

Sixth Grade Summer Reading

OVERVIEW

All 6th grade students are required to read three books: *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick and two additional books from the 6th Grade Directed Reading List below. Students should not select any texts that they have previously read, and students should submit the reading log to their English teachers when they return to school in August.

The purpose of summer reading at Baylor is to encourage students to develop a life-long habit of reading, echo the students' classroom learning experiences, and provide opportunities for students to read classics and other texts that expand their perspectives and stimulate interest in the world around them.

CLASSICS

***The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin**

ISBN: 978-0142401200

A bizarre chain of events begins when sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. Although no one knows why the eccentric, game-loving millionaire has chosen a virtual stranger—and a possible murderer—to inherit his vast fortune, one thing's for sure: Sam Westing may be dead...but that won't stop him from playing one last game!

***Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery**

ISBN: 978-1503214132

Anne of Green Gables recounts the adventures of Anne Shirley, an 11-year-old orphan girl who is mistakenly sent to live with Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert. The family had originally intended to adopt a boy to help them on their farm in Prince Edward Island, but they can't help but be charmed by Anne's spirit. As a child of imagination, Anne takes much joy in life and adapts quickly, thriving in the close-knit farming village. Anne's story is full of humor, and the book follows her adventures at the country school where she quickly excels in her studies, her friendship with Diana Barry, her budding literary ambitions, and her rivalry with classmate Gilbert Blythe.

***Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson**

ISBN: 978-0380805600

After severely injuring Peter Driscall in an empty parking lot, troublemaker Cole Matthews is in major trouble. Instead of jail time, Cole is given an alternative: one-year banishment to a remote Alaskan island. This program—called Circle Justice—is based on Native American traditions that provide healing for the criminal mind. To avoid serious jail time, Cole resolves to go. While there, Cole is mauled by a mysterious white bear and left for dead. Thoughts of his abusive parents, helpless Peter, and his violent anger cause him to examine the root of his troubled ways. *Touching Spirit Bear* is a poignant depiction of the vicious cycle of violence and one boy's journey to healing.

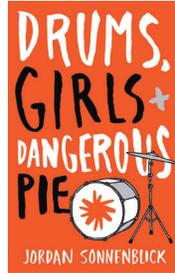
REALISTIC/COMING OF AGE FICTION

***Merci Suarez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina**

(2018 Newbery Medal Winner)

ISBN: 978-0763690496

Merci Suarez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just how different. For starters, Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. They don't have a big house or a fancy boat, and they have to do extra community service to make up for their free tuition. When



Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie

by Jordan Sonnenblick

ISBN: 978-0439755191

Thirteen-year-old Steven has a totally normal life: he plays drums in the All-Star Jazz band, has a crush on the cutest girl in the school, and is constantly annoyed by his five-year-old brother, Jeffrey. When Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia, Steven's world is turned upside down. He is forced to deal with his brother's illness and his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece. Salted with humor and peppered with devastating realities, *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* is a heartwarming journey through a year in the life of a family in crisis.

bossy Edna Santos sets her sights on the new boy who happens to be Merci's school-assigned Sunshine Buddy, Merci becomes the target of Edna's jealousy. Things aren't going well at home, either: Merci's grandfather and most trusted ally, Lolo, has been acting strangely lately. Lolo has been forgetting important things, falling from his bike, and getting angry over nothing, but no one in her family will tell Merci what's going on, so she's left to her own worries, while also feeling all on her own at school. In a coming-of-age tale full of humor and wisdom, award-winning author Meg Medina gets to the heart of the confusion and constant change that defines middle school and the steadfast connection that defines family.

***Soar* by Joan Bauer**

ISBN: 978-0451470348

Jeremiah lives and breathes baseball and wants nothing more than to be a professional player, but when he learns that he suffers from a severe heart condition, his dreams are put on hold. Soon after he and his father move to a town that is something of a baseball capital, the entire community is shaken by the death of a beloved school baseball player and a town scandal that is revealed in the aftermath. Jeremiah finds himself coaching and bringing baseball back to the local middle school and ends up motivating the entire town. When he and his father are faced with having to leave their new town behind, Jeremiah has to deal with the possibility of also leaving his heart in the very place that helped to make it stronger.

