

BMS Suggested Summer Reading List

For the upcoming summer, we encourage students to read. Read about things that interest you. Read classics, popular fiction, or old favorites, but read. We have selected a few books that have been compelling reads for past summer reading programs.

There will be no assignment attached to the reading, but we may have initial classroom discussions about your summer reading.

We encourage you to read as many of the below books, as well as others. The Bexley Public Library also has summer reading programs and recommendations if you need further resources.

Reading for rising 6th graders

Missing May by Rylant
Out of My Mind by Draper
Rules by Lord
The Liberation of Gabriel King by Going
Crash by Spinelli
Savvy by Law
Peak by Smith
The Orphan of Ellis Island by Woodruff
The One and Only Ivan by Applegate
Shadow Children (series) by Haddix
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by Kamkwamba
Land of Stories (series) by Colfer
Fablehaven (series) by Mull
Waiting for Normal by Connor
Inside Out and Back Again by Lai (poetry)
Ready Player One by Cline
Walk Two Moons by Creech
Breaking Stalin's Nose by Yelchin
The Crossover (in verse) by Alexander

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Dahl
Wonder by Palacio
Augie and Me by Palacio
Out of My Mind by Draper
Warriors (series) by Hunter
The Westing Game by Raskin
Dear Mr. Henshaw by Cleary
Maze Runner (series) by Dashner
The War That Saved My Life by Brubaker Bradley
Wildwood Chronicles (series) by Meloy
Amulet (graphic novel/series) by Kibuishi
Swing It, Sunny (graphic novel/series) by Holm
The City of Ember (series) by DuPrau
Smile (graphic novel/series) by Telgemeier
El Deafo (graphic novel) by Bell
Making Bombs for Hitler by Forchuk Skrypuch

Reading for rising 7th graders

Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson

Cole Matthews has always been in trouble with the law. After almost killing a fellow classmate, the courts banish Cole to a remote Alaskan island to live for one year as a new healing program meant to teach Cole how to control his anger. Unfortunately, Cole plans to cooperate just long enough to get on the island alone, leaving him the opportunity to escape. Will the island change Cole? Help him become a better person? Or will he manage to escape and fool everyone that is trying to help him?

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The Schwa Was Here by Neal Schusterman

How can it be that one kid in your school is “functionally invisible”? Is that even a thing? Well, Antsy Bonano and his friends aim to find out if the “Schwa Effect” is real or not. Antsy will discover what being a friend really means when he has to decide if the Schwa is really a friend or just an enigma. Through some crazy experiments, unique characters, and new friendships, this book takes you on an adventure to discover what it really means to be “invisible”.

The Novice by Taran Matharu

Fletcher is an outsider in his isolated and harsh town of Pelt. Abandoned at the town’s gates as a baby, he has no knowledge of his background and is thus an easy target for harsh treatment. The kingdom is engaging in a two-front war, opposing both elves and orcs, and their main source of strength comes in the ability of their summoners to harness and control demons from the ether. When Fletcher gets his hands on a summoner’s notebook he defies expectations and starts an adventure that will pit him against the children of the most powerful families in the kingdom.

Scrawl by Mark Shulman

Tod Munn is a bully who is facing serious consequences after being caught doing something bad with his friends. He is sentenced to detention with the guidance counselor and told he must write his personal story rather than more physical community service. Tod’s first person perspective on his own bullying behaviors offers an interesting glimpse into a character who intimidates and repels his fellow classmates.

13 Days to Midnight by Patrick Carman

“You are indestructible”- With these words, Jacob Fielding is given a power that keeps him from being harmed in even the most dangerous situations. After discovering the power, he soon learns that he can transfer it to anyone. When Ophelia James learns of the power, the two set out on a mission to put the power to good use. Together, they try to save as many lives as possible. Unfortunately, with each life protected, the power grows stronger and begins to take a toll on Ophelia that could eventually kill her. Jacob has just 13 days to save his friend before it’s too late.

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer

In the not too distant future, a young man, Matteo Alacron, solves the mystery of his origin: he is a clone of a wealthy drug lord. He soon realizes that in order to survive, he must escape to the United States. The only things standing between Matteo and freedom are devious relatives, armed guards, and a toxic desert wasteland.

Illuminae by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff

When a mega-corporation destroys their home planet, Ezra and Kady are forced to reunite after a new and tough break-up. They end up on different ships in a trio of ships, fleeing the destruction and death that lingered on their now lost planet. They are being chased by an

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enemy, bent on their demise. The year is 2575 and two rivals mega corporations are at war and lives are at stake. Ezra and Kady are forced to work with the ship's wayward artificial intelligence to save the remaining survivors from a biological plague unleashed during the initial strike. As Kady hacks into a web of data to find the truth, it's clear the only person who can help her is the ex-boyfriend she swore she'd never speak to again. Told through hacked documents—including emails, maps, files, IMs, medical reports, interviews, and more—*Illuminae* is the first book in a heart-stopping trilogy about lives interrupted, the price of truth, and the courage of everyday heroes.

Iqbal by Francesco D'Adamo

Iqbal, a character based on the life of Iqbal Masih, leads a courageous attack on Pakistani child labor practices. The story is revealed through the voice of a young girl, Fatima. Fatima must work creating rugs in order to pay off her father's debts and is far removed from her family. Essentially, she is a slave, living in inhumane conditions with other children who are also demonstrates the power of one and the price it costs to challenge injustice.

Under the Persimmon Tree by Suzanne Fisher Staples

During the 2001 Afghan War, the lives of Najmal, whose name means "star," a young refugee from Kunduz, Afghanistan, and Nusrat, an American-Muslim teacher who is awaiting her husband's return for Mazar-I-Sharif, intersect under a persimmon tree at a school in Peshawar, Pakistan. Najmah's father had always assured her that the stars would take care of her, just as Nusrat's husband had promised that they would tell Nusrat where he was and that he was safe. As the two look to the skies for answers, their fates entwine.

