



William Annin Middle School
Summer Book Suggestions 2017
For students entering 6th, 7th, 8th Grade
Deb Goetjen, Library Media Specialist



"A Book is a dream that you hold in your hand"
Neil Gaiman

Find something just right for YOU in this list of new books, award winners and all-time favorites!

New Books/Great Stories/New Authors

FICTION:

Aveyard, Veronica

***King's Cage* (third in the *Red Queen* series)**

Mare Barrow is a prisoner, powerless without her lightning, tormented by her lethal mistakes. She lives at the mercy of a boy she once loved, a boy made of lies and betrayal. Now a king, Maven Calore continues weaving his dead mother's web in an attempt to maintain control over his country—and his prisoner. As Mare bears the weight of Silent Stone in the palace, her once-ragtag band of newbloods and Reds continue organizing, training, and expanding. They prepare for war, no longer able to linger in the shadows. And Cal, the exiled prince with his own claim on Mare's heart, will stop at nothing to bring her back. *From the publisher (If you liked *Hunger Games* or *Divergent*, this book series is for you!)*

Blackwood, Sage

Miss Ellicott's School for the Magically Minded

A young heroine fights to save a world that would dare to tame her. Chantel would much rather focus on her magic than on curtsyng, which is why she often finds herself in trouble at Miss Ellicott's School for Magical Maidens. But when Miss Ellicott mysteriously disappears along with all the other sorceresses in the city, Chantel's behavior becomes the least of her problems. Without any magic protecting the city, it is up to Chantel and her friends to save the Kingdom. On a dangerous mission, Chantel will discover a crossbow-wielding boy, a dragon, and a new, fiery magic that burns inside her—but can she find the sorceresses and transform Lightning Pass into the city it was meant to be? *From the publisher (Perfect for fans of the *School for Good and Evil* series)*

Bryant, Howard

Legends: The Best Players, Games and Teams in Basketball

Fast-paced, adrenaline-filled, and brimming with out-of-this-world athleticism, basketball has won the hearts of fans all across America. Giants of the game like Steph Curry, LeBron, and Michael Jordan have transcended the sport to become cultural icons and role models to young fans. Featuring Top Ten Lists to chew on and debate, and a Top 40-style Timeline of Key Moments in Basketball History, this comprehensive collection includes the greatest dynasties, from the Bill Russell-era Celtics, to the Magic Johnson-led Lakers, to the Jordan-led Bulls, right up to the Tim Duncan-led Spurs. *(Perfect book for young fans who dream about stepping on an NBA court)*

Carter, Ally

***Take the Key and Lock Her Up* (Embassy Row series)**

The final chapter of the Embassy Row series is as twisty-turny as its two predecessors. Now aware of the truth—that the true heir of the Adrian royal family survived—Grace is on the lam, hopping from Oklahoma to the streets of Paris and even to Russia. But she can't escape her new reality: that she and

her brother, Jamie, are among the living heirs to the throne. With Jamie out of commission, it's up to Grace to assume her role as princess or continue to risk death. *(Booklist)* ***(Thrilling mystery series! Try Carter's other series too.)***

Clare, Cassandra

Lord of Shadows (The Dark Artifices series)

In book 2, Emma Carstairs has finally avenged her parents. She thought she'd be at peace. But she is anything but calm. Torn between her desire for her parabatai Julian and her desire to protect him from the brutal consequences of parabatai relationships, she has begun dating his brother, Mark. But Mark has spent the past five years trapped in Faerie; can he ever truly be a Shadowhunter again? And the faerie courts are not silent. The Unseelie King is tired of the Cold Peace, and will no longer concede to the Shadowhunters' demands. Caught between the demands of faerie and the laws of the Clave, Emma, Julian, and Mark must find a way to come together to defend everything they hold dear—before it's too late. *From the publisher* ***(For fans of the Mortal Instruments series!)***

Cooper, Abby

Sticks & Stones

Ever since she was a baby, the words people use to describe Elyse have instantly appeared on her arms and legs. At first it was just "cute" and "adorable," but as she's gotten older and kids have gotten meaner, words like "loser" and "pathetic" appear, and those words bubble up and itch. And then there are words like "interesting," which she's not really sure how to feel about. Now, at age twelve, she's starting middle school, and just when her friends who used to accept and protect her are drifting away, she receives an anonymous note saying "I know who you are, and I know what you're dealing with. I want to help." As Elyse works to solve the mystery of who is sending her these notes, she also finds new ways to accept who she is and to become her best self. *From the publisher* ***(Fans of Palacio's Wonder will love the characters and story!)***

