

FMS Summer Reading 2022

Fiction

Barnhill, Kelly. *The Ogress and the Orphans*. 400 p. (Fantasy)

Stone-in-the-Glen, once a lovely town, has fallen on hard times. Fires, floods, and other calamities have caused the people to lose their library, their school, their park, and even their neighborliness. The people put their faith in the Mayor, a dazzling fellow who promises he alone can help. When a child goes missing from the Orphan House in the town of Stone-in-the-Glen, the mayor suggests the kindly Ogress is responsible, but the orphans do not believe that and try to make their deluded neighbors see the real villain among them.

Bowling, Dusti. *Across the Desert*. 320 p. (Realistic Fiction)

Twelve-year-old Jolene spends every day she can at the library watching her favorite livestream: The Desert Aviator, where twelve-year-old "Addie Earhart" shares her adventures flying an ultralight plane over the desert. Jolene can dream of what it would be like to fly with her, far away from her own troubled home life where her mother struggles with a narcotic addiction. Then one day Jolene witnesses Addie Earhart's live streamed crash-landing in the Arizona desert. Jolene knows that Addie won't survive long in the extreme summer desert heat. With no one to turn to for help and armed with only a hand-drawn map and a stolen cell phone, it's up to Jolene to find a way to save the Desert Aviator.

Connor, Leslie. *Anybody Here Seen Frenchie?* 336 p. (Realistic Fiction) Eleven-year-old Aurora Petrequin's best friend Frenchie, who is autistic and non verbal, has never spoken a word to her. When Frenchie silently chose Aurora as his person back in third grade, she chose him back. They make a good team, sharing their love of the natural world in coastal Maine. Then one morning Frenchie disappears after they encounter a rare piebald deer in the Maine woods. Aurora feels that she's to blame and does everything she can to find him. The entire town begins to search, and everyone wonders: how is it possible that nobody has seen Frenchie? Aurora must figure out how to use her voice to help find Frenchie, and lift him up when he is found.

DiCamillo, Kate. *The Beatryce Prophecy*. 247 p. (Fantasy)

In a time of war, a mysterious, sick child named Beatryce appears at the monastery of the Order of the Chronicles of Sorrowing. Brother Edik nurses her back to health. Soon he uncovers her dangerous secret, one that imperils them all--for the king of the land seeks just such a girl, and Brother Edik, who

penned the prophecy himself, knows why. The prophecy speaks of a girl who will unseat a king and change the world. So Brother Edik disguises Beatryce as a monk and sends her on a quest with her faithful goat Answelica, to venture into the dark woods in search of the castle of one who wishes her dead.

Fipps, Lisa. *Starfish*. 256 p. (Realistic Fiction)

Ever since Ellie wore a whale swimsuit and made a big splash at her fifth birthday party, she's been bullied about her weight. To cope, she tries to live by the Fat Girl Rules--like no making waves, avoid eating in public, and don't move so fast that your body jiggles. And she's found her safe space--her swimming pool. In the water, she can stretch herself out like a starfish and take up all the room she wants. It's also where she can get away from her pushy mom, who thinks criticizing Ellie's weight will motivate her to diet. Fortunately, Ellie has allies in her dad, her therapist, and her new neighbor, Catalina, who loves Ellie for who she is. With this support buoying her, Ellie might finally be able to cast aside the Fat Girl Rules and starfish in real life--by unapologetically being her own fabulous self.

Higuera, Donna Barba. *The Last Cuentista*. 336 p. (SciFi) 2022 Newbery Award Winner

Petra Pena who wanted nothing more than to be a storyteller, like her abuelita. But Petra's world is ending. Earth is about to be destroyed by a comet, and only a few hundred scientists and their children - among them Petra and her family - have been chosen to journey to a new planet. They are the ones who must carry on the human race. Hundreds of years later, Petra wakes to this new planet - and discovers she is the only person who remembers Earth. A sinister Collective has taken over the ship during its journey, bent on erasing the sins of humanity's past. They have systematically purged the memories of all aboard - or purged them altogether. Petra alone now carries the stories of our past, and with them, any hope for our future. Can she make them live again?

