



Summer Reading List 2024

For students entering Pre-K thru Grade 2

Our summer reading list includes books that were recommended, not only by teachers, but also by Tower School students. Just like adults, other children are often the best source for book recommendations. Keep in mind, however, that every child is unique in terms of their reading level, interests, and maturity. And, that these books are recommendations but that there are many, many more books to choose from at your local library.

Don't forget to check out biographies, magazines, non fiction and poetry, too! Shel Silverstein, Jack Prelutsky, and Mary Ann Hoberman are just a few of our favorite poets. We hope that everyone finds a "Home Run" book this summer. In other words, any book that your child will remember in the years to come and that keeps them reading!

Picture Books

After the Fall, How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again by Dan Santat

Berry Song by Michaela Goade

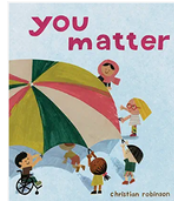
Big by Vashti Harrison

Black is a Rainbow Color by Angela Joy

A Chair for my Mother by Vera B. Williams

Camp Tiger by Susan Choi

Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes



Do Not Open This Book by Andy Lee

Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away by Meg Medina

Farmhouse by Sophie Blackall

Have you Seen my Invisible Dinosaur? by Andy Pizza & Sophie Miller

Hot Dog by Doug Salati

I Am Every Good Thing by Derrick Barnes

I Talk Like a River by Jordan Scott

Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall

Jovita Wore Pants by Aida Salazar & Molly Mendoza

Julian is a Mermaid by Jessica Love

Knight Owl by Christopher Denise

Mel Fell by Corey R. Tabor

Molly's Tuxedo by Vickie Johnson & Gillian Reid

My Papi has a Motorcycle by Isabel Quintero

The Pigeon Will Ride the Rollercoaster by Mo Willems

The Proudest Blue by Ibtihaj Muhammad, S.K. Al

The Rabbit Listened by Cori Doerrfeld

Saturday by Oge Mora

The Truth about Dragons by Julie Leung

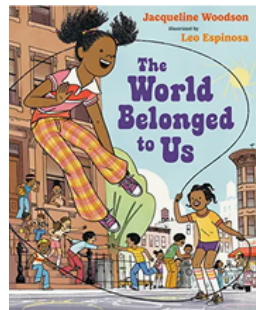
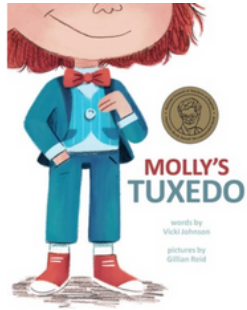
There was a Party for Langston by Jason Reynolds & Jerome Pumphrey

Uncle John's City Garden by Bernette G. Ford

You Matter by Christian Robinson

Where Wonder Grows by Xelena González. Illus. by Adriana M. Garcia.

The World Belonged to Us by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Leo Espinosa



