



William Annin Middle School
Summer Book Suggestions 2016

For students entering 6th, 7th, 8th Grade
Deb Goetjen, Library Media Specialist



Take a Journey - Read!

*"Books are the plane,
and the train,
and the road.*

*They are the destination
and the journey.*

They are home."

-Anna Quindlen

Find something just right for YOU in this list of new books, award winners and contemporary classics, and take a journey!

New Books/Great Stories/New Authors

FICTION:

Aveyard, Veronica

Glass Sword (sequel to Red Queen)

Mare Barrow's blood is red—the color of common folk—but her Silver ability, the power to control lightning, has turned her into a weapon that the royal court tries to control. The crown calls her an impossibility, a fake, but as she makes her escape from Maven, the prince—the friend—who betrayed her, Mare uncovers something startling: she is not the only one of her kind. Pursued by Maven, now a vindictive king, Mare sets out to find and recruit other Red-and-Silver fighters to join in the struggle against her oppressors. But Mare finds herself on a deadly path, at risk of becoming exactly the kind of monster she is trying to defeat. Will she shatter under the weight of the lives that are the cost of rebellion? Or have treachery and betrayal hardened her forever? *From the publisher (If you liked Hunger Games or Divergent, this book series is for you!)*

Avi

Old Wolf

In the computer game world of Bow Hunter—thirteen-year-old Casey's world—there are no deaths, just kills. In Nashoba's world—the wolf world—there have been no kills. For this is March, the Starving Time in the Iron Mountain region of Colorado, when wolves and ravens alike are desperate for food. With the help of a raven, the miraculous Merla, Nashoba must lead his pack of eight to their next meal. The wolf hates being dependent on a mere bird, but Merla is a bird wise beyond her years. When Casey's path crosses Nashoba's, the worlds of two very different hunters collide. *From the publisher. (A great adventure story from a great storyteller)*

Baptiste, Tracey

The Jumbies

Corinne La Mer isn't afraid of anything. She knows that jumbies aren't real; they're just creatures parents make up to frighten their children. But on All Hallows' Eve, Corinne chases an agouti all the way into the forbidden woods. Those shining yellow eyes that follow her to the edge of the trees, they couldn't belong to a jumbie. Or could they? Corinne begins to notice odd occurrences after that night. First she spots a beautiful stranger speaking to the town witch at the market. Then this same beauty, called Severine, turns up at Corinne's house, cooking dinner for her father. Danger is in the air. Sure

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enough, bewitching Corinne's father is the first step in Severine's plan to claim the entire island for the jumbies. Corinne must call on her courage and her friends and ancient magic to stop Severine and to save her island home. *From the publisher (Ms. Baptiste visited WAMS Media Makers group this year!)*

Bauer, Joan

Soar

Jeremiah is the world's biggest baseball fan. He really loves baseball and he knows just about everything there is to know about his favorite sport. So when he's told he can't play baseball following an operation on his heart, Jeremiah decides he'll do the next best thing and become a coach. Hillcrest, where Jeremiah and his father Walt have just moved, is a town known for its championship baseball team. But Jeremiah finds the town caught up in a scandal and about ready to give up on baseball. It's up to Jeremiah and his can-do spirit to get the town - and the team - back in the game. Full of humor, heart, and baseball lore, *Soar* is Joan Bauer at her best. *From the publisher (Try some of Bauer's other books as well - great storyteller with characters you grow to love!)*

Bell, Cece

El Deafo

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 (Last year's Newbery Honor book - a graphic novel and a great read!)*

Boyce, Frank Cottrell

The Astounding Broccoli Boy

Rory Rooney likes to be prepared for anything. That sort of planning pays off when you're the smallest kid in your class. Rory is even prepared (mostly) for Tommy-Lee, his nemesis, who starts most days by throwing Rory out of the back of the school bus. Don't be scared, his favorite book says, be prepared. And Rory aims to be. What's more heroic than that? But Rory isn't prepared when he suddenly and inexplicably turns green and finds himself stuck in an experimental hospital ward. The doctors are just as baffled as Rory is, and that's when he begins to wonder: What if this isn't caused by his genes, or a virus, or something he ate? What if it's something even more extraordinary? After all, more than a few superheroes' careers began when they turned green. Could this be a sign that he's meant for something greater? Rory is going to find out—and that's going to start with escaping from the hospital. *(From the publisher) (From the bestselling author of Millions and Cosmic - this is another hilarious, heartbreaking, and completely original middle grade novel.)*

