

Incoming 6th Grade Summer Reading List 2019

REQUIRED READING:

Butler/Fountain: *Schooled* by Gordon Korman

& two (2) additional books as long as one is fiction.

Cooper/Popham: *Restart* by Gordon Korman

& two (2) additional books as long as one is fiction.

(Try to save *Schooled/Restart* for last so the book is fresh in your mind for September.)

See the following list for recommendations.

We would encourage you to:

- Read a book in a format or genre you don't usually read for fun
- Read a book about a character who doesn't look like you or live like you
 - Read a book about a topic you don't know a lot about
 - Enjoy your summer reading!

****Please note all non-fiction books are at the end of this list, starting on page 13. ****

FICTION

Adventure / Survival

Alabama Moon by Watt Key -- After the death of his father, 10-year-old Moon Blake is removed from the Alabama forest where he was raised and sent to a boy's home, where, for the first time, he has contact with the outside world and learns about friendship, love, and humanity.

The Blackthorn Key by Kevin Sands -- n 1665 London, fourteen-year-old Christopher Rowe, apprentice to an apothecary, and his best friend Tom try to uncover the truth behind a mysterious cult, following a trail of puzzles, codes, pranks, and danger toward an unearthly secret with the power to tear the world apart. (Sequels: Mark of the Plague; The Assassin's Curse; Call of the Wraith)

The Cay by Theodore Taylor -- Shipwrecked on a tiny Caribbean island, Philip must overcome his prejudice towards Timothy, the old black sailor who becomes the key to his survival. (Sequel: Timothy of the Cay)

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library by Chris Grabenstein -- "Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape"--Provided by publisher. (Sequels: Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics; Mr. Lemoncello's Great Library Race; Mr. Lemoncello's All-Star Breakout)

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart -- After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. (Sequels: The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey; The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Prisoner's Dilemma; The Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict)

Pax by Sara Pennypacker -- "After being forced to give up his pet fox Pax, a young boy named Peter decides to leave home and get his best friend back." -- Provided by publisher

Peter and the Starcatchers by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson -- Peter, an orphan boy, and his friend Molly fight off thieves and pirates in order to keep the secret safe from the diabolical Black Stache and his evil associate, Mister Grin. (Sequels: Peter and the Shadow Thieves; Peter and the Secret of Rundoon; Peter and the Sword of Mercy)

Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz -- After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6. (Sequels: Point Blank; Skeleton Key; Eagle Strike; Scorpia; Ark Angel; Snakehead; Crocodile Tears; Scorpia Rising; Russian Roulette; Never Say Die)

Classics

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg -- Having run away with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, twelve-year-old Claudia strives to keep things in order in their new home and to become a changed person and a heroine to herself.

Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh -- Eleven-year-old Harriet keeps notes on her classmates and neighbors in a secret notebook, but when some of the students read the notebook, they seek revenge.

My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George -- A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains, including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature and animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship. (Sequels: *On the Far Side of the Mountain*; *Frightful's Mountain*)

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle -- Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.

Dystopia

Keeper of the Lost Cities by Shannon Messenger -- Twelve-year-old Sophie discovers the abilities that have always caused her to stand out are because she is actually an elf and, after she is brought to Eternalia where she can hone her skills, Sophie learns she harbors certain secrets that others would kill to learn. (Sequels: *Exile*; *Everblaze*; *Neverseen*; *Lodestar*; *Nightfall*; *Flashback*; *Legacy*)

The Unwanteds by Lisa McCann -- In a society that purges thirteen-year-olds who are creative, identical twins Aaron and Alex are separated, one to attend University while the other, supposedly Eliminated, finds himself in a wondrous place where youths hone their abilities and learn magic. (Sequels: *Island of Silence*; *Island of Fire*; *Island of Legends*; *Island of Shipwrecks*; *Island of Graves*; *Island of Dragons*)

Fantasy/ Science Fiction/ Magical Realism

Airborn by Kenneth Oppel -- Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface. (Sequels: Skybreaker; Starclimber)

The Amulet of Samarkand by Jonathan Stroud -- Nathaniel, a young magician's apprentice, becomes caught in a web of magical espionage, murder, and rebellion, after he summons the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Loveland.