Early Readers

Biscuit by Alyssa Capucilli

Cornbread and Poppy by Matthew Cordell

Duck, Duck Porcupine by Salina Yoon

Elephant and Piggie by Mo Willems

Elephant & Piggie Like Reading by various authors

Fly Guy by Tedd Arnold

Fox the Tiger (series) by Corey R. Tabor

Gigi and Ojiji by Melissa Iwai

Henry and Mudge by Cynthia Rylant

Hi Jack! (A Jack Book) by Mac Barnett & Greg Pizzoli

King & Kayla by Dori Hillstead Butler

Ling & Ting by Grace Lin

Penny by Kevin Henkes

Mercy Watson by Kate DiCamillo

Mr. Putter and Tabby by Cynthia Rylant

Nat the Cat by Jarrett Lerner

Rabbit & Robot by Cece Bell

Unicorn & Yeti by Heather Ayris Burnell



Owl Diaries by Rebecca Elliott

Pets Rule by Susan Tan

The Princess in Black by Shannon Hale

Rainbow Magic Fairies by Daisy Meadows

Ricky Ricotta's Mighty Robot by Dav Pilkey

Roscoe Riley Rules by Katherine Applegate

Sadiq and the Explorers by Siman Nuurali

The Secret Explorers by SJ King

The Stories Julian Tells by Ann Cameron

Super Rabbit Boy series by Thomas Flintham

Who Would Win? (series) by Jerry Pallotta

Zoey and Sassafras by Asia Citro



Beginning Chapter Books

A to Z Mysteries by Ron Roy

The Bad Guys by Aaron Blabey

Dragon Masters by Tracy West

The Questioners (series) by Andrea Beaty

Ivy + Bean by Annie Barrows

Lighthouse Family by Cynthia Rylant

Magic Tree House by Mary Pope Osborne

Meet Yasmin! By Saadia Faruqi

Mia Mayhem is a Superhero by Kara West

Chapter Books

Babysitters Club Little Sisters by Katy Farina

Clementine by Sara Pennypacker

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

Dog Man by Dav Pilkey

Dragon Slayers' Academy by Kate McMullan

Eerie Elementary series by Max Brailer

Geronimo Stilton by Geronimo Stilton

Geeger the Robot by Jarrett Lerner and Serge Seidlitz

Jasmine Toguchi by Debbie Michiko Florence

Judy Moody by Megan McDonald

My Weird School by Dan Gutman

Ramona by Beverly Cleary

Heidi Heckelbeck series by Wanda Coven

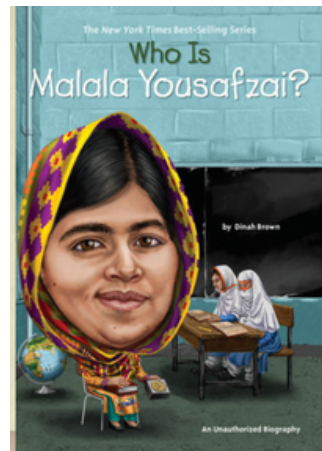
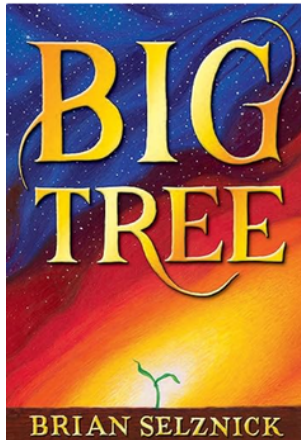
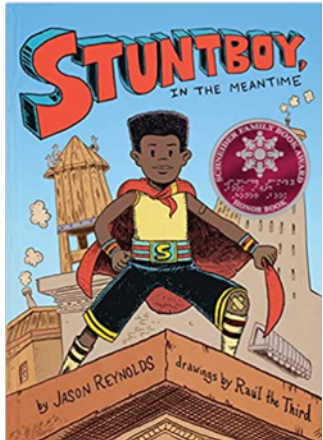
Stella Diaz Has Something to Say by Angela Dominguez

Zach & Zoey Mysteries by Mike Lupica

For students entering Grade 3

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Baseball Card Adventures: Babe and Me

(series) by Dan Gutman

Joe Stoshack is at it again, this time going back in time through baseball cards to see if Babe Ruth really predicted his legendary home run in the 1932 World Series.

Big Tree by Brian Selznick

A mysterious voice has been speaking to Louise in her dreams. She and her brother Merwin are Sycamore seeds, who hope to one day set down roots and become big trees. But when a fire forces them to leave their mama tree prematurely, they find themselves catapulted into the unknown, far from home. Alone and unprepared, they must use their wits and imagination to navigate a dangerous world—filled with dinosaurs, meteors, and volcanoes!—and the fear of never finding a safe place to grow up. As the mysterious voice gets louder, Louise comes to realize their mission in life may be much bigger than either of them ever could have imagined!

Blubber by Judy Blume

Jill goes along with the rest of the fifth-grade class in tormenting a classmate and then finds out what it is like when she, too, becomes a target.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

Greg Heffley tells about his summer vacation and his attempts to steer clear of trouble when he returns to middle school and tries to keep his older brother Rodrick from telling everyone about Greg's most humiliating experience of the summer.

The Doll People by Ann Martin

A family of porcelain dolls that has lived in the same house for one hundred years is taken aback when a new family of plastic dolls arrives and doesn't follow The Doll Code of Honor.

The Dragon of Lonely Island by Rebecca Rupp

Three children spend the summer with their mother on a secluded island where they discover a three-headed dragon living in a cave and learn what it means to be a Dragon Friend.

Chet Gecko (series) By Bruce Hale

Detectives Chet Gecko and his partner Natalie Attired try to solve the mysteries at Emerson Hicky Elementary School.

Heidi Heckelbeck Series by Wanda Cove

Meet Heidi Heckelbeck. Heidi seems like any other 8 year-old. She eats peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for lunch. She hates all vegetables. She picks on her younger brother, but Heidi has a secret- She's a witch

How to Train Your Dragon by Cressida Cowell Chronicles the adventures and misadventures of Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third as he tries to pass the important initiation test of his Viking clan, the Tribe of the Hairy Hooligans, by catching and training a dragon.

The Guardian Test (Legends of Lotus Island book 1) by Christina Soontornvat

Young Plum is shocked to discover that she’s been accepted to the Guardian Academy on Lotus Island, an elite school where kids learn how to transform into Guardians, magical creatures who are sworn to protect the natural world. The Guardian masters teach Plum and her friends how to communicate with animals and how to use meditation to strengthen their minds and bodies. All the kids also learn to fight, so they can protect the defenseless if needed.

Magic Bone Series by Nancy Krulick

The new Magic Bone series features Sparky, a half- grown puppy, as both protagonist and narrator. A good choice for newly independent readers who have a taste for fantasy.

Marley: a Dog Like No Other by John Grogan

Follows the life story of an exuberant Labrador retriever who gets into perpetual trouble and experiences a range of inspiring adventures.

My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George

A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship.

My Weird School: Miss Daisy is Crazy

(series) By Dan Gutman

Miss Daisy, who teaches second grade, doesn't know how to add or subtract. Not only that, she doesn't know how to read or write either.

