

WLPCS SUMMER READING

5th and 6th Grade – Summer 2020

Requirements by Course

Students are required to read the book listed for the grade they will enter in the fall.

English 5

1. *Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein
2. Two books from the 5th and 6th grade independent reading list

English 6

1. *Hoodoo* by Roland L. Smith
2. Two books from the 5th and 6th grade independent reading list

Student Choice Books

Students will read the required number of books (indicated above) from the 5th and 6th Grade Independent Reading List.

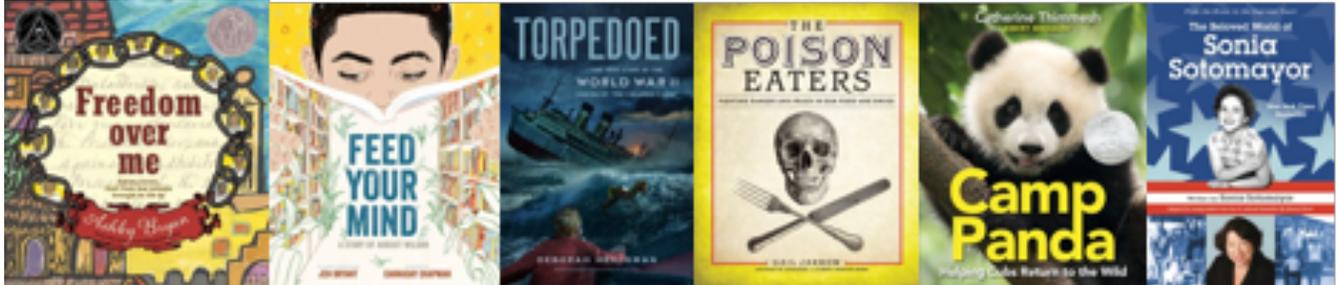


Why summer reading?

At Washington Latin, we require that students read over the summer for several reasons. Required texts establish themes for the year and are frequently the focus of the first unit of the year in each class. They serve as touchstones and jumping-off points for year-long conversations about the essential thematic questions that drive English courses at Latin. We require summer reading to prevent any loss of reading skills over the summer; summer reading ensures that students are engaged in some of the same activities they pursue during the school year. We believe children learn to read (and think) best when they want to read; we require summer reading to promote reading for pleasure and assist parents in motivating students to read. We are trying to teach students to love reading. We think if children love books, they will do well in life.

INDEPENDENT READING LIST

5th and 6th Grade – Summer 2020



Nonfiction

Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life by Ashley Bryan by Ashley Bryan -- This beautiful and moving book documents the hopes and dreams of eleven people who were sold into slavery through powerful illustrations, portraits, artifacts, and poems. (WLPCS Library)

Feed Your Mind: A Story of August Wilson by Jennifer Bryant – A celebration of August Wilson’s journey from a child in Pittsburgh to one of America’s greatest playwrights.

Torpedoed : The True Story of the World War II Sinking of "The Children's Ship" by Deborah Heiligman – A true account of the attack and sinking of the passenger ship SS 'City of Benares,' which was evacuating children from England during World War II.

The Poison Eaters : Fighting Danger and Fraud in Our Food and Drugs by Gail Jarrow – Formaldehyde in milk, cocaine in toothache drops, sausage made from pulverized meat scraps swept off factory floors along with rat feces. At the dawn of the twentieth century, few Americans knew who made the food they were consuming, and there was little regulation of the food industry. Jarrow traces the story of Dr. Harvey Washington Wiley, now known as the Father of the FDA, who devoted his life to getting the federal government to take responsibility for protecting consumers from poisonous products. . . (Schneider, *Horn Book Magazine*)

Camp Panda: Helping Cubs Return to the Wild by Catherine Thimmesh – Many have seen videos of humans in panda suits tending to the needs of smaller, actual pandas, and they may have asked, why are they dressed that way? Thimmesh's new book answers that and more as she delves in the conservation efforts of various groups in China, including the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda, also known as Camp Panda. . . (Drucker, *School Library Journal*)

