

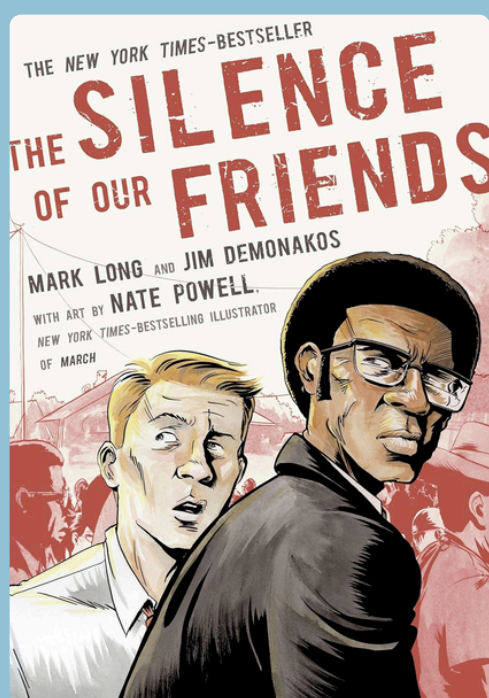
2026 MACLAY MIDDLE SCHOOL EIGHTH GRADE SUMMER READING

DISCOVERING WHO YOU ARE

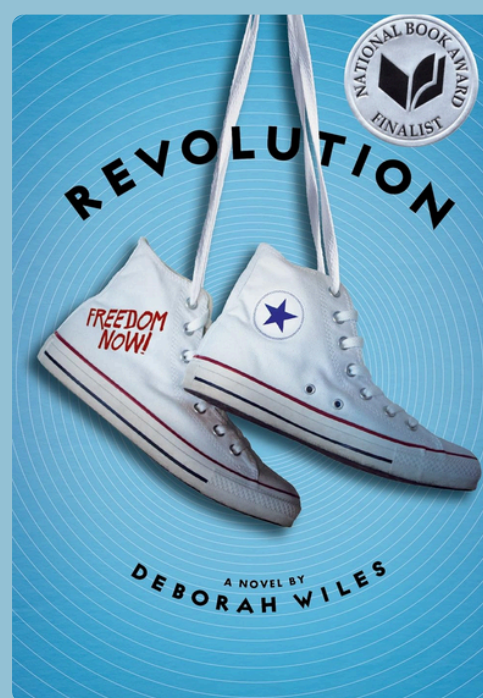
Through hands-on learning experiences, classroom discussions, and written reflection, 8th graders are challenged to discover who they are. This discovery-centered grade level theme is an interdisciplinary exploration that gives students the opportunity to consider what sparks their curiosity and to uncover the passions that make them who they are. To kick-start these conversations, each student will read and respond to at least **two books** this summer. Students should be prepared to bring physical copies of both books with them to school once the year begins to assist them with assignments.

- 1 First, each student should **choose one of the community books** listed below. These books tell stories of self-discovery and pair with the 8th grade Civil Rights trip. While students read their selected community book, they should respond to the prompt below in at least 300 typed words.
- 2 Additionally, students should **select one book they have never read before from the free-choice list**. While reading the free-choice book, students should answer the prompts below about the book in at least 300 typed words. Students should be prepared to submit their responses for both prompts to their Language Arts teacher on the second day of their class.

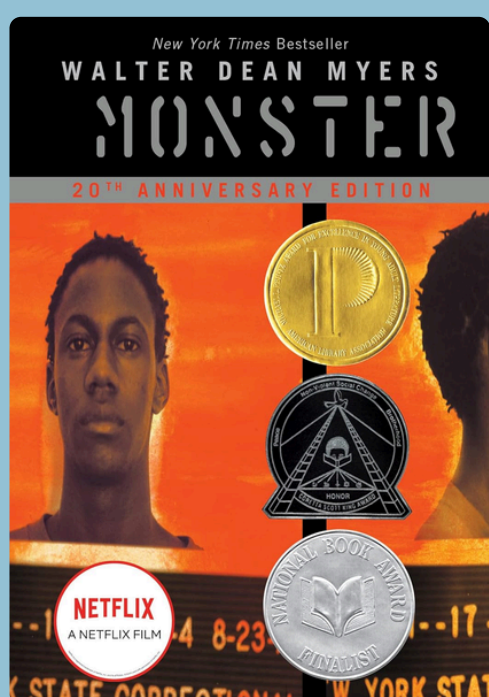
COMMUNITY BOOK OPTIONS (SELECT ONE)