Brown, Gavin

Josh Baxter Levels Up

Josh Baxter is sick and tired of hitting the reset button. It's not easy being the new kid for the third time in two years. One mistake and now the middle school football star is out to get him. And Josh's sister keeps offering him lame advice about how to make friends, as if he needs her help finding allies! Josh knows that his best bet is to keep his head down and stay under the radar. If no one notices him, nothing can touch him, right? But when Josh's mom sees his terrible grades and takes away his video games, it's clear his strategy has failed. Josh needs a new plan, or he'll never make it to the next level, let alone the next grade. It's time to play to win. *(From the publisher) (For the video game players out there!)*

Carter, Ally***All Fall Down, See How They Run (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. In *See How They Run*, the twists get twistier and the turns get even more shocking in this second thrilling installment of the Embassy Row series. *(From the publisher) (Thrilling mystery series! Try Carter's other series too.)*

Clare, Cassandra***Lady Midnight (The Dark Artifices series)***

The first novel in Cassandra Clare's newest series, *The Dark Artifices*, a sequel to the internationally bestselling *Mortal Instruments* series starring the Shadowhunters characters. It's been five years since the events of *City of Heavenly Fire* that brought the Shadowhunters to the brink of oblivion. Emma Carstairs is no longer a child in mourning, but a young woman bent on discovering what killed her parents and avenging her losses. Together with her parabatai Julian Blackthorn, Emma must learn to trust her head and her heart as she investigates a demonic plot that stretches across Los Angeles, from the Sunset Strip to the enchanted sea that pounds the beaches of Santa Monica. If only her heart didn't lead her in treacherous directions... *(From the publisher) (For fans of the Mortal Instruments series!)*

Condie, Allie***Summerlost***

Sometimes it takes a new friend to bring you home. It's the first real summer since the accident that killed Cedar's father and younger brother, Ben. Cedar and what's left of her family are returning to the town of Iron Creek for the summer. They're just settling into their new house when a boy named Leo, dressed in costume, rides by on his bike. Intrigued, Cedar follows him to the renowned Summerlost theatre festival. Soon, she not only has a new friend in Leo and a job working concessions at the festival, she finds herself surrounded by mystery. The mystery of the tragic, too-short life of the Hollywood actress who haunts the halls of Summerlost. And the mystery of the strange gifts that keep appearing for Cedar. *Summerlost* is the touching new novel from Ally Condie, the international bestselling author of the *Matched* series, that highlights the strength of family and personal resilience in the face of tragedy. *(From the publisher) (Different genre for Condie but full of great characters and a heartwarming story)*

Connor, Leslie***All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook***

Eleven-year-old Perry was born and raised by his mom at the Blue River Co-ed Correctional Facility in tiny Surprise, Nebraska. His mom is a resident on Cell Block C, and so far Warden Daugherty has made it possible for them to be together. That is, until a new district attorney discovers the truth—and Perry is removed from the facility and forced into a foster home. When Perry moves to the "outside" world, he feels trapped. Desperate to be reunited with his mom, Perry goes on a quest for answers about her past crime. As he gets closer to the truth, he will discover that love makes people resilient no matter where they come from . . . but can he find a way to tell everyone what home truly means? *From the publisher (For fans of Wonder or When You Reach Me or just fans of a great story with characters you care about.)*

Hale, Shannon ***The Forgotten Sisters (companion to Princess Academy series)***

After a year at the king's palace, Miri has learned all about being a proper princess. But the tables turn when the student must become the teacher! Instead of returning to her beloved Mount Eskel, Miri is ordered to journey to a distant swamp and start a princess academy for three sisters, cousins of the royal family. Unfortunately, Astrid, Felissa, and Sus are more interested in hunting and fishing than becoming princesses. As Miri spends more time with the sisters, she realizes the king and queen's interest in them hides a long-buried secret. She must rely on her own strength and intelligence to unravel the mystery, protect the girls, complete her assignment, and finally make her way home. *From the publisher (Fans of Princess Academy will love returning to this series)*

Kibuishi, Kazu ***The Stonekeeper (Book 1 of the Amulet series)***

Kibuishi creates a world of terrible, man-eating demons, a mechanical rabbit, a giant robot---and two ordinary children on a life-or-death mission. After the tragic death of their father, Emily and Navin move with their mother to the home of her deceased great-grandfather, but the strange house proves to be dangerous. Before long, a sinister creature lures the kids' mom through a door in the basement. Em and Navin, desperate not to lose her, follow her into an underground world inhabited by demons, robots, and talking animals. Eventually, they enlist the help of a small mechanical rabbit named Miskit. Together with Miskit, they face the most terrifying monster of all, and Em finally has the chance to save someone she loves. *From the publisher (Kibuishi's graphic novels are a big hit for middle grades!)*

