

# WLPCS SUMMER READING

7th and 8th Grade – Summer 2021

## Requirements by Course

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

### English 7

1. *March, Book One* by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin
2. Two books from the 7th and 8th grade independent reading list (see next page)

### English 8

1. *Refugee* by Alan Gratz
2. Two books from the 7th and 8th grade independent reading list (see next page)

## NEW! Summer reading videos

Use the QR code or [link](#) to see videos, reviews, and descriptions for summer reading!



## 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.

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# INDEPENDENT READING LIST

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7th and 8th grade – Summer 2021

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## Nonfiction

***This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality* by Jo Ann Allen Boyce** -- In 1956, one year before federal troops escorted the Little Rock 9 into Central High School, fourteen year old Jo Ann Allen was one of twelve African-American students who broke the color barrier and integrated Clinton High School in Tennessee. This is the heartbreaking, relatable story of her four months thrust into the national spotlight and as a trailblazer in history.

***Attucks!: Oscar Robertson and the Basketball Team that Awakened a City* by Phillip M. Hoose** -- The true story of the all-black high school basketball team that broke the color barrier in segregated 1950s Indiana, masterfully told by National Book Award winner Phil Hoose.

***Free Lunch* by Rex Ogle** – Rex Ogle recounts his first semester in sixth grade in which he and his younger brother often went hungry, wore secondhand clothes, and were short of school supplies and he was on his school's free lunch program. Grounded in the immediacy of physical hunger and the humiliation of having to announce it every day in the school lunch line, Rex's is a compelling story of a more profound hunger -- that of a child for his parents' love and care.

***Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You* by Jason Reynolds** – The construct of race has always been used to gain and keep power, to create dynamics that separate and silence. This remarkable reimagining of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's National Book Award-winning *Stamped from the Beginning* reveals the history of racist ideas in America, and inspires hope for an antiracist future.

***All Thirteen : The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team* by Christina Soontornvat** – A unique account of the amazing 2018 Thai cave rescue told in a heart-racing, you-are-there style that blends suspense, science, and cultural insight.

***PRIDE: Celebrating Diversity and Community* by Robin Stevenson** – For LGBTQ people and their supporters, Pride events are an opportunity to honor the past, protest injustice, and celebrate a diverse and vibrant community....But there is a whole lot more to Pride than rainbow flags and amazing outfits. How did Pride come to be?

***Taking on the Plastics Crisis* by Hannah Testa** – Youth activist Hannah Testa, the founder of Hannah4Change, chronicles both her personal and political mission to save the Earth's oceans by limiting single-use plastic products.

***We Are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World* by Malala Yousafzai** – Malala's experiences visiting refugee camps caused her to reconsider her own displacement -- first as an Internally Displaced Person when she was a young child in Pakistan, and then as an international activist who could travel anywhere in the world except to the home she loved. In *We Are Displaced*, Malala not only explores her own story, but she also shares the personal stories of some of the incredible girls she has met on her journeys.

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

***Titles in blue are new titles on this year's list.***

*Book descriptions are from the publisher unless otherwise noted.*

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## Ancient World and Mythology

**King of Ithaka by Tracy Barrett** – Telemachus must find his father Odysseus in order to save his kingdom. (WLPCS Library)

**The Coming of the Dragon by Rebecca Barnhouse**– Rebecca Barnhouse weaves Norse gods, blood feuds, and a terrifying dragon into this spectacular retelling of the end of the Old English poem Beowulf.

**Norse Myths: Tales of Odin, Thor, and Loki by Kevin Crossley-Holland** -- Long-recognized master of Norse mythology Kevin Crossley-Holland pairs with award-winning artist Jeffrey Alan Love for an exceptional look at the Viking gods—all-powerful Odin; mighty Thor and his hammer, Mjolnir; and Loki, the infamous trickster.

**Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo** – An illustrated retelling of the oldest English epic, "Beowulf," in which a Norse hero saves Denmark's royal house from monsters, returns home to become his own people's greatest king, and then faces a murderous dragon to protect them. (Follett)

**Gilgamesh the Hero by Geraldine McCaughrean** – A retelling, based on seventh-century B.C. Assyrian clay tablets, of the wanderings and adventures of the god king, Gilgamesh, who ruled in ancient Mesopotamia (now Iraq) in about 2700 B.C., and of his faithful companion, Enkidu. (Follett)

(+) **Gods and Warriors by Michelle Paver** –In Mycenaean Greece, young goatherd Hylas and priestess Pirra are on the run from the same enemy. The pair is forced to join together to accomplish their own goals. Along the way, they learn to trust each other and eventually become friends. Bronze Age gods, fierce warriors, and heroes-in-the-making take center stage in this action-packed story. (Horn Book Guide)

(+) **The Eagle of the Ninth (Roman Britain Trilogy, Book 1) by Rosemary Sutcliff** – Marcus must solve the mystery of his father's Ninth Legion after they all disappeared when they marched into the mists of Roman Britain. (WLPCS Library)

**The Shadow Hero by Gene Luen Yang** – 19-year-old Hank, son of Chinese immigrants, struggles to please his parents. His mom tries to pressure him into being a superhero after one saves her life, but Hank isn't so sure he can do it. Calling himself the Green Turtle, this formerly-reluctant hero saves his Chinatown neighborhood from trouble, facing many classic superhero challenges (yes, toxic gas and mysterious animal bites) before he becomes a powerful fighter in his own right. Marvel comic and Gene Yang fans will love this graphic novel which is based on a 1940s comic! (WLPCS Library)

## Historical Fiction

**Letters from Cuba by Ruth Behar** -- In 1938, eleven-year-old Esther joins her father in tropical, multicultural Cuba, where they toil together to rescue the rest of their Jewish family from persecution in Poland. Includes notes about the author's grandmother, on whom the story is based. (Follett)

**The Blackbird Girls by Anne Blankman** – On a spring morning, neighbors Valentina Kaplan and Oksana Savchenko wake up to an angry red sky. A reactor at the nuclear power plant where their fathers work--Chernobyl--has exploded. Before they know it, the two girls, who've always been enemies, find themselves on a train bound for Leningrad to stay with Valentina's estranged grandmother, Rifka Grigorievna. Told in alternating perspectives among three girls--

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Valentina and Oksana in 1986 and Rifka in 1941--this story shows that hatred, intolerance, and oppression are no match for the power of true friendship.

***The Long Ride by Marina Budhos***— In the tumult of 1970s New York City, seventh graders and best friends Jamila, Josie, and Francesca, are told they will be part of an experiment, taking a long bus ride each school day from their neighborhood in Queens to a brand-new school built to "mix up the black and white kids."

***Downstairs Girl by Stacy Lee***— It's 1890 Atlanta, and Jo Kuan has a secret: she's the anonymous author of the popular, yet polarizing, new agony aunt column "Dear Miss Sweetie." After spending her life living in a secret basement room (a relic of the Underground Railroad) beneath the press offices of a newspaper, she's picked up a masterful vocabulary to match her sharp wit, and the combination proves intoxicating to Atlanta's young ladies. But if anyone found out that a Chinese American teenager was behind the column, she'd be run out of town or worse. (*Booklist*)



***Hunger: A Tale of Courage by Donna Jo Napoli*** — In the autumn of 1846 in Ireland, twelve-year-old Lorraine and her family struggle to survive during the Irish potato famine, but when Lorraine meets Miss Susannah, the daughter of the wealthy English landowner who owns Lorraine's family's farm, they form an unlikely friendship. (*Follett*)

***Everything Sad Is Untrue by Daniel Nayeri*** — At the front of a middle school classroom in Oklahoma, a boy named Khosrou (whom everyone calls 'Daniel') stands, trying to tell a story. His story. But no one believes a word he says. To them he is a dark-skinned, hairy-armed boy with a big butt whose lunch smells funny. But Khosrou's stories, stretching back years, and decades, and centuries, are beautiful, and terrifying, from the moment he, his mother, and sister fled Iran in the middle of the night, stretching all the way back to family tales set in the jasmine-scented city of Isfahan, the palaces of semi-ancient kings, and even the land of stories.

***Chula the Fox by Anthony Perry*** — After a surprise attack on a hunting party leaves Chula, a Chickasaw boy living in the Homeland during the turbulent 18th century, without his beloved father, Chula finds himself thrust into the challenging world of a Chickasaw warrior. Young Chula is soon faced with the difficulties and confusions of warfare and manhood. Is he destined for the path of the warrior? Or does a different future await him?

