

## Summer Reading Suggestions

Adapted from St. Ann's School, Brooklyn, NY

### Fiction

Adams, Douglas. ***The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy***. And now for something completely different: Arthur Dent is the last surviving human, rescued by Ford Prefect of the planet Betelgeuse. A zany intergalactic romp with British humor, a healthy dose of philosophy, and references you'll find everywhere.

Adeyemi, Tomi. ***Children of Virtue and Vengeance***. Magic has returned to Orisha thanks to Zélie and Amari. But not only have the magical powers of the magi been restored, so, too, have the powers of the nobles who join forces with the military. Civil war is on the horizon. This is the sequel to *Children of Blood and Bone*—start with that one first if you are new to the story.

Alexander, Kwame. ***Rebound***. Basketball coming-of-age story in verse. The exciting hoops- and jazz-filled prequel to *The Crossover*.

Alexie, Sherman. ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian***. Goofy-looking Junior, a dorky cartoonist with a sardonic sense of humor and a decent jump shot, leaves his school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an allwhite school, where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Dark humor, basketball, best friends.

Applegate, Katherine. ***The One and Only Bob***. Long-awaited sequel to the beloved *The One and Only Ivan*, featuring Ivan's canine friend, Bob. Read it before *The One and Only Ivan* movie is released in August.

Barnes, Jennifer. ***The Inheritance Games***. Billionaire Tobias Hawthorne mysteriously leaves his vast fortune to Avery Grambs, a teen living out of her car who doesn't even know who Tobias Hawthorne is—but not without conditions. In order to accept the inheritance, Avery has to move into the sprawling, mysterious Hawthorne House and solve the billionaire's intricately-plotted puzzle... for her own survival. A fast-paced trilogy opener.

Bowman, Akemi Dawn. ***The Infinity Courts***. Murdered on the way to her high school graduation party, eighteen-year-old Nami Miyamoto finds herself in an afterlife ruled by Ophelia, a virtual assistant planning to eradicate human existence. High-stakes, dizzyingly clever sci-fi with an AI entity intent on destroying humanity. What could go wrong? Plus, a sequel.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. ***The War that Saved My Life***. Ada is 10 and has never been outside. She was born with a twisted foot that her mother considers an embarrassment, so she watches the world from her window in World War II-era London. One day, she gets a chance to leave the city with a group

of kids who are being evacuated to safety from Nazi bombs. Is there finally hope for her? *Sequel: The War I Finally Won.*

Broaddus, Maurice. ***The Usual Suspects.*** Thelonious is a prankster, and he's always getting blamed for things, even if he's innocent. When a gun is found near school and the principal rounds up "the usual suspects," Thelonious and his best friend team up to figure out how it got there.

Cala, Caroline. ***Best Babysitters Ever.*** Witty tale of three friends—Malia, Bree and Dot—who stumble on a copy of the first-ever Babysitter's Club book, then hatch a brilliant idea—no matter that small children don't exactly excite them. As you can imagine, things don't go quite as planned.

Cisneros, Ernesto. ***Efrén Divided.*** Efrén is the American-born child of undocumented parents. When his mother is deported to Mexico after an ICE raid, he finds himself in charge of his younger siblings and working desperately to reunite his family.

Colbert, Brandy. ***The Only Black Girls in Town.*** Alberta and her dads are some of the only Black people in their California beach town, so when another Black girl, Edie, moves in with her family across the street she's thrilled. This book has mystery, history, friendship, and humor.

Connor, Leslie. ***A Home for Goddesses and Dogs.*** Lydia knew her mother was going to die, but that doesn't make it any easier when it happens. Wondering if she'll ever move beyond crushing grief, she goes to live with her only relative, her Aunt Brat, along with Brat's wife, Eileen, and a badly-behaved rescue dog. This book has heart, humor, and tears.

Deonn, Tracy. ***Legendborn.*** After witnessing a magical attack at a residential college program for gifted high schoolers, Bree discovers her own heretofore unseen magical abilities, and swears revenge against the secret society connected to her mother's recent death. A retelling of the Legend of King Arthur.

Draper, Sharon. ***Blended.*** The latest from the ever-popular Draper (author of *Out Of My Mind*, *Stella By Starlight* and other great books). This one is the story of Isabella, an 11-year-old dealing with divorce and identity as she switches back and forth between the homes of her mom (who's white) and dad (who's Black).

Easton, T.S. ***Boys Don't Knit.*** Ben gets in some trouble with a crossing guard and is forced to take a knitting class (better than an auto mechanics class in his opinion). Turns out he's good at it. But it's not exactly something he wants to make public. Totally hilarious.

Finneyfrock, Karen. ***Starbird Murphy and the World Outside.*** Growing up on the Free Family Farm, a commune in the woods of Washington State, Starbird has never touched a dollar bill, been in a car, or used a cell phone. When she gets her "Calling" to be a waitress at the Free Family's restaurant in Seattle, she decides to leave behind the only home she's ever known... and steps into the World Outside.

Poetic, world expanding.

Freeman, Megan E. ***Alone***. Maddie wakes up utterly alone in her evacuated Colorado town, with no power or internet, and only her Rottweiler, George, for company. As the months go by, can her stubborn will to survive carry her through the most frightening experience of her life? A novel-in-verse for fans of Hatchet and the I Survived series. Heads up, Dog Club!

Friend, Natasha. ***How We Roll***. Quinn is moving across the country—something she's not unhappy about because her friends in her old town abandoned her when she developed alopecia. In her new town no one has to know she's bald. Quinn meets some new kids, one of whom is Nick who uses a wheelchair. Maybe it's okay if they do know.

Gino, Alex. ***George***. People look at George and think they see a boy, but George knows she's a girl. When George's class puts on a play version of *Charlotte's Web*, she becomes convinced that if she can just play the role of Charlotte, her mom and others will see her as the girl she is. A funny, touching story about a transgender fourth grader.

Graff, Lisa. ***Far Away***. CJ lives on a traveling bus with her aunt, who is a medium (meaning she connects grieving people with loved ones beyond the grave). CJ herself also has the gift, and gains comfort from her ability to visit with her late mother. Then CJ's mother announces she's "leaving the realm," and will no longer be able to communicate. Lots of heart and unexpected twists and turns.

Green, John. ***An Abundance of Katherines***. On a summer road trip with his best friend Hassan, washed-up child prodigy and anagram aficionado Colin Singleton struggles to derive a mathematical formula to explain why he has been dumped by 19 girls named Katherine, and finds more than he bargained for among the quirky inhabitants of the tiny town of Gutshot, Tennessee. Sarcastic humor, lovable characters.

Greenwald, Tommy. ***Game Changer***. When 13-year-old football player Teddy ends up in a coma, the whole town becomes embroiled in a debate about violence in sports. Through conversations, newspaper articles, social media, and Teddy's own comatose thoughts, we start to learn what really happened on the field that day.