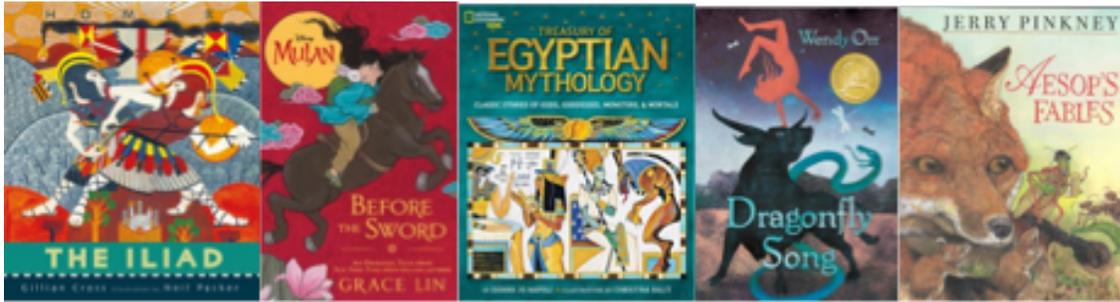
The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor by Sonia Sotomayor – Sonia Sotomayor was just a girl when she dared to dream big. Her dream? To become a lawyer and a judge even though she’d never met one of either, and none lived in her neighborhood. Sonia did not let the hardships of her background—which included growing up in the rough housing projects of New York City’s South Bronx, dealing with juvenile diabetes, coping with parents who argued and fought personal demons, and worrying about money—stand in her way. Always, she believed in herself... Eventually, all of Sonia’s hard work led to her appointment as an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court in 2009.

(+) Students may read any book from the series.

Titles in red are new for this year’s list.

Book descriptions are from the publisher unless otherwise noted.

Revised June 2020
page 2



Ancient World and Mythology

(+) ***The Iliad* by Gillian Cross** – A strikingly illustrated retelling of Homer's classic from the team who brought us *The Odyssey*--Carnegie Medalist Gillian Cross and illustrator Neil Packer.

***Before the Sword* by Grace Lin** – An original tale, inspired by legends of Mulan Hua and popularized by Disney. When her sister is bitten by a poisonous spider, Mulan travels with a healer to find a flower from which the antidote can be made to save her sister's life.

(+) ***Treasury of Egyptian Mythology* by Donna Jo Napoli** -- Presents illustrated retellings of Egyptian myths, sharing the stories of Ra, Isis, Osiris, Anubis, and Bastet with sidebars for each god, goddess, monster and mortal that link the tales to history, geography, and culture, and includes a timeline, and other resources. (*Follett*)

***Dragonfly Song* by Wendy Orr** – Mute since the traumatic raider attack that took her foster family, Aissa struggles for survival in a mythical Bronze-Age Crete. Although she is forced into the lowliest position among the servants of her island's priestess, Aissa's mysterious bond with animals and the scars on her wrists are clues to her true identity as the priestess' firstborn daughter.

***Aesop's Fables* by Jerry Pinkney** – In this elegantly designed volume, more than sixty of Aesop's timeless fables have been carefully selected, humorously retold, and brought gloriously to life by four-time Caldecott Honor-winner Jerry Pinkney. Included are the Shepherd Boy and The Wolf, the Lion and the Mouse, the Tortoise and the Hare, plus many other characters and morals that have inspired countless readers for centuries.

(+) ***Hades Speaks!: A Guide to the Underworld by the Greek God of the Dead* by Vicky Alvear Shecter** -- The god of the underworld takes the reader on a hilarious and dangerous journey through his domain. It's to die for! (*WLPCS Library*)

(+) ***Black Ships Before Troy* by Rosemary Sutcliff** -- A masterful retelling *The Iliad* in accessible and beautiful language, this book shares the story of the Trojan War. (*WLPCS Library*)

Historical Fiction

(+) ***Finding Langston* by Lesa Cline-Ransome** – It's 1946. Langston's mother has just died, and now they're leaving the rest of his family and friends. He misses everything-- Grandma's Sunday suppers, the red dirt roads, and the magnolia trees his mother loved. In the city, they live in a small apartment surrounded by noise and chaos.... But Langston's new home has one fantastic thing. Unlike the whites-only library in Alabama, the Chicago Public Library welcomes everyone. There, hiding out after school, Langston discovers another Langston--a poet whom he learns inspired his mother enough to name her only son after him.

