

East Orange School District

Summer Reading 2017

K-5



Includes Summer Required Reading Books
for

- Students entering Grade 1 in September
- Students entering Grade 2 in September
- Students entering Grade 3 in September
- Students entering Grade 4 in September
- Students entering Grade 5 in September

East Orange Board of Education

Mr. Bergson Leneus, President
Ms. Terry S. Tucker, Vice President
Dr. Kristie M. Howard
Mr. Cameron B. Jones, Sr.
Ms. Marjorie Perry
Ms. Joy B. Toliver, Esq.
Mr. Jenabu C. Williams, MPA

Central Office Administration

Dr. Kevin R. West, Superintendent
Mr. Victor Demming, School Business
Administrator
Dr. Deborah Harvest, Assistant Superintendent
for Operations
Dr. Dana Walker, Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum Services
Ms. Marissa McKenzie, Director of Labor
Relations and Employment Services

Elementary Central Office ELA Supervisor

Therese Bialkin
Supervisor of Language Arts/Literature K-5

**EAST ORANGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
DIVISION OF CURRICULUM SERVICES**

*Cicely L. Tyson Community School of Performing & Fine Arts
Middle/High School*

35 Winans Street – 2nd floor

East Orange, New Jersey 07017-1026

Phone (973) 266-3443 ext. 28257 Fax (973) 266-5964

<http://www.eastorange.k12.nj.us>

Board Members

Mr. Bergson Leneus, President
Mr. Jenabu C. Williams, MPA, Vice President
Dr. Kristie M. Howard
Mr. Cameron B. Jones, Sr.
Ms. Marjorie Perry
Ms. Joy B. Tolliver, Esq.
Ms. Terry S. Tucker

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Kevin R. West
kevin.west@eastorange.k12.nj.us

Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Dana E. Walker
dana.walker@eastorange.k12.nj.us

May, 2017

Dear Parents,

Again this year, our district elementary librarians have selected titles for the 2017 Summer Reading for your child or children to enjoy. Research has proven that the more students read, the more proficient they become in reading and writing. Reading during the summer allows children to have access to experiences that further their sense of discovery and helps prevent a loss of reading skills and strategies learned during the school year.

Attached you will find activities to be completed and returned to each student's newly assigned teacher in the fall. The required reading books and matching assignments are first. These are mandatory and will be collected in September. Next, you will find suggested books and a brief description to entice the reader.

The East Orange School District has provided the mandatory selection for each student to add to their personal home library. Additional books can be located in the East Orange Public Library and / or local bookstores. If however, you cannot locate these titles, feel free to select other books with your child that they find interesting.

This year, The National Library Council's theme is "Build a Better World". Many of the available books will help students think about how to make the world a better place for themselves and others both internally and externally.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together in helping your child to not only develop a love of reading, but the ability to think above and beyond to help us build a better world.

Your Partner in Education,

Dr. Dana Walker
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Services

c: Dr. Kevin West
Dr. Deborah Harvest

Summer Reading

Pre-K Rising to Kindergarten

***The Three Billy Goats Gruff* by Jerry Pinkney**

When the three billy goats Gruff are hungry, they see bountiful grass to eat across an old bridge. Unfortunately the bridge is home to a terrible troll, who is hungry and looking for a tasty morsel to gobble!

***Green* by Laura Vaccaro Seeger**

How many kinds of green are there? There's the lush green of a forest on a late spring day, the fresh, juicy green of a just-cut lime, the incandescent green of a firefly, and the vivid aquamarine of a tropical sea.

***All the World* by Liz Garton Scanlon**

Following a circle of family and friends through the course of a day from morning till night, this book affirms the importance of all things great and small in our world, from the tiniest shell on the beach, to warm family connections.

***When Sophie Gets Angry - Really, Really Angry* by Molly Bang**

Everybody gets angry sometimes. For children, anger can be very upsetting. Parents, teachers, and children can talk about it. People do lots of different things when they get angry. Learn what Sophie does when she gets angry. What do you do?

