

# FMS Summer Reading 2024

## Fiction

**Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. *The Night War*. 280 p.**

“We don’t choose how we feel, but we choose how we act.” During World War II, twelve-year old Miriam secretly spirits other Jewish people out of Nazi-occupied France after being separated from her family and forced into hiding.

**DiCamillo, Kate. *Ferris*. 240 p.**

During the summer before fifth grade, Ferris Wilkey has her hands full with her little sister terrorizing the town, her Aunt Shirley moving into their basement and her grandmother seeing a ghost--one who has wild, impractical and illuminating plans.

**Eggers, Dave. *The Eyes and the Impossible*. 256 p.**

Free dog Johannes' job is to observe everything that happens in his urban park and report back to the park's three bison elders, but changes are afoot, including more humans, a new building, a boatload of goats, and a shocking revelation that changes his view of the world. The illustrated story of a dog who unwittingly becomes a hero to a park full of animals.

**Everett, Sarah. *The Probability of Everything*. 336 p.**

When an asteroid has an 84.7% chance of colliding with the Earth in four days, eleven-year-old Kemi, who loves scientific facts and probability, assembles a time capsule to capture her family's truth as she tries to come to terms with saying goodbye.

**Gidwitz, Adam. *Max in the House of Spies*. 336 p.**

To find his way back home to his family in Germany during WWII, Max Bretzfeld, with a kobold named Berg on one shoulder and a dybbuk named Stein on the other, sets out to do the impossible--become a British spy

**Gratz, Alan. *Heroes*. 272 p.**

December 6, 1941: Best friends Frank and Stanley have it good. Their dads are Navy pilots stationed at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, and the boys get a front-row view of the huge battleships and the sparkling water. Yes, World War II is raging in Europe and in Asia, but the US isn't involved in the war, and the boys are free to dream about becoming comic book creators. December 7th, 1941: Everything explodes. That morning, Frank and Stanley are aboard the battleship the USS Utah when Japanese planes zoom overhead and begin dropping bombs on the ships below. Chaos ensues as everyone scrambles to dive for safety. Frank and Stanley realize what's happening: Japan is attacking America! The war has come to them.

**Kelly, Erin Entrada. *The First State of Being*. 272 p.**

When Ridge, a time-traveling teenager from the future, gets trapped in 1999, he befriends Michael, a lonely twelve-year-old boy, changing the course of their lives forever.

**Korman, Gordon. *Slugfest*. 304 p.**

Forced to take Physical Education Equivalency, aka "Slugfest," in summer school so he can maintain his star spot on the JV football team, Yash recruits his fellow PE rejects to train with him and pass this course, an endeavor that turns into a summer he'll never forget.

**Lupica, Mike. *The Turnover*. 243 p.**

When a young basketball star decides to research his grandfather--and coach--for a school project, he uncovers a decades-old scandal that changes everything he thought he knew about his grandfather.

**Marsh, Katherine. *The Lost Year*. 368 p.**

In the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, thirteen-year-old Matthew discovers a shocking secret about his great-grandmother's past as he learns about her life during the Holodomor famine in Soviet Ukraine.

**Millington, Allie. *Olivetti*. 253 p.**

Witty typewriter Olivetti and twelve-year-old introvert Ernest embark on a mission to find Ernest's missing mother that takes them across San Francisco.

**Schmidt, Gary D. *The Labors of Hercules Beal*. 352 p.**

Seventh-grader Hercules Beal has to figure out how to fulfill his teacher's assignment of performing the Twelve Labors of Hercules in real life, and discovers important things about friendship, community, and himself along the way.

## **Nonfiction**

**Fleming, Candace. *The Enigma Girls: how ten teenagers broke ciphers, kept secrets, and helped win World War II*. 371 p.**

The powerful and fascinating story of the brave and dedicated young women who helped turn the tides of World War II for the Allies, with their hard work and determination at Bletchley Park. . Bletchley Park was a well-kept secret during World War II, operating under the code name Station X. The critical work of code-cracking Nazi missives that went on behind its closed doors could determine a victory or loss against Hitler's army. Amidst the brilliant cryptographers, flamboyant debutantes, and absent-minded professors working there, it was teenaged girls who kept Station X running. Some could do advanced math, while others spoke a second language. They ran the unwieldy bombe machines, made sense of wireless sound waves, and sorted the decoded messages. They were expected to excel in their fields and must know how to keep a secret.

**Hood, Susan.** *Harboring Hope: the true story of how Henny Sinding helped Denmark's Jews escape the Nazis.* 400 p.

The inspirational true story of how 22-year-old Henny Sinding courageously helped smuggle hundreds of Jewish families in occupied Denmark to safety in Sweden during the Holocaust.

**Shepard, Ray Anthony.** *A Long Time Coming: a lyrical biography of race in America from Ona Judge to Barack Obama.* 336 p.

Researched and drawn from numerous primary sources, this biography-in-verse tells the story of racism in the U.S. through six important Black Americans from different eras who struggled for justice, chronicling how much--and how little--racism has changed since our country's founding.

**Sheinkin, Steve.** *Impossible Escape.* 256 p.

A true story of two Jewish teenagers racing against time during the Holocaust--one in hiding in Hungary, and the other in Auschwitz, plotting escape.

**Towler, Paige.** *Pizza: the cool stories and facts behind every slice.* 192 p.

In this nonfiction book filled with history, science, facts, and stats, readers can discover how pizza became the world's favorite comfort food.

## Graphic Novels

**Cohen, Emily Bowen.** *Two Tribes.* 256 p.

Inspired by her own life, this graphic novel embraces the complexity, meaning, and deep love that comes from being part of two vibrant tribes. Mia is still getting used to living with her mom and stepfather, and to the new role their Jewish identity plays in their home. Feeling out of place at home and at her Jewish day school, Mia finds herself thinking more and more about her Muscogee father, who lives with his new family in Oklahoma. Her mother doesn't want to talk about him, but Mia can't help but feel like she's missing a part of herself without him in her life. Soon, Mia makes a plan to use the gifts from her bat mitzvah to take a bus to Oklahoma—without telling her mom—to visit her dad and find the connection to her Muscogee side she knows is just as important as her Jewish side.

**Martin, Pedro.** *Mexikid: a graphic memoir.* 320 p.

Pedro Martin's grown up in the U.S. hearing stories about his legendary abuelito, but during a family road trip to Mexico, he connects with his grandfather and learns more about his own Mexican identity in this moving and hilarious graphic memoir.

**Nadel, Estelle.** *The Girl Who Sang.* 272 p.

Born to a Jewish family in a small Polish village, Estelle Nadel—then known as Enia Feld—was just seven years old when the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939. Once a vibrant child with a

song for every occasion, Estelle would eventually lose her voice as, over the next five years, she would survive the deaths of their mother, father, their eldest brother and sister, and countless others.

**Pham, Thien.** *Family Style: Memories of an American from Vietnam.* 240 p.

Told through the lens of meaningful food and meals, this graphic memoir chronicles the author's life, beginning with his childhood immigration to America, where food takes on new meaning as he and his family search for belonging, for happiness and for the American dream.