



West Boylston Middle School

Summer Reading 2022: Grades 6-8

Theme: Exploration & Discovery

Directions: Please choose 1 book from the list below. **Read your chosen book.** Complete the attached reading response worksheet (pp. 7-8). Return the worksheet to your Language Arts teacher the first week of school. Happy reading!

Fiction Choices:

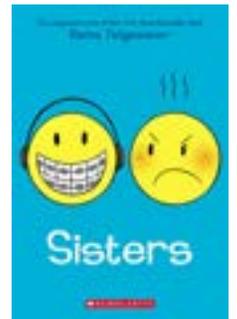
***Never Say Die* Will Hobbs**

In this fast-paced adventure story set in the Canadian arctic, fifteen-year-old Inuit hunter Nick Thrasher comes face-to-face with a fearsome creature on a routine caribou hunt gone wrong. Part grizzly, part polar bear, this environmental mutant has been pegged the “grolar bear” by wildlife experts. Nick may have escaped this time, but it won’t be his last encounter. Then Nick’s estranged half-brother, Ryan, offers to take him on a rafting trip down a remote part of the Firth River. But when disaster strikes, the two narrowly evade death. They’re left stranded without supplies—and then the grolar bear appears.



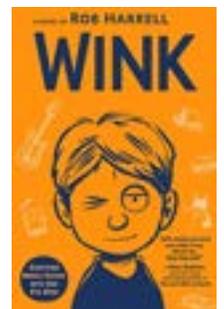
***Sisters (Graphic Novel)* by Raina Telgemeier**

Raina can’t wait to be a big sister. But once Amara is born, things aren’t quite how she expected them to be. Amara is cute, but she’s also a cranky, grouchy baby, and mostly prefers to play by herself. Their relationship doesn’t improve much over the years, but when a baby brother enters the picture and later, when something doesn’t seem right between their parents, they realize they must figure out how to get along. They are sisters, after all.



***Wink* by Rob Harrell**

Ross Maloy just wants to be a normal seventh grader. He doesn't want to lose his hair, or wear a weird hat, or deal with the disappearing friends who don't know what to say to "the cancer kid." But with his recent diagnosis of a rare eye cancer, blending in is off the table. Based on Rob Harrell's real life experience, and packed with comic panels and spot art, this incredibly personal and poignant novel is an unforgettable, heartbreaking, hilarious, and uplifting story of survival and finding the music, magic, and laughter in life's weirdness.



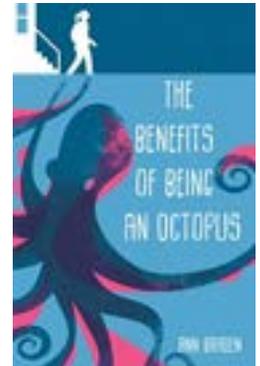
***The Boy, the Boat, and the Beast* by Samantha M. Clark**

When a boy wakes up alone on a beach and doesn't know who he is or how he got there, he embarks on an incredible quest to find answers in this gripping middle-grade adventure following his struggle for survival, and his ultimate search for truth.



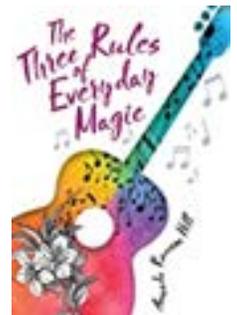
***The Benefits of Being an Octopus* by Ann Braden**

Some people can do their homework. Some people get to have crushes on boys. Some people have other things they've got to do. Seventh-grader Zoey has her hands full as she takes care of her much younger siblings after school every day while her mom works her shift at the pizza parlor. Not that her mom seems to appreciate it. At least there's Lenny, her mom's boyfriend—they all get to live in his nice, clean trailer. At school, Zoey tries to stay under the radar. Her only friend Fuchsia has her own issues, and since they're in an entirely different world than the rich kids, it's best if no one notices them. Zoey thinks how much easier everything would be if she were an octopus: eight arms to do eight things at once.



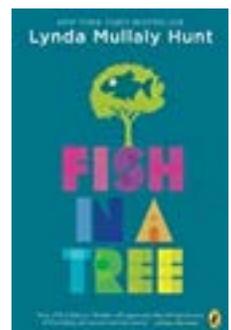
***The Three Rules of Everyday Magic* by Amanda Rawson Hill**

Kate has trouble believing in magic, especially since the people she loves keep leaving her. But when Grammy tells her the three rules of everyday magic--believe, give, and trust--Kate can't resist believing, at least a little. Following Grammy's advice, she tries to bring her father, her best friend, and even Grammy herself back to her. Nothing turns out as Kate expects, yet the magic of giving--of trusting that if you love and give, good things will happen, even if you don't see them happen--will change Kate and her family forever.



