


## Summer Reading 2021

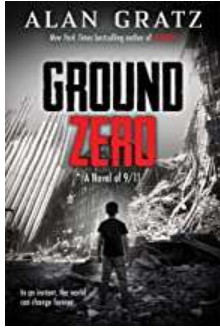
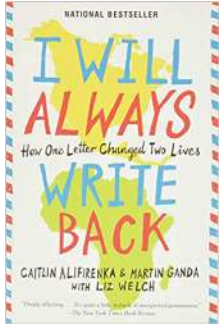
**Parents and students: This list provides a broad spectrum of materials to engage our young readers and meet the diverse interests of our CPS Families.**

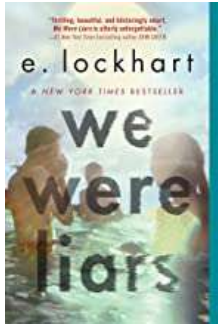

**\*\*\* Due to the mature content of some of these titles, which may be deemed inappropriate for younger students, please use discretion when choosing the club you'd like to join. Information on ratings regarding some of these books can be found at <https://www.commonsemmedia.org/>**

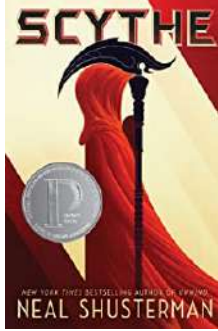
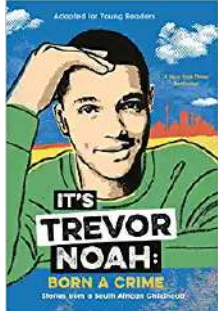
**If the book your child has chosen to read for the Dodd Summer Reading Book Clubs does not appear on the Common Sense Media website, please visit [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [Goodreads](https://www.goodreads.com) for reviews.**

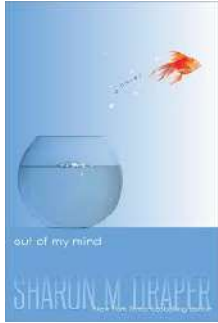
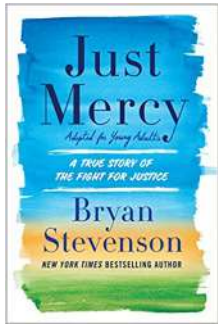
Book		Summary	Teacher
<p><b><i>Maybe He Just Likes You</i> by Barbara Dee</b></p> 	<p>Realistic Fiction</p>	<p>For seventh-grader Mila, it starts with some boys giving her an unwanted hug on the school blacktop. A few days later, at recess, one of the boys (and fellow trumpet player) Callum tells Mila it's his birthday, and asks her for a "birthday hug." He's just being friendly, isn't he? And how can she say no? But Callum's hug lasts a few seconds too long, and feels...weird. According to her friend, Zara, Mila is being immature and overreacting. Doesn't she know what flirting looks like?</p> <p>But the boys don't leave Mila alone. On the bus. In the halls. During band practice—the one place Mila could always escape.</p> <p>It doesn't feel like flirting—so what is it? Thanks to a chance meeting, Mila begins to find solace in a new place: karate class. Slowly, with the help of a fellow classmate, Mila learns how to stand her ground and how to respect others—and herself.</p>	<p>Mrs. Curtis and Ms. Garden</p>
<p><b>*** <i>Clap When You Land</i> by Elizabeth Acevedo</b></p>	<p>Realistic Fiction</p>	<p>Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people...</p>	<p>Mrs. Mullally</p>