***The Neighborhood Mother Goose* by Nina Crews**

Enjoy a new, jazzy style for traditional nursery rhymes

***Duck on a Bike* by David Shannon**

One day down on the farm, Duck got a wild idea. "I bet I could ride a bike," he thought. He waddled over to where the boy parked his bike, climbed on and began to ride. At first he rode slowly and he wobbled a lot, but it was fun!



Required Summer Reading

Grade K Rising to Grade 1 in September

A Pet for Pete by James Dean



Pete the Cat can't wait to get a new pet! He gets a goldfish he names Goldie. Pete paints a cool painting of Goldie and now everyone wants a piece of it! But Pete doesn't have enough time to make one for everyone. Will Pete find a way to have fun painting Goldie and have time to finish his homework?

Activities

- Draw a picture of Pete and his Pet.
- Rewrite the story in your own words.
- Tell what happened first, next and last.

Additional Summer Reading

Grade K Rising to Grade 1 in September

***Swimmy* by Leo Lionni**

A small, black fish finds a way to protect a school of small, red fish from their natural enemies.

***Whistle for Willie* by Ezra Jacks Keats**

Peter tries so hard to whistle that his cheeks hurt, but he doesn't give up. He longs to whistle for his dog, Willie.

***The Ring Bearer* by Floyd Cooper**

Jackson's mama is getting married, and he gets to be the ring bearer. But Jackson is worried . . . What if he trips? Or walks too slowly? Or drops the rings? And what about his new stepsister, Sophie? She's supposed to be the flower girl, but Jackson's not sure she's taking her job as seriously as she should.



Required Summer Reading

Grade 1 Rising to Grade 2 in September

Frog and Toad Together by Arnold Lobel

Frog and Toad are the best of friends. They do things together. They help each other when things go wrong. They have cookies together. They read together. They even have heart-pounding adventures together. But mostly, they are the best of friends.

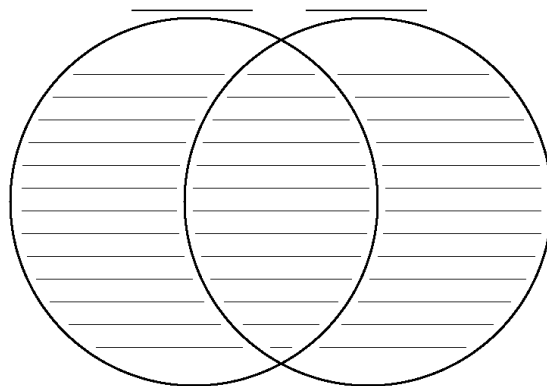


Activities

Use the Venn Diagram to compare and contrast frog and toad. How are they alike? How are they different?

You may make your own Venn Diagram, if you'd like. On the top left box write frog. On the top right, write toad. Within each circle describe how they are alike and how they are different. (See resources for a copy of the Venn Diagram.)

Name : _____ **Venn Diagram**



Math-Aids.Com

Short Writing Assignment

What would you plan to do if you could spend an entire day with Frog and Toad?

Include the following vocabulary words in your essay:

garden, seeds, afraid, squirmed, rescued, humongous.

Draw a picture that relates to your story.

HAVE FUN!

(Lined paper included in Resource Section.)



Additional Summer Reading

Grade 1- Rising to Grade 2

***Big Mama's* by Donald Crews**

Four African American children travel with their mother, and when the train arrives in Cottondale, Florida, the summer at Big Mama's house begins!

***When a Dragon Moves In* by Jodi Moore**

On a beautiful day at the beach, a young boy brings his bucket, shovel, and imagination, and builds a perfect sand castle. Right away, a dragon moves into the sand castle. The boy decides to befriend his dragon and they spend time roaming the shore, flying a kite, braving the waves, defying bullies, and roasting marshmallows—all while Dad is busy sunbathing and Mom is engrossed in her book. Unfortunately, no one believes the boy when he tries to share the news of this magnificent creature. That's when the mischief begins, and the dragon becomes a troubling force.

***Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt De La Pena**

Every Sunday after church, CJ and his grandma ride the bus across town. But today, CJ wonders why they don't own a car like his friend Colby. Why doesn't he have an iPod like the boys on the bus? How come they always have to get off in the dirty part of town? Each question is met with an encouraging answer from grandma, who helps him see the beauty—and fun—in their routine and the world around them.

