



William Annin Middle School
Summer Book Suggestions 2015

For students entering 7th and 8th Grade
Deb Goetjen, Library Media Specialist



Explore, Learn, Discover - READ!

Explore new cultures and countries, solve a mystery, immerse yourself in a fantasy land, learn new skills AND enjoy a great story at the same time! Find something just right for YOU in this list of new/popular/classic books.

New Books/Great Stories/New Authors

Agosin, Marjorie

I Lived on Butterfly Hill (Pura Belpré Award)

Celeste Marconi is a dreamer [living] peacefully...in the idyllic town of Valparaiso, Chile—until the time comes when even Celeste, with her head in the clouds, can't deny the political unrest that is sweeping through the country. Warships are spotted in the harbor and schoolmates disappear from class without a word. Celeste doesn't quite know what is happening, but one thing is clear: no one is safe, not anymore. The country has been taken over by a government that declares artists, protestors, and anyone who helps the needy to be considered "subversive".... So Celeste's parents ...must go into hiding before they, too, "disappear." To protect their daughter, they send her to America. As Celeste adapts to her new life in Maine, she never stops dreaming of Chile. But even after democracy is restored to her home country, questions remain: Will her parents reemerge from hiding? Will she ever be truly safe again? (from the Publisher) *A deep, serious novel that will make you appreciate our freedom.*

Aveyard, Veronica

Red Queen

Mare Barrow's world is divided by blood—those with common, Red blood serve the Silver-blooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities. Mare is a Red, scraping by as a thief in a poor, rural village, until a twist of fate throws her in front of the Silver court. Before the king, princes, and all the nobles, she discovers she has an ability of her own. To cover up this impossibility, the king forces her to play the role of a lost Silver princess and betroths her to one of his own sons. As Mare is drawn further into the Silver world, she risks everything and uses her new position to help the Scarlet Guard—a growing Red rebellion—even as her heart tugs her in an impossible direction. One wrong move can lead to her death. (from the Publisher) *A new author with a dystopian fantasy for lovers of The Hunger Games!*

Birdsall, Jeanne

The Penderwicks in Spring (Penderwicks series)

Springtime is finally arriving on Gardam Street, and there are surprises in store for each member of the family. Some surprises are just wonderful, like neighbor Nick Geiger coming home from war. And some are ridiculous, like Batty's new dog-walking business. Batty is saving up money for an extra-special surprise for her family, which she plans to present on her upcoming birthday. But when some unwelcome surprises make themselves known, the best-laid plans fall apart. Filled with all the heart, hilarity, and charm that has come to define this beloved clan, *The Penderwicks in Spring* is about fun and family and friends (and dogs), and what happens when you bring what's hidden into the bright light of the spring sun. (from the Publisher) *If you loved the other Penderwick stories, you won't want to miss this one!*

Carter, Ally*All Fall Down (Embassy Row series)*

Grace Blakely is absolutely certain of three things: 1. She is not crazy. 2. Her mother was murdered. 3. Someday she is going to find the killer and make him pay. As certain as Grace is about these facts, nobody else believes her -- so there's no one she can completely trust. Not her grandfather, a powerful ambassador. Not her new friends, who all live on Embassy Row. Not Alexei, the Russian boy next door, who is keeping his eye on Grace for reasons she neither likes nor understands. Her past has come back to haunt her . . . and if she doesn't stop it, Grace isn't the only one who will get hurt. Because on Embassy Row, the countries of the world stand like dominoes, and one wrong move can make them all fall down. (from the Publisher) *Great mystery/thriller! Try her other series too!*

Cody, Matthew*Villainous*

In this sequel to *Powerless* and *Super*, the town of Noble's Green has been in the spotlight ever since 14-year-old Daniel Corrigan caused the event that led to hundreds of people waking up with their stolen superpowers returned to them. A new academy has been built to teach and train the children and teens with powers. Escalating acts of vandalism in the town turn public opinion against those with powers, and Daniel suspects there is something more sinister at work. Daniel and his friends are pitted against a new group of superpowered teens called "Nobles," but their old nemesis, Herman Plunkett, is also a suspect. (*School Library Journal*) *If you liked Powerless and Super, finish the story with Villainous!*