		<p>In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash.</p> <p>Separated by distance—and Papi's secrets—the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered.</p> <p>And then, when it seems like they've lost everything of their father, they learn of each other.</p>	
<p><b><i>The Only Black Girls in Town</i></b> by Brandy Colbert</p> 	<p>Realistic Fiction/mystery</p>	<p>Beach-loving surfer Alberta has been the only Black girl in town for years. Alberta's best friend, Laramie, is the closest thing she has to a sister, but there are some things even Laramie can't understand. When the bed and breakfast across the street finds new owners, Alberta is ecstatic to learn the family is black—and they have a 12-year-old daughter just like her.</p> <p>Alberta is positive she and the new girl, Edie, will be fast friends. But while Alberta loves being a California girl, Edie misses her native Brooklyn and finds it hard to adapt to small-town living.</p> <p>When the girls discover a box of old journals in Edie's attic, they team up to figure out exactly who's behind them and why they got left behind. Soon they discover shocking and painful secrets of the past and learn that nothing is quite what it seems.</p>	<p>Mrs. Bellina</p>
<p><b><i>Redwood and Ponytail</i></b> by KA Holt</p> 	<p>Realistic Fiction/romance</p>	<p><b>A universal story of finding a way to be comfortable in your own skin:</b> Kate and Tam meet, and both of their worlds tip sideways. At first, Tam figures Kate is your stereotypical cheerleader; Kate sees Tam as another tall jock. And the more they keep running into each other, the more they surprise each other. Beneath Kate's sleek ponytail and perfect façade, Tam sees a goofy, sensitive, lonely girl. And Tam's so much more than a volleyball player, Kate realizes: She's everything Kate wishes she could be. It's complicated.</p>	<p>Mrs. Amato &amp; Ms. Castellano</p>

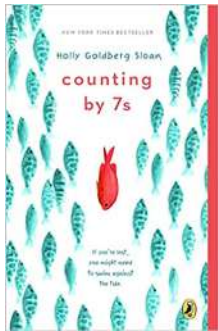
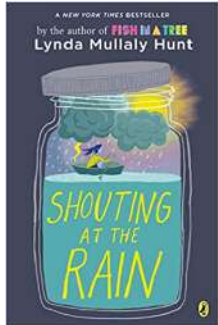
		<p>Except it's not. When Kate and Tam meet, they fall in like. It's as simple as that. But not everybody sees it that way.</p>	
<p><b>Ground Zero by Alan Gratz</b></p> 	<p>Historical Fiction</p>	<p>In time for the twentieth anniversary of 9/11, master storyteller Alan Gratz (Refugee) delivers a pulse-pounding and unforgettable take on history and hope, revenge and fear -- and the stunning links between the past and present.</p> <p>September 11, 2001, New York City: Brandon is visiting his dad at work, on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center. Out of nowhere, an airplane slams into the tower, creating a fiery nightmare of terror and confusion. And Brandon is in the middle of it all. Can he survive -- and escape?</p> <p>September 11, 2019, Afghanistan: Reshmina has grown up in the shadow of war, but she dreams of peace and progress. When a battle erupts in her village, Reshmina stumbles upon a wounded American soldier named Taz. Should she help Taz -- and put herself and her family in mortal danger?</p> <p>Two kids. One devastating day. Nothing will ever be the same.</p>	<p>Mr. Cote</p>
<p><b>I will Always Write Back by Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda</b></p> 	<p>Non-fiction</p>	<p>It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place.</p> <p>Martin was lucky to even receive a pen-pal letter. There were only ten letters, and fifty kids in his class. But he was the top student, so he got the first one.</p> <p>That letter was the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and changed two lives.</p> <p>In this compelling dual memoir, Caitlin and Martin recount how they became best friends -- and better people -- through their long-distance exchange. Their story will inspire you to look beyond your own life and wonder about the world at large and</p>	<p>Mrs. Baker &amp; Dr. Bach</p>

		your place in it.	
<p><b>***We Were Liars by E. Lockhart</b></p> <p><b>*This book club group is FULL</b></p> 	Mystery	<p>A beautiful and distinguished family.</p> <p>A private island.</p> <p>A brilliant, damaged girl; a passionate, political boy.</p> <p>A group of four friends—the Liars—whose friendship turns destructive.</p> <p>A revolution. An accident. A secret.</p> <p>Lies upon lies.</p> <p>True love.</p> <p>The truth.</p> <p>Read it.</p> <p>And if anyone asks you how it ends, just LIE.</p>	Ms. Carlucci
<p><b>All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven</b></p> 	Realistic Fiction/Romance	<p><b>The <i>New York Times</i> bestselling love story about two teens who find each other while standing on the edge.</b></p> <p><b>Theodore Finch</b> is fascinated by death. Every day he thinks of ways he might kill himself, but every day he also searches for—and manages to find—<i>something</i> to keep him here, and alive, and awake.</p> <p><b>Violet Markey</b> lives for the future, counting the days until graduation, when she can escape her small Indiana town and her aching grief in the wake of her sister's recent death.</p> <p>When Finch and Violet meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school—six stories above the ground— it's unclear who saves whom. Soon it's only with Violet that Finch can be himself. And it's only with Finch that Violet can forget to count away the days and start living them. But as Violet's world grows, Finch's begins to shrink. . . .</p>	Mr. Goffin



