June 18, 2013

Dear Parents,

This summer, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) will continue a summer reading requirement in order to encourage reading. Each student completing grades five through eleven is required to read at least one book during the summer months. Follow-up procedures have been developed by your child’s middle school, and these will be implemented in the fall.

Attached is a list of suggested books for summer reading; however, students may read any book that is comparable to books on this list and approved by their parents.

Reading is crucial to academic achievement, and I urge you to encourage your child to read many books over the summer months. I appreciate your help as we all work together to support children’s academic progress.

Thank you in advance for understanding that our collective success at Island Creek depends on a home-school partnership that values academic choices all year long.

Happy Reading,

Michael G. Macrina
Principal
Suggested Summer Reading Lists

Grade Level Reading Lists

- Grade 6 - http://www.fcps.edu/is/summer/reading/6.shtml
- Grades 7-8 - http://www.fcps.edu/is/summer/reading/78.shtml

Note: A rising student is one that will be starting that grade in the new school year. For example, a rising tenth grader is one who completed the ninth grade in school year 2012-2013 and will be a tenth grader in the 2013-2014 school year.

About Summer Reading

In order to encourage and support reading achievement, every student who will be entering grades six through twelve in the fall must read at least one book over the summer.

The follow-up in the fall will be determined by each school. The Summer Reading lists contain suggestions for reading; although students may read any other book that is approved by their parents, except where individual schools have issued their own summer reading requirements. Any school-based requirements supercede the County requirement.

Some schools and courses, particularly at the high school level, have additional summer assignments. Parents and students should inquire about summer assignments when registering at the school. Most of these assignments are posted at the individual school web sites.

Resources

FCPS students can access online digital books (ebooks).

The Fairfax County Public Libraries have lists of many good books for readers of all ages. To access this information, click on the link below.

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/reading/

Connections is designed to assist teachers, parents, and others working with children in selecting books that reinforce the Virginia Standards of Learning in the four core content areas of English, history, math, and science. The books in the Connections database represent a wide variety of books available for children; however, it is not inclusive of all the books available. Remember, not all books are appropriate for use with all children; read and familiarize yourself with a book before you decide to use it with children.

http://itweb.fcps.edu/connections/index.cfm
This list includes a wide variety of books to appeal to the interests and reading levels of many students. Parents are encouraged to review book selections with their children in order to help them make appropriate choices. Students may select books from this list, or they may read a comparable book that is approved by their parents.

Additional suggestions can also be found in reading lists developed by Fairfax County Public Library at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library and Virginia Readers’ Choice at http://vsra.org/VRC.html

(F) = Fiction
(NF) = Nonfiction
Baskin, Nora Raleigh. **SUMMER BEFORE BOYS.** Julia and Eliza are lifelong friends who have shared everything until one develops her first real crush. The girls find themselves drifting apart until Eliza does something drastic to win back her best friend. (F)

Bausum, Ann. **FREEDOM RIDERS: JOHN LEWIS AND JIM ZWERG ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.** The 1960s saw courageous young people risking great personal danger as they participated in the freedom rides during the Civil Rights Movement. (NF)

Bell, Cathleen Davitt. **LITTLE BLOG ON THE PRAIRIE.** No iPod, no cell phone, no electricity—welcome to Gen Welsh’s world when she is forced to spend her entire summer vacation at Camp Frontier, mimicking farm life in the 1890s. Will she survive without the luxuries of modern life, or realize that maybe she doesn’t really need them after all? (F)

Bloor, Edward. **LONDON CALLING.** Seventh-grader Martin Conway believes that his life is monotonous and dull until the night the antique radio he uses as a night-light transports him to the bombing of London. (F)

Blumenthal, Karen. **BOOTLEG: MURDER, MOONSHINE, AND THE LAWLESSNESS OF PROHIBITION.** When Congress passed the 18th Amendment, prohibiting the manufacture and sale of alcohol, supporters were convinced it would create a stronger, more moral nation. Instead, corruption and lawlessness erupted. This is a fast-paced, gripping account with vivid photos from the period. (NF)

Booraem, Ellen. **SMALL PERSONS WITH WINGS.** For generations, the Turpin family has been providing sanctuary for Parvi, known in some circles as fairies. In return for this protection, these Small Persons with Wings gave the family a magical moonstone. Trouble begins when the Parvi want their moonstone back, but the Turpins can’t find it. As the Parvi become more and more angry, this clever fantasy becomes more hilarious. (F)

Borden, Louise. **THE JOURNEY THAT SAVED CURIOUS GEORGE.** This beautifully illustrated picture book tells the story of Margaret and H.A. Rey and their escape from Paris during World War II. (NF)

Bridges, Ruby. **THROUGH MY EYES.** Ruby Bridges tells the moving story of her year in first grade at the all-white William Frantz Public School in New Orleans in 1960. (NF)

Brontë, Charlotte. **JANE EYRE.** In early 19th century England, an orphaned young woman accepts employment as a governess and soon finds herself in love with her employer, who has a terrible secret. (F)

Bruchac, Joseph. **CODE TALKER: A NOVEL ABOUT THE NAVAJO MARINES OF WORLD WAR TWO.** After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay is recruited by the Marines to become a Code Talker, sending urgent messages during World War II in his native tongue. (F)

Bunting, Eve. **PIRATE CAPTAIN’S DAUGHTER.** Following her mother’s death, fifteen-year-old Catherine disguises herself as a boy to join her father’s pirate crew. After the ship, the Reprisal, sets sail, she finds life on board a pirate ship is not for the faint of heart. If her secret is uncovered, punishment will be swift and brutal for both Catherine and her father. (F)

Burns, Loree Griffin. **THE HIVE DETECTIVES: CHRONICLE OF A HONEY BEE CATASTROPHE.** In 2006, nearly 40 per cent of the honeybee population in the United States simply vanished. Bee scientists and beekeepers across the country have been working to understand “colony collapse disorder.” Photographs and scientific journals help tell the story. (NF)

Burns, Loree Griffin. **TRACKING TRASH: FLOTSAM, JETSAM, AND THE SCIENCE OF OCEAN MOTION.** This book describes the work of a man who tracks trash as it travels great distances by way of ocean currents. (NF)
Caputo, Philip. **10,000 DAYS OF THUNDER: A HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR.** This is a straightforward overview with pictures of the Vietnam War. (NF)

Choat, Beth. **SOCCERLAND.** The cover says it all! Flora is such a good soccer player that she has been invited to the International Sports Academy to compete for a chance to play for the U.S. Girls’ Soccer Team. It’s her first time away from home, but she works hard to make new friends as well as trying to become the best soccer player that she can be. (F)

Choldenko, Gennifer. **AL CAPONE DOES MY SHIRTS.** In 1935, Moose Flanagan and his family move to Alcatraz Island where his father has found work in the prison housing such notorious criminals as Al Capone. Moose must balance the responsibilities of caring for his autistic sister while coping with the free-spirited warden’s daughter. Also, **Al Capone Shines My Shoes.** (F)

