

Frederica Academy Middle School

5th Grade Summer Reading 2026

Summer reading is an important part of the curriculum in the Frederica Academy Middle School; it serves as a shared foundation for the beginning of the year, uniting students and teachers. These literary journeys keep young minds active and engaged during the summer, helping to maintain intellectual curiosity. Upon their return in the fall, students will be required to do assignments related to their reading that deepen their understanding and appreciation of the books they have explored.



Book Choices

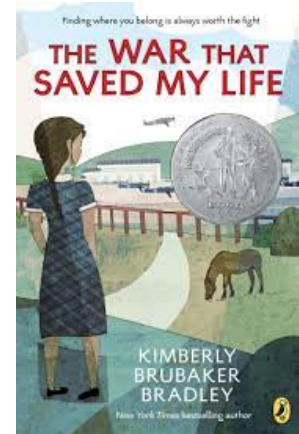
Choose **TWO** of the following books that you have *not* previously read to read this summer. Read the novels and be prepared to discuss them and complete activities over your selections during the first weeks of school. The assignments we complete over these novels will be graded.

***The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley**

4.1 grade level

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 for 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?



***Guts* by Raina Telgemeier**

3.1 grade level

Raina wakes up one night with a terrible upset stomach. Her mom has one, too, so it's probably just a bug. Raina eventually returns to school, where she's dealing with the usual highs and lows: friends, not-friends, and classmates who think the school year is just one long gross-out session. It soon becomes clear that Raina's tummy trouble isn't going away... and it coincides with her worries about food, school, and changing friendships. What's going on? Raina Telgemeier once again brings us a

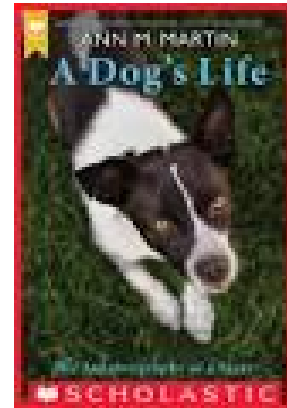


thoughtful, charming, and funny true story about growing up and gathering the courage to face -- and conquer -- her fears.

***A Dog's Life- Autobiography of a Stray* by Ann M. Martin**

5.1 grade level

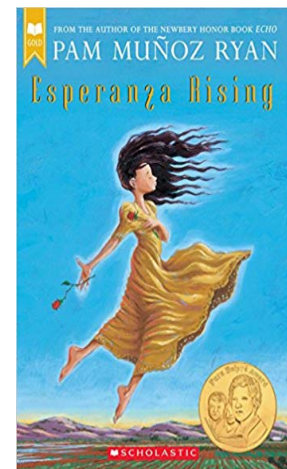
A Dog's Life joins the Scholastic Gold line, which features award-winning and beloved novels. Includes exclusive bonus content! Squirrel and her brother Bone begin their lives in a toolshed behind someone's summer house. Their mother nurtures them and teaches them the many skills they will need to survive as stray dogs. But when their mother is taken from them suddenly and too soon, the puppies are forced to make their own way in the world, facing humans both gentle and brutal, busy highways, other animals, and the changing seasons. When Bone and Squirrel become separated, Squirrel must fend for herself, and in the process makes two friends who in very different ways define her fate.



***Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan**

5.3 grade level

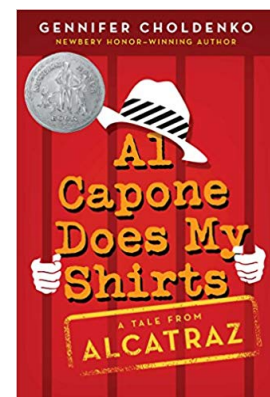
Esperanza thought she'd always live a privileged life on her family's ranch in Mexico. She'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home filled with servants, and Mama, Papa, and Abuelita to care for her. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard work, financial struggles brought on by the Great Depression, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When Mama gets sick and a strike for better working conditions threatens to uproot their new life, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances-because Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.



***Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko**

3.5 grade level

Moose Flanagan and his family have just moved to Alcatraz Island so that his father can take a job as a prison guard and his sister Natalie can go to a special school in San Francisco. Moose struggles for recognition in his new school. Then his sister Natalie, who suffers from autism, is rejected from the Esther P. Marinoff School, crushing his parents' hopes for Natalie's education. Now Moose must take care of Natalie after school while his mother teaches music lessons, and he must find a way to deal with Natalie's screaming fits and constant needs. Complicating Moose's life even more is Piper, the daughter of the prison warden. Piper lures



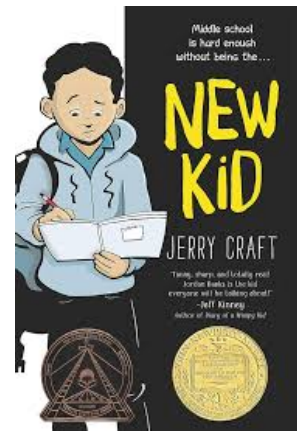
Moose into her scheme to make money by collecting laundry from their classmates with the promise that Al Capone is among the convicts assigned to laundry duty on Alcatraz.

New Kid by Jerry Craft

2.9 grade level

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade.

As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?



Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation by Stuart Gibbs

6.1 reading level

Charlie Thorne is a genius.

Charlie Thorne is a thief.

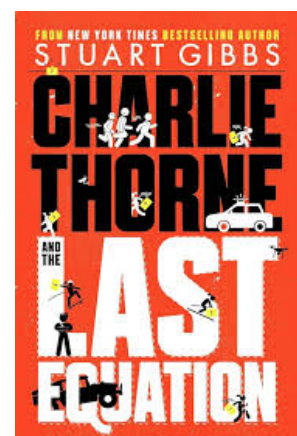
Charlie Thorne isn't old enough to drive.