<p><b>*** Scythe by Neal Shusterman</b></p> 	<p>Science Fiction</p>	<p>A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end life—and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control.</p> <p>Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe—a role that neither wants. These teens must master the “art” of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own.</p> <p><i>Scythe</i> is the first novel of a thrilling new series by National Book Award–winning author Neal Shusterman in which Citra and Rowan learn that a perfect world comes only with a heavy price.</p>	<p>Mr. Tuscano &amp; Mrs. Brandom</p>
<p><b>It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime</b></p> 	<p>Non-Fiction</p>	<p><i>We do horrible things to one another because we don't see the person it affects. . . . We don't see them as people.</i></p> <p>Trevor Noah, host of <i>The Daily Show</i> on Comedy Central, shares his remarkable story of growing up in South Africa with a black South African mother and a white European father at a time when it was against the law for a mixed-race child to exist. But he did exist--and from the beginning, the often-misbehaved Trevor used his keen smarts and humor to navigate a harsh life under a racist government.</p> <p>In a country where racism barred blacks from social, educational, and economic opportunity, Trevor surmounted staggering obstacles and created a promising future for himself thanks to his mom's unwavering love and indomitable will.</p> <p>This honest and poignant memoir adapted from the #1 <i>New York Times</i> bestseller <i>Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood</i> will astound and inspire readers as well as offer a fascinating perspective on South Africa's tumultuous racial history.</p>	<p>Mr. O'Day</p>


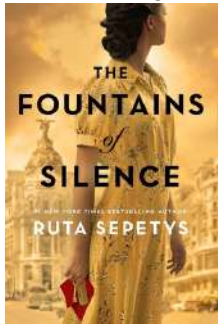
<p><b>Out of My Mind</b> by Sharon Draper</p> 	<p>Realistic Fiction</p>	<p><i>Eleven-year-old Melody is not like most people. She can't walk. She can't talk. She can't write. All because she has cerebral palsy. But she also has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She's the smartest kid in her whole school, but NO ONE knows it. Most people—her teachers, her doctors, her classmates—dismiss her as mentally challenged because she can't tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by her disability. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow.</i></p>	<p>Mrs. Theriault and Mrs. Berkun</p>
<p><b>Just Mercy</b> by Brian Stevenson</p> 	<p>Non-Fiction</p>	<p>In this very personal work--adapted from the original #1 bestseller, which the <i>New York Times</i> calls "as compelling as <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>, and in some ways more so"--acclaimed lawyer and social justice advocate Bryan Stevenson offers a glimpse into the lives of the wrongfully imprisoned and his efforts to fight for their freedom.</p> <p>Stevenson's story is one of working to protect basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society--the poor, the wrongly convicted, and those whose lives have been marked by discrimination and marginalization. Through this adaptation, young people of today will find themselves called to action and compassion in the pursuit of justice.</p> <p>A portion of the proceeds of this book will go to charity to help in Stevenson's important work to benefit the voiceless and the vulnerable as they attempt to navigate the broken U.S. justice system.</p>	<p>Mrs. Goodwin</p>
<p><b>***Ready Player One</b> by Ernest Kline</p> <p><b>*This book club group is</b></p>	<p>Science Fiction</p>	<p><b>IN THE YEAR 2044, reality is an ugly place.</b> The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within</p>	<p>Mrs. Kielely</p>

