

MONROE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Office of Curriculum & Instruction

423 Buckelew Ave.

Monroe Township, NJ 08831

<http://monroe.k12.nj.us>

June 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The goal of the Monroe Township School District is to support our students in becoming engaged citizens and lifelong learners. The summer months provide the perfect opportunity to extend and enrich your child's reading experiences to help them learn more about themselves, their interests, and the world around them. Reading a variety of titles by various authors will enable students to learn, explore, and discuss new ideas with others. Furthermore, students who sample multiple genres and authors begin to understand their reading preferences, thereby enjoying recreational reading.

The lists on the following pages contain recommended titles by genre, recommended authors and recommended book series. For our developing readers, series books like those found on the last page build fluency and stamina. Developing readers should also read decodable texts, which can be found at the Monroe Township Public Library. Fluent readers should self-select titles from a variety of genres. Encourage your child to enjoy this inspiring literature in the following ways: silent reading, shared reading with a parent or older sibling, buddy reading, book clubs, and parent read-aloud and discussion. To help your child select books, have them examine the covers and try reading a couple of pages. A "just right" book is one that is interesting to a child, not too easy, nor too difficult. Listening to audiobooks is also strongly encouraged for all readers. To help support your child's literacy development, attached is a resource list detailing ways to read with your child, habits of good readers, and links to other resources. We encourage you to use the resources on the second page to further assist in book selection.

These lists are a resource to assist you in selecting appropriate reading material for your child to read over the summer months, as well as promote high levels of learning during the academic year. Students may select books from the attached Summer 2024 recommended lists, or choose any books appropriate for their interests and reading development. Picture books and biographies are title/author only, while novels have synopses provided to help you and your child choose the best for them. Students should use the strategies they've been taught to determine if a book is too easy, too hard, or just right. To help your child in their book choices, books are available at the Monroe Township Public Library, local bookstores, or Internet booksellers. Titles with an * are available on Learning Ally for students who qualify for accounts. While this list is recommended for all students, parents whose children have IEPs may reach out to case managers for a supplemental summer reading list.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,



Kelly F. Roselle, Ed.D.
Supervisor of Language Arts, ESL/Bilingual Education,
World Language and Media Literacy

Samantha McCloud
Elementary Supervisor of Instruction



Monroe Township Public Library is our partner in learning! If you do not have a library card, you can visit the library at 4 Municipal Plaza, or obtain a card online by visiting their [website](#).

Strategies for reading with your child...

- Establish reading routines that include a time of day and reading spot
- Set reading goals such as number of minutes or pages
- Help your child select “just right” books
- Read to your child to model accurate, fluent reading
- Listen to your child read and help them sound out unknown words
- Encourage your child to use the fiction reading strategies learned in school - predicting, visualizing, connecting, identifying cause and effect, questioning, summarizing, identifying story elements, retelling, using picture clues, context clues, finding the main idea, interpreting figurative language, determining character traits, tracking characters and the changes in behavior
- Encourage your child to use the non-fiction reading strategies learned in school - using the glossary, reviewing the table of contents, reading captions, reading headings, predicting, identifying text features and the ways in which they deepen understanding, finding the main idea, summarizing, questioning, using picture clues, context clues, visualizing, connecting

Parent Resources

[Good Reads](#)

[Reading Rockets](#)

[Common Sense Media](#)

Digital Books and Texts

[Monroe Township Public Library](#)

- Libby
- Hoopla

[Epic!](#)

[Internet Archive](#)

Please also visit your child’s school’s Media Center webpage for links to digital resources

Literacy Tools for Summer Practice

[Learning Ally](#) (if provided via IEP, ELL status, or other need)



Good Readers...