Planet Omar by Zanib Mian

Imaginative Omar goes through the ups and downs of starting a new school and making new friends with the help of his wonderful (and silly) Muslim family

Riding Silver Star by Joanna Cole

Meet Abby. She and Star have lots of fun together. And you can share all the excitement as Abby's teacher shows her how to jump fences, takes her on a lively trail ride, and then races her back to the barn.

Sadiq and the Gamers by Simon Nuurali

Sadiq and his friends are starting a video game club at school. They have fun playing together and planning a tournament for the whole school to participate in. But when their club needs a service project, the club members are stumped. How can they help people with video games?

Stuntboy, In the Meantime by Jason Reynolds and Raul the Third

Portico Reeves' secret identity as Stuntboy allows him to use his superpower keep everybody safe, but when his superhero parents start fighting a lot he feels the responsibility to save them.

Swim Team by Johnnie Christmas

Bree can't wait for her first day at her new middle school, Enith Brightha, home to the Mighty Manatees—until she's stuck with the only elective that fits her schedule, the dreaded Swim 101. The thought of swimming makes Bree more than a little queasy, yet she's forced to dive headfirst into one of her greatest fears

The Who Was (Series) by Penguin Publishers

With over 250 titles, Penguin's Who Was? series tells the incredible stories of trailblazers, legends, innovators, and creators

Other book ideas:

Babe: The Gallant Pig by Dick King Smith

A Bear Named Trouble by Marion Dane Bauer

How to Drive Your Sister Crazy by Diane Z. Shore

The Littles by John Peterson

Riding Silver Star by Joanna Cole

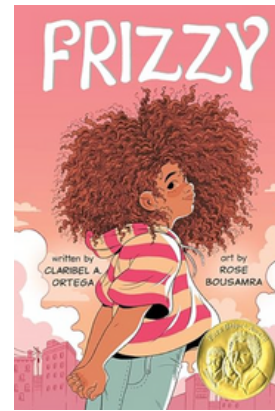
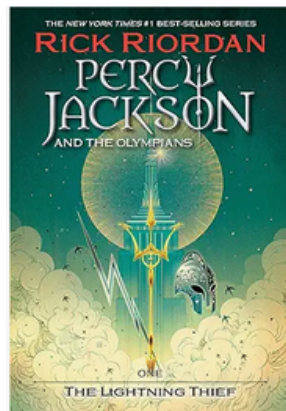
Goosed by Bill Wallace

Peter and the Starcatchers by Dave Barry

For students entering Grade 4

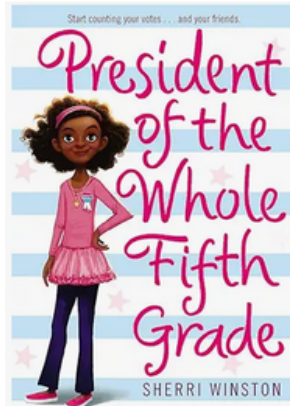
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All students must choose 1 book to complete the attached packet. It should be for your favorite summer book. Happy Reading!



Recommended books:

39 Clues by various authors
A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicoll
Al Capone Does my Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko
Alex Rider (series) by Anthony Horowitz
The Big Game by Tim Green
Candymakers by Wendy Mass
Enola Holmes by Nancy Springer
Fast Pitch by Nic Stone
Flora and Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo
Flush by Carl Hiaasen
Front Desk by Kelly Yang
Frizzy by Claribel Ortega
The Fun Jungle (series) by Stuart Gibbs
The Girl Who Could Fly by Victoria Lakeman
Forester
Ghosts by Raina Telgemeier
Guinea Dog by Patrick Jennings
Hatchet by Gary Paulson
Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling
The Heroes of Olympus (series) by Rick Riordan
The Kane Chronicles (series) by Rick Riordan
The Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davies
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo
Ms Bixby's Last Day by John David Anderson
Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart



New Kid (series) by Jerry Craft
New From Here by Kelly Yang
Nic Blake and the Remarkables (series) by Angie Thomas
The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
Odder by Katherine Applegate
The Penderwicks (series) by Jeanne Birdsall
Percy Jackson and the Olympians (series) by Rick Riordan
Pie in the Sky by Remy Lai
President of the Whole 5th Grade by Sherri Winston
Rangers Apprentice (series) by John Flanagan
Save me a Seat by Sarah Weeks
Scout by Shannon Greenland
The Season of Styx Malone by Kekla Magoon
A Series of Unfortunate Events (series) by Lemony Snicket
Spy School (series) by Stuart Gibbs
Spirit Animals (series) by Brandon Mull
Swindle by Gordon Korman
Timmy Failure (series) by Stephan Pastis
Treasure Hunters (series) by James Patterson
The Unwanteds (series) by Lisa McMann
The Wild Robot by Peter Brown
When you Trap a Tiger by Tae Keller
When Stars are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed