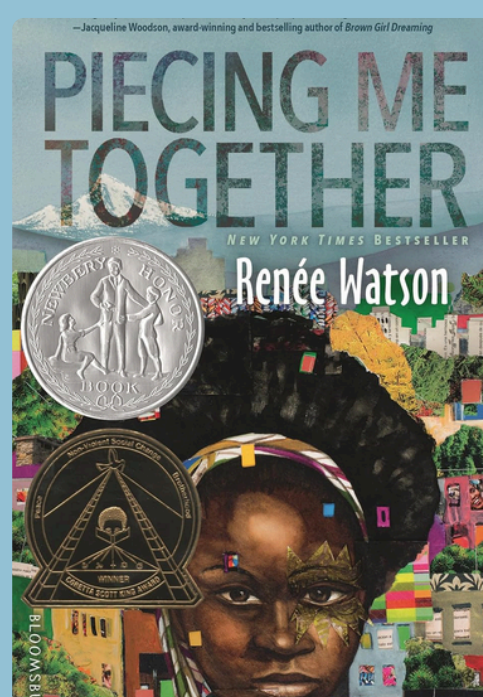
The Silence of Our Friends
by Mark Long and
Jim Demonakos*



Revolution
by Deborah Wiles*



Monster
by Walter Dean
Myers*



Piecing Me Together
by Renee Watson*

ASSIGNMENT PROMPTS

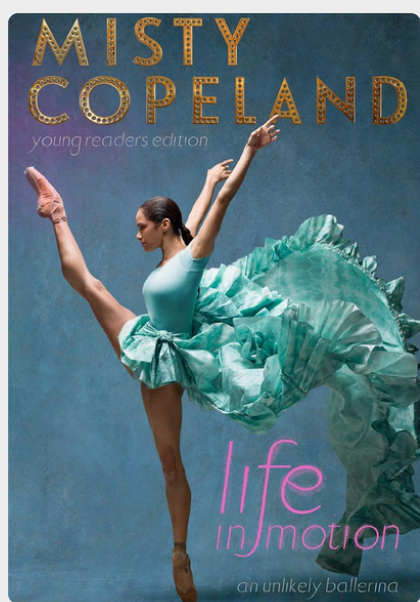
- 1 **Community Book Prompt:**
In what ways does the main character from your community book engage in self-discovery and what did you learn from their life? Use textual evidence to support your answer and make sure to answer both parts of the prompt. Write at least 300 words.
- 2 **Free-Choice Book Prompt:**
Identify one character from your free-choice book who you relate to and explain the ways in which you and this character are similar. Use examples from the book and your life to support your answer. Write at least 300 words.

Note: While all summer reading book options are written for middle school students, there may be mature or challenging scenes in some books that prompt family conversation. We encourage you to use resources such as [CommonSenseMedia.org](https://www.commonsensemedia.org) to familiarize yourself with the book's content so you can approve your student's selections.

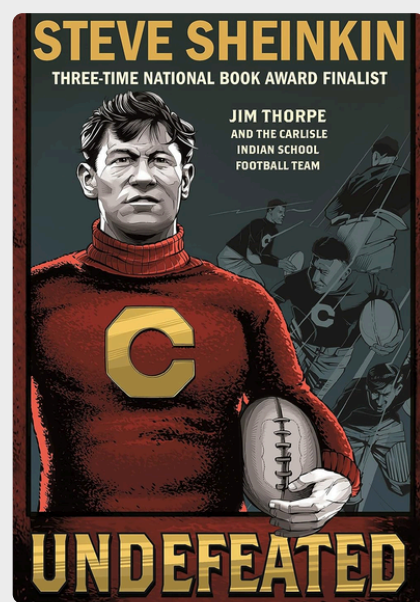
2026 MACLAY MIDDLE SCHOOL EIGHTH GRADE SUMMER READING

FREE-CHOICE BOOK OPTIONS (SELECT ONE BOOK THAT YOU HAVE NEVER READ)