Ireland, Justina. *Ophie's Ghosts*. 336 p. (Mystery)

Ophelia Harrison used to live in a small house in the Georgia countryside. But that was before the night in November 1922, and the cruel act that took her home and her father from her. That was the same night that Ophie learned she can see ghosts. Now Ophie and her mother live in Pittsburgh with relatives they barely know and both work as servants at the opulent Daffodil Manor house. At Daffodil House, Ophie discovers other ghosts who have wronged others and ghosts who have themselves been wronged. Ophie forms a friendship with one spirit Clara, whose life ended suddenly and unjustly, and wonders if she might be able to help solve the mystery around Clara's death.

Kapit, Sarah. *Get a Grip, Vivy Cohen!* 336 p. (Sports)

Vivy Cohen wants to play baseball. Ever since her hero, Major League star pitcher VJ Capello, taught her how to throw a knuckleball at a family fun day for kids with autism, she's been perfecting her pitch. Now she knows she's ready to play on a real team. When her social skills teacher makes her write a letter to someone she knows, she writes to VJ and tells him everything about how much she wants to pitch, and how her mom says she can't because she's a girl and because she has autism. Then two amazing things happen- Vivy meets a Little League coach who invites her to join his team, the Flying Squirrels and VJ starts writing back.

Kessler, Liz. *When the World Was Ours.* 352 p. (Historical Fiction)

Three friends. One memory. Vienna. 1936. Three young friends--Leo, Elsa, and Max--spend a perfect day together, unaware that around them Europe is descending into a growing darkness and that they will soon be cruelly ripped apart from one another. With their lives taking them across Europe--to Germany, England, Prague, and Poland--will they ever find their way back to one another? Will they want to? Inspired by a true story.

Korman, Gordon. *Linked.* 256 p. (Realistic Fiction)

When swastikas begin appearing all over town, Link, Michael, and Dana, the only Jewish girl in town, must face crimes both past and present to find the truth. Some students fight back by starting a paper chain project to remember holocaust victims. The closer Link, Michael, and Dana get to the truth, the more there is to face--not just the crimes of the present, but the crimes of the past.

Lutkoff, Kyle. *Too Bright to See.* 186p. (Realistic Fiction) Newbery Honor Book 2022, Stonewall Book Award 2022

In the summer before middle school, eleven-year-old Bug must contend with best friend Moira suddenly caring about clothes, makeup, and boys; a ghost haunting; and the truth about Bug's gender identity.

Makechnie, Amy. *Ten Thousand Tries.* 384 p. (Realistic Fiction)

Twelve-year-old Golden Maroni starts eighth grade determined to be master of his universe, but learns he cannot control everything on the soccer field, in his friendships, and especially in facing his father's incurable disease.

Palacio, R. J. *Pony*. 304 p. (Historical Fiction)

Twelve-year-old Silas is awoken in the dead of night by three menacing horsemen who take his father away. Silas is left shaken, scared, and alone, except for the presence of his companion, Mittenwool . . . who happens to be a ghost. When a pony shows up at his door, Silas makes the courageous decision to leave his home and embark on a perilous journey to find his father. Along the way, he will face his fears to unlock the secrets of his past and explore the unfathomable mysteries of the world around him.

Reynolds, Jason. *Stuntboy, in the Meantime*. 272 p. (Adventure)

Portico Reeves' secret identity as Stuntboy allows him to use his superpower to keep everybody safe, but when his superhero parents start fighting a lot he feels the responsibility to save them. All that gives Portico the "worry wiggles," which his mom calls anxiety. Plus, he also has an arch-nemesis who is determined to prove there's nothing *super* about Portico at all.

Siddiqui, Maleeha. *Barakah Beats*. 227 p. (Realistic Fiction)

It's Nimra Sharif's first time going to public school. Nimra's nervous, but as long as she has her best friend, Jenna, by her side, she figures she can take on just about anything. Unfortunately, middle school is hard. The teachers are mean, the schedule is confusing, and Jenna starts giving hijab-wearing Nimra the cold shoulder around the other kids. Desperate to fit in and save her friendship with Jenna, Nimra accepts an unlikely invitation to join Barakah Beats, a band made up of popular eighth-grade boys. The only problem is, Nimra was taught that music isn't allowed in Islam, and she knows her parents would be disappointed in her. So she devises a plan: join the band just until she wins Jenna back, then quit before her parents find out.