- Have favorite books, authors, and topics
- Have reading spaces and reading habits
- Build reading stamina (timer or clock)
- Set reading goals
- Look at the front and back covers of books
- Make predictions before and during reading
- Monitor their understanding and use other strategies, such as re-reading
- Ask questions as they read
- Identify important parts and are able to explain why
- Use clues or tools to understand unfamiliar words
- Scoop up words into phrases
- Make connections (to self, others, world, and other texts)
- Keep a record of what they have read
- Reread to smooth out your voice
- Talk about what they are reading
- Have opinions about what they are reading
- Mark the text (if he/she owns the book) or use post-its
- Summarize what they have read (for example after each chapter)
- Are ready to share what they have read with other readers
- Read aloud to friends and family members
- Find your just right pace
- Listen to others read aloud to them
- Read and write book reviews in Destiny, Amazon, or Barnes & Noble
- Read a variety of genres and formats (print, digital, audio)
- Learn about their favorite authors and visit their websites
- Self-correct reading errors so the story makes sense

Summer Reading Suggestions

Picture Books (great for read aloud with all ages; independent reading grades 3+)

*The Day the Crayons Quit**

Drew Daywalt

Tiger in My Soup

Kashmira Sheth

*Last Stop on Market Street**

Matt de la Peña

*The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors**

Drew Daywalt

Here We Are

Oliver Jeffers

*Sulwe**

Lupita Nyong'o

Monsoon

Uma Krishnaswami

The Interrupting Chicken

David Ezra Stein

*All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom**

Angela Johnson

*The Most Magnificent Thing**

Ashley Spires

*The Day You Begin**

Jacqueline Woodson

Extra Yarn

Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen

River

Elisha Cooper

Penguin Problems

Jory John

You Matter

Christian Robinson

Hello Lighthouse
Sophie Blackall

Big
Vashti Harrison

The Universe In You
Jason Chin

Behold the Octopus!
Suzanne Slade

Fighting for Yes! The Story of Disability Rights Activist Judith Heumann
Maryann Cocca-Leffler

Spider in the Well
Jess Hannigan

***The following titles can be read independently by students or with a partner.
Recommended grade levels follow each description.***

Graphic Novels

Kodi
Jared Cullum

An outcast named Katya stumbles upon a bear, Kodi, who is caught in a trap. After Kodi is saved, he returns the favor to his lonely friend. Dreamy watercolors set the tone in this intimate, touching read about discovering friendship and belonging in unexpected places. (Grades 3-5)

Pea, Bea, and Jay: Stuck Together
Brian “Smitty” Smith

A rebellious pea rolls away from the familiarity of his farm on a dare and gets lost, finding help from a bespectacled, know-it-all honeybee and a blue jay who’s a nervous flier. Smith infuses his gentle tale of friendship with wordplay, a sense of the absurd, and a smattering of the subversive. (Grades 2-4)

*Giants Beware!**
Jorge Augusto Aguirre

Claudette wants nothing more than to slay a giant but her little village is too safe and quiet. (Grades 2-5)

*Zita the Spacegirl (Book 1)**
Ben Hatke

When her best friend is abducted by an alien doomsday cult, Zita leaps to the rescue and finds herself a stranger on a strange planet. Humanoid chickens and neurotic robots are shocking enough as new experiences go, but Zita is even more surprised to find herself taking on the role of intergalactic hero. Before long, aliens in all shapes and sizes don’t even phase her. Neither do ancient prophecies, doomed planets, or even a friendly con man who takes a mysterious interest in Zita’s quest. (Grades 3-5)

*Real Friends**
Shannon Hale

Newbery Honor author Shannon Hale and *New York Times* bestselling illustrator LeUyen Pham join forces in this graphic memoir about how hard it is to find your real friends—and why it’s worth the journey. (Grades 4-5)

The Stonekeeper (Amulet #1)

Kazu Kibuishi

While many of the books on this list deal with regular life, Emily and Navin's story is anything but normal. After the death of their father, they are lured through a door in the basement by a beast who has kidnapped their mother. The siblings find themselves fighting to save her in a world they could never have imagined. (Grades 3-5)

Mr. Wolf's Class: The First Day of School

Aron Nels Steinke

Chronicles the everyday adventures of Mr. Wolf, a new teacher at Hazelwood Elementary school, and his class of wild and special students. (Grades 1-4)

Historical Fiction

Max in the House of Spies: A Tale of World War II

Adam Gidwitz

A Jewish boy is separated from his parents in Berlin on the brink of WWII, and his only way home is to train as a British spy—with the help of two raucous, fantastical creatures. Gidwitz combines humor, heart, intrigue, and action in this novel that is guaranteed to enthrall readers across genres. (Grades 3-5)