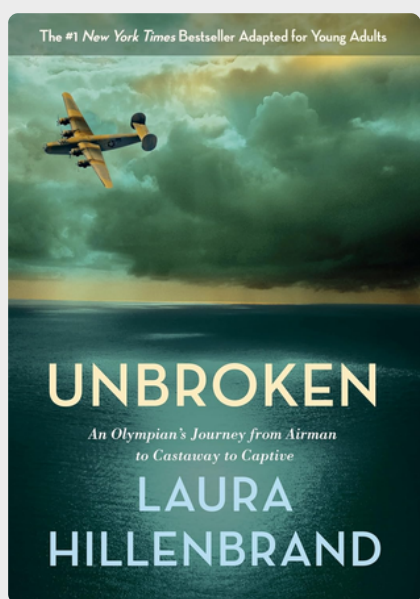
NONFICTION



Life in Motion
by Misty Copeland



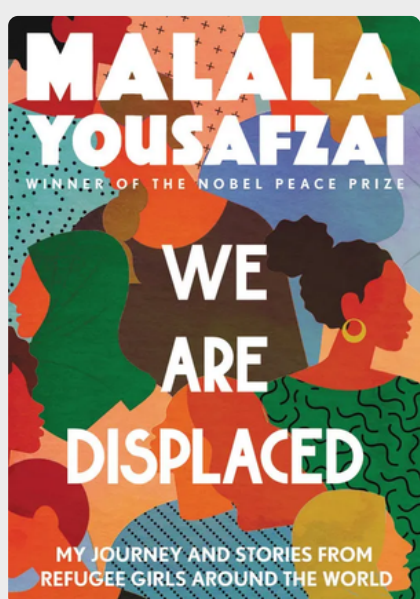
Undeclared
by Steve Sheinkin*



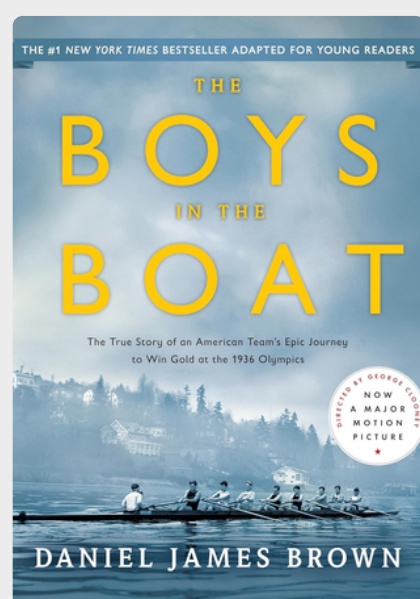
Unbroken
(Young Readers Edition)
by Laura Hillenbrand*



