

John Glenn Middle School Summer Reading Program for 2013

Students who wish to participate in our reading initiative, **Fall Conversation Café**, will come together when we return to school. We will reflect upon the book's themes and share personal insights.

Choose one of the two books below depending on your grade level and plan to participate in our September book discussion.

Incoming 6th Graders Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Ten-year-old Aggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

During the summer, post comments on the Lane Library Blog.

7th & 8th Graders

Colin Fischer By Ashley Edward Miller & Zack Stentz

A boy with autism teams up with the high school bully to get to the bottom of a cafeteria crime.

During the summer, post comments on Destiny, our library circulation system. See directions below.

Here are some reading guidelines for the two Fall Conversation Café books:

- What does the book reveal about social issues?
- Who tells the story?
- Whose story is this?
- What did you think the author was saying to you?
- How did the book make you think about your own life?
- What associations (movies songs current events) were triggered in your mind?
- Do any of the themes relate to topics or events in the news?
- To whom would you recommend this book?

Summer Book List

Following is our traditional recommended summer book list. We encourage you to read several books, but this September recognition will be based upon participation in the **Fall Conversation Café**.

Guidelines for Using the Summer Book List

- 1. Most of the books are available at Bedford Public Library and local bookstores.
- 2. Within each genre, titles reflect varied levels of reading and interest.
- 3. Students can select other books written by the authors listed.
- 4. Books should entertain and challenge. Some of the authors and titles on this list are familiar to you while others will open new worlds and ideas.

*Parents can access this list on our school website: http://www.bedford.k12.ma.us/jgms

Directions to post comments on *Destiny* for 7th & 8th graders:

- Log into *Destiny* with Aspen/First Class ID.
- Search for book title.
- Click on Details.
- Select Reviews tab.
- Type review.
- Save.

<u>Adventure</u>



Avi: True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle

Charlotte crosses the Atlantic in 1832 on a ship with a cruel captain and a mutinous crew.

Carter: Heist Society

Fifteen-year-old Kat schemes her way into the best boarding school, hoping to leave the thieving antics of her family behind her, but Hal, a former co-conspirator, appears on campus to tell Kat that a powerful mobster believes her father stole art from a priceless collection, and in order to save him, Kat will have to recover the paintings.

Hobbs: Jason's Gold

When news of the discovery of gold in Canada's Yukon in 1897 reaches 15-year-old Jason, he embarks on a 5,000-mile journey to strike it rich.

Holm: Boston Jane: an Adventure

Schooled in lessons of etiquette for young ladies of 1854, Miss Jane Peck of Philadelphia finds little use for manners during her long sea voyage to the Pacific Northwest and while living among the American traders and Chinook Indians of Washington Territory.

Horowitz: Stormbreaker

After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, 14-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI 6.

Meyer: Bloody Jack: Being an Account of the Curious Adventures of Mary "Jacky" Faber, Ship's Boy

Reduced to begging and thievery in the streets of London, a thirteen-year-old orphan disguises herself as a boy and connives her way onto a British warship set for high sea adventure in search of pirates.

Mikaelsen: Touching Spirit Bear

After his anger erupts into violence, Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the Native American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life.

Muchamore: The Recruit (Cherub, Mission 1)

James becomes a part of the highly secretive organization, *CHERUB*, a group of teens whose mission is to spy on terrorists and international drug dealers, hack into computers, and download crucial information for the government.

Yohalem: Escape Under the Forever Sky: a novel

As a future conservation zoologist whose mother is the United States Ambassador to Ethiopia, thirteen-year-old Lucy uses her knowledge for survival when she is kidnapped and subsequently escapes.

Smith: Peak

A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

Realistic Fiction

Applegate: The One and Only Ivan*

When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

Atkins: Alt Ed

Susan, an overweight tenth grader, develops a better sense of herself through participation in a special after-school counseling class with other troubled students, and the friendship of a sensitive gay classmate.

Bauer: Close to Famous

Twelve-year-old Foster McFee and her mother escape from her mother's abusive boyfriend and end up in the small town of Culpepper, West Virginia, where they use their strengths and challenge themselves to build a new life, with the help of the friends they make there.