***The Rhino in Right Field* by Stacy DeKeyser** – Going to Greek school and working at his dad's store are part of 12-year-old Nick Spirakis's routine, but baseball is everything to him. Nick is excited to enter a competition to become "batboy-for-a-day" for the local adult minor league baseball team, but it takes place on a weekend when Nick is supposed to help out in at the store. Complicating matters is Tank the Rhino, the 2,000-pound rhinoceros who lives in the city zoo adjacent to the field where Nick and his friends play ball. Historical details of 1948 Milwaukee skillfully

(+) Students may read any book from the series.

Titles in red are new for this year's list.

Book descriptions are from the publisher unless otherwise noted.

melded with fast-paced action and humor, giving readers a window into life in that era. . . (Thaler-Sroussi, *School Library Journal*)

The Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani – It's 1947, and India, newly independent of British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. The divide has created much tension between Hindus and Muslims, and hundreds of thousands are killed crossing borders. Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs, or what her country is anymore. When Papa decides it's too dangerous to stay in what is now Pakistan, Nisha and her family become refugees and embark first by train but later on foot to reach her new home. The journey is long, difficult, and dangerous, and after losing her mother as a baby, Nisha can't imagine losing her homeland, too.



Indian No More by Charlene Willing McManis – This novel (based on McManis's childhood) is set against the background of U.S. government actions beginning in the 1940s that terminated the status of many Native Nations and forced relocation of families living on reservations. With a stroke of the pen, in 1954, eight-year-old Regina Petit and her family lose both their identities and their home. Members of the Umpqua tribe in northern Oregon, the Petits relocate to Los Angeles. There, Regina tries to adapt to life in the city, making friends outside her culture and figuring out what it means to be (in the terminology of the times) Indian. . . (Ellis, *Horn Book Magazine*)

The Book of Boy by Catherine Gilbert Murdock – Boy has always been relegated to the outskirts of his small village. With a hump on his back, a mysterious past, and a tendency to talk to animals, he is often mocked by others in his town –until the arrival of a shadowy pilgrim named Secundus. Impressed with Boy's climbing and jumping abilities, Secundus engages Boy as his servant, pulling him into an action-packed and suspenseful expedition across Europe to gather seven precious relics of Saint Peter.

Words on Fire by Jennifer A. Nielsen –In 1893 twelve-year-old Audra lives on a farm in Lithuania, and tries to avoid the Cossack soldiers who enforce the Russian decrees that ban Lithuanian books, religion, culture, and even the language; but when the soldiers invade the farm Audra is the only one who escapes and, unsure of what has happened to her parents, she embarks on a dangerous journey, carrying the smuggled Lithuanian books that fuel the growing resistance movement, unsure of who to trust, but risking her life and freedom for her country. (Follett)

My Year in the Middle by Lila Quintero Weaver – Readers will be immediately transported to early 1970s Alabama in this story about Lu Olivera, a sixth-grader who finds herself drawn ever more deeply into the civil rights movement and politics at her school. Argentinian Lu doesn't fall neatly into the category of white or black, so she manages to more or less stay out of politics; but the more things heat up with local elections, and with Lu's budding friendship with Belinda, who is not white, she finds she can't stand idly by. (Booklist)

Realistic Fiction

The Usual Suspects by Maurice Broaddus – Thelonius Mitchell is tired of being labeled. He's in special ed, separated from the "normal" kids at school who don't have any "issues." That's enough to make all the teachers and students look at him and his friends with a constant side-eye. (Although his disruptive antics and pranks have given him a rep too.) When a gun is found at a neighborhood hangout, Thelonius and his pals become instant suspects. Thelonius may be guilty of pulling crazy stunts at school, but a criminal? T isn't about to let that label stick.