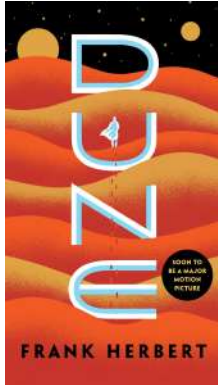

<p><b>FULL</b></p> 		<p>this world's digital confines, puzzles that are based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and that promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them.</p> <p>But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win—and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape</p>	
<p><b><i>Becoming</i> by Michelle Obama</b></p> <p><b>* Young adult version is now available</b></p> 	<p>Non-Fiction</p>	<p>In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. As First Lady of the United States of America—the first African American to serve in that role—she helped create the most welcoming and inclusive White House in history, while also establishing herself as a powerful advocate for women and girls in the U.S. and around the world, dramatically changing the ways that families pursue healthier and more active lives, and standing with her husband as he led America through some of its most harrowing moments. Along the way, she showed us a few dance moves, crushed Carpool Karaoke, and raised two down-to-earth daughters under an unforgiving media glare.</p> <p>In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world's most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it—in her own words and on her own terms. Warm, wise, and revelatory, <i>Becoming</i> is</p>	<p>Mrs. Diczno</p>

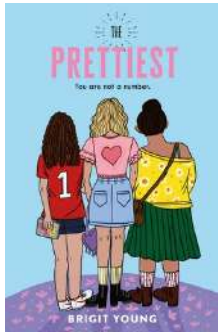

		the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations—and whose story inspires us to do the same.	
<p><b>Counting by 7's</b> by Holly Goldberg Sloan</p> 	Realistic Fiction	<p><b>In the tradition of <i>Out of My Mind</i>, <i>Wonder</i>, and <i>Mockingbird</i>, this is an intensely moving middle grade novel about being an outsider, coping with loss, and discovering the true meaning of family.</b></p> <p>Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now.</p> <p>Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is <i>not</i> a tragedy. This extraordinarily odd, but extraordinarily endearing, girl manages to push through her grief. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read.</p>	Ms. DeAngelo and Mrs. Volpe
<p><b>Shouting at the Rain</b> by Lynda Mullaly Hunt</p> 	Realistic Fiction	<p>Delsie loves tracking the weather--lately, though, it seems the squalls are in her own life. She's always lived with her kindhearted Grammy, but now she's looking at their life with new eyes and wishing she could have a "regular family." Delsie observes other changes in the air, too--the most painful being a friend who's outgrown her. Luckily, she has neighbors with strong shoulders to support her, and Ronan, a new friend who is caring and courageous but also troubled by the losses he's endured. As Ronan and Delsie traipse around Cape Cod on their adventures, they both learn what it means to be angry versus sad, broken versus whole, and abandoned versus loved. And that, together, they can weather any storm.</p>	Ms. Raczka
<b>Prodigy</b> by	Science	June and Day arrive in Vegas just as the	Mrs. Fern





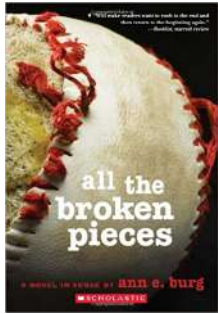
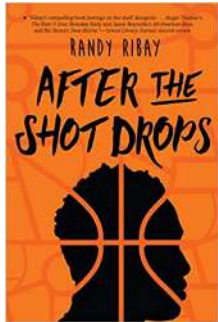
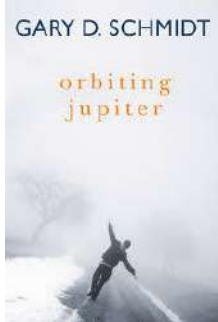
<p><b>Marie Lu (book 2 in the Legend Series)</b></p> 	<p>Fiction</p>	<p>unthinkable happens: the Elector Primo dies, and his son Anden takes his place. With the Republic edging closer to chaos, the two join a group of Patriot rebels eager to help Day rescue his brother and offer passage to the Colonies. They have only one request—June and Day must assassinate the new Elector. It's their chance to change the nation, to give voice to a people silenced for too long.</p> <p>But as June realizes this Elector is nothing like his father, she's haunted by the choice ahead. What if Anden is a new beginning? What if revolution must be more than loss and vengeance, anger and blood—what if the Patriots are wrong?</p> <p>In this highly-anticipated sequel to the <i>New York Times</i> bestseller <i>Legend</i>, Lu delivers a breathtaking thriller with high stakes and cinematic action.</p>	
<p><b><i>The Outsiders</i> by S.E. Hinton</b></p> 	<p>Realistic Fiction</p>	<p><i>The Outsiders</i> is about two weeks in the life of a 14-year-old boy. The novel tells the story of Ponyboy Curtis and his struggles with right and wrong in a society in which he believes that he is an outsider. According to Ponyboy, there are two kinds of people in the world: greasers and socs. A soc (short for "social") has money, can get away with just about anything, and has an attitude longer than a limousine. A greaser, on the other hand, always lives on the outside and needs to watch his back. Ponyboy is a greaser, and he's always been proud of it, even willing to rumble against a gang of socs for the sake of his fellow greasers--until one terrible night when his friend Johnny kills a soc. The murder gets under Ponyboy's skin, causing his bifurcated world to crumble and teaching him that pain feels the same whether a soc or a greaser.</p>	<p>Mr. Rahn</p>

