2018 Summer Recommended Reading for Students Entering 7th and 8th Grade

Spotlight on NEW KID

A graphic novel by Jerry Craft

Seventh grader Jordan Banks is recently enrolled in a prestigious private school as one of the few kids of color. Drawn from the author-illustrator’s own middle school experiences, this story explores complex topics of race, class, and friendship without ever becoming overwhelming or confusing; the balance of varied perspectives is handled with honesty and thoughtfulness.

QUICK LINKS TO SECTIONS:

[NEWLY ADDED]
[FICTION]
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[POETRY AND SHORT COLLECTIONS]

NEWLY ADDED TO THE LIST (back to top)

ACEVEDO, ELIZABETH.
POET X (Realistic Fiction)
In high octane poetry, high school freshman Xiomara (Poet X) vividly captures her raw emotions dealing with an overbearing mother, a rapidly maturing body, a brother with a secret, a sweetly budding romance, and life’s many other hurdles.

AUSIER, JONATHAN.
SWEEP: THE STORY OF A GIRL AND HER MONSTER (Fantasy)
Set in Victorian London, the story follows Nan, a chimney sweep, in a time where children are used and abused in this highly dangerous profession, her near-escape from death, and her deep bond with “Charlie”: a piece of charred substance that turned into a powerful magical being.
BOYCE, JO ANN ALLEN & DEBBIE LEVY.
THIS PROMISE OF CHANGE (Verse Memoir)
Before the Little Rock 9, there was the Clinton 12: in 1956, Tennessee, twelve African American students were the first attending a desegregate state-supported high school. Although a much celebrated historical victory, the actual experience was anything but a smooth ride. JoAnn Boyce details her personal and tumultuous year at Clinton High in emotionally honest and clear verses, co-authored by Debbie Levy, to show readers the real story behind the headlines.

CRAFT, JERRY.
NEW KID (Graphic Novel)
Seventh grader Jordan Banks is recently enrolled in a prestigious private school as one of the few kids of color. Drawn from the author-illustrator’s own middle school experiences, this story explores complex topics of race, class, and friendship without ever becoming overwhelming or confusing; the balance of varied perspectives is handled with honesty and thoughtfulness.

HIRANANDANI, VEERA.
THE NIGHT DIARY (Historical)
Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha seldom speaks and writes to her dead mother in a night diary. It’s 1947, and her country (India) was just split into two countries: Pakistan and India. For the family’s safety, they have to take a dangerous journey to a new home.

KHORRAM, ADIB.
DARIUS THE GREAT IS NOT OKAY (Realistic Fiction)
Darius is never quite comfortable being a Persian American in his school or any social circles. Feeling caught between cultures, it’s not until the summer that he spends in Iran and becomes close friends with Sohrab, that he finally comes to his own: having confidence in his multi-layered and rich identity.

KROSOCZKA, JARRETT.
HEY, KIDDO (Graphic Novel Memoir)
Artist Jarrett Krosoczka recounts his young years being brought up by his unconventional grandparents while his mother went in and out of prison for illegal drugs related crimes. Authentic, compassionate, and ultimately uplifting, this title was a National Book Award finalist.

OBAMA, MICHELLE.
BECOMING
Growing up in the South Side of Chicago, Michelle Robinson was a no-nonsense, diligent, and aspiring young woman from an extended family of high expectations and constant support. her many achievements and steadfast relationships with friends, and especially former president, Barack Obama, are clearly penned and would inspire readers of all ages.

OH, ELLEN and ELsie CHAPMAN (Ed.)
A THOUSAND BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS (Short Stories)
Fifteen Asian American authors tells short stories inspired by Asian fairy tale, myth, and folklore. The stories range from mystical romances, to ghost sightings in early America, to realistic middle school friendship drama, to being trapped inside a Virtual Reality game.
PARTRIDGE, ELIZABETH.
BOOTS ON THE GROUND: AMERICA’S WAR IN VIETNAM (Nonfiction)
The complex history of Vietnam war is made immediate and palpable by the personal accounts of six American soldiers, one American nurse, and one Vietnamese refugee.

(RICK) RIORDAN PRESENTS
Authors with different heritages create four series based on their cultural mythologies, similar to the successful series created by Rick Riordan (Percy Jackson and Magnus Chase, etc.) These are the first book in each series:

ARUSHA AND THE END OF TIME by ROSHANI CHOKSHI (Indian/Fantasy)
DRAGON PEARL by YOON HA LEE (Korean, Sci-Fi)
THE STORM RUNNER by J.C. CERVANTES (Mayan/Mexican, Fantasy)
SAL AND GABI BREAK THE UNIVERSE by CARLOS HERMANDEZ (Cuban, Sci-Fi)

THOMAS, ANGIE.
ON THE COME UP
Sixteen-year-old Bri is a talented rapper/song-writer. Her dream of hitting it big is fueled both by her creativity and the desire to fill the space that her father, an up-and-coming rapper who died too soon, left behind. Her success is overshadowed by the real life struggles of not doing well in school, of being harrassed by the white security guards, and of worrying about her impoverished family situation.

FICTION (back to top)

ADAMS, DOUGLAS.
THE HITCHHIKER’S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY (SciFi)
The hilarious journey of Arthur Dent and his friend Ford Prefect, who escape from Earth seconds before it is demolished and travel to a variety of galactic civilizations while gathering information for a hitchhiker’s guidebook. Read the entire trilogy!

ADEYEMI, TOMI.
CHILDREN OF BLOOD AND BONE (Fantasy)
Seventeen-year-old Zélie, her older brother Tzain, and rogue princess Amari fight to restore magic to the land and activate a new generation of magi, but they are ruthlessly pursued by the crown prince, who believes the return of magic will mean the end of the monarchy.

ALCOTT, LOUISA MAY.
LITTLE WOMEN (Realistic/Classic)
The March sisters come of age in Concord during the Civil War.

ANDERSON, LAURIE HALSE.
CHAINS (Historical/Trilogy)
Sold as a slave to an influential New York Tory family, 13-year-old Isabel spies for the patriot side during the American Revolution in a desperate hope to gain freedom for herself and her 5-year-old sister.
ANDERSON, M.T.  
THE ASTONISHING LIFE OF OCTAVIAN NOTHING (Historical)  
Set against the disquiet of Revolutionary Boston, Octavian’s life is filled with contradictions, mysteries, and surprising revelations. The issues of slavery and human rights, racism, free will, and wars are all highly relevant today. This was a National Book Award Winner. Its sequel has received much acclaim as well: THE KINGDOM ON THE WAVES.

ANDERSON, M.T.  
FEED (SciFi)  
In a futuristic world in which schools are TradeMarked, run by big corporations, and everyone gets a “24/7 feed” implanted into the brain, a tragic romance occurs between Titus and Violet because Violet becomes deathly ill when her “feed” chip malfunctions. This is a chilling tale of a Dystopia.

ASIMOV, ISAAC.  
FOUNDATION (SciFi/Series)  
In this classic science fiction tale, the Foundations are created by Hari Seldon to preserve human culture after the collapse of the first galactic empire. The series follows the developments as the Foundations struggle to survive and fulfill the mission.

BARNHILL, KELLY.  
THE GIRL WHO DRANK THE MOON (Fantasy)  
For as long as anyone remembers, a newborn from the town of Protectorate is brought to the forest and left for the evil witch. Luna is such a baby -- but her fate turns out quite differently. Not only is she lovingly brought up by the witch, she is also extremely magical. When she can finally control her magic, Luna has the chance to change the fate of the town.

BAUER, JOAN.  
HOPE WAS HERE (Realistic)  
Sixteen-year-old Hope and her aunt move to a small town in Wisconsin to join the “short order dance” of life at the Welcome Stairways Diner. In the course of just a few months, Hope encounters issues as diverse as her customers: corruption in politics, a new love, serious illness and the meaning of family.

BERRY, JULIE.  
ALL THE TRUTH THAT’S IN ME (Realistic/Historical)  
The townspeople of Roswell Station were astounded when Judith, who went missing two years ago, came back home with her tongue cut out and could not tell anyone exactly what happened to her and to her best friend whose corpse flowed down the river back to town soon after their assumed kidnapping.