Creech, Sharon

Moo

When Reena, her little brother, Luke, and their parents first move to Maine, Reena doesn't know what to expect. She's ready for beaches, blueberries, and all the lobster she can eat. Instead, her parents "volunteer" Reena and Luke to work for an eccentric neighbor named Mrs. Falala, who has a pig named Paulie, a cat named China, a snake named Edna—and that stubborn cow, Zora. This heartwarming story, told in a blend of poetry and prose, reveals the bonds that emerge when we let others into our lives. *From the publisher* ***(Another great Sharon Creech novel!)***

Dashner, James

The Eye of Minds (Mortality Doctrine series)

Michael is a gamer and spends more time on the VirtNet than in the actual world. The VirtNet is addictive. Thanks to technology, anyone with enough money can experience fantasy worlds, risk their life without the chance of death, or just hang around with Virt-friends. And the more hacking skills you have, the more fun. But some rules were made for a reason. Some technology is too dangerous to fool with. And recent reports claim that one gamer is going beyond what any gamer has done before: he's holding players hostage inside the VirtNet. The government knows that to catch a hacker, you need a hacker. And they've been watching Michael. They want him on their team. But the risk is enormous. If he accepts their challenge, Michael will need to go off the VirtNet grid. There are back alleys and corners in the system human eyes have never seen and predators he can't even fathom—and there's the possibility that the line between game and reality will be blurred forever. ***(A gripping page-turner!)***

DiCamillo, Kate

Raymie Nightingale

Raymie Clarke has come to realize that everything depends on her. And she has a plan. If Raymie can win the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition, then her father will see Raymie's picture in the paper and (maybe) come home. To win, not only does Raymie have to do good deeds and learn how to twirl a baton; she also has to contend with the wispy, frequently fainting Louisiana Elefante, who has a show-business background, and the fiery, stubborn Beverly Tapinski, who's determined to sabotage the

contest. But as the competition approaches, loneliness, loss, and unanswerable questions draw the three girls into an unlikely friendship — and challenge each of them to come to the rescue in unexpected ways. *From the publisher (A moving, masterful story of an unforgettable summer friendship)*

Gibbs, Stuart

Spy Case

Ben Ripley, a 12-year-old math genius, receives a mysterious summons to join the Academy of Espionage, a secret recruitment arm of the CIA. Since his life's ambition is to become a spy, he is thrilled by the offer, but his first day is hardly what he expected. It involves ninjas, flying bullets, and Erica, the most beautiful girl he has ever seen. A fellow student asks him to hack into the computer mainframe for him because the rumor mill says that Ben has great cryptography skills. Later that night another agent breaks into his room to kidnap him. It turns out someone keeps leaking sensitive information, and Ben's recruitment was set up strictly as a ploy to find the mole; he is a perfect target for the organization of rogue double agents that has infiltrated the school. Most of the adults are so inept and clueless that Ben and Erica, with the help of their fellow students, save the school from being destroyed by a giant bomb hidden in a secret passageway. *(Twists and turns in the plot keep readers guessing until the very end - very popular series!)*

Hernandez, Laurie

I Got This: To Gold and Beyond

At sixteen years old, Laurie Hernandez has already made many of her dreams come true—and yet it's only the beginning for this highly accomplished athlete. A Latina Jersey girl, Laurie saw her life take a dramatic turn last summer when she was chosen to be a part of the 2016 US Olympic gymnastics team. After winning gold in Rio as part of the Final Five, Laurie also earned an individual silver medal for her performance on the balance beam. Nicknamed "the Human Emoji" for her wide-eyed and animated expressions, Laurie continued to dance her way into everyone's hearts while competing on the hit reality TV show *Dancing with the Stars*, where she was the youngest-ever winner of the Mirrorball Trophy. Laurie Hernandez shares details about her life, covering her childhood, training, family, success, and more. *(An inspiring story about a New Jersey girl!)*