(+) Students may read any book from the series.

Titles in red are new for this year's list.

Book descriptions are from the publisher unless otherwise noted.

Revised June 2020
page 4

Amina's Voice by Hena Khan -- A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community in this sweet and moving novel.

The Season of Styx Malone by Kekla Magoon -- Caleb Franklin and his big brother Bobby Gene are excited to have adventures in the woods behind their house.... Then Caleb and Bobby Gene meet new neighbor Styx Malone. Styx is sixteen and oozes cool. Styx promises the brothers that together, the three of them can pull off the Great Escalator Trade--exchanging one small thing for something better until they achieve their wildest dream.

Merci Suárez Changes Gears by Meg Medina -- 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.... Things aren't going well at home, either: Merci's grandfather and most trusted ally, Lolo, has been acting strangely lately... 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.



(+) **Accidental Trouble Magnet by Zanib Mian** -- Omar and his family have just moved, and he is NOT excited about starting at a new school. What if the work is too hard or the kids are mean or the teacher is a zombie alien?! But when Omar makes a new best friend, things start looking up. That is, until a Big Mean Bully named Daniel makes every day a nightmare! Daniel even tells Omar that all Muslims are going to be kicked out of the country . . . Could that possibly be true? Luckily, Omar's enormous imagination and goofy family help him get through life's ups and downs.

A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramee -- Twelve-year-old Shayla is allergic to trouble. All she wants to do is to follow the rules. Shay's sister, Hana, is involved in Black Lives Matter, but Shay doesn't think that's for her. After experiencing a powerful protest, though, Shay starts wearing an armband to school. Soon everyone is taking sides. And she is given an ultimatum. Shay is scared to do the wrong thing (and even more scared to do the right thing), but if she doesn't face her fear, she'll be forever tripping over the next hurdle. Now that's trouble, for real.

Look Both Ways by Jason Reynolds -- Jason Reynolds conjures ten tales (one per block) about what happens after the dismissal bell rings, and brilliantly weaves them into one wickedly funny, piercingly poignant look at the detours we face on the walk home, and in life.

Pay Attention, Carter Jones by Gary D. Schmidt -- Mr. Bowles-Fitzpatrick arrives in a purple Bentley at the Jones' New York state home during a downpour on the morning of Carter's first day of sixth grade. He helps with Mary Poppins-like efficiency and perceptiveness to organize the chaos of a household with little money, four children, a father deployed overseas, and a gaping hole. 6-year-old Currier died three years ago, and Carter carries his brother's green marble like a talisman. Meanwhile, Mr. Bowles-Fitzpatrick (amusingly snobby about pizza, television, and American slang) encourages Carter to step up, to play a bigger role in his sisters' lives--and to learn to play cricket. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Clayton Byrd Goes Underground by Rita Williams-Garcia -- Armed with his grandfather's brown porkpie hat and his harmonica, Clayton runs away from home in search of [his late grandfather's band] the Bluesmen, hoping he can join them on the road. But on the journey that takes him through the New York City subways and to Washington Square Park, Clayton learns some things that surprise him. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson -- It all starts when six kids have to meet for a weekly chat--by themselves, with no adults to listen in. There, in the room they soon dub the ARTT Room (short for "A Room to Talk"), they discover it's safe to talk about what's bothering them--everything from Esteban's father's deportation and Haley's father's incarceration

(+) Students may read any book from the series.

Titles in red are new for this year's list.

Book descriptions are from the publisher unless otherwise noted.

Revised June 2020
page 5

to Amari's fears of racial profiling and Ashton's adjustment to his changing family fortunes. When the six are together, they can express the feelings and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world. And together, they can grow braver and more ready for the rest of their lives.

(+) **Front Desk by Kelly Yang** – Mia works at the front desk of the California motel her parents manage and writes letters to aid others, including an African-American victimized by racial profiling and a Chinese immigrant abused by his boss. Mia's story is one of hope, and her voice is genuine and inspiring.