Connor: Waiting for Normal

Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

Cummings: Blindsided

After years of failing eyesight, fourteen-year-old Natalie reluctantly enters a school for the blind, where in spite of her initial resistance she learns the skills that will help her survive in the sighted world.

Draper: Out of My Mind

Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

Forman: If I Stay: A novel*

While in a coma following an automobile accident that killed her parents and younger brother, seventeen-year-old Mia, a gifted cellist, weights whether to live with her grief or join her family in death.

Jacobson: Small as an Elephant

Abandoned by his mother in Acadia National Park campground, Jack tries to make his way back to Boston before anyone figures out what is going on, with only a small toy elephant for company.

Holt: My Louisiana Sky

Tiger Ann struggles with her feelings about her stern but loving grandmother, her mentally slow parents, and her good friend and neighbor, Jesse.

Hughes: I Am the Wallpaper

Thirteen-year-old Floey Packer, jealous of her attractive and popular older sister, shares her home with two younger cousins and experiences a summer vacation filled with embarrassing events, with herself as the star.

Korman: The Juvie Three

Gecko, Arjay, and Terence, all in trouble with the law, must find a way to keep their halfway house open in order to stay out of juvenile detention.

Murdock: Dairy Queen

After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.

Pixley: Freak

Twelve-year-old Miriam, poetic, smart, and quirky, is considered a freak by the popular girls at her middle school, and she eventually explodes in response to their bullying, revealing an inner strength she did not know she had.

Schmidt: Trouble

Fourteen-year-old Henry, wishing to honor his brother Franklin's dying wish, sets out to hike Maine's Mount Katahdin with his best friend and dog. But fate adds another companion--the Cambodian refugee accused of fatally injuring Franklin--and reveals troubles that predate the accident.

Sonnenblick: After Ever After

Although Jeff and Tad, encouraged by a new friend, Lindsey, make a deal to help one another overcome aftereffects of their cancer treatments in preparation for eighth-grade graduation, Jeff still craves advice from his older brother Stephen, who is studying drums in Africa.

Sonnenblick: Notes from the Midnight Driver

After being assigned to perform community service at a nursing home, sixteen-year-old Alex befriends a cantankerous old man who has some lessons to impart about jazz guitar playing, love, and forgiveness.

Stead: When You Reach Me

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

Van Draanen: Flipped

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

Urban: A Crooked Kind of Perfect

Ten-year-old Zoe Elias, who longs to play the piano but must resign herself to learning the organ, instead, finds that her musicianship has a positive impact on her workaholic mother, her jittery father, and her school social life

Science Fiction/Fantasy

Bedford: Flip*

A teenager wakes up inside another boy's body and faces a life-or-death quest to return to his true self or be trapped forever in the wrong existence.

Card: Ender's Game

Ender, who is the result of genetic experimentation, may be the military genius Earth needs in its war against an alien enemy.

Cashore: Graceling

In a world where some people are born with extreme and often-feared skills called Graces, Katsa struggles for redemption from her own horrifying Grace of killing and teams up with another young fighter to save their land from a corrupt king.

Clayton: Roar

In an overpopulated world where all signs of nature have been obliterated and a wall has been erected to keep out plague-ridden animals, twelve-year-old Mika refuses to believe that his twin sister was killed after being abducted, and continues to search for her in spite of the dangers he faces in doing so.

Evans: Michael Vey: the prisoner of Cell 25*

To everyone at Meridian High School, fourteen-year-old Michael Vey is nothing special, just the kid who has Tourette's syndrome. But in truth, Michael is extremely special--he has electric powers. Michael thinks he is unique until he discovers that a cheerleader named Taylor has the same mysterious powers. With the help of Michael's friend, Ostin, the three of them set out to discover how Michael and Taylor ended up with their abilities, and their investigation soon brings them to the attention of a powerful group who wants to control the electric teens--and through them, the world.

Dashner: The Maze Runner

Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.

Falls: Dark Life*

When fifteen-year-old Ty, who has always lived on the ocean floor, joins Topside girl Gemma in the frontier's underworld to seek and stop outlaws who threaten his home, they learn that the government may pose an even greater threat.