Davis, Mo'ne & Beard, Hillary *Mo'ne Davis: Remember My Name*

In August 2014, Mo'ne Davis became the first female pitcher to win a game in the Little League World Series and the first Little Leaguer to be featured on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*, and a month later she earned a place in the National Baseball Hall of Fame. She was thirteen years old. This inspiring memoir from a girl who learned to play baseball with the boys and rose to national stardom before beginning eighth grade will encourage young readers to reach for their dreams no matter the odds. (from the Publisher) *A great story of determination and hard work paying off!*

Draper, Sharon*Stella By Starlight*

Stella lives in the segregated South—in Bumblebee, North Carolina, to be exact about it. Some stores she can go into. Some stores she can't. Some folks are right pleasant. Others are a lot less so. To Stella, it sort of evens out, and heck, the Klan hasn't bothered them for years. But one late night, later than she should ever be up, much less wandering around outside, Stella and her little brother see something they're never supposed to see, something that is the first flicker of change to come, unwelcome change by any stretch of the imagination. As Stella's community—her world—is upended, she decides to fight fire with fire. And she learns that ashes don't necessarily signify an end. (from the Publisher) *A moving story about the plight of African Americans in the Depression-era South.*

Galanti, Donna*Joshua and the Lightning Road*

Joshua's grandpa has always warned him about the dangers of lightning. Then one night, when Joshua and his best friend are home alone during a frightful storm, Joshua learns his grandpa was right. A bolt of lightning strikes his house and whisks away his best friend—possibly forever. To get him back, Joshua must travel the Lightning Road to a dark place that steals children for energy. Joshua must face the terrifying Child Collector. In this world, Joshua possesses powers he never knew he had, and soon, Joshua's mission becomes more (from the Publisher) *This first book from an author who visited William Annin this year is a great fantasy adventure!*

Gemeinhart, Dan*The Honest Truth*

In all the ways that matter, Mark is a normal kid. He's got a dog named Beau and a best friend, Jessie. He likes to take photos and write haiku poems in his notebook. He dreams of climbing a mountain one day. But in one important way, Mark is not like other kids at all. Mark is sick. The kind of sick that means hospitals. And treatments. The kind of sick some people never get better from. So Mark runs away. He leaves home with his camera, his notebook, his dog, and a plan to reach the top of Mount Rainier--even if it's the last thing he ever does... a rare and extraordinary novel about big questions, small moments, and the incredible journey of the human spirit. (from the Publisher) *You won't be able to put this book down...guaranteed!*

Grabenstein, Chris*Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library*

Kyle Keeley is the class clown, popular with most kids, (if not the teachers), and an ardent fan of all games: board games, word games, and particularly video games. His hero, Luigi Lemoncello, the most notorious and creative gamemaker in the world, just so happens to be the genius behind the building of the new town library. Lucky Kyle wins a coveted spot to be one of the first 12 kids in the library for an overnight of fun, food, and lots and lots of games. But when morning comes, the doors remain locked. Kyle and the other winners must solve every clue and every secret puzzle to find the hidden escape route. And the stakes are very high. (from the Publisher) *A zany, exciting mystery adventure!*

Graff, Lisa*Absolutely Almost*

Albie has never been the smartest kid in his class. He has never been the tallest. Or the best at gym. Or the greatest artist. Or the most musical. In fact, Albie has a long list of the things he's not very good at. But then Albie gets a new nanny, Calista, who helps him figure out all of the things he *is* good at and how he can take pride in himself. (from the Publisher) *Uplifting and inspiring – fans of Wonder and Rules will enjoy this story!*

Hahn, Mary Downing*Where I Belong*

No one is kind to sixth-grader Brendan Doyle: his foster mother, his teachers, his classmates, and especially the thugs who bully him in summer school. He takes refuge in books, drawing, carving, and daydreaming. When Brendan stumbles upon an old man near his tree house in the Virginia woods, he is quick to believe that this is the magical Green Man, guardian spirit of the forest. Brendan's need to immerse himself in a [Tolkien-like] fantasy world becomes more acute, until he meets a girl [Shea] with secrets of her own who may just keep his feet on the ground. (from the Publisher) *Not one of Hahn's ghost stories, but a great story you will remember long after reading.*