Korman, Gordon ***Masterminds, and Criminal Destiny (Masterminds series)***

Eli Frieden lives in the most perfect town in the world: Serenity, New Mexico. Honesty and integrity are valued above all else. The thirty kids who live there never lie—they know it's a short leap from that to the awful problems of other, less fortunate places. Eli has never left Serenity . . . why would he ever want to? Then one day, he bikes to the edge of the city limits and something so crazy and unexpected happens, it changes everything. Eli convinces his friends to help him investigate further, and soon it becomes clear that nothing is as it seems in Serenity. The clues mount to reveal a shocking discovery, connecting their ideal crime-free community to some of the greatest criminal masterminds ever known. The kids realize they can trust no one—least of all their own parents. *From the publisher ("A terrific page-turner, full of unexpected twists and revelations. Buckle up."—James Patterson)*

Lupica, Mike ***Fast Break***

Forced to live on his own after his mom dies and her boyfriend abandons him, 12-year-old Jayson does whatever it takes to get by. He will do anything to avoid the foster care system. Besides, his real home has always been the beat-up basketball court behind the projects in the North Carolina hills, and his family has always been his friends and teammates. He manages to get away with his deception until the day he gets caught stealing a new pair of basketball sneakers. Game over. Within a day a social worker places him with a family from the other side of town, the Lawtons. New home, new school, new teammates. Jayson, at first, is combative, testing the Lawtons' patience at every turn. He wants out, yet the Lawtons refuse to take the bait. But not everyone in Jayson's new life is so ready to trust him--and even Jayson's old friends give him a hard time now that he's attending a school full of rich kids. It's on Jayson to believe that he deserves a better life than the one he once had. The ultimate prize if he can? A trip to play in the state finals at Cameron Indoor Stadium--home to the Duke Blue Devils and launching pad to his dream of playing big time college ball. Getting there will be a journey that reaches far beyond the basketball court. *(Try some of Lupica's many other sports novels too!)*

Matson, Stacey

A Year in the Life of a Complete and Total Genius

Arthur Bean is a genius-it's just that no one else realizes this quite yet. He's going to be a world-famous author, and the first step is to win this year's story-writing contest. What he writes is pretty funny, but it gets him into trouble too. Like with his English teacher. And the school newspaper advisor. And cool girl Kennedy. And Arthur's number one nemesis, Robbie Zack. But all great authors spark controversy, so Arthur's not too concerned. Through letters, email exchanges, "SEE ME" notes and doodles, enter the funny, touching, and often mixed-up mind of Arthur Bean, creative genius. *From the publisher (For fans of Patterson's I Funniest series)*

McAllister, Cameron

The Tin Snail

Get ready for a wild ride with this classic and fun World War II adventure about a boy who helps invent a car the Nazis would love to get their hands on! Thirteen-year-old Angelo knows that his father's job is in jeopardy. Only one thing can save it: inventing a car the world has never seen before. On vacation in the French countryside, Angelo gets an idea. So far, cars have only been made for the rich. Someone should create a car for everyday working people. Angelo thinks he's up to the challenge! But testing it won't be easy--especially when war is declared and he finds out the Nazis are planning to steal his design! This funny adventure will have you speeding through the pages. So buckle up and enjoy the wild ride! *From the publisher (Based on the true story of the Citroen 2CV car.)*

Park, Linda Sue

Forest of Wonders (Wing & Claw series)

Raffa Santana has always loved the mysterious Forest of Wonders. For a gifted young apothecary like him, every leaf could unleash a kind of magic. When an injured bat crashes into his life, Raffa invents a cure from a rare crimson vine that he finds deep in the Forest. His remedy saves the animal but also transforms it into something much more than an ordinary bat, with far-reaching consequences. Raffa's experiments lead him away from home to the forbidding city of Gilden, where troubling discoveries make him question whether exciting botanical inventions—including his own—might actually threaten the very creatures of the Forest he wants to protect. The first book in an enchanting trilogy, *Forest of Wonders* richly explores the links between magic and botany, family and duty, environment and home. *From the publisher (Award winning author of many historical novels, Park's first fantasy novel shows she can write in any genre!)*