Farmer: The House of the Scorpion

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

Gaiman: The Graveyard Book

After the grisly murder of his entire family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the ghosts and other supernatural residents agree to raise him as one of their own.

Grant: Gone

In a small town on the coast of California, everyone over the age of fourteen suddenly disappears, setting up a battle between the remaining town residents and the students from a local private school, as well as those who have "The Power" and are able to perform supernatural feats and those who do not.

Haddix: Among the Hidden

In the future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his 12 years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong. First book in the Shadow Children series.

Klass: Firestorm

After learning that he has been sent from the future for a special purpose, eighteen-year-old Jack receives help from an unusual dog and a shape-shifting female fighter.

Patterson: Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment

After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "bird kids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose.

Pearson: The Adoration of Jenna Fox

In the not-too-distant future, when biotechnological advances have made synthetic bodies and brains possible but illegal, a seventeen-year-old girl, recovering from a serious accident and suffering from memory lapses, learns a startling secret about her existence.

Pfeffer: Life as We Knew It

Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

Philbrick: The Last Book in the Universe

After an earthquake has destroyed much of the planet, an epileptic teenager nicknamed Spaz begins the heroic flight to bring human intelligence back to the Earth of a distant future.

Pullman: Golden Compass

Lyra attempts to prevent experiments performed on her best friend and other children in the Arctic. First book of the Dark Materials trilogy.

Reeve: Mortal Engines: a novel*

In the distant future, when cities move about and consume smaller towns, a fifteen-year-old apprentice is pushed out of London by the man he most admires and must seek answers in the perilous Out-Country, aided by one girl and the memory of another.

Roth: Divergent*

In a future Chicago, sixteen-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group, and that the society she lives in is not perfect after all.

Rossi: Under the Never Sky*

Aria and Perry, two teens from radically different societies--one highly advanced, the other primitive--hate being dependent on one another until they overcome their prejudices and fall in love, knowing they can't stay together.

Ruiz: Prince of Mist

In 1943, in a seaside town where their family has gone to be safe from war, thirteen-year-old Max Carver and sister, fifteen-year-old Alicia, with new friend Roland, face off against an evil magician who is striving to complete a bargain made before he died.

Sleator: Rewind

Not long after learning that he was adopted, eleven-year-old Peter is hit by a car and then given several chances to alter events that could lead to his death.

Tolkien: Lord of the Rings

Fantasy trilogy set in the imaginary world of the Third Age of Middle-earth.

Verne: Journey to the Center of the Earth

An expedition into a crater in Iceland leads to the center of the earth.

Zevin: Elsewhere

After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live."

Historical Fiction



Anderson: Chains

After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.

Avi: Crispin: The Cross of Lead

Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.

Boyne: The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.

Choldenko: Al Capone Does My Shirts

A 12-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

Cushman: Rodzina

A 12-year-old Polish American girl is boarded onto an orphan train in Chicago with fears about traveling to the West and a life of unpaid slavery.

Hooper: Newes from the Dead*

In 1650, while Robert, a young medical student, steels himself to assist with her dissection, twenty-two-year-old housemaid Anne Green recalls her life as she lies in her coffin, presumed dead after being hanged for murdering her child that was, in fact, stillborn.

Klages: The Green Glass Sea

While her father works on the Manhattan Project, eleven-year-old gadget lover and outcast Dewey Kerrigan lives in Los Alamos Camp, and becomes friends with Suze, another young girl who is shunned by her peers.

Larson: Hattie Big Sky

Sixteen-year-old Hattie Brooks inherits her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana in 1917 and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war in Europe.

McCormick: Purple Heart

While recuperating in a Baghdad hospital from a traumatic brain injury sustained during the Iraq War, eighteen-year-old soldier Matt Duffy struggles to recall what happened to him and how it relates to his ten-year-old friend, Ali.

Morpurgo: Private Peaceful

When Thomas Peaceful's older brother is forced to join the British Army, Thomas decides to sign up as well, although he is only fourteen years old, to prove himself to his country, his family, his childhood love, Molly, and himself.