Bob by Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead -- Visiting her grandmother in Australia, Livy, ten, is reminded of the promise she made five years before to Bob, a strange, green creature who cannot recall who or what he is

The Book of Boy by Catherine Gilbert Murdock -- In 1350, a boy with a large hump on his back becomes the servant of a shadowy pilgrim on his way to Rome, who pulls the boy into a dangerous expedition across Europe to gather the seven precious relics of Saint Peter.

Emerald Atlas by John Stephens -- After years of moving from one orphanage to another following their parents' disappearance, Kate, Michael, and Emma learn that they have special powers, a prophesied quest to find a magical book, and a fearsome enemy. (Sequel: The Fire Chronicle)

Endling: The Last by Katherine Applegate -- Fearing she may be the last of her kind, Byx sets off to find a safe haven and to see if the legends of hidden dairnes are true.

Eragon by Christopher Paolini -- In Alagaesia, a 15-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves and monsters. (Sequels: Eldest; Brisingr; Inheritance)

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill -- "An epic fantasy about a young girl raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, who must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her." -- Provided by publisher

The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman -- Living among scholars in the hallowed halls of Jordan College, Lyra hears rumors of a magical dust that supposedly possesses powers that can unite whole universes, and begins a dangerous journey to find it.

Hour of the Bees by Lindsay Eagar -- At first, twelve-year-old Carol is not happy to be spending the summer helping her parents move her grandfather to an assisted living home, but as the summer wears on, she finds herself drawn to him, fascinated by his amazing stories.

Liesl and Po by Lauren Oliver -- A magical mix-up has tremendous consequences for Liesl, an orphan who has been locked in an attic; Will, an alchemist's runaway apprentice; and Po, a ghost, as they are pursued by friend and foe while making an important journey.

Magyk (Septimus Heap, Book One) by Angie Sage -- Ten-year-olds Septimus Heap, the seventh son of the seventh son, and Jenna, the little girl Septimus's father found abandoned in the snow the night Septimus was born and taken away, are threatened by the evil wizard DomDaniel, who intends to finish off the entire royal line. (Sequels: Flyte; Physik; Queste; Syren; Darke)

The Night Gardener by Jonathan Auxier -- Irish orphans Molly, fourteen, and Kip, ten, travel to England to work as servants in a crumbling manor house where nothing is quite what it seems to be, and soon the siblings are confronted by a mysterious stranger and secrets of the cursed home.

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate -- When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

Orphan Island by Laurel Snyder -- Living among scholars in the hallowed halls of Jordan College, Lyra hears rumors of a magical dust that supposedly possesses powers that can unite whole universes, and begins a dangerous journey to find it.

The Red Pyramid by Rick Riordan -- Brilliant Egyptologist Dr. Julius Kane accidentally unleashes the Egyptian god Set, who banishes the doctor to oblivion and forces his two children to embark on a dangerous journey, bringing them closer to the truth about their family and its links to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs.

Savvy by Ingrid Law -- Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose 13th birthday has revealed her "savvy" -- a magical power unique to each member of her family -- just as her father is injured in a terrible accident. (Sequels: Scumble; Switch)

The Sea of Trolls by Nancy Farmer -- After Jack becomes apprenticed to a Druid bard, he and his little sister Lucy are captured by Viking Berserkers and taken to the home of King Ivar the Boneless and his half-troll queen, leading Jack

to undertake a vital quest to Jotunheim, home of the trolls. (Sequels: The Land of the Silver Apples; The Islands of the Blessed)

The Sword of Summer by Rick Riordan -- "Magnus Chase has always been a troubled kid. Since his mother's mysterious death, he's lived alone on the streets of Boston, surviving by his wits, keeping one step ahead of the police and the truant officers. One day, he's tracked down by an uncle he barely knows-a man his mother claimed was dangerous. Uncle Randolph tells him an impossible secret: Magnus is the son of a Norse god. The Viking myths are true. The gods of Asgard are preparing for war... When an attack by fire giants forces him to choose between his own safety and the lives of hundreds of innocents, Magnus makes a fatal decision." Provided by publisher

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead -- In the 1980s, as her mother prepares to be a contestant on a television game show, Miranda tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seem to defy the laws of time and space.