Adventure, Survival and Sports

Booked by Kwame Alexander -- Soccer player Nick learns how to stand up for himself, use his words wisely, and impress the girl he likes with the help of his friends, family, and rapping librarian The Mac. (*WLPCS Library*)

Touchdown Kid by Tim Green -- Cory has always been passionate about football. But life for him and his single mom has been hard, making it difficult for Cory to play.... But when the coach from an elite private school with one of the best football programs in the country recognizes his talents on the field, Cory is presented with an unbelievable opportunity.

(+) **Willie & Me by Dan Gutman** --Stosh thought he was finished traveling back in time. But then [famous baseball player] Ralph Branca shows up in his room one night, begging for Stosh's help.

(+) **Power Forward by Hena Khan** – Fourth grader Zayd Saleem has some serious hoop dreams. He's not just going to be a professional basketball player. He's going to be a star. A legend. The first Pakistani-American kid to make it to the NBA. He knows this deep in his soul. It's his destiny. There are only a few small things in his way.

A Wolf Called Wander by Roseanne Parry – Swift, a young wolf cub, lives with his pack in the mountains learning to hunt, competing with his brothers and sisters for hierarchy, and watching over a new litter of cubs. Then a rival pack attacks, and Swift and his family scatter. Alone and scared, Swift must flee and find a new home. His journey takes him a remarkable one thousand miles across the Pacific Northwest. Includes black-and-white illustrations throughout and a map as well as information about the real wolf who inspired the novel.

Mananaland by Pam Muñoz Ryan – Maximiliano Cordoba loves stories, especially the legend Buelo tells him about a mythical gatekeeper who can guide brave travelers on a journey into tomorrow. If Max could see tomorrow, he would know if he'd make Santa Maria's celebrated futbol team and whether he'd ever meet his mother, who disappeared when he was a baby. He longs to know more about her, but Papa won't talk. So when Max uncovers a buried family secret--involving an underground network of guardians who lead people fleeing a neighboring country to safety--he decides to seek answers on his own.

Deep Water by Key Watt – It's the most important rule of scuba diving: If you don't feel right, don't go down. So after her father falls ill, 12-year-old Julie Sims must take over and lead two of his clients on a dive miles off the coast of Alabama while her father stays behind in the boat. When the clients, a reckless boy Julie's age and his equally foolhardy father, disregard Julie's instructions during the dive, she quickly realizes she's in over her head. It's only a matter of time before they die of hypothermia, unless they become shark bait first.

(+) Students may read any book from the series.

Titles in red are new for this year's list.

Book descriptions are from the publisher unless otherwise noted.

Revised June 2020
page 6



Horror, Mystery and Suspense

(+) ***Small Spaces* by Katherine Arden** – A series of eerie mishaps on a school field trip strands sixth grader Ollie and her classmates near a Vermont farm exactly like the one in Ollie's book about a sinister "smiling man" and his army of terrifying, once-human scarecrows. Only two other students believe her insistence that they're in danger. This supernatural thriller is a page-turner; Ollie's journey through grief over her mother's death and into friendship makes it memorable. (*Horn Book Guide*)

(+) ***The Jumbies* by Tracey Baptiste** -- Corinne La Mer claims she isn't afraid of anything. Not scorpions, not the boys who tease her, and certainly not jumbies. They're just tricksters made up by parents to frighten their children. Then one night Corinne chases an agouti all the way into the forbidden forest, and shining yellow eyes follow her to the edge of the trees. They couldn't belong to a jumbie. Or could they? When Corinne spots a beautiful stranger at the market the very next day, she knows something extraordinary is about to happen. When this same beauty, called Severine, turns up at Corinne's house, danger is in the air. Severine plans to claim the entire island for the jumbies. Corinne must call on her courage and her friends and learn to use ancient magic she didn't know she possessed to stop Severine and to save her island home.

***Scary Stories for Young Foxes* by Christian McKay Heidicker** – When fox kits Mia and Uly are separated from their litters, they quickly learn that the world is a dangerous place filled with monsters. As the young foxes travel across field and forest in search of a home, they'll face a zombie who hungers for their tender flesh, a witch who wants to wear their skins, a ghost who haunts and hunts them, and so much more.