Kadohata, Cynthia

Half A World Away

Eleven-year-old Jaden is adopted, and he knows he's an "epic fail." That's why his family wants to adopt a new baby—to replace him, he's sure. He is incapable of stopping his stealing, hoarding, lighting fires, aggressive running, and obsession with electricity. He knows his parents love him, but he feels...nothing. They get to Kazakhstan, it turns out the infant they've travelled for has already been adopted, and are faced with having to immediately choose from six other babies. While his parents agonize, Jaden is more interested in a little guy named Dimash, already three years old and barely able to speak, Dimash will soon age out of the orphanage, and then his life will be as hopeless as Jaden feels now. For the first time in his life, Jaden actually feels something that isn't pure blinding fury, and there's no way to control it, or its power. *From the publisher (A beautiful story of love and acceptance.)*

Korman, Gordon

Slacker

When eighth-grader Cameron Boxer creates the Positive Action Group at school he intends it as a diversion to fool his parents, teachers, and sister into letting him continue to concentrate on his video-gaming—but before he knows it other kids are taking it seriously, and soon he finds himself president of the P.A.G., and involved in community service, so the boy who never cared about anything is now the center of everything, whether he likes it or not. *From the publisher (Korman is back-and raising slacking off to a level of high art!)*

Lupica, Mike

True Legend

There's a reason teammates call him "True." Because for basketball phenom Drew Robinson, there is

nothing more true than his talent on the court. It's the kind that comes along once in a generation and is loaded with perks--and with problems. Before long, True buys into his own hype, much to the chagrin of his mother, who wants to keep her boy's head grounded--and suddenly trouble has a way of finding him. That is, until a washed-up former playground legend steps back onto the court and takes True under his wing. *(Another of Lupica's many inspiring stories!)*

Mass, Wendy

The Candymakers

Four children have been chosen to compete in a national competition to find the tastiest confection in the country. Who will invent a candy more delicious than the Oozing Crunchorama or the Neon Lightning Chew? Logan, the Candymaker's son, who can detect the color of chocolate by touch alone? Miles, the boy who is allergic to merry-go-rounds and the color pink? Daisy, the cheerful girl who can lift a fifty-pound lump of taffy like it's a feather? Or Philip, the suit-and-tie wearing boy who's always scribbling in a secret notebook? *(This sweet, charming, and cleverly crafted story, told from each contestant's perspective, is filled with mystery, friendship, and juicy revelations.)*

Morrison, Megan

Disenchanted: The Trials of Cinderella

Ella Coach has one wish: revolution. Her mother died working in a sweatshop, and Ella wants every laborer in the Blue Kingdom to receive fairer treatment. But to make that happen, she'll need some high-level support... Prince Dash Charming has one wish: evolution. The Charming Curse forced generations of Charming men to lie, cheat, and break hearts - but with the witch Envearia's death, the curse has ended. Now Dash wants to be a better person, but he doesn't know where to start... Serge can grant any wish -and has: As an executive fairy godfather, he's catered to the wildest whims of spoiled teenagers from the richest, most entitled families in Blue. But now a new name has come up on his list, someone nobody's ever heard of... Ella Coach. This is a story about three people who want something better and who together find the faith to change their worlds. *(It's "Cinderella," brilliantly reimagined, and a delightful expansion of the wonderful world of Tyme.)*

Nesbet, Anne

Cloud and Wallfish

Noah Keller has a pretty normal life, until his parents pick him up from school and head straight for the airport, telling him that his name isn't really Noah. And he can't even ask them why — because asking questions is against the newly instated rules. (Rule Number Two: Don't talk about serious things indoors, because Rule Number One: They will always be listening). As Noah—now "Jonah Brown"—and his parents head into East Berlin, the rules and secrets begin to pile up: Who, exactly, is listening — and why? When did his mother become fluent in so many languages? And what really happened to the parents of his only friend, Cloud-Claudia? From the publisher *(An intricately plotted novel full of espionage and intrigue, friendship and family)*

Peck, Richard

The Best Man

Archer Magill has one eye out in search of grown-up role models. Three of the best are his grandpa, his dad, and his uncle Paul, who is just plain great. These are the three he wants to be. Along the way he finds a fourth--Mr. McLeod, a teacher. Now here comes middle school.. Archer wonders how much change has to happen before his voice does. Then a really big one when he's the best man at the wedding of two of his role models. And more than a few insights about the bewildering world of adults, made by a boy on his way to being the best man he can be. *From the publisher (Pages ripple with laughter, but there's a teardrop here and there.)*