***Players in Pigtails* by Shana Corey**

The story follows the athletic passions of Katie Casey, a girl who prefers “sliding to snowing, batting to baking, and home-runs to homecoming.”

***Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman**

Although a classmate says that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school play because she is black, Grace discovers that she can do anything she sets her mind to do.

***The Honest to Goodness Truth* by Patricia C. McKissack**

A young girl promises not to ever lie but then discovers that there are times that one actually should not tell the entire truth.

***Henry and Mudge* by Cynthia Rylant**

Henry, feeling lonely on a street without any other children, finds companionship and love in a big dog named Mudge.

***Do Not Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* by Mo Williams**

When a bus driver takes a break from his route, a very unlikely volunteer springs up to take his place—a pigeon! But this is a different kind of a bird. As he pleads, wheedles, and begs his way through the book, children will love being able to answer back and decide his fate.

***The Magic School Bus Gets Crabby* by Kristin Earhart**

Ms. Frizzle's class is on its way to a pool - a tide pool. The kids spot everything from seaweed to seashells. But then they run into some real crabs. It's time for a crash lesson in tide pool life, and the kids find out quick that it can be a real rush.

***Sonia Sotomayor* by Jonah Winter**

The story of Sonia Sotomayor's journey from a South Bronx childhood to U.S. Supreme Court Justice.



Required Summer Reading

Grade 2 Rising to Grade 3 in September

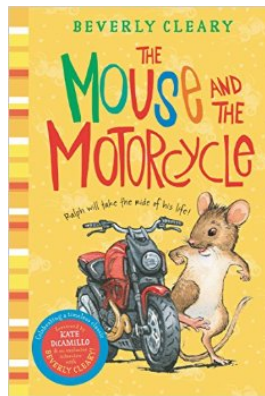
The Mouse and the Motorcycle by Beverly Cleary

Young Ralph lives in a knothole in room 215 of the Mountain View Inn. Keith and his parents check-in and they've brought something new; a toy motorcycle that's just the right size for an adventurous mouse.

Some higher level thinking vocabulary words that you will find in this story.

Croquet, antimacassar, momentum, predicament, cautiously, indignant, gesture, jauntily, anxious, oblivious, doubt, genuinely, eaves, pandemonium, scheme, peculiar, crucial, curious, staunchly, roused

Activities



Activity 1

Create an advertisement for the Mountain View Inn. Gather Information about the hotel from chapter 1. The ad should include a brief description of the hotel's best qualities and imaginary quotations from happy customers. Illustrate the ad with an appealing illustration of the hotel.

Activity 2

After completing the character web, write a short paragraph describing Ralph. Use evidence from the book that shows how these traits are related to what he says and how he behaves in the story.

Activity 3

WRITE YOUR OWN ENDING TO THE STORY

Look at the list of higher level thinking vocabulary words from the story *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*. Choose seven of these words and use them in a new ending for the story.



Additional Summer Reading

Grade 2- Rising to Grade 3

***One Green Apple* by Eve Bunting**

Farah is new to the United States and to her class. She feels alone until she goes on a field trip and realizes things are alike everywhere.

***Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek: A Tall, Thin Tale* by Deborah Hopkinson**

In Knob Creek, Kentucky, in 1816, a seven year old Abe Lincoln falls into a creek and is rescued by his best friend.

***Once Upon a Time* by Niki Daly-Farrar**

There is something worrying Sarie at school. Every time her teacher says, "Children, take out your reading books," Sarie feels sick. The letters in the book all run together, tripping her up so that she stumbles and falters, and the girls in the back always make fun of her. Only Sarie's old friend, Auntie Anna, seems to understand that letters and words can be difficult things to grasp. It is Auntie Anna, with the help of a book from her own daughter's childhood, who makes a unique Sunday ritual out of giving Sarie the help she needs, until the letters that were once her adversaries begin to seem friendly – just in time for Sarie to prove herself to the laughing girls at school.