The Enigma Girls
by Candace Fleming



We are Displaced
by Malala Yousafzai



The Boys in the Boat
(Young Readers Edition)
by Daniel James Brown*

FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION



Dune
by Frank Herbert*



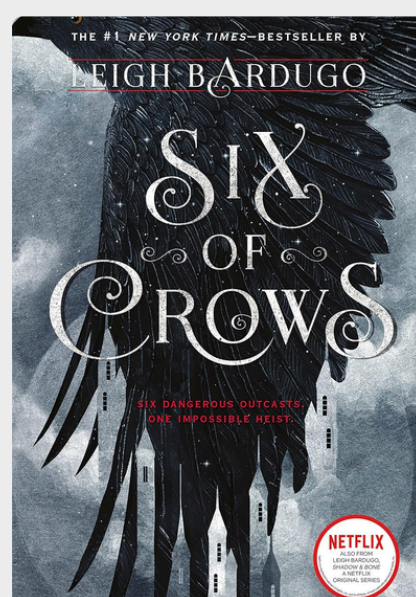
The Golden Compass
by Philip Pullman*



The School for Good and Evil
by Soman Chainani



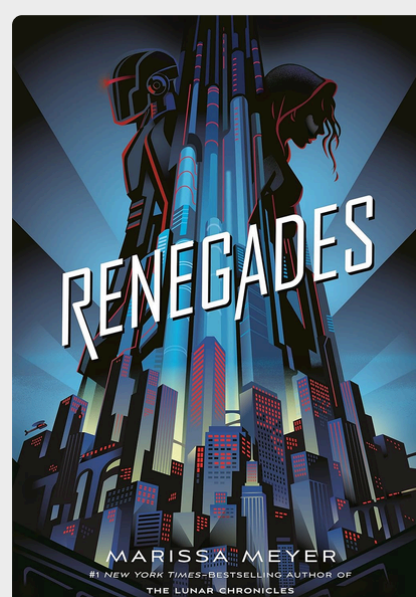
Skyward
by Brandon Sanderson*



Six of Crows
by Leigh Bardugo*



Ready Player One
by Ernest Cline*



Renegades
by Marissa Meyer*

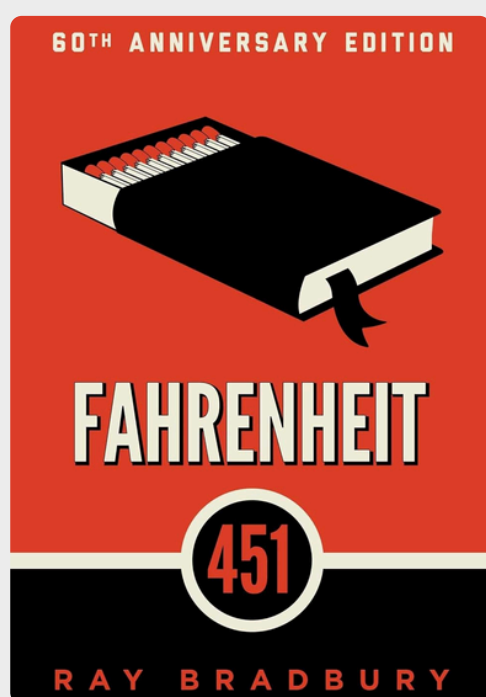


A Snake Falls to Earth
by Darcie Little Badger*

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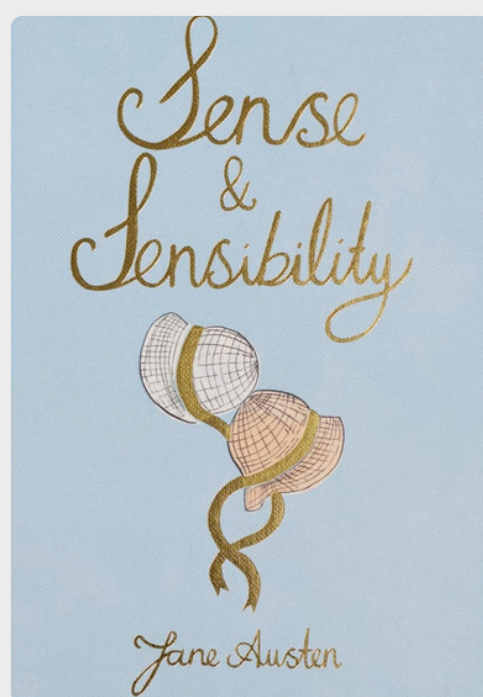
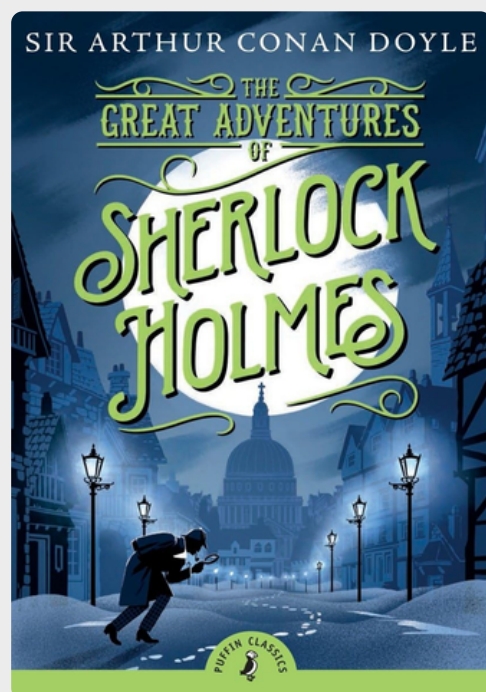
FREE-CHOICE BOOK OPTIONS (SELECT ONE BOOK THAT YOU HAVE NEVER READ)

CLASSIC



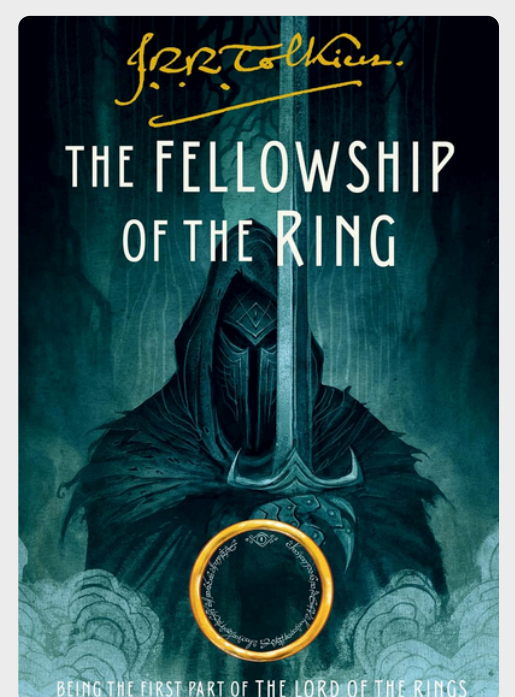
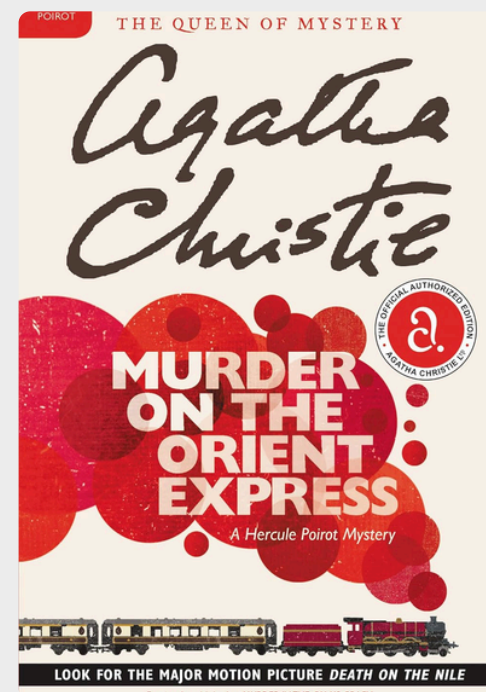
Fahrenheit 451
by Ray Bradbury*