BRADBURY, RAY.  
FAHRENHEIT 451 (Classic, SciFi)  
This is the classic tale of an unsettling future in which all books are banned or burned.
BRAY, LIBBA.
BEAUTY QUEEN (SciFi, Humorous)
In this slightly futuristic, sardonic fun-house mirror of our media-crazed society, a group of teen beauty pageant contestants found themselves crash landed on a (supposedly) deserted island. They must use their wits, the salvaged beauty products, and leadership skills in order to survive and win the contest.

BROWN, RACHEL MANIJA AND SHERWOOD SMITH.
STRANGER (SciFi)
Set in a post-apocalyptic walled city, located in current day southern California, where people, animals, and even plants have unusual powers and where the laws are just and carried out fairly, when a young stranger who is the wanted Prospector appears and brings with him the wrath of a warlord’s army, the town desperately prepares to defend itself!

BARDUGO, LEIGH.
SIX OF CROWS (Fantasy)
In a world of uncanny and dangerous magic powers, what will it take to gather a group and perform a dangerous heist that might ensure the safety for the whole world but also might mean the demises of some or all the crew members: a thief, a sharpshooter, a gambler, a disguiser, a spy, and a Heartrender? This is a fast paced thrill ride of a tale.

CARD, ORSON SCOTT.
ENDER’S GAME (SciFi/Series)
Ender Wiggin is destined to become the leader of a troop of child army in a space mission to completely annihilate an alien species on another planet. New York Times called this Hugo and Nebula awards winner “intense,” but it has more than just intensity.

CARD, ORSON SCOTT.
ENDER’S SHADOW (SciFi/Series)
This is another intriguing and gripping story based on a character from ENDER’S GAME. Bean’s story of surviving in the toughest environment and outsmarting the most vicious enemies in Battle School is as well-crafted, exciting, and insightful as its predecessor. The saga continues in SHADOWS IN FLIGHT.

CASHORE, KRISTIN.
GRACELING (Fantasy/Series)
Cashore’s debut novel took the young adult fantasy/romance fiction field by storm! Katsa and Po, both “graced” with superhuman powers, make a great couple and fighting companions in a world of assassins, conspiracies, and a hidden but hideous talent of a particular power figure.

CHRISTIE, AGATHA.
AND THEN THERE WERE NONE (Suspense/Classic)
In this gripping psychological thriller, ten formerly unconnected “guests” in a mansion on an isolated island must face their just punishments for crimes they had committed long time ago. One by one, they are dealt with in ominous ways by an unknown force.
CHRISTIE, AGATHA.
MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS (Suspense/Classic)
Hercule Poirot investigates a variety of motives for murder as the Calais Coach races across Europe. The passengers provide the intriguing clues. AND THEN THERE WERE NONE is another masterpiece of psycho-thriller.

CLARKE, ARTHUR C.
CHILDHOOD’S END (SciFi)
In the near future, Earth is invaded and ruled by a kindly superior species, which is preparing humanity for a giant evolutionary step forward.

COLFER, EOIN.
AIRMAN (Fantasy/Adventure)
When Conor Broekhart, teenage inventor and swordsman, is wrongfully jailed, he devices a daring escape from the island prison to clear his name and keep the kingdom from falling into evil hands.

COLLINS, SUZANNE.
THE HUNGER GAMES (SciFi/Series)
Katniss, a resourceful 16-year-old, narrates her own exciting and chilling story in a futuristic world where the country is divided into 12 districts — from the Über wealthy to the barely surviving. She is among the 24 teenagers pitched against each other in the annual battle-to-the-death TV reality show: The Hunger Games. All the actions, including the gruesome deaths and surprising twists of events, are caught on camera.

CORMIER, ROBERT.
AFTER THE FIRST DEATH (Realistic)
When a terrorist hijacks a camp bus, everyone becomes a victim, and each is confronted with unexpected ways to live — or die.

CORMIER, ROBERT.
THE CHOCOLATE WAR (Realistic)
This is a powerful and suspenseful novel about high school politics, cruelty, and conformity.

CREW, LINDA.
BRIDES OF EDEN: A TRUE STORY IMAGINED (Historical)
16-year-old Eva Mae, in 1903, became part of a small all-women religious cult that followed a charismatic leader, Joshua. This intense and tragic true historical event is recreated by Linda Crew in a most masterful way, an amazing read.

CURTIS, CHRISTOPHER PAUL.
ELIJAH OF BUXTON (Historical)
Elijah, spirited and intelligent first free born resident of Buxton, a 1850s settlement of former slaves, relates the colorful life of his hometown in humorous episodes before having to face a horrific turn of events.
CURTIS, CHRISTOPHER PAUL.
JOURNEY OF LITTLE CHARLIE (Historical Fiction)
Set in the late 19th century, twelve-year-old Little Charlie who appears to be much older
due to his large size, is coerced into helping a ruthless plantation overseer, Cap'n Buck,
catch runaway slaves. Little Charlie experiences many heart-stopping and heart-breaking
scenes. In the end, his conscience and kindness tell him to defy his employer. But is it too
little too late?

DESAI HIDIER, TANUJA.
BORN CONFUSED (Realistic)
Dimple Lala, the insightful 17-year-old narrator of this story of an ABCD (American Born
Confused Desi), tells about her life as a New Jersey Indian-American school girl who, as a
perpetual outsider, is always trying to find herself.

DICKENS, CHARLES.
A CHRISTMAS CAROL (Fantasy/Classic)
One Christmas Eve, Ebenezer Scrooge, the rich and grouchy miser, receives a chance to
reform his negative ways to ensure a happier life for himself and those around him after
being visited by four spirits who show him how his past and present actions impact on the
end of his life.

DICKINSON, PETER.
EVA (SciFi)
When Eva wakes up in her hospital bed after the terrible accident, she finds her mind and
memory transferred into the body of a Chimp. She has to learn how to “talk” with a keyboard
hanging from her neck, and how to “live” with the impulse and ancient, almost tribal,
memory of the body her mind now inhabits.

DUMAS, ALEXANDRE.
THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO (Historical/Classic)
Young sailor Edmond Dantes, unjustly accused of aiding the exiled Napoleon, is sentenced
to life imprisonment. After 14 years, Dantes makes a daring escape and uncovers a vast
treasure on the island of Monte-Cristo. Adopting the persona of the Count of Monte Cristo,
Dantes comes back home to seek revenge.

DUMAS, ALEXANDRE.
THE THREE MUSKETEERS (Historical/Classic)
This is perhaps the greatest “cloak and sword” story ever written; it is a fast-paced tale of
the heroic deeds of Athos, Porthos, Aramis and D’Artagnan as defenders of Louis XIV.

DUMAURIER, DAPHNE.
REBECCA (Suspense/Classic)
The mysterious atmosphere of an old English estate and the peculiar behavior of the
housekeeper arouse a young bride’s suspicions about the death of her husband’s first wife.

EDDINGS, DAVID.
PAWN OF PROPHECY (Fantasy/Series)
This is the beginning volume in a fantasy series set against a history of 7,000 years of the
struggles of Gods and Kings and men — of strange lands and events — and a prophecy
that must be fulfilled.
FARMER, NANCY.
HOUSE OF THE SCORPION (SciFi)
In a future world, young Matt is a perfect clone of the elderly (140 years old) Matteo Alacran, the “ruler” of a country called Opium. Once Matt’s vital organs are harvested to prolong Alacran’s life, he’s done for. Matt must escape. In this breathtaking and fascinating tale of survival, readers will see the strength of friendship and loyalty.

FINE, SARAH.
OF METAL AND WISHES (SciFi/Series)
In a slaughterhouse with a dark secret, Wen assists her father at the medical clinic. When she is humiliated by a new worker, she makes a foolish wish to the rumored “Ghost.” To her surprise, the Ghost grants her wish, with dire consequences. Now that “he” takes a special interest in her, Wen finds herself steps deeper into the danger zones.

FINNEY, JACK.
TIME AND AGAIN and FROM TIME TO TIME (SciFi/Classic)
For mystery and romance, science fiction and nostalgia, this novel is a must-read!! One night, Si Morley steps out of his twentieth-century Upper West Side apartment – right into the winter of 1882.