***Testing Miss Malarkey* by Judy Finchler and Kevin O'Malley**

The new school year brings standardized testing to every school and Miss Malarkey's is no exception. Teachers, students, and even parents are preparing for THE TEST-The Instructional Performance Through Understanding (IPTU) test-and the school is in an uproar. Even though the grown-ups tell the children not to worry, they're acting kind of strange. The gym teacher is teaching stress-reducing yoga instead of sports in gym class. Parents are giving pop quizzes on bedtime stories at night. The cafeteria is serving "brain food" for lunch. The kids are beginning to think that maybe the test is more important than they're being led to believe. Kids and adults alike will laugh aloud as Finchler and O'Malley poke fun at the commotion surrounding standardized testing, a staple of every school's year.

***Encyclopedia Brown, Boy Detective (Encyclopedia Brown Series #1)* by Donald J. Sobol**

A Civil War sword ... a watermelon stabbing ... missing roller skates ... a trapeze artist's inheritance ... and an eyewitness who's legally blind! These are just some of the ten brain-twisting mysteries that Encyclopedia Brown must solve by using his famous computer-like brain. Try to crack the cases along with him -- answers to all the mysteries are found in the back of the book!

***Go Free or Die, A Story About Harriet Tubman* by Jerri Ferris**

A biography tells of Harriet Tubman tells of how her cruel experiences as a slave in the South led her to seek freedom in the North for herself and for others through the Underground Railroad.

***Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad* by Ellen Levine**

Henry Brown doesn't know how old he is. Nobody keeps records of slaves' birthdays. All the time he dreams about freedom, but that dream seems farther away than ever when he is torn from his family and put to work in a warehouse. Henry grows up and marries, but he is again devastated when his family is sold at the slave market. Then one day, as he lifts a crate at the warehouse, he knows exactly what he must do: He will mail himself to the North. After an arduous journey in the crate, Henry finally has a birthday -- his first day of freedom.

***Stellaluna* Janell Cannon**

While out searching for food, fruit bat Stellaluna and her mother are attacked by a vicious owl. Stellaluna is separated from Mother Bat and taken in by a family of birds where she must put aside her bat habits to fit in with her new family. Surprisingly, one fateful flight when she is separated from her adoptive siblings, Stellaluna is reunited with her bat family and learns that even though we're different, we're very much the same.

***Frindle* by Andrew Clements**

Is Nick Allen a troublemaker? He really just likes to liven things up at school -- and he's always had plenty of great ideas. When Nick learns some interesting information about how words are created, suddenly he's got the inspiration for his best plan ever...the frindle. Who says a pen has to be called a pen? Why not call it a frindle? Things begin innocently enough as Nick gets his friends to use the new word. Then other people in town start saying frindle.

***Summer Reading Is Killing Me* by Jon Scieszka**

Joe, Fred, and Sam have no idea why they've been transported to a playground. All they know is that there's a 250-pound chicken and it's headed straight for them. While Joe's racking his brains for the magic words to stop a charging chicken, he suddenly has a flash of what's going to happen next. It's exactly like the book he just read. Turns out Fred put their summer reading list inside The Book (the magic one, that is)—and now they're destined to spend their summer living stories that were only meant to be read.

***Thank You Mr. Falker* by Patricia Polacco**

Patricia Polacco is now one of America's most loved children's book creators, but once upon a time, she was a little girl named Trisha starting school. Trisha could paint and draw beautifully, but when she looked at words on a page, all she could see was jumble. It took a very special teacher to recognize little Trisha's dyslexia: Mr. Falker, who encouraged her to overcome her reading disability. Patricia Polacco will never forget him, and neither will we.



Required Summer Reading

Grade 3 Rising to Grade 4 in September

The BFG by Roald Dahl

The BFG is no ordinary bone-crunching giant. He is far too nice and jumbly. It's lucky for Sophie that he is. Had she been carried off in the middle of the night by the *Bloodbottler*, or any of the other giants—rather than the BFG—she would have soon become breakfast. When Sophie hears that the giants are *flush-bunking* off to England to *swollomp* a few nice little *chiddlers*, she decides she must stop them once and for all. And the BFG is going to help her!

Activities

Use a small notebook to complete your summer reading tasks after reading *The BFG*.