(+) ***Kazu Jones and the Denver Dognappers* by Shauna M. Holyoak** – When a string of dognappings grips her Denver neighborhood, Kazu Jones vows to track down the culprits. With the help of her gang - including her best friend and expert hacker, March; and her ginormous, socially anxious pup, Genki - Kazu uncovers evidence that suggests the dognapping ring is bigger than she ever imagined. But the more she digs, the more dangerous her investigation becomes. The dognappers are getting bolder, and Genki could be next...

***The Parker Inheritance* by Varian Johnson** – When Candice finds a letter in an old attic in Lambert, South Carolina, she isn't sure she should read it. It's addressed to her grandmother, who left the town in shame. But the letter describes a young woman. An injustice that happened decades ago. A mystery enfolding its writer. And the fortune that awaits the person who solves the puzzle.

***The Owls Have Come to Take Us Away* by Ronald L. Smith** – 12-year-old Simon is obsessed with aliens. The ones who take people and do experiments. When he's too worried about them to sleep, he listens to the owls hoot outside. Owls that have the same eyes as aliens--dark and foreboding. Then something strange happens on a camping trip, and Simon begins to suspect he's been abducted. But is it real, or just the overactive imagination of a kid who loves fantasy and role-playing games and is the target of bullies and his father's scorn? Even readers who don't believe in UFOs will relate to the universal kid feeling of not being taken seriously by adults that deepens this deliciously scary tale.

(+) Students may read any book from the series.

Titles in red are new for this year's list.

Book descriptions are from the publisher unless otherwise noted.

Fantasy

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill -- One year, Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the ordinary child with extraordinary magic. Xan decides she must raise this girl, whom she calls Luna, as her own. As Luna's thirteenth birthday approaches, her magic begins to emerge--with dangerous consequences.

(+) **The Serpent's Secret by Sayantani DasGupta** -- On the morning of her twelfth birthday, Kiranmala is just a regular sixth grader living in Parsippany, New Jersey . . . until her parents mysteriously vanish and a drooling rakkhosh demon slams through her kitchen, determined to eat her alive.

Lalani of the Distant Sea by Erin Entrada Kelly -- Life is difficult on the island of Sanlagita. The women live in fear of the deadly mender's disease, spread by the sharp needles they use to repair the men's fishing nets. When Lalani Sarita's mother pricks her finger and falls ill, she gives twelve-year-old Lalani an impossible task--leave Sanlagita and find the riches of the legendary Mount Isa, which towers on an island to the north. But generations of men and boys have died on the same quest-- how can a timid young girl survive the epic tests of the archipelago?

(+) **Peasprout Chen: Future Legend of Skate and Sword by Henry Lien** -- Peasprout Chen dreams of becoming a legend of wu liu, the deadly and beautiful art of martial arts figure skating. As the first students from the rural country of Shin to attend Pearl Famous Academy of Skate and Sword, Peasprout and her little brother Cricket have some pretty big skates to fill. They soon find themselves in a heated competition for top ranking.



(+) **Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky by Kwame Mbalia** -- Seventh-grader Tristan Strong tumbles into the MidPass and, with allies John Henry and Brer Rabbit, must entice the god Anansi to come out of hiding and seal the hole Tristan accidentally ripped in the sky. (Follett)

(+) **The Gauntlet by Karuna Riazi** -- It didn't look dangerous, exactly. When twelve-year-old Farah first laid eyes on the old-fashioned board game, she thought it looked...elegant. It is made of wood, etched with exquisite images--a palace with domes and turrets, lattice-work windows that cast eerie shadows, a large spider--and at the very center of its cover, in broad letters, is written: The Gauntlet of Blood and Sand. The Gauntlet is more than a game, though. It is the most ancient, the most dangerous kind of magic. It holds worlds inside worlds. And it takes players as prisoners.