Johnson, Terry Lynn*Ice Dogs*

Victoria Secord, a 14-year-old dog musher, has been struggling in the year since her father died. Her relationship with her mother is falling apart and her best source of comfort is the dog team that once belonged to her father. While out on a run with the animals, she finds and rescues an injured city boy, but after getting lost in a blizzard they both need rescuing. With the survival skills she learned from her father, Victoria must lead them all to safety. (*School Library Journal*, Feb 1, 2014) *An icy adventure story!*

McCarthy, Cori*Breaking Sky*

Teen pilots fight for the cause in a dystopian future. Despite her checkered past, Chase Harcourt has become one of the top pilots in the United Star Academy. Going by the call sign "Nyx," Chase and her team are piloting the Streakers, a new aircraft that may be America's last hope in ending the Second Cold War. While out on a routine training exercise, Chase sees something that should be impossible: a Streaker with enemy markings. Even though her superiors and commanding officers call her crazy, Chase has no choice but to find out what exactly she saw, even if it means breaking every rule in the book (from Kirkus Review) **Action-packed, sci-fi adventure!**

Nielson, Susan*We Are All Made of Molecules*

Award-winning author Susin Nielsen has created two narrators who will steal your heart and make you laugh out loud. Thirteen-year-old Stewart is academically brilliant but socially clueless. Fourteen-year-old Ashley is the undisputed "It" girl in her class, but her grades stink. Their worlds are about to collide when Stewart and his dad move in with Ashley and her mom. Stewart is trying to be 89.9 percent happy about it, but Ashley is 110 percent horrified. She already has to hide the real reason her dad moved out; "Spewart" could further threaten her position at the top of the social ladder. They are complete opposites. And yet, they have one thing in common: they--like everyone else--are made of molecules. (from the Publisher).

Humorous but moving story with great characters!

Patterson, James*Maximum Ride Forever (Maximum Ride series)*

Legions of Max fans won't be disappointed by this encore episode in the beloved series about the incredible adventures of a teenage girl who can fly. As Maximum Ride boldly navigates a post-apocalyptic world, she and her broken flock are roaming the earth, searching for answers to what happened. All will be revealed in this last spectacular "ride"- a brand-new grand finale featuring all of the nonstop action, twists and turns that readers can rely on in a blockbuster Patterson page-turner! (from the Publisher) **A must read for Maximum Ride fans!**

Rex, Adam*The True Meaning of Smekday and Smek For President*

Where does one begin when asked to write a five-page essay on the meaning of Smekday? If you are 11-year-old Gratuity Tucci, you begin prior to the arrival of the aliens, before your mother started receiving cryptic messages through a mole in the back of her neck, and before all Americans are forced to move to reservations in Florida to make room for the influx of an alien race known as the Boov. In a rebellious snit, Tip decides to drive her mother's car to Florida, rather than take the Boov rocketpods, and finds herself caught up in a most outlandish road trip with her cat, Pig, and her very own renegade Boov, J.Lo, for company. (*School Library Journal*) **This is a fast-paced adventure with a whip-smart protagonist [and] a lovable and resourceful extraterrestrial! This series was the basis for the recent movie, Home.**

Rivera, Mariano*The Closer (Young Reader Edition)*

Mariano Rivera never dreamed of becoming a professional athlete. He didn't grow up collecting baseball cards, playing Little League, or cheering on his home team at the World Series. He had never heard of Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, or Mickey Mantle. One day, that all changed. From a childhood playing pickup games in Panama to an epic career with the New York Yankees, Mariano's rise to greatness has been anything but ordinary. He's the guy on the mound who doesn't hear the crowd, just the sound of the ump calling, *Strike!* The teammate you can rely on, even when the bases are loaded in the bottom of the ninth. Whether you know him as Mo or as the Sandman, Mariano is The Closer, and this is his story. (from the Publisher) **Baseball fans will love this book!**