Patterson, James and Grabenstein, Chris ***Treasure Hunters***

The Kidd siblings have grown up diving down to shipwrecks and traveling the world, helping their famous parents recover everything from swords to gold doubloons from the bottom of the ocean. But after their parents disappear on the job, the kids are suddenly thrust into the biggest treasure hunt of their lives. They'll have to work together to defeat dangerous pirates and dodge the hot pursuit of an evil treasure hunting rival, all while following cryptic clues to unravel the mystery of what really happened to their parents--and find out if they're still alive. *From the publisher (The first book in the series - A fun and fast-paced ride!)*

Paulsen, Gary

Field Trip (sequel to Road Trip)

Ben has been invited to try out for a special hockey academy. But Dad wants Ben to catch up to the school field trip instead. So Ben, Dad, and their dogs, Atticus and Conor, jump into their truck. Ben concocts a secret plan to make the tryout, but Atticus and Conor are on to him. Ben and Dad's road trip turns into a wacky adventure full of new friends and surprises. *From the publisher (If you enjoyed Road Trip, continue with Ben on his next adventure!)*

Pennypacker, Sara

Pax

The story of a powerful relationship between a boy and his fox, *Pax* is destined to become a classic. Pax and Peter have been inseparable ever since Peter rescued him as a kit. But one day, the unimaginable happens: Peter's dad enlists in the military and makes him return the fox to the wild. At his grandfather's house, three hundred miles away from home, Peter knows he isn't where he should be—with Pax. He strikes out on his own despite the encroaching war, spurred by love, loyalty, and grief, to be reunited with his fox. Meanwhile Pax, steadfastly waiting for his boy, embarks on adventures and discoveries of his own. . . . *From the publisher (Heartwrenching and tenderly hopeful - grab the tissues for this one!)*

Riordan, Rick

The Hidden Oracle (Book 1 of The Trials of Apollo)

How do you punish an immortal? By making him human. After angering his father Zeus, the god Apollo is cast down from Olympus. Weak and disoriented, he lands in New York City as a regular teenage boy. Now, without his godly powers, the four-thousand-year-old deity must learn to survive in the modern world until he can somehow find a way to regain Zeus's favor. But Apollo has many enemies—gods, monsters, and mortals who would love to see the former Olympian permanently destroyed. Apollo needs help, and he can think of only one place to go . . . an enclave of modern demigods known as Camp Half-Blood. *From the publisher (For fans of Riordan's previous series, enjoy a return to your favorite camp - Camp Half-Blood.)*

Sepetys, Ruth

Salt to the Sea

Inspired by the real-life tragedy that was the sinking of the Wilhelm Gustloff--the greatest maritime disaster in history, and told in alternating points of view, this is the story of three Prussian refugees fleeing their country during WWII and boarding the Wilhelm Gustloff to freedom. Forced by circumstance to unite, the three find their strength, courage, and trust in each other tested with each step closer to safety. Just when it seems freedom is within their grasp, tragedy strikes. Not country, nor culture, nor status matter as all ten thousand people aboard must fight for the same thing: survival. *From the publisher (Another of Sepetys' well researched, historically gripping novels of the tragedies of war. A challenging but worthwhile read.)*

Taylor, Thomas

Haunters

Does history have a ghost of a chance? Eddie, Adam, David. Three boys, three generations, one gift: the ability to travel through time. Through a portal of dreams, they can appear as ghosts, wherever and whenever they want. The first boy, Eddie, is the genius who has sworn to protect the past and carry on the dreamwalker's code. The second, Adam, is a haunter, a dream-terrorist, dead-set on changing history for his own nefarious ends. The third, David, is the "newbie" who must fight for the future by keeping the other two apart! Can he surf the time warps, back and forth between 1940s London and today, to save the present from oblivion? *From the publisher (Sci-Fi lovers will enjoy this story!)*

Yang, Gene Luen

Secret Coders

Gene Luen Yang, high school computer programming teacher and National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, has written the first book in a projected graphic novel mystery series where coding is the key to solving the mystery. Welcome to Stately Academy, a school which is just crawling with mysteries to be solved! The founder of the school left many clues and puzzles to challenge his enterprising students. Using their wits and their growing prowess with coding, Hopper and her friend Eni are going to solve the mystery of Stately Academy no matter what it takes! *From the publisher (A sure hit for readers who like coding!)*