Gregorio, I.M. ***This is My Brain in Love***. Jocelyn Wu has a plan to save her family's soon-to-go-out-of-business Chinese restaurant. With her father's reluctant approval, she decides to hire a summer intern to help out at the restaurant and increase its online presence. Enter William Domenici, the son of a Nigerian doctor and an Italian lawyer. This is a heartwarming foodie rom-com that grapples with issues of race, mental health, and the challenges American teens born to immigrant families face.

Grey, Melissa. ***Rated***. Everyone is given a rating between 1 and 100; futures are determined by how high one's rating is. At Maplethorpe Academy, ratings are public and constantly updated for everyone to see. But then the doors of the academy are vandalized, and the whole system is upended.

Harrell, Rob. **Wink**. Ross wants to be a normal seventh grader but that becomes tough when he's diagnosed with a rare form of eye cancer. (The author, who also wrote and illustrated the graphic novel *Monster on a Hill*, had the same illness.) A hilarious, shocking, sometimes upsetting story of survival over cancer—and middle school. Great illustrations, too!

Haydu, Corey Ann. **Eventown**. If you liked *The Giver*, try this! In Eventown, the sun always shines. Everybody is nice. After a terrible event, Elodie and her twin sister move there with their parents. The family is finally happy—until Elodee starts to notice things. The Eventown library is filled with blank books. There are only three ice cream flavors. Why is she the only one who cares?

Hibbert, Talia. **Highly Suspicious and Unfairly Cute**. To win the grand prize at the end of their survival course, exbest friends Claire and Bradley trudge through mud, dirt and their messy past, bringing them closer together and sparking a whole new kind of relationship. Witty, swoon-worthy.

Holm, Jennifer. **Full of Beans**. Prequel to the beloved *Turtle in Paradise*, about an exuberant gang of kids in Key West during the Great Depression. Heartwarming laughs, plus history and adventure.

Hood, Susan. **Lifeboat 12**. A rare combo: a novel in verse, and a nail-biting survival tale. It's the fictionalized story of 13-year-old Ken Sparks, who was one of 90 British children aboard the *City of Benares*, the ship torpedoed by Nazis in 1940 while transporting the children to Canada and what was supposed to be safety from World War II.

Howard, Greg. **Middle School's a Drag, You Better Werk!** Mike is 12 and has a thing for starting new businesses. Unfortunately, nothing has caught on—yet. His latest idea is a talent agency, and he signs a 13-year-old aspiring drag queen as his first client. Could this be the big idea he's been looking for? And, could it give him the courage to be more open about himself?

Hudson, Wade and Cheryl Willis Hudson (editors). **We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices**. A collection of poetry, prose, and art with the theme of justice and unconditional love by leading lights in children's literature—including Jacqueline Woodson and Jason Reynolds.

Johnson, Lana Wood. **Technically You Started It**. Hayley thinks she's texting with the nice Martin Nathaniel Munroe II, but, in fact, it's his not-so-nice cousin with the same name. Will they figure it out before disaster strikes? BTW, this light-hearted charmer is written all in text messages.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. **Hello, Universe**. Meet four middle schoolers who couldn't be more different from each other. In this enchanting book, they wind up connected for a day as they unwittingly prevent a potentially disastrous event that one of them—a bully named Chet—has set into motion. Unlikely friendships form, and unlikely heroes emerge. Winner of the 2018 Newbery Medal.

Kelly, Lynne. ***Song for a Whale***. Iris is her school's resident tech genius, but as the only deaf kid, she often feels left out and underestimated. When she hears about Blue 55, a whale who is unable to communicate with other whales, she becomes determined to find a way to connect with it.

Kemmerer, Brigid. ***A Curse so Dark and Lonely***. Every season Prince Rhen turns into a monster and terrorizes his people. The curse can be broken if someone falls in love with him. Rhen sends Commander Grey to search for a candidate and Harper finds herself transported to their parallel universe. Cerebral palsy held Harper back in her world, but not in Emberfall. This is a twist on the classic beauty and the beast story. If you like it, read the sequel: *A Heart so Fierce and Broken*.

Klune, TJ. ***The House in the Cerulean Sea***. Linus Baker, a Case Worker at the Department in Charge Of Magical Youth, leads a quiet, solitary life, until the day he is unexpectedly summoned by Extremely Upper Management. His highly classified assignment is evaluating an island orphanage, where six dangerous children reside: a gnome, a sprite, a wyvern, an unidentifiable green blob, a werePomeranian, and the Antichrist. Linus must set aside his fears, and determine whether or not they're likely to bring about the end of days. An enchanting story about unlikely chosen family.

Konigsburg, E.L. ***From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler***. Claudia runs away from her annoying Connecticut life, taking her little brother with her. They secretly spend their days and nights in the Metropolitan Museum of Art—and get involved in a mystery that could change the face of art history. Haven't read this classic? Do so now!

Kritzer, Naomi. ***Catfishing on CatNet***. Steph and her mom never stay in one place for long, with Steph's abusive father always on their tail. Her only constant is an online community called CatNet—a social media site where users upload cat pictures—a place she knows she is welcome. What Steph doesn't know is that the admin of the site, CheshireCat, is a sentient AI. When CheshireCat's existence is discovered by outsiders, it's up to Steph and her friends, both online and IRL, to save her. Funny, thrilling, suspenseful... plus, a sequel.

Kuhn, Sarah. ***I Love You So Mochi***. Kimi is fighting with her mom. She's going to art school next year, but much to her mother's dismay, she wants to focus on her unique fashion creations and not painting. When Kimi gets invited by her estranged grandparents to spend spring break in Kyoto, she jumps on the opportunity. Romance and self-discovery ensue.

Le, Loan. ***A Pho Love Story***. For years, the Mais and the Nguyens have been at odds, having owned competing, neighboring pho restaurants. Bao and Linh have avoided each other for most of their lives, but sparks fly when a chance encounter brings them together. Hating -> Dating!

LeZotte, Ann Clare. ***Show Me a Sign***. It's 1805 and Mary, who is deaf, lives on Martha's Vineyard in a community of English and Wampanoag people where everyone speaks sign language. When a cruel

scientist takes Mary away for an experiment on the origin of deafness, Mary starts to see parallels between the way outsiders treat deaf people, and the way the islanders have treated the Wampanoag. Can she save herself and return to the community she loves? Inspired by Martha's Vineyard history.

Lincoln, Beth. ***The Swifts: A Dictionary of Scoundrels***. Every member of Shenanigan Swift's family is named from the Sacred Family Dictionary, and expected to live up to their name. When someone gives Arch-Aunt Schadenfreude a deadly push down the stairs at the Swift Family Reunion, Shenanigan decides to investigate. Puzzles, word play, and foul play, Lemony Snicket-style!