***X: A Novel by Ilyasah Shabazz and Kekla Magoon*** -- Before he was known as Malcolm X, teenage Malcolm Little left his home in Michigan, spending time in Boston and Harlem, converting to Islam and changing his name.

***Fountains of Silence by Ruta Sepetys*** — At the Castellana Hilton in 1957 Madrid, eighteen-year-old Daniel Matheson connects with Ana Moreno through photography and fate as Daniel discovers the incredibly dark side of the city under Generalissimo Franco's rule.

## Realistic Fiction

***The Other Half of Happy by Rebecca Balcarcel*** — One-half Guatemalan, one-half American: When Quijana's Guatemalan cousins move to town, her dad seems ashamed that she doesn't know more about her family's heritage. One-half crush, one-half buddy: When Quijana meets Zuri and Jayden, she knows she's found true friends. But she can't help the growing feelings she has for Jayden. One-half kid, one-half grown-up: Quijana spends her nights Skyping with her ailing grandma and trying to figure out what's going on with her increasingly hard-to-reach brother.

***King and the Dragonflies by Kacen Callender*** — When Kingston's white friend Sandy came out to him a few months ago, Kingston's older brother, Khalid, told him to stay away from Sandy because King wouldn't want people to think he

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was gay too. And then Khalid died. But King knows that his brother is not really gone: Khalid “shed his skin like a snake” and is now a dragonfly. Complicating King’s grief over the sudden loss of his brother is the fear that Khalid would not still love him if he knew the truth—King is gay. Every day after school King walks to the bayou searching for Khalid, wondering if he can ever share who he is. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Marcus Vega Doesn’t Speak Spanish by Pablo Cartaya** – After a fight at school leaves Marcus facing suspension, Marcus’s mother takes him and his younger brother, who has Downs syndrome, to Puerto Rico to visit relatives they do not remember or have never met, and while there Marcus starts searching for his father, who left their family ten years ago and is somewhere on the island.

**The True Definition of Neva Beane by Christine Kendall** – 12-year-old Neva and her older brother, Clayton, live with their grandparents; their musician parents are on tour for the summer. At sixteen, Clay has become politically active and is spending a lot of time with their neighbor Michelle, whose father is a community organizer. Neva begins to admire the sophisticated and confident Michelle as well and finds herself wanting to prove she is aware of what is going on around her. But when she discovers that Michelle has “volunteered” her to be on the frontlines of a march for justice without her permission, Neva realizes she might be moving too quickly. (*Montgomery, Horn Book Magazine*)



**Birdie and Me by J.M.M. Nunez** – Ever since their free-spirited mama died ten months ago, twelve-year-old Jack and her gender creative nine-year-old brother, Birdie, have been living with their fun-loving Uncle Carl, but now their conservative Uncle Patrick insists on being their guardian which forces all four of them to confront grief, prejudice, and loss, all while exploring what ‘home’ really means.

**Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds** -- Jason Reynolds’s fiercely stunning novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds—the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he’s going to murder the guy who killed his brother.

**Black Brother, Black Brother by Jewell Parker Rhodes** -- Donte wishes he were invisible. As one of the few black boys at Middlefield Prep, he feels as if he is constantly swimming in whiteness. Most of the students don’t look like him. They don’t like him either. Dubbed the “Black Brother,” Donte’s teachers and classmates make it clear they wish he were more like his lighter skinned brother, Trey—quiet, obedient. When an incident with the school’s racist fencing captain leads to Donte’s arrest and suspension, Donte seeks the help of a former black Olympic fencer to beat that fencing captain at his own game.

**Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga** – Jude never thought she’d be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives. Jude isn’t quite prepared for starting school in the US nor her new label of ‘Middle Eastern,’ an identity she’s never known before. But this life also brings unexpected surprises--there are new friends, a whole new family, and a school musical that Jude just might try out for.

**Genesis Begins Again by Alicia Williams** – Thirteen-year-old Genesis tries again and again to lighten her black skin, thinking it is the root of her family’s troubles, before discovering reasons to love herself as is

**Before the Ever After by Jacqueline Woodson** – For as long as ZJ can remember, his dad has been everyone’s hero. As a charming, talented pro football star, he’s as beloved to the neighborhood kids as he is to his millions of adoring sports fans. But lately life at ZJ’s house is anything but charming. His dad is having trouble remembering things and seems to be angry all the time. ZJ’s mom explains it’s because of all the head injuries his dad sustained during his career. ZJ can understand that--but it doesn’t make the sting any less real when his own father forgets his name.