Pierce, Tamora

Alanna: First Adventure (Song of Lioness Quartet)

"From now on I'm Alan of Trebond, the younger twin. I'll be a knight." In a time when girls are forbidden to be warriors, Alanna of Trebond wants nothing more than to be a knight of the realm of Tortall. So she finds a way to switch places with her twin brother, Thom. Disguised as a boy, Alanna begins her

training as a page at the palace of King Roald. But the road to knighthood, as she discovers, is not an easy one. Alanna must master weapons, combat, and magic, as well as polite behavior, her temper, and even her own heart. Filled with swords and sorcery, adventure and intrigue, good and evil, Alanna's first adventure begins—one that will lead to the fulfillment of her dreams and make her a legend in the land. *(Pierce's fantasies are filled with independent, driven female characters.)*

Reynolds, Jason

Ghost

Ghost wants to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school track team, but his past is slowing him down in this first electrifying novel of a brand-new series from Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe Award-winning author Jason Reynolds. Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team—a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves. *From the publisher (Gritty, realistic story of divorce, disappointment and redemption)*

Riordan, Rick

The Dark Prophecy (Book 2 of The Trials of Apollo)

Zeus has punished his son Apollo—god of the sun, music, archery, poetry, and more—by casting him down to earth in the form of a gawky, acne-covered sixteen-year-old mortal named Lester. The only way Apollo can reclaim his rightful place on Mount Olympus is by restoring several Oracles that have gone dark. Come along for what promises to be a harrowing, hilarious, and haiku-filled ride! *From the publisher (For fans of Riordan's previous series, enjoy a return to your favorite camp - Camp Half-Blood.)*

Shevah, Emma

Dara Palmer's Major Drama

"The lead role of Maria in The Sound of Music goes to ..." I could practically hear her say "Dara Palmer." This was going to be my big break! But what really came out of my teacher's mouth was "Ella Moss-Daniels." My heart went huuuuggggggghhhht. Dara Palmer longs for stardom—but when she isn't cast in her middle school's production of The Sound of Music, she gets suspicious. It can't be because she's not the best. She was born to be a famous movie star. It must be because she's adopted from Cambodia and doesn't look like a typical fraulein (That's German for girl.) So irrepressible Dara comes up with a genius plan to shake up the school: write a play about her own life. Then she'll have to be the star. *(A heart-warming, diary style novel.)*

Stewart, Trenton Lee

The Secret Keepers

A magical watch, A string of secrets, A race against time. When Reuben discovers an extraordinary antique watch, he soon learns it has a secret power and his life takes an intriguing turn. At first he is thrilled with his new treasure, but as one secret leads to another, Reuben finds himself torn between his innately honest nature and the lure to be a hero. Now he is on a dangerous adventure—full of curious characters, treacherous traps, and hairsbreadth escapes—as he races to solve the mystery before it is too late. Even with fearless Penny, mighty Jack, and the wise Mrs. Genevieve on his side, can Reuben outwit and outmaneuver the sly villain called The Smoke and his devious defenders the Directions and save the city from a terrible fate? *(A heart-pounding, mystery adventure!)*

Velde, Vivian Vande

23 Minutes

By both society's measure and her own, fifteen-year-old Zoe Mahar is pretty much a loser. Then one day she ducks into Spencerport Savings and Loan simply to get out of the rain—and witnesses a bank robbery gone horrifyingly wrong. The good news is that Zoe has a unique ability: she can play back time and repeat events. But it's not an unlimited deal—she can only jump 23 minutes, and her first playback creates an even more disastrous outcome. Zoe has only 10 tries to get it right before this particular 23 minutes becomes irreversible. In the process of trying to become the heroine she doesn't

believe she can be, Zoe learns about herself and realizes that there is more to who she is than she thought. *From the publisher (A fascinating plot, fast-paced, emotional and suspenseful - will keep you on the edge of your seat!)*

Yang, Gene Luen

Secrets and Sequences (Book 3 in Secret Coders series)

Return to Stately Academy - no ordinary school: it was once home to an elite institute where teachers, students, and robots worked together to unravel the mysteries of coding. Hopper, Eni, and Josh won't rest until they've learned the whole story, but they aren't the only ones interested in the school's past. Principal Dean is hot on their trail, demanding that the coders turn over their most powerful robot. Dean may be a creep, but he's nothing compared to the guy who's really in charge: a green-skinned coding genius named Professor One-Zero. *From the publisher (A sure hit for readers who like coding!)*