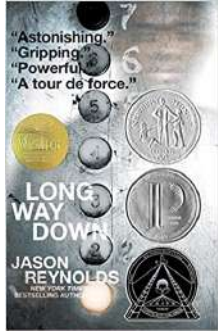
<p><b>To All the Boys I've Loved Before</b> by Jenny Han</p> 	<p>Romance</p>	<p>To All the Boys I've Loved Before is the story of Lara Jean, who has never openly admitted her crushes, but instead wrote each boy a letter about how she felt, sealed it, and hid it in a box under her bed.</p> <p>But one day Lara Jean discovers that somehow her secret box of letters has been mailed, causing all her crushes from her past to confront her about the letters: her first kiss, the boy from summer camp, even her sister's ex-boyfriend, Josh.</p> <p>As she learns to deal with her past loves face to face, Lara Jean discovers that something good may come out of these letters after all.</p>	<p>Mrs. Santos</p>
<p><b>Fountains of Silence</b> by Ruta Sepetys</p> 	<p>Historical Fiction</p>	<p>Madrid, 1957. Under the fascist dictatorship of General Francisco Franco, Spain is hiding a dark secret. Meanwhile, tourists and foreign businessmen flood into Spain under the welcoming promise of sunshine and wine. Among them is eighteen-year-old Daniel Matheson, the son of an oil tycoon, who arrives in Madrid with his parents hoping to connect with the country of his mother's birth through the lens of his camera. Photography--and fate--introduce him to Ana, whose family's interweaving obstacles reveal the lingering grasp of the Spanish Civil War--as well as chilling definitions of fortune and fear. Daniel's photographs leave him with uncomfortable questions amidst shadows of danger. He is backed into a corner of difficult decisions to protect those he loves. Lives and hearts collide, revealing an incredibly dark side to the sunny Spanish city.</p> <p>Includes vintage media reports, oral history commentary, photos, and</p>	<p>Mr. Laden</p>

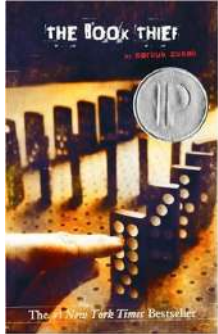
		more.	
<p><b><i>Dune</i> by Frank Herbert</b></p> 	<p>Science Fiction</p>	<p>Set on the desert planet Arrakis, <i>Dune</i> is the story of the boy Paul Atreides, heir to a noble family tasked with ruling an inhospitable world where the only thing of value is the “spice” melange, a drug capable of extending life and enhancing consciousness. Coveted across the known universe, melange is a prize worth killing for....</p> <p>When House Atreides is betrayed, the destruction of Paul’s family will set the boy on a journey toward a destiny greater than he could ever have imagined. And as he evolves into the mysterious man known as Muad’Dib, he will bring to fruition humankind’s most ancient and unattainable dream.</p> <p>A stunning blend of adventure and mysticism, environmentalism and politics, <i>Dune</i> won the first Nebula Award, shared the Hugo Award, and formed the basis of what is undoubtedly the grandest epic in science fiction.</p>	<p>Mr. Lopez</p>
<p><b>***<i>The Program</i> by Suzanne Young</b></p> 	<p>Science-Fiction</p>	<p>Sloane knows better than to cry in front of anyone. With suicide now an international epidemic, one outburst could land her in The Program, the only proven course of treatment. Sloane’s parents have already lost one child; Sloane knows they’ll do anything to keep her alive. She also knows that everyone who’s been through The Program returns as a blank slate. Because their depression is gone—but so are their memories.</p> <p>Under constant surveillance at home and at school, Sloane puts on a brave face and keeps her feelings buried as deep as she can. The only person Sloane can be herself with is James. He’s promised to keep them both safe</p>	<p>Ms. Gonzalez</p>