Wildwood by Colin Meloy -- When her baby brother is kidnapped by crows, seventh-grader Prue McKeel ventures into the forbidden Impassable Wilderness -- a dangerous and magical forest at the edge of Portland, Oregon -- and soon finds herself involved in a war among the various inhabitants. (Sequel: Under Wildwood)

Wishtree by Katherine Applegate -- An old red oak tree tells how he and his crow friend, Bongo, help their human neighbors get along after a threat against an immigrant family is carved into the tree's trunk.

Historical Fiction

A Night Divided by Jennifer A. Nielsen -- When the Berlin Wall went up, Gerta, her mother, and her brother Fritz were trapped on the eastern side where they were living, while her father and her older brother Dominic were in the West. Four years later, now twelve, Gerta sees her father on a viewing platform on the western side and realizes he wants her to risk her life trying to tunnel to freedom.

Echo by Pam Munoz Ryan -- Lost in the Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and finds himself entwined in a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica--and decades later three children, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California, find themselves caught up in the same thread of destiny in the darkest days of the twentieth century, struggling to keep their families intact, and tied together by the music of the same harmonica.

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by Jacqueline Kelly -- In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from the older three of her six brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather. (Sequel: *The Curious World of Calpurnia Tate*)

Heart of a Samurai by Margi Preus -- In 1841, after he is rescued from a remote island by an American whaler, teenage Manjiro, who dreams of becoming a samurai, learns new laws and customs as he becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States.

Listening Slowly by Thanhha Lai -- Assisting her grandmother's investigation of her grandfather's fate during the Vietnam War, Mai struggles to adapt to an unfamiliar culture while redefining her sense of family.

A Long Way from Chicago by Richard Peck -- A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother. (Sequels: *A Year Down Yonder*; *A Season of Gifts*)

Seventh Most Important Thing by Shelley Pearsall -- After he throws a brick at the neighborhood Junk Man's head, Arthur is sentenced to community service helping him, but the junk the man collects might be more important than Arthur suspects.

Stella by Starlight by Sharon Draper -- When a burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town.

The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley -- A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother. (Sequel: *The War I Finally Won*)

The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis -- The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African-American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

Wolf Hollow by Lauren Wolk -- Twelve-year-old Annabelle must learn to stand up for what's right in the face of a manipulative and violent new bully who targets people Annabelle cares about, including a homeless World War I veteran.

Humor

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko -- A 12-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister. (Sequels: *Al Capone Shines My Shoes*; *Al Capone Does My Homework*; *Al Capone Throws Me a Curve*)

Swindle by Gordon Korman -- After unscrupulous collector S. Wendell Palomino cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of misfits to break into Palomino's heavily guarded store and steal the card back. (Sequel: *Zoobreak*; *Framed*; *Showoff*; *Hideout*; *Jackpot*; *Unleashed*; *Jingle*)

Mystery

City of Orphans by Avi -- In 1893 New York, 13-year-old Maks, a newsboy, teams up with Willa, a homeless girl, to clear his older sister, Emma, from charges that she stole from the brand new Waldorf Hotel, where she works. Includes historical notes.

Liar & Spy by Rebecca Stead -- Moving into an apartment when his father loses his job, Georges befriends Safer, a 12-year-old coffee-drinking loner and self-appointed spy, who recruits Georges into the world of espionage so that they can investigate a mysterious neighbor who lives on the top floor.

