

# Summer Reading 2025



June 2025

Dear Families,

Reading for enjoyment during the summer is one of life's little pleasures for most of us. Our wish for your children is that they too look forward to reading those books that they didn't have time for during the school year. All students entering sixth, seventh, and eighth grade are expected to read **at least three books** over the summer. We recommend students use sticky notes or take notes to engage more deeply with their reading. Although there is no specific summer assignment to respond to the books, teachers may ask students to respond to their summer reading when they return to school in September.

While curating our lists, we try to choose books in a variety of genres that are of high interest to students. The books also vary widely by reading level. If you feel that a book is not at an appropriate level, please help your child choose something else. You may want to read the books alongside your child so you can discuss them together. Some students may want to pair up with friends to read the same book together, too.

If your student is a rising 7th or 8th grader, they may be able to find the books through [Sora](#), our digital library. You can also check the [Dobbs Ferry Public Library](#) catalog to see if a book is available through the public library system. DFPL will be sponsoring a summer reading game this year for children ages 7-12. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Another option for children to continue learning over the summer is through the [Middle School Choice Board](#). The choice board is essentially a grid with a range of activities that gives students the opportunity to choose what they would like to learn and how they would like to show their learning.

Happy reading!

Best wishes,

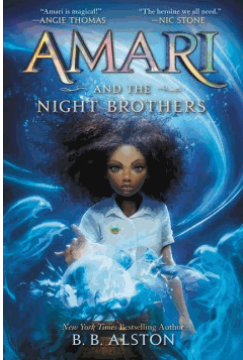

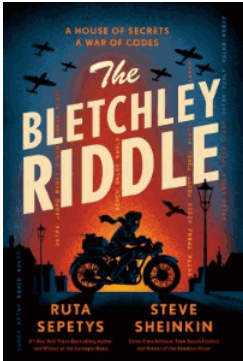
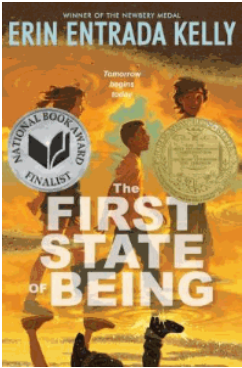

Ellen Elsen  
Library Media Specialist

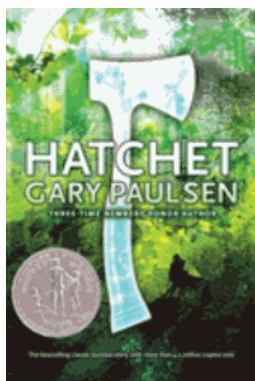
Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek  
K-8 Literacy Coordinator

The Language and Literature Department at DFMS (Lisa Alfonzetti, Nathalie Del Vecchio-Molina, Claudia Ducic, Ed Feller, Christine Grenier, Melissa Gretczko, Rachael Lief, Denise Rivera, and Jill Rosenblum)

## Summer Reading 2025

### 6th Grade

 <p>Fantasy</p> <p>★4 starred reviews</p>	<p>Thirteen-year-old Amari gets an invitation from her missing brother to join the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs and join in the fight against an evil magician.</p> <p><a href="#">Book trailer</a></p> <p>Also in series: <i>Amari and the Great Game</i>, <i>Amari and the Despicable Wonders</i></p>	 <p>Realistic Fiction</p> <p>★2 starred reviews</p>	<p>Piano-prodigy Isabella, whose black father and white mother struggle to share custody, never feels whole, especially as racial tensions affect her school.</p> <p><a href="#">Book trailer</a></p>
 <p>Historical Fiction</p> <p>★4 starred reviews</p>	<p>Follow siblings Jakob Novis and his quirky younger sister Lizzie as they find themselves at Bletchley Park, the home of WWII codebreakers working to decrypt the Nazi's Enigma cipher. The two struggle to unravel a mystery surrounding their mother's disappearance against the backdrop of the Battle of Britain and Hitler's feared invasion.</p> <p><a href="#">Book trailer</a></p>	 <p>Historical Fiction, science fiction</p> <p> National Book Award Finalist; Newbery Medal</p>	<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.</p> <p><a href="#">Video book review</a></p>

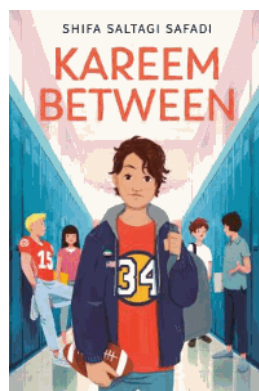


Adventure, Classic

 Newbery Honor


After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given to him by his mother.