Choldenko, Gennifer. **NO PASSENGERS BEYOND THIS POINT.** Living unexpectedly in a dreamland, India, Finn, and Mouse search for clues to solve the puzzle to find their way back home. (F)

Clements, Andrew. **THINGS NOT SEEN.** Bobby wakes up invisible. His parents and his new blind friend, Alicia, try to reverse his condition. Also, **Things Hoped For and Things That Are.** (F)

Cody, Matthew. **POWERLESS.** Moving to a new town, Daniel knows he’ll find super friends – but he never imagines he’ll have friends with super powers! Being around kids who can fly and become invisible, Daniel feels powerless, until one day when he learns that his friends mysteriously lose their powers when they turn thirteen. Racing against the calendar, Daniel realizes that if he can find a way to help his friends, he may be able to be the town’s super hero after all! (F)

Collins, Suzanne. **THE HUNGER GAMES.** America, now Panem, requires each of its twelve territories to select two children between the ages of 12 and 18 to participate in the Hunger Games. On television, these twenty-four kids will fight to the death, and only one will survive. The first book in the **Hunger Games** series. (F)

Condie, Ally. **MATCHED.** Torn between loving her best friend Xander who was chosen by Society as her “match,” or defying the government and opening her heart to Ky Markem, Cassia Reyes is forced to make the hardest decisions of her life – believe in the government’s system or follow her heart. The first book in the **Matched Trilogy.** (F)

Connor, Leslie. **WAITING FOR NORMAL.** Wanting a “normal” life, Addie is forced to make it on her own when her mother neglects to live up to her responsibilities. (F)

Cooney, Caroline B. **CODE ORANGE.** While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City. (F)

Cummings, Priscilla. **RED KAYAK.** Brady knows that his friends are responsible for a mean prank that results in an accidental tragedy. Plagued by this guilty secret, Brady struggles with the truth and its consequences. (F)

Curtis, Christopher. **WATSONS GO TO BIRMINGHAM - 1963.** The Watsons live in Flint, Michigan. They fix up the “brown bomber” and drive to visit Grandmother in Alabama to leave their brother Byron to live with her. (F)

Dasher, James. **THE MAZE RUNNER.** Fighting against a mysterious group named WICKED, Thomas and the other boys in the Glade must crack the secret code and find a way out of the moving maze before it’s too late. The first book in the **Maze Runner** trilogy. (F)

Deem, James M. **BODIES FROM THE ICE: MELTING GLACIERS AND THE RECOVERY OF THE PAST.** In 1991, mountain climbers found the body of Otzi, the oldest mummy recovered and thought to be over 5000 years old. (NF)

Detorie, Rick. **ACCIDENTAL GENIUS OF WEASEL HIGH.** In this hybrid novel/graphic novel, Larkin Pace faces many perils his freshman year: his parents, the bossy older sister, a bully, girl troubles, and a weird best friend. But he faces them with hilarious drawings and a sense of humor. (F)
Deuker, Carl. **PAYBACK TIME.** In pursuit of a killer story, Mitch is determined to find out the truth about a new football player, Angel, at his high school. As he starts asking tough questions, everyone’s lips seemed to be sealed about the player’s true identity. Mitch will do whatever it takes to find out who Angel is and what he has done. The truth will surprise everyone! (F)

Dionne, Erin. **THE TOTAL TRAGEDY OF A GIRL NAMED HAMLET.** Hamlet Kennedy’s eighth grade year is plagued by many things including: a genius seven-year-old sister who will attend Hamlet’s middle school this year, geeky Shakespeare scholar parents, and now, a Shakespeare project for school. (F)

DuPrau, Jeanne. **CITY OF EMBER.** The year is 241. Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger and finds part of an ancient message she feels sure will help save her decaying city. The first in The Books of Ember series. (F)

Elliott, Laura. **UNDER A WAR-TORN SKY.** Take a look at Nazi-occupied Europe through the eyes and experiences of Henry Forester, a young flier shot down during World War II. Also, A Troubled Peace. (F)

Ellis, Deborah. **THE BREADWINNER.** Parvana lives in Kabul, Afghanistan. When conditions grow desperate for her family, she poses as a boy so she can earn money to help them. (F)

Engle, Margarita. **THE FIREFLY LETTERS: A SUFRAIGETTE’S JOURNEY TO CUBA.** Fredrika Bremer is a Swedish suffragist visiting Cuba in 1851. Cecilia is a Black slave serving as Fredrika’s translator. Elena is the daughter of a wealthy landowner. Based on a true story and written in alternating narratives, this free verse novel tells the story of three different women, all dreaming of their own form of freedom. (F)

Engle, Margarita. **THE SURRENDER TREE: POEMS OF CUBA’S STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM.** Follow Rosa, a healer, who nurses runaway slaves and Cuban deserters in caves and other secret hideaways. As her fame grows, Rosa's enemies relentlessly hunt her down, attempting to break the Cuban spirit of resistance. (NF)

Erskine, Kathryn. **MOMINGBIRD.** Imagine having to go to the dictionary to understand emotions and always struggling to make friends. Caitlin’s confusion and discomfort come from having Asperger's Syndrome and are made even worse when her brother is killed and her father is overwhelmed with grief. (F)

Farmer, Nancy. **HOUSE OF THE SCORPION.** Matt is the young clone of El Patron, the leader of a corrupt drug empire located between Mexico and the United States. El Patron has lived 140 years with the help of transplants from a series of clones. Gradually, Matt realizes his fate, but can he escape in time? (F)

Feinstein, John. **LAST SHOT: A FINAL FOUR MYSTERY.** Stevie and Susan Carol win a sports writing contest and have a chance to cover the NCAA Final Four games. When these teenage journalists discover a scheme to fix the games, they go undercover to stop the plot. The first in Feinstein’s sports mystery series. (F)

Ferguson, Alane. **THE CHRISTOPHER KILLER: A FORENSIC MYSTERY.** Interested in forensic science, seventeen-year-old Cameryn Mahoney assists her father in the autopsy of a local murder victim. Cameryn begins to further investigate the murder and becomes dangerously involved in finding the killer. This is the first book in the Forensic Mystery series. (F)

Flake, Sharon. **THE SKIN I’M IN.** Thirteen-year-old Maleeka, an excellent student who is choosing the wrong friends, meets a new teacher who helps her discover who she is and what she believes. (F)

Fleischman, John. **PHINEAS GAGE.** This is the gruesome, true account of an accident that happened to a railroad foreman in Vermont in 1848. A 13-pound iron rod shot through his brain. He survived but became a textbook case in brain science. (NF)

Fleming, Candace. **AMELIA LOST: THE LIFE AND DISAPPEARANCE OF AMELIA EARHART.** This fascinating biography alternates between the story of Amelia Earhart’s life and the days surrounding her disappearance. Through photos, sidebars, maps, and letters, the author gives readers a compelling glimpse at the life of a legend. (NF)

Fleming, Candace. **THE GREAT AND ONLY BARNUM: THE TREMENDOUS, STUPENDOUS LIFE OF SHOWMAN P.T. BARNUM.** This biography takes a look at the life of the entrepreneur and showman P.T. Barnum, the man behind The Greatest Show on Earth. From jumbo elephants to three-ring circuses, the story follows Barnum from his childhood to his amazing success to financial disaster and back again. (NF)

