

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.

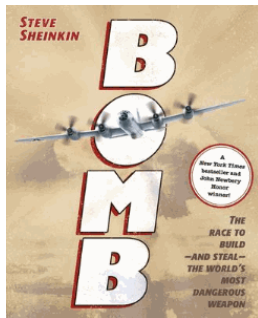
Happy reading!

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)

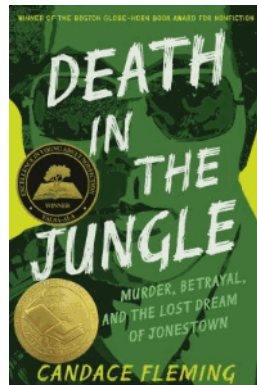


Nonfiction

★7 starred reviews

🏆 YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction; Robert F. Silbert Informational Book Medal; Newbery Honor

This book examines the history of the atomic bomb, discussing the discovery of the behavior of uranium when placed next to radioactive material, the race to build a bomb, and the impact of the weapon on societies around the world.



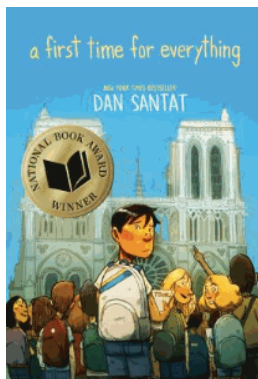
Nonfiction

★6 starred reviews

🏆 YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction

A chronicle of one of American history's most notorious cults, which includes firsthand accounts, that follows Jim Jones from humble origins to "Jonestown" in Guyana, South America, and traces his transformation of Peoples Temple into an experiment in mind control.

[Author reading the first chapter](#)

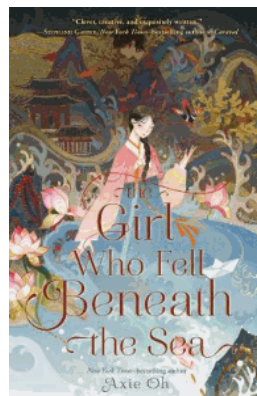


Nonfiction, graphic memoir

★4 starred reviews

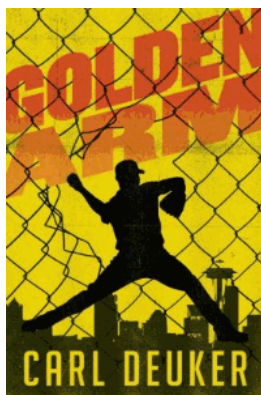
🏆 National Book Award for Young People's Literature

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.



Fantasy

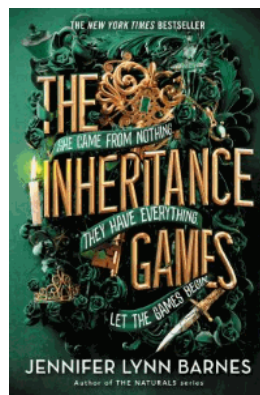
In this retelling of the Korean legend "The Tale of Shim Cheong," sixteen-year-old Mina is swept away to the Spirit Realm, where, assisted by a motley crew of demons, gods, and lesser spirits, she sets out to awaken the sleeping Sea God and save her homeland and family from deadly storms.



Realistic fiction,
Sports

★1 starred review

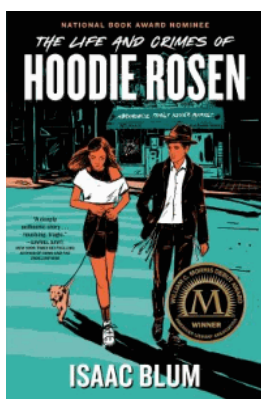
Lazarus Weathers, a high school senior from the wrong side of the tracks, seeks to protect his half-brother while pitching his way out of poverty, one strike at a time.



Mystery

When a Connecticut teenager inherits vast wealth and an eccentric estate from the richest man in Texas, she must also live with his surviving family and solve a series of puzzles to discover how she earned her inheritance.

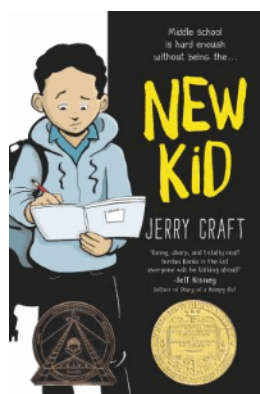
Also in series: *The Hawthorne Legacy*, *The Final Gambit*, *The Brothers Hawthorne*, *Games Untold*



Realistic fiction,
humor

★3 starred reviews

Hoodie's entire Orthodox Jewish community has moved to the quiet, mostly non-Jewish town of Tregaron, but Hoodie's world hasn't changed that much. He's got basketball to play, studies to avoid, and a supermarket full of delicious kosher snacks to eat. The people of Tregaron aren't happy that so many Orthodox Jews are moving in, but that's not Hoodie's problem. That is, until he meets and falls for Anna-Marie --who happens to be the daughter of the headstrong mayor trying to keep Hoodie's community out of the town.



Graphic novel,
realistic fiction

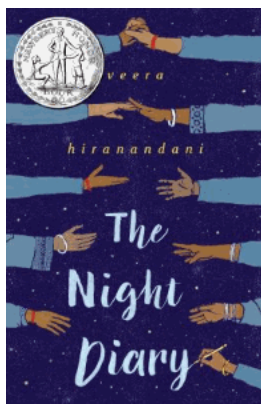
★4 starred reviews

🏆 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*



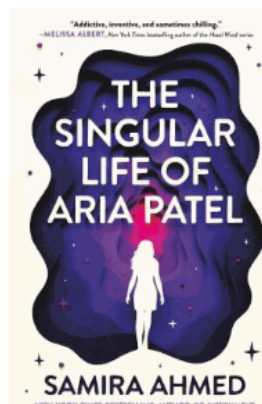
Historical fiction

★5 starred reviews

 Newbery Honor Book

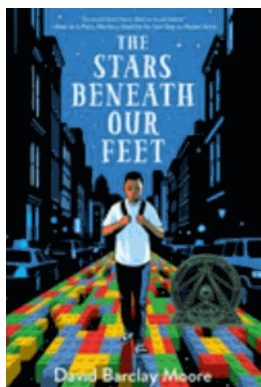
Shy twelve-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing to her deceased Muslim mother in the pages of her diary.

Sequel: *Amil and the After*



Fantasy

After witnessing a car accident, a teen girl finds herself falling through parallel universes.



Realistic Fiction

★6 starred reviews

A boy tries to steer a safe path through the projects in Harlem in the wake of his brother's death.

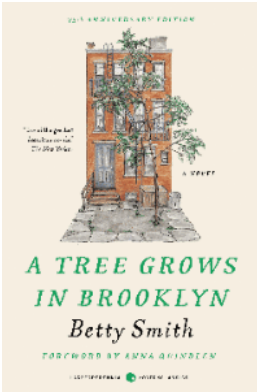


Realistic Fiction

★3 starred reviews

Belly spends the summer she turns sixteen at the beach just like every other summer of her life, but this time things are very different as she finds herself falling for a boy she has known since childhood.

Also in series: *It's Not Summer Without You, We'll Always Have Summer*

 Realistic fiction, Classic	In this classic coming-of-age novel, young Francie Nolan experiences the problems of growing up in a Brooklyn, New York slum.		
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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)*