2017 Award Winning Books

John Newbery Medal

Most distinguished American children's book published in 2016

Barnhill, Kelly

The Girl Who Drank the Moon

Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch in the Forest, Xan, is kind. She shares her home with a wise Swamp Monster and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon. Xan rescues the children and delivers them to welcoming families on the other side of the forest, nourishing the babies with starlight on the journey. One year, Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the ordinary child with extraordinary magic. As Luna's thirteenth birthday approaches, her magic begins to emerge--with dangerous consequences. *From the publisher (an epic coming-of-age fairy tale destined to be a modern classic)*

Gidwitz, Adam

The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog

In thirteenth-century France, peasant Jeanne has visions of the future; William, illegitimate son of a crusader knight and an African "Saracen," has supernatural strength; Jacob, a learned Jewish boy, has healing powers. Together they try to thwart King Louis's plan to burn all the Jewish texts in France. An exciting and hilarious medieval adventure from the bestselling author of *A Tale Dark and Grimm*. Beautifully illustrated throughout! *Horn Book Review (Masterful storytelling - won many awards this year!)*

Wolk, Lauren

Wolf Hollow

Growing up in the shadows cast by two world wars, Annabelle has lived a mostly quiet, steady life in her small Pennsylvania town. Until the day new student Betty Glengarry walks into her class. Betty quickly reveals herself to be cruel and manipulative, and while her bullying seems isolated at first, things quickly escalate, and reclusive World War I veteran Toby becomes a target of her attacks. While others have always seen Toby's strangeness, Annabelle knows only kindness. She will soon need to find the courage to stand as a lone voice of justice as tensions mount. *From the publisher (Wrenching story about a girl standing up to injustice and cruelty - has been compared to To Kill A Mockingbird)*

Coretta Scott King Award

Recognizing an African American author of outstanding books for children and young adults in 2016

Lewis, John

March: Book 3

This final book in the March trilogy concludes Lewis' first person account of major events in the Civil Rights movement. Lewis speaks "from the heart about moments of doubt and anguish," making important figures like Martin Luther King, Jr come to life. Compelling and insightful reading for those who enjoy learning about real life events from people who experienced it. *(Multi-award winning graphic novel helps you understand events of the civil rights era from an inside perspective!)*

Coretta Scott King Honor Award and Schneider Family Award

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

Reynolds, Jason

as brave as you

When 11-year-old worrywart Genie and his big brother, Ernie, leave Brooklyn and go to their grandparents' home in rural Virginia, it seems as though they have been dropped on another planet. The city boys are introduced to another way of life and to their blind grandfather, who goes to extreme lengths to conceal his disability. Their grandmother expects them to do chores and there is no Internet! A rich and rewarding coming-of-age story about family and courage, told with laugh-out-loud humor and a great deal of heart.

Pura Belpre (Author) Award

Gonzales, Raul, & Camper, Cathy ***Lowriders to the Center of the Earth***

The lovable trio from the acclaimed Lowriders in Space graphic novel series are back for a third adventure! Lupe Impala, Elirio Malaria, and El Chavo Octopus are living their dream at last. They're the proud owners of their very own garage. But when their beloved cat Genie goes missing, they need to do everything they can to find him. Little do they know the trail will lead them to the realm of Mictlantecuhtli, the Aztec god of the Underworld, who is keeping Genie prisoner! Cool Spanish phrases on every page, a glossary of terms, and an action-packed plot that sneaks in science as well as Aztec lore.

2018 Garden State Book Award Nominees

(selected list)

Fiction

Angleberger, Tom

The Rat with the Human Face

Lyle Hertzog and his friends Marilla and Dave are the Qwickpick Adventure Society, three kids who seek out adventure in their seemingly quiet hometown of Crickenburg. On the hunt for their next big adventure--something to top the Fountain of Poop, if that's even possible--the kids overhear a construction worker telling his buddies about a rat with a human face he saw in the basement of an old research facility. The decision is unanimous: the next adventure for the Qwickpick Society is on! But when their trip to find the rat doesn't go quite as expected, the trio gets in big trouble. Will the second adventure for the Qwickpick Society also be their last? *(Fans of Angleberger's Yoda series will love this new series!)*