(F) = Fiction
(NF) = Nonfiction
Freedman, Russell.  **ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND FREDERICK DOUGLAS: THE STORY BEHIND AN AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP.** This book traces the powerful friendship and parallel lives of two men who shaped American history—one man an American president, the other a leading black abolitionist. It is a carefully researched account of how their lives intersected at a critical moment in U.S. history. Though their meetings were few and brief, their exchange of ideas helped to end the Civil War, reunite the nation, and abolish slavery. (NF)

Freedman, Russell.  **THE WAR TO END ALL WARS: WORLD WAR I.** This is a highly-readable account of World War I—from the broad causes and consequences to the heartbreaking personal details of trench warfare. The technology, the battles, the leaders, and the soldiers are all included in a fascinating narrative that is accompanied by arresting photographs and helpful maps. (NF)

Frost, Helen.  **HIDDEN.** When Wren and Darra end up at the same summer camp as teenagers they instantly recognize each other, although they have never met. The girls spend the summer searching for answers This novel-in-poems is written in alternating points of view. (F)

Gaiman, Neil.  **THE GRAVEYARD BOOK.** After losing his family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard, where he will be raised by the groundskeeper and the ghosts that dwell there. As he grows up, he learns that his family’s killer is still out there looking for him. (F)

Gantos, Jack.  **DEAD END IN NORVELT.** Jack spends his summer grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor, Miss Volker, with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead—writing obituaries. Jack and Miss Volker are alarmingly busy, as residents die in rapid succession. The author combines this unlikely twosome with underage driving, lessons from history, and countless bloody noses to win the 2012 Newbery Medal. (F)

Giblin, James Cross.  **GOOD BROTHER, BAD BROTHER: THE STORY OF EDWIN BOOTH AND JOHN WILKES BOOTH.** From early childhood to the years beyond President Lincoln’s assassination, this book explains the relationship between John Wilkes Booth and his brother, Edwin Booth. (NF)

Gleitzman, Morris.  **ONCE.** Determined to return to his hometown and find his Jewish parents, Felix runs away from the safety of a Catholic orphanage, only to be faced with the brutal violence and cruel truth of the Nazi regime. The first in the trilogy:  **Once, Then, Now.** (F)

Goodall, Jane.  **THE CHIMPANZEE I LOVE: SAVING THEIR WORLD AND OURS.** Imagine a curiosity and passion that compels you to live in a community of chimpanzees. Dr. Goodall tells of her discoveries about chimpanzees, her love for them, and her campaign for the protection of these amazing animals. (NF)

Greenwald, Tom.  **CHARLIE JOE JACKSON’S GUIDE TO NOT READING.** Charlie Joe Jackson hates to read. He hates to read so much he’ll do whatever it takes to NOT read. Charlie Joe’s perfect record of not reading is at stake as he enters middle school. Will he finally be forced to read a book or will his streak continue? Also, Charlie Joe Jackson’s Guide To Extra Credit. (F)

Haddix, Margaret Peterson.  **FOUND.** Thirteen years after a plane mysteriously lands in an airport with thirty-six baby passengers and no adults on board, the children from the flight begin to receive strange, unexplained letters. Jonah and Chip must work quickly to uncover the secrets of their past. The first in the series,  **The Missing.** (F)

Haddix, Margaret Peterson.  **UPRISING.** The lives of Bella, an Italian immigrant; Yetta, a Russian immigrant; and Jane, daughter of a wealthy American family, become intertwined. All three are caught up in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of 1911. (F)

Hale, Shannon.  **RAPUNZEL’S REVENGE.** This graphic novel retells the famous fairy tale in a Wild West setting. Rapunzel escapes the home her mother has turned into a prison and vows to destroy the evil empire with the help of her hair! (F)

Han, Jenny.  **SHUG.** A twelve-year-old girl learns about friendship, first loves, and self-worth in a small town in the South. (F)

Han, Jenny.  **THE SUMMER I TURNED PRETTY.** Belly spends every summer at her mom’s best friend’s beach house. Susannah’s sons, Conrad and Jeremiah, are always there and have been like brothers to her. But that all changes the summer Belly turns pretty. (F)

(F) = Fiction
(NF) = Nonfiction
Hartman, Rachel. **SERAPHINA.** Fantasy lovers take note! Four decades of peace have done little to ease the mistrust between humans and dragons in the kingdom of Goredd. A treaty is about to be renewed, but rebels are unhappy with the treaty and would love to have it abolished. Seraphina is a half-dragon, half-human music teacher and has good reason to fear both sides. She keeps her identity a secret and struggles to fit in both worlds; she falls in love with the prince, has enlightening memories of her real mother, and communicates with other half-dragons in her dreams. (F)

Heuvel, Eric. **A FAMILY SECRET.** Flashbacks are used to tell of a family living in Amsterdam during the Holocaust. The very serious subject matter is related through the family members; the father was a member of the Dutch Nazi Party, while the mother and son participated in the Dutch resistance. The graphic novel format reveals the family’s secrets up to the present day. The companion is *The Search.* (F)

Hiaasen, Carl. **HOOT.** Roy, who is new to his small Florida community and the target of a bully, becomes involved in another’s boy’s attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site. (F)

Hiaasen, Carl. **CHOMP.** The difficult star of a reality television show disappears on location in the Florida Everglades where animals from the Crane family’s wildlife refuge are being filmed. Wahoo Crane and his friend Tuna set out to find the missing star, but they must avoid Tuna’s gun-happy father. (F)

Hobbs, Will. **CROSSING THE WIRE.** Fifteen-year-old Victor Flores travels north in a desperate attempt to cross the Arizona border and find work in the United States to support his family in central Mexico. (F)

Holm, Jennifer L. **MIDDLE SCHOOL IS WORSE THAN MEATLOAF: A YEAR TOLD THROUGH STUFF.** Ginny uses “stuff” to share the ups and downs of her seventh grade year. Her stuff includes unique items such as to do lists, email, notes, receipts, diary entries, and much more. (F)

Hoose, Phillip M. **CLAUDETTE COLVIN: TWICE TOWARD JUSTICE.** In 1955, Claudette Colvin refused to give up her seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama and played an important, but little known, role in the Civil Rights Movement. (NF)

Horowitz, Anthony. **STORMBREAKER.** After the death of his uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex is coerced to continue his uncle’s dangerous work for Britain’s intelligence agency, MI6. This is the first book in the *Alex Rider* spy thriller series. (F)

Hughes, Susan. **CASE CLOSED? NINE MYSTERIES UNLOCKED BY MODERN SCIENCE.** Was Egypt’s first female pharaoh murdered? Did the city of Ubar, located on the Arabian Peninsula, just vanish into thin air? Was Anastasia, a Russian princess, murdered, or is she alive and well? With the help of DNA testing and modern day science, uncover the truth behind these age-old mysteries. (NF)