*The Adventures of
Sherlock Holmes*
by Arthur Conan Doyle*

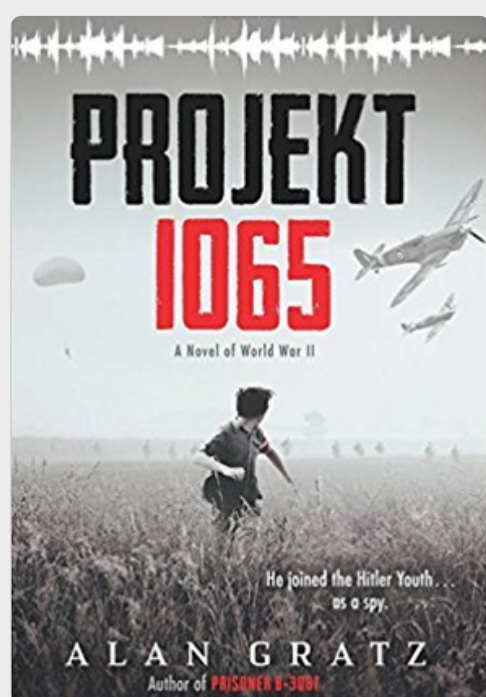


Sense and Sensibility
by Jane Austen*

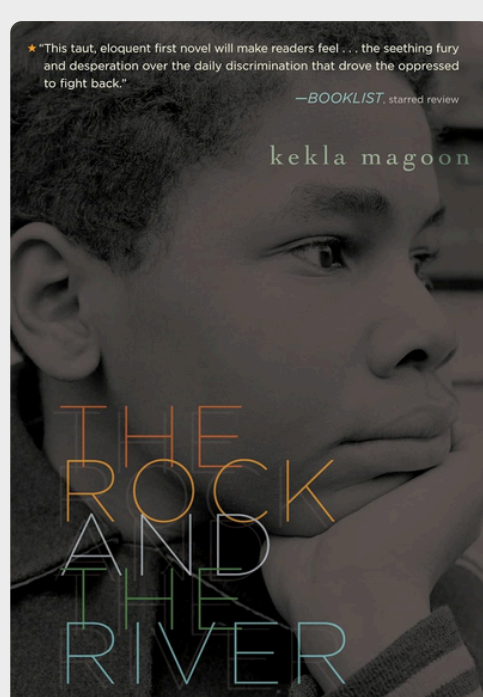
Murder on the Orient Express
by Agatha Christie*



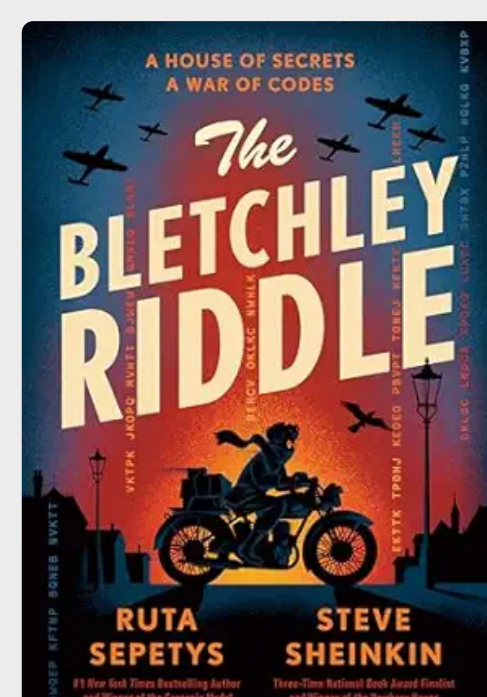
The Fellowship of the Ring
by J.R.R. Tolkien*