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# Romance and Relationships

***A Match Made in Mehendi* by Nandini Bajpai** – Punjabi American Simi and her best friend, Noah, are tired of blending into the background of their New Jersey high school. So, their sophomore year they create a dating app based on knowledge that Simi's family has gathered for three generations as professional matchmakers. When the app is a success, Simi and Noah, who is gay, suddenly become extraordinarily popular—and, even better, seem to be on the path to finding love themselves. Everything feels like it's going perfectly until mean girl Amanda doesn't get the match she wanted and, in retaliation, threatens everything that Simi and her family hold dear. It's up to Simi to save their legacy—and decide if she wants to continue it herself. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

***The Brave* by James Bird** -- Collin can't help himself—he has an OCD condition where he counts every letter spoken to him. When his dad decides to send him to live in Minnesota with the Ojibwe mother he's never met. Collin learns a great deal about himself and Ojibwe perspectives of nature, life, and death from his family and the beautiful, free-spirited girl next door. (WLPCS Library)

***All American Muslim Girl* by Nadine Jolie Courtney** – Allie Abraham has it all going for her--she's a straight-A student, with good friends and a close-knit family, and she's dating popular, sweet Wells Henderson. One problem: Wells's father is Jack Henderson, America's most famous conservative shock jock, and Allie hasn't told Wells that her family is Muslim. It's not like Allie's religion is a secret. It's just that her parents don't practice, and raised her to keep it to herself. But as Allie witnesses Islamophobia in her small town and across the nation, she decides to embrace her faith--study, practice it, and even face misunderstanding for it.



***Lily and Dunkin* by Donna Gephart** -- 8th graders Lily and Dunkin meet during a time in their lives where they are both struggling with deep challenges. Lily, born Tommy, is a transgender girl. Dunkin has bipolar disorder and is new in town. Together, they learn important lessons about life, bravery, and love. (WLPCS Library)

***Redwood and Ponytail* by K.A. Holt** – At first, Tam figures Kate is your stereotypical cheerleader; Kate sees Tam as another tall jock. But beneath Kate's sleek ponytail and perfect facade, Tam sees a goofy, sensitive, lonely girl. And Tam's so much more than a volleyball player, Kate realizes: She's everything Kate wishes she could be. It's complicated. Except it's not. When Kate and Tam meet, they fall in like. It's as simple as that. But not everybody sees it that way.

(+) ***Crush* by Gary Paulsen** – Readers met the comical Kevin Spencer in *Liar, Liar* and *Flat Broke*. Now Kevin gets serious about Tina Zabinski, the Most Beautiful Girl in the World. Finally, finally, he's worked up his courage--he's going to ask her out. Or will his trademark scheming get in his way?

***To Night Owl from Dogfish* by Holly Goldberg Sloan** –Peeking at her father's emails, 12-year-old Californian Bett learns two pieces of upsetting information: her father has fallen in love with a man she's never met, and the two of them are scheming to send Bett and the man's 12-year-old daughter, Avery, away to summer camp together. Furious, Bett finds Avery's email address to break the horrible news. The girls vow not to speak to each other during the summer, but despite their differences, they form a strong bond. When their fathers part ways during a disastrous trip to China, the girls are determined to find a way to reunite them. (*Publishers Weekly*)

***Well, That Was Awkward* by Rachel Vail** – What if Cyrano were an eighth-grade girl in the 21st century? Gracie Grant has a crush on popular AJ Rojanasopondist, but AJ likes Gracie's best gal pal, Sienna Reyes. Gracie is a bit jealous upon hearing this news but soon decides sweet and adorable Sienna should be with AJ. The problem: Sienna is so

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unsure of what to text AJ, Gracie ends up doing it for her. As it turns out, text-AJ has a great sense of humor, one that is oddly absent in real life and is suspiciously like that of Gracie's best guy friend, Emmett Barnaby. Who is really on the other end of the texts? (*Kirkus Reviews*)

***Love Is a Revolution* by Renee Watson** – In *Love Is a Revolution*, plus size girls are beautiful and get the attention of the hot guys, the popular girl clique is not shallow but has strong convictions and substance, and the ultimate love story is not only about romance but about how to show radical love to the people in your life, including to yourself.