Reading for rising 8th graders

Killer Angels by Michael Shaara

The late Shaara's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel (1974) concerns the battle of Gettysburg and was the basis for the 1993 film Gettysburg. The events immediately before and during the battle are seen through the eyes of Confederate Generals Lee, Longstreet, and Armistead and Federal General Buford, Colonel Joshua L. Chamberlain, and a host of others.

Celia Garth by Gwen Bristow

A bustling port city, Charleston, South Carolina, is the crossroads of the American Revolution where supplies and weapons for the rebel army must be unloaded and smuggled north. From the window of the dressmaker's shop where she works, lovely Celia Garth, recently engaged to the heir to a magnificent plantation, watches all of this thrilling activity. When the unthinkable occurs and the British capture and occupy Charleston, bringing fiery retribution to the surrounding countryside, Celia sees her world destroyed. The rebel cause seems lost until the Swamp Fox, American General Francis Marion, takes the fight to the British—and one of his daring young soldiers recruits Celia to spy on the rebels' behalf.

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Forge by Laurie Halse Anderson

The Patriot Army was shaped and strengthened by the desperate circumstances of the Valley Forge winter. This is where Curzon the boy becomes Curzon the young man. In addition to the hardships of soldiering, he lives with the fear of discovery, for he is an escaped slave passing for free. And then there is Isabel, who is also at Valley Forge—against her will. She and Curzon have to sort out the tangled threads of their friendship while figuring out what stands between the two of them and true freedom.

Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli

Misha, the narrator of *Milkweed*, is an orphan living in Nazi-occupied Warsaw. Beyond a survival story, this book allows readers the opportunity to travel throughout Warsaw as Misha did, invisibly. From this perspective, war's grayness becomes more real; life's opportunities, more self-directed.

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's diary has since become a world classic—a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit. In 1942, with Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, they and another family lived cloistered in the "Secret Annex" of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death.

Bomb: The Race to Build--and Steal--the World's Most Dangerous Weapon by Steve Sheinkin

In this WWII era informational text, the author recreates the race to create the first atomic weapon. By focusing on the stories of traitors and spies, Sheinkin shows how the choices of just a few people influenced the course of history. The text is also full of exciting, but little known historical events. For instance, a small commando force of Norwegian soldiers on skis single-handedly set back the Nazi atomic weapon program by sabotaging Hitler's secret, remote fortress.

Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth by James Cross Giblin

Good Brother, Bad Brother is the true story of John Wilkes Booth, the man who became famous in history books for shooting Abraham Lincoln in Ford's Theater. What many people do not know is that there was another famous Booth brother, Edwin. This book chronicles the lives of both men from childhood to adulthood and shows how they could be as close as brothers yet live in two completely separate worlds.

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The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights by Steve Sheinkin

This work compiles a vast selection of interviews, historical documents, and pictures to tell the tale of 50 African American soldiers serving during World War II. Their court martial and mutiny trial roused accusations of racism against the Navy and contributed to the eventual desegregation of the U.S. military.

****Codename Verity*** by Elizabeth Wein - In English – set in France during WWII

A British spy plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France. Its pilot and passenger are best friends. One of the girls has a chance at survival. The other has lost the game before it's barely begun. When "Verity" is arrested by the Gestapo, she's sure she doesn't stand a chance. As a secret agent captured in enemy territory, she's living a spy's worst nightmare. Her Nazi interrogators give her a simple choice: reveal her mission or face a grisly execution.

The Little Prince by Antoine de St-Exupéry – In English

Short, simple, fable-like. Students may know from the movie.

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

This book has been called “the greatest mystery book of all time.” In this masterpiece of murder and suspense, ten strangers are gathered together on an isolated island by a mysterious host. One by one, the guests share the darkest secrets of their wicked pasts. One by one, they die....

Catalyst by Laurie Halse Anderson

From the outside Kate Malone --- or "Good Kate" as she refers to herself --- is an honor roll student and exceptional long-distance runner. She continues to maintain an above average scholarly record, good enough in fact to apply to MIT, her deceased mother's alma mater and Kate's dream school. Then there's "Bad Kate" who is trying to deal with the fact that she chooses to apply to only one college—MIT and has lied about it to her father; her jealousies over her fellow students' successes; her insomnia and midnight runs; and her desire to be the absolute best at everything she does. The events that unfold conspire to make Kate take a true look at her relationships with her family, her friends, her boyfriend, and even her deceased mother.

****We Were Liars*** by E. Lockhart

Cadence Sinclair Easton has led a privileged existence populated with private school and island vacation homes, where her extended family gathers each summer. The summer of her fifteenth year goes horribly wrong, but Cadence doesn't remember why and no one will tell her. After two years of confusion and depression, Cadence returns to the island to find out why she's been shut out of her family.

Colin Fischer by Ashley Edward Miller and Zack Stentz

Colin Fischer is a freshman in high school; struggling to navigate this new environment is complicated by his Asperger's syndrome, which makes social interaction a challenge. When a

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gun goes off in the cafeteria, Colin is fascinated by the case and begins investigating just like his hero Sherlock Holmes.

***Every Day** by David Levithan

Imagine waking up every day in a different body. A is the protagonist, and A has no recollection of his or her own life, only the traumatic shock of waking up as a new person in a new place every morning. A has been content to participate in each person's life, trying to do as little damage as possible. However, what happens when A meets a girl he can't stand to let go of at the end of the day?

****Mature content (May contain language, violence, minor reference to illicit drugs, and/or sexual content). Please review any book advisories before reading.***