Activity 1

1. **Write a Summary.** A summary is a shortened version of a longer reading that tells the basic ideas for reading.
 - Keep your summary short.
 - Write about the main idea.
 - Write about the events in the story.
 - What is the moral of the story?

Organize your summary. Who is the main character? What did the character want? What was the problem? How did the character try to solve this problem?

WRITE YOUR SUMMARY.



2. What is your opinion of the book? Now you can give your thoughts about the story.

3. Was it exciting? Did you like reading it? What special things did you like? Did you like the style the author used to write the book? Were the characters nice? WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS.

- In your summary include your recommendation. Tell what age level would like to read this book and why.
- Would you tell others to read it? Why or why not? Give The BFG a rating...4 star for excellent, 3 star for good, and 1 star for not so interesting.

Write all answers in complete sentences.

Activity 2

Create your own character whose appearance does not match your own personality. Use the worksheet provided at the back of this packet. Draw and label a picture of your character including as much detail as possible before writing a description your character's appearance and personality.

Activity 3

Can You Create a Dream for your friend that the BFG could blow into your bedroom? Write or draw your dream inside your thought bubble. You may draw your own dream bubble in your journal.



Writing Assignment:

What are your goals and dreams
and how do friends and family
help us achieve them?



Additional Summer Reading

Grade 3 - Rising to Grade 4

***Talkin' About Bessie* by Nikki Grimes**

Elizabeth "Bessie" Coleman was always being told what she could & couldn't do. In an era when Jim Crow laws and segregation were a way of life, it was not easy to survive. Bessie didn't let that stop her. Although she was only 11 when the Wright brothers took their historic flight, she vowed to become the first African -American female pilot. Her sturdy faith and determination helped her overcome obstacles of poverty, racism, and gender discrimination.

***Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli**

Jeffrey Lionel "Maniac" Magee might have lived a normal life if a freak accident hadn't made him an orphan. After living with his unhappy and uptight aunt and uncle for eight years, he decides to run--and not just run away, but run. This is where the myth of Maniac Magee begins, as he changes the lives of a racially divided small town with his amazing and legendary feats.

***Exploring Ecosystems with Max Axiom Super Scientist* by Agnieszka Beksup**

Follows the adventures of Max Axiom as he explains the science behind ecosystems. Written in graphic-novel format.

***Wilma Unlimited, How Wilma Rudolph became the World's fastest Woman* by Kathleen Krull**

Before Wilma Rudolph was five years old, polio had paralyzed her left leg. Everyone said she would never walk again. But Wilma refused to believe it. Not only would she walk again, she vowed, she'd run. And she did run--all the way to the Olympics, where she became the first African American woman to earn three gold medals in a single olympiad.

***2030 A Day in the Life of Tomorrow's Kids* by Amy Zukerman and Jim Daly**

A talking dog, a housecleaning robot and a three-dimensional “data orb” are among the many cool features that kids might enjoy in the future, according to this lighthearted look at 2030. The breezy narrative follows one boy through a typical day, highlighting many interesting aspects of his world. Fanciful cartoon drawings show a lively and appealing world full of new and intriguing activities that correspond neatly to modern equivalents.

***The Contest: Everest #1* by Gordon Korman**

In *The Contest*, the first installment of Gordon Korman’s Everest trilogy, 20 young mountaineers vie for four spots on Summit Quest — the world’s youngest team to ascend Mt. Everest. As climbers are cut from the team, tensions build, personalities clash and the remaining hopefuls struggle to deal with their own fears and weaknesses. This gripping story will have readers holding their breath — especially since we know from the prologue that one of the climbers doesn’t make it off the mountain.

***The Cricket in Times Square* by George Selden**

Chester Cricket, Tucker Mouse and Harry Cat meet at a newsstand in a New York subway station when a lonely little boy, Mario Bellini, finds the cricket in a pile of trash. He decides to keep Chester as a pet, and a series of adventures follow.

***The Quest Begins: Seekers #1* by Erin Hunter**

The Quest Begins follows three young bears — a polar bear named Kallik, a black bear named Lusa and a grizzly named Toklo — whose stories begin to connect when they’re all separated from their families.