2016 Award Winning Books

John Newbery Medal

Most distinguished American children's book published in 2015

Brubaker Bradley, Kimberly

***The War That Saved My Life* (Newbery Honor)**

An exceptionally moving story of triumph against all odds set during World War II. Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. When her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute--she sneaks out to join him. So begins a new adventure for Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take in the two kids. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan--and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie. But in the end, will their bond be enough to hold them together through wartime? Or will Ada and her brother fall back into the cruel hands of their mother? *From the publisher (A classic in the making!)*

Ryan, Pam Munoz

***Echo* (Newbery Honor)**

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!)*

Jamieson, Victoria

***Roller Girl* (Newbery Honor)**

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. *From the publisher (Great story in a graphic novel!)*

Coretta Scott King Award

Recognizing an African American author of outstanding books for children and young adults in 2015

Williams-Garcia, Rita

Gone Crazy in Alabama

Newbery Honor winner and New York Times bestselling author Rita Williams-Garcia tells the story of the Gaither sisters, who are about to learn what it's like to be fish out of water as they travel from the streets of Brooklyn to the rural South for the summer of a lifetime. Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern are off to Alabama to visit their grandmother, Big Ma, and her mother, Ma Charles. Across the way lives Ma Charles's half sister, Miss Trotter. The two half sisters haven't spoken in years. As Delphine hears about her family history, she uncovers the surprising truth that's been keeping the sisters apart. But when tragedy strikes, Delphine discovers that the bonds of family run deeper than she ever knew possible. From the publisher *(Powerful and humorous, this companion to the award-winning One Crazy Summer and P.S. Be Eleven will be enjoyed by fans of the first two books as well as by readers meeting these memorable sisters for the first time.)*

Pura Belpre (Author) Award

Engle, Margarita

Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings, A Memoir

In this poetic memoir, Margarita Engle tells of growing up as a child of two cultures during the Cold War. Margarita is a girl from two worlds. Her heart lies in Cuba, her mother's tropical island country, a place so lush with vibrant life that it seems like a fairy tale kingdom. But most of the time she lives in Los Angeles, lonely in the noisy city and dreaming of the summers when she can take a plane through the enchanted air to her beloved island. Words and images are her constant companions, friendly and comforting when the children at school are not. Then a revolution breaks out in Cuba. Margarita fears for her far-away family. When the hostility between Cuba and the United States erupts at the Bay of Pigs Invasion, Margarita's worlds collide in the worst way possible. How can the two countries she loves hate each other so much? And will she ever get to visit her beautiful island again? *From the publisher (Moving and engaging story)*

Schneider Family Award

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

Mullaly Hunt, Lynda

Fish in a Tree

Ally doesn't fit in. She draws beautifully and can create movies in her mind, but she is often bullied and hides the fact that she cannot read. Now in her seventh school, she plans to pull the wool over the eyes of her sixth-grade teacher, as she has done with many other teachers in the past. But Mr. Daniels is different. He believes in Ally, insisting she is smart, and it's almost enough to make her want to try his different way of learning. Could she actually, possibly learn to read? Filled with a delightful range of quirky characters and told with tons of heart, the story also explores themes of family, friendship, and courage in its many forms. And while a girl with dyslexia may be the center of the book, it has something to offer for a wide-ranging audience. *Booklist (Hopeful, meaningful story.)*

2016 WAMS Summer Reading Suggestions-D. Goetjen

Garden State Teen Book 2017 Award Nominees

(selected list)

Fiction

Alexander, Kwame ***The Crossover***
(2015 Newbery Medal and Coretta Scott King Award winner)

"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- sequel Booked just released!)*

Donnelly, Jennifer ***Deep Blue***

Just when Sera, the heir to the throne of the underwater Mediterranean realm of Miromara, is basking in the success of perfectly performing the rites of ascendancy, her city is ambushed, her parents are killed, and she's on the run from powerful forces seeking to destroy much more than just her merpeople city. If that weren't enough, Sera's been having terrifyingly vivid dreams, which summon her and five other teenage mermaids to a mysterious coven of river witches in order to decipher an ancient prophesy and unlock their hidden powers. *Booklist (The author builds an alluring mermaid civilization and history which will continue in the Waterfire Saga.)*

