

Summer Reading 2026



June 2026

Dear Families,

Reading for enjoyment during the summer is one of life's little pleasures for most of us. Our wish for your children is that they too look forward to reading those books that they didn't have time for during the school year. All students entering sixth, seventh, and eighth grade are expected to read **at least three books** over the summer. We recommend students use sticky notes or take notes to engage more deeply with their reading. Although there is no specific summer assignment to respond to the books, teachers may ask students to respond to their summer reading when they return to school in September.

While curating our lists, we try to choose books in a variety of genres that are of high interest to students. The books also vary widely by reading level. If you feel that a book is not at an appropriate level, please help your child choose something else. You may want to read the books alongside your child so you can discuss them together. Some students may want to pair up with friends to read the same book together, too.

If your student is a rising 7th or 8th grader, they may be able to find the books through Sora, our digital library. You can also check the Dobbs Ferry Public Library catalog to see if a book is available through the public library system. DFPL will be sponsoring a summer reading game this year for children ages 7-12. Please click here for more information.

Another option for children to continue learning over the summer is through the Middle School Choice Board. The choice board is essentially a grid with a range of activities that gives students the opportunity to choose what they would like to learn and how they would like to show their learning.

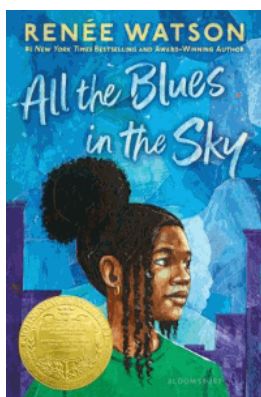
Happy reading!

Best wishes,

Ellen Elsen
Library Media Specialist

Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek
K-8 Literacy Coordinator

The Language and Literature Department at DFMS (Lisa Alfonzetti, Nathalie Del Vecchio-Molina, Claudia Ducic, Ed Feller, Holly Figaro, Christine Grenier, Melissa Gretczko, Rachael Lief, Denise Rivera, and Jill Rosenblum)



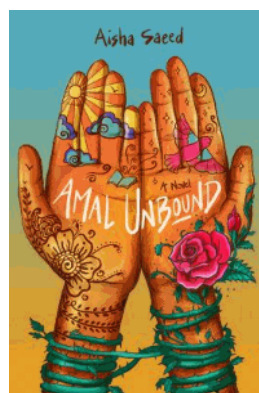
Realistic fiction, novel
in verse

★4 starred reviews

🏆 Newbery Medal
2026

When thirteen-year-old Sage's best friend dies, Sage struggles with grief and feels that she is at fault, but when she joins a grief group, she slowly learns to heal.

[Author speaking about the book](#)

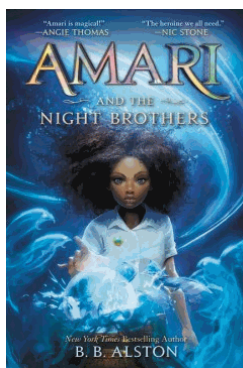


Realistic fiction

★4 starred reviews

In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family.

Companion books:
Omar Rising, *Hafsa's Way*



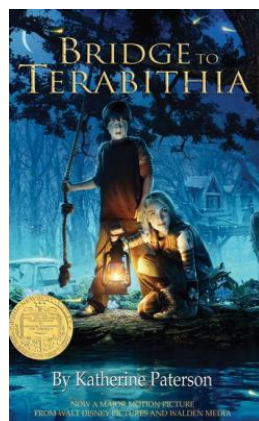
Fantasy

★4 starred reviews

Thirteen-year-old Amari gets an invitation from her missing brother to join the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs and join in the fight against an evil magician.

[Book trailer](#)

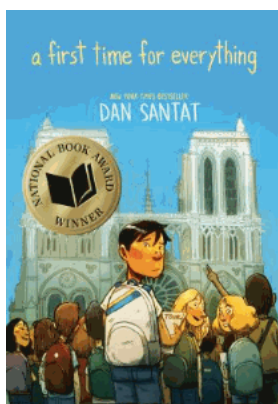
Also in series: *Amari and the Great Game*,
Amari and the Despicable Wonders



Realistic fiction, classic

🏆 Newbery Medal

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

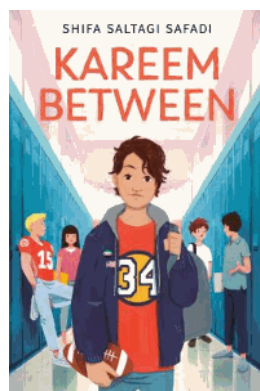


Nonfiction, graphic memoir

★4 starred reviews

🏆 National Book Award for Young People's Literature

In this feel-good coming-of-age memoir, the best-selling author and Caldecott Medalist shares his life-changing middle school trip to Europe during which he experiences a series of firsts, including first love.

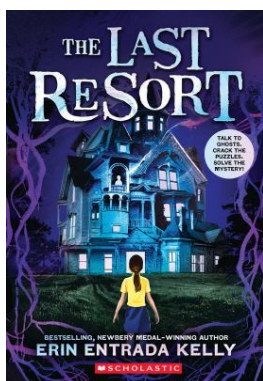


Realistic fiction, Sports, novel in verse

★2 starred reviews

🏆 National Book Award, 2025

From failed football tryouts to helping the new Syrian refugee student, seventh-grader Kareem attempts to navigate the social complexities of seventh grade, which are further complicated when his mother is unable to return home from Syria due to an executive order.

