuss the books and share your creative project with other avid readers at your new school!



Sign up Today!

Scan this QR code to fill out the short sign up form.

This will help make sure that your middle school teachers contact you about sharing your Cohort Read project and for more fun reading opportunities next fall!



Sweep by Jonathan Auxier

In nineteenth-century England, after her father's disappearance, Nan Sparrow works as a "climbing boy," aiding chimney sweeps, but when her most treasured possessions end up in a fireplace, she unwittingly creates a golem.

Challenge Read companion: *Songs of Innocence and Experience* by William Blake



Blended by Sharon Draper*

*Maud Hart Lovelace Nominee 2021-22

Piano-prodigy Isabella, whose black father and white mother struggle to share custody, never feels whole, especially as racial tensions affect her school, her parents both become engaged, and she and her stepbrother are stopped by police.

Challenge Read companion: *Stamped* by Jason Reynolds



The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler by John Hendrix

Text and art are interwoven in this true story of German pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his opposition to the Nazis and Hitler. Although murder was forbidden by the Bible, Bonhoeffer came to the conclusion that Hitler had to be stopped by any means.

Challenge Read companion: *Hitler Youth* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti



Tristan Strong Punches a Whole in the Sky by Kwame Mbalia

Seventh-grader Tristan Strong tumbles into the MidPass and, with allies John Henry and Brer Rabbit, must entice the god Anansi to come out of hiding and seal the hole Tristan accidentally ripped in the sky.

Challenge Read companion: *The Annotated African American Folktales* by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.



Pippa Park Raises Her Game by Erin Yun

When Pippa gets a mysterious basketball scholarship to Lakeview Private, she jumps at the chance to reinvent herself as she juggles old and new friends, an unrequited crush, and the pressure to perform academically and athletically while keeping her past and her family's laundromat a secret from her elite new classmates. As things begin to spiral out of control, Pippa discovers the real reason she was admitted to Lakeview and wonders if she can keep her old and new lives separate.

Challenge Read companion: *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens.

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