Lockhart, E. ***We Were Liars***. A beautiful and distinguished family. A private island. A brilliant, damaged girl; a passionate, political boy. A group of four friends—the Liars—whose friendship turns destructive. A revolution. An accident. A secret. Lies upon lies. True love. The truth. Read it. And if anyone asks you how it ends, just LIE.

Lowry, Lois. ***The Willoughbys***. The four Willoughby kids learn that their neglectful parents are hatching a plot to get rid of them. So they hatch a plot in return! The basis for the new Netflix series. *Sequel: The Willoughbys Return*.

Lu, Marie. ***Rebel***. There is a new book in the Legend series! If you've read the first three in the series, read this latest to find out what happens with June and Day. If you haven't read any of them, start with *Legend*, then continue with *Prodigy* and *Champion*. Expect adventure with a large dose of class warfare, a dystopian world setting, romance, and gaming.

Lu, Marie. ***Warcross***. In a futuristic New York City, a teen hacker named Emika gets involved with a virtual reality game that changes her life, and leads to adventure, danger, and romance. Exciting, somewhat violent and on the more mature side.

Marks, Janae. ***From the Desk of Zoe Washington***. Zoe, a seventh grader, gets a letter from her father, who has been in jail for murder since before she was born. It turns out he may have been wrongly convicted and, despite her mother's objections, she sets out to prove his innocence. Along the way her eyes are opened to racism in the criminal justice system.

McAnulty, Stacy. ***The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl***. If you've been looking for a great story that has lots of math, this is it. Lucy was struck by lightning when she was eight. It damaged her brain and she wound up with obsessive-compulsive disorder and genius-level math ability. Now, in seventh grade, she's in school for the first time since the accident. Friendship turns out to be harder than math.

McCullough, Joy. ***A Field Guide to Getting Lost***. Sutton loves computer coding and is annoyed that things aren't going perfectly with the new robot she's building. Luis spends his time writing fantasy stories and worrying about his severe allergies. When their parents start dating seriously, Luis and Sutton are thrown together. Clash. Then the two families go on a hike.... Warm tale, great characters.

McLemore, Anna-Marie. ***Blanca & Roja***. Blanca and Roja Cisne are sisters and rivals. Not only are they complete opposites, they also must contend with a spell that will one day allow one of them to go free and the other to be trapped in the body of a swan.

McLemore, Anna-Marie. ***Lake Lore***. Everyone who lives near the lake knows the stories about the magical world beneath it, an ethereal landscape rumored to be half-air, halfwater. But two nonbinary, neurodivergent teens, Bastián Silvano and Lore Garcia, are the only ones who've been there. When the lines between air and water begin to blur, they have to stop it, if they want to keep their secrets intact. One problem: They haven't spoken in seven years, and working together means trusting each other with the very things they're trying to hide.

Medina, Meg. ***Merci Suarez Changes Gears***. In this 2019 Newbery Medal winner, sixth-grader Merci struggles with fitting in as a scholarship student at a posh Florida private school, and balancing school and life at home with her extended Cuban-American family. Heartwarming and funny.

Mejia, Tehlor Kay. ***We Set the Dark on Fire***. At the elite Medio School for Girls, trainees are destined for one of two roles: Primeras run their husbands' households, and Segundas raise their children. Dani, placed as a Primera for a powerful family's son, is secretly from the other side of the border—where poverty and desperation rule. If caught, she will be sent back. When she gets recruited to spy for the resistance, fighting to bring equality, she must make difficult choices. Mythology, danger, queer love, and a sequel.

Menon, Sandhya. ***There's Something about Sweetie***. Ashish Patel got dumped. His mother decides to set him up with Sweetie Nair, a fellow Indian American. He's got nothing to lose so he agrees. Sweetie is a track star, a great singer, and too fat to date Ash, according to her own mother. The two decide to meet in secret. Can you guess what happens? Don't miss Menon's earlier novel, *When Dimple Met Rishi*, featuring a different Patel brother.

Morris, Brittney. ***Slay***. Seventeen-year-old Kiera is a gamer who develops a game called Slay. The game is meant to be a safe space for Black gamers—but then someone gets killed in a related incident and things fall apart.

Nazemian, Abdi. ***Like a Love Story***. It's 1989, and New York City is the epicenter of the AIDS crisis. Closeted Iranian immigrant teen Reza knows he's gay, but is terrified. He starts dating Judy, an aspiring fashion designer who worships her uncle Stephen, a gay man with AIDS. As Reza develops feelings for Judy's out-and-proud best friend, Art, he tries to find a way out of his deception that won't break Judy's heart—and his closest friendship.

Oppel, Kenneth. ***Bloom***. From the author of *Inkling*, a nonstop thriller about an alien invasion of earth in the form of strange toxic plants—and three misfit kids who seem to be immune to the toxins. Can they

figure out what's happening? Can they save the world? Along with the action, the book has great characters and relationship stories.

Oseman, Alice. ***I Was Born for This***. The Ark, a boy band, is the center of life for super-fan Angel Rahimi, trans front man with serious anxiety Jimmy Kaga-Ricci, and friend/bandmate Rowan, but their relationships become complicated when Jimmy and Angel are unexpectedly thrust together. Fame and fandemonium, from the author of *Heartstopper*.

Oshiro, Mark and Rick Riordan. ***From the World of Percy Jackson: The Sun and the Star (Nico Di Angelo Adventures)***. Percy Jackson fans, rejoice— Nico and Will have a book of their own! Demigods Nico di Angelo and Will Solace must endure the terrors of Tartarus to rescue an old friend in this standalone adventure.

Park, Linda Sue. ***Prairie Lotus***. Hannah, the child of a white dad and a Chinese mom who was killed in an anti-Chinese riot, navigates life in the 1880s in Dakota territory. The author's nuanced reflection of the Little House on the Prairie books, which she loved as a child. Wonderful!

Petrus, Junauda. ***The Stars and the Blackness Between Them***. Teens fall in love, as one finds her footing in the United States after a recent move from Trinidad, and one navigates the onset of her chronic illness. A lyrical love story in two voices, delivering magical realism and a tremendous emotional punch.

Prachett, Terry. ***The Wee Free Men***. Young witch-to-be Tiffany Aching, armed only with a frying pan and her common sense, teams up with the Wee Free Men, a clan of fierce, sheepstealing, sword-wielding, six-inch-high blue men, to rescue her baby brother and ward off a sinister invasion from Fairyland.

Ramee, Lisa Moore. ***A Good Kind of Trouble***. One of the few Black kids in her middle school, Shayla has worked hard to stay out of trouble. But as she becomes more aware of racism and police violence against Black people, she starts to think some kinds of trouble are worth getting into.