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd -- When Ted and Kat's cousin, Salim, disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together -- Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat -- to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage -- Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a café and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder.

Under the Egg by Laura Marx Fitzgerald -- Her grandfather's dying words lead thirteen-year-old Theodora Tenpenny to a valuable, hidden painting she fears may be stolen, but it is her search for answers in her Greenwich Village neighborhood that brings a real treasure.

Realistic Fiction

Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed -- In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family.

The Best Man by Richard Peck -- Archer has four important role models in his life--his dad, his grandfather, his uncle Paul, and his favorite teacher, Mr. McLeod. When Uncle Paul and Mr. McLeod get married, Archer's sixth-grade year becomes one he'll never forget"--Provided by publisher

The Candymakers by Wendy Mass -- When four 12-year-olds, including Logan, who has never left his parents' Life Is Sweet candy factory, compete in the Confectionary Association's annual contest, they unexpectedly become friends and uncover secrets about themselves during the process.

Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt -- "Ally's greatest fear is that everyone will find out she is as dumb as they think she is because she still doesn't know how to read."--Provided by publisher

George by Alex Gino -- Knowing herself to be a girl despite her outwardly male appearance, George is denied a female role in the class play before teaming up with a friend to reveal her true self.

Goodbye Stranger by Rebecca Stead -- As Bridge makes her way through seventh grade on Manhattan's Upper West Side with her best friends, curvaceous Em, crusader Tab, and a curious new friend, she finds the answers she has been seeking.

Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson -- "When six students are chosen to participate in a weekly talk with no adults allowed, they discover that when they're together, it's safe to share the hopes and dreams they have to hide from the rest of the world." --Provided by publisher.

Heartbeat by Sharon Creech -- Twelve-year-old Annie ponders the many rhythms of life the year her mother becomes pregnant, her grandfather begins faltering, and her best friend (and running partner) becomes distant.

Lost in the Sun by Lisa Graff -- As Trent Zimmerman struggles to move past a traumatic event that took place several months earlier, he befriends class outcast Fallon Little, who helps him understand that he can move on.

Love, Aubrey by Suzanne LaFleur -- While living with her Gram in Vermont, 11-year-old Aubrey writes letters as a way of dealing with losing her father and sister in a car accident, and then being abandoned by her grief-stricken mother.

Merci Suarez Changes Gears by Meg Medina -- “Merci Suárez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just how different. For starters, Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students... So when bossy Edna Santos sets her sights on the new boy who happens to be Merci's school-assigned Sunshine Buddy, Merci becomes the target of Edna's jealousy. Things aren't going well at home, either: Merci's grandfather and most trusted ally, Lolo, has been acting strangely lately -- forgetting important things, falling from his bike, and getting angry over nothing.” -- Provided by publisher.

The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher by Dana Levy -- The start of the school year is not going as the Fletcher brothers hoped. Each boy finds his plans for success veering off in unexpected and sometimes disastrous directions. And at home, their miserable new neighbor complains about everything. As the year continues, the boys learn the hard and often hilarious lesson that sometimes what you least expect is what you come to care about the most.

Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine -- Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.

The Mother-Daughter Book Club by Heather Vogel Frederick -- The mothers of four very different sixth-grade girls pressure them into forming a book club and find, as they read the classic novel *Little Women*, that they have more in common than they thought. (Sequels: *Much Ado About Anne*; *Dear Pen Pal*; *Pies* *Prejudice*; *Home for the Holidays*; *Wish You Were Eyre*; *Mother-Daughter Book Camp*)

Olive's Ocean by Kevin Henkes -- On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, 12-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, her relationship with her grandmother, her feelings for an older boy, and her plans to be a writer.