Myers: Assassin*

In alternating passages, a young White House seamstress named Bella and the actor John Wilkes Booth describe the events that lead to the latter's assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

Myers: Time of Witches*

Orphaned Drucilla finds a home with the beautiful but troubled Mistress Putnam as accusations of witchcraft start to swirl in Salem Village.

Myers: Fallen Angels

Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.

Napoli: Stones in Water

Roberto's life changes forever when German soldiers raid the theater where he's watching a movie. Rounded up and packed off to a brutal work camp, he and his friend vow to stay together in the face of this horror.

Osborne: Adaline Falling Star

Feeling abandoned by her deceased Arapaho mother and her explorer father, Adaline Falling Star runs away from the prejudiced cousins with whom she is staying and comes close to death in the wilderness, with only a mongrel dog for company.

Paterson: Bread and Roses, Too

Jake and Rosa, two children, form an unlikely friendship as they try to survive and understand the 1912 Bread and Roses strike of mill workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Porter: Billy Creekmore

In 1905, ten-year-old Billy is taken from an orphanage to live with an aunt and uncle he never knew he had, and he enjoys his first taste of family life until his work in a coal mine and involvement with a union brings trouble. Then he joins a circus in hopes of finding his father.

Rees: Witch Child

In 1659, 14-year-old Mary Newbury keeps a journal of her voyage from England to the New World and her experiences living as a witch in a community of Puritans in Salem, Massachusetts.

Salisbury: Under the Blood Red Sun

A Japanese family in Hawaii encounters prejudice after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Smith: Elephant Run

Nick endures servitude, beatings, and more after his British father's plantation in Burma is invaded by the Japanese in 1941, and when his father and others are taken prisoner and Nick is stranded with his friend Mya, they plan a daring escape on elephants, risking their lives to save Nick's father and Mya's brother from a Japanese prisoner of war camp.

Westall: Kingdom by the Sea

A 12-year-old boy flees his London home during World War II and wanders the English countryside with a dog he has found.

Wein: Code Name Verity*

In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France and the survivor tells a tale of friendship, war, espionage, and great courage as she relates what she must to survive while keeping secret all that she can.

<u>Multicultural</u>



Gourlay: Tall Story*

Sixteen-year-old Bernardo, who is eight feet tall and suffers from a condition called Gigantism, leaves the Philippines to live with his mother's family in London, much to the delight of his thirteen-year-old half sister Andi, a passionate basketball player.

Hayes: Payback*

Halima, a teenaged Muslim girl living in London, discovers her father owes a favor to a distant relative in Pakistan and must repay the debt by forcing Halima into marriage

Jaramillo: La Linea

When fifteen-year-old Miguel's time finally comes to leave his poor Mexican village, cross the border illegally, and join his parents in California, his younger sister's determination to join him soon imperils them both.

Kelly: Chained*

To work off a family debt, ten-year-old Hastin leaves his desert village in India to work as a circus elephant keeper but many challenges await him, including trying to keep Nandita, a sweet elephant, safe from the cruel circus owner.

Laird: A Little Piece of Ground

During the Israeli occupation of Ramallah in the West Bank of Palestine, twelve-year-old Karim and his friends create a secret place for themselves where they can momentarily forget the horrors of war

Myers: Monster

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, 16-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

Naidoo: No Turning Back

After running away from an abusive home, 12-year-old Sipho tries to survive in Johannesburg.

Ryan: Esperanza Rising

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

Staples: Dangerous Skies

Two children, one white, one African-American, are implicated in a murder.

St. John: The White Giraffe

After a fire kills her parents, eleven-year-old Martine must leave England to live with her grandmother on a wildlife game reserve in South Africa, where she befriends a mythical white giraffe.

Venkatraman: Climbing the Stairs

In India, in 1941, when her father becomes brain-damaged in a non-violent protest march, fifteen-year-old Vidya and her family are forced to move in with her father's extended family and become accustomed to a totally different way of life.

<u>Mysteries</u>



Abrahams: Down the Rabbit Hole: an Echo Falls Mystery

Like her idol Sherlock Holmes, eighth grader Ingrid Levin-Hill uses her intellect to solve a murder case in her hometown of Echo Falls.