Hunt, Lynda Mullaly. **ONE FOR THE MURPHYS.** When she enters the foster care system, Carley Conners never imagines that she’ll find a place to call home – that is until she meets the Murphys. Blindsided by their love, Carley finally feels like she has found a place to belong. When her mother comes to take her back, she is forced to make the biggest decision of her life. (F)

Jackson, Donna M. **ER VETS: LIFE IN AN ANIMAL EMERGENCY ROOM.** Pet lovers will enjoy this real-life look into the daily world of veterinarians. (NF)

Jacobson, Jennifer Richard. **SMALL AS AN ELEPHANT.** Jack’s mom has always been unpredictable. Now she has left him all alone in the backwoods of Maine. With only a small souvenir elephant to keep him company, Jack is on his own to find his way home before the authorities realize that he has been abandoned. (F)

Jacques, Brian. **REDWALL.** This medieval fantasy of feisty rodents and high adventure has good battling with evil. The first in the *Redwall* series. (F)

Johnson, Angela. **BIRD.** BIRD is told from three points of view: a runaway, a young heart transplant recipient, and a boy who has just lost a brother. The threesome find one another as they search for love and connections. (F)

Jurmain, Suzanne. **THE SECRET OF THE YELLOW DEATH: A TRUE STORY OF MEDICAL SLEUTHING.** Fever, chills, headaches, vomiting blood, and liver failure—all symptoms of the deadly disease, yellow fever. Follow Walter Reed and his team of doctors as they travel to Cuba in 1900 to run lab reports, use soldiers as test subjects, and experience inevitable challenges and triumphs as they try to unlock the secret of what once was an unsolved medical mystery. (NF)

(F) = Fiction
(NF) = Nonfiction

6
FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Summer 2013 Suggested Reading List
for
Rising Seventh and Eighth Graders

Kindl, Patrice. KEEPING THE CASTLE: A TALE OF ROMANCE, RICHES, AND REAL ESTATE. In the spirit of Jane Austen, Althea must marry a rich man in order to preserve her family’s position in society. Whom will she choose-Lord Boring or Mr. Fredericks? (F)

Kirkpatrick, Katherine. MYSTERIOUS BONES: THE STORY OF KENNEWICK MAN. This illustrated book explores the 1996 discovery of the skeletal remains of the Kennewick Man, one of the oldest and most complete skeletons ever recovered in this country. When two young men accidentally uncover a skeleton along a bank of the Columbia River in Kennewick, Washington, they have no idea that their discovery will lead to one of the most important archaeological controversies of modern times and pit scientists against Native American tribes in a nine-year battle for control of the remains. (NF)

Knowles, Johanna. SEE YOU AT HARRY’S. Fern feels invisible in her family. She has a grumpy older sister stuck working at the family restaurant; older brother, Holden, is struggling with school bullies and his own identity; and adorable, three-year-old Charlie is always the center of attention. Unexpected tragedy strikes and the fragile bond holding the family together is stretched almost to the breaking point. (F)

Korman, Gordon. SCHOOLED. Capricorn Anderson, homeschooled by his grandmother on their commune, enrolls in the local middle school with unexpected and humorous consequences. (F)

Korman, Gordon. UNGIFTED. Donovan Curtis, legendary jokester and average eighth grade student, knows he has gone too far when his latest prank causes thousands of dollars worth of damage to the school gym. When an unexpected turn of events accidentally sends Donovan to the “gifted” school, he knows he’s in way over his head. Told through various points of view, both Donovan and his new genius friends begin to realize that despite their differences, they still have things to learn from one another. (F)

Kurlansky, Mark. WORLD WITHOUT FISH. This book reveals an environmental problem that is not easily seen: the problem in the world’s oceans. Find out how climate, biology, economics, and fishing are endangering the world’s waters and what kids can do about it. (NF)

Lai, Thanhla. INSIDE OUT AND BACK AGAIN. Ha and her family flee Vietnam and resettle in Alabama. There she struggles with grammar, customs, dress (she wears a flannel nightgown to school, for example), and also cruel rejection from mean classmates. Based on the author’s experiences as a child refugee, this National Book Award and 2012 Newbery Honor winner is both humorous and heartbreaking. (F)

Landon, Kristen. THE LIMIT. Matt’s family has just spent their monthly debt limit. In this society, when you hit the limit, the government wants the family to surrender a child to work off that debt. Can Matt do it? (F)

Larson, Hope. WRINKLE IN TIME: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL. This is the graphic novel version of the classic story of time travel, adventure, and growing up. A Wrinkle in Time introduces us to the wonderful and unforgettable characters of Meg and Charles Wallace Murry and their friend Calvin O’Keefe who along with the three Mrs.-Who, Whatsit, and Which-begin an adventure to fight off a dark force and save their father, along with our universe. (F)

Law, Ingrid. SAVVY. When Beaumont family members turn thirteen, they receive their “savvy” or magical gift unique to each one of them. Mibs’ thirteenth birthday arrives when her father is out of town and becomes ill. Mibs, her savvy, and a cast of characters hit the road to save him. Also, the companion novel Scumble. (F)

Lester, Julius. DAY OF TEARS. This is a fictionalized, heart-wrenching account of the 1859 slave auction on the Georgia plantation of Pierce Butler. (F)

Lopez, Diana. CONFETTI GIRL. Lina Flores loves sports and science, has an obsession with socks, and might have a crush on classmate Luis. Lina, with the help of her friend Vanessa, is trying to survive the drama of middle school, as well as help her father cope with the recent loss of her mother. (F)

Lupica, Mike. HEAT. Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old, and he has no parents to offer them proof. (F)

Lupica, Mike. HERO. In this fast-paced adventure story, fourteen year old Zach Harriman races to uncover the mystery behind his dad’s death, while also learning to control his new superhero powers. Will he discover the truth and learn to trust himself in time to face his father’s fiercest enemies – or will he be too late? (F)
Lupica, Mike. **TRAVEL TEAM.** After he is cut from his travel basketball team – the very same team his father once led to national prominence – Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs who might have a shot at victory. (F)

MacLeod, Elizabeth. **ROYAL MURDER: THE DEADLY INTRIGUE OF TEN SOVEREIGNS.** From Cleopatra to Nikolay Romanov, kings and queens over the ages have been the targets of murderers or have done the targeting themselves. Read about gruesome deeds, deadly poisons, and political mysteries. (NF)

Mah, Adeline Yen. **CHINESE CINDERELLA: THE TRUE STORY OF AN UNWANTED DAUGHTER.** Chinese Cinderella is the perfect title for Adeline Yen Mah’s memoir of her childhood growing up in China during the 1940s as she endures life ruled by a cruel stepmother. (NF)

Malone, Marianne. **THE SIXTY-EIGHT ROOMS.** When Ruthie and her best friend Jack visit the Chicago’s Art Institute on a class field trip, they discover the Thorne Room which houses 68 miniature rooms representing different time periods. A found key allows them to shrink and visit these rooms and time periods, and the adventures begin. (F)