Rhodes, Jewel Parker. ***Ghost Boys***. In a story that recalls the real-life killing of Tamir Rice, 12-year-old Jerome is shot by a Chicago cop. His ghost meets up with the ghost of 14-year-old Emmet Till, who was lynched in 1955 and whose death was fueled the Civil Rights Movement. The only person who can see the ghost boys is the daughter of the police officer who killed Jerome. Tackles the country's history of racism, and grapples with how to make the future better. Also check out *Black, Brother, Black Brother* by the same author, which has a social justice message and incorporates a great sports story (the sport is fencing).

Rodkey, Geoff. ***We're Not from Here***. With Earth unlivable, Lan and family and 1,000 other humans board a spacecraft bound for the planet Choon—which has agreed to accept them as refugees. But after the 20-year trip (in bio-suspension, so they're the same age as when they left), it turns out humans are no longer welcome. Lan's mom manages to negotiate a trial run—they'll take one "reproductive unit" as a test case. It's Lan's family. A very different look at immigration.

Saeed, Aisha. ***Amal Unbound***. Amal lives in a small village in Pakistan where she loves school and dreams of being a teacher. But when her mother gives birth to her fifth child, Amal has to quit school to stay home and help. Then, when it seems things couldn't get worse, they do. She must leave her family and loses her very freedom. Inspired by the true stories of Malala Yousefzai and other brave girls.

Sage, Angie. ***Twilight Hauntings***. Enchantment has been banned in the land of Luna, but Alex secretly tells fortunes with her set of enchanted cards, which show images of what is now and what is yet to come. When her foster sister turns her in, she must go on the run. Start of a new series by the Septimus Heap author.

Sass, A.J. and Nicole Melleby. ***Camp QUILTBAG***. Abigail (she/her/hers) is so excited to spend her summer at Camp QUILTBAG, a retreat for queer and trans kids where she can be herself. Kai (e/em/eir) is not excited, at all. After a bit of a rocky start at camp, Abigail and Kai make a pact: If Kai helps Abigail make new friends, Abigail will help Kai's cabin with the all-camp competition. A summer full of queer crushes and finding community.

Sepety, Ruta. ***I Must Betray You***. When Cristian is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer, he's left with two choices: betray everyone and everything he loves—or use his position to creatively undermine the most notoriously evil dictator in Eastern Europe. A gut-wrenching, startling historical thriller about communist Romania and the citizen spy network that devastated a nation.

Shusterman, Neil and Jarrod Shusterman. ***Dry***. A dystopian thriller that rings true. Due to climate change, poor planning, and corrupt politics, California has run out of water. The situation is dangerous. When Alyssa's parents leave to hunt for water and don't return, it is up to her to figure out how she and her brother are going to survive. Warning: This book will make you thirsty.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg and Meg Wolitzer. ***To Night Owl from Dogfish***. Written entirely in letters and emails, this hilarious book brings together two 12-year-olds who couldn't be more different. Avery is a bookish worrier. Bett is a risk-taker. When Bett discovers that the girls' fathers have fallen in love and are plotting to send their daughters to a summer camp together so they'll bond, she digs up Avery's email address and breaks the news. Hijinx ensue!

Smith, Cynthia Leitich. ***Hearts Unbroken***. Louise Wolfe, who is Muscogee, dumps her boyfriend after he insults Native people. She turns her attention to the school newspaper. The story she is asked to cover is about the backlash provoked by the director of the school musical's inclusive casting of *The Wizard of Oz*. It seems that dating while Native is not the only challenge—add acting while Native to the list.

Smith, Dodie. ***The 101 Dalmatians***. The classic British adventure story starring brave and noble dogs. Super-engaging and much more mature than the movie versions.

Smith, Ronald L. ***Gloom Town***. Rory's family needs money, so he takes a job at a spooky old seaside mansion. Turns out the owner isn't just strange—he's a non-human creature plotting with other evil beings to steal people's shadows, and their very lives. Can Rory and his friend Isabella defeat them?

Soontornvat, Christina. ***A Wish in the Dark***. A magical coming-of-age adventure set in Thailand, featuring two orphans born in a prison who wind up on the run in search of their inner light. This is a retelling of *Les Misérables*, but you don't need to know that story to enjoy it.

Stead Rebecca. ***The List of Things that Will Not Change***. In the face of many changes, starting with her parents' divorce, Bea writes in a journal to keep herself sane. You'll enjoy being part of her life as she deals with eczema, her dad's new love, and life's other challenges.

Stone, Nic. ***Clean Getaway***. After getting into trouble at school, Scoob hits the road with his grandmother, following the route for a trip that she had planned, but never took, with Scoob's grandfather. Scoob learns about history, what life was like for his grandparents as a biracial couple (she is white, and he was Black), and helps solve a mystery.

Thomas, Leah. ***Wild and Crooked***. Kalyn Spence prides herself on her toughness, but when she returns to her dad's hometown and starts school, she uses a pseudonym: Rose Poplawski. Kalyn's dad, after all, is in jail for murdering the town's golden boy 17 years earlier. Gus is known for two things, his cerebral palsy and the fact that his dad was murdered before he was born. Worlds collide in this delightfully offbeat, poignant novel.

Warga, Jasmine. ***Other Words for Home***. In this novel in verse, a girl named Jude, who has always dreamed of being a movie star, describes what it's like to have to leave her home in Syria to live with relatives in the U.S. A Newbery Honor Book.

Watson, Renee. ***Some Places More than Others***. Amara lives in Oregon with her parents. As part of a school project, she starts researching her family and realizes that her dad, who's from Harlem, hasn't talked to his own father in years. For her 12th birthday, she asks for a trip to New York to meet relatives and see how her dad grew up. Once there, she learns more than she imagined.

Wein, Elizabeth. ***Code Name Verity***. After her crash-landing in France and capture by the Nazis, a wireless operator for the British (who goes by Queenie, Eva, Verity, and other aliases) reveals bits of code in exchange for reprieve from torture... and to postpone her execution. But what is true, and what isn't? Where is her friend Maddie, and what else is happening while she sits in prison? An intricately-plotted thriller with a shocking end.

Woods, Brenda. ***The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA***. In small-town South Carolina just after World War II, a 12-year-old white boy named Gabriel is riding his new bike, runs a red light and is pushed out of the path of an oncoming car by a Black man named Meriwether Hunter. Through his connection with the man, a World War II veteran, Gabriel's eyes begin to open to the racism in his town. Wonderful story of an unusual friendship and a nuanced look at a slice of history.

Woodson, Jacqueline. ***Harbor Me***. Six fifth-graders are ordered to spend a period each week in a room where their only assignment is to talk and get to know each other—without adult supervision. Each kid is dealing with challenges, among them the loss of a parent, racial profiling, and the threat of deportation.

Their initial hesitance to engage turns to heartwarming understanding and bonding.

Yang, Kelly. **Front Desk**. Ten-year-old Chinese immigrant Mia runs the front desk of a small California motel while her parents do the cleaning. Plucky Mia steps up to take on the dishonest motel owner, problems at school, racism aimed at motel guests she is fond of, and finally the potential loss of her family's livelihood. Light and fun but tackles important topics. Inspired by the author's experiences.