Bell: Red Blazer Girls: The Ring of Rocamadour

Catholic-schooled seventh-graders Sophie, Margaret, Rebecca, and Leigh Ann help an elderly neighbor solve a puzzle her father left for her estranged daughter twenty years ago.

Christie: And Then There Were None

Guests on an island disappear one by one until those remaining realize the killer is among them.

Dowd: The London Eye Mystery

When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye Ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

Duncan: Killing Mr. Griffin

A trick on an English teacher inadvertently results in death.

Ehrlich: Joyride

Having all her life unquestioningly abided by her mother's decisions to move frequently and remain aloof to outsiders, 14-year-old Nina begins to wonder about the reasons for their way of life.

Ferguson: The Christopher Killer

On the payroll as an assistant to her coroner father, seventeen-year-old Cameryn Mahoney uses her knowledge of forensic medicine to catch the killer of a friend while putting herself in terrible danger.

Haddix: Double Identity

Thirteen-year-old Bethany's parents have always been overprotective, but when they suddenly drop out of sight with no explanation, leaving her with an aunt she never knew existed, Bethany uncovers shocking secrets that make her question everything she thought she knew about herself and her family.

Hiaasen: Hoot

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

Renn: Tokyo-Heist*

After a high-profile art heist of three van Gogh drawings in her home town of Seattle, sixteenyear-old Violet Rossi finds herself in Japan with her artist father, searching for the related van Gogh painting.

Sleator: Hell Phone

Seventeen-year-old Nick buys a used cell phone only to call his girlfriend, but strange and desperate people keep calling--one of them a denizen of Hell--begging for or demanding his help.

Van Draanen: Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief

Thirteen-year-old Sammy's penchant for speaking her mind gets her in trouble when she involves herself in the investigation of a robbery at the "seedy" hotel across the street from the seniors' building where she is living with her grandmother.

Werlin: The Killer's Cousin

After being acquitted of murder, 17-year-old David goes to stay with relatives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he finds himself forced to face his past as he learns more about his strange young cousin Lily.

Windsor: The Christmas Killer

Rose dreams where the bodies of recently killed girls can be found.

<u>Redone Fairy Tales</u>



Brooke: Untold Tales

Retells and continues the stories, from a contemporary perspective, of such classic tales as "The Frog Prince," "Snow White," "Beauty and the Beast," and "Sleeping Beauty."

Flinn: Beastly

A modern retelling of "Beauty and the Beast" from the point of view of the Beast, a vain Manhattan private school student who is turned into a monster and must find true love before he can return to his human form.

Flinn: A Kiss in Time

Sixteen-year-old Princess Talia persuades Jack, the modern-day American who kissed her awake after a three-hundred-year sleep, to take her to his Miami home, where she hopes to win his love before the witch who cursed her can spirit her away.

Haddix: Just Ella

In this continuation of the Cinderella story, 15-year-old Ella finds that accepting Prince Charming's proposal snares her in a suffocating tangle of palace rules and royal etiquette, so she plots to escape.

Hale: The Goose Girl

Princess Anidori, on her way to marry a prince she has never met, is betrayed by her guards and her lady-in-waiting and must become a goose girl to survive until she can reveal her true identity and reclaim the crown that is rightfully hers.

Hale: Princess Academy

While attending a strict academy for potential princesses with the other girls from her mountain village, 14-year-old Miri discovers unexpected talents and connections to her homeland.

Kindl: Goose Chase

Rather than marry a cruel king or a seemingly dim-witted prince, an enchanted goose girl endures imprisonment, capture by several ogresses, and other dangers, before learning exactly who she is.

Levine: Ella Enchanted

In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.

Levine: The Wish

When granted her wish to be the most popular girl in school, Wilma, an eighth grader, forgets that she will graduate in three weeks and her popularity will vanish.

McKinley: Beauty: the Retelling of Beauty & the Beast

Beauty grows to love the Beast at whose castle she is compelled to stay and through her love releases him from the spell that had turned him from a handsome prince into an ugly beast.