Bertman, Jennifer Chambliss ***Book Scavenger (Book 1 in Book Scavenger series)***

For twelve-year-old Emily, the best thing about moving to San Francisco is that it's the home city of her literary idol: Garrison Griswold, book publisher and creator of the online sensation Book Scavenger (a game where books are hidden in cities all over the country and clues to find them are revealed through puzzles). Upon her arrival, however, Emily learns that Griswold has been attacked and is now in a coma, and no one knows anything about the epic new game he had been poised to launch. Then Emily and her new friend James discover an odd book, which they come to believe is from Griswold himself, and might contain the only copy of his mysterious new game. Racing against time, Emily and James rush from clue to clue, desperate to figure out the secret at the heart of Griswold's new game--before those who attacked Griswold come after them too. *(Fans of Grabenstein's Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library or Balliett's Chasing Vermeer will love this series!)*

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker

The War that Saved My Life

In Wil London, 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. So 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? *(Wonderful war time story that will tug at your heart!)*

Hayes, Christine

Mothman's Curse

Josie may live in the most haunted town in America, but the only strange thing she ever sees is the parade of oddball customers that comes through her family's auction house each week. But when she and her brothers discover a Polaroid camera that prints pictures of the ghost of local recluse John Goodrich, they are drawn into a mystery dating back over a hundred years. A desperate spirit, cursed jewelry, natural disasters, and the horrible specter of Mothman all weave in and out of the puzzle that Josie must solve to break the curse and save her own life. *(Spooky and action-packed!)*

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.*)

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

Law, Ingrid

Switch

Gypsy Beaumont has always been a whirly-twirly free spirit, so as her thirteenth birthday approaches, she hopes to get a magical ability that will let her fly, or dance up to the stars. Instead, she wakes up on her birthday with blurry vision . . . and starts seeing flashes of the future and past. But when Momma and Poppa announce that her very un-magical, downright mean Grandma Pat has Alzheimer's and is going to move in with them, Gypsy's savvy--along with her family's--suddenly becomes its opposite. Now it's savvy mayhem as Gypsy starts freezing time, and no one could have predicted what would happen on their trip to bring Grandma Pat home . . . not even Gypsy. (*Another heartwarming story about the magic of friendship and the power of family*)

Lord, Cynthia

A Handful of Stars

When Lily's blind dog, Lucky, slips his collar and runs away across the wide-open blueberry barrens of eastern Maine, it's Salma Santiago who manages to catch him. Salma, the daughter of migrant workers, is in the small town with her family for the blueberry-picking season. After their initial chance meeting, Salma and Lily bond over painting bee boxes for Lily's grandfather, and Salma's friendship transforms Lily's summer. But when Salma decides to run in the upcoming Blueberry Queen pageant, they'll have to face some tough truths about friendship and belonging. Should an outsider like Salma really participate in the pageant-and possibly win? (*A powerful story about prejudice and friendship*)

Sachar

Fuzzy Mud

Fifth grader Tamaya Dhilwaddi and seventh grader Marshall Walsh have been walking to and from Woodridge Academy together since elementary school. But their routine is disrupted when bully Chad Hilligas challenges Marshall to a fight. To avoid the conflict, Marshall takes a shortcut home through the off-limits woods. Tamaya, unaware of the reason for the detour, reluctantly follows. They soon get lost. And then they find trouble. Bigger trouble than anyone could ever have imagined - they discover what looks like fuzzy mud but is actually a substance with the potential to wreak havoc on the entire world. (*Blends elements of mystery, suspense, and school-day life into a taut environmental cautionary tale*)

Sloan, Holly Goldberg

Appleblossom the Possum

'Possums,' Mama says, 'are the true performers of the animal kingdom. And all the world's a stage.' Young Appleblossom, the smallest one in her family, needs to find the role that she was born to play. She may be tiny, but she's not timid, and when she accidentally falls down a chimney, she discovers that she's also daring and quite clever. She'll need to be- Inside the house are some of the monsters

her mama has warned her about - the ones called dogs and people! The curious Appleblossom, her faithful possum brothers (who launch a hilarious rescue mission), and even the lonely girl in the people's house are all about to discover new, amazing things about life, love, and how to act. *(With the right combination of humor and excitement, Sloan has written a sweet, animal story.)*