***Beezus and Ramona* by Beverly Cleary**

Nine-year-old Beezus is much too grown up to hang out with her little sister, Ramona, who does embarrassingly babyish things like wearing paper bunny ears and dragging around an imaginary pet lizard on a string. Beezus tries to be patient, but Ramona is impossible! This story is more than 50 years old, but today’s kids will still crack up when Ramona powders her nose with a marshmallow and takes a single bite out of every apple in the house. Readers will sympathize with Beezus, who learns that while she’ll always love her attention-getting little sister, that doesn’t mean she always has to like her.

Required Summer Reading

Rising 4 to Grade 5

Christopher Paul Curtis: The Mighty Miss Malone



"We are a family on a journey to a place called wonderful" is the motto of Deza Malone's family. Deza is the smartest girl in her class in Gary, Indiana, singled out by teachers for a special path in life. But it's 1936 and the Great Depression has hit Gary hard, and there are no jobs for black men. When her beloved father leaves to find work, Deza, Mother, and her older brother, Jimmie, go in search of him, and end up in a Hooverville outside Flint, Michigan. Jimmie's beautiful voice inspires him to leave the camp to be a performer, while Deza and Mother find a new home, and cling to the hope that they will find Father. The twists and turns of their story reveal the devastation of the Depression and prove that Deza truly is the Mighty Miss Malone.

Activities

Activity 1

Know Your Vocabulary

Use context clues to write the meaning of the following words as you encounter them as you read.

- grandiose (p.4)
- exalted (p.4)
- patriarch (p.4)
- disposition (p.10)
- verbose (p.11)
- epiphany (p.23)
- integrity (p.143)
- pulverize (p.70)
- inconsolable (p.131)
- relented (p.144)
- peril (p.144)
- missive (p.146)
- percolating (p.193)
- calamity (p.209)

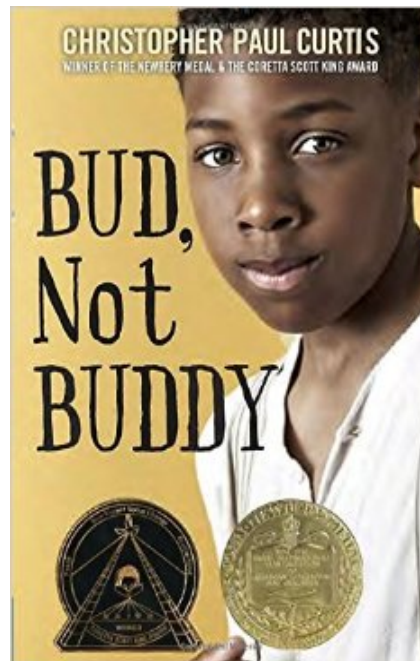
Activity 2

- The Mighty Miss Malone Follow-up Journal Activities
- (Include words from the vocabulary list.)
- When the Malones move to Flint, Deza doesn't get to say goodbye to Clarice Johnson or Mrs. Needham. Ask students to write a good-bye letter from Deza's perspective.
- Think about the meaning of the phrase, "Every cloud has a silver lining." Write an essay about the silver lining in the clouds over the Malone family. Which character contributed the most to the silver lining.
- Make a brochure about the "Health Hazards" of the great Depression.
- Deza's mother has a birthday party for Deza and invites other residents in the rooming house where they live in Flint in 1937. Think about the gifts that Deza receives, and the kinds of things she values. Make a birthday card that Deza might have received from her mother or one of the other residents of the rooming house

Activity 3

Writing Activity

Think back to another book you read by Christopher Paul Curtis, "Bud Not Buddy". Think about how Bud and the Malone family find hope at the end of their journeys. Compare and contrast the obstacles they face.



Additional Summer Reading Grade 4- Rising to Grade 5

***Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott* by Russell Friedman**

This book covers the events surrounding and including the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the end of segregation on buses. On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus and give up her seat to a white man.

This refusal to give up her dignity sparked the Montgomery bus boycott, a yearlong struggle, and a major victory in the civil rights movement.