Marrin, Albert. **FLESH AND BLOOD SO CHEAP: THE TRIANGLE FIRE AND ITS LEGACY.** Hard-working immigrants looking for a better life, poor working conditions, and greedy factory bosses – this is the story of the unimaginable disaster of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire of 1911. (NF)

Martin, Russell. **THE MYSTERIES OF BEETHOVEN’S HAIR.** A lock of the famous composer’s hair was saved from 1827, at the time of his death, and handed down to the current owners today. This is the story of how it was preserved and who the safekeepers were, as well as the results of the forensic tests that were performed to unravel the mystery of Beethoven’s ill health. (NF)

Mazer, Harry. **BOY AT WAR: A NOVEL OF PEARL HARBOR.** Fourteen-year-old Adam is caught in the midst of the attack on December 7, 1941. Also, **A Boy No More and Heroes Don’t Run: A Novel of the Pacific War.** (F)

McCall, Guadalupe Garcia. **UNDER THE MESQUITE.** When her mom is diagnosed with cancer, Lupita struggles to maintain her life as a Mexican-American high school student and budding actress, while also caring for her younger siblings. Written in verse, this is an unforgettable story about family bonds, the healing power of words, and the strength it takes to face overwhelming loss. (F)

Meloy, Maile. **THE APOTHECARY.** Janie Scott’s family has just moved from Los Angeles to London where she meets Benjamin Burrows, the son of a mysterious apothecary. When Ben’s father is kidnapped, Janie and Ben must use the apothecary’s magical book, *The Pharmacopoeia*, to find him and save the world. (F)

Middaugh, Dallas. **THE CITY OF EMBER: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL.** This graphic novel reintroduces Ember, the doomed city of darkness that was built to ensure that humans would continue to exist on Earth. On Assignment Day, 12-year-olds leave school and receive their lifetime job assignments. Lina becomes a messenger, and her friend Doon ends up in the Pipeworks beneath the city. They unearth an evil plot from the government to steal away precious resources from people who live in Ember. Using clues left behind by Lina’s late grandmother, they travel beneath Ember’s tunnels in a desperate attempt to find a way out. (F)

Mikaelson, Ben. **TOUCHING SPIRIT BEAR.** Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the Native American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island. (F)

Montgomery, Sy. **KAKAPO RESCUE: SAVING THE WORLD’S STRANDEST PARROT.** The flightless Kakapo parrots had at one time numbered in the millions. They’re most unusual because of their size (not the longest, but the heaviest parrot) and the fact that they bury their nests underground. Now 14 scientists are working to save the remaining 91 parrots, located on a small island off the coast of New Zealand. (NF)

Montgomery, Sy and Temple Grandin. **TEMPLE GRANDIN: HOW THE GIRL WHO LOVED COWS EMBRACED AUTISM AND CHANGED THE WORLD.** This biography explores the life and mind of Temple Grandin, a brilliant autistic woman who revolutionized the livestock industry. (NF)
Moore, Wes. **DISCOVERING WES MOORE.** Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart and within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both ran into trouble with the police. How did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? When Wes Moore wrote to his namesake in prison, they began a remarkable friendship. This story looks at the challenges of growing up and the power of the choices that people make in their lives. (NF)

Moriarty, Chris. **INQUISITOR’S APPRENTICE.** Sacha Kessler lives in New York in 1896, but this New York is filled with magic. When police learn that Sacha can see witches, he’s apprenticed to the department’s Inquisitor. With their mission to stop magical crime, Sacha and his fellow apprentice Lily Astral must use their wits and powers to stop the murder of Thomas Edison! (F)

Morpurgo, Michael. **AN ELEPHANT IN THE GARDEN.** Based on a true story, a family flees for safety and takes an orphaned zoo elephant with them. The setting is World War II and Dresden, Germany is being bombed. (F)

Morpurgo, Michael. **PRIVATE PEACEFUL.** Two young brothers, Tommo and Charlie Peaceful, are faced with the reality of trench warfare and life as soldiers during World War I. As Tommo reflects back on his childhood, this touching and emotional story intertwines his past family struggles with his current soldier life. (F)

Morpurgo, Michael. **WAR HORSE.** In 1914, Joey, a beautiful stallion with a distinctive cross on his nose, is bought by the British army. He leaves his owners and his life on an English farm and becomes a cavalry horse. He is shipped to France and witnesses horrific battle after battle with the German calvary, always hoping to be reunited with his beloved master, Albert. (F)

Mulligan, Andy. **TRASH.** Three boys live with hundreds of other families beside a city’s mountainous garbage dumpsite. Their days are spent picking through trash for something to use, something to sell, or something to eat. One day their lives change forever after one of them finds a bag that contains a wallet, a key, and a map. (F)

Murphy, Jim. **INVINCIBLE MICROBE: TUBERCULOSIS AND THE NEVER-ENDING SEARCH FOR A CURE.** This is the story of a killer that has been striking down people for thousands of years - tuberculosis. This nonfiction mystery looks at the history of the disease and its treatment throughout time, as well as the search to find the cause and cure. The scientific and historical information is filled with human drama as well as photographs that bring the story to life. (NF)

Murphy, Jim. **TRUCE: THE DAY THE SOLDIERS STOPPED FIGHTING.** This is a close-up view of the Great War, World War I, and the extraordinary story of the December 25, 1914 truce between German and British soldiers as they laid down their weapons and met in No Man's Land to celebrate Christmas. (NF)

Myers, Walter Dean and Ross Workman. **KICK.** Walter Dean Myers co-authors this novel with teenage author Ross Workman to tell two sides of the same story. Ross Workman writes from Kevin’s point of view. Kevin is an accomplished soccer player, now struggling with problems with the law. Myers writes from the point of view of Sergeant Brown, who has taken a special interest in Kevin, since he’s the son of a police officer killed in the line of duty. This is a unique collaboration of authors. (F)

Myers, Walter Dean. **THE CRUISERS.** While attending an academy for the gifted in New York City, eighth grader Zander Scott and his co-workers on the school’s underground newspaper must find a creative way to stop the growing racial tensions at their school. (F)

Namioka, Lensey. **TIES THAT BIND, TIES THAT BREAK.** In China in 1911, Ailin resists tradition and pressure from her family by refusing to have her feet bound to make her more attractive for her future husband. Her act of defiance alters her life forever. (F)

Nelson, Kadir. **HEART AND SOUL: THE STORY OF AMERICANS AND AFRICAN AMERICANS.** Written in the voice of “Everywoman,” an unnamed narrator whose ancestors came to this country on slave ships, *Heart and Soul* touches on events from colonial days through the civil rights movement. Readers will find the images as captivating as the stories. (NF)

Nelson, Kadir. **WE ARE THE SHIP: THE STORY OF NEGRO LEAGUE BASEBALL.** The early 1900s Negro League Baseball consisted of players who made great sacrifices and showed tremendous courage in the face of adversity, all for the sake of the game they loved. (NF)

(F) = Fiction
(NF) = Nonfiction
Nelson, Pete. **LEFT FOR DEAD.** Nelson explains how the research of eleven-year-old Hunter Scott, who was inspired by a passing reference in the movie, *Jaws*, uncovered the truth behind a historic World War II naval disaster aboard the USS Indianapolis. (NF)