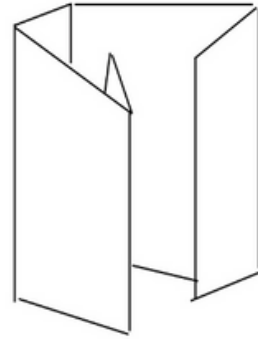
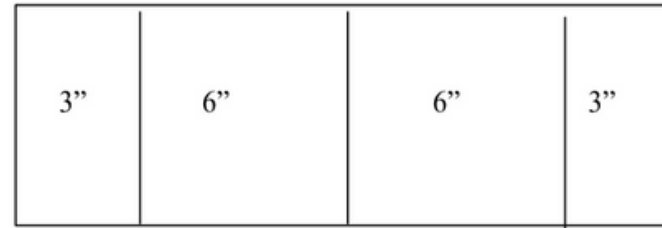
For students entering Grade 5

Please choose three (3) chapter books to read. This list includes book titles that are popular with students entering fifth grade. You are NOT limited by this list; it is simply for your convenience. Knowing how to choose a good book is part of being a good reader. Have fun choosing and reading books this summer!

All students are required to create one book jacket this summer. It should be for your favorite summer book. The directions for creating your book jacket are on the next page and recommended books are on the Tower School Summer Reading. Have fun!

How to Make a Book Jacket:

1. Use a sheet of 12" x 18" construction paper in a light color. From the left side, measure in 3 inches, then 6 inches, then 6 inches, and then 3 inches.
2. Lightly draw vertical lines at each spot you measured. Then the paper can be folded inward along the lines. Check with the diagram below.
3. Follow the directions below for the information to put on each panel.



Putting It All Together

Front Cover: On the front cover you need to include the title of the book, the author's name, your name, and an interesting picture drawn by you that represents something important in the book.

Back Cover: On the back cover write a description of the setting and a summary of the events in the book. Remember, the summary states the facts, not what you thought about the book.

Inside Front Flap: Write a detailed description of the main character of the book.

Inside Back Flap: Write down the reasons why you liked the book. Try to sell others on reading this book.

Recommended books:

Abduction! by Peg Kehret

Alex Rider (series) by Anthony Horowitz

Amari and the Night Brothers by B.B. Alston

Artemis Fowl (series) by Eoin Colfer

Atherton (series) by Patrick Carman

A Bird Will Soar by Alison Green Meyers

Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

The Big Field by Mike Lupica

Cabinet of Wonders by Marie Rutkoski

The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

Dragon Rider by Cornelia Funke

Freewater by Amina Luqman-Dawson

Eragon (Inheritance series) by Christopher Paolini

The Eyes and The Impossible by Dave Eggers & Shawn Harris

Freewater by Amina Luqman-Dawson

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill

Fly on the Wall by Remy Lai

Finally by Wendy Mass

Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

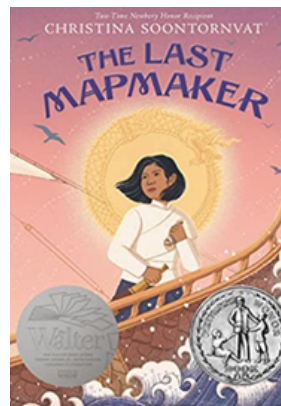
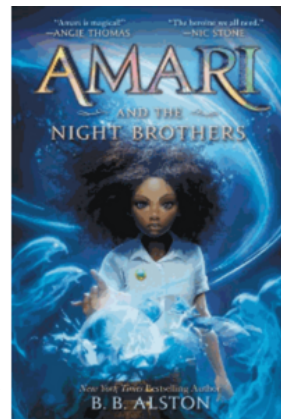
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen

Ida B. by Katherine Hannigan

The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick

The Last Quentista by Donna Barba Higuera



Maizy Chen's Last Chance by Amanda Nojadera

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart

New Kid by Jerry Craft

Out of my Mind by Sharon Draper

The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall

Percy Jackson & the Olympians (series) by Rick Riordan

Raymie Nightingale (series) by Kate DiCamillo

Regarding the Sink (series) by Kate Klise

Running Out of Time by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Savvy by Ingrid Law

Scary Stories for Young Foxes by Christian McKay Heidicker

Septimus Heap (series) by Angie Sage

Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket

Shadow Children (series) by Margaret Peterson Haddix

The Sherlock Files (series) by Tracy Barrett

Small Steps by Peg Kehret

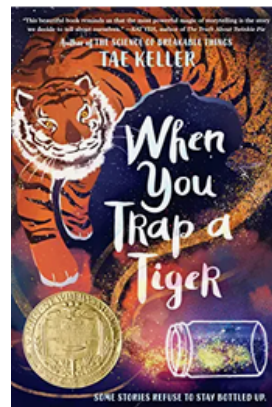
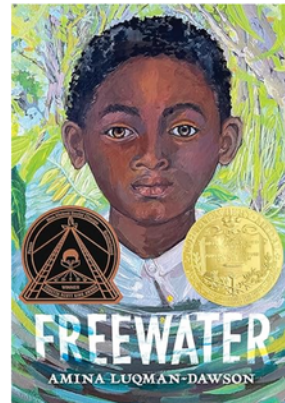
Starfish by Lisa Fipps