Projekt 1065
by Alan Gratz*

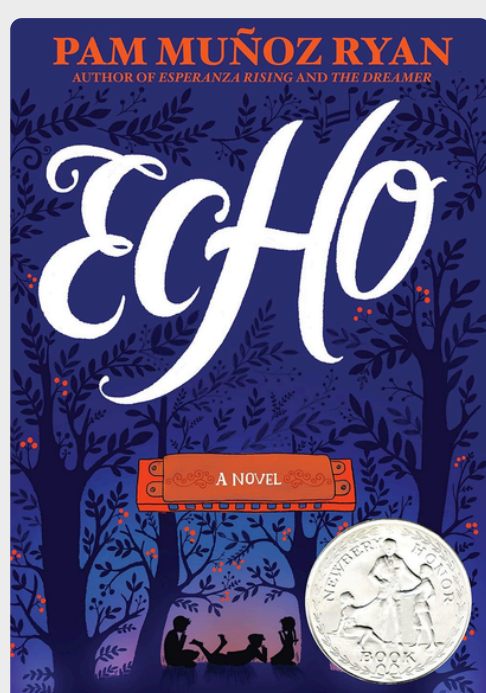


*The Rock and the
River*
by Kekla Magoon

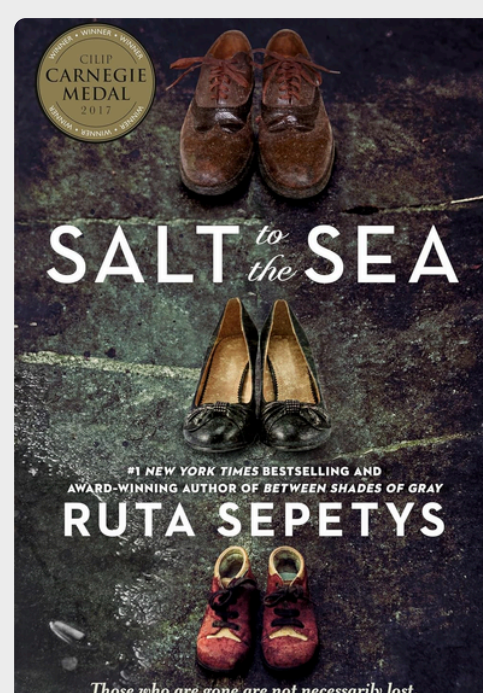


HISTORICAL FICTION

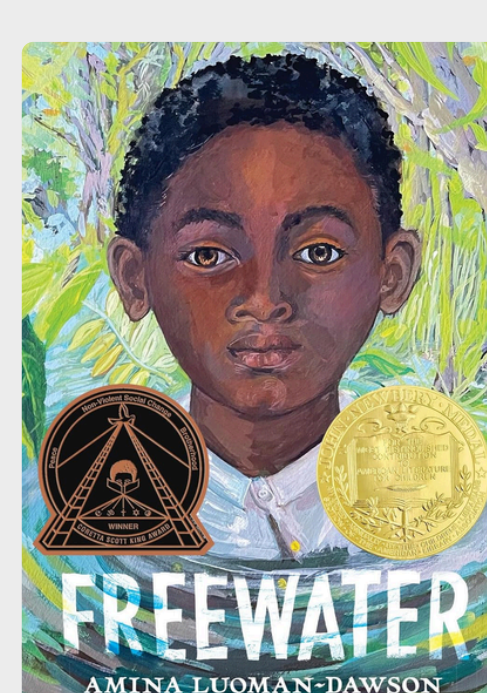
The Bletchley Riddle
by Ruta Sepetys and
Steve Sheinkin



Echo
by Pam Munoz
Ryan*



Salt to the Sea
by Ruta Sepetys*



Freewater
by Amina Luqman-Dawson*

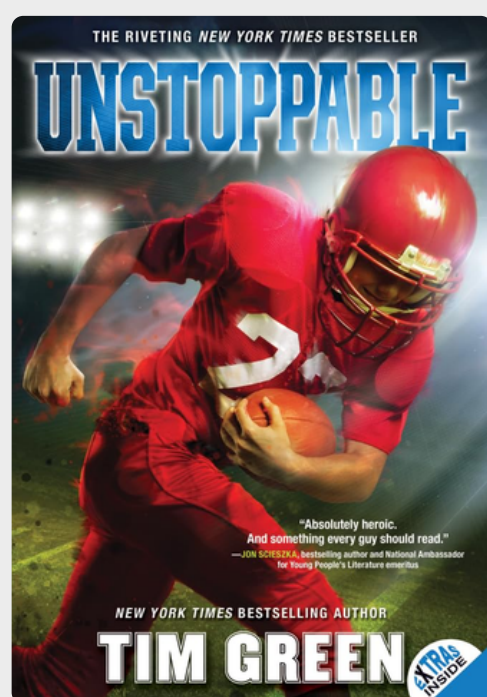
2026 MACLAY MIDDLE SCHOOL EIGHTH GRADE SUMMER READING

FREE-CHOICE BOOK OPTIONS (SELECT ONE BOOK THAT YOU HAVE NEVER READ)