Ness, Patrick. **A MONSTER CALLS: A NOVEL.** Thirteen-year-old Conor awakens one night to find a monster outside his bedroom window, but not the one from the recurring nightmare that began when his mother became ill. An ancient, wild creature wants him to face truth and loss. (F)

Nicholls, Sally. **WAYS TO LIVE FOREVER.** Living through the final stages of leukemia, Sam tells his story through a collection of stories, pictures, questions, and facts. Sam makes a list of things he wants to do, which becomes a map to help guide his family and friends toward Sam’s final days. (F)

Oliver, Lauren. **LIESEL AND PO.** In this fairytale-like adventure, a little girl, a ghost, and an alchemist’s apprentice team up on an extraordinary journey through the English countryside while searching for a box that contains the most powerful magic in the world. (F)

Palacio, R. J. **WONDER.** Auggie is a normal boy. He likes Star Wars and video games, and he loves playing with his dog. Auggie was born with a facial deformity that until now has prevented him from going to public school. Auggie wants nothing more than to be treated like an ordinary kid, but it’s hard for his classmates to get past his extraordinary face. *Wonder* is Auggie’s story, but it also includes chapters from his sister, classmates, and friends. Through these multiple perspectives, we see that Auggie’s journey not only changes his life but the lives of everyone around him. (F)

Paolini, Christopher. **ERAGON.** The fate of an Empire rests in the hands of Eragon, a fifteen-year-old boy who finds a mysterious stone that brings a dragon hatchling. With an ancient sword and an old storyteller for guidance, he is thrust into a world of destiny, magic, and power. The first in the *Inheritance Trilogy*. (F)

Park, Linda Sue. **A LONG WALK TO WATER: BASED ON A TRUE STORY.** Told in alternating points of view, follow the stories of Salva, a Lost Boy in 1985 Sudan who spends six years seeking refuge, and Nya, a girl in 2008 Sudan who spends eight hours a day walking to and from a water source. These two stories merge and offer a message of hope. (F)

Patton, Edith. **EAST.** Rose is the youngest of seven children. She was meant as a replacement for her dead sister, but she never felt like she fit in with her other siblings. An enormous white bear shows up one day and asks Rose to come with him in exchange for the health of her sick sister. (F)

Paulsen, Gary. **MY LIFE IN DOG YEARS.** The author describes some of the dogs that were special to him during his life. (NF)

Paulsen, Gary. **LIAR, LIAR: THE THEORY, PRACTICE AND DESTRUCTIVE PROPERTIES OF DECEPTION.** Kevin is assigned a project from his social studies teacher, and his partner is Katie. Since Kevin is a masterful teller of lies, he manufactures a disease for himself to avoid working with her. The first in the *The Theory, Practice, and Destructive Properties of Deception* series. (F)

Paulsen, Gary. **WOODS RUNNER.** Samuel’s parents have been taken from their home in colonial Pennsylvania by the British and the Iroquois right before the onset of the Revolutionary War. Samuel has been fending for himself in the woods for years and is determined to use his skills to rescue his parents—even if it means he has to track them to New York City and British headquarters. (F)

Pearsall, Shelley. **ALL SHOOK UP.** Josh is mortified when he has to relocate and live with his father who has a new profession—Elvis impersonator. (F)

Peters, Julie Anne. **DEFINE NORMAL.** The outstanding student, Antonia, is matched up with the unusual and mysterious punker, Jazz, for a peer-counseling program. As the counseling sessions progress, the two girls discover that they have many things in common. (F)

Pfeffer, Susan Beth. **LIFE AS WE KNEW IT.** When a meteor hits the moon and knocks it off its axis, life on earth is altered forever. High-school student Miranda keeps a diary about how her family copes without electricity, food and gas shortages, and extreme weather changes. (F)

Pratchett, Terry. **NATION.** A tsunami brings two young survivors together to rebuild an island nation. Although the native boy and British girl speak different languages, they're finding a way to overcome their differences as they struggle to survive. (F)
FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Summer 2013 Suggested Reading List
for
Rising Seventh and Eighth Graders

Pullman, Phillip. **THE GOLDEN COMPASS.** This fantasy relates Lyra’s adventures while preventing her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming victims of experiments in the Far North. The first in *His Dark Materials Trilogy.* (F)

Preus, Margi. **HEART OF A SAMURAI: BASED ON THE TRUE STORY OF NAKAHAMA MANJIRO.** After being stranded on an uninhabited island and then rescued by an American whaling ship in the mid 1800s, Manjiro and his fishermen friends must decide if they will adapt to American life or stay true to their Japanese heritage. Based on a fascinating true story, this is the inspirational and courageous account of one man’s journey home. (F)

Rappaport, Doreen. **BECOMING COURAGE: THE UNTOLD STORY OF JEWISH RESISTANCE DURING THE HOLOCAUST.** Under the noses of the military, thousands of children are smuggled out of occupied France into Switzerland. In Belgium, three resisters ambush a train, allowing scores of Jews to flee from the cattle cars. In Poland, four brothers lead more than 1,200 ghetto refugees into the forest to build a guerilla force and self-sufficient village. And a twelve-year-old entertains German officers with his violin moments before setting off a bomb. Through twenty-one meticulously researched accounts, the author illuminates the defiance of tens of thousands of Jews with the weapons of courage, ingenuity, the will to survive, and the resolve to save others or to die trying. (NF)

Reedy, Trent. **WORDS IN THE DUST.** Zulaikha is an Afghan girl who was born with a cleft palate. She suffers merciless teasing from others in her village. She is noticed by a soldier when American forces are traveling through her village, and he offers to arrange the surgery that will repair her birth defect. Zulaikha is caught between opportunity and tradition in her culture that young American readers will find shocking but hopeful. (F)

Riordan, Rick. **THE LIGHTNING THIEF.** After being kicked out of his sixth boarding school, twelve-year-old Percy Jackson travels to Camp Half Blood, where his real adventures finally begin. He discovers his true identity as the son of a Greek god and embarks on a quest in search of Zeus’ most prized possession. The first in the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series. (F)

Robinson, Sharon. **PROMISES TO KEEP: HOW JACKIE ROBINSON CHANGED AMERICA.** Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in baseball in 1947 when he began playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers. In this photobiography, his daughter writes a personal account of this famous athlete and civil rights activist and the legacy he has left. (NF)

Rusch, Elizabeth. **THE MIGHTY MARS ROVERS: THE INCREDIBLE ADVENTURES OF SPIRIT AND OPPORTUNITY.** What's it like to explore Mars? Did life ever exist on Earth's red neighbor? This book follows the story of two robot vehicles, Spirit and Opportunity, sent to seek evidence on Mars of water that could have once supported life. Lasting far past their projected lives of three months, incredibly the rovers carried out their missions for more than six years and sent back invaluable images of the environmentally hostile planet. (NF)

Ryan, Pam Munoz. **THE DREAMER.** This fictional biography is the story of a shy Chilean boy who grows up feeling and seeing poetry all around him. The story illustrates how the poetry of Pablo Neruda was shaped by his domineering father as well as the beauty of nature. (F)