McKinley: Rose Daughter

Beauty grows to love the Beast at whose castle she is compelled to stay and through her love releases him from the spell that had turned him from man to beast.

Napoli: Beast

Elaborates on the tale of "Beauty and the Beast," told from the point of view of the beast and set in Persia.

Napoli: The Prince of the Pond: Otherwise Known as De Fawg Pin

Having been turned into a frog by a hag, a frog-prince makes the best of his new life as he mates, raises a family, and instills a new kind of thinking into his frog family.

Napoli: Zel

Based on the fairy tale Rapunzel, the story is told in alternating chapters from the point of view of Zel, her mother, and the nobleman who pursues her, and delves into the psychological motivations of each of the characters.

Sports Picks



Bloor: Tangerine

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

Cochran: Roughnecks

Travis Cody prepares for the final game of his high school football career, a rematch with his school's chief rival.

Deuker: Night hoops

While trying to prove that he is good enough to play on his high school's varsity basketball team, Nick must also deal with his parents' divorce and erratic behavior of a troubled classmate who lives across the street.

Feinstein: Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery

After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game.

Green: Baseball Great

All twelve-year-old Josh wants to do is play baseball but when his father, a minor league pitcher, signs him up for a youth championship team, Josh finds himself embroiled in a situation with potentially illegal consequences.

Gutman: Shoeless Joe & Me: A Baseball Card Adventure

Joe Stoshack travels back to 1919, where he meets Shoeless Joe Jackson and tries to prevent the fixing of the World Series in which Jackson was wrongly implicated.

Johnson: Safe at Second

Paulie Lockwood's best friend Todd Bannister is destined for the major leagues until a line drive to the head causes him to lose an eye and they both must find a new future for themselves.

Klass: Danger Zone

When he joins a predominantly black "Teen Dream Team" that will be representing the United States in an international basketball tournament in Rome, Jimmy Doyle makes some unexpected discoveries about prejudice, racism, and politics.

Lee: Necessary Roughness

Sixteen-year-old Korean American Chan moves from Los Angeles to a small town in Minnesota, where he must cope not only with racism on the football team but also with the tensions in his relationship with his strict father.

Lipsyte: The Contender

A Harlem high school dropout escapes from a gang of punks into a boxing gym, where he learns that being a contender is hard and often discouraging work, but that you don't know anything until you try.

Lupica: Travel Team

After he is cut from his travel basketball team--the very same team that his father once led to national prominence--twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.

Lynch: Gold Dust

In 1975, twelve-year-old Richard befriends Napoleon, a Caribbean newcomer to his Catholic school, hoping that Napoleon will learn to love baseball and the Red Sox, and will win acceptance in the racially polarized Boston school.

Lynch: Slot Machine

When overweight thirteen-year-old Elvin Bishop is sent to camp at Christian Brothers Academy Retreat Center, he and his two best friends are forced to try various sports in order to find out where they belong.

Mackel: MadCat

Fast-pitch softball catcher MadCat Campione's love for the sport is strained when her team competes on a national level and her best pal Jess puts the game before her friends.

Miklowitz: Anything to Win

To increase his chances of winning a college scholarship, a talented high school quarterback risks his health by taking anabolic steroids to gain weight.

Myers: The Outside Shot

Recruited by a small midwestern college to play basketball, a Harlem boy has many new experiences, including working with a child who needs physical therapy and dealing with corruption in college sports.

Myers: Slam!

Seventeen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently.

Wallace: Wrestling Sturbridge

Stuck in a small town where no one ever leaves and relegated by his wrestling coach to sit on the bench while his best friend becomes state champion, Ben decides he can't let his last high school wrestling season slip by without challenging his friend and the future.

Wallace: Playing without the Ball: A Novel in Four Quarters

Feeling abandoned by his parents, who have gone their separate ways and left him behind in a small Pennsylvania town, seventeen-year-old Jay finds hope for the future in a church-sponsored basketball team and a female friend.

Weaver: Hard Ball: A Billy Baggs Novel

A fourteen-year-old Minnesota farm boy has to figure out how to get along with the archrival in his love life and on the baseball diamond, and both boys must learn how to deal with the unfair expectations of their fathers.