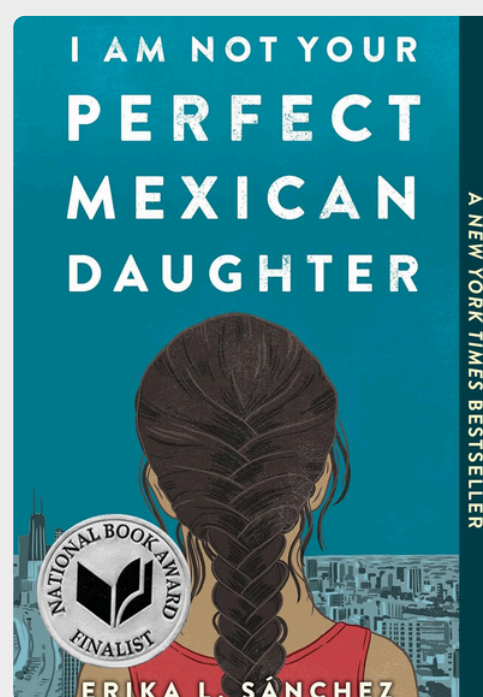
REALISTIC FICTION AND MYSTERY



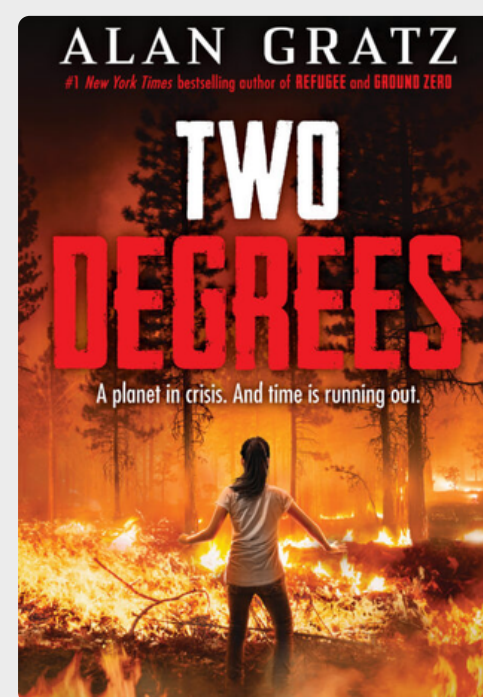
Frizzy
by Claribel A. Ortega*



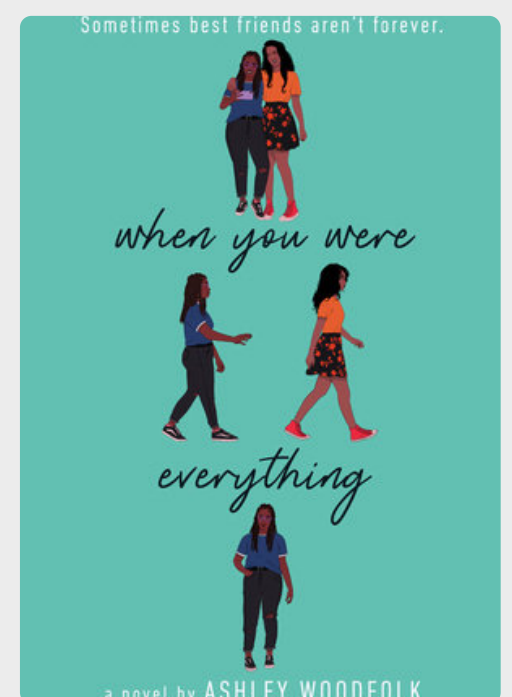
Unstoppable
by Tim Green*



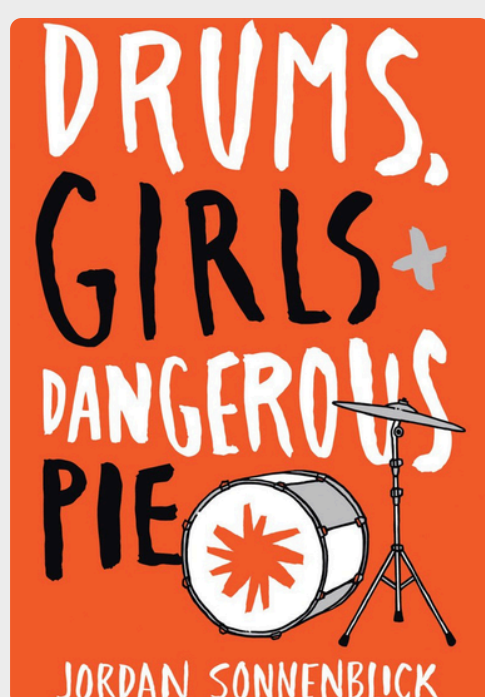
I am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter
by Erika Sanchez*