Johnson, Varian ***The Great Greene Heist***

Saving the school - one con at a time. Jackson Greene has reformed. No, really he has. He became famous for the Shakedown at Shimmering Hills, and everyone still talks about the Blitz at the Fitz . . . But after the disaster of the Mid-Day PDA, he swore off scheming and conning for good. Then Keith Sinclair - loser of the Blitz - announces he's running for school president, against Jackson's *former* best friend Gaby de la Cruz. Gaby hasn't talked to Jackson since the PDA, and he knows she won't welcome his involvement. But he also knows Keith has "connections" to the principal, which could win him the election whatever the vote count. So Jackson assembles a crack team to ensure the election is done right: Hashemi Larijani, tech genius. Victor Cho, bankroll. Megan Feldman, science goddess and cheerleader. Charlie de la Cruz, point man. Together they devise a plan that will bring Keith down once and for all. Yet as Jackson draws closer to Gaby again, he realizes the election isn't the only thing he wants to win. *From the publisher (For fans of mystery and adventure with lots of plot twists!)*

Oppel, Kenneth ***The Boundless***

All aboard for an exciting tale of steam-powered automatons, a bloodthirsty sasquatch, colorful circuses, and magical paintings. Aspiring artist Will Everett knows he's not cut out to follow in the footsteps of his railroad manager father, but his pampered life leaves little opportunity for adventure. Then he boards *The Boundless*, the world's largest and most luxurious train. After acquiring the key to the railway owner's funeral car, Will is running for his life, pursued by deadly enemies who will do anything to possess the car's valuable contents. He is rescued by Mr. Dorian, ringmaster of the famed Zircus Dante, and an escape artist called The Miraculous Maren. These two performers, however, have their own secret agenda for helping Will. As *The Boundless* thunders toward its destination, Will must decide who to trust, if anyone. Along the way, Will is on the adventure of a lifetime. *School Library Journal (Oppel has combined an imaginative plot and cast of colorful, well-rounded characters, with nonstop action - this will be a favorite read!)*

Pinkney, Andrea Davis

The Red Pencil

"Amira, look at me," Muma insists. She collects both my hands in hers. "The Janjaweed attack without warning. If ever they come-- run."

Finally, Amira is twelve. Old enough to wear a toob, old enough for new responsibilities. And maybe old enough to go to school in Nyala-- Amira's one true dream. But life in her peaceful Sudanese village is shattered when the Janjaweed arrive. The terrifying attackers ravage the town and unleash unspeakable horrors. After she loses nearly everything, Amira needs to dig deep within herself to find the strength to make the long journey-- on foot-- to safety at a refugee camp. Her days are tough at the camp, until the gift of a simple red pencil opens her mind-- and all kinds of possibilities. *From the publisher (Award winning author, Pinkney's free verse writing will draw you in as well as the dramatic story.)*

Shusterman, Neal and Elfman, Eric ***Tesla's Attic (Book One of the Accelerati Trilogy)***

Fourteen-year-old Nick, his younger brother, and their father move into a ramshackle Victorian house they've inherited. After getting rid of the odd antiques found in his attic bedroom in a garage sale, Nick befriends some local kids--Mitch, Caitlin, and Vincent--and they discover that all of the objects have extraordinary properties...and the attic is a strange magnetic vortex, which attracts all sorts of trouble. It's as if the attic itself has an intelligence . . . and a purpose. Ultimately Nick learns that the genius Nikola Tesla placed the items--his last inventions--in the attic as part of a larger plan that he mathematically predicted. Nick and his new friends must retrieve everything that was sold at the garage sale and keep it safe...from a secret society of physicists, the Accelerati, determined to stop Nick and alter destiny to achieve its own devious ends. It's a lot for a guy to handle, especially when he'd much rather fly under the radar as the new kid in town. *From the publisher (Intrigue, action, humor, and nonstop surprises)*

Yelchin, Eugene

Arcady's Goal

For twelve-year-old Arcady, soccer is more than just a game. Sent to live in a children's home after his parents are declared enemies of the state, it is a means of survival, securing extra rations, respect, and protection. Ultimately, it proves to be his chance to leave when orphanage inspector, Ivan, sees Arcady play and decides to adopt him. But in Soviet Russia, second chances are few and far between. Will Arcady seize his opportunity and achieve his goal? Or will he miss his shot? *From the publisher (Writing about his home country, Yelchin was inspired by a photograph of the Red Army Soccer Club of 1945 - great story for sports and history fans!)*

Non Fiction: Grades 6-12

Dillon, Patrick and Biesty, Stephen

The Story of Buildings: From the Pyramids to the Sydney Opera House and Beyond

We spend most of our lives in buildings. We make our homes in them. We go to school in them. We work in them. But why and how did people start making buildings? How did they learn to make them stronger, bigger, and more comfortable? Why did they start to decorate them in different ways? From the pyramid erected so that an Egyptian pharaoh would last forever to the dramatic, machine-like Pompidou Center designed by two young architects, Patrick Dillon's stories of remarkable buildings — and the remarkable people who made them — celebrates the ingenuity of human creation. Stephen Biesty's extraordinarily detailed illustrations take us inside famous buildings throughout history and demonstrate just how these marvelous structures fit together. *From the publisher (Young architects and the curious will find this book irresistible!)*