The Last Mapmaker by Christina Soontornvat

The Underneath by Kathi Appelt

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin

When you Trap a Tiger by Tae Keller



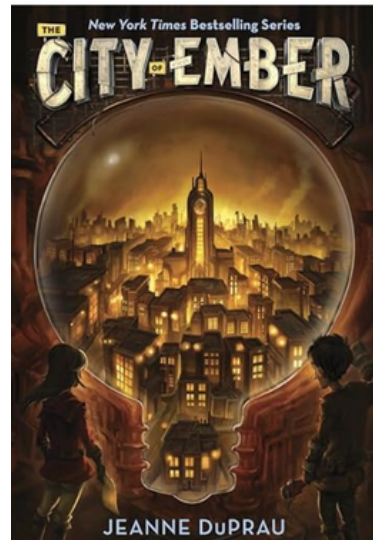
For students entering Grade 6

Incoming 6th grade students are expected to read three books this summer: one required and two of their choice. Of course, students are strongly encouraged to read well beyond this list. Please bring the book to class when we all return in September.

Book #1 Wonder by RJ Polaccio

Book #2 City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau

Book #3 will be a book of their choice.



Required:

Wonder by RJ Polaccio

August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. Beginning from Auggie's point of view and expanding to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others, the perspectives converge to form a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance. In a world where bullying among young people is an epidemic, this is a refreshing new narrative full of heart and hope. **Ms Tornovish asks that even if you have read it before to read it again. You will be working with this book at the beginning of the year.**

City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau

The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to dim. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. Now, she and her friend Doon must race to figure out the clues to keep the lights on. If they succeed, they will have to convince everyone to follow them into danger. But if they fail? The lights will burn out and the darkness will close in forever.

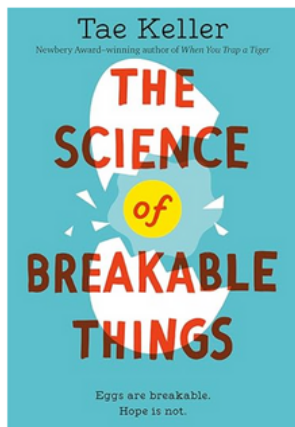
Additional recommended books:



El Deafo (graphic novel) by Cece Bell

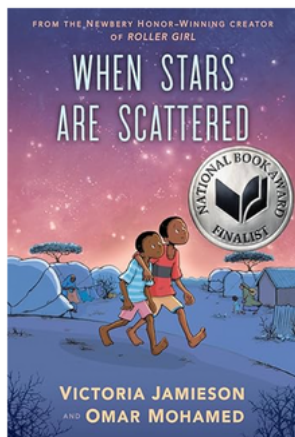
Starting at a new school is scary, especially with a giant hearing aid strapped to your chest! At her old school, everyone in Cece's class was deaf. Here, she's different. She's sure the kids are staring at the Phonic Ear, the powerful aid that will help her hear her teacher. Too bad it also seems certain to repel potential friends.

Then Cece makes a startling discovery. With the Phonic Ear, she can hear her teacher not just in the classroom, but anywhere her teacher is in the school—in the hallway . . . in the teacher's lounge . . . in the bathroom! This is power. Maybe even superpower! Cece is on her way to becoming El Deafo, Listener for All.



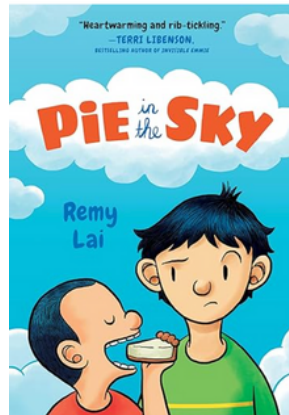
The Science of Breakable Things by Tae Keller

When Natalie's science teacher suggests that she enter an egg drop competition, Natalie thinks that this might be the perfect solution to all of her problems. There's prize money, and if she and her friends win, then she can fly her botanist mother to see the miraculous Cobalt Blue Orchids--flowers that survive against impossible odds. Natalie's mother has been suffering from depression, and Natalie is sure that the flowers' magic will inspire her mom to love life again. Which means it's time for Natalie's friends to step up and show her that talking about a problem is like taking a plant out of a dark cupboard and giving it light. With their help, Natalie begins an uplifting journey to discover the science of hope, love, and miracles.



When Stars Are Scattered (graphic novel) by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed

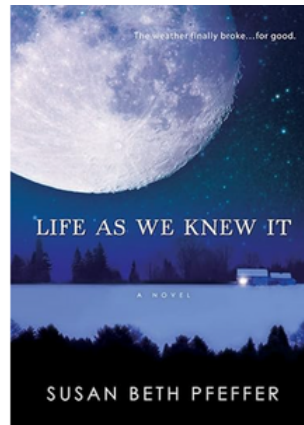
Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, have spent most of their lives in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya. Life is hard there: never enough food, achingly dull, and without access to the medical care Omar knows his nonverbal brother needs. So when Omar has the opportunity to go to school, he knows it might be a chance to change their future . . . but it would also mean leaving his brother, the only family member he has left, every day.



Pie in the Sky (graphic novel) by Remy Lai

When Jingwen moves to a new country, he feels like he's landed on Mars. School is torture, making friends is impossible since he doesn't speak English, and he's often stuck looking after his (extremely irritating) little brother, Yanghao.