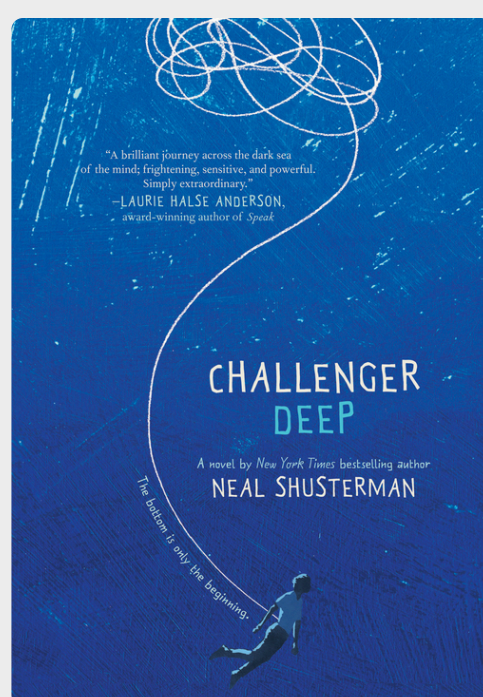
Two Degrees
by Alan Gratz



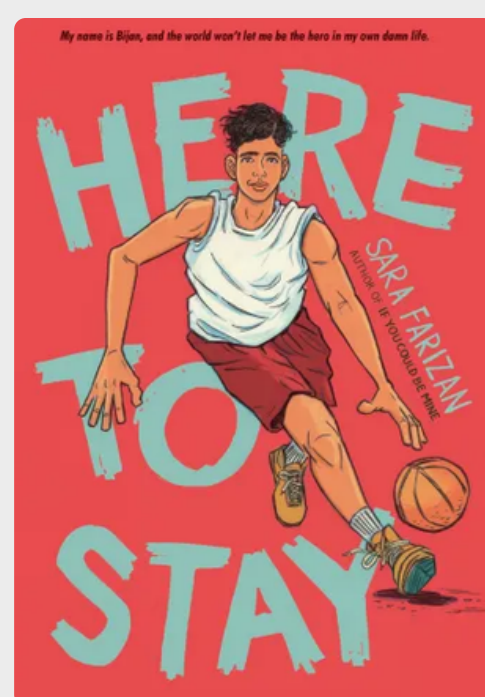
When You Were Everything
by Ashley Woodfolk*



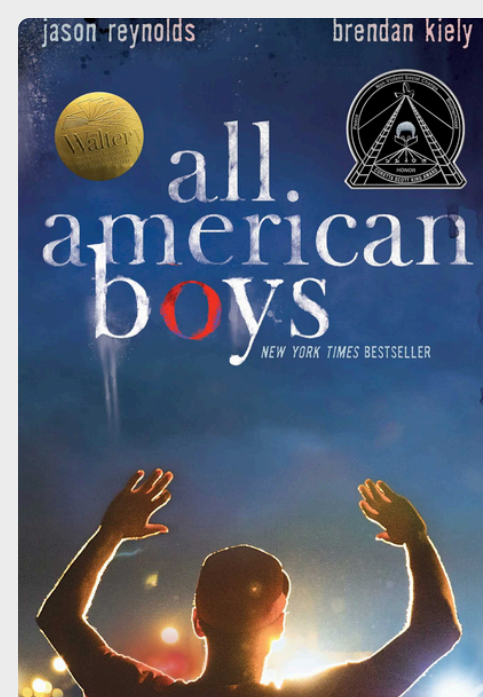
Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie
by Jordan Sonnenblick*



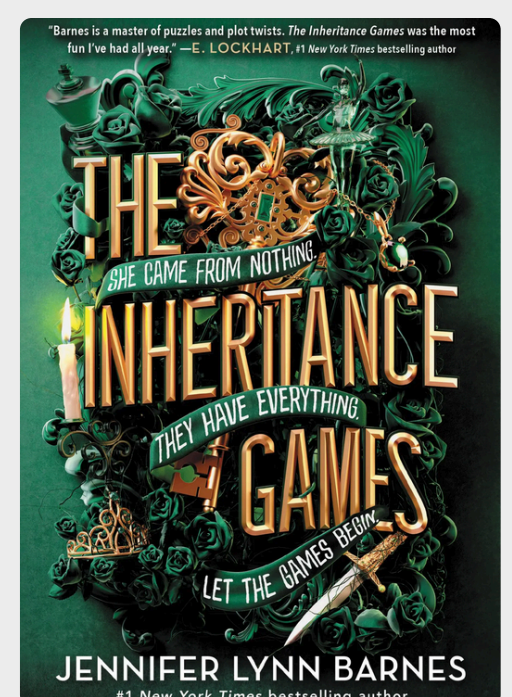
Challenger Deep
by Neal Shusterman*



Here to Stay
by Sara Farizan*



All American Boys
by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely*



The Inheritance Games
by Jennifer Lynn Barnes*

FREE E-BOOKS AND AUDIOBOOKS

Several of your reading choices are available on Maclay's digital library, Sora, for no additional cost. Students can read or listen on a phone, tablet, or computer. Titles that have an * are available for free on Sora.

To access these books, download the Sora app or go to soraapp.com and enter "Maclay" as your school. Then enter "eighth" for both the username and password to log into our shared grade level account. In contrast with your individual Sora account, the books in this community account will be available over the whole summer for multiple students to read the same book at the same time.

If you need any help with Sora, please contact the Maclay librarian, Mr. Low (dlow@maclay.org)

If you have any questions about summer reading, please contact Dr. Overstreet, the Language Arts department chair (roverstreet@maclay.org)