***Bad News for Outlaws: The remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, US Marshall* by Vaunda Nelson**

An illustrated biography of Bass Reeves, a former slave who was recruited as a deputy United States Marshal, based on his ability to communicate with the Native Americans in the area that was to become Oklahoma. Sitting tall in the saddle, with a wide-brimmed black hat and twin Colt pistols on his belt, Bass Reeves seemed bigger than life. As a U.S. Marshal - and former slave who escaped to freedom in the Indian Territories - Bass was cunning and fearless. When a lawbreaker heard Bass Reeves had his warrant, he knew it was the end of the trail, because Bass always got his man, dead or alive. He achieved all this in spite of whites who didn't like the notion of a black lawman.

***A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeline Engle**

Meg Murry, her extraordinary little brother Charles Wallace, and schoolmate Calvin O'Keefe make the acquaintance of eccentric Mrs. Whatsit and friends (who turn out to be extraterrestrial beings). Together they journey through a wrinkle in time, a *tesseract*, to rescue the Murrys' missing father from an evil presence (likened by some interpreters to a black hole), and a sinister brain called IT. Although this is fantasy, the characters are portrayed realistically and sympathetically; it is Meg's ability to love that enables them to return safely to Earth and make secure the right to individuality.

Creech, Sharon, *Walk Two Moons Thirteen-year-old Salamanca Tree* by Sharon Creech

Hiddle, proud of her country roots and the "Indian-ness in her blood," travels from Ohio to Idaho with her eccentric grandparents. Along the way, she tells them of the story of Phoebe Winterbottom, who received mysterious messages, who met a "potential lunatic," and whose mother disappeared. As Sal entertains her grandparents with Phoebe's outrageous story, her own story begins to unfold—the story of a thirteen-year-old girl whose only wish is to be reunited with her missing mother.

Jackie Robinson *Breaking the Color Line in Baseball* by Matt J. Simmons

At a time when much of the United States was still racially segregated, Jackie Robinson smashed the color barrier to become the first African-American player in Major League Baseball. Born in 1919 to a family of sharecroppers, Robinson excelled in sports throughout his school years. After serving briefly in the army during WWII, he briefly played ball in the Negro Leagues. At about the same time, a handful of all-white Major League teams paid lip service to trying out black players. But it was when Robinson played his first game for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947 that he became a part of what would be called "The Noble Experiment." Outspoken in the past when it came to racial injustice, Robinson endured racist jeers from fans and players, and even death threats, with dignity and composure. His historic feat of crossing baseball's "color line" became a symbol in the American civil rights movement in the decades that followed.

***Wonderstruck* by Brian Selznick**

Ben and Rose secretly wish their lives were different. Ben longs for the father he has never known. Rose dreams of a mysterious actress whose life she chronicles in a scrapbook. When Ben discovers a puzzling clue in his mother's room and Rose reads an enticing headline in the newspaper, both children set out alone on desperate quests to find what they are missing.

***The Homework Machine* by Dan Gutman**

Meet the D Squad, a foursome of fifth graders at the Grand Canyon School made up of a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker. They are bound together by one very big secret: the homework machine. Because the machine, code-named Belch, is doing their homework for them, they start spending a lot of time together, attracting a lot of attention. And attention is exactly what you don't want when you are keeping a secret.

Before long, things start to get out of control, and Belch becomes much more powerful than they ever imagined. Now the kids are in a race against their own creation, and the loser could end up in jail...or worse!

***The Lightning Thief (Percy Jackson and the Olympians #1)* by Rick Riordan**

Percy Jackson is a good kid, but he can't seem to focus on his schoolwork or control his temper. And lately, being away at boarding school is only getting worse—Percy could have sworn his pre-algebra teacher turned into a monster and tried to kill him. When Percy's mom finds out, she knows it's time that he knew the truth about where he came from, and that he go to the one place he'll be safe.

***Into the Wild (Warriors #1)* by Erin Hunter**

For generations, four Clans of wild cats have shared the forest according to the laws laid down by their warrior ancestors. But the Thunder Clan cats are in grave danger, and the sinister Shadow Clan grows stronger every day. Noble warriors are dying-- and some deaths are more mysterious than others. In the midst of this turmoil appears an ordinary house cat named Rusty.





RESOURCES