Ryan, Pam Munoz*Echo*

Lost and alone in a forbidden forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Decades later, Friedrich in [Nazi] Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania [during the Great Depression], and Ivy in California [during WWII] each, in turn, become interwoven when the very same harmonica lands in their lives. All the children face daunting challenges: rescuing a father, protecting a brother, holding a family together. And ultimately, pulled by the invisible thread of destiny, their suspenseful solo stories converge in an orchestral crescendo. (from the Publisher) *Mixing history, fantasy, magic and mystery, Ryan has written a story you will never forget!*

Sees, L.A.*Nebula*

Ree Lindbergh's dream since she was a little girl is a simple one: to one day travel to Earth. Instead, she's stuck aboard the *Omega Centauri*, a spacecraft used to patrol the borders of the Milky Way. Having spent her entire seventeen-year existence on board, Ree is a bit restless. But her mission is important: help keep Earth's newly discovered alien species, the Bufoanthroid, under control. By day, Ree enjoys spending time with her best friend, Zac Walker. But when night falls, she is continually tormented by memories of her mother, killed by a Bufoanthroid the day Ree was born. Her world is turned upside down once again when Zac's ship disappears. Determined to rescue him, Ree embarks on a frantic mission to save him. As events unravel and secrets are revealed, Ree soon realizes that achieving her dreams will mean facing the truth behind her nightmares. (from the Publisher) *After Ms. Sees visited William Annin this year, we couldn't keep Nebula on the shelf! Great sci-fi story!*

Sheinkin, Steve*The Port Chicago 50*

An astonishing civil rights story from Newbery Honor winner Steve Sheinkin. On July 17, 1944, a massive explosion rocked the segregated Navy base at Port Chicago, CA, killing more than 300 sailors who were at the docks, critically injuring off-duty men in their bunks, and shattering windows up to a mile away. On August 9th, 244 men refused to go back to work until unsafe and unfair conditions at the docks were addressed. When the dust settled, fifty were charged with mutiny, facing decades in jail and even execution... a fascinating story of the prejudice that faced black men and women in America's armed forces during World War II. (from the Publisher) *Sheinkin makes history come alive in this remarkable book!*

Williams, Maiya*Middle School Cool*

Kaboom Academy, a new and alternative school for middle-grade kids, is chock-full of innovative methods of instruction and discipline that are soon to be tested on the middle-school students of Horsemouth, New Hampshire. Now, meet the class of Journalism 1A. These group of nine misfits are the staff of *The Daily Dynamite*, Kaboom Academy's quarterly newspaper. As their school year kicks off with a boom, literally, the students of Journalism 1A are about to discover what *really* goes on at Kaboom Academy and who's really in charge of this groundbreaking school for boys and girls who've fallen out of love with learning. (from the Publisher) *Amusing and lighthearted story!*

White, J.A.

The Thickety: A Path Begins (Book 1)

When Kara Westfall was five years old, her mother was convicted of the worst of all crimes: witchcraft. Years later, Kara and her little brother, Taff, are still shunned by the people of their village, who believe that nothing is more evil than magic...except, perhaps, the mysterious forest that covers nearly the entire island. It has many names, this place...But mostly it's called the Thickety. The villagers live in fear of the Thickety and the terrible creatures that live there. But when an unusual bird lures Kara into the forbidden forest, she discovers a strange book with unspeakable powers...A book that might have belonged to her mother. And that is just the beginning of the story. (from the Publisher) *Fans of Neil Gaiman will devour this book/series!*

Yousafzi, Malala

I Am Malala (Young Readers Edition)

Malala Yousafzai was only ten years old when the Taliban took control of her region. They said music was a crime. They said women weren't allowed to go to the market. They said girls couldn't go to school. Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes. So she fought for her right to be educated. And on October 9, 2012, she nearly lost her life for the cause: She was shot point-blank while riding the bus on her way home from school. No one expected her to survive. Now Malala is an international symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize winner. We hear firsthand the remarkable story of a girl who knew from a young age that she wanted to change the world -- and did. (from the Publisher) *An unforgettable and inspiring true story!*