Yee, F.C. **The Epic Crush of Genie Lo**. Genie Lo is just trying to get into college. Her plans get derailed when a new kid at school tells her he's the Monkey King and she is the human reincarnation of his weapon, the Ruyi Jingu Bang. Genie needs to study up on her Chinese mythology because it turns out it's up to her to save the world from demons. Hilarious and fun.

Yelchin, Eugene and M.T. Anderson. **The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge**. What happens when an elfin historian and a goblin archivist meet for the first time, after more than a century of war between their communities? A hilarious book about who gets to write history, told from both perspectives (one in words, one in pictures, and one decidedly more biased than the other).

Zoboi, Ibi (editor). **Black Enough: Stories of Being Young & Black in America**. Zoboi invited sixteen Black authors, "to write about teens examining, rebelling against, embracing, or simply existing within their own idea of Blackness." Don't miss Jason Reynolds' story about three boys walking home from the community pool or Renée Watson's story about two girls at camp.

### **Series Read an entire series this summer! Or, read two!**

Bradley, Alan. **Flavia de Luce**. Flavia is an eleven-year-old eccentric science prodigy with a penchant for poison, who lives in an ancient English country house. Fearless and unflappable, she pursues clues and solves crimes. Totally fun. Series: *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*, *The Weed that Strings the Hangman's Bag*, *A Red Herring Without Mustard*, *I am Half Sick of Shadows*, *Speaking from Among the Bones*, *The Dead in Their Vaulted Arches*, *The Curious Case of the Copper Corpse*, and *As Chimney Sweepers Come to Dust*.

Cashore, Kristin. **Graceling**. Katsa's grace is killing, and her uncle, King Randa, forces her to do his bidding. But at 17, Katsa starts to question her uncle's orders. When she meets Prince Po, a graced fighter, she begins to discover truths about herself, her grace, and her kingdom, as she sets out on a path toward justice...and maybe love. Series: *Graceling*, *Fire*, *Bitterblue*.

Chokshi, Roshani. **Pandava Series**. In an attempt to impress kids from school, Aru accidentally unleashes a demon in the museum of ancient Indian art where her mom works. Her friends and her mother are frozen in time. Can Aru save them? **The Series:** *Aru Shah and the End of Time*, *Aru Shah and the Song of Death* and *Aru Shah and the Tree of Wishes*.

Chupeco, Rin. **The Bone Witch**. It turns out that Tea is a different kind of witch than other members of her family—she can raise the dead (something she finds out at her brother's funeral). She and her

brother travel to faraway lands to teach her to harness her new powers, but dark forces are rising. For fantasy fans. Series: *The Bone Witch*, *The Heart Forger*, *The Shadow Glass*.

Colfer, Chris. ***The Land of Stories***. A magical book given to them by their grandmother sends siblings on journeys into the fairy tale realm. Clever and populated with three-dimensional characters, even if they are imaginary! **The Series:** *The Wishing Spell*, *The Enchantress Returns*, *A Grimm Warning*, *Beyond the Kingdoms*, *An Author's Odyssey*, and *Worlds Collide*.

Dabos, Christelle. ***A Winter's Promise***. "As long as Ophelia had scruples, as long as she acted according to her conscience, as long as she could face up to her reflection every morning, she would belong to no one else but herself." A French bestseller, this dark, intriguing adventure-intranslation begins with Ophelia's unexpected arranged engagement. Forced to leave everything she knows, she must follow her mysterious fiancé to the dangerous, icy ark known as Pole. For fans of *The Golden Compass*. **The Series:** *A Winter's Promise*, *The Missing of Clairdelune*, *The Memory of Babel*, *The Storm of Echoes*.

Dashner, James. ***Maze Runner***. Thomas awakens in an elevator and remembers nothing except his own name. When the door opens, he finds himself with a bunch of other teenage boys in a huge maze guarded by monsters. A new boy arrives every month. None of them knows how they got there; nobody can figure a way out. Then a nearly comatose girl arrives bearing a clue. **Note:** Truly scary. **The Series:** *The Maze Runner*, *The Scorch Trials*, and *The Death Cure*.

DiCamillo, Kate. ***Raymie Nightingale Series***. Quick to read, but deep, engaging and funny. Raymie meets up with Louisiana and Beverly and together they navigate friendship, loss, and adventure. **The Series:** *Raymie Nightingale*, *Louisiana's Way Home*, and *Beverly, Right Here*.

Faizal, Hafsa. ***Sands of Arawiya***. In an ancient Arabian setting, Zafira hunts to feed her people, hiding the fact that she is a woman. Magic is long gone, and misogyny is rampant. When she is offered a chance to bring back the magic of the ancients, she jumps at the chance. Nasir, the son of the Sultan, is tasked with stopping her at all costs. Series: *We Hunt the Flame*, *We Free the Stars*.

Federle, Tim. ***The Nate Trilogy***. The adventures of a theater-loving kid who is miserable in his hometown in Pennsylvania and sets out for New York City to try out for "E.T.: The Musical." Touching and witty. Series sees Nate grow up from middle school to high school. **The Series:** *Better Nate Than Ever*; *Five, Six, Seven, Nate!*, and *Nate Expectations*.

Gibbs, Stuart. ***Spy School***. When Ben is recruited to the CIA's top-secret Academy of Espionage, he's thrilled to have fulfilled his dream while still in middle school. Then, he learns they're planning to use him for bait. He is determined to save himself. Over-the-top funny! **The series:** *Spy School*, *Spy Camp*, *Evil Spy School*, *Spy Ski School*, *Spy School Secret Service*, *Spy School Goes South*, and *Spy School British Invasion*.

Glaser, Karina Yan. ***The Vanderbeekers Series***. Wonderful big-family stories, set in a rambling house

in Harlem. If you haven't read it, read it! You will relate to one of the siblings! *The Series: The Vanderbeekers of 141<sup>st</sup> Street, The Vanderbeekers and the Hidden Garden, and The Vanderbeekers to the Rescue.*

Grant, Michael. ***Gone***. Everyone is gone. All the adults, that is. There is also no internet, no phone, and no way to figure out what's happening. Soon there's no food. Those left behind start to develop special powers and abilities—and they begin to take sides in order to survive. **Note:** On the more mature side. **The Series:** *Gone, Hunger, Lies, Plague, Fear, and Light.*

Hanover, Rebecca. ***The Similiars***. Emma goes to a boarding school in Vermont. Six human clones show up—one of them has the face of her best friend, Oliver, who just died over the summer. What is happening? Series: *The Similiars, The Pretenders.*