*One Crazy Summer**

Rita Williams Garcia

Eleven-year-old Delphine and her younger sisters Vonetta and Fern travel to Oakland to meet their mother, Cecile, who abandoned their family years earlier. But even when Cecile gets them to her house, she shows no interest and seems to view them as nothing but a nuisance. Cecile's cold, unloving attitude leaves the girls wishing for the mother-daughter connection they've never had. But Cecile acts remarkably different after she sees her daughters at the Black Panther rally, where they recite a poem Cecile herself had written. At that point, Cecile's attitude toward her daughters begins a remarkable change. (Grades 3-5)

*I Survived the Attacks of September 11, 2001**

Lauren Tarshis

When Lucas decides to skip school because he wants to discuss football with a firefighter friend of his father, he finds himself caught up in the terrorist attacks on New York City. (Grades 4-5)

*Stella By Starlight**

Sharon M. Drapier

Segregation is just a way of life in Stella's small North Carolina town, and she navigates it the best she can. But when she's out late one night and sees something she's not supposed to, Stella is propelled to take a stand. (Grades 4-5)

Step Up to the Plate, Maria Singh

Uma Krishnaswami

All 9-year-old Maria Singh wants is to be on the first girls' softball team in her California town in 1945. But as she and her teacher fight for the right to play, Maria's eyes are opened to the racism and prejudice that plague not just her Indian-Mexican-American family, but many families in her community perceived as different. (Grades 4-5)

*Penny from Heaven**

Jennifer L. Holm

It's post-WWII in New Jersey and Penny is looking forward to a carefree summer when she learns firsthand the realities of prejudice and the lingering after effects of war, even in her own family. (Grades 4-5)

Ahimsa

Supriya Kelkar

Ten-year-old Anjali is shocked when her mother joins Gandhi's freedom movement, and must learn to re-think the meaning of bravery and freedom when her mother's methods go against convention. (Grades 4-5)

*Murder Is Bad Manners**

Robin Stevens

Best friends Daisy and Hazel establish a detective agency in their 1930s boarding school when their science teacher dies and her body mysteriously disappears. (Grades 4-5)

*Pax**

Sara Pennypacker

After being forced to give up his pet fox Pax, a young boy named Peter decides to leave home and get his best friend back. (Grades 3-5)

Biography/Autobiography

*Grace Hopper: Queen of Computer Code** (2-5)

Laurie Wallmark

*Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin** (K-3)

Jen Bryant

Odd Boy Out: Young Albert Einstein (K-3)

Don Brown

*Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez** (K-3)

Kathleen Krull

*The Boy Who Loved Math: The Improbable Life of Paul Erdos** (K-2)

Deborah Heiligman

*Lincoln: A Photobiography** (4-5)

Russell Freedman

*I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition)** (4-5)

Malala Yousafzai

It Came From Ohio!: My Life as a Writer (3-5)

R.L. Stine

Before She Was Harriet (K-3)

Lesa Cline-Ransome

Mae Among the Stars (K-3)

Roda Ahmed

*I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsberg Makes Her Mark** (K-3)

Debbie Levy

Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks (1-4)

Suzanne Slade

*The Youngest Marcher : The Story Of Audrey Faye Hendricks, A Young Civil Rights Activist** (K-5)
Cynthia Levinson

*Escape!: The Story of the Great Houdini** (3-5)
Sid Fleishman

Ugly (3-5)
Robert Hoge

Novel in Verse

*Love that Dog**
Sharon Creech

Jack hates poetry. Only girls write it and every time he tries to, his brain feels empty. But his teacher, Ms. Stretchberry, won't stop giving her class poetry assignments -- and Jack can't avoid them. But then something amazing happens. The more he writes, the more he learns he does have something to say. (Grades 4-5)

*Inside Out & Back Again**
Thanhha Lai

This novel in verse tells the story of young Hà, who witnesses the fall of Saigon and immigrated to Alabama with her family. Alabama is so different from their homeland, and while it's full of excitement, Hà longs for her home and to know what happened to her missing father. (Grades 4-5)