FISHER, CATHERINE.
INCARCERON (SciFi)
Finn, a captive of Incarceron, the high security prison that has a mind of its own and is all-powerful, finds a key that leads to a thrilling and dangerous journey.

GAIMAN, NEIL.
THE GRAVEYARD BOOK (Fantasy/Horror)
What happens when a baby is adopted by a graveyard full of (mostly) friendly ghosts? He learns all the ghostly knowledge and skills: fading, haunting, sliding from human sights. He also encounters strange and (often) frightening creatures: ghouls, sleers, hell hounds, and murderers. This is the 2009 Newbery Award winning title.

GARVIN, JEFF.
SYMPTOMS OF BEING HUMAN (Realistic Fiction)
Riley is gender fluid and has to contend with others’ inability to look beyond his/her/their outward expressions that change daily. When Riley suddenly gains fame and followers on the anonymous blog, the burden of having great impacts on other gender-queer or LGBT teenagers’ lives creates both additional stress and extraordinary opportunities.

GILES, GAIL.
GIRLS LIKE US (Realistic Fiction)
Quincy and Biddy have been in special ed classes for years. Now they have graduated and are legal adults, they have to work and survive as independently as they can manage. Due to the lack of dexterity and the abuses they both endured when they were younger, their struggles are almost insurmountable. But with newly forged strong friendship, they can face the world and its difficulties together.
GOING, K.L.
FAT KID RULES THE WORLD (Realistic)
Troy, a 300-plus-pound-17-year-old High School laughing-stock, narrates his encounter with Curt, the legendary teen guitarist who is homeless, sick, and addicted to prescription drugs. This unlikely duo form a punk-rock band, and a fast friendship in this quirky, intelligent, and deeply moving tale set in New York City.

GRATZ, ALAN
REFUGEE (Realistic/History Fiction)
Three seemingly separated refugee stories of a Jewish boy, Josef, from the 1930s Nazi Germany, a Cuban girl Isabel, escaping the political upheavals in 1990s; and a Syrian boy Mahmoud’s family torn apart by violent civil war, are interwoven and share surprising and impactful connections to each other.

GREEN, JOHN.
LOOKING FOR ALASKA (Realistic)
Sixteen-year-old Miles’ first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks. Miles goes there to look for the “great perhaps.” But what fills his year with both ecstasy and despair is Alaska, the girl who seems so alive and vivacious and yet so vulnerable. If you like this book, there are also AN ABUNDANCE OF KATHERINES and PAPER TOWNS by John Green to enjoy.

GREEN, SALLY.
HALF BAD (Fantasy/Series)
In a faux-modern-day England where two warring factions of witches live amongst humans, sixteen-year-old Nathan is an abomination: a “half code” of both white and black witch traits. Tortured as a young boy and trained to kill, Nathan’s only hope for survival is to escape his captors, track down his father, and gain his own magical powers.

HARDINGE, FRANCES.
THE LIE TREE (Fantasy)
After her father’s death, Faith, a 14-year-old girl, discovers dark secrets regarding a plant that would reveal truths to whomever feeds it lies: the larger the truth sought (such as how the world was created,) the bigger and more wide-spread the lies have to be (such as faking the fossils of an angel.) Faith really wants to find out the truths behind her father’s death and starts an elaborate scheme revolving around spreading lies about various people in her community that lead to many treacherous incidents.

HARTMAN, RACHEL.
SERAPHINA (Fantasy/Series)
Seraphina had a terrible secret: her entire existence is illegal, being half human and half dragon. She must hide her identity while working as a palace music mistress, getting more deeply involved in the investigation of the murder of the Crown Prince, discovering her very special magical talent of locating others just like her, and falling hopelessly in love with the captain of the Queen’s Guard, Prince Lucian Kiggs who is engaged to the Princess.

HEANEY, SEAMUS.
BEOWULF: A NEW VERSE TRANSLATION (Fantasy/Classic)
The epic tale of the Scandinavian hero Beowulf and his exploits vanquishing monsters and dragons is brought vividly to life with the brilliant verse translation by Nobel Literature winner Seamus Heaney. This is a must-read for fans of Lord of the Rings trilogy!
HEARN, LIAN.
ACROSS THE NIGHTINGALE FLOOR (Fantasy/Series)
Drawing on elements and the tradition of Samurai stories, Lian Hearn presents an intriguing and blood-pumpingly exciting tale of The Tribe (Ninja-like assassins with super-human/natural powers,) The Hidden (a peaceful religious group whose members are being massacred,) and the Clan (warlords and their networks.) This is the first title in the Tales of Otori series. Now there are four Otori Tales and one prequel: HEAVEN’S NET IS WIDE.

HERBERT, FRANK.
DUNE (SciFi/Series)
This is the epic series about a desert world and the immense struggle for wealth and power.

HESSE, HERMANN.
SIDDHARTHA (Historical/Classic)
A young Indian mystic, a contemporary of Buddha, sacrifices everything to search for the true meaning of life. Nobel Prize winner Hesse wove an intriguing tale of spirituality and intelligence.

HOFFMAN, NINA KIRIKI.
A STIR OF BONES (Horror)
Susan can communicate with her House. When she joins the group of new friends to venture into a haunted house, her ability to communicate with a House helps her wake up and befriend the ghost boy, Nathan, whose spirit has been trapped in the house where he died a long time ago. This book is just creepy enough, just romantic enough, and complex, but not confusing, for those who want to have a little bit of “chilling” sensation for a hot summer day!

HOLT, KIMBERLY WILLIS.
KEEPER OF THE NIGHT (Realistic)
13-year-old Isabel’s life on the Island of Guam is shattered after her mother’s suicide. Keeper of the Night chronicles, in poetic prose and sparkling imagery, Isabel’s doubts, worries, and her strong will to reconstruct life for herself and her remaining family. Holt portrays the everyday life on Guam vividly without ever slipping into exoticism.

JOHNSTON, E.K.
THE STORY OF OWEN: DRAGON SLAYER OF TRONDHEIM (SciFi)
In an alternative future Canada, dragons devastate cities and small towns by eating vehicles with carbon exhausts and all the humans within. Due to the toxic nature of exploded dragon bodies, talented and trained dragon slayers must confront these giant beasts one at a time. Owen set out to accomplish epic deeds and have his heroics memorialized in songs by his bard Siobhan, a genius composer.

JONES, DIANA WYNNE.
HOWL’S MOVING CASTLE (Fantasy)
When a witch turns 17-year-old Sophie into an old woman, Sophie goes to live with the feared wizard Howl in his castle and becomes embroiled in the zany events that eventually lead to her happiness. This book is now a feature length animation by the Japanese animator, Miyazaki.

KINDL, PATRICIA.
OWL IN LOVE (Fantasy)
Humorously and tenderly depicted, Owl Tycho’s joy and angst of being a “were-owl” (a shape-shifter) who falls in love with her science teacher, guarantees a light but satisfying read.

KONIGSBERG, BILL.
OUT OF THE POCKET (Realistic)
High school senior and the star quarterback Bobby Framingham is accidentally (or not so accidentally) outed in the school newspaper and goes through the ups and downs of the internal and external obstacles and revelations. An affirming and positive read. OPENLY STRAIGHT by the same author looks at what it means to go “back into the closet” in the High School years.

KONIGSBURG, E. L.
A PROUD TASTE FOR SCARLET AND MINIVER (Historical)
Told in a humorous, tongue-in-cheek style, this is the story of Eleanor of Aquitaine, queen of France and then of England. Her wit is sharp as she recounts her life in the 12th century.

LE GUIN, URSULA.
TEHANU: THE LAST BOOK OF EARTHSEA (Fantasy)
Sparrowhawk, the archmage of Earthsea, returns from the dark land stripped of his magic powers. He finds refuge with the aging widow Tenar and a crippled girl who carries an unknown destiny. A WIZARD OF EARTHSEA, TOMBS OF ATUAN, and THE FARTHEST SHORE are the first three titles in the series.

LEVITHAN, DAVID.
BOY MEETS BOY (Realistic Fiction/Humorous)
Paul, a high school sophomore who came out in kindergarten, lives in an eccentric, loving, and idealized wonderland where Gay-Straight Alliance has more members than the football team and Infinite Darlene, the star 6-foot-4 quarterback often appearing in high heels, a red shock wig, and heavy makeup, is also the Homecoming Queen. So, when boy meets boy, a tender romantic comedy ensues.