Fleming, Candace

The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia

Here is the tumultuous, heartrending, true story of the Romanovs--at once an intimate portrait of Russia's last royal family and a gripping account of its undoing. Using captivating photos and compelling first person accounts, award-winning author Candace Fleming deftly maneuvers between the imperial family's extravagant lives and the plight of Russia's poor masses, making this an utterly mesmerizing read. *From the publisher (This book makes history endlessly fascinating and as absorbing as a fiction story!)*

Hale, Nathan

Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales: Treaties, Trenches, Mud, and Blood (A World War I Tale)

World War I set the tone for the 20th century and introduced a new type of warfare: global, mechanical, and brutal. Nathan Hale has gathered some of the most fascinating true-life tales from the war and given them his inimitable *Hazardous Tales* twist. Easy to understand, funny, informative, and lively, this series is the best way to be introduced to some of the most well-known battles (and little-known secrets) of the infamous war. *From the publisher (Makes history come alive in a way that is relevant to modern-day life and kids - check out Hale's other Hazardous Tales books too!)*

Riordan, Rick and Rocco, John

Percy Jackson's Greek Gods

"A publisher in New York asked me to write down what I know about the Greek gods, and I was like, Can we do this anonymously? Because I don't need the Olympians mad at me again. But if it helps you to know your Greek gods, and survive an encounter with them if they ever show up in your face, then I guess writing all this down will be my good deed for the week." So begins *Percy Jackson's Greek Gods*, in which the son of Poseidon adds his own magic--and sarcastic asides--to the classics. He explains how the world was created, then gives readers his personal take on a who's who of ancients, from Apollo to Zeus. Percy does not hold back. "If you like horror shows, blood baths, lying, stealing, backstabbing, and cannibalism, then read on, because it definitely was a Golden Age for all that." *From the publisher (Includes full-color illustrations by Caldecott Honoree John Rocco - stunning and entertaining.)*

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 (All baseball fans will love this book!)*

Scieszka, Jon and Murphy, Jim

Guys Read: True Stories

This fifth anthology in the *Guys Read* series stars some of the best-known names in informational writing today. From Sibert-winning Steve Sheinkin's gripping tale of survival in the Sahara desert to outdoorsman T. Edward Nickens' celebration of extreme canoeing, there are thrills, gore and humor. Within these pages, you will find high-interest stuff like jungle tarantulas of French Guiana; a pack of brothers in Saigon, Vietnam; Jumbo the elephant; gruesome historical dentistry; and Hugh Glass, mauled by a bear and left for dead in the wilds of what would become South Dakota—and each is explored in either narrative or graphic-novel fashion. But there are also topics not so high-octane: poems about science, a biography of a blues musician, and an autobiography of a cartoonist. *Booklist* (*Stories are selected, edited, and introduced by Scieszka, former National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, whose goal is to provide great stories to create a legion of boy readers!*)

Woodson, Jacqueline

Brown Girl Dreaming

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* (*Touching free verse story everyone should read!*)

Contemporary Classics

Today's children's and young adult authors were asked - Which contemporary books do you think will become classics in 20-50 years?

Here are just a few of the books they named.

Try one and see for yourself!

Almond, David

Skellig

Exploring a tumbling-down shed on the property his family has just bought, Michael finds Skellig, an ailing, mysterious being who is suffering from arthritis, but who still relishes Chinese food and brown ale. Michael also meets his neighbor Mina, a homeschooled girl. When she's not trying to open his eyes and ears to the world around him, she is spouting William Blake. As Michael begins nursing Skellig back to health, he realizes that there is something odd about his shoulders. Together, he and Mina move Skellig to a safe place, release the wings they find on his back from his jacket, and look after him until he eventually moves on. Throughout the story, readers share Michael's overriding concern for his infant sister, who is gravely ill. *School Library Journal, 1999*

Barrie, J.M.