(+) **Forest of Wonders by Linda Sue Park** -- From Newbery Medal-winning author Linda Sue Park, this is a captivating fantasy-adventure about a boy, a bat, and an amazing transformation. The first book in an enchanting trilogy, *Forest of Wonders* richly explores the links between magic and botany, family and duty, environment and home.

(+) **Anya and the Dragon by Sofiya Pasternack** -- Anya's the only Jewish child in Zmeyreka. In the mostly Christian 10th-century village, Anya's family stands out: Her father's father remains pagan, while her mother's people are refugee Khazars and Mountain Jews. But unbeknownst to Anya, her village is not like the rest of Kievan Rus'. Magical creatures are nearly extinct everywhere else but common in Zmeyreka. The tsar's sent a "fool family"--users of fool magic, authorized to use magic despite the ban--to capture the last dragon in the land. The youngest fool is Anya's age (he's named Ivan, just like his seven older brothers), and the two become fast friends. But can Anya really bring herself to help Ivan kill a dragon that hasn't harmed anyone? (Kirkus Reviews)

(+) Students may read any book from the series.

Titles in red are new for this year's list.

Book descriptions are from the publisher unless otherwise noted.



Science Fiction

(+) **Wild Robot by Peter Brown** -- When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is--but she knows she needs to survive. After battling a fierce storm and escaping a vicious bear attack, she realizes that her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island's unwelcoming animal inhabitants.

(+) **The Last Last-Day-of-Summer by Lamar Giles** – Otto and Sheed are the local sleuths in their zany Virginia town, masters of unraveling mischief using their unmatched powers of deduction. And as the summer winds down and the first day of school looms, the boys are craving just a little bit more time for fun. [Then] a mysterious man appears with a camera that literally freezes time. Now, with the help of some very strange people and even stranger creatures, Otto and Sheed will have to put aside their differences to save their town--and each other--before time stops for good.

(+) **Sal and Gabi Break the Universe by Carlos Hernandez** – Sal Vidón is attending a new school, with new bullies and new teachers who don't understand the needs of a student with diabetes. He also causes rips in time and space by transporting objects from other universes. Sometimes he transports harmless prank items, but sometimes he goes home to find his long-dead mother cooking yucca in the kitchen. When Sal meets Gabi Reál, student body president and all-around firebrand, they begin a friendship that may break the universe-or save it. . . (Murphy, *School Library Journal*)

Me and Marvin Gardens by Amy Sarig King -- One day, Obe sees a creature that looks kind of like a large dog. And as he watches it, he realizes it eats plastic. *Only* plastic. Water bottles, shopping bags... No one has seen a creature like this before. The animal--Marvin Gardens--becomes Obe's best friend and biggest secret.

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle -- When their father disappears during a government experiment, Meg Murray, her brother Charles Wallace, and her friend Calvin must save him from a looming cosmic evil, with the help of Mrs. Who, Mrs. Which, and Mrs. Whatsit. (*WLPCS Library*)

We're Not From Here by Geoff Rodkey – The first time I heard about Planet Choom, we'd been on Mars for almost a year. But life on the Mars station was grim, and since Earth was no longer an option (we may have blown it up), it was time to find a new home. That's how we ended up on Choom with the Zhuri. They're very smart and look like giant mosquitos. But that's not why it's so hard to live here. There's a lot that the Zhuri don't like: singing (just ask my sister, Ila), comedy (one joke got me sent to the principal's office), or any kind of emotion. The biggest problem, though? The Zhuri don't like us. And if humankind is going to survive, it's up to my family to change their minds. No pressure.

(+) **Horizon by Scott Westerfeld** – When a plane crash-lands in the arctic, eight young survivors step from the wreckage expecting to see nothing but ice and snow. Instead they find themselves lost in a strange jungle with no way to get home and little hope of rescue. Food is running out. Water is scarce. And the jungle is full of threats unlike anything the survivors have ever seen before -- from razor-beaked shredder birds to carnivorous vines and much, much worse.

(+) Students may read any book from the series.

Titles in red are new for this year's list.

Book descriptions are from the publisher unless otherwise noted.

Revised June 2020

page 9