Winick, Judd

Hilo, The Boy Who Crashed to Earth

D.J. and his friend Gina are totally normal kids. But Hilo isn't! When a mysterious boy falls from the sky, friends D.J. and Gina must discover the secrets of his identity. Hilo doesn't know where he came from, or what he's doing on Earth. (Or why going to school in only your underwear is a BAD idea!) . . . But UH-OH, what if Hilo wasn't the only thing to fall to our planet? Can the trio unlock the secrets of Hilo's past? Can Hilo SURVIVE a day at school? Find out in HILLO-a laugh-out-loud, epic story of friendship! Adventure! (And the occasionally mutant robot ant). *(Hilarious and action-packed!)*

Non Fiction: Grades 6-12 (selected list)

Aldrin, Buzz

Welcome to Mars: Making a Home on the Red Planet

Space is still the final frontier, and Mars continues to make news and attract generations of young people. In this fascinating book, hero-astronaut Buzz Aldrin challenges curious kids to think about Mars as not just a faraway red planet but as a possible future home for Earthlings! What will your new home be like? How will you get there? What will you eat for breakfast? Find out what life might be like far, far from Earth as you navigate your way through this fun and fascinating book. What kid wouldn't want to blast off with him on this (literary) journey!

Collard, Sneed B.

Fire Birds: Valuing Natural Wildfires and Burned Forests

Award-winning science author Sneed B. Collard III challenges society's negative views toward natural forest fires. By focusing on the research of biologist Richard Hutto, Collard reveals the complex relationships between fire and thriving plant and animal communities. The book especially focuses on the heavy use of burned forests by dozens of bird species and debunks the idea that burned forests are worthless wastelands. Besides delivering a powerful environmental message, *Fire Birds* couldn't be more timely. With record numbers of acres burning every year, pressure to suppress wildfires and "salvage log" burned forests has never been greater.

Lewis, J. Patrick & Kenn Nesbitt

Bigfoot is Missing!

Children's Poets Laureate J. Patrick Lewis and Kenn Nesbitt team up to offer a smart, stealthy tour of the creatures of shadowy myth and fearsome legend--the enticing, the humorous, and the strange. Bigfoot, the Mongolian Death Worm, and the Loch Ness Monster number among the many creatures lurking within these pages. Readers may have to look twice--the poems in this book are disguised as street signs, newspaper headlines, graffiti, milk cartons, and more!

Paschkis, Julie

Flutter and Hum: Animal Poems

All sorts of animals flutter and hum, dance and stretch, and slither and leap their way through this joyful collection of poems in English and Spanish. Julie Paschkis's poems and art sing in both languages, bringing out the beauty and playfulness of the animal world.

Silvey, Anita***Untamed: The Wild Life of Jane Goodall***

Jane Goodall, one of the most recognized scientists in the Western world, became internationally famous because of her ability to observe and connect with another species. A girl of humble beginnings and training, she made scientific breakthroughs thought impossible by more experienced field observers when she was only in her twenties. Then these animals shaped Jane's life. She began tirelessly fighting to protect the environment so that chimpanzees and other animals would continue to have a place and a future on our planet. Jane Goodall continues to leave the modern world with an extraordinary legacy and has changed the scientific community forever.

Stabler, David***Kid Athletes: True Tales of Childhood From Sports Legends***

Forget the gold medals, the championships, and the undefeated seasons. When all-star athletes were growing up, they had regular-kid problems just like you. Baseball legend Babe Ruth was such a troublemaker, his family sent him to reform school. Race car champion Danica Patrick fended off bullies who told her "girls can't drive." And football superstar Peyton Manning was forced to dance the tango in his school play. Kid Athletes tells all of their stories and more with full-color cartoon illustrations on every page. Other subjects include Billie Jean King, Jackie Robinson, Yao Ming, Gabby Douglas, Tiger Woods, Julie Krone, Bruce Lee, Muhammad Ali, Bobby Orr, Lionel Messi, and more!

Tavares, Matt***Growing Up Pedro***

Before Pedro Martinez pitched the Red Sox to a World Series championship, before he was named to the All-Star team eight times, before he won the Cy Young three times, he was a kid from a place called Manoguayabo in the Dominican Republic. Pedro loved baseball more than anything, and his older brother Ramon was the best pitcher he'd ever seen. He'd dream of the day he and his brother could play together in the major leagues—and here, Matt Tavares tells the story of how that dream came true.

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!