		<p>and out of treatment, and Sloane knows their love is strong enough to withstand anything. But despite the promises they made to each other, it's getting harder to hide the truth. They are both growing weaker. Depression is setting in.</p>	
<p><b>The Prettiest</b> By Brigit Young</p> 	<p>Realistic Fiction</p>	<p><b>THE PRETTIEST:</b> It's the last thing Eve Hoffmann expected to be, the only thing Sophie Kane wants to be, and something Nessa Flores-Brady knows she'll never be . . . until a list appears online, ranking the top fifty prettiest girls in the eighth grade.</p> <p>Eve is disgusted by the way her body is suddenly being objectified by everyone around her. Sophie is sick of the bullying she's endured after being relegated to number two. And Nessa is tired of everyone else trying to tell her who she is.</p> <p>It's time for a takedown. As the three girls band together, they begin to stand up not just for themselves, but for one another, too.</p>	<p>Mrs. Montano</p>
<p><b>Game Changer</b> by Neal Shusterman</p> 		<p>All it takes is one hit on the football field, and suddenly Ash's life doesn't look quite the way he remembers it.</p> <p>Impossible though it seems, he's been hit into another dimension—and keeps on bouncing through worlds that are almost-but-not-really his own.</p> <p>The changes start small, but they quickly spiral out of control as Ash slides into universes where he has everything he's ever wanted, universes where society is stuck in the past...universes where he finds himself looking at life through entirely different eyes.</p>	<p>Ms. Futoma and Ms. Poeti</p>


		<p><b>And if he isn't careful, the world he's learning to see more clearly could blink out of existence</b></p>	
<p><b>White Bird by RJ Palacio</b></p>  <p><b>Wonder by RJ Palacio</b></p> 	<p>Graphic Novel/Historical Fiction</p>	<p>In R. J. Palacio's bestselling collection of stories <i>Auggie &amp; Me</i>, which expands on characters in <i>Wonder</i>, readers were introduced to Julian's grandmother, Grandmère. Here, Palacio makes her graphic novel debut with Grandmère's heartrending story: how she, a young Jewish girl, was hidden by a family in a Nazi-occupied French village during World War II; how the boy she and her classmates once shunned became her savior and best friend.</p> <p>Sara's harrowing experience movingly demonstrates the power of kindness to change hearts, build bridges, and even save lives. As Grandmère tells Julian, "It always takes courage to be kind, but in those days, such kindness could cost you everything." With poignant symbolism and gorgeous artwork that brings Sara's story out of the past and cements it firmly in this moment in history, <i>White Bird</i> is sure to captivate anyone who was moved by the book <i>Wonder</i> or the blockbuster movie adaptation and its message.</p> <p><b>Wonder</b>  <i>I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.</i></p> <p>August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. <i>WONDER</i>, begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance.</p>	<p>Mrs. LeClaire and Mrs. Odell</p>


<p><b>All the Broken Pieces by Ann Burg</b></p> 	<p>Historical Fiction/sports</p>	<p>An award-winning debut novel from a stellar new voice in middle grade fiction. Matt Pin would like to forget: war torn Vietnam, bombs that fell like dead crows, and the terrible secret he left behind. But now that he is living with a caring adoptive family in the United States, he finds himself forced to confront his past. And that means choosing between silence and candor, blame and forgiveness, fear and freedom. By turns harrowing, dreamlike, sad, and triumphant, this searing debut novel, written in lucid verse, reveals an unforgettable perspective on the lasting impact of war and the healing power of love.</p>	<p>Mr. Raccio</p>
<p><b>*** After the Shot Drops by Randy Ribay</b></p> 	<p>Sports</p>	<p>Bunny and Nasir have been best friends forever, but when Bunny accepts an athletic scholarship across town, Nasir feels betrayed. While Bunny tries to fit in with his new, privileged peers, Nasir spends more time with his cousin, Wallace, who is being evicted. Nasir can't help but wonder why the neighborhood is falling over itself to help Bunny when <i>Wallace</i> is in trouble.</p> <p>When Wallace makes a bet against Bunny, Nasir is faced with an impossible decision—maybe a dangerous one.</p> <p>Told from alternating perspectives, <i>After the Shot Drops</i> is a heart-pounding story about the responsibilities of great talent and the importance of compassion.</p>	<p>Mr. Connolly and Mr. Baker</p>
<p><b>*** Orbiting Jupiter by Gary Schmidt</b></p> 	<p>Realistic Fiction</p>	<p>When Jack meets his new foster brother, he already knows three things about him:</p> <p>Joseph almost killed a teacher.</p> <p>He was incarcerated at a place called Stone Mountain.</p> <p>He has a daughter. Her name is Jupiter. And he has never seen her.</p> <p>What Jack doesn't know, at first, is how desperate Joseph is to find his</p>	<p>Ms. Carson</p>