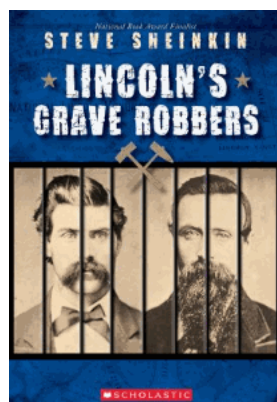


Ghost story

★2 starred reviews

Lila's summer plans did not include traveling to Ohio with her parents to sort out her estranged, recently deceased Grandpa Clem's estate. Nor did they feature a sudden ability to see ghosts, but such is life. Lila's penchant for being overdramatic has put her friendship with her besties on the rocks, but her new commitment to playing things cool is put to the test when she encounters the forlorn ghost of her grandfather at the old inn he owned—and he reveals that he was murdered.

[Video of author reading the first chapter](#)

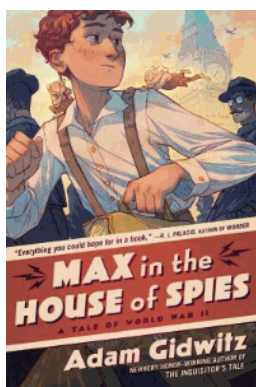


Nonfiction

★1 starred review

🏆 Margaret A. Edwards Award

An account of how counterfeiter Benjamin Boyd's gang stole the body of Abraham Lincoln and demanded Boyd's release from jail and two hundred thousand dollars as ransom and the efforts of the Secret Service to recover the remains.

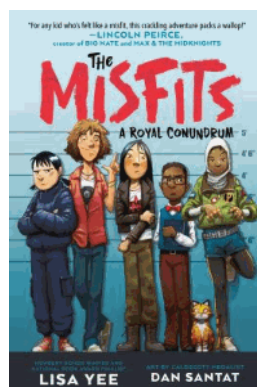


Historical fiction,
magical realism,
adventure

★4 starred reviews

To find his way back home to his family in Germany during WWII, Max Bretzfeld, with a kobold named Berg on one shoulder and a dybbuk named Stein on the other, sets out to do the impossible--become a British spy.

Sequel: *Max in the Land of Lies*

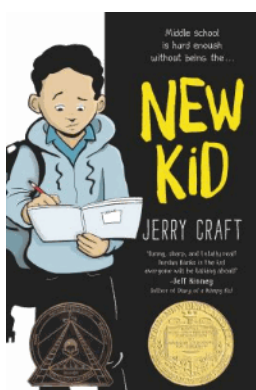


Mystery, humor,
adventure

An elite group of underdogs trained to fight crime must save their unique school from shutting down.

[Book trailer](#)

Also in series: *The Misfits: A Copycat Conundrum*



Graphic novel, realistic fiction

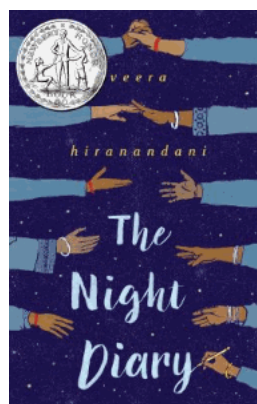
★4 starred reviews

🏆 Newbery Medal & Coretta Scott King Author Award

Instead of sending Jordan Banks 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. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his friends and staying true to himself?

[Book trailer](#)

Also in series: *Class Act*, *School Trip*



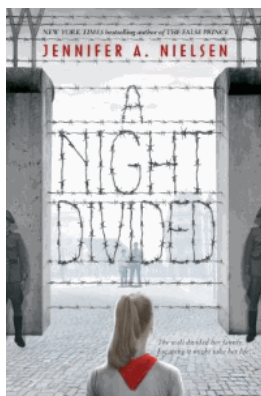
Historical fiction

★5 starred reviews

🏆 Newbery Honor Book

Shy twelve-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing to her deceased Muslim mother in the pages of her diary.

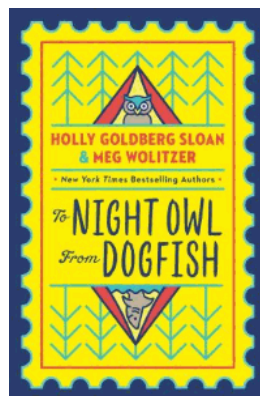
Sequel: *Amil and the After*



Historical fiction

★1 starred review

When the Berlin Wall went up, Gerta, her mother, and her brother Fritz were trapped on the eastern side where they were living, while her father, and her other brother Dominic were in the West--four years later, now twelve, Gerta sees her father on a viewing platform on the western side and realizes he wants her to risk her life trying to tunnel to freedom.



Humor, realistic fiction

★1 starred review

Unhappy about being sent to the same summer camp after their fathers start dating, Bett and Avery, eleven, eventually begin scheming to get the couple back together after a break-up. Told entirely through emails.

[Book trailer](#)

Starred Reviews are from the following publications:

- *Booklist*
- *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*
- *Horn Book Guide*
- *Horn Book Magazine*
- *Kirkus*
- *Publisher's Weekly*
- *School Library Connection*
- *School Library Journal*
- *Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)*