

FMS Summer Reading 2026

Fiction

Barnes, Derrick. *The Incredibly Human Henson Blayze*. 272 pgs. REA

Thirteen-year-old Henson Blayze strives to be seen as more than just a football player in his predominantly white small town of Great Mountain, Mississippi. When a horrific incident compels him to speak out, he must choose between playing football and seeking justice.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. *Phoenix, Ride On Book #1*, 162pgs. REA

After her parents' divorce, Harper moves to a new town near a riding barn. She ends up caring for a mistreated horse whom she eventually ends up riding.

Gratz, Alan. *War Games*, 368pgs. HIS

Twelve-year-old Evie travels to Berlin for the 1936 Olympics where she witnesses Hitler's terror on the German people and plans to steal from a Nazi bank with two fellow Olympic athletes.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. *The Last Resort, Book #1*, 240pgs. HOR

When 12-year-old Lila's estranged Grandpa Clem dies she has to spend the summer in Ohio while her parents decide what to do with Grandpa Clem's creepy Victorian Inn. But it's not a normal bed & breakfast: it's a portal between the land of the living and the realm of the dead. A hotel for ghosts passing onto the afterlife. Ghosts from the story will emerge from the pages of the book, allowing readers to talk to the spirits from the past and help solve the mysteries.

Layton, T.Z. *The Academy, Book #1*, 295pgs. SPO

Leo is a soccer player with big dreams. A professional scout offers him a tryout for the London Dragons youth squad, known as the Academy. Soon Leo is off to a brand new country, facing grueling competition, bullies, and a terrifying camp director. Can Leo overcome his self-doubt and lack of formal training to succeed and make the team?

Messner, Kate. *The Trouble With Heroes*, 369 pgs. REA

Finn Connelly is nothing like his dad, a firefighter hero who died two years ago. Finn is about to fail seventh grade and has never made headlines, until now. He's in big trouble for knocking down some dead old lady's headstone. Turns out that grave belongs to a legendary local mountain climber, and her daughter makes Finn an unusual offer: she'll drop all the charges if he agrees to climb all forty-six Adirondack High Peaks in a single summer.

Montgomery, Ross. *I Am Rebel*, 231 pgs. ANI

Rebel is a good dog. He loves his simple, perfect life on the farm with his owner, Tom--until one day, when the war comes too close. Tom is determined to join the rebellion to defeat the king's

men, but Rebel knows that war is dangerous, and he will stop at nothing to save his beloved human. How can he bring Tom home before it's too late?

Neilson, Jennifer. *Magnitude*, 293pgs. HIS

When Cora leaves her house in San Francisco in the early morning hours of April 18th, 1906 she expects trouble to find her, like it somehow always does. But as she makes her way to the San Francisco docks to look for her father, the earth begins to shake and suddenly, Cora realizes that she's not just in trouble-- she's in danger. What follows is a harrowing story of the fight for survival during the Great San Francisco Earthquake of 1906 and the desperate race to find survivors.

Schlitz, Laura Amy. *The Winter of the Dollhouse*, 398pgs. FAN

On a gloomy November night, eleven-year-old Tiphany Stokes saves an old lady from collapsing in the street. An antique doll named Gretel watches them, longing for Tiph to rescue her life in a shop window. Though none of these three characters realize it, their worlds are about to change: Gretel will no longer be a precious prisoner. The old lady--is she a witch?--will discover the secret hidden in her long-neglected dollhouse. And Tiph--whose parents rejoice that she is 'never any trouble'--will become a thief, a dog walker, an actor, and best of all a friend.

Stead, Rebecca. *The Experiment*, 270pgs. SCIFI

Eleven-year-old Nathan and his parents have a mission to blend in with humans on Earth, but when Nathan starts growing a tail, he begins to question the true purpose of their alien experiment.

Nonfiction

Andrus, Aubre. *America Celebrates: the most incredible and influential people, places & events of the last 250 years*. 176pgs.

In honor of America's 250th birthday, *America Celebrates* takes young readers on an exciting journey through a timeline of influential figures, notable landmarks, and special events dating back to 1776 through today.

Burgan, Michael. *National Geographic Kids: Weather & Natural Disasters (Weird But True! Know-It-All)*. 192pgs.

From towering twisters and bone-chilling blizzards to pillowy white clouds and warm gentle breezes, this book from National Geographic Kids plunges into Earth's wild and wondrous weather—and includes loads of weird but true facts!

Day, Nicholas. *A World Without Summer: A Volcano Erupts, A Creature Awakens, and the Sun Goes Out*. 304 pgs.

A narrative nonfiction account that explores how Mount Tambora's eruption in 1815 affected the global climate and inspired Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. As Day shows, the eruption's

wider effects were felt across the globe in Europe and the U.S. in what came to be known as the “Year Without a Summer” in 1816.

Haidt, Jonathan, *The Amazing Generation: Your Guide to Fun and Freedom in a Screen-Filled World*. 226pgs.

Jonathan Haidt’s blockbuster book, *The Anxious Generation*, has sparked a global conversation about the effects of smartphones and social media on young people’s development. Now, Haidt and Catherine Price, author of the bestselling *How to Break Up with Your Phone*, have teamed up to create a new book that speaks directly to kids. Their goal? To empower young people to stand up for themselves by choosing a life not dominated by screens and social media.

Messner, Kate. *Ancient Egypt (History Smashers Series)*. 200pgs.

Myths! Lies! Secret mummy curses? Grab your head lamp, the award-winning History Smashers are headed to Ancient Egypt to dig up the truth about this incredible early civilization-and the many myths that will be buried once and for all.

Nelson, Kadir. *Basket Ball: The Story of the All-American Game*. 112 pgs.

The journey from the early days of the slow game of “basket ball” to today’s dazzlingly athletic and fast-paced sport. Engaging profiles of revolutionary players—including Wilt Chamberlain, Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan, LeBron James, and Stephen Curry—are featured, along with notable quotes from major figures of the game.

Graphic Novels

Tarshis, Lauren, Adapted by Georgia Ball, *I Survived the California Wildfires, 2018 (I Survived Graphic Novel #13)*. 160pgs.

All across California, deadly wildfires rage. Still reeling from the life-changing challenges that propelled him and his mother across the country, Josh finds solace in the California wilderness and in the newfound friendship with his cousin Holly. But on a trip into the nearby forest, Josh and Holly suddenly find themselves in the middle of a frighteningly powerful firestorm, one which threatens to burn down everything in its path.

Gratz, Alan. *Refugee, the graphic novel*. 165pgs.

The New York Times bestseller *Refugee* is brought to life in a stunning graphic novel adaptation. Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together.

Meroz, Morr. *A Blood Moon (Snowlands #1)*. 208pgs.

Get ready for the adventure of a lifetime in *A Blood Moon*, the epic first book in the Snowlands series! Feba, an orphaned wolf cub, is believed to be cursed. Her rare white fur is said to be a bad omen. When a mysterious creature starts killing members of Feba's pack one by one, all eyes fall on her. She has no choice but to run away, forced to roam the perilous Snowlands all on her own.

Gibbs, Stuart. *Space Case, the graphic novel (Moon Base Alpha, Book 1)*. 352pgs. Graphic novel adaptation of: *Space Case* by Stuart Gibbs.

When a lunarnaut dies on Moon Base Alpha, twelve-year-old Dashiell Gibson sets out to solve the lunar murder mystery before the killer strikes again.