Ryan, Pam Munoz. **ESPERANZA RISING.** After her father is murdered, Esperanza Ortega is forced to flee her beloved El Rancho de las Rosas in Mexico to a migrant camp in California. (F)

Salisbury, Graham. **EYES OF THE EMPEROR.** Japanese-American Eddy lies about his age and joins the US Army right before Pearl Harbor. He is sent on an experimental mission to train K-9 units to hunt the Japanese. (F)

Sandler, Martin W. **LINCOLN THROUGH THE LENS: HOW PHOTOGRAPHY REVEALED AND SHAPED AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE.** This is a photo-biography which shows how innovative and important media was, especially photography during the presidency and life of Lincoln. This is one of several books in Sandler’s *Through the Lens* series. (NF)

(F) = Fiction
(NF) = Nonfiction
Sandler, Martin W. **SECRET SUBWAY: THE FASCINATING TALE OF AN AMAZING FEAT OF ENGINEERING.** It’s the 1860s and New York City’s streets are swarming with immigrants and made deadly by hundreds of horse-drawn carriages leaving the streets with tons of manure. A brilliant engineer, Alfred Beach, tackles the problem by working secretly at night more than twenty feet underground, with dim lighting and in claustrophobic conditions, storing the dirt in a basement, and carting it away in the dark. What happens when his secret plan is discovered? (NF)

Say, Allen. **DRAWING FROM MEMORY.** This graphic novel chronicles Allen Say’s journey as an artist, from his childhood in World War II Japan to his apprenticeship under Noro Shinpei, Japan’s leading cartoonist. Using watercolor paintings, original cartoons, photographs and maps, the memoir looks at Say’s strained relationship with a father who did not understand his son’s art and the difficult path that led to Say’s success. (NF)

Schanzer, Rosalyn. **WITCHES!: THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE TALE OF DISASTER IN SALEM.** “The doctor tried every remedy, but nothing cured the young Puritans. He grimly announced the dire diagnosis: the girls were bewitched! And then the accusations began.” The is the riveting, true story of the victims, accused witches, crooked officials, and mass hysteria that turned a mysterious illness affecting two children into a witch hunt that took over a dozen people’s lives and ruined hundreds more. (NF)

Schmidt, Gary. **OKAY FOR NOW.** Fourteen-year-old Doug Swieteck has just moved to a small town. With the help of an unlikely new friend, Lil, and a local librarian, Doug struggles to prove to the town that he is not just another thug. He learns to deal with his abusive father and survive the return of a brother scarred by Vietnam. (F)

Schrefer, Eliot. **ENDANGERED.** This is the story of a girl and an ape in one of the worst wars the modern world has known. Sophie's journey to escape the violence in the Congo while protecting her bonobo charge is certainly exciting, but more than that, it charts her evolution from an inexperienced and naive girl to a responsible and courageous young woman. (F)

Selznick, Brian. **THE INVENTION OF HUGO CABRET.** When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized. This novel in words and pictures is the winner of the 2008 Caldecott Medal. (F)

Selznick, Brian. **WONDERSTRUCK.** Ben is a motherless boy living in 1977. Rose is a young girl searching for her movie star idol in 1927. These two stories, one written and one illustrated, are woven together to create a magical tale that will leave you absolutely wonderstruck. (F)

Senzai, N. H. **SHOOTING KABUL.** Fadi is starting school in California, thousands of miles away from his home in Kabul. Fadi can’t even think about adjusting to life in America, since his six-year-old sister is still in Kabul after being lost as the family fled Afghanistan. Fadi learns how to maneuver through middle school in America in the midst of September 11th and still hold out hope that his family can be reunited. (F)

Sepetys, Ruta. **BETWEEN SHADES OF GRAY.** Set during World War II, Soviet officers force Lina and her family into a labor camp in Siberia. They face great hardship, struggling to survive the horrifying conditions. (F)

Sheinkin, Steve. **BOMB: THE RACE TO BUILD AND STEAL THE WORLD’S MOST DANGEROUS WEAPON.** This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world’s most formidable weapon – the atomic bomb. A simple discovery launched a scientific race across three continents. In Great Britain and the United States, Soviet spies worked their way into the scientific community; in Norway, a commando force slipped behind enemy lines to attack German heavy-water manufacturing; and deep in the desert, one brilliant group of scientists worked at a remote site in Los Alamos. (NF)

Shusterman, Neal. **DOWNSIDERS.** Talon lives Downside, underneath New York City. When he accidentally meets Lindsay, a Topsider from above ground, their worlds inevitably collide. (F)

Smith, Roland. **ELEPHANT RUN.** In 1941, Nick is sent to live with his father on a plantation in Burma to escape the war in London. Soon after, the Japanese invasion of Burma begins, and his father is imprisoned. Nick and his new friend Mya are used as slaves. They decide to escape into the jungle with the help of a dangerous elephant, Hannibal. (F)
Smith, Roland. **PEAK.** Trouble with the law forces Peak Marcello to join his estranged father on a climbing adventure to the top of Mount Everest. As the story unfolds, Peak discovers his father’s true intentions and begins to realize how much danger awaits him as he climbs to the top of the mountain. (F)

Sonnenblick, Jordan. **AFTER EVER AFTER.** Jeffrey Alper, an eighth grade cancer survivor, has learned a lot about life, but there’s a lot that’s brand-new, such as how to fight for himself and for the people he loves. This is a hopeful and sometimes funny story about what happens when you stop surviving and start living again. (F)

Spinelli, Jerry. **STARGIRL.** Sixteen-year-old Leo tells the story of Stargirl Caraway, the free spirit who enrolls at Mica High School, not exactly the “hotbed of non-conformity.” Also, **Love, Stargirl.** (F)

Stead, Rebecca. **WHEN YOU REACH ME.** Sixth-grader Miranda lives in 1978 New York City with her mother and is never without her favorite book _A Wrinkle in Time_. When she starts to receive a series of notes that claim to want to save her life, Miranda begins to believe they are coming from someone who knows the future. This is the 2010 Newbery Medal winner. (F)

Stevenson, Robert Louis. **TREASURE ISLAND.** An innkeeper and his son find a map on the body of a deceased guest. The map promises a pirate’s fortune and many adventures follow. (F)

Stiefvator, Maggie. **SCORPIO RACES.** The Scorpio Races take place every November on the small island of Thisby. This is no usual race. In the Scorpio Races, the riders are mounted on Capaille Uiisce, beautiful, bloodthirsty water horses. Sean Kendrick, the returning champion, is a man of few words but has a unique understanding of these creatures. Puck Connolly is the first girl to enter the competition. She has to win or her family loses everything. This unusual pair forges a unique friendship, but only one can win the race. (F)

Stone, Tanya Lee. **ALMOST ASTRONAUTS: 13 WOMEN WHO DARED TO DREAM.** In the early 1960s, thirteen women, all pilots, sought admission into NASA’s first astronaut training program. The efforts of the Mercury 13 were crushed from many angles including the media, male astronauts, and the vice president of the United States. (NF)