And now it's up to her to save the world . . .

Decades ago, Albert Einstein devised an equation that could benefit all life on earth—or destroy it. Fearing what would happen if the equation fell into the wrong hands, he hid it.

But now, a diabolical group known as the Furies are closing in on its location. In desperation, a team of CIA agents drags Charlie into the hunt, needing her brilliance to find it first—even though this means placing her life in grave danger.

In a breakneck adventure that spans the globe, Charlie must crack a complex code created by Einstein himself, struggle to survive in a world



where no one can be trusted, and fight to keep the last equation safe once and for all.

***Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry**

4.5 reading level

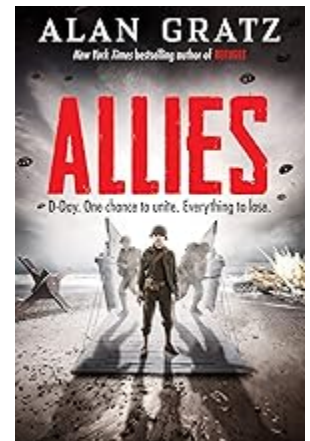
Through the eyes of ten-year-old Annemarie, we watch as the Danish Resistance smuggles almost the entire Jewish population of Denmark, nearly seven thousand people, across the sea to Sweden. The heroism of an entire nation reminds us that there was pride and human decency in the world even during a time of terror and war.



***Allies* by Alan Gratz**

5.3 reading level

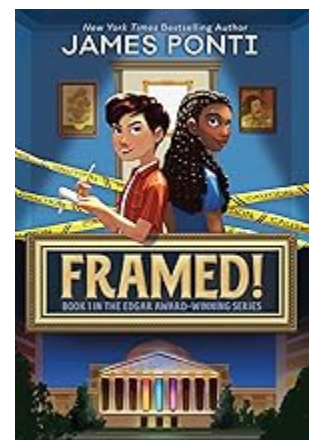
It's D-Day, and six different kids are caught in the middle of one of the most important days in world history. A British paratrooper, a French resistance fighter, an American soldier, and others must survive danger, make impossible choices, and work together as the Allied invasion of Normandy begins. Their stories eventually connect in surprising ways during this action-packed historical adventure.



***Framed!* By James Ponti**

4.7 reading level

Twelve-year-old Florian Bates has just moved to Washington, D.C., with his family. Using his self-devised method called TOAST—Theory of All Small Things—he observes minor details to solve everyday puzzles. When Florian and his new friend Margaret apply TOAST during a visit to the National Gallery of Art, they stumble into an art theft investigation. Their discovery draws the attention of both the FBI and a dangerous crime syndicate known as EEL, forcing the pair to balance schoolwork with high-stakes detective work.



Projekt 1065 by Alan Gratz

infiltrate. Befriend. Sabotage.

World War II is raging. Michael O'Shaunessey, originally from Ireland, now lives in Nazi Germany with his parents. Like the other boys in his school, Michael is a member of the Hitler Youth.

But Michael has a secret. He and his parents are spies.

Michael despises everything the Nazis stand for. But he joins in the Hitler

Youth's horrific games and book burnings, playing the part so he can gain insider knowledge.

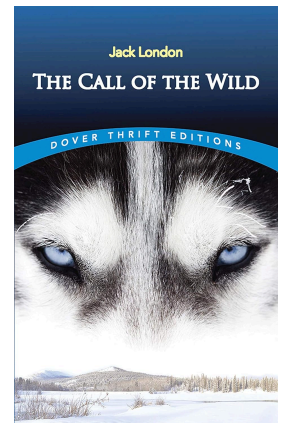
When Michael learns about Projekt 1065, a secret Nazi war mission, things get even more complicated. He must prove his loyalty to the Hitler Youth at all costs -- even if it means risking everything he cares about.

Including... his own life.



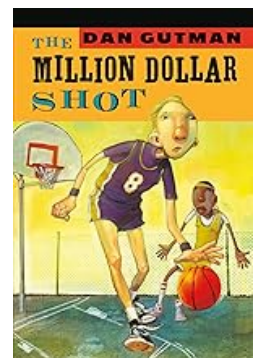
Call of the Wild by Jack London

The Call of the Wild, considered by many to be Jack London's greatest novel, is a gripping survival story of a heroic dog that, thrust into the brutal life of the Alaska Gold Rush, ultimately faces a choice between living in man's world and returning to nature. Adventure and animal-story enthusiasts as well as students and devotees of American literature will find this classic work a thrilling, memorable reading experience.



Million Dollar Shot by Dan Gutman

Eddie "Air" Ball wants to win the Finkle Foods poetry contest for a chance to sink a million-dollar free throw at halftime of the NBA finals. He knows he can make the shot, no problem. He's not so sure he can write a winning poem, though. Luckily, Eddie has the help of his best friend, Annie "Oakley" Stokely. Not only is Annie as good at shooting baskets as Eddie is, she also knows a lot about writing poems. But someone wants him to miss and will stop at nothing to keep Eddie from winning. Together, the two friends might have a chance to win the money that will help their parents move them out of their trailer park homes.



The Secret Garden by Frances H. Burnett

When orphaned Mary Lennox comes to live at her uncle's great house on the Yorkshire Moors, she finds it full of secrets. The mansion has nearly one hundred rooms, and her uncle keeps himself locked up. And at night, she hears the sound of crying down one of the long corridors.

The gardens surrounding the large property are Mary's only escape. Then, Mary discovers a secret garden, surrounded by walls and locked with a missing key. With the help of two unexpected companions, Mary discovers a way in—and becomes determined to bring the garden back to life.