Lee, C.B. ***Sidekick Squad***. Jessica's parents are local superheroes, but at seventeen, she has yet to develop any powers of her own. But it might take superpowers not to act a fool working alongside her crush, Abby, at a summer internship. Oh, and that summer internship? It's for the town's supervillain, her parents' nemesis. Series: *Not Your Sidekick, Not Your Villain, Not Your Backup.*

Maas, Sarah Jay. ***Throne of Glass***. Jumping on a chance to get out of the slave camp, Celaena Sardothien accepts an offer from the Crown Prince Dorian to compete with a bunch of assassins (of which she is one!) for a chance to serve the King, Prince Dorian's father. If she succeeds, she will gain her freedom in four years. Series: *Throne of Glass, Crown of Midnight, Heir of Fire, Queen of Shadows, Empire of Storms, Tower of Dawn, Kingdom of Ash.*

Meloy, Maile. ***The Apothecary***. Alchemy and magic meet the Cold War in this series set in the 1950s. Janie's parents are victims of the Hollywood blacklist, so the family leaves sunny California for bleak London. There, Janie meets a spy-obsessed son of an apothecary—and the game (saving the world) is afoot. **The Series:** *The Apothecary, The Apprentices and The After-Room.*

Meyer, Marissa. ***The Lunar Chronicles***. Each book is a new take on a classic fairy tale, set in a future world where humans, cyborgs and androids live side-by-side. In the first, Cinder is a mechanic—and a cyborg—who is thrown together with Prince Kai when they become involved in an intergalactic battle. **Note:** On the mature side. **The Series:** *Cinder, Scarlet, Cress, Fairest, Winter, and Stars Above.*

Reynolds, Jason. ***Defenders Track Team Series***. Ghost wants to be the fastest sprinter on his track team, but it turns out it takes more than just speed to be part of a team. His is the first story in this series about a group of kids from different backgrounds who come together on an elite middle-school track team. Told in funny, compelling first-person narration. **The Series:** *Ghost, Patina, Sunny, and Lu.*

Shusterman, Neal. ***Arc of a Scythe***. Citra and Rowan have been assigned a job they don't want. They are to be apprenticed to a scythe. In Citra and Rowan's world, a scythe is the only person who can take life (hunger, disease, and war have been eliminated). Scythes are tasked with population

control—a grim responsibility. Series: *Scythe*, *Thunderhead*, *The Toll*.

Taylor, Mildred D. **The Logan Family Saga**. Inspired by the author's own history, this is the epic story of a Black family in Mississippi, from post-Civil War to the Civil Rights era. The concluding volume was just published, 45 years after the first book came out. Sometimes heartbreaking and intense. **The series:** *The Land*; *Song of the Trees*; *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*; *Let the Circle Be Unbroken*; *The Friendship*; *The Road to Memphis*; *Mississippi Bridge*; *The Well*; and *All the Days Past, All the Days to Come*.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. **Gaither Sisters Trilogy**. African-American sisters growing up in the turbulent 1970s. Set in Brooklyn (where they live with their dad), Oakland (home of their poet, Black Panther mother) and Alabama (where their great-grandma lives), the books make up a saga both hilarious and thought provoking. **The Series:** *One Crazy Summer*, *P.S. Be Eleven*, and *Gone Crazy in Alabama*.

Yancey, Rick. **The 5th Wave**. Cassie is one of the few humans left on Earth. Heavily armed at all times, she is battling the invading aliens in what is now called the 5th Wave. Her family survived Waves 1 and 2, only to meet their downfall in later Waves. Ben, an old high school crush of Cassie's, also survived. A thriller with non-stop action, told from the viewpoints of both Cassie and Ben. Series: *The 5th Wave*, *The Infinite Sea*, and *The Last Star*.

## Books to Movies

Lee Shetterly, Margot. **Hidden Figures**. (nonfiction) We know about the white men who first orbited the earth and walked on the moon, but what about the Black women who helped them get there? Read about four African American women who worked as human computers during the height of the space race. Read the original or the young reader's edition. (Watch the 2016 movie starring Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer, and Janelle Monáe.)

Murphy, Julie. **Dumplin'**. For Willowdean, a bikini-ready body is a body with a bikini on it. Yes, she's comfortable in her own skin. But when she meets perfect Bo, her confidence starts to waver. Is she actually going to enter the Miss Teen Blue Bonnet Pageant? Read and find out. (Watch the 2018 Netflix movie starring Jennifer Aniston.)

Skloot, Rebecca. **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks**. (nonfiction) The story of Henrietta Lacks and her cervical cancer cells. Extracted from her tumor without her knowledge or consent, these cells gave rise to one of the most important cell lines, known as HeLa, ever grown. Not only have they been instrumental in countless scientific breakthroughs, but a multi-billion-dollar industry emerged based on the sale of these cells to labs around the world. But who was Henrietta Lacks? (Watch the 2017 HBO movie starring Oprah Winfrey.)

Stevenson, Bryan. **Just Mercy: A True Story of the Fight for Justice**. (nonfiction) At age 23, Stevenson joined a pro bono legal defense team fighting a death penalty case in Georgia. Since then, he has fought dozens of similar cases, and today runs the Equal Justice Initiative, which opened a museum and

memorial honoring the legacy of Black people from slavery to lynching to segregation to mass incarceration. Stevenson illuminates a national crisis and calls on us all to work for justice. This is the YA adaptation of Stevenson's *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. (Watch the 2019 movie starring Michael B. Jordan, Jaime Foxx, and Brie Larson and the HBO documentary called *True Justice*.)

Stevenson, ND. *Nimona*. Lord Blackheart, a villain with a vendetta, and his sidekick, Nimona, an impulsive young shapeshifter, must prove to the kingdom that Sir Goldenloin and the Institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics aren't the heroes everyone thinks they are.

Walls, Jeannette. *The Glass Castle*. (memoir) Walls had an unusual childhood. Dysfunctional yet brilliant, her parents encouraged their four children to "fly under the radar" to avoid attracting attention to their bizarre lifestyle. Virtual nomads, they often did the "skedaddle" rather than pay rent or deal with authority. Amazing story. (Watch the 2017 movie with Brie Larson)

## Graphic Books

Abouet, Marguerite. *Akissi: Tales of Mischief*. A comic inspired by the author's childhood in the Ivory Coast. Funny, action-packed tales! **The Sequel:** *Akissi: Even More Tales of Mischief*.

Craft, Jerry. *New Kid*. Jordan's main interest is drawing cartoons about his life, but instead of sending him to an art school like he wants, his parents send him to an upscale private school where he's one of the only kids of color. Upside: he now has more material to draw cartoons about. Winner of this year's Newbery Medal.

Flowers, Ebony. *Hot Comb*. (graphic novel) Black women's hair is the common thread in this collection of coming-of-age stories that grapple with issues of race, class, and identity.