The Weight of Water
Sara Crossan

Twelve-year-old Kasienka and her mother have immigrated to Coventry, England from Poland, searching for Kasienka's father, but everyone is unfriendly except for an African neighbor and a boy Kasienka meets at the swimming pool, which is her only refuge from an alien society. (Grades 4-5)

*Brown Girl Dreaming**
Jacqueline Woodson

Jacqueline Woodson shares what it was like to grow up as an African-American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, her poems are accessible and emotionally charged glimpses into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. (Grades 4-5)

Rhyme Schemer
K. A. Holt

A novel in verse about Kevin's journey from bully to being bullied, as he learns about friendship, family, and his talent for poetry. (Grades 4-5)

*The Red Pencil**
Andrea Davis Pinkney

After her tribal village is attacked by militants, Amira, a young Sudanese girl, must flee to safety at a refugee camp, where she finds hope and the chance to pursue an education in the form of a single red pencil and the friendship and encouragement of a wise elder.

Finding Wonders: Three Girls Who Changed Science
Jeannine Atkins

Verse biographies of three women who, defying prejudices, made major contributions to the world of science. In 17th century Germany, Maria Sybilla Merian, a gifted painter, challenged the then-accepted belief of spontaneous generation, discovering how caterpillars become butterflies. In 18th century England, Mary Anning, discovered the first ichthyosaur, becoming the first person to make a living selling fossils. In America in the 19th century, Maria Mitchell discovered a comet and became the first woman in the U.S. to work as an astronomer. Atkins's verses capture each century vividly, along with the challenges and setbacks these scientists faced because they were women.

Poetry Collections

*Jazz**

Walter Dean Meyers

*Where the Sidewalk Ends**

Shel Silverstein

Firefly July: A Book of Very Short Poems

Paul B. Janeczko

Science Verse

Jon Scieszka

Honeybee: Poems and Short Prose

Naomi Shihab Nye

Nonfiction

Freedom in Congo Square

Carol Boston Weatherford

Six days a week, slaves labor from sunup to sundown and beyond, but on Sunday afternoons, they gather with free blacks at Congo Square outside New Orleans, free from oppression. (K-3)

*Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear**

Lindsay Mattick

Harry Colebourn's real-life great-granddaughter tells the true story of a remarkable friendship and an even more remarkable journey--from the fields of Canada to a convoy across the ocean to an army base in England ... And finally to the London Zoo, where Winnie made another new friend: a real boy named Christopher Robin. Here is the remarkable true story of the bear who inspired Winnie-the-Pooh. (K-3)

*Hidden Figures: The Untold Story of the African American Women Who Helped Win the Space Race (Young Readers Edition)**

Margot Lee Shetterly

This book brings to life the stories of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden, who lived through the Civil Rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War, and the movement for gender equality, and whose work forever changed the face of NASA and the country. (Grades 4-5)

The Lost and Found Cat: The True Story of Kunkush's Incredible Journey

Doug Kuntz

An Iraqi family flees their home and loses their beloved cat in the process. This is the story of how people came together to try and reunite them. (K-3)

If Sharks Disappeared

Lily Williams

A nonfiction picture book tracing the repercussions of what would happen if sharks disappeared from our planet. (K-2)

*Not So Different: What You Really Want to Ask About Having a Disability**

Shane Burkaw

The disabilities advocate addresses the most common questions he receives about his life with spinal muscular atrophy,

discussing his physical challenges, his everyday life, and the help he receives with optimism and humor. (Grades 1-2)

Worst of Friends*

Suzanne Tripp Jermaine

History meets humor as readers learn about the rivalry and friendship between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, and about the issues they tackled in the early days of the American government. (Grades 1-3)

Galaxy Girls: 50 Amazing Stories of Women in Space

Libby Jackson

Filled with beautiful full-color illustrations, a groundbreaking compendium honoring the amazing true stories of fifty inspirational women who helped fuel some of the greatest achievements in space exploration from the nineteenth century to today. (Grades 4-5)

Pride: Celebrating Diversity and Community

Robin Stevenson

Robin Stevenson explains what “pride” means to the LGBTQ+ community by chronicling the history of the Stonewall Riots, Harvey Milk, and other important moments in LGBTQ+ history. Her book is a beautiful celebration of diversity and inclusivity, and includes stories of real people all over the world. (Grades 4-5)

The novels on these pages are for fluent readers, typically grades 3 and up.