To distract himself from the loneliness, Jingwen daydreams about making all the cakes on the menu of Pie in the Sky, the bakery his father had planned to open before he unexpectedly passed away. The only problem is his mother has laid down one major rule: the brothers are not to use the oven while she's at work. As Jingwen and Yanghao bake elaborate cakes, they'll have to cook up elaborate excuses to keep the cake making a secret from Mama.



Life as We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer

When a meteor knocks the moon closer to earth, Miranda, a high school sophomore, takes shelter with her family.

Told in a year's worth of journal entries, Life as We Knew It chronicles the human struggle to hold on to the most important resource of all—hope—in an increasingly desperate and unfamiliar world.

As August turns dark and wintery in northeastern Pennsylvania, Miranda, her two brothers, and their mother retreat to the unexpected safe haven of their sunroom, where they subsist on stockpiled food and limited water in the warmth of a wood-burning stove.



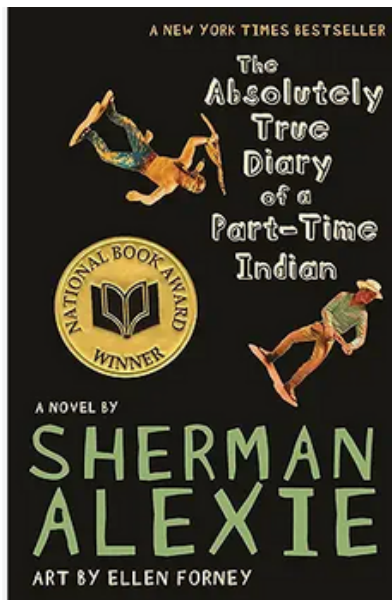
Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

Stargirl. From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, the hallways hum with the murmur of "Stargirl, Stargirl." She captures Leo Borlock's heart with just one smile. She sparks a school-spirit revolution with just one cheer. The students of Mica High are enchanted. At first.

Then they turn on her. Stargirl is suddenly shunned for everything that makes her different, and Leo, panicked and desperate with love, urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her: normal.

For students entering Grade 7

This summer, students are expected to read at least three books they haven't read before. The following books are required reading:



The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie

Junior is a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Peacemaker by Joseph Bruchac

From Ms. Orne: Joseph Bruchac is considered to be part of the native nation of The Abenaki. Although, there has been some controversy over Mr. Bruchac's heritage from tribal leaders, which will be a part of our discussion in the fall.

I chose Peacemaker primarily because it tells the story of the 5 Iroquois nations uniting (Iroquois League of Five Nations) to become a significant and influential nation in Native American history. As well, in the fall, we will discuss the impact that the Iroquois beliefs of government and unity affected Ben Franklin's views of government and thus the establishment of the United States of America.

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Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz

Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship—the kind that changes lives and lasts a lifetime. And it is through this friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves and the kind of people they want to be.

-Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish by Pablo Cartaya

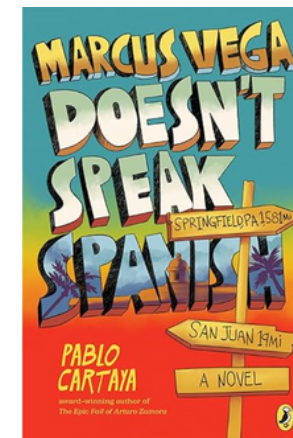
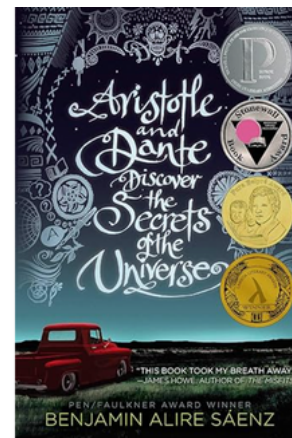
Marcus Vega is six feet tall, 180 pounds, and the owner of a premature mustache. When you look like this and you're only in the eighth grade, you're both a threat and a target. After a fight at school leaves Marcus facing suspension, Marcus's mom decides it's time for a change of environment. She takes Marcus and his younger brother to Puerto Rico to spend a week with relatives they don't remember or have never met. But Marcus can't focus knowing that his father—who walked out of their lives ten years ago—is somewhere on the island. So begins Marcus's incredible journey, a series of misadventures that take him all over Puerto Rico in search of his elusive namesake. Marcus doesn't know if he'll ever find his father, but what he ultimately discovers changes his life. And he even learns a bit of Spanish along the way.

Where the Lost Ones Go by Akemi Dawn Bowman

Eliot is grieving Babung, her paternal grandmother who just passed away, and she feels like she's the only one. She's less than excited to move to her new house, which smells like lemons and deception, and is searching for a sign, any sign, that ghosts are real. Because if ghosts are real, it means she can find a way back to Babung.