LOCKHART, E.
WE WERE LIARS (Realistic)
The Sinclair Family is tightly knit and loving. Or is it? Their wealth is so vast that they own a private island near Martha’s Vineyard and they all share. Or do they? The teenage cousins and family friends will never hurt one another. Or will they? What really happened on that fatal summer day? Will the readers ever really know?

LU, MARIE.
LEGEND (SciFi/Series)
In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, the infamous fifteen-year-old public enemy, Day, is on the government’s most-wanted list for his alleged murder of a security officer. June, a prodigy soldier trained in the most elite school is assigned to capture Day. They both soon discover that perhaps the government is their common enemy.
LU, MARIE.
THE YOUNG ELITES (Fantasy/Series)
A blood plague has turned many young people into mutants with magical powers in the kingdom of and the society treats An intense fantasy about Adelina, an outsider girl who is rescued by the legendary Reaper, the leader of the Young Elites. But can Adelina keep her friends and sister safe?

MCKINLEY, ROBIN.
THE HERO AND THE CROWN (Fantasy/Series)
Seeking her birthright, Aerin, daughter of a Damarian king, becomes the legendary female warrior whose blue sword is wielded years later by Harry Crewe, a young woman destined to be another female warrior.

MCNEAL, TOM.
FAR FAR AWAY (Fantasy/Horror)
With an unusual narrator (the ghost of Jacob Grimm, the German folklorist), a small town that is subtly unsettling, and a villain that is truly creepy, this memorable story loosely based on the tale of Hansel & Gretel and that enticing but menacing gingerbread house gives readers two courageous teen protagonists and their life-or-death struggles against the inexplicable force of evil.

MIKAELSEN, BEN.
TOUCHING SPIRIT BEAR (Realistic)
Cole Matthews is an angry and defiant young man. Because of his violent crime against another 9th grader, he is facing a prison sentence. But then a Tlingit Indian parole officer named Garvey offers him The Circle Justice, based on Native American traditions, in which victim, offender, and community all work together to find a healing solution. He takes the offer and thinks that he can somewhat “wiggle” out of his punishment. When Cole challenges the giant White Bear and is mauled almost to death, Cole awaits his fate and begins the transition from anger to humility.

MORIA RTY, JACLYN.
THE YEAR OF SECRET ASSIGNMENTS (Realistic/Suspense)
In an attempt to bridge the gap between the rich Brookfielders and less-fortunate Ashbury kids, a pen-pal club is arranged with the intention that the exchange of letters will make the two sides better understand one another, but when things don’t go as planned, a full-scale war breaks out between three Brookfield girls and some Ashbury boys.

MYERS, WALTER DEAN.
FALLEN ANGELS (Realistic/Historical)
This is a gripping war novel about the price five young men pay for their tour of duty in Vietnam.

MYERS, WALTER DEAN.
MONSTER (Realistic)
This Young Adult Book of the Year (Printz Award) winner tells a powerful and thoughtful story from the viewpoint of 16-year-old Steve Harmon who is accused of assisting in a murder robbery case and is undergoing trial. The book is written in the unusual form of an imaginary screenplay by Steve.
NA, AN.
A STEP FROM HEAVEN (Realistic)
This story traces the life of Korean-born Young Ju from the age of four through her teenage years, from Korea to the States. Young Ju's steady growth in language and understanding of the new culture presents a sharp contrast of her father's inability to adapt to the new environment. Frustrated, her father becomes abusive. The not-all-happy ending is convincing and promises an uplifting path for the main character.

NELSON, VAUNDA.
NO CRYSTAL STAIR (Historical)
The work and legacy of Harlem Bookseller Lewis Micheaux is tenderly and powerfully documented in this novel based on his real life story: from being a high spirited and unruly child to becoming an influential intellectual who always went against conventions but held true to his strong convictions. Photographs of the storefront, of Micheaux with civil rights movement leaders such as Malcolm X further help paint a vivid portrait.

NICHOLLS, SALLY.
WAYS TO LIVE FOREVER (Realistic)
"My name is Sam. I am eleven years old. I collect stories and fantastic facts. I have leukemia. By the time you read this, I will probably be dead." This moving story about a terminally ill boy who tries to live his remaining days to the fullest and thus leaving a mark forever will make you cry but also have much levity. many hilarious scenes that will make you laugh and admire Sam and his friend Felix for their vibrant minds.

NIELSEN, JENNIFER A.
THE FALSE PRINCE (Suspense/Series)
Sage, an orphan, who is a practiced thief and has incredible street smarts, suddenly finds himself, along with two other orphans, captured and trained by a nobleman to impersonate a long lost prince. Only one of them will succeed — and those who don’t, will be disposed of to keep the secret. Truths and lies, alliances and plots, false steps and triumphs make this action-packed story told from Sage's first person point of view incredibly intriguing.

NIX, GARTH.
SABRIEL (Fantasy/Series)
Sabriel, the newest Abhorsen (a necromancer who, instead of focusing on bringing back the Dead, is skilled at making sure that they stay dead), is now faced suddenly with the incredible task of rescuing her father from the land of the dead and combating the evil power in the Old Kingdom.

NIXON, JOAN LOWERY.
THE OTHER SIDE OF DARK (and many others) (Horror/Suspense)
Stacey has been in a coma for four years. When she awakens, she finds herself suddenly 17 years old and ready to locate and identify the boy who murdered her mother.

O’BRIEN, ROBERT C.
Z FOR ZACHARIAH (SciFi)
Seemingly the only person left alive after the holocaust of a war, Anne Burden is relieved to see a man arrive into her valley — until she realizes that he is a tyrant and she must somehow escape.
ORWELL, GEORGE.
1984 (SciFi/Classic)
This is Orwell’s chilling, prophetic vision of a totalitarian “future” where even thoughts are being policed and controlled by the government and signs of nonconformity or disloyalty are punishable with torture by the Ministry of Love.

PAN, EMILY X.R.
THE ASTONISHING COLOR OF AFTER (Magical Realism)
16-year-old Taiwanese/White American Leigh is certain that her mother has incarnated as a giant red bird after committing suicide. The bird, which only Leigh has seen, is here to lead her on a journey of finding out the reasons behind her mother’s depression and ultimate act of desperation. Leigh stays with her grandparents in Taipei and has vivid and fervent visions of a past with the help of magical incense sticks. Hers is not only a quest for truth, but also for redemption from the self-inflicted guilt of kissing her best-friend Axel in his basement at the same time when her mother lay dying in her bedroom.

PARSONS, MARK HUNTLEY.
ROAD RASH (Realistic Fiction/Humorous)
When 17-year-old Zach Ryan, a skilled drummer and music lover, joins a popular local band on a long summer tour, he experiences many ups and downs of a life on the road: the exhilaration of successful gigs, the humiliation from a bad bar manager, the ego-war between band members, and the realization that he truly is good at what he does.

PERKINS, MITALI.
YOU BRING THE DISTANT NEAR (Realistic Fiction)
This epic family tale of five girls/women across three Indian American family generations explores cultural heritage, true love, friendship, sisterhood and mother-daughter relationships authentically and affectingy.

PFEFFER, SUSAN BETH.
LIFE AS WE KNEW IT (SciFi/Series)
Miranda’s disbelief turns to fear in a split second when a meteor knocks the moon closer to the earth. How should her family prepare for the future when worldwide tsunamis wipe out the coasts, earthquakes rock the continents, and volcanic ash blocks out the sun? As summer turns to Arctic winter, Miranda, her two brothers, and their mother must struggle to survive. This very realistic look at what life might be like following a global natural disaster is followed by three more titles: THE DEAD AND THE GONE, THE WORLD WE LIVE IN, and THE SHADE OF THE MOON.

PIERCE, TAMORA.
BEKA COOPER: TERRIER (Fantasy/Series)
In the land of Tortall, the worlds of the living and the dead are not quite disconnected, and Beka Cooper, a “puppy” in the police force of old “dogs,” is one who can trace murders and crimes back to their roots by communicating with those who have passed on. In her usual breezy tone, Tamora Pierce has created another resourceful heroine and thrilling mysteries.