## Adventure, Survival, and Sports

***One Last Shot* by John David Anderson** – 12-year-old Malcolm has never felt like he was good enough, especially not for his dad, whose competitive drive and love for sports Malcolm has never shared. That is, until Malcolm discovers miniature golf, the one sport he actually enjoys. And best of all, it's a sport his dad can't possibly obsess over. Or so Malcolm thinks.

(+) ***Dough Boys* by Paula Chase** – Deontae "Simp" Wright has big plans for his future. Plans that involve basketball, his best friend, Rollie, and making enough money to get his mom and four younger brothers out of the Cove, their low-income housing project. Roland "Rollie" Matthews used to love playing basketball. He loved the rhythm of the game, how he came up with his best drumbeats after running up and down the court. But playing with the elite team comes with extra, illegal responsibilities, and Rollie isn't sure he's down for that life. But how can he abandon his best friend?

***Illegal* by Eoin Colfer** – Ebo is alone. His brother, Kwame, has disappeared, and Ebo knows it can only be to attempt the hazardous journey to Europe, and a better life, the same journey their sister set out on months ago. But Ebo refuses to be left behind in Ghana. Ebo's epic quest takes him across the Sahara Desert to the dangerous streets of Tripoli, and finally out to the merciless sea. But with every step he holds on to his hope for a new life, and a reunion with his family.

***Dog Driven* by Terry Lynn Johnson** – McKenna, fourteen, is losing her vision to Stargardt's disease, but that will not stop her from competing in a rigorous new sled dog race through the Canadian wilderness. (*Follett*)

(+) ***Epoca: The Tree of Ecrof* by Ivy Pochoda** – *Epoca: The Tree of Ecrof* takes place at the most elite sports academy in a magical land, where the best child-athletes are sent to hone their skills. When lowly born Rovi and crown princess Pretia arrive, each harboring a secret about themselves, they begin to suspect that something evil is at play at the school. In the course of their first year, they must learn to master their magical grana power in order to save the world from dark forces that are rising.

(+) ***Ghost* by Jason Reynolds** -- Ghost has always been running from something, or, more specifically, someone -- his violent father. When he's chosen for an elite middle school track team, he must learn to run for something -- a chance to compete at the Junior Olympics. Can he discipline himself and get his act together or will he waste his shot at being the best? (*WLPCS Library*)

## Horror, Mystery and Suspense

***The Girl and the Ghost* by Hanna Alkaf** – I am a dark spirit, the ghost announced grandly. I am your inheritance, your grandmother's legacy. I am yours to command. Suraya, a lonely Malaysian villager, is delighted when her witch grandmother gifts her a pelesit. She names her ghostly companion Pink, and the two quickly become inseparable. But

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Suraya doesn't know that pelesits have a dark side so when Pink's shadows threaten to consume them both, they must find enough light to survive . . . before they are both lost to the darkness.

(+) **The Darkdeep by Ally Condie** – Middle-schoolers Nico, Tyler, Ella, and Opal discover a hidden island in a forbidden cove that appears uninhabited, but something ancient has awakened knowing their wishes, dreams, and darkest secrets. (Follett)

**Hide and Seeker by Daka Hermon** – Twelve-year-old Zee is back now. He disappeared for a year and nobody knows where he went or what happened to him. And ever since Zee has been back, he's been... different. After Zee freaks out at his friends playing hide-and-seek at an odd party in his backyard, strange things begin to occur. Everyone who played in the game has a mark on their wrist. And then they disappear. The kids are pulled into a shadow world -the Nowhere- ruled by the monstrous, shape-shifting Seeker. The friends will have to band together and face their worst nightmares to defeat the Seeker or lose themselves to the Nowhere forever.



**Poe: Stories and Poems by Gareth Hinds** – In a thrilling adaptation of Edgar Allan Poe's best-known works, acclaimed artist-adaptor Gareth Hinds translates Poe's dark genius into graphic-novel format. It is true that I am nervous. But why will you say that I am mad?