		<p>baby girl.</p> <p>Or how urgently he, Jack, will want to help.</p> <p>But the past can't be shaken off. Even as new bonds form, old wounds reopen. The search for Jupiter demands more from Jack than he can imagine.</p> <p>This tender, heartbreaking novel is Gary D. Schmidt at his best.</p>	
<p><b>***Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds</b></p> 	<p>Realistic Fiction</p>	<p>A cannon. A strap.  A piece. A biscuit.  A burner. A heater.  A chopper. A gat.  A hammer  A tool  for RULE</p> <p>Or, you can call it a gun. That's what fifteen-year-old Will has shoved in the back waistband of his jeans. See, his brother Shawn was just murdered. And Will knows the rules. No crying. No snitching. <i>Revenge</i>. That's where Will's now heading, with that gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, the gun that was his brother's gun. He gets on the elevator, seventh floor, stoked. He knows who he's after. Or does he? As the elevator stops on the sixth floor, on comes Buck. Buck, Will finds out, is who gave Shawn the gun before Will took the gun. Buck tells Will to check that the gun is even loaded. And that's when Will sees that one bullet is missing. And the only one who could have fired Shawn's gun was Shawn. And so it goes, the whole long way down, as the elevator stops on each floor, and at each stop someone connected to his brother gets on to give Will a piece to a bigger story than the one he thinks he knows. A story that might never know an END...if</p>	<p>Mr. Perosino</p>

		<p>WILL gets <i>off</i> that elevator.</p> <p>Told in short, fierce staccato narrative verse, <i>Long Way Down</i> is a fast and furious, dazzlingly brilliant look at teenage gun violence, as could only be told by Jason Reynolds.</p>	
<p><b><i>The Book Thief</i></b> by Markus Zusak</p> 	<p>Historical Fiction</p>	<p>It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will be busier still.</p> <p>By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, left behind there by accident, and it is her first act of book thievery. So begins a love affair with books and words, as Liesel, with the help of her accordion-playing foster father, learns to read. Soon she is stealing books from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library, wherever there are books to be found.</p> <p>But these are dangerous times. When Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, Liesel's world is both opened up, and closed down.</p> <p>In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time.</p>	<p>Mrs. Gunneson</p>
<p><b><i>Reboot</i></b> by Amy Tintera</p> 	<p>Science Fiction</p>	<p>Five years ago, Wren Connolly was shot three times in the chest. After 178 minutes she came back as a Reboot: stronger, faster, able to heal, and less emotional. The longer Reboots are dead, the less human they are when they return. Wren 178 is the deadliest Reboot in the Republic of Texas. Now seventeen years old, she serves as a soldier for HARC (Human Advancement and Repopulation Corporation).</p>	<p>Ms. Heffernan</p>



		<p>Wren’s favorite part of the job is training new Reboots, but her latest newbie is the worst she’s ever seen. As a 22, Callum Reyes is practically human. His reflexes are too slow, he’s always asking questions, and his ever-present smile is freaking her out. Yet there’s something about him she can’t ignore. When Callum refuses to follow an order, Wren is given one last chance to get him in line—or she’ll have to eliminate him. Wren has never disobeyed before and knows if she does, she’ll be eliminated, too. But she has also never felt as alive as she does around Callum.</p> <p>The perfect soldier is done taking orders</p>	
<p><b>Epic by Conor Kostick</b></p> 	<p>Fantasy</p>	<p>Generations ago, violence was banned on New Earth. Society is governed and conflicts are resolved in the arena of a fantasy computer game, Epic. Everyone plays. If you win, you have the chance to go to university, get more supplies for your community, and fulfill your dreams; if you lose, your life both in and out of the game is worth nothing.</p> <p>When Erik, seeking revenge for the unjust treatment of his parents, dares to subvert the rules of Epic, he and his friends find themselves up against with the ultimate masters of the game: the Committee. If Erik and his friends win, they may have the key to destroying Epic's tyranny over New Earth. But if they lose . . .</p>	<p>Mr. Yawin</p>

