

# FMS Summer Reading 2025

## Fiction

**Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Rebellion, 1776*. 224p.**

An historical fiction middle grade adventure about a girl struggling to survive amid a smallpox epidemic, the public's fear of inoculation, and the seething Revolutionary War.

**Avi, *Lost in The Empire City*. 289p.**

This riveting historical middle grade novel from Newbery Medal-winning author Avi follows a young immigrant from Italy who is desperate to reunite with his family.

**Bowling, Dusti. *The Beat I Drum*. 340p.**

Connor, best friend of Aven Green, tells his own story in this tale about overcoming the challenges of life with Tourette's. This is the third book in the *Insignificant Events in The Life of a Cactus* series.

**Collins, Suzanne. *Sunrise On The Reaping*. 382p.**

When you've been set up to lose everything you love, what is there left to fight for? As the day dawns on the fiftieth annual Hunger Games, fear grips the districts of Panem. This year, in honor of the Quarter Quell, twice as many tributes will be taken from their homes. Back in District 12, Haymitch Abernathy is trying not to think too hard about his chances.

**Cuevas, Adrianna. *What Fell From The Sky*. 291p.**

Set in 1950s Texas, Pineda Matlage hides an alien in his family's barn, and with the help of friends and townspeople, tries to reunite her with her family despite the disruptive presence of soldiers using the town for a covert operation to capture and study aliens.

**Currie, Lindsay. *The Mystery of Locked Rooms*. 261p.**

Three seventh grade, puzzle-loving best friends set out to find a hidden treasure in an abandoned 1950s funhouse.

**Freeman, Megan. *Away*. 465 p.**

A group of children investigate the threat that prompted large-scale evacuations in this powerful and dramatic companion novel to the New York Times bestselling *Alone*, told in multiple POVs. After an imminent yet unnamed danger forces people across Colorado to leave their homes, a group of kids including an aspiring filmmaker and a budding journalist find themselves in the same evacuation camp. As they cope with the aftermath of having their world upended, they grow curious about the mysterious threat.

**Gidwitz, Adam. *Max in The Land of Spies*. 341p.**

Max Bretzfeld is back in Berlin where his most dangerous mission is about to begin! The thrilling conclusion to the World War II spy duology that began with *Max in the House of Spies*.

**Howard, Amalie. *Bumps In The Night*. 295p.**

Sent to her grandmother's estate in Trinidad, Rika meets a group of kids with elemental powers called Minders, who reveal that her long-lost mom is in danger, sending Rika on a magical adventure where she must learn to believe in herself to destroy evil.

**Korman, Gordon. *Old School*. 276p.**

From New York Times bestselling author Gordon Korman, comes a hilarious story about a boy who is homeschooled in his grandmother's retirement community...until he is forced to go to public school.

**Sepetys, Ruta and Sheinken, Steve. *The Bletchley Riddle*. 392p.**

This middle grade historical adventure follows two siblings at Bletchley Park, the home of WWII codebreakers, as they try to unravel a mystery surrounding their mother's death.

**Sumner, Jamie. *Deep Water*. 216p.**

An impactful, gripping middle grade novel in verse from acclaimed author Jamie Sumner that spans one girl's marathon swim over twelve miles and six hours, calling her mom back home with every stroke.

**Thayer, Alex. *Happy & Sad & Everything True*. 255p.**

With charm and sincerity reminiscent of Judy Blume and Rebecca Stead, this debut middle grade novel is a heartfelt, hopeful story about a girl finding herself through secretly giving out advice to classmates.

## **Nonfiction**

**Brower, Kate Anderson. *The Hill : inside the secret world of the US Capitol*. 298 pages.**

There's a secret world hidden in the halls of the U.S. Capitol! The building stands today as one of the most recognizable symbols of the oldest democracy in the world. In this home of America's legislative branch, senators and representatives fight to pass laws they believe are for the good of the country. But these hallowed halls, which some swear are haunted, also harbor a deep history—both extraordinary and unsettling—and that is an equally important part of America's story.

**Couch, Christina. Duncan, Daniel Illustrations. *Innovative Octopuses, Half-Brained Birds, and More Animals With Magnificent Minds*. 151p.**

This third book in the Extraordinary Animals series delves into the mind-bending world of amazing animal brains. Real-life animal brainiacs and the scientists who study them come to life in this detailed look at how animal—and human—brains work and the incredible things they can do.

**Messner, Katie. *Earth Day and The Environment (History Smashers)*. 230p.**

Myths! Lies! Recycling scams? Discover the *real* story behind the first Earth Day celebration and some of the biggest US climate catastrophes—and their solutions! Don't miss the award-winning History Smashers series as they get to the truth on the biggest environmental fibs!

**Wood, Chelsea L. Motrom, Dave Illustrations. *Power To The Parasites!* 168p.**

Power to the Parasites! lets you in on a secret: Parasites are all around you, all the time, quietly running the world. You might think of them as slimy, disgusting freeloaders - tapeworms and roundworms and ticks and lice, too small to be important and too selfish to be valued. But by the end of this book, you'll realize that sometimes parasites are the good guys.

## **Graphic Novels**

**Ball, Georgia. *I Survived The Molasses Flood, 1919*. 146p.**

One of the strangest disasters in U.S. history is brought to vivid life in this graphic novel adaptation of Lauren Tarshis's bestselling *I Survived the Great Molasses Flood, 1919*, with text adapted by Georgia Ball and art by Karen De La Vega.

**Lambcat, *Cursed Princess Club*. Vol. 1-4**

For fans of Disney princesses and Sailor Moon–style girl power, *Cursed Princess Club* is a lighthearted story of a young royal who finds her place in a world obsessed with princes, beauty, and happily-ever-afters.

**Soontornvat, Christina. *The Tryout Book Series. The Tryout*. 255p. **Book 2: *The Squad*. 270p.****

Could anything be more mortifying than trying out for cheerleading in front of your *whole* grade? This hilarious, highly relatable story will make you laugh, cry, and cheer! Perfect for fans of Raina Telgemeier.

**Telgemeier, Raina. *The Cartoonist Club*. 261pgs.**

New York Times bestselling cartoonists Raina Telgemeier and Scott McCloud team up for a one-of-a-kind friendship story. Makayla is bursting with ideas but doesn't know how to make them into a story. Howard loves to draw, but he struggles to come up with ideas and his dad thinks comics

are a waste of time. Lynda constantly draws in her sketchbook but keeps focusing on what she feels are mistakes, and Art simply loves being creative and is excited to try something new.

They come together to form The Cartoonists Club, where kids can learn about making comics and use their creativity and imagination for their own storytelling adventures!

**Yee, Reimana. *The Maker's Club*. 219p.**

For fans of Raina Telgemeier's *Drama*, *The Maker's Club*, a gorgeous graphic novel from an Eisner-nominated author, is about a group of kids who blend art and science to create incredible projects in video gaming, fashion, and a whole lot more.