Thompson, Lisa. *The Graveyard Riddle*. 304 p. (Mystery)

Companion to: *The Goldfish Boy*. Melody Bird is fascinated by the walled off "plague" house she discovered near the the graveyard, but she is even more fascinated by the mysterious boy, Hal, she finds living there in secret; he tells her he is a spy-in-training, a story that Melody's friends Matthew and Jake do not believe, and they set out to find out more--and uncover a riddle even more confusing than Hal's spy story.

Venkatraman, Padma. *Born Behind Bars*. 272 p. (Realistic Fiction)

In Chennai, India, after spending his whole life in jail with his mother, who is serving time for a crime she did not commit, nine-year-old Kabir is suddenly released and has to figure out how to survive on his own in the outside world. This is not the world Kabir dreamed of -- one that cares little for homeless, low caste children. But he's not giving up and ready to show the world he and his mother deserve a place in it.

Yee, Lisa. *Maizy Chen's Last Chance*. 288 p. (Realistic Fiction)

Eleven-year-old Maizy Chen visits her estranged grandparents, who own and run a Chinese restaurant in Last Chance, Minnesota; as her visit lengthens, she makes unexpected discoveries about her family's history and herself. And when she discovers that a beloved family treasure has gone missing--and someone has left a racist note--Maizy decides it's time to find the answers.

Graphic Novels

Brown, Don. *In the Shadow of the Fallen Towers*. 128 p.

A graphic novel chronicling the immediate aftermath and rippling effects of one of the most impactful days in modern history: September 11, 2001. The consequences of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City, both political and personal, were vast, and continue to reverberate today. Don Brown brings his journalistic eye and attention to moving individual stories to help teens understand what they already know about the day and broaden their understanding of the chain of events that occurred in the attack.

Chau, Alina. *Marshmallow and Jordan*. 365 p.

Jordan's days as star player for her school's basketball team ended when an accident left her paralyzed. Now, she's still the team captain, but her competition days seem to be behind her, until an encounter with a mysterious elephant, who she names Marshmallow, helps Jordan discover a brand new sport. Will water polo be the way for Jordan to continue her athletic dreams--or will it just come between Jordan and her best friends on the basketball team?

Santat, Dan. *The Aquanaut*. 256 p.

Ever since her father was lost at sea, Sophia has been moping around Aqualand, a marine theme park. But Sophia's world is turned upside-down when an aquanaut breaks into the park's research lab. To her amazement, Sophia discovers that the aquanaut is not what it seems: inside lives a band of goofy sea creatures! And when they all realize that Aqualand is more sinister than advertised, Sophia is determined to help the aquanaut crew free the park's captive marine life before it's too late.

Thummler, Brenna. *Sheets*. 238p.

***Delicates*. (the sequel to *Sheets*) 316 p.**

Struggling to cope after the death of her mother, 13-year-old Marjorie has to look after her father, who has depression, and her little brother. All this while attending high school and running the family

laundromat business, where they all live and work. At school, other classmates bully her, and a pushy man is eager to take over the family's laundromat. And as if this isn't enough, young Wendell, a ghost who is unhappy being dead and surrounded by other spirits, haunts Marjorie and her business.

Venable, Colleen A.F. *Katie the Catsitter*. 229p

Katie is dreading the boring summer ahead while her best friends are all away at camp--something that's way out of Katie and her mom's budget, UNLESS Katie can figure out a way earn the money for camp herself. But when Katie gets a job catsitting for her mysterious upstairs neighbor, life get interesting.

First, Madeline has 217 cats (!) and they're not exactly . . . normal cats. Also, why is Madeline always out EXACTLY when the city's most notorious villain commits crimes?! Is it possible that Katie's upstairs neighbor is really a super villain?

Nonfiction

Bolden, Tonya. *Speak up, Speak out!: the Extraordinary Life of "Fighting Shirley Chisholm"*. 144 p.