Gardner, Whitney. *Fake Blood*. Sixth-grader AJ knows the girl he likes is obsessed with vampires, so he decides to impress her by pretending to be one. Then he learns she's a vampire slayer in training. Fun, nuanced look at relationships and identity for middle schoolers.

Ha, Robin. *Almost American Girl*. In this gripping graphic memoir, the author recalls what it was like to move from South Korea to Alabama when she was 14 and her mom remarried. New school, new language, new stepfather. Can comics save her?

Hale, Nathan. *Apocalypse Taco*. Sid, Axl and Ivan dash out to get late-night snacks for the tech crew of the school play they're in. When they return, they find bizarre copies of themselves onstage. Turns out that at the taco place, they crossed into an alien dimension that is an almost exact replica of ours. Can they get back to their reality? Awesome, creepy weirdness from the author of the Hazardous Tales.

Jamieson, Victoria and Omar Mohamed. ***When Stars are Scattered***. Jamieson, the author of *Roller Girl* worked with Mohamed, who grew up in a refugee camp in Somalia and now works with refugees in the U.S., to tell Mohamed's story. There's tragedy, of course, but mixed with humor and family love.

Krosoczka, Jarrett. ***Hey, Kiddo***. (graphic novel) Jarrett's mother is an opioid addict; his father is not in the picture. He lives with his grandparents, who love him in their own imperfect way. This honest graphic memoir underscores how complicated life is and how kids are able to cope with so much more than they should have to.

Kushner, David. ***Rise of the Dungeon Master: Gary Gygax and the Creation of D&D***. (graphic novel) Gary Gygax was the co-creator of Dungeons & Dragons and this is the story of his life and the creation of the well-known game. The reader (you) gets to participate in the action as you take on the roles of different characters in the story—just like the game.

Lewis, John and Andrew Aydin. ***March: Books One, Two and Three***. Lewis, the civil rights pioneer, recounts his life's journey—from child of Alabama sharecroppers to congressional representative.

Leyh, Kat. ***Snapdragon***. Is Jacks a witch, like the rumors say, or just a strange old lady? Snap befriends Jacks and discovers strange magic within herself—and maybe the keys to solving a family mystery.

Libenson, Terri. ***Becoming Brianna***. Fourth book in the Emmie & Friends Series, about a group of friends and their intersecting lives. Here, shy Brianna takes center stage. **The Series:** ∞ *Invisible Emmie*, *Positively Izzy* and *Just Jaime*.

Loux, Matthew. ***The Time Museum, Volume 1***. Delia's uncle offers her a chance to compete for an internship at his museum. Yes, cool. But cooler: the museum exists outside of normal time, and the job involves time travel. **Sequel:** *The Time Museum, Volume 2*, Delia travels to France in 1778 but gets stuck in a time loop. Can she return to her own time?

Medina, Tony. Illustrated by Stacey Robinson & John Jennings. ***I Am Alfonso Jones***. (graphic novel) Fifteen-year-old Hamlet-loving actor Alfonso Jones is shopping with his crush when a white off-duty police officer mistakes a coat hanger for a gun and shoots him. We meet Alfonso in the afterlife, where he is guided by other victims of police brutality. The pain is palpable as we watch both Alfonso and his surviving family members grieve and fight for justice.

Miller, Kayla. ***Click***. Olive easily clicks with everyone in fifth grade—until kids start dividing up for a variety show at school, and things start to go wrong. Can her quirky Aunt Molly help her solve the problem? **Sequels:** ∞ *Camp* and *Act*.

Ostertag, Molly Knox. ***The Witch Boy***. In Asher's world, girls grow up to be witches and boys are raised to be shapeshifters. People who deviate are banished. But Asher, who's 13, is fascinated with witchcraft and hasn't begun to shapeshift. Can Asher be his true self? **Sequels:** *The Hidden Witch* and *The Midwinter*

*Witch.*

Palacio, R.J. ***White Bird***. Written and illustrated by the author of *Wonder*, a Jewish girl's experience in Nazi-occupied France during World War 2; the girl grows up to be the grandmother of the *Wonder* character Julian. Intense, with an anti-hate message.

Peirce Lincoln. ***Max and the Midknights***. From the creator of the Big Nate books comes this hilarious new series opener—set in the Middle Ages. Max is a lowly troubadour's apprentice who dreams of being a knight. Goofy adventures combined with heart.

Sfar, Joann. ***The Rabbi's Cat***. (graphic novel) In 1930s Algeria, a rabbi's cat eats a parrot and gains the ability to talk. Unfortunately for the rabbi, the cat has a highly developed wit, enjoys theological debates, and insists on having a bar mitzvah. Meanwhile, a young rabbi from Paris courts the rabbi's daughter, and the story takes us on an adventure through a time when Jewish, Arab, and French people mixed and the region was not yet embroiled in war.

Steinkellner, Emma. ***The Okay Witch***. Moth is an outcast obsessed with witches. Then she finds out she has powers herself—powers she inherited from her mother, who had never allowed herself to use magic. Funny and action packed.

Takei, George. (with Justin Eisinger, Steven Scott, and Harmony Becker) ***They Called us the Enemy***. (graphic novel) This is the story of when George Takei (he played Hikaru Sulu on Star Trek and is also an activist for social justice) and his family were imprisoned in an internment camp in the United States during World War II because of their Japanese heritage. Beautiful illustrations.

Terciero, Ray and Bre Indigo. ***Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy***. *Little Women*, with some twists: It's the story of a blended family living in modern-day New York City. One thing hasn't changed: the March sisters need each other.

Walden, Tillie. ***On a Sunbeam***. (graphic novel) Mia is part of a team of restorers tasked with traveling throughout space to repair old relics. All the restorers on board have a past, but Mia's includes Grace. A compelling combination of space travel and romance.

Wang, Jen. ***The Prince and the Dressmaker***. Prince Sebastian has a secret—he loves to wear dresses. He meets up with a young seamstress named Frances whose dream is to be a famous designer, and begins to appear in public in her designs as the fabulous Lady Crystallina. Fresh fairy tale of love and friendship.

Yang, Gene Luen. ***Dragon Hoops***. Graphic memoir by the author of *American Born Chinese* about the basketball team at the high school where he worked in California, weaving in the history of basketball, his own life as a Chinese American, drama and courage on the team, and more.

**Nonfiction** *From Serious to Fun*

Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem. ***Becoming Kareem: Growing Up On and Off the Court.*** Fascinating memoir by the basketball star and Civil Rights leader.

Beals, Melba Patillo. ***March Forward, Girl.*** Beals was one of the Little Rock Nine, the group of nine students who famously integrated Arkansas's Little Rock High School in 1957. Here she tells the story of her life leading up to that moment and what inspired her to become a fighter for justice.

Cunningham, Darryl. ***How to Fake a Moon Landing.*** Did the moon landing really happen? Is climate change real? How about evolution? An investigative journalism and MythBusters mashup on eight hot-button science topics.