(+) **Truly Devious by Maureen Johnson** – Ellingham Academy is a famous private school in Vermont founded by Albert Ellingham, an early twentieth century tycoon. Shortly after the school opened, his wife and daughter were kidnapped.... True-crime aficionado Stevie Bell is set to begin her first year at Ellingham Academy, and she has an ambitious plan: She will solve this cold case.

**Elatsoe by Darcie Little Badger** – Imagine an America very similar to our own but also shaped dramatically by the magic, monsters, knowledge, and legends of its peoples, those Indigenous and those not. Some of these forces are charmingly everyday, like the ability to make an orb of light appear or travel across the world through rings of fungi. But other forces are less charming and should never see the light of day. Elatsoe lives in this slightly stranger America. She can raise the ghosts of dead animals, a skill passed down through generations of her Lipan Apache family. Her beloved cousin has just been murdered, in a town that wants no prying eyes. But she is going to do more than pry.

(+) **The Shadow Cipher by Laura Ruby** – From National Book Award finalist and Printz Award winner Laura Ruby comes an epic alternate history series about three kids who try to solve the greatest mystery of the modern world: a puzzle and treasure hunt laid into the very streets and buildings of New York City.

## Fantasy

(+) **Children of Blood and Bone by Toni Adeyemi** – Danger lurks in Orisha, where snow leoponaires prowl and vengeful spirits wait in the waters. Yet the greatest danger may be Zélie herself as she struggles to control her powers and her growing feelings for an enemy.

**Assassination of Brangwain Spurge by M.T. Anderson** – Uptight elfin historian Brangwain Spurge is on a mission: survive being catapulted across the mountains into goblin territory, deliver a priceless peace offering to their mysterious dark lord, and spy on the goblin kingdom - from which no elf has returned alive in more than a hundred years. Brangwain's host, the goblin archivist Werfel, is delighted to show Brangwain around. They should be the best of

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friends, but a series of extraordinary double crosses, blunders, and cultural misunderstandings throws these two bumbling scholars into the middle of an international crisis that may spell death for them - and war for their nations.

**Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster by Jonathan Auxier** – When child chimney sweep Nan Sparrow gets stuck in a flue and nearly dies, she is saved by a "soot golem." Nan and the kind, gentle "Charlie" escape from her cruel master and make a home in an abandoned mansion. Weaving together strands of Jewish folklore, Blake's poetry, Frankenstein, child-labor reform, and magical realism, Auxier crafts a beautiful, hopeful story from the ugly realities of nineteenth-century British life. (*Horn Book Guide*)

(+) **Charlie Hernandez and the League of Shadows by Ryan Calejo** – Steeped in Hispanic folklore since childhood, middle schooler Charlie Hernandez learns the stories are true when, shortly after his parents disappearance, he grows horns and feathers and finds himself at the heart of a battle to save the world.

**Pet by Akwaeke Emezi** -- There are no monsters anymore, or so the children in the city of Lucille are taught. Jam and her best friend, Redemption, have grown up with this lesson all their life. But when Jam meets Pet, a creature made of horns and colors and claws, who emerges from one of her mother's paintings and a drop of Jam's blood, she must reconsider what she's been told. Pet has come to hunt a monster, and the shadow of something grim lurks in Redemption's house. Jam must fight not only to protect her best friend, but also to uncover the truth, and the answer to the question--How do you save the world from monsters if no one will admit they exist?



(+) **Tess of the Road by Rachel Hartman** – In the medieval kingdom of Goredd, women are expected to be ladies, men are their protectors, and dragons can be whomever they choose. Tess is none of these things. Tess is. . . different. She speaks out of turn, has wild ideas, and can't seem to keep out of trouble.

**When You Trap a Tiger by Tae Keller** -- When Lily and her family move in with her sick grandmother, a magical tiger straight out of her halmoni's Korean folktales arrives, prompting Lily to unravel a secret family history. Long, long ago, Halmoni stole something from the tigers. Now they want it back. And when one of the tigers approaches Lily with a deal--return what her grandmother stole in exchange for Halmoni's health--Lily is tempted to agree. But deals with tigers are never what they seem. With the help of her sister and her new friend Ricky, Lily must find her voice...and the courage to face a tiger.