HISTORICAL FICTION

***Stella by Starlight* by Sharon Draper**

ISBN: 978-1442494985

Stella lives in the segregated South—in Bumblebee, North Carolina, to be exact about it. Some stores she can go into. Some stores she can't. Some folks are right pleasant. Others are a lot less so. Late one night, later than she should ever be up, much less wandering around outside, Stella and her little brother see something they're never supposed to see, something that is the first flicker of change to come, unwelcome change by any stretch of the imagination. As Stella's community—her world—is upended, she decides to fight fire with fire, and she learns that ashes don't necessarily signify an end.

***Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson**

ISBN: 978-1416905851

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American

Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.

SCI-FI and FANTASY

***Aru Shah and the End of Time* by Roshani Chokshi**

ISBN: 978-1368012355

Twelve-year-old Aru Shah has a tendency to stretch the truth in order to fit in at school. While her classmates are jetting off to family vacations in exotic locales, she'll be spending her autumn break at home, in the Museum of Ancient Indian Art and Culture, waiting for her mom to return from her latest archeological trip. Is it any wonder that Aru makes up stories about being royalty, traveling to Paris, and having a chauffeur? One day, three schoolmates show up at Aru's doorstep to catch her in a lie. They don't believe her claim that the museum's Lamp of Bharata is cursed, and they dare Aru to prove it. Just a quick light, Aru thinks, and then she can get herself out of this mess and never ever fib again, but lighting the lamp has dire consequences. She unwittingly frees the Sleeper, an ancient demon whose duty it is to awaken the God of Destruction. Her classmates and beloved mother are frozen in time, and it's up to Aru to save them.

***Tesla's Attic* by Neal Shusterman**

ISBN: 978-1423148036

After their home burns down, fourteen-year-old Nick, his younger brother, and their father move into a ramshackle Victorian house they've inherited. When Nick opens the door to his attic room, he's hit in the head by a toaster, and that's just the beginning of his weird experiences with the old junk stored up there. After getting rid of the odd antiques in a garage sale, Nick befriends some local kids, Mitch, Caitlin, and Vincent, and they discover that all of the objects have extraordinary properties. What's more, Nick figures out that the attic is a strange magnetic vortex, which attracts all sorts of trouble. It's as if the attic itself has an intelligence . . . and a purpose.

MYSTERY

***The Metropolitans* by Carol Goodman**

ISBN: 978-1101997666

The day Japan bombs Pearl Harbor, four thirteen-year-olds converge at the Metropolitan Museum of Art where an eccentric curator is seeking four uncommonly brave souls to track down the hidden pages of the Kelmsbury Manuscript. The manuscript is an ancient book of Arthurian legends that lies scattered within the museum's collection that holds the key to preventing a second attack on American soil. When Madge, Joe, Kiku, and Walt agree to help, they have no idea that the Kelmsbury is already working its magic on them, and they begin to develop extraordinary powers and experience the feelings of King Arthur, Queen Guinevere, Morgan le Fay, and Lancelot: courage, friendship, love...and betrayal. Are they playing out a legend that's already been lived, over and over, across the ages? Or can the Metropolitans forge their own story?

***Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein**

ISBN: 978-0375870897

Kyle Keeley is the class clown and a huge fan of all games—board games, word games, and particularly video games. His hero, Luigi Lemoncello, the most notorious and creative game-maker in the world, just so happens to be the genius behind the construction of the new town library. Lucky Kyle wins a coveted spot as one of twelve kids invited for an overnight sleepover in the library, hosted by Mr. Lemoncello and riddled with lots and lots of games. But when morning comes, the doors stay locked, and Kyle and the other kids must solve every clue and figure out every secret puzzle to find the hidden escape route!