(Other books in series: *The River*, *Brian's Winter*, *Brian's Return*, and *Brian's Hunt*)



Realistic fiction,  
Sports, novel in verse

★2 starred reviews

 National Book Award, 2025

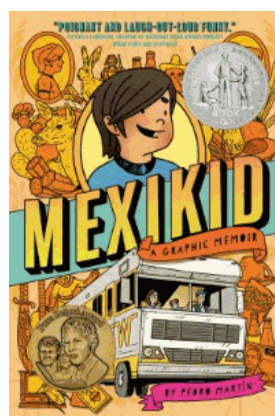
From failed football tryouts to helping the new Syrian refugee student, seventh-grader Kareem attempts to navigate the social complexities of seventh grade, which are further complicated when his mother is unable to return home from Syria due to an executive order.



Historical Fiction,  
magical realism,  
adventure


★4 starred reviews

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.



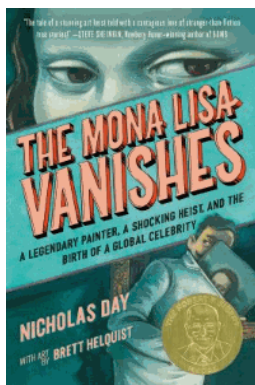
Memoir, graphic  
nonfiction

★4 starred reviews

 Newbery Honor Book; Pura Belpre Author & Illustrator Awards

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 graphic memoir.

[Book trailer](#)



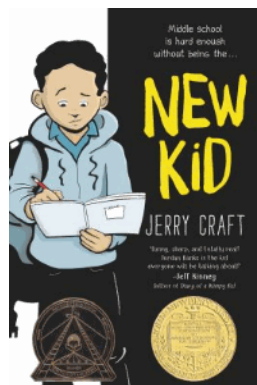
Nonfiction

★3 starred reviews

🏆 Robert F. Sibert  
Informational Book  
Medal

A narrative nonfiction account of how the Mona Lisa was stolen from the Louvre, how the robbery made the portrait the most famous artwork in the world--and how the painting by Leonardo da Vinci should never have existed at all.

[Video book review](#)



Graphic novel, realistic fiction

★4 starred reviews

🏆 Newbery Medal &  
Coretta Scott King  
Author Award

Instead of sending Jordan Banks to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his friends and staying true to himself?

[Book Trailer](#)

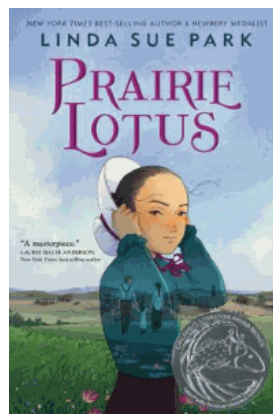
Also in series: *Class Act*,  
*School Trip*



Horror/ghost story,  
historical fiction

★3 starred reviews

Discovering her ability to see ghosts when a cruel act ends her father's life and forces her to move in with relatives in 1920s Pittsburgh, young Ophelia forges a helpful bond with a spirit whose own life ended suddenly and unjustly.



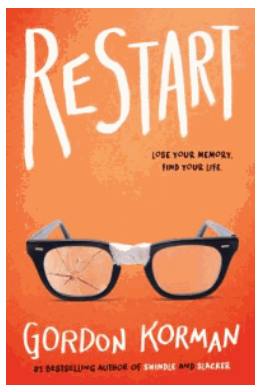
Historical fiction

★5 starred reviews

🏆 Asian/Pacific  
American Award for  
Literature Honor book

In Dakota Territory in the 1880s, half-Chinese Hanna and her white father face racism and resistance to change as they try to make a home for themselves. Includes author's note.

[Video book review](#)



Realistic Fiction,  
Humor

★2 starred reviews

Chase does not remember falling off the roof, in fact he does not remember anything about himself, and when he gets back to middle school he begins to learn who he was through the reactions of the other kids--trouble is, he really is not sure he likes the Chase that is being revealed.

[Author speaking about the book](#)

Starred Reviews are from the following publications:

- *Booklist*
- *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*
- *Horn Book Guide*
- *Horn Book Magazine*
- *Kirkus*
- *Publisher's Weekly*
- *School Library Connection*
- *School Library Journal*
- *Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)*