Swanson, James L. **CHASING LINCOLN’S KILLER.** This is a biographical account of John Wilkes Booth’s plot to kill the president and Booth’s twelve days on the run following Lincoln’s assassination. (NF)

Swanson, James L. **BLOODY TIMES: THE FUNERAL OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND THE MANHUNT FOR JEFFERSON DAVIS.** Alternating chapters of the story of Lincoln’s last days as a living and then martyred President with the story of Jefferson Davis’ attempt to keep the Confederacy alive make for a fascinating glimpse into history. The details of Lincoln’s funeral train, and the throngs of mourners as it travels to Springfield, Illinois, are interspersed with Davis’s journey to save the south as well as avoid arrest. (NF)

Taylor, Peter Lane and Christos Nicola. **THE SECRET OF PRIEST’S GROTTO: A HOLOCAUST SURVIVAL STORY.** Two explorers survey caves and relate the true story of how several Jewish families survived the Holocaust of World War II by hiding in the caves of western Ukraine for over three years. (NF)

Taylor, Theodore. **THE BOMB.** This is the story of Bikini Island, a nuclear test site during World War II, told from the point of view of Sorry, a sixteen-year-old islander. (F)

Telgemeier, Raina. **DRAMA.** In this graphic novel Callie loves musical theater, but she isn’t much of a singer, so she works as a set designer for the school drama club. Her second year on stage crew is filled with drama, on and off the set, as various relationships start and end, and others never quite get going. (F)

Telgemeier, Raina. **SMILE.** This graphic novel is based on the author’s real experience of losing her two front teeth when she was twelve years old. Her painful recovery involves extensive dental work while she survives middle school and finds out what real friends are. (F)
Thomson, Ruth. **TEREZIN: VOICES FROM THE HOLOCAUST.** Between 1941 and 1945, Nazi Germany turned the small town of Terezín, Czechoslovakia, into a ghetto, and then into a transit camp for thousands of Jewish people. It was a "show" camp, where inmates were forced to use their artistic talents to fool the world about the truth of gas chambers and horrific living conditions for imprisoned Jews. Secretly, these artists also created images of what they observed, from the overcrowding to the deplorable, unsanitary living conditions to the plight of the elderly and infirm. Here, in a meticulously researched book, is their story told through the inmates' secret diary entries, artwork, and excerpts from memoirs. (NF)

Tolkien, J. R. R. **THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING.** In this first book of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, Frodo, a hobbit, must journey to the barren wasteland of Mordor to destroy the one ring that could rule them all. A fellowship is formed to aid him on this dangerous journey. The first in *The Lord of the Rings* series. (F)

Tolkien, J. R. R. **THE HOBBIT.** In this prelude to *The Lord of the Rings*, Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys his comfortable life. Bilbo is the last person anyone would expect to head off on an adventure, but this is exactly what happens when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep. The dwarves have a plan to return to their ancestral home and reclaim a stolen fortune from the dragon Smaug and soon Bilbo is swept into a dangerous adventure complete with giant spiders, hostile elves, and a creature named Gollum. (F)

Tunnell, Michael. **CANDY BOMBER: THE STORY OF THE BERLIN AIRLIFT'S "CHOCOLATE PILOT."** This is the true story of Gail Halvorsen, an American pilot and real-life hero who parachuted small bags of candy over the war-torn city of Berlin, giving hope to children and families during the aftermath of World War II. (NF)

Uusma, Bea. **THE MAN WHO WENT TO THE FAR SIDE OF THE MOON: THE STORY OF ASTRONAUT MICHAEL COLLINS.** This is the story of Michael Collins who maneuvered through space while the first man walked on the moon. It includes scrapbook-style photos, notes, and seldom-mentioned details. (NF)

Van Draanen, Wendelin. **FLIPPED.** In alternating chapters, Bryce and Juli describe how their feelings for each other, themselves, and their families have changed over the years. (F)

Van Draanen, Wendelin. **THE RUNNING DREAM.** Track star Jessica loses a leg in a terrible car accident. Her road to recovery is a long one, but she can’t give up her dream of running again. (F)

Walker, Sally M. **BLIZZARD OF GLASS: THE HALIFAX EXPLOSION OF 1917.** On December 6, 1917, two ships collided in Halifax Harbor. With one ship loaded with munitions and one with medical supplies, the resulting blast flattened two towns and killed nearly 2,000 people. With a blizzard hitting the very next day, relief efforts were almost paralyzed. This book contains many illustrations, firsthand accounts, and other primary sources from this unbelievable tragedy. (NF)

Walker, Sally M. **WRITTEN IN BONE: BURIED LIVES OF JAMESTOWN AND COLONIAL MARYLAND.** This book is the work of forensic scientists who are excavating grave sites in James Fort in Jamestown, Virginia, to understand who lived in the Chesapeake Bay area in the 1600s and 1700s. It uncovers the lives of a teenage boy, a ship's captain, a colonial officer, an African slave girl, and others. Nearly every page has at least one illustration, a color photo or helpful diagram, a map, or a period document. (NF)

Westerfeld, Scott. **UGLIES.** Tally resists the mandatory operation that every 16-year-old must endure to change all teens into “new pretties.” Adventure is the result in this futuristic novel. The first of the *Uglies Trilogy*. (F)

White, Andrea. **SURVIVING ANTARCTICA: REALITY TV 2083.** It’s 2083 and winning a reality TV show is the only way out of poverty for many people. Chosen from thousands, five teenagers will reenact Robert F. Scott’s 1910 expedition to the South Pole on the popular show, *Historical Survivor*. Little do they know what is ahead. (F)

Wiles, Deborah. **COUNTDOWN.** In 1962 President Kennedy faced down the Communists, fathers were on active military duty, children became used to air-raid drills, and families had blueprints for bomb shelters. This eye-grabbing documentary novel includes Cold War-era images, lyrics, speeches, and headlines, all interspersed with the life of Franny Chapman, the narrator, an Air Force brat and middle child living in suburban Maryland. (F)
Williams-Garcia, Rita. **ONE CRAZY SUMMER.** It is 1968, and Delphine and her two sisters have been put on a plane from Brooklyn to California to spend a month with their mother, a poet who abandoned the family years ago. During this crazy summer, the girls not only learn about their mother and the politics of this time period, but they each grow individually and come to better understand each other. (F)

Yelchin, Eugene. **BREAKING STALIN’S NOSE.** Sasha dreams of his initiation into the Soviet Young Pioneers to show his loyalty to Stalin and the communist party. Sasha’s disillusionment with the regime begins to grow when his father, an officer in the party, is arrested. (F)

Yohalem, Eve. **ESCAPE UNDER THE FOREVER SKY: A NOVEL.** Based on a true story, this novel tells of the kidnapping of the daughter of the ambassador to Ethiopia. Lucy uses her knowledge of African animals, her inventiveness, and her determination to survive as she tries to escape and return home. (F)

Yoo, Paula. **GOOD ENOUGH.** Patti tries to balance schoolwork, band, and boys while trying to please her Korean parents by getting into an Ivy League school. (F)