NONFICTION

Calling All Minds: How to Think and Create Like an Inventor

by Temple Grandin

ISBN: 978-1524738204

Have you ever wondered what makes a kite fly or a boat float? Have you ever thought about why snowflakes are symmetrical, or why golf balls have dimples? Have you ever tried to make a kaleidoscope or build a pair of stilts? In *Calling All Minds*, Temple Grandin explores the ideas behind all of those questions and more. She delves into the science behind inventions, the steps various people took to create and improve upon ideas as they evolved, and the ways in which young inventors can continue to think about and understand what it means to tinker, to fiddle, and to innovate. Laced throughout it all, Temple gives us glimpses into her own childhood tinkering, building, and inventing. *Calling All Minds* creates a blueprint for different ways to look at the world and shows readers that there is truly no single way to approach any given problem—but that an open and inquisitive mind is always key.

***Lincoln's Grave Robbers* by Steve Sheinkin**

ISBN: 978-0545405720

The action begins in October of 1875 as Secret Service agents raid the Fulton, Illinois, workshop of master counterfeiter Ben Boyd. Soon after Boyd is hauled off to prison, members of his counterfeiting ring gather in the back room of a smoky Chicago saloon to discuss how to spring their ringleader out of jail. Their plan is to grab Abraham Lincoln's body from its Springfield tomb, stash it in the sand dunes near Lake Michigan, and demand, as a ransom, the release of Ben Boyd and \$200,000 in cash. From here, the action alternates between the conspirators, the Secret Service agents on their trail, and the undercover agent moving back and forth between the two groups. Along the way, readers get glimpses into the inner workings of counterfeiting, detective work, and the early days of the Secret Service.



→ The recommended reading lists and the summer reading log are available at: baylor-school.org/summerreading.

Seventh Grade Summer Reading

All 7th Grade students are required to read three books over the summer from the 7th Grade Directed Reading List below. Students should not select any texts that they have previously read, and students should submit the reading log to their English teachers when they return to school in August.

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CLASSICS

***The Sword in the Stone* by T.H. White**

ISBN: 978-0399225024

Before there was a famous king named Arthur, there was a curious boy named Wart and a kind, old wizard named Merlyn. Transformed by Merlyn into the forms of his fantasy, Wart learns the value of history from a snake, of education from a badger, and of courage from a hawk—the lessons that help turn a boy into a man. Together, Wart and Merlyn take the reader through this timeless story of childhood and adventure.

***Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson**

ISBN: 978-0486275598

Treasure Island spins a heady tale of piracy, a mysterious treasure map, and a host of sinister characters charged with diabolical intentions. Seen through the eyes of Jim Hawkins, the cabin boy of *The Hispaniola*, the action-packed adventure tells of a perilous sea journey across the Spanish Main, a mutiny led by the infamous Long John Silver, and a lethal scramble for buried treasure on an exotic isle.

***The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett**

ISBN: 978-0451528834

Mary Lennox finds a mysterious walled-in garden that has been locked securely for years on the grounds of Misselthwaite, her Uncle Archibald's estate. With the help of Dickon Sowerby, a young local boy who can charm animals, Mary cultivates the garden and the experience both improves her health and raises her spirits. Ultimately, the secret garden proves beneficial to both Mary and her sickly cousin Colin, whom her estranged uncle has locked away in solitude following the death of his beloved wife, Colin's mother. Nurtured with love and tenderness, the secret garden proves it has the power to heal the heart.

REALISTIC/COMING OF AGE FICTION

***The Science of Breakable Things* by Tae Keller**

ISBN: 978-1524715663

When Natalie's science teacher suggests that she enter an egg drop competition, Natalie thinks that this might be the perfect solution to all her problems. There's prize money, and, if she and her friends win, she can fly her botanist mother to see the miraculous Cobalt Blue Orchids—flowers that survive against impossible odds. Natalie's mother has been suffering from depression, and Natalie is sure that the flowers' magic will inspire her mom to love life again. Natalie's friends step up and show her that talking about a problem is like taking a plant out of a dark cupboard and giving it light. With their help, Natalie begins an uplifting journey to discover the science of hope, love, and miracles.