<p><b>*** This is our Story by Ashley Elston</b></p> 	<p>Mystery</p>	<p>No one knows what happened that morning at River Point. Five boys went hunting. Four came back. The boys won't say who fired the shot that killed their friend, Grant; the evidence shows it could have been any one of them.</p> <p>Kate Marino's senior year internship at the District Attorney's Office isn't exactly glamorous-more like an excuse to leave school early that looks good on college applications. Then the DA hands her boss, Mr. Stone, the biggest case her small town of Belle Terre has ever seen. The River Point Boys are all anyone can talk about. Despite their damning toxicology reports the morning of the accident, the DA wants the boys' case swept under the rug. He owes his political office to their powerful families.</p> <p>Kate won't let that happen. Digging up secrets without revealing her own is a dangerous line to walk; Kate has personal reasons for seeking justice for Grant. As she investigates with Stone-the aging prosecutor relying on Kate to see and hear what he cannot-she realizes that nothing about the case-or the boys-is what it seems. Grant wasn't who she thought he was, and neither is Stone's prime suspect. As Kate gets dangerously close to the truth, it becomes clear that the early morning accident might not have been an accident at all-and if Kate doesn't uncover the true killer, more than one life could be on the line including her own.</p>	<p>Mrs. Kornacki &amp; Ms. Confrancesco</p>
<p><b>The Benefits of Being an Octopus by Ann Braden</b></p> 	<p>Realistic Fiction</p>	<p>Some people can do their homework. Some people get to have crushes on boys. Some people have other things they've got to do.</p> <p>Seventh-grader Zoey has her hands full as she takes care of her much younger siblings after school every day while her mom works her shift at the pizza parlor. Not that her mom seems to appreciate it. At least there's Lenny, her mom's boyfriend—they all get to live in his nice, clean trailer.</p>	<p>Mrs. McCormick</p>

		<p>At school, Zoey tries to stay under the radar. Her only friend Fuchsia has her own issues, and since they're in an entirely different world than the rich kids, it's best if no one notices them.</p> <p>Zoey thinks how much easier everything would be if she were an octopus: eight arms to do eight things at once. Incredible camouflage ability and steady, unblinking vision. Powerful protective defenses.</p> <p>Unfortunately, she's not totally invisible, and one of her teachers forces her to join the debate club. Even though Zoey resists participating, debate ultimately leads her to see things in a new way: her mom's relationship with Lenny, Fuchsia's situation, and her own place in this town of people who think they're better than her. Can Zoey find the courage to speak up, even if it means risking the most stable home she's ever had?</p> <p>This moving debut novel explores the cultural divides around class and the gun debate through the eyes of one girl, living on the edges of society, trying to find her way forward.</p>	
<p><b><i>Dress Coded</i></b> by Carrie Firestone</p> 	<p>Realistic Fiction</p>	<p>In this debut middle-grade girl-power friendship story, perfect for fans of <i>Moxie</i>, an eighth grader starts a podcast to protest the unfair dress code enforcement at her middle school and sparks a rebellion.</p> <p>Molly Frost is FED UP...</p> <p>Because Olivia was yelled at for wearing a tank top.</p> <p>Because Liza got dress coded and Molly didn't, even though they were wearing the exact same outfit.</p> <p>Because when Jessica was pulled over by the principal and missed a math quiz, her teacher gave her an F.</p> <p>Because it's impossible to find shorts that are longer than her fingertips.</p>	<p>Mrs. Shanley</p>

		<p>Because girls' bodies are not a distraction.</p> <p>Because middle school is hard enough.</p> <p>And so Molly starts a podcast where girls can tell their stories, and before long, her small rebellion swells into a revolution.</p> <p>Because now the girls are standing up for what's right, and they're not backing down.</p>	
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