Graphic Novels

Jamieson, Victoria

Roller Girl

For most of her twelve years, Astrid has done everything with her best friend Nicole. But after Astrid falls in love with roller derby and signs up for derby camp, Nicole decides to go to dance camp instead. And so begins the most difficult summer of Astrid's life as she struggles to keep up with the older girls at camp, hang on to the friend she feels slipping away, and cautiously embark on a new friendship. As the end of summer nears and her first roller derby bout (and junior high!) draws closer, Astrid realizes that maybe she *is* strong enough to handle the bout, a lost friendship, and middle school... in short, strong enough to be a roller girl.

Jolley, Dan

The Girl Who Owned A City

A mysterious virus has killed everyone over the age of 12. Lisa is foraging for supplies and bringing them home to her younger brother. When a local gang starts attacking kids for their supplies, Lisa brainstorms about how to protect what she has and how to recruit other kids on her street to form a better defense against the gangs. Eventually, she gathers the kids together, moves them into a local school, and calls the building the City of Glenbard. (from the Publisher) *Readers looking for a dystopian story in which young people need to step up and be their own heroes will enjoy this story!*

Jeffrey, Gary

Castles (Graphic Medieval History series)

Medieval history comes alive in this great series that combines the traditional book and graphic novel formats, and is designed to be fun and educational. In Castles, details about how these fortified structures are built and fascinating facts about their importance and demise are covered with in-depth illustrations and information boxes. (School Library Journal) *If you like medieval history, give this book a try!*

2015 Award Winning Books

John Newbery Medal

Most distinguished American children's book published in 2014

Coretta Scott King Award

Recognizing an African American author of outstanding books for children and young adults in 2014

Kwame, Alexander

The Crossover (Newbery Medal and Coretta Scott King Award)

"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family. (from the Publisher) *Unforgettable, fast-paced, sports story and more, in verse! You won't want to put this one down!*

Bell, Cece

El Deafo (Newbery Honor)

Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers! In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful--and very awkward--hearing aid. The Phonic Ear gives Cece the ability to hear--sometimes things she shouldn't--but also isolates her from her classmates. She really just wants to fit in and find a true friend, someone who appreciates her as she is. After some trouble, she is finally able to harness the power of the Phonic Ear and become "El Deafo, Listener for All." And more importantly, declare a place for herself in the world and find the friend she's longed for. (from the Publisher)

Woodson, Jacqueline

brown girl dreaming (Newbery Honor and Coretta Scott King Honor)

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become. (from the Publisher)

Schneider Family Award

Best book for teens that embodies the artistic expression of the disability experience

Martin, Ann M.

Rain, Reign

Rose Howard is obsessed with homonyms. She's thrilled that her own name is a homonym, and she purposely gave her dog Rain a name with two homonyms (Reign, Rein), which, according to Rose's rules of homonyms, is very special. Not everyone understands Rose's obsessions, her rules, and the other things that make her different - not her teachers, not other kids, and not her single father. When a storm hits their rural town, rivers overflow, the roads are flooded, and Rain goes missing. Rose's father shouldn't have let Rain out. Now Rose has to find her dog, even if it means leaving her routines and safe places to search. Hearts will break and spirits will soar for this powerful story, brilliantly told from Rose's point of view. (from the Publisher) *Fans of Wonder – read this!*

Garden State Teen Book 2015 Award Nominees (selected list)

Fiction

Freedman, Paula J.