Dionne, Evette. ***Lifting as we Climb: Black Women's Battle for the Ballot Box.*** The history of the suffrage movement in the United States is largely told as a battle fought by white women. Where were the Black women? They were there all right, but their stories and their battles have been left out in the retelling. Read this more complete history.

Gantos, Jack. ***Writing Radar: Using Your Journal to Snoop Out and Craft Great Stories.*** A fun guide to writing fiction using your everyday experiences as a jumping-off point, from a Newbery-winning author who did exactly that.

Gates, Henry Louis, Jr. with Tonya Bolden. ***Dark Sky Rising: Reconstruction and the Dawn of Jim Crow.*** (nonfiction) Do you want to know more about what happened at the end of the Civil War? Are you looking for more information about Reconstruction and Jim Crow Laws? This is your book.

Hartfield, Claire. ***A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riot of 1919.*** (nonfiction) About a hundred years ago, racial tensions in Chicago were already high when a white man stoned a Black teenager to death when he swam too close to the white beach of Lake Michigan. Days of violence ensued, leaving 38 people (Black and white) dead and hundreds wounded. This is the true story of that time, with personal narratives, historical detail, and photographs.

Hasak-Lowy, Todd. ***We Are Power: How Nonviolent Activism Changes the World.*** Learn about six leaders who used nonviolent resistance to bring about change. From Greta Thunberg to Caesar Chavez to Bayard Rustin, these stories of people you've heard of and some you haven't will inspire you.

Hoose, Phillip. ***Attucks!: Oscar Robertson and the Basketball Team that Awakened a City.*** (nonfiction) When Oscar Robertson led his Black high school's basketball team to two state championships, it not only destroyed the myth of white superiority, but it helped spark integration in the state of Indiana.

Kendi, Ibram X. and Jason Reynolds. ***Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You.*** How racism has grown up in our society and how you can battle it by being antiracist. Kendi wrote a version of this book for adults. Jason Reynolds (author of *Ghost* and other books you may know) helped him translate it for kids.

McTier, Moiya. ***The Milky Way: An Autobiography of our Galaxy***. The Milky Way speaks for itself! A witty, engaging, outof-this-world recounting of the history and future of the universe.

Newman, Aline Alexander and Gary Weitzman, DVM. ***How to Speak Cat: A Guide to Decoding Cat Language***. A writer and a vet explore the history of domestic cats, and explain what your feline friends are trying to tell you when do things like they purr, swish their tails, or launch themselves into the air like crazed lunatics.

Newman, Magdalena and Nathaniel Newman. ***Normal: One Kid's Extraordinary Journey***. (memoir) Nathaniel went swimming “normally” for the first time when he was thirteen (meaning he could put his head under the water and not worry about water flooding his trach tube and inhibiting his ability to breathe). Nathaniel was born with Treacher Collins Syndrome and needed a tracheostomy to breathe since he was a newborn. (BTW: Nathaniel was Palacio’s inspiration for the character of Auggie in the book *Wonder*.) This is the story of the yearlong process (which included a massive surgery) that enabled him to breathe without a trach.

Noah, Trevor. ***It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood***. The Daily Show host’s shocking yet hilarious tale of growing up under the legal system of racial segregation known as apartheid. In South Africa when he was a kid, he was literally against the law—because he had a Black mother and white father. Even so, Noah’s mother raised him to believe there were no barriers to achieving his dreams. (young readers’ version)

Rich, Kaelyn and Giulia Sagromola (illustrator). ***Girls Resist!: A Guide to Activism, Leadership, and Starting a Revolution***. (nonfiction) Your guide to activism, social, justice, and reform.

Sandler, Martin W. ***1919: The Year that Changed America***. (nonfiction) Sometimes history is hard to believe. Did you know there was a molasses flood in 1919? World War I had just ended, there was a pandemic, rampant racism, prohibition, and the women’s suffrage movement—to name just a few things going on. Winner of the 2019 National Book Award for Young People’s Literature.

Sheinkin, Steve. ***Undeclared: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team***. (nonfiction) The odds were stacked against Jim Thorpe. Sent to a school designed to erase his Native American culture, Thorpe joined a football team that challenged—and often defeated—some of the best schools of the day. He went on to win two Olympic gold medals and has often been called “the world’s greatest athlete.”

Soontornvat, Christina. ***All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys Soccer Team***. The suspenseful story of the 18-day rescue mission that saved 12 boys and their coach from the flooded Cave of the Sleeping Lady in Northern Thailand.

St. George, Judith. ***The Duel: The Parallel Lives of Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr***. Hamilton and Burr led shockingly similar lives—until their famous duel in which one would live and the other

die. If you know *Hamilton*, you know who's who! Fast and fascinating. (Digital library copy is the audiobook.)

Tack, Karen and Alan Richardson. ***Hello, Cupcake: Irresistibly Playful Creations Anyone Can Make.*** Impress (and feed) your friends with Van Gogh's Starry Night cupcakes, kids-in-sleeping-bag cupcakes, or cupcakes that look like spaghetti and meatballs but taste like...cupcake. Yum!

Telgemeier, Raina. ***Share Your Smile: Raina's Guide to Telling Your Own Story.*** The author of *Smile* and *Sisters*, describes how she creates her memoir-graphic novels, and gives you instructions about how to the same thing with your own stories.

Yellowhorn, Eldon and Kathy Lowinger. ***Turtle Island: The Story of North America's First People.*** There's a Native American myth that says North and Central America were built on a turtle's back. This compelling book, based on myths, archeological evidence, and oral history tells the often-overlooked history of Native people beginning thousands of years before Europeans arrived, and ending with modern times. Tragic, hopeful, and fascinating.

Yousafzai, Malala. ***I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World.*** Autobiography of the Pakistani girl who, under Taliban rule, spoke out and was shot in the head as punishment. Learn about her miraculous survival and her continuing work for human rights. Read this along with ***Amal Unbound*** by Aisha Saeed (in the fiction section of this list).

Zamora, Javier. ***Solito.*** The gripping story of Zamora's journey to the United States at age 9. The "trip," as his parents called it, was supposed to last two weeks. Instead, it lasted a grueling two months and included a desert crossing, thirst, hunger, and fear as he and other migrants followed a coyote who was paid to lead them to safety.

Zimet, Susan. ***Roses and Radicals: The Epic Story of How American Women Won the Right to Vote.*** It is just over the 100th anniversary of the passage of the amendment that gave women the vote. Read the exciting tale of how it happened.

## Read a Classic this Summer!

*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou

*Peter Pan* by J.M. Barrie

*The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie

*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

*Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier

*The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis

*The Call of the Wild* by Jack London

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

*Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery

*Dracula* by Bram Stoker

The Lord of the Rings series by J.R.R. Tolkien

*Around the World in 80 Days* by Jules Verne

*The War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells

*The Autobiography of Malcolm X* by Malcom X