POTAK, CHAIM.
THE CHOSEN (Historical)
This odyssey of two young men journeying from adolescence to manhood is set in Brooklyn during the 1940’s.
PRATCHETT, TERRY.  
A HAT FULL OF SKY (Fantasy/Series)  
This is a wonderful sequel to THE WEE FREE MEN. Young Tiffany Aching, two years removed from saving the world with an iron skillet, returns to face two new challenges: formal education in witchcraft and an identity-eating monster. It's the Feegles (those weird little blue men) to the rescue this time!

PRATCHETT, TERRY.  
NATION (Fantasy)  
After a tsunami, island native, Mau, and shipwreck survivor, soon-to-be-princess Daphne, construct a nation that blends each other’s customs, science, and faith in a multi-leveled novel of survival and politics.

PULLMAN, PHILIP.  
THE AMBER SPYGLASS (Fantasy/Series)  
In this powerful ending of a thrilling trilogy, as war rages and Dust drains from the sky, the fate of the living and dead comes to depend on Lyra and Will, two ordinary children with extraordinary powers. The first two titles in the trilogy are THE GOLDEN COMPASS and THE SUBTLE KNIFE.

PULLMAN, PHILIP.  
LA BELLE SAUVAGE (Fantasy)  
The baby girl Lyra has so much charm that anyone seeing her is instantly drawn and eager to protect her from the pursuit of Magisterium enforcement agents. Malcolm, a kind-hearted boy, and his dæmon Asta embark on a dangerous journey through storms, figuratively and literally, on board the small boat La Belle Sauvage, with the help of some characters familiar to readers of THE GOLDEN COMPASS and its sequels, such as Father Coram and Lord Asriel. A sweeping adventure and magical tale, this is a grand beginning of the proposed BOOK OF DUST trilogy, prequel the HIS DARK MATERIALS series.

REEVE, PHILIP.  
HERE LIES ARTHUR (Fantasy)  
What if everything we knew about King Arthur and his legendary feats is simply untrue? What are the real stories beneath all the bravery, generosity, wisdom, and romance? Prepare to be surprised and impressed by Philip Reeves’ fresh re-imagining of this famed leader.

REEVE, PHILIP.  
MORTAL ENGINES (SciFi/Series)  
In this original and fast-paced science fiction set in a post-apocalypse future, cities of the world move around on tractor treads pursuing and scavenging each other. There are four books in this highly original series.

REYNOLDS, JASON.  
GHOST (Realistic Fiction)  
Ghost (Castle Crenshaw) has been running away from a dark event from his childhood when his father got really mad at him and his mother -- and that's why he's so fast! By chance, Ghost is recruited into a local youth track team and finally starts to see some hope and brightness in his future as the track coach gives him support both on and off the field. The sequels are PATINA and SUNNY. Read them all.
REYNOLDS, JASON.
LONG WAY DOWN (Magical Realism/Verse Novel)
15-year-old Will's brother Shawn has been murdered. Will believes that he knows who did it. With the three rules of his neighborhood (No Snitching. No Crying. Revenge.) in mind, Will takes an spectral-filled elevator ride down the 7 flights of his building, with a gun tucked in his waistband. On each floor - the elevator door opens and lets in someone from the: all victims of violent crimes. What will be Will's choice when he hits ground floor and the elevator door opens for the last time?

REYNOLDS, JASON & KIELY, BRENDAN.
ALL AMERICAN BOYS (Realistic)
Told in alternating viewpoints between Rashad, victim of a police brutality case, and Quinn, eye-witness of the unfortunate and community splitting incident, this realistic, compassionate, and powerful story has won numerous awards and inspired discussions of positive changes in communities across the nation.

RIGGS, RANSOM.
TALES OF THE PECULIAR (Short Stories/Fantasy)
The author of Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children created an assortment of truly peculiar stories about characters with strange powers: taking out someone’s nightmare but being haunted by all the strands or creating a time-split and thus an entire new universe wrapped within other universes or seeing and befriending ghosts.

RIORDAN, RICK.
SWORD OF SUMMER (Fantasy/Series)
Since his mother's mysterious death, Magnus Chase has lived on the streets of Boston, surviving on his wits and resourcefulness. When Magnus is killed and emerges in his fantastic room of Hotel Valhalla, he has to accept the fact that he is the son of a Norse god. All three titles in this trilogy are well worth reading! The trilogy concludes with THE SHIP OF THE DEAD.

RITTER, WILLIAM.
JACKABY (Fantasy/Suspense/Series)
Set in 1890s New England, this supernatural detective adventure is a perfect blend of excitement, imagination, and humor. Abigail Rook, whose ability to notice normal details match perfectly with her employer R. F. Jackaby, an investigator who has the ability to see supernatural beings, to solve a murder mystery baffling the local police force.

ROWELL, RAINBOW.
ELEANOR & PARK (Realistic)
In this Printz Award honor book, Eleanor and Park are two unlikely and star-crossed lovers who, against all odds and embracing each other’s many quirks, move onward, unafraid, with wit and tenderness to forge a remarkable bond during one school year.

SANDERSON, BRANDON.
STEELHEART (SciFi/Series)
The Epics (super humans) started appeared on earth 10 years ago, gaining extraordinary and fantastic powers. They are evil, power-hungry, and fight against each other to rule mankind. Regular humans simply succumb to their rules and live in constant fear. One group of rebels called The Reckoners alone fights back.
SAVIT, GAVRIEL.
ANNA AND THE SWALLOW MAN (Historical Fiction)
In 1939 Krakow, 7-year-old Anna lost her professor father to the Nazi regime and became the journeying companion of the odd “Swallow Man” who seemed to be able to communicate with birds and taught Anna how evade soldiers from both sides of the war and survive in the protection of the Polish countryside.

SCHLITZ, LAURA AMY.
SPLENDORS AND GLOOMS (Fantasy)
Clara Wintermute, the young daughter of a wealthy Victorian doctor, was bewitched and turned into a ballerina puppet by the evil wizard Grisin whose tyrannic control over Lizzie Rose and Parsefall, his two orphan apprentices, resulted in their running away with the puppets. At Cassandra the witch’s castle, everything — spells, curses, the fight for power, and the search for happiness and home, all came to a breathtaking and powerful conclusion.

SCHMIDT, GARY.
OKAY FOR NOW (Realistic)
Doug Swieteck, age 14, just moved to a new town, into a rundown house, with his gentle mother, troubled brother, and an abusive and unstable father. Life was not treating Doug well or fairly, especially when he was punished for refusing to take off his shirts in PE when assigned to the Skins team. When he was eventually forced to remove his shirt, the classmates and teacher were shocked and finally understood his reluctance.

SCHLITZ, LAURA AMY.
THE HIRED GIRL (Historical)
Leaving her rural farm life and an abusive father behind, 14-year-old Joan Skraggs arrives in 1911 cultured Baltimore to seek adventures, knowledge, and true love. In diary entries, the faithful Christian Joan documents her eventful life as a “hired girl” (house maid) at a Jewish household. Joan’s journey in broadening her religious understanding and compassion for people with different beliefs is moving and often expressed with comical undertones.

SCHREFER, ELIOT.
THREATENED (Realistic)
Luc is an orphan, living in debt slavery in contemporary Gabon, until he meets a Professor who claims to be studying chimpanzees, and they head off into the jungle, uninhabited by humans and full of natural dangers. When the Professor disappears, Luc must survive by himself while also protecting the chimps whom he has befriended and felt a strong kinship to.

SEPETYS, RUTA.
SALT TO THE SEA (Historical)
The harrowing journey of desperate refugees escaping the Soviet Advance in the winter of 1945 is vividly captured in this tale told from four teenagers’ alternating viewpoints: each with a dangerous secret and all of their lives become interconnected as the story progresses. Tragically, not all of them make it to the final destination and readers cannot help but keep turning the pages to find out if any of them reaches their final destination and safety.
SHUSTERMAN, NEAL. 
CHALLENGER DEEP (Realistic) 
Caden Bosch seems to have two lives. He is a brilliant high school students with friends and homework to deal with. He is a crewman on the ship with a crew of weird characters and a sinister captain hell bent on reaching Challenger Deep, the lowest point in the ocean. The confusing and frightening world inside a schizophrenic mind is vividly captured in this mesmerizing tale inspired by the true events in the author’s life and his son’s struggles with this mental condition.