My Basmati Bat Mitzvah

During the fall leading up to her bat mitzvah, Tara (Hindi for "star") Feinstein has a lot more than her Torah portion on her mind. Between Hebrew school and study sessions with the rabbi, there doesn't seem to be enough time to hang out with her best friend Ben-O--who might also be her boyfriend--and her other best friend, Rebecca, who's getting a little too cozy with the snotty Sheila Rosenberg. Not to mention working on her robotics project with the class clown Ryan Berger, or figuring out what to do with a priceless heirloom sari that she accidentally ruined. Amid all this drama, Tara considers how to balance her Indian and Jewish identities and what it means to have a bat mitzvah while questioning her faith. A sweet, lighthearted story of friendship with a touch of romance, this delightful debut novel is a classic coming-of-age story... with universal appeal. (from the Publisher, *School Library Journal*)

Kadohata, Cynthia

The Thing About Luck

Winner of the National Book Award for Young People's Literature - Summer knows that kouun means "good luck" in Japanese, and this year her family has none of it. Just when she thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong, an emergency whisks her parents away to Japan—right before harvest season. Summer and her little brother, Jaz, are left in the care of their grandparents, who come out of retirement in order to harvest wheat and help pay the bills. The thing about Obaachan and Jiichan is that they are old-fashioned and demanding, and between helping Obaachan cook for the workers, covering for her when her back pain worsens, and worrying about her lonely little brother, Summer just barely has time to notice the attentions of their boss's cute son. Having thoroughly disappointed her grandmother, Summer figures the bad luck must be finished—but then it gets worse. And when that happens, Summer has to figure out how to change it herself, even if it means further displeasing Obaachan. Because it might be the only way to save her family. (from the Publisher)

Keenan, Sheila

Dogs of War (graphic novel)

Three fictional stories, told in graphic novel format, about soldiers in World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War who were aided by combat dogs. Based on true stories, Donnie and his dog, Boots, are medics lost deep in the trenches of World War I, trying to find their platoon. Rescuers stationed in Greenland, Cooper and his dog, Loki, are sent to save a downed World War II pilot. The book ends with the compelling story of Lanford, a vet back from Vietnam suffering from flashbacks of his scout dog, Sheba. These relationships feel genuine and are well developed, showing the training process and the reliance each one had with the other in order to stay alive. By the end, readers will feel that these dogs were not just helpers, but true soldiers worthy of honor. (*School Library Journal*)

Sanderson, Brandon

Steelheart

This fun, fast-paced, futuristic science-fiction superhero story is the first in a projected series. When David was six, an unexplained explosion in the sky caused perpetual darkness and ordinary people to gain supernatural powers. These people became known as Epics. Two years later, in a bank in what was once Chicago, now called Newcago, David witnessed Steelheart, one of the most powerful Epics of all, murder his father. In the 10 years since his father's death, David has made it his mission to learn all he can about Epics. Everyone thinks they are invincible, but he knows otherwise. He knows that each one has a weakness, and he's seen Steelheart's. Steelheart can bleed. David intends to get his revenge. (*School Library Journal*)

Non Fiction: Grades 6-12

Carson, Mary Kay

Beyond The Solar System: Exploring Galaxies, Black Holes, Alien Planets, and More

Humans have gazed into the night sky for thousands of years and wondered, What are those twinkling lights? Though the sun, moon, and planets moved across the background of stars, the stars themselves appeared immovable, forever fixed in constellations. In addition to its engaging history, this book contains 21 hands-on projects to further explore the subjects discussed. Readers will build a three-dimensional representation of the constellation Orion, model the warping of space-time caused by a black hole, see how the universe expands using an inflating balloon, and construct a reflecting telescope out of a makeup mirror and a magnifying glass. (from the Publisher)

Newman, Aline Alexander

How To Speak Dog

Do you speak dog? *How to Speak Dog* is a fun, informative, and photographically driven book that helps kids understand what their dog is trying to tell them through body language and behavior. Readers young and old will respond to the irresistible call of the canine in this delightful book that will warm hearts and wag tails everywhere (from the Publisher)

Stone, Tanya Lee

Courage Has No Color : The True Story of The Triple Nickles : America's First Black Paratroopers

World War II is raging, and thousands of American soldiers are fighting overseas against the injustices brought on by Hitler. Back on the home front, discrimination against African Americans plays out as much on Main Street as in the military. Tanya Lee Stone examines the little-known history of the Triple Nickles, America's first black paratroopers, who fought in an attack on the American West by the Japanese. The 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, in the words of First Sergeant Walter Morris, "proved that the color of a man had nothing to do with his ability." (from the Publisher)