***The Unteachables* by Gordon Korman**

ISBN: 978-0062563880

The Unteachables are a notorious class of misfits, delinquents, and academic train wrecks, and they have been removed from the student body and

isolated in Room 117. Their teacher is Mr. Zachary Kermit, the most burned-out teacher in all of Greenwich. He was once a rising star, but his career was shattered by a cheating scandal that still haunts him. After years of phoning it in, he is finally one year away from early retirement. However, the superintendent has his own plans to torpedo that idea, and it involves assigning Mr. Kermit to the Unteachables. The Unteachables never thought they'd find a teacher who had a worse attitude than they did, and Mr. Kermit never thought he would actually care about teaching again. Over the course of a school year, Room 117 experiences mayhem, destruction, and a shot at redemption.

***Counting by 7s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan**

ISBN: 978-0803738553

Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now. Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is not a tragedy; although Willow is extraordinarily odd, she is extraordinarily endearing, and she manages to push through her grief. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read.

HISTORICAL FICTION

***Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson**

ISBN: 978-0689838583

August 1793. Fourteen-year-old Mattie Cook is ambitious, adventurous, and sick to death of listening to her mother. Mattie has plans of her own. She wants to turn the Cook Coffeehouse into the finest business in Philadelphia, the capital of the new United States, but the waterfront is abuzz with reports of disease. "Fever" spreads from the docks and creeps toward Mattie's home, threatening everything she holds dear. As the cemeteries fill with fever victims, fear turns to panic, and thousands flee the city. Then tragedy strikes the coffeehouse, and Mattie is trapped in a living nightmare. Suddenly, her struggle to build a better life must give way to something even more important—the fight to stay alive.

***The Boy at the Top of the Mountain* by John Boyne**

ISBN: 978-1627790307

In 1936, Pierrot Fischer is orphaned in Paris, and World War II is quickly approaching. After the deaths of his parents, Pierrot's life is turned upside down as he finds himself traveling alone by train from Paris to Austria to live with an aunt he has never met in a home he has never visited. Pierrot soon learns that his German aunt is a housekeeper at Berghof, one of Adolf Hitler's houses, and Pierrot's name is changed to Pieter to reflect his new home in Germany. Suddenly, Pierrot finds himself living in a dangerous new world full of darkness that he doesn't understand. As he is thrown into an in-

creasingly dangerous new world—a world of terror, secrets, and betrayal—will Pierrot maintain his innocence? Or will he, like so many others, find himself transformed?

SCI-FI and FANTASY

***The Shadow Club* by Neal Shusterman**

ISBN: 978-0142300947

Have you ever felt like no matter how hard you try, someone will always win instead of you? As second bests at their school, Jared Mercer and Cheryl Gannett decide to form a club consisting of their school's other second bests. All the kids in *The Shadow Club* are students who also consider themselves to be "in the shadows" of people who are better than them at the things they are good at. The club starts simply enough: the kids who are tired of being second best get together and, for the first time, talk about how they feel. They start by pulling pranks to humiliate their enemies, the "unbeatables," but, their pranks quickly escalate and things begin to spin dangerously out of control.

***Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard**

ISBN: 978-0062310637

Mare Barrow's world is divided by blood—those with common blood, or Red bloods, serve the Silver-blooded elites, who are gifted with superhuman abilities. Mare is a Red that scrapes by as a thief in her poor, rural village until a twist of fate throws her in front of the Silver court. Before the king, princes, and all the nobles, she discovers she has an ability of her own. To cover up this impossibility, the king forces her to play the role of a lost Silver princess and betroths her to one of his own sons. As Mare is drawn further into the Silver world, she risks everything and uses her new position to help the Scarlet Guard—a growing Red rebellion—even as her heart tugs her in an impossible direction. One wrong move can lead to her death, but in the dangerous game she plays, the only certainty is betrayal.