SHUSTERMAN, NEAL. 
SCYTHE (SciFi) 
When the Thunderhead (the maga computer) proves to be the truly unbiased and flawless ruler of the entire world and medical and technology advancement make immortality a reality for all humans, governments are abolished and no one is naturally dying -- except when they are “culled” by the Scythes: a highly revered group of experts that designate and execute those unfortunate individuals. This is both to keep the population under control and to remind the world of the value of life. When Citra and Rowan are chosen to both be apprentice Scythes to the same man, they realize how complex, dangerous, and corrupt the Scythedom could be. A powerful sequel, THUNDERHEAD, is equally captivating.

SMITH, BETTY. 
A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN (Historical/Classic) 
This is the delightful and moving story of the hardships, sorrows and happiness of Francie, a poor girl living in Brooklyn at the turn of the century. A popular novel for generations, it continues to find a wide audience today.

SPINELLI, JERRY. 
MILKWEED (Historical) 
Set during WWII, within the Warsaw Ghetto, this is the story of a little orphaned boy, who does not know his name or whether he is a Gypsy or a Jew. Being small, and good at stealing food and supplies for himself and for others in the Ghetto, he becomes a hero to his fellow sufferers. An intense and tragic story.

SPRINGER, NANCY. 
I AM MORGAN LE FAY (Fantasy) 
The arch-villain in the Arthurian legend, Morga le Fay, gets to tell her own story from a magically gifted little girl to the embittered grown woman whose struggle against Fate (her namesake) seems always turns back to haunt her. Another good read in the same series is I AM MORDRED.

STEAD, REBECCA. 
GOODBYE STRANGER (Realistic) 
Bridge is the survivor of a bad car accident and often wonders about life and death. She and her two best friends Emily and Tabitha have a pact to never fight with each other. But, then 7th grade starts! Each of them is facing new challenges and when one of the three friends has done something against her friends’ advice that gets her in trouble with the school, how can the three remain close and keep their pact?
STEVENSON, NOELLE.
NIMONA (Fantasy/Graphic Novel)
Nimona is a monster of a girl, literally: she loves to fight, is non-conformative and blunt, and she is a bona fide shapeshifter — changing her form from a girl to a beast at will. In this world of villains, heroes, magic, and government scientific experiments gone wrong, where does a fabulous but misunderstood girl like Nimona fit?

STEVENSON, ROBERT LOUIS.
TREASURE ISLAND (Adventure/Classic)
Generations have loved this tale about Jim Hawkins who sets out to recover the hidden fortune that many dangerous men are plotting to obtain.

STEWART, MARY R.
THE CRYSTAL CAVE (Fantasy/Series)
This series consists of the spellbinding adventures of King Arthur’s court told by a master storyteller.

STORK, FRANCISCO X.
MARCELO IN THE REAL WORLD (Realistic)
Marcelo, a high-functioning and wise teen with Asperger’s syndrome is made to work in his father’s law firm in order to experience the “real world” and all its complexities. While Marcelo learns about how to navigate amongst the “normal” people, plenty of others have a lot to learn from him.

STROUD, JONATHAN.
THE AMULET OF SAMARKAND trilogy (Fantasy/Series)
Bartimaeus, a powerful 5,000 year old djinni with a sarcastic bent is summoned by an inexperienced but talented apprentice magician. The results are danger, death, and a big dose of comic relief.

TAMAKI, MARIKO AND JILLIAN TAMAKI.
THIS ONE SUMMER (Realistic/Graphic Novel)
Rose’s latest summer at a beach lake house is overshadowed by her parents’ potential divorce, her friend’s secret sorrows, and the befuddling activities of older teens who seem to be dealing with complicated romantic relationship issues.

TAYLOR, LAINI.
DAUGHTER OF SMOKE AND BONE (Fantasy/Series)
Karou is artistic, Karou is seventeen, Karou lives in Prague, Karou is raised by Chimaeras, and Karou is often sent to different parts of the world via a magical doorway to collect teeth: harvested from dead animals and humans. The teeth are the ingredients needed for wish granting. Karou never questions her life until she meets the mysterious Akiva, who claims to be the angel of righteousness here to eliminate all the Chimaeras.

TAYLOR, LAINI.
STRANGE THE DREAMER (Fantasy)
Lazlo Strange has but one dream — one impossible dream: to re-discover the glory of the Unseen City whose treasure are legendary and lost to all human knowledge. When an opportunity presents itself, Lazlo defies rules that bind him to his lowly status as a junior librarian and embarks on a glorious, danger-filled, and magical journey.
THOMAS, ANGIE.
THE HATE U GIVE (Realistic Fiction)
Starr goes to an elite school as one of very few black students in a posh neighborhood while lives in a neighborhood where gunfire and sirens are frequently heard and gang feuds are commonplace. When her childhood best friend Khalil is shot dead by a policeman in front of Starr, her life is forever altered.

TOLKIEN, J.R.R.
THE LORD OF THE RING (Fantasy/Series)
The journey through Middle Earth, told with poetic language and vivid description of creatures and landscapes, this classic has enjoyed the highest acclaim in the realm of fantasy writings in our century.

TURNER, MEGAN WHALEN.
THE THIEF (Fantasy/Series)
Tales of gods and goddesses are woven throughout this story of Gen, a master thief, who is on an adventurous journey for his king to steal a precious stone. A 1997 Newbery Honor Book.

TWAIN, MARK.
THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER (Historical/Classic)
This is a historical fiction with a twist: Prince Edward and poor young Tom Canty swapped identities by accident and experienced and learned from each other’s life.

TWAIN, MARK.
THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN (Historical/Classic)
Twain’s matchless excursion delves into the joys and troubles of boyhood on the Mississippi. It is full of wit and compassion for all humans.

UEHASHI, NAHOKO.
MORIBITO: GUARDIAN OF THE SPIRIT (Fantasy)
Spear-wielding warrior woman Balsa takes on an almost impossible mission: to protect the Second Prince from being assassinated by the Emperor’s hunters and from being eaten alive by the spirit monster Rarunga. This first installment of a popular Japanese series is very exciting.

VENKATRAMAN, PADMA.
A TIME TO DANCE (Realistic/Verse Novel)
Veda, a teen from contemporary India, is a rising star in the classical Bharatanatyam dance. Right after winning the Bharatanatyam competition, one of Veda’s legs is maimed and must be amputated below the knee. Veda’s emotionally charged journey from despair to determination and enlightenment is captured in powerful free verses.

VERNE, JULES.
20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA (and others) (SciFi/Classic)
A huge, glowing sea monster has attacked and wrecked several ships. Professor Arronax joins a mission to hunt down the monster, and finds himself aboard a secret submarine. It’s exciting to explore the ocean’s depths, but what if he wants to leave? Captain Nemo seems to have made him a captive — 20,000 leagues under the sea!
VONNEGUT, KURT.  
CAT'S CRADLE (SciFi/Humorous)  
Filled with humor, the story tells of Earth's ultimate end while a bunch of assorted characters chase each other around in search of the world's most important and dangerous substance, a new form of ice that freezes at room temperature.

WALTON, LESLYE.  
THE STRANGE AND BEAUTIFUL SORROW OF AVA LAVENDER (Realistic/Magical Realism)  
Born with bird wings into a family cursed to be foolish in love, sixteen-year-old Ava delves into her family's past hoping to understand her unusual nature and learn to fit in with her peers. Is she prepared for the brutal and harsh realities that she must confront in the end?

WATSON, RENEE.  
PIECING ME TOGETHER (Realistic Fiction)  
Jade finds navigating her mostly white and privileged private school sometimes challenging and often frustrating. An excellent Spanish scholar with a strong application, she is still denied a slot for the school's study abroad program. Instead, she has to enroll in a mentoring program for students of color, with a not very competent mentor. In the end, Jade's artistic talent and maturity both help her adult mentor and the entire mentorship program to take on activist actions. In lyrical sentences and frank sentiments, Watson holds a mirror for many capable young readers of color and allows others better understanding of the experiences of those like Jade. A Newbery Honor title and winner of the Coretta Scott King Award.