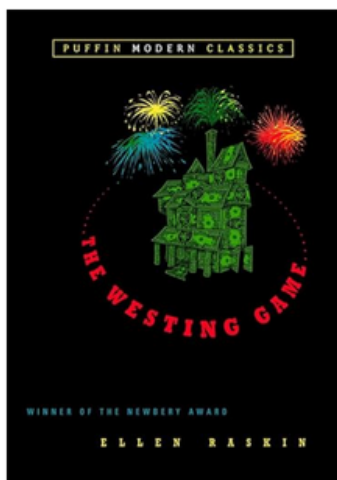
When Eliot chases the promise of paranormal activity to the presumably haunted Honeyfield Hall, she finds her proof of spirits. But these ghosts are losing their memory, stuck between this world and the next, waiting to cross over. With the help of Hazel, the granddaughter of Honeyfield's owner (and Eliot's new crush), she attempts to uncover the mystery behind Honeyfield Hall and the ghosts residing within.

And as Eliot fits the pieces together, she may just be able to help the spirits remember their pasts, and hold on to her grandmother's memory.



The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . .The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dreadlocked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood. He's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood from Kwame Alexander. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.



The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

A bizarre chain of events begins when sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. And though no one knows why the eccentric, game-loving millionaire has chosen a virtual stranger—and a possible murderer—to inherit his vast fortune, on things for sure: Sam Westing may be dead...but that won't stop him from playing one last game!

Displacement (graphic novel) by Kiku Hughes

Kiku is on vacation in San Francisco when suddenly she finds herself displaced to the 1940s Japanese-American internment camp that her late grandmother, Ernestina, was forcibly relocated to during World War II.

These displacements keep occurring until Kiku finds herself "stuck" back in time. Living alongside her young grandmother and other Japanese-American citizens in internment camps, Kiku gets the education she never received in history class. She witnesses the lives of Japanese-Americans who were denied their civil liberties and suffered greatly, but managed to cultivate community and commit acts of resistance in order to survive.

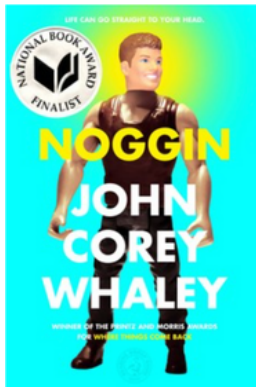
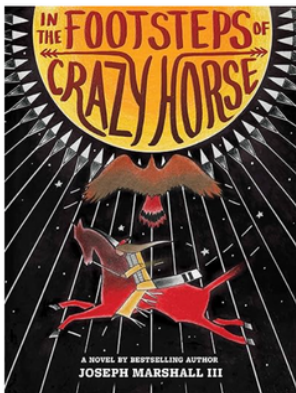
For students entering Grade 8

All students entering the eighth grade are required to read 3 required books and one additional book of their choice

Required Reading::

In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse by Joseph Marshall III **From Ms.Orne:**

Mr. Marshall was born and raised on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota and holds a PhD from the reservation university, which he helped to establish. Mr. Marshall is well respected for his research and writing in both the Native American community and the greater American writing and history community. Mr. Marshall is my favorite history author! Westward Expansion (Yes...Manifest Destiny) and its connection to The American Dream is the first major unit we will study this fall in 8th grade history. I have chosen In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse because the story highlights the importance of the Sioux leader Crazy Horse and the role of the Sioux Nation in the expansion of The United States of America. As part of our Westward Expansion Unit, we will be doing a deeper study of Sioux Nation.



Noggin by John Corey Whaley

Listen—Travis Coates was alive once and then he wasn't. Now he's alive again. Simple as that.

The in between part is still a little fuzzy, but Travis can tell you that, at some point or another, his head got chopped off and shoved into a freezer in Denver, Colorado. Five years later, it was reattached to some other guy's body, and well, here he is. Despite all logic, he's still sixteen, but everything and everyone around him has changed. That includes his bedroom, his parents, his best friend, and his girlfriend. Or maybe she's not his girlfriend anymore? That's a bit fuzzy too. Looks like if the new Travis and the old Travis are ever going to find a way to exist together, there are going to be a few more scars.

From Here by Luma Mufleh

With no word for “gay” in Arabic, Luma may not have known what to call the feelings she had growing up in Jordan during the 1980s, but she knew well enough to keep them secret. It was clear that not only would her family have trouble accepting her, but trapped in a conservative religious society, she could've also been killed if anyone discovered her sexuality. Luma spent her teenage years increasingly desperate to find a way out, and finally found one when she was accepted into college in the United States. Once there, Luma begins the agonizing process of applying for political asylum, which ensures her safety—but causes her family to break ties with her.

Becoming a refugee in America is a rude awakening, and Luma must rely on the grace of friends and strangers alike as she builds a new life and finally embraces her full self. Slowly, she's able to forge a new path forward with both her biological and chosen families, eventually founding Fugees Family, a nonprofit dedicated to the education and support of refugee children in the United States.

In addition to these required texts, students are to read at least one book of their choice!