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper -- Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

Rain Reign by Ann M. Martin -- "Struggling with Asperger's syndrome, Rose shares a bond with her beloved dog, but when the dog goes missing during a storm, Rose is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels, even if it means leaving her routines in order to search for her pet." --OCLC

***Restart** by Gordon Korman (required for Cooper and Popham) -- "Chase does not remember falling off the roof, in fact he does not remember anything about himself, and when he gets back to middle school he begins to learn who he was through the reactions of the other kids--trouble is, he really is not sure he likes the Chase that is being revealed, but can he take the opportunity amnesia has provided and restart his life?"--Provided by publisher.

***Schooled** by Gordon Korman (required for Butler and Fountain) -- Cap lives in isolation with his grandmother, a former hippie; but when his grandmother falls from a tree and breaks her hip, Cap is sent to a foster home where he has his first experience in a public school.

See You in the Cosmos by Jack Cheng -- "Eleven-year-old Alex Petroski, along with his dog, Carl Sagan, makes big discoveries about his family on a road trip and he records it all on a golden iPod he intends to launch into space"--Provided by publisher.

The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle by Leslie Connor -- "Fifteen months ago, Mason's best friend, Benny Kilmartin, turned up dead in the Buttle family's orchard. An investigation drags on, and Mason, honest as the day is long, can't understand why Lieutenant Baird won't believe the story Mason has told about that day. Both Mason and his new friend, tiny Calvin Chumsky, are relentlessly bullied by the other boys in their neighborhood, so they create an underground club space for themselves. When Calvin goes missing, Mason finds himself in trouble again. He's desperate to figure out what happened to Calvin, and eventually, Benny. But will anyone believe him?" -- from Amazon.com

Graphic Novels

The Nameless City by Faith Erin Hicks -- The fate of the Nameless City rests in the hands of Rat, a native, and Kaidu, one of the Dao, the latest occupiers, and the two must somehow work together if the City is to survive. (Sequels: The Stone Heart; The Divided Earth)

Sisters by Raina Telgemeier -- In graphic novel format, Raina Telgemeier shares the story of her relationship with her younger sister.

Smile by Raina Telgemeier -- The author relates, in graphic form, her experiences after she injured her two front teeth and had to have surgeries and wear embarrassing braces and headgear, all while also dealing with the trials and tribulations of middle school.

Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick -- Having lost his mother and his hearing in a short time, 12-year-old Ben leaves his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the

father he never knew in New York City, and meets Rose, who is also longing for something missing from her life. Ben's story is told in words; Rose's in pictures.

Sports

Booked by Kwame Alexander -- Twelve-year-old Nick loves soccer and hates books, but soon learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams.

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander -- Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

Ghost by Jason Reynolds -- Aspiring to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school's track team, gifted runner Ghost finds his goal challenged by a tragic past with a violent father. (Sequels: Patina, Sunny, Lu)

NON-FICTION

Almost Astronauts: The True Story of the “Mercury 13” Women by Tanya Lee Stone -- Presents the story of the 13 women connected with NASA's Mercury 13 space mission, who braved prejudice and jealousy to make their mark and open the door for the female pilots and space commanders that would soon follow.

An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth: What Going To Space Taught me About Ingenuity, Determination and Being Prepared for Anything by Chris Hadfield -- Takes readers deep into his years of training and space exploration to show how to make the impossible possible. Through eye-opening, entertaining stories, his vivid and refreshing insights will teach you how to think like an astronaut and will change, completely, the way you view life on Earth--especially your own.

The Boys in the Boat (young adult edition) by Daniel James Brown -- Celebrates the 1936 U.S. men's Olympic eight-oar rowing team -- nine working class boys who transformed the sport and earned the attention of millions of Americans.

Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food by Eric Schlosser -- Examines the fast food industry with facts about its evolution and practices, the effects of fast food consumption on public health, and the international success of fast food.

The Children of Willesden Lane by Emil Sher -- Fourteen-year-old Lisa Jura was a musical prodigy who hoped to become a concert pianist. But when Hitler's armies advanced on pre-war Vienna, Lisa's parents were forced to make a difficult decision. Able to secure passage for only one of their three daughters through the Kindertransport, they chose to send gifted Lisa to London for safety.

Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice by Phillip M. Hoose -- Presents the life of the Alabama teenager who played an integral but little-known role in the Montgomery bus strike of 1955-1956.

Courage Has No Color by Tanya Lee Stone -- Tells the story of America's first black paratroopers during World War II.

Flesh & Blood So Cheap: The Triangle Fire and its Legacy by Albert Marrin -- Describes the conditions in the textile industry in the early 20th century behind the fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company that led to the death of many young women, and explains its impact on the labor movement and on society.

GO: A Kidd's Guide to Graphic Design by Chip Kidd -- Graphic designer Chip Kidd describes the elements of graphic design, including form, function, color, and typography.

Hoop Dreams: A True Story of Hardship and Triumph by Ben Joravsky -- A study of the struggles of Arthur Agee and William Gates to win college scholarships and positions on professional teams follows the stories of their families, relationships, and personal aspirations.

I Am Malala (young adult edition) by Malala Yousafzai -- Documents the educational pursuits of the Nobel Peace Prize winner who became an international symbol of hope and inspiration when she challenged the traditions of her Pakistan community, offering insight into the influential role of her courageous father.

Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster by Jon Krakauer -- The author relates his experience of climbing Mount Everest during its deadliest season and examines what it is about the mountain that makes people willingly subject themselves to such risk, hardship, and expense.

Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95 by Phillip M. Hoose -- Documents the survival tale of an intrepid shorebird that has endured annual migrations between Argentina and the Canadian Arctic throughout the course of a long lifetime while his species continues to decline.

The Omnivore's Dilemma: The Secrets Behind What You Eat by Michael Pollan, adapted by Richie Chevat -- Delves into facts about food, life expectancy as it relates to consumption, and global health implications resulting from food choices made by people around the world, encouraging readers to consider their food choices and eating habits.

Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science by John Fleischman -- The true story of Phineas Gage, whose brain had been pierced by an iron rod in 1848, and who survived and became a case study in how the brain functions.

"The President Has Been Shot!" The Assassination of John F. Kennedy by James L. Swanson -- Recounts the 35th president's assassination and details key events while sharing informative back matter and archival photographs.

Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Differently: A Biography by Karen Blumenthal -- Presents the life and career of the computer industry visionary,

from his early life and creation of Apple Computer at the age of twenty to his accomplishments in technology and design.

Sugar Changed the World: A Story of Magic, Spice, Slavery, Freedom, and Science by Marc Aronson and Marina Budhos -- Traces the panoramic story of the sweet substance and its important role in shaping world history.

Tanya Lee Stone Examines The Good, the Bad, and the Barbie: A Doll's History and Her Impact on Us by Tanya Lee Stone -- How the Barbie doll became the icon that she is and the impact she has had on our culture through passionate anecdotes and memories from a range of girls and women.

Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World by Sy Montgomery -- An authorized portrait of Grandin's life with autism and her groundbreaking work as a scientist and designer of cruelty-free livestock facilities.

Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet Below the Chilean Desert by Marc Aronson -- Describes the rescue of 33 miners trapped in a copper-gold mine in San Jose, Chile and how experts from around the world, from drillers to astronauts to submarine specialists, came together to make their remarkable rescue possible.

Unbroken (young adult edition) by Laura Hillenbrand. -- A biography of Olympic runner and World War II bombardier Louis Zamperini, who had been rambunctious in childhood before succeeding in track and eventually serving in the military, which led to a trial in which he was forced to find a way to survive in the open ocean after being shot down.

Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian High School Football Team by Steve Sheinkin -- Before they became legends, Jim Thorpe and Pop Warner met at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania, where they forged one of the winningest teams in American football history.

World without Fish by Mark Kurlansky -- Examines the threats to the survival of fish in the world's oceans, discussing the damage caused by various types of fishing equipment, the impact of politics on the regulation of fishing, and the harmful effects of overfishing, pollution, and global warming.