Fantasy

The Circus of Stolen Dreams

Lorelei Savaryn

Discovering a magical dream world in the woods near her home, a girl mourning the disappearance of her brother agrees to give up a memory in exchange for entry, before she encounters a malevolent being who has brought her brother's worst nightmares to life.

The One and Only Ivan*

Katherine Applegate

When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

Aru Shah and the End of Time*

Roshani Chokshi

Twelve-year-old Aru stretches the truth to fit in at her private school, but when she is dared to prove an ancient lamp is cursed, she inadvertently frees an ancient demon.

The Girl Who Drank the Moon*

Kelly Barnhill

An epic fantasy about a young girl raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, who must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her.

The Serpent's Secret (Kiranmala and the Kingdom Beyond #1)

Sayantani DasGupta

Up until her twelfth birthday, Kiranmala considered herself an ordinary sixth-grader in Parsippany, New Jersey, but then her parents disappear and a drooling rakkhosh demon shows up in her kitchen, and soon she is swept into another dimension, full of magic, winged horses, talking birds (very annoying), and cute princes--and somehow Kiranmala needs to sort it all out, find her parents, and basically save the world.

Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky (Tristan Strong Book #1)*

Kwame Mbalia

Seventh grader Tristan Strong feels anything but strong ever since he failed to save his best friend when they were in a bus accident together. All he has left of Eddie is the journal his friend wrote stories in. Tristan is dreading the month he's going to spend on his grandparents' farm in Alabama, where he's being sent to heal from the tragedy.

But on his first night there, a sticky creature shows up in his bedroom and steals Eddie's notebook. Tristan chases after it--is that a doll?--and a tug-of-war ensues between them underneath a Bottle Tree. In a last attempt to wrestle the journal out of the creature's hands, Tristan punches the tree, accidentally ripping open a chasm into the MidPass, a volatile place with a burning sea, haunted bone ships, and iron monsters that are hunting the inhabitants of this world.

Tristan finds himself in the middle of a battle that has left black American folk heroes John Henry and Brer Rabbit exhausted. In order to get back home, Tristan and these new allies will need to entice the god Anansi, the Weaver, to come out of hiding and seal the hole in the sky. But bartering with the trickster Anansi always comes at a price.

*The Real Boy**

Anne Ursu

A shy boy named Oscar who works as the hand to a powerful magic worker becomes the only person who can save his village from an evil monster

Science Fiction

*The Care and Feeding of a Pet Black Hole**

Michelle Cuevas

Eleven-year-old Stella Rodriguez finds herself in possession of a strange new pet that swallows up everything in sight when a black hole decides to follow her home.

*When You Reach Me**

Rebecca Stead

In the 1980s, as her mother prepares to be a contestant on a television game show, Miranda tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

*Sky Jumpers**

Peggy Eddleman

Twelve-year-old Hope lives in a post World War III town called White Rock where everyone must participate in Inventions Day, though Hope's inventions always fail. Her unique skill set comes in hand when a group of bandits invades the town.

The Lion of Mars

Jennifer L. Holm

Bell has spent his whole life - all eleven years of it - on Mars. But he's still just a regular kid - he loves cats, any kind of cake, and is curious about the secrets the adults in the US colony are keeping. Like, why they don't have contact with anyone on the other Mars colonies? Why are they so isolated? When a virus breaks out and the grown-ups all fall ill, Bell and the other children are the only ones who can help. It's up to Bell to uncover the truth and save his family ... and possibly unite an entire planet.

Sal and Gabi Break the Universe

Carlos Hernandez

In order to heal after his mother's death, thirteen-year-old Sal learns to reach into time and space to retrieve things--and people--from other universes.

*Masterminds**

Gordon Korman

A group of kids discovers they were cloned from the DNA of some of the greatest criminal masterminds in history for a sociological experiment.

Dragon Pearl

Yoon Ha Lee

Min, a thirteen-year-old girl with fox-magic, stows away on a battle cruiser and impersonates a cadet in order to solve the mystery of what happened to her older brother in the Thousand World Space Forces.