WEIN, ELIZABETH.  
CODE NAME VERITY (Historical/Suspense)  
When captured by the Nazis, our narrator was tortured to give up crucial information. She wrote persistently on some found paper. As readers are pulled further into the plot, we cannot help but wonder: who this prisoner really was, what was going to happen to her and those who were enemies and allies, and whom could the characters and the readers really trust?

WELLS, H.G.  
THE WAR OF THE WORLDS (SciFi/Classic)  
The Martians are landing on earth! They've already destroyed London. Who or what can stop them from taking over the whole world? This classic story brings the hysteria and madness of such a nightmare to life.

WESTERFELD, SCOTT.  
AFTERWORLDS (Fantasy/Realistic)  
In this unusual novel within a novel, 18-year-old Darcy has just sold her first novel for a huge sum of money and is living in New York City to finish and revise the novel, Afterworlds, a paranormal romance between a young woman and an Indian god of death Yama. Readers have a chance to peek into the Young Adult novelists' world, follow the fiction writing process, and enjoy a thrilling dark fantasy all at once.

WHITE, T.H.  
THE ONCE AND FUTURE KING (Fantasy/Classic)  
The magnificent legend of King Arthur is retold as a novel for modern readers. Arthur's anguish over war, the love story of Guinevere and Lancelot, and the evil Mordred comprise the story of Camelot. Also: The Book of Merlyn.
WILES, DEBORAH.
COUNTDOWN (Historical)
Twelve-year-old Franny lives with her family in Washington, DC, during the fearful days surrounding the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. Franny must face the tension between herself and her former best friend and deal with many complex family issues, including a shell-shocked eccentric uncle who is obsessed with building a bomb shelter. The fictional story is made real and vivid by the accompanying real documents from the time period.

WOLFF, VIRGINIA EUWER.
TRUE BELIEVER (Realistic/Series)
The journal-verse-style writing delivers a genuine and interesting voice of Verna LaVaughn, 15-year-old inner-city school girl who strives to better herself to “get out” of her neighborhood and the life which is constantly in poverty and in danger of violence. Readers will not be able to put down the book for the beauty of the language and style, for the truth of the characters and their emotions, and for the depth of love and friendship among the characters.

YANG, GENE LUEN.
BOXERS & SAINTS (Historical Fantasy/Graphic Novel)
Readers are challenged to consider the meaning or the senselessness of armed conflicts by following two main characters and their stories. Little Bao and Four-Girl (Vibiana) are on two opposing sides of one historical event: the Boxers Rebellion in turn-of-20th-century China. Whose cause should the readers root for? and Is there a third side?

NONFICTION, BIOGRAPHY, MEMOIRS (back to top)

ANDERSON, M.T.
SYMPHONY FOR THE CITY OF THE DEAD
In this true story of a city under siege, the triumph defiance against all odds, and affirmation of the power of music and art in sustaining humanity, National Book Award winner M.T. Anderson details the life and music of Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich: especially how, under the most dire circumstances, he created his Symphony No. 5, the Leningrad and the effect it had on the rest of the world when the score was smuggled to America.

ANGELOU, MAYA.
I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS
This is Angelou’s moving and award-winning autobiography that recalls the joy and pain of growing up in the South during the depression.

BARTOLETTI, SUSAN CAMPBELL.
HITLER YOUTH
By weaving the stories of twelve young Germans into the larger fabric of Nazism, Bartoletti raises awareness of Hitler’s manipulations and offers readers a chance to consider how they might have acted it they had been under the same situation.
BARTOLETTI, SUSAN CAMPBELL.
THEY CALLED THEMSELVES THE K.K.K.: THE BIRTH OF AN AMERICAN TERRORIST GROUP
With the support of primary sources, the author presents a close examination of the formation and development of the Ku Klux Klan and those who fell victims to this terrorist group.

BAUSUM, ANN.
STONEWALL: BREAKING OUT IN THE FIGHT FOR GAY RIGHTS (Nonfiction)
One of the few safe havens for closeted gay people when being gay in the States was a criminal offense, the dingy Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village was raided by the police regularly. However, on one hot June night in 1969, a routine raid was turned into a riot and the riot triggered the first organized movement to demand gay rights. In this historical account, author Ann Bausum explores the Stonewall Riots and the subsequent national Gay Rights movement with unflinching honesty and riveting details.

BOLDON, TONYA.
EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION: LINCOLN AND THE DAWN OF LIBERTY
Filled with little-known and fascinating facts, this book details the history of the Emancipation Proclamation.

ENGLE, MARGARITA.
ENCHANTED AIR: TWO CULTURES, TWO WINGS (Poetry/Memoir)
In this poetic memoir, Margarita Engle, a girl from two worlds: Cuba and Los Angeles, California. When a revolution breaks out in Cuba. Margarita's worlds collide in the worst possible ways. How can the two countries she loves hate each other so much? And will she ever get to visit her beautiful island again?

FLEMING, CANDACE.
THE FAMILY ROMANOV: MURDER, REBELLION & THE FALL OF IMPERIAL RUSSIA
The fascinating life of Czar Nicholas II, his wife, Alexandra, and their children, their ostentatiously privileged upbringing, and their tragic deaths in the dramatic fall of the Russian Empire are captured in this moving and insightful biography.

FREEMAN, RUSSELL.
WE WILL NOT BE SILENT
Austrian-born Hans Scholl and his sister Sophie belonged to Hitler Youth as young children, but began to doubt the Nazi regime as older students. The Scholls and a few friends formed the White Rose, urging their fellow youths to resist Hitler and the Nazis, risking imprisonment or even death.

GAIMAN, NEIL.
NORSE MYTHOLOGY (Nonfiction)
Newbery winning author of The Graveyard Book Neil Gaiman retells some of the most well-known (and a couple lesser known) stories from the Norse Mythology tradition in a no-frill but subtly humorous manner that befits the tone of the often illogical and comical stories of Odin, Thor, Loki, Frost Giants, and other characters.
HEILIGMAN, DEBORAH. 
VINCENT AND THEO (Biography) 
Vincent Van Gogh adored, relied on, but also fought against his beloved brother Theo who was Vincent’s most devoted friend and appreciator of Vincent’s artwork. The tragedy of their struggle against due to personal vices and society demands is detailed with care and empathy in this well researched and documented duo-biography.

LEWIS, JOHN with ANDREW AYDIN & NATE POWELL 
MARCH: BOOK THREE (Memoir/Graphic Novel) 
This powerful last volume of the award-winning graphic novel memoir trilogy of Congressman John Lewis, a civil rights activist and social icon vividly captures and effectively presents the 60’s Civil Rights Movement with text and illustrations for a new generation of socially conscientious young activists!

LOBEL, ANITA. 
NO PRETTY PICTURES 
A beloved author-illustrator recounts her childhood experiences as a Polish Jew in hiding, in transit, and in concentration camps before finding refuge in Sweden.

MAH, ADELINE YEN. 
FALLING LEAVES 
An international best-seller, a heart-wrenching but ultimately inspiring memoir recounts the author’s painful childhood as the unwanted daughter of a wealthy yet abusive Chinese family, from which she escaped to the West.

MATHABANE, MARK. 
KAFFIR BOY 
Under Apartheid, a young man comes of age in this autobiographical account.

NELSON, KADIR. 
WE ARE THE SHIP 
This lavishly illustrated, meticulously researched, and folkily told history of the Baseball’s negro leagues has won numerous awards and admiration from baseball fans and general readers alike. This is indeed quite a treat!

PARTRIDGE, ELIZABETH. 
THIS LAND WAS MADE FOR YOU AND ME: THE LIFE AND SONGS OF WOODY GUTHRIE 
The creatively prolific and yet deeply troubled life of Woody Gutherie, song-writer of modern American ballads and social protest music, is documented with sensitivity and honesty in this handsome volume.