Wolff: Bat 6

In small town, post-World War Oregon, twenty-one 6th grade girls recount the story of an annual softball game, during which one girl's bigotry comes to the surface.

Non-Fiction/Biography



Adler: B. Franklin, Printer

A biography of Benjamin Franklin emphasizes his many talents as a printer, writer, scientist, inventor, and statesman.

Cox: Houdini: Master of Illusion

The life of Harry Houdini is chronicled, with information on his childhood, his career as a magician, the outrageous feats he attempted, and the secrets behind some of his most daring escapes.

Dash: The Longitude Prize

The story of John Harrison, inventor of watches and clocks, who spent forty years working on a time- machine which could be used to accurately determine longitude at sea.

Fleischman: Phineas Gage: a Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science

This is the true story of Phineas Gage, whose brain had been pierced by an iron rod in 1848, and who survived and became a case study in how the brain functions.

Gantos: Hole in My Life

The author relates how, as a young adult, he became a drug user and smuggler, was arrested, did time in prison, and eventually got out and went to college, all the while hoping to become a writer.

Giblin: Good Brother, Bad Brother: the Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth

Uses first-hand accounts of family members, friends, and colleagues to describe the similarities and differences between brothers Edwin Booth, the actor, and John Wilkes Booth, President Lincoln's assassin.

Heiligman: Charles and Emma: The Darwin's Leap of Faith

A biography of English naturalist Charles Darwin that provides an account of the personality behind evolutionary theory and the affect of his work on his personal life, such as his relationship with his religious wife.

Houston: Bulu: African Wonder Dog*

Describes how Bulu, a Jack Russell terrier who was born on a crocodile farm in Zambia, became a foster parent for orphaned baby animals after being adopted by Anna and Steve Tolan, former police officers who left England to live in the African bush.

Krull: Leonardo da Vinci

Scrupulously researched and juicily anecdotal, Kathleen Krull's portrait of Leonardo will not only change children's ideas of who Leonardo da Vinci was, but also what it means to be a scientist.

Levine: Hana's Suitcase: a True Story

A biography of a Czech girl who died in the Holocaust, told in alternating chapters with an account of how the curator of a Japanese Holocaust center learned about her life after Hana's suitcase was sent to her.

Macy: A Whole New Ball Game

Describes the activities of the members of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, the women's professional baseball league that existed between 1943 and 1954.

Montgomery: Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World*

An authorized portrait about Grandin's life with autism and her groundbreaking work as a scientist and designer of cruelty-free livestock facilities describes how she overcame key disabilities through education and the support of her mother.

Murphy: An American Plague: the True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793

An American Plague offers a fascinating glimpse into the conditions in American cities at the time of our nation's birth while drawing thought-provoking parallels to modern-day epidemics

Myers: The Greatest: Muhammad Ali

A biography of Muhammad Ali, whose style changed the sport of boxing and whose attitude shook the world, as he became a symbol of the antiwar movement during the Vietnamese conflict and a defender of civil rights.

Opdyke: In My Hands: Memories of Holocaust Rescuer

Recounts the experiences of the author who, as a young Polish girl, hid and saved Jews during the Holocaust.

Philbrick: Revenge of the Whale: The True Story of the Whaleship Essex

In India, in 1941, when her father becomes brain-damaged in a non-violent protest march, fifteen-year-old Vidya and her family are forced to move in with her father's extended family and become accustomed to a totally different way of life.

Roy: Eleven Seconds A Story of Tragedy, Courage, and Triumph

Presents the personal story of Boston University freshman Travis Roy, who suffered a paralyzing injury while playing his first college hockey game, and the strength and courage he exhibited after the accident.

Spiegelman: Maus A survivor's Tale

The author-illustrator traces his father's imprisonment in a Nazi concentration camp through a series of disarming and unusual cartoons arranged to tell the story as a novel.

Walls: The Glass Castle: a memoir

This is a memoir about Jeanette Walls unpredictable childhood. She hid her roots for two decades and tells about surviving a willfully impoverished, eccentric, and problem family upbringing.

*New addition to the summer reading list.