*The Wild Robot**

Peter Brown

Roz the robot discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island with no memory of where she is from or why she is there, and her only hope of survival is to try to learn about her new environment from the island's hostile inhabitants.

*The Last Last-Day-of-Summer**

Lamar Giles

Otto and Sheed are the local sleuths in their zany Virginia town, masters of unraveling mischief using their unmatched powers of deduction. And as the summer winds down and the first day of school looms, the boys are craving just a little bit more time for fun, even as they bicker over what kind of fun they want to have. That is, until a mysterious man appears with a camera that literally freezes time. Now, with the help of some very strange people and even stranger creatures, Otto and Sheed will have to put aside their differences to save their town—and each other—before time stops for good.

Realistic Fiction

*Before the Ever After**

Jacqueline Woodson

ZJ's friends Ollie, Darry and Daniel help him cope when his father, a beloved professional football player, suffers severe headaches and memory loss that spell the end of his career.

*Ghost**

Jason Reynolds

Ghost, a naturally talented runner and troublemaker, is recruited for an elite middle school track team. He must stay on track, literally and figuratively, to reach his full potential.

George

Alex Gino

When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl. George thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever. Then her teacher announces that their class play is going to be *Charlotte's Web*. George really, really, REALLY wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part . . . because she's a boy. With the help of her best friend, Kelly, George comes up with a plan. Not just so she can be Charlotte -- but so everyone can know who she is, once and for all.

*Tight**

Torrey Maldonado

After his quick-tempered father gets in a fight and is sent back to jail, sixth-grader Bryan, known for being quiet and thoughtful, snaps and follows new friend Mike into trouble.

*Ungifted**

Gordon Korman

Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at middle school.

*Mockingbird**

Katherine Erskine

Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.

*Counting by 7's**

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.

*Walk Two Moons**

Sharon Creech

After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

*Sophie Simon Solves Them All**

Lisa Graff

Sophie Simon, a third-grade genius, wants a graphing calculator so she can continue to study calculus while she rides the bus to school, but her parents are more concerned that she does not have any friends.

Ways to Make Sunshine

Renee Watson

The Hart family of Portland, Oregon, faces many setbacks after Ryan's father loses his job, but no matter what, Ryan tries to bring sunshine to her loved ones.

Mystery

*Space Case**

Stuart Gibbs

While living on a moon base with fellow lunarnauts, Dashiell Gibson investigates the murder of one of the moon's most prominent doctors.

Every Missing Piece

Emily Conklin

Ever since her father died in a terrible accident, Maddy Gaines has worried a lot. She calls the police so often that she's on a first-name basis with the Sheriff. When a new boy moves to town, Maddy is convinced that he's not who he says he is—he's a boy who went missing six months ago. Maddy, her dog, her best friend, and her stepdad team up to see what he's hiding.

A Dog-Friendly Town

Josephine Cameron

As his family's dog-friendly bed-and-breakfast establishment in dog-friendly Carmelito, California, welcomes celebrity dog Sir Bentley, twelve-year-old Epic McDade and his younger siblings investigate the disappearance of a \$500,000 dog collar.

*Chirp**

Kate Messner

Moving to Vermont the summer after seventh grade, a young gymnast hides a secret as she makes new friends and investigates her grandmother's claim that someone is trying to destroy her cricket farm.

The Amelia Six

Kristin L. Gray

Eleven-year-old Millie and five other girls, snowed in at Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum in Atchison, Kansas, are on a scavenger hunt when the lights go out and Amelia's aviator goggles go missing.

Finally Something Mysterious

Doug Cornett

Paul Marconi and his two friends are amateur detectives and find their biggest case when their neighbor wakes up to lawn full of rubber duckies. The kids set out to discover the culprit.

*The Parker Inheritance**

Varian Johnson

Spending the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, Candice discovers the letter that sent her grandmother on a treasure hunt, and with her new friend Brandon, sets off to expose the injustice once committed against a local African American family.

*The London Eye Mystery**

Siobhan Dowd

When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

*OCDaniel**

Wesley King

A thirteen-year-old boy's life revolves around hiding his obsessive compulsive disorder until a girl at school, who is unkindly nicknamed Psycho Sara, notices him for the first time and he gets a mysterious note that changes everything.