Before there was Barack Obama, before there was Kamala Harris, there was Fighting Shirley Chisholm. Chisholm was a woman of matchless integrity and great dignity who had a passion for social justice. As the first Black woman in the House and the first Black woman to seek the presidential nomination from a major political party, Shirley Chisholm laid the groundwork for those who would come after her.

Burgan, Michael. *National Geographic Kids: Weird but True! Know-It-All: Rocks & Minerals*. 192 p.

This book is packed with solid knowledge alongside the wackiest and weirdest facts about rocks and minerals.

Lowery, Mike. *Everything Awesome About Space and Other Galactic Facts*. 128p.

Blast off into outer space with this ultimate book about everything you ever wanted to know about the universe packed with fun facts, jokes, comics and more. Like, did you know that the surface of the sun is hot enough to make diamonds boil? Or that one year on Neptune is 165 Earth years? Or that space is thought to smell like... burnt steak?? Find all this out and more!

Messner, Kate. *History Smashers Series: Plagues and Pandemics (and 5 other titles)*

Myths! Lies! Secrets! Uncover the hidden truth about plagues and pandemics. During the Black Death in the 14th century, plague doctors wore creepy beaked masks filled with herbs. RIGHT? WRONG! Those masks were from a plague outbreak centuries later--and most doctors never wore anything like that at all! With a mix of sidebars, illustrations, photos, and graphic panels, acclaimed author Kate Messner delivers the whole truth about diseases like the bubonic plague, cholera, smallpox, tuberculosis, polio, influenza, and COVID-19. Discover the nonfiction series that smashes everything you thought you knew about history!

Sheinkin, Steve. *Fallout: Spies, Superbombs and the Ultimate Cold War Showdown*. 342 p.

As World War II comes to a close, the United States and the Soviet Union emerge as the two greatest world powers on extreme opposites of the political spectrum. After the United States showed its hand with the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, the Soviets refuse to be left behind. With communism sweeping the globe, the two nations begin a neck-and-neck competition to build even more destructive bombs and conquer the Space Race. In their battle for dominance, spy planes fly above, armed submarines swim deep below, and undercover agents meet in the dead of night. The Cold War game grows more precarious as weapons are pointed towards each other, with fingers literally on the trigger. The decades-long showdown culminates in the Cuban Missile Crisis, the world's close call with the third-and final-world war.

Yelchin, Eugene. *The Genius Under the Table*. 208 p.

Eugene Yelchin offers a memoir of growing up in Cold War Russia. Drama, family secrets, and a KGB spy in his own kitchen! In the tiny apartment he shares with his Baryshnikov-obsessed mother, poetry-loving father, continually outraged grandmother, and safely talented brother, all Yevgeny has is his little pencil, the underside of a massive table, and the doodles that could change everything. With equal amounts of charm and solemnity, award-winning author and artist Eugene Yelchin recounts in hilarious detail his childhood in Cold War Russia as a young boy desperate to understand his place in his family.

Picture Books

Gorman, Amanda. *Change Sings: a Children's Anthem*. (Unpaged)

As a young girl leads a cast of characters on a musical journey, they learn that they have the power to make changes--big or small--in the world, in their communities, and most importantly, in themselves.

Messner, Kate. *Dr. Fauci : how a boy from Brooklyn became America's doctor.* (Unpaged).

Before he was Dr. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Anthony Fauci was a curious boy in Brooklyn, delivering prescriptions from his father's pharmacy on his blue Schwinn bicycle. This engaging narrative, which draws from interviews the author did with Dr. Fauci himself follows Anthony from his Brooklyn beginnings through medical school and his challenging role working with seven US presidents to tackle some of the biggest public health challenges of the past fifty years, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. *R-E-S-P-E-C-T : Aretha Franklin, the queen of soul.* (Unpaged).

Aretha Franklin was born to sing. The daughter of a pastor and a gospel singer, her musical talent was clear from her earliest days in her father's Detroit church. Aretha sang with a soaring voice that spanned more than three octaves. Her incredible talent and string of hit songs earned her the title 'the Queen of Soul.' And there was even more to Aretha than being a singer, songwriter, and pianist: she was an activist, too. Her song 'Respect' was an anthem for people fighting for civil rights and women's rights.