(+) **Black Wings Beating by Alex London** – The people of Uztar revere birds of prey and no one is more honored than the falconers. Brysen strives to be a great falconer—while his twin sister, Kylee, rejects her ancient gifts for the sport and wishes to be free of falconry. But war is coming so the twins must journey into the treacherous mountains to trap the Ghost Eagle, the greatest of the Uztari birds and a solitary killer. Brysen goes for the boy he loves and the glory he's long craved, and Kylee to atone for her past and to protect her brother. (*WLPCS Library*)

(+) **Fireborne by Rosaria Munda** – Annie and Lee were just children when a brutal revolution changed their world, giving everyone—even the lowborn—a chance to test into the governing class of dragonriders. Now they are both rising stars in the new regime, despite backgrounds that couldn't be more different. But everything changes when survivors from the old regime surface, bent on reclaiming the city. With war on the horizon and his relationship with Annie changing fast, Lee must choose to kill the only family he has left or to betray everything he's come to believe in. And Annie must decide whether to protect the boy she loves . . . or step up to be the champion her city needs.

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# Science Fiction

**Diego and the Rangers of the Vastlantic by Armand Baltazar** – The past, present, and future coexist together In the world Diego Ribera was born into. In New Chicago, Diego's middle school hallways buzz with kids from all eras of history and from cultures all over the world. The pieces do not always fit together neatly, but this is the world he loves. There are those, however, who do not share his affection. On his thirteenth birthday, Diego learns of a special gift he has within, a secret that is part of something much bigger--something he cannot understand. When his father, New Chicago's top engineer, is taken by the Aeternum, Diego must rescue him and prevent this evil group from disrupting the fragile peace humanity has forged.

(+) **Last Day on Mars by Kevin Emerson** – It is Earth year 2213--but, of course, there is no Earth anymore. Not since it was burned to a cinder by the sun. The human race has fled to Mars, but this was only a temporary solution. Liam Saunders-Chang is one of the last humans left on Mars. The son of two scientists who have been racing against time to create technology vital to humanity's survival, Liam, along with his friend Phoebe, will be on the last starliner to depart before Mars, like Earth before it, is destroyed. Or so he thinks. Because before this day is over, Liam and Phoebe will make a series of profound discoveries about the nature of time and space and find out that the human race is just one of many in our universe locked in a dangerous struggle for survival.



(+) **Bloom by Kenneth Oppel** – The invasion begins--but not as you'd expect. It begins with rain. Rain that carries seeds. Seeds that sprout--overnight, everywhere. These new plants take over crop fields, twine up houses, and burrow below streets. They bloom--and release toxic pollens. They bloom--and form Venus flytrap-like pods that swallow animals and people. They bloom--everywhere, unstoppable. Or are they? Three kids on a remote island seem immune to the toxic plants. Anaya, Petra, Seth. They each have strange allergies--and yet not to these plants. What's their secret? Can they somehow be the key to beating back this invasion?.

(+) **Virals by Kathy Reichs and Brendan Reichs** – Adventure is in Tory Brennan's blood--she's the grandniece of world-famous forensic anthropologist Temperance Brennan. Tory and her science-geek friends spend their time exploring the marshlands of Loggerhead Island, home to the very off-limits Loggerhead Island Research Institute, where something strange is going on. After rescuing a stray wolfdog pup from a top-secret lab, Tory and her friends are exposed to a rare strain of canine parvovirus, changing them--and their DNA--forever. Now they are more than friends. They are a pack. They are Virals. But are they unstoppable enough to catch a cold-blooded murderer?

**Maximilian Fly by Angie Sage** – Maximillian Fly wants no trouble. Yet because he stands at six feet two, with beautiful indigo wings, long antennae, and more arms than you or me, many are frightened of him. He is a gentle creature who looks like a giant cockroach. This extraordinary human wants to prove his goodness, so he opens his door to two SilverSeed children in search of a place to hide. Instantly, Maximillian's quiet, solitary life changes. There are dangerous powers after them and they have eyes everywhere. But in this gray city of Hope trapped under the Orb, is escape even possible?

(+) **Scythe by Neil Shusterman** -- In a perfect world where there is no disease and death, Scythes reign supreme because only they have the power to take a life. Reluctant apprentices Citra and Rowan are taught to master the art of death, and their greatest fears are realized when they are required to chase each other to the death to show off their skills. (WLPCS Library)

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

[Titles in blue are new titles on this year's list.](#)

*Book descriptions are from the publisher unless otherwise noted.*

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