The following are some recommended (i.e., not required) texts:

Going Bovine by Libba Bray

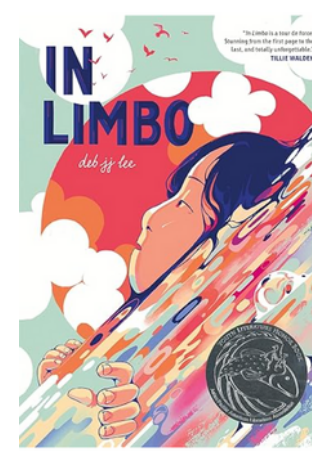
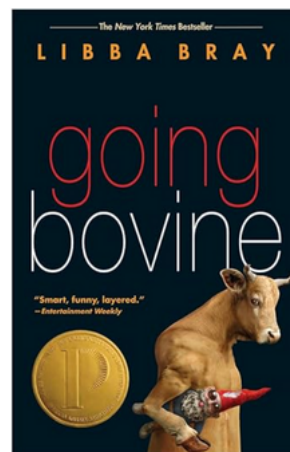
All 16-year-old Cameron wants is to get through high school—and life in general—with a minimum of effort. It's not a lot to ask. But that's before he's given some bad news: he's sick and he's going to die. Which totally sucks. Hope arrives in the winged form of Dulcie, a loopy punk angel/possible hallucination with a bad sugar habit. She tells Cam there is a cure—if he's willing to go in search of it. With the help of a death-obsessed, video-gaming dwarf and a yard gnome, Cam sets off on the mother of all road trips through a twisted America . . . into the heart of what matters most.

In Limbo by Deb J.J. Lee

Ever since Deborah (Jung-Jin) Lee emigrated from South Korea to the United States, she's felt her otherness. For a while, her English wasn't perfect. Her teachers can't pronounce her Korean name. Her face and her eyes—especially her eyes—feel wrong. In high school, everything gets harder. Friendships change and end, she falls behind in classes, and fights with her mom escalate. Caught in limbo, with nowhere safe to go, Deb finds her mental health plummeting, resulting in a suicide attempt. But Deb is resilient and slowly heals with the help of art and self-care, guiding her to a deeper understanding of her heritage and herself.

We Are Okay by Nina LaCour

You go through life thinking there's so much you need. . . . Until you leave with only your phone, your wallet, and a picture of your mother. Marin hasn't spoken to anyone from her old life since the day she left everything behind. No one knows the truth about those final weeks. Not even her best friend Mabel. But even thousands of miles away from the California coast, at college in New York, Marin still feels the pull of the life and tragedy she's tried to outrun. Now, months later, alone in an emptied dorm for winter break, Marin waits. Mabel is coming to visit and Marin will be forced to face everything that's been left unsaid and finally confront the loneliness that has made a home in her heart.



Crash and Burn by Michael Hassan

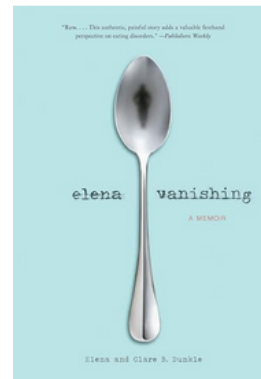
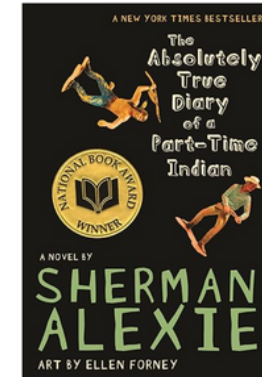
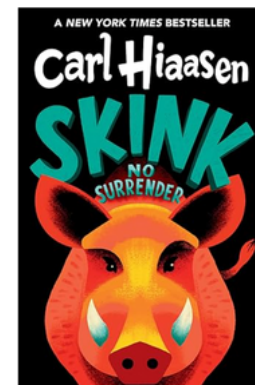
On April 21, 2008, Steven "Crash" Crashinsky saved more than a thousand people when he stopped his classmate David Burnett from taking their high school hostage armed with assault weapons and high-powered explosives.

You likely already know what came after for Crash: the nationwide notoriety, the college recruitment, and, of course, the book deal. What you might not know is what came before: a story of two teens whose lives have been inextricably linked since grade school, who were destined, some say, to meet that day in the teachers' lounge of Meadows High.

And what you definitely don't know are the words that Burn whispered to Crash right as the siege was ending, a secret that Crash has never revealed. Until now.

Skink: No Surrender by Carl Hiaasen

Classic Malley: her parents are about to ship her off to boarding school, so she takes off with some guy she met online... Poor Richard: he's less of a rebel than Malley, and a lot less trusting. He knows his cousin is in trouble before she does. Wild Skink: he's a ragged, one-eyed, ex-governor of Florida, and enough of a renegade to think he can track Malley down. With Richard riding shotgun, this unlikely pair scour the state, undaunted by blinding storms, crazed pigs, flying bullets, and giant gators.



The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie

Junior is a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Elena Vanishing by Clare & Elena Dunkle

This is the story of seventeen-year-old Elena, whose armor against anxiety becomes artillery against herself as she battles on both sides of a lose-lose war in a struggle with anorexia. Told entirely from Elena's perspective and co-written with her mother, Elena's memoir is a fascinating and intimate look at a deadly disease, and a must-read for anyone who knows someone suffering from an eating disorder.