***Nyxia* by Scott Reintgen**

ISBN: 978-0399556791

Emmett Atwater's mother is sick, and the family can't afford to pay for her treatments. When Babel Communications offers him a fortune and a once-in-a-lifetime deep-space experience, Emmett jumps at the opportunity. Emmet isn't just leaving Detroit; he's leaving Earth. Why the Babel Corporation recruited him is a mystery, but the number of zeroes on their contract has him boarding their lightship and hoping to return to Earth with enough money to take care of his family. Before long, Emmett discovers that he is one of ten recruits, all of whom have troubled pasts and are a long way from home. Now each recruit must earn the right to travel down to the planet of Eden, a planet that Babel has kept hidden, where they will mine a substance called Nyxia that has quietly become the most valuable material in the universe. Babel's ship is full of secrets, and Emmett will face the ultimate choice: win the fortune at any cost or find a way to fight that won't forever compromise what it means to be human.

MYSTERY

***The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle* by Leslie Connor**

(2018 National Book Award Finalist)

ISBN: 978-0062491435

Mason Buttle is the sweatiest kid in his grade, and everyone knows he can barely read or write. Mason's learning disabilities are compounded by grief. Fifteen months ago, Mason's best friend, Benny Kilmartin, turned up dead in the Buttle family's orchard. An investigation drags on, and Mason, honest as the day is long, can't understand why Lieutenant Baird won't believe the story Mason has told about that day. Both Mason and his new friend, Calvin Chumsky, are relentlessly bullied by the other boys in their neighborhood, so they create an underground club space for themselves. When Calvin goes missing, Mason finds himself in trouble again. He's desperate to figure out what happened to Calvin, and eventually, Benny.

***One Came Home* by Amy Timberlake**

(2014 Newbery Honor Book)

ISBN: 978-0375869259

Georgie Burkhardt knows that the unidentifiable body buried in the family plot is not that of her older sister, Agatha, who recently ran away. In the adventurous historical novel *One Came Home*, based on two actual events in Wisconsin in 1871, the spunky 13-year-old heroine sets out to find her sister. She prepares for the trip with advice from Randolph B. Marcy's *The Prairie Traveler*, a few gold dollars and a Springfield single-shot rifle, and is surprised when Billy McCabe, Agatha's unrequited love interest, shows up to accompany her. She will track every last clue and shred of evidence to bring Agatha home. Yet even with resolute determination and her trusty Springfield single-shot, Georgie is not prepared for what she faces on the Western Frontier.

NONFICTION

***Discovering Wes Moore (Young Readers Edition)* by Wes Moore**

ISBN: 978-0385741675

The story of "the other Wes Moore" is one that the author couldn't get out of his mind, not since he learned that another boy with his name, just two years his senior, grew up in the same Baltimore neighborhood. He wrote that boy—now a man—a letter, not expecting to receive a reply but a reply came. As their friendship grew, letters turned into visits and the two men got to know each other. Eventually, that friendship became the inspiration for *Discovering Wes Moore*, a moving and cautionary tale examining the factors that contribute to success and failure—and the choices that make all the difference.

***Hidden Figures (Young Readers Edition)* by Margot Lee Shetterly**

ISBN: 978-0062662385

Before John Glenn orbited the earth or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as "human computers" used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. This is the powerful story of four African-American female mathematicians at NASA who helped achieve some of the greatest moments in our space program.



→ The recommended reading lists and the summer reading log are available at: baylorschool.org/summerreading.

Eighth Grade Summer Reading

All 8th grade students are required to read three books over the summer from the 8th Grade Directed Reading List below. Students should not select any texts that they have previously read, and students should submit the reading log to their English teachers when they return to school in August.

The purpose of summer reading at Baylor is to encourage students to develop a life-long habit of reading, echo the students' classroom learning experiences, and provide opportunities for students to read classics and other texts that expand their perspectives and stimulate interest in the world around them.

Books with a double asterisk beside the title (**) are suitable for mature readers.

CLASSICS

***The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien**

ISBN: 978-0547928227

Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar, but his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure. They have launched a plot to raid the treasure hoard guarded by Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon. Bilbo reluctantly joins their quest, unaware that on his journey to the Lonely Mountain he will encounter both a magic ring and a frightening creature known as Gollum.

***Watership Down* by Richard Adams**

ISBN: 978-0743277709

Set in the Hampshire Downs in Southern England, an idyllic rural landscape, this stirring tale of suspense follows a band of rabbits in flight from the incursion of man and the destruction of their home. Led by a stouthearted pair of brothers, they travel forth from their native Sandleford Warren through harrowing trials to a mysterious promised land and a more perfect society.