Peter Pan

Peter Pan and Tinkerbell lead the three Darling children over the rooftops of London and away to Neverland - the island where the lost boys play. Magic and mischief is in the air but if villainous Captain Hook has his way, before long someone will be swimming with the crocodiles . . . *Booklist*

Gaiman, Neil

Coraline

In Coraline's family's new flat are twenty-one windows and fourteen doors. Thirteen of the doors open and close. The fourteenth is locked, and on the other side is only a brick wall, until the day Coraline unlocks the door to find a passage to another flat in another house just like her own. Only it's different. At first, things seem marvelous in the other flat. The food is better. The toy box is filled with wind-up angels that flutter around the bedroom, books whose pictures writhe and crawl and shimmer, little dinosaur skulls that chatter their teeth. But there's another mother, and another father, and they want Coraline to stay with them and be their little girl. They want to change her and never let her go. Other children are trapped there as well, lost souls behind the mirrors. Coraline is their only hope of rescue. She will have to fight with all her wits and all the tools she can find if she is to save the lost children, her ordinary life, and herself. *From the publisher*

Pullman, Philip

His Dark Materials Trilogy (The Golden Compass, The Subtle Knife, and The Amber Spyglass)

Lyra, apparently an orphan, lives among the scholars at Jordan College, Oxford. She becomes aware of a nefarious plot to steal children, including her best friend, and transport them to the far north. As Lyra is drawn deeper and deeper into this mystery, she finds that the children are being made to suffer terribly. What she does not--and must not--know is that she is the keystone in an ancient prophecy. Her destiny is to save her world and to move on into a parallel universe. She dives headlong into harrowing adventures, totally unaware of her importance. She also discovers the identity of her parents, who are major players in the unfolding drama. *School Library Journal, 1995*

Rowling, J.K.

Harry Potter series

Harry is a very special child; in fact, he is the only surviving member of a powerful magical family. His parents were killed by the evil Voldemort, who then mysteriously vanished, and the boy grew up completely ignorant of his own powers, until he received notification of his acceptance at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Once there, Harry's life changes dramatically. Hogwarts is exactly like a traditional British boarding school, except that the professors are all wizards and witches, ghosts roam the halls, and the surrounding woods are inhabited by unicorns and centaurs. There he makes good friends and terrible enemies. However, evil is lurking at the very heart of Hogwarts, and Harry and his friends must finally face the malevolent and powerful Voldemort, who is intent on taking over the world. *School Library Journal, 1998*

Sachar, Louis

Holes

Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnatses. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. There is no lake at Camp Green Lake. But there are an awful lot of holes. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake. The boys are digging holes because the warden is looking for something. But what could be buried under a dried-up lake? Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment--and redemption. *From the publisher, 2000*

Tolkien, J.R.R.

The Hobbit: Or There and Back Again

J.R.R. Tolkien's own description for the original edition of *The Hobbit*: "If you care for journeys there and back, out of the comfortable Western world, over the edge of the Wild, and home again, and can take an interest in a humble hero (blessed with a little wisdom and a little courage and considerable good luck), here is a record of such a journey and such a traveler. The period is the ancient time between the age of Faerie and the dominion of men, when the famous forest of Mirkwood was still standing, and the mountains were full of danger. In following the path of this humble adventurer, you will learn by the way (as he did) -- if you do not already know all about these things -- much about trolls, goblins, dwarves, and elves, and get some glimpses into the history and politics of a neglected but important period. For Mr. Bilbo Baggins visited various notable persons; conversed with the dragon, Smaug the Magnificent; and was present, rather unwillingly, at the Battle of the Five Armies. This is all the more remarkable, since he was a hobbit. Hobbits have hitherto been passed over in history and legend, perhaps because they as a rule preferred comfort to excitement. But this account, based on his personal memoirs, of the one exciting year in the otherwise quiet life of Mr. Baggins will give you a fair idea of the estimable people now (it is said) becoming rather rare. They do not like noise." *From the publisher*

Zusak, Markus

The Book Thief

Death himself narrates the World War II-era story of Liesel Meminger from the time she is taken, at age nine, to live in Molching, Germany, with a foster family in a working-class neighborhood of tough kids, acid-tongued mothers, and loving fathers who earn their living by the work of their hands. The child arrives having just stolen her first book--although she has not yet learned how to read--and her foster father uses it, *The Gravedigger's Handbook*, to lull her to sleep when she's roused by regular nightmares about her younger brother's death. Across the ensuing years of the late 1930s and into the 1940s, Liesel collects more stolen books as well as a peculiar set of friends: the boy Rudy, the Jewish refugee Max, the mayor's reclusive wife (who has a whole library from which she allows Liesel to steal). *This is a sophisticated but unforgettable story.*

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