A Strange Thing Happened in Cherry Hall

Jasmine Warga

When a painting is stolen, Rami starts to see the ghost of the girl in the artwork, Blue, and embarks on a journey to solve the mystery of the theft and discover Blue's identity. This quirky mystery with impeccably developed characters will delight readers of all ages.

Graphic Novels

El Deafo

Cece Bell

In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful and very awkward hearing aid. The Phonic Ear gives Cece the ability to hear (including some things she wasn't intended to hear), but it also isolates her from her classmates. She really just wants to fit in and find a true friend, someone who appreciates her as she is.

After some trouble, she is finally able to harness the power of the Phonic Ear and become "El Deafo, Listener for All." More importantly, Cece declares a place for herself in the world and finds the friend she's longed for.

Ghosts

Raina Telgemeier

Catrina and her family are moving to the coast of Northern California because her little sister, Maya, is sick. Cat isn't happy about leaving her friends for Bahia de la Luna, but Maya has cystic fibrosis and will benefit from the cool, salty air that blows in from the sea. As the girls explore their new home, a neighbor lets them in on a secret: There are ghosts in Bahia de la Luna. Maya is determined to meet one, but Cat wants nothing to do with them. As the time of year when ghosts reunite with their loved ones approaches, Cat must figure out how to put aside her fears for her sister's sake - and her own.

Blue, Barry & Pancakes: Mayhem on Wheels

Daniel Abdo and Jason Patterson

Blue, Barry, and Pancakes ride a flood out of their house and roller-skate after a beachball, only to find themselves in a Roller Duck Ball rink. After a winning streak, the rival team shows up with giant robot replacements, and the three friends have to do some serious teamwork.

The Girl Who Sang: A Holocaust Memoir of Hope and Survival

Estelle Nadel, Sammy Savos, and Bethany Strout

Enia was only seven years old when the Nazis invaded Poland at the start of WWII, and she and her Jewish family went into hiding. She describes the hardships and tragedies the family faced during and after the war when she and her surviving brothers came to the United States.

Favorite Authors

David Shannon
Cynthia Rylant
Mo Willems
Pam Muñoz Ryan
Katherine Applegate
Jacqueline Woodson
Drew Daywalt
Alan Gratz
Dan Gutman
Cynthia Lord
Rebecca Stead
Gordon Korman
Kate DiCamillo
Jason Reynolds
Kwame Alexander
Jeff Kinney
Rick Riordan
Jennifer L. Holm
Sharon M. Drapier
Jewell Parker Rhodes
Uma Krishnaswami
Matt de la Peña
Ezra Jack Keats
Patricia Polacco
Seymour Simon
Dan Santat

Favorite Series Grades 1-3

A to Z Mysteries
Ron Roy

Mercy Watson
Kate DiCamillo

Elephant and Piggie
Mo Willems

Desmond Cole: Ghost Patrol
Andres Miedoso

Frog and Toad
Arnold Lobel

Henry and Mudge
Cynthia Rylant

Junie B. Jones
Barbara Park

Erie Elementary
Jack Chabert

Mr. Putter and Tabby
Cynthia Rylant

The Princess in Black
Shannon Hale

Fly Guy
Tedd Arnold

My Weird School
Dan Gutman

Jada Jones
Kelly Starling Lyons

Bad Kitty
Nick Bruel

Wayside School
Louis Sacher

Lunch Lady
Jarrett Krosoczka

Favorite Series Grades 4-5

Harry Potter
J.K. Rowling

The Babysitters Club
Ann M. Martin

Diary of a Wimpy Kid
Jeff Kinney

Last Kids On Earth
Max Brallier

Dog Man
Dav Pilkey

I Survived
Lauren Tashis

Goosebumps
R.L. Stine

Magic Treehouse
Mary Pope Osborne

Who Is/Who Was...
(Various Authors)

The Penderwick Series
Jeanne Birdsall

Judy Moody
Megan McDonald

The Kicks
Alex Morgan

Amulet
Kazu Kibuishi

Trapped in a Video Game
Dustin Brady, illustrated by
Brady Jessee

Percy Jackson and the
Olympiads
Rick Riordan