REALISTIC/COMING OF AGE FICTION

*****Goodbye Days* by Jeff Zentner**

(2017 YALSA Top Ten Best Fiction for Young Adults)

ISBN: 978-0553524062

"Where are you guys? Text me back." That's the last message Carver Briggs will ever send his three best friends, Mars, Eli, and Blake; he never thought that it would lead to their death. Carver can't stop blaming himself for the accident, and now a powerful judge is pressuring the district attorney to open up a criminal investigation. Luckily, Carver has some unexpected allies: Eli's girlfriend, the only person to stand by him at school; Dr. Mendez, his new therapist; and Blake's grandmother, who asks Carver to spend a "goodbye day" together to share their memories and say a proper farewell. Soon the other families are asking for their own goodbye day with Carver, but he's unsure of their motives. Will they all be able to make peace with their losses, or will these goodbye days bring Carver one step closer to a complete breakdown or, even worse, prison?

***The Season of Styx Malone* by Kekla Magoon**

ISBN: 978-1524715953

It's summertime, and the living is easy. At least it was before Caleb and his older brother Bobby Gene make a bad deal with their nemesis, Cory, leading to four long weeks of morning chores as punishment. It looks like things are going nowhere fast — until they meet Styx Malone, a mysterious, lanky, smooth-talking teenager who adds excitement to the brothers' otherwise humdrum summer. Living in the small town of Sutton, Indiana, Caleb and Bobby Gene are confined to play within the woods in their backyard. Caleb

dreams of a chance to see the world — at least to make it to the big city of Indianapolis—and doesn't understand his father's stubborn insistence that they don't need to travel anywhere outside of Sutton. Caleb doesn't want the ordinary life that his family lives, and Styx becomes the magic ticket to escape. The boys embark on a journey that encompasses rule-breaking, laugh-out-loud humor, and nail-biting adventure while exploring the importance of family ties and deep friendships.

*****The Sun is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon**

(2017 Printz Honor Book)

ISBN: 978-0553496680

It is Natasha's last day in New York City, where she has lived for 10 years. Her family, living as undocumented immigrants in a small Brooklyn apartment, are being deported to Jamaica after her father's arrest for drunk driving. Natasha is scouring the city for a chance to stay in the United States legally, but all she wants is the normal teen existence of her peers. Meanwhile, Daniel is on his way to an interview as part of his application process to Yale. He is under great pressure to get in because his parents (who emigrated from South Korea) are adamant that he become a doctor. Events slowly conspire to bring the two leads together, and when Daniel and Natasha finally meet, he falls in love immediately and convinces her to join him for the day.

HISTORICAL FICTION

***The Girl in the Blue Coat* by Monica Hesse**

(2017 YALSA Best Book for Young Adults)

ISBN: 978-0316260602

Amsterdam, 1943. Hanneke spends her days procuring and delivering sought-after black market goods to paying customers, her nights hiding the true nature of her work from her concerned parents, and every waking moment mourning her boyfriend, who was killed on the Dutch front lines when the Germans invaded. She likes to think of her illegal work as a small act of rebellion. On a routine delivery, a client asks Hanneke for help. Expecting to hear that Mrs. Janssen wants meat or kerosene, Hanneke is shocked by the older woman's frantic plea to find a person—a Jewish teenager Mrs. Janssen had been hiding, who has vanished without a trace from a secret room. Hanneke initially wants nothing to do with such dangerous work, but she is ultimately drawn into a web of mysteries and stunning revelations that lead her into the heart of the resistance, open her eyes to the horrors of the Nazi war machine, and compel her to take desperate action.