PAUL, CAROLINE. 
THE GUTSY GIRL (Memoir) 
Although she often gets into trouble and does warn readers to not make the same (sometimes life-threatening or law-breaking) mistakes as she did in pursuing a life of thrilling adventures, Caroline Paul shows everyone how to be brave and take control of one’s own life and confront fears and timidity head on! This memoir is humorous, with whimsical line drawings and space for journaling.
ROTH-HANO, RENEE.
TOUCH WOOD and SAFE HARBORS
A French Jewish girl is hidden in a convent during the Holocaust. After the war she begins a new life in America.

SALZMAN, MARK.
TRUE NOTEBOOKS
In late 1990s, Mark Salzman found himself become the teacher, friend, mentor, and the Northern Light to more than a dozen teenage inmates (most of them on trials for murder cases.) Salzman intersperses his soul-searching story with the actual, often heart-wrenching and surprising writings of his students from their True Notebooks.

SAMANCI, OZGE.
DARE TO DISAPPOINT: GROWING UP IN TURKEY
Ozge Samanci grew up on the Aegean Coast. She loved the sea and imagined a life of fulfillments in outstanding schooling and a great career. But her young life, instead, was full of disappointments — especially to her parents and other adults.

SATRAPI, MARJANE.
PERSEPOLIS
Persepolis is Marjane Satrapi’s wise, funny, and heartbreaking memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. It is presented in black-and-white comic strip format. Through the simple lines, Satrapi’s story is extremely powerful. A must-read for all! Check out some images and read about the book at the publisher’s website.

SHEINKIN, STEVE.
BOMB
The stage is World War II; the characters are scientists, government officials, and spies; the drama is one of scientific triumphs, international espionage, and the race to win the war. The stakes couldn’t have been higher and the storytelling couldn’t have been more compelling in this stellar, award-winning nonfiction.

SHEINKIN, STEVE.
MOST DANGEROUS
This tense and exciting historical account details one of the greatest American stories of the 20th century: how Daniel Ellsberg, a political analyst and government adviser, committed the act of treason to leak a 7,000-page secret document (The Pentagon Papers) to expose government’s deceit during the Vietnam War and became the most dangerous and wanted man in America.

SHEINKIN, STEVE.
THE PORT CHICAGO 50: DISASTER, MUTINY, AND THE FIGHT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS
This astonishing civil rights story chronicles the 1944 event that rocked the segregated Navy base at Port Chicago, California after a massive explosion killing more than 300 sailors. The aftermath showed the prejudice that the African American men and women in America’s armed forces had to face during World War II. This title is the Boston Globe-Hornbook Award winner of nonfiction.
SLATER, DASHKA.
THE 57 BUS (Nonfiction)
Sasha, a gender fluid teen, sometimes wore dresses and was never hassled in a progress private school. 16-year-old Richard, attended public school after his stay in a juvenile detention facility. On the 57 Bus, November, 3rd, 2013, Richard set his lighter against Sasha's gauzy skirt on a dare, without realizing how quickly and violently the fire could spread once it caught. Sasha was engulfed in flame and rushed to the hospital. As they went through painful and lengthy reconstruction surgeries, Richard was on trial. Slater details both young people's lives and their circumstances with care and journalist integrity to tell this real life story that starts horrendously but ends with redemption and humanity.

SPIEGELMAN, ART.
MAUS (I & II)
The story of a Holocaust survivor (Speigelman's father) is recounted with powerful forces in comic strip form featuring mice as the Jews and cats as the Germans.

STEINBECK, JOHN.
TRAVELS WITH CHARLEY
Steinbeck travels across the United States with his French poodle, Charley.

TURNER, PAMELA S.
SAMURAI RISING: THE EPIC LIFE OF MINAMOTO YOSHITSUNE
In this fast paced epic biography set in 12th century Japan, readers will encounter family strifes, political intrigues, and brutal battle scenes to obtain a clear understanding of the legendary samurai warrior Minamoto Yoshitsune's military genius and personal tenacity.

WARREN, ANDREA.
SURVIVING HITLER: A BOY IN THE NAZI DEATH CAMP
This is a powerful story of Jack Mandelbaum. As a teenager during WWII, he spent three horrific years in a concentration camp, and as a grown man, he chose the path of tolerance and forgiveness.

WIESEL, ELIE.
NIGHT
A terrifying account of the Nazi death camp horror that turns a young Jewish boy into an agonized witness to the death of his family and a whole people. Technically a novel, the incidences are largely based on real personal experiences of the author. The story continues in DAWN. ACCIDENT (or DAY) completes the trilogy.
BAUER, MARION DANE.
AM I BLUE? COMING OUT FROM THE SILENCE
These sixteen short stories by noted young adult authors are about growing up gay or
lesbian or having gay or lesbian friends or parents.

BRADBURY, RAY.
THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES
Bradbury continues to enrich us with these short stories about the Earth and Mars.

CATHER, WILLA.
THE TROLL GARDEN
These elegant stories often deal with the conflicts faced in society by individuals of artistic
temperament.

CUMMINGS, E. E.
COMPLETE POEMS
Read and look at this unique poet’s work. You will constantly be pleasantly surprised.

DOYLE, SIR ARTHUR CONAN.
THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES
You and Dr. Watson can attempt to figure out all the clues which Sherlock Holmes finds so
simple.

IRVING, WASHINGTON.
SKETCH BOOK
In his light stories rooted in folktales, Irving makes a lasting contribution to the modern short
story.

LONDON, JACK.
TO BUILD A FIRE AND OTHER STORIES
Jack London, author of the Call of the Wild, continues his adventures in this collection of
stories.

MAUPASSANT, GUY DE.
SELECTED SHORT STORIES
Full of insights into the darker side of the human soul, and robust humor, Maupassant’s
short stories are his greatest achievements.

MOON, SARAH. ED.
THE LETTER Q
In this anthology of short letters, often humorous, always honest and unflinching, sixty-three
LGBTQ authors wrote to their younger selves to give wise advice, to offer comfort, to poke
fun, and to celebrate who they were and who they are now in the hope to shed some light
and provide some guidance to the teens who might be wondering about the ups and downs
of life whether one is L, G, B, T, or simply Questioning.
MYERS, WALTER DEAN.  
HERE IN HARLEM  
Borrowing from both the classical tradition and the rhythms of jazz and blues, this dazzling collection illuminates the many faces of Harlem, past and present.

NELSON, MARILYN.  
CARVER: A LIFE IN POEMS  
A collection of Marilyn Nelson’s (Canadian Poet Laureate) poems about the genius, the humanity, and the contribution of George Washington Carver. The poems never shy away from harsh realities and reach for the soul of their subject matter. Readers gain tremendous understanding of the man who has been simplified to “the peanut guy” in American History texts.

NYE, NAOMI SHIHAB.  
THE SAME SKY: A collection of poems from around the world  
A poetry anthology in which 120 poets from sixty-two different countries celebrate the natural world and its human and animal inhabitants. Elegantly designed and lovingly selected by poet Nye, this collection belongs on any poetry lover’s shelf.

TWAIN, MARK.  
THE CELEBRATED JUMPING FROG OF CALAVERAS COUNTY, AND OTHER SKETCHES  
Twenty-seven humorous sketches include the story of a man who loved to make wagers and acquired a frog, which he claimed could outjump any frog in the county.

POE, EDGAR ALLEN.  
SELECTED TALES  
These horror and detective stories are timeless — to be read and re-read.

SIDMAN, JOYCE.  
WHAT THE HEART KNOWS: CHANTS, CHARMS, AND BLESSING  
A collection of poems around the theme of matters of the heart: friendship, community and the individual, happiness and sorrow, love and despair. The finely crafted and compassionate words will help readers through various phases in life — both joyful occasions and dark encounters.

TAYLOR, LAINI.  
LIPS TOUCH: THREE TIMES  
Three exquisite and deliciously haunting fantasy stories based on old tales from different cultures are collected in this gorgeously illustrated book.

WILDE, OSCAR.  
THE HAPPY PRINCE AND OTHER STORIES  
Wilde explores the human psyche and misery through these often melancholy, at times humorous and highly poetic literary fairy tales.

WOODSON, JACQUELINE.  
BROWN GIRL DREAMING  
In this verse memoir, vivid poems capture the joy of finding her own voice through writing stories and reflect on what it was like to grow up African American in the 1960s and 1970s Brooklyn, New York and Greenville, South Carolina. (2015 Newbery Honor book)