Rusch, Elizabeth

Eruption! Volcanoes and the Science of Saving Lives

"At 11:35 p.m., as Radio Armero played cheerful music, a towering wave of mud and rocks bulldozed through the village, roaring like a squadron of fighter jets." Twenty-three thousand people died in the 1985 eruption of Colombia's Nevado del Ruiz. Today, more than one billion people worldwide live in volcanic danger zones. In this riveting nonfiction book—filled with spectacular photographs and sidebars—Rusch reveals the perilous, adrenaline-fueled, life-saving work of an international volcano crisis team (VDAP) and the sleeping giants they study. (from the Publisher)

Take On Some Classics!

These books are classics or destined to be classics for a reason - even decades later, they are still wonderful stories that are enjoyed by readers today. Try one and see for yourself!

Armstrong, William H.

Souder (Newbery Medal winner)

Set in the Deep South, this Newbery Medal-winning novel tells the story of the great coon dog, Souder, and the poor sharecroppers who own him. During the difficult years of the nineteenth century South, an African-American boy and his poor family rarely have enough to eat. Each night, the boy's father takes their dog, Souder, out to look for food and the man grows more desperate by the day. When food suddenly appears on the table one morning, it seems like a blessing. But the sheriff and his deputies are not far behind. The ever-loyal Souder remains determined to help the family he loves as hard times bear down on them. (from the Publisher)

Baum, Frank L.

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

One of the true classics of American literature, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* has stirred the imagination of young and old alike for over four generations. Follow the adventures of young Dorothy Gale and her dog, Toto, as their Kansas house is swept away by a cyclone and they find themselves in a strange land called Oz. Here she meets the Munchkins and joins the Scarecrow, Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion on an unforgettable journey to the Emerald City, where lives the all-powered Wizard of Oz (from the Publisher)

London, Jack*The Call of the Wild*

Buck, a sturdy crossbreed canine (half St. Bernard, half Shepard), is a dog born to luxury and raised in a sheltered Californian home. But then he is kidnapped and sold to be a sled dog in the harsh and frozen Yukon Territory. Passed from master to master, Buck embarks on an extraordinary journey, proving his unbreakable spirit... First published in 1903, *The Call of the Wild* is regarded as Jack London's masterpiece... a tale about unbreakable spirit and the fight for survival in the frozen Alaskan Klondike. (from the Publisher)

North, Sterling*Rascal (Newbery Honor winner)*

Nothing's surprising in the North household, not even Sterling's new pet raccoon. Rascal is only a baby when Sterling brings him home, but soon the two are best friends, doing everything together--until the spring day when everything suddenly changes. *Rascal* is a heartwarming boyhood memoir that continues to find its way into the hearts of readers fifty years later. (from the Publisher)

Spyri, Johanna*Heidi*

Heidi, an orphan, builds a strong bond with her grandfather in the Swiss Alps, but after she is sent into town to attend school and be a friend to a wealthy man's daughter, who is restricted to a wheelchair, Heidi's health begins to fail as her desire to return to her home in the mountains increases. (from the Publisher)

Sewell, Anna*Black Beauty*

Come with Black Beauty on the journey of a lifetime. Told through the eyes of the stallion, follow Black Beauty from life on a country estate to the harsh streets of London as a cab horse. There's hardship and friendship, kindness and cruelty, but above all else, love. A memorable story, and a favorite for animal lovers of all ages. (from the Publisher)

Verne, Jules*Journey To The Center of the Earth*

What a stunning discovery: an old, coded note that actually contains directions for reaching the Earth's very core! And once he finds it, renowned geologist Professor Liedenbrock can't resist setting out with his 16-year-old nephew to go where only one man has gone before. Jules Verne takes young readers on one of the most incredible journeys ever imagined, from Iceland's frozen tundra far down into fantastic underground prehistoric worlds and back up again through the fires of an erupting volcano. (from the Publisher)

You are sure to find several great books from this list that you will enjoy reading this summer! Have a wonderful summer break – see you in September!