*****The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**

(2007 Printz Award Winner)

ISBN: 978-0375842207

When Death has a story to tell, you listen. It is 1939 in Nazi Germany, and the country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier and will become busier still as World War II rages on. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living

outside of Munich who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

SCI-FI and FANTASY

****Unwind by Neal Shusterman**

ISBN: 978-1416912040

In a society where unwanted teens are salvaged for their body parts, three runaways fight the system that would “unwind” them. Connor's parents want to be rid of him because he's a troublemaker. Risa has no parents and is being unwound to cut orphanage costs. Lev's unwinding has been planned since his birth, as part of his family's strict religion. Brought together by chance, and kept together by desperation, these three unlikely companions make a harrowing cross-country journey, knowing their lives hang in the balance. If they can survive until their eighteenth birthday, they can't be harmed — but when every piece of them, from their hands to their hearts, are wanted by a world gone mad, eighteen seems far, far away.

Echo by Pam Muñoz Ryan

(2016 Newbery Honor Book)

ISBN: 978-0439874021

“Long before enchantment was eclipsed by doubt,” a young boy named Otto lost in the woods is rescued by three sisters imprisoned there by a witch's curse. In return, he promises to help break the curse by carrying their spirits out of the forest in a harmonica and passing the instrument along when the time is right. The narrative shifts to the 20th century, when the same harmonica becomes the tangible thread that connects the stories of three children: Friedrich, a disfigured outcast; Mike, an impoverished orphan; and Ivy, an itinerant farmer's child. Their personal struggles are set against some of the darkest eras in human history: Friedrich, the rise of Nazi Germany; Mike, the Great Depression; Ivy, World War II. The children are linked by musical talent and the hand of fate that brings Otto's harmonica into their lives. Each recognizes something unusual about the instrument, and the harmonica has the power to fill them with courage and hope.

MYSTERY

The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie by Alan Bradley

ISBN: 978-0385343497

It is the summer of 1950 and, at the once-grand mansion of Buckshaw, young Flavia de Luce, an aspiring chemist with a passion for poison, is intrigued by a series of inexplicable events. First, a dead bird is found on her doorstep, a postage stamp bizarrely pinned to its beak, and then, hours later, Flavia

overhears a heated argument between her father, Colonel de Luce, and a red-headed stranger who shortly turns up dead in the family cucumber patch. When Colonel de Luce is arrested for the crime, Flavia begins an investigation in the village of Bishop's Lacey, interviewing suspects, gathering clues, and compiling research at the library, always staying ahead of Inspector Hewitt and the police department. For Flavia, who is both appalled and delighted, life begins in earnest when murder comes to Buckshaw: “I wish I could say I was afraid, but I wasn't. Quite the contrary. This was by far the most interesting thing that had ever happened to me in my entire life.”

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

ISBN: 978-0062490377

Ten strangers are lured to an isolated island mansion off the Devon coast by a mysterious “U. N. Owen.” At dinner, a recorded message accuses each of them in turn of having a guilty secret, and, by the end of the night, one of the guests is dead. Stranded by a violent storm, and haunted by a nursery rhyme counting down one by one . . . as one by one...they begin to die. Which among them is the killer, and will any of them survive?

NONFICTION

The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler by John Hendrix

(2019 ALA Excellence in Nonfiction Finalist)

ISBN: 978-1419728389

Interweaving handwritten text and art, John Hendrix tells the story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his fight against the oppression of the German people during World War II. Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor and theologian who was shocked to watch the German church embrace Hitler's agenda of hatred. He spoke out against the Nazi party and led a breakaway church that rebelled against racist and nationalist beliefs of the Third Reich. Struggling with how his faith interacted with his ethics, Bonhoeffer eventually became convinced that Hitler and the Nazi Party needed to be stopped—and he was willing to sacrifice anything and everything to do so.

Chasing King's Killer by James L. Swanson

ISBN: 978-0545723336

In his meteoric, thirteen-year rise to fame, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led a mass movement for Civil Rights with his relentless peaceful, non-violent protests, public demonstrations, and eloquent speeches. As violent threats cast a dark shadow over Dr. King's life, Swanson hones in on James Earl Ray, a bizarre prison escapee who tragically ends King's life. With an introduction by Congressman John Lewis, and over 80 photographs, captions, bibliography, and various source notes, Swanson transports readers back to one of the most shocking, sad, and terrifying events in American history.



→ The recommended reading lists and the summer reading log are available at: baylor-school.org/summerreading.