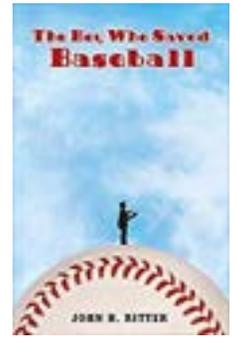
***Fish in a Tree* by Lyda Mullaly Hunt**

Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities.



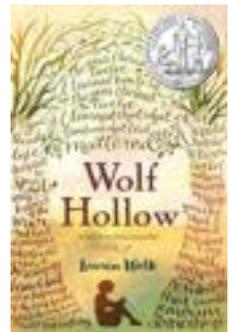
***The Boy Who Saved Baseball* by John Ritter**

Tom Gallagher is in a tight spot. The fate of the Dillontown team rests on the outcome of one baseball game, winner takes all. If Tom's team loses, they lose their field too. But how can they possibly win? Just when everything seems hopeless, a mysterious boy named Cruz de la Cruz rides into town and claims to know the secret of hitting. Not to mention the secrets of Dante Del Gato, Dillontown's greatest hitter ever. Since he walked away from the game years ago, Del Gato hasn't spoken a word to anyone. But now he might be Tom's only hope for saving his hometown.



***Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk**

Despite growing up in the shadows cast by two world wars, Annabelle has lived a mostly quiet, steady life in her small Pennsylvania town. Until the day new student Betty Glengarry walks into her class. Betty quickly reveals herself to be cruel and manipulative, and though her bullying seems isolated at first, it quickly escalates. Toby, a reclusive World War I veteran, soon becomes the target of Betty's attacks. While others see Toby's strangeness, Annabelle knows only kindness. And as tensions mount in their small community, Annabelle must find the courage to stand as a lone voice for justice.



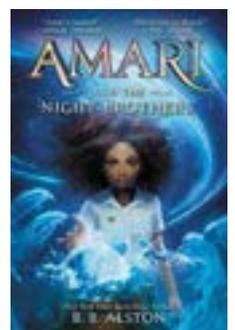
***Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky* by Kwame Mbalia**

Tristan Strong is a seventh grade boy from Chicago who is mourning the death of his best friend Eddie, who died in a tragic bus crash. Eddie has left Tristan his journal, in which they collected stories about African American folktales and West African mythology. After Tristan loses his first boxing match, he is sent to Alabama to live with his strict grandparents for the summer and heal from the tragedy. On his first night in Alabama, Eddie's journal is stolen by a strange doll-like creature covered in sap named Gum Baby. Tristan chases Gum Baby into the Bottle Tree Forest, a haunted forest Tristan's Nana forbids him to go in. In an effort to get the journal back, Tristan punches the Bottle Tree, which breaks one of the bottles and unexpectedly opens a portal to a parallel world.



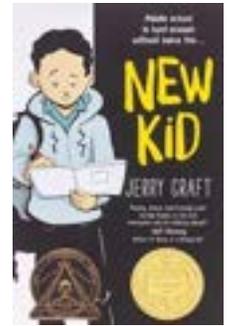
***Amari and the Night Brothers* by B.B. Alston**

Amari Peters has never stopped believing her missing brother, Quinton, is alive. Not even when the police told her otherwise, or when she got in trouble for standing up to bullies who said he was gone for good. So when she finds a ticking briefcase in his closet, containing a nomination for a summer tryout at the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs, she's certain the secretive organization holds the key to locating Quinton—if only she can wrap her head around the idea of magicians, fairies, aliens, and other supernatural creatures all being real.



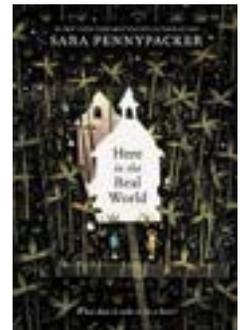
New Kid (Graphic Novel) by Jerry Craft

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him 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. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?



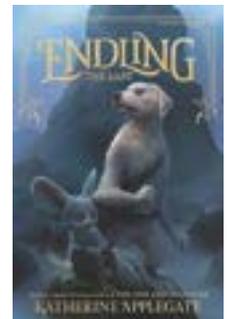
Here in the Real World by Sara Pennypacker

Ware can't wait to spend summer "off in his own world"—dreaming of knights in the Middle Ages and generally being left alone. But then his parents sign him up for dreaded Rec camp, where he must endure Meaningful Social Interaction and whatever activities so-called "normal" kids do. On his first day Ware meets Jolene, a tough, secretive girl planting a garden in the rubble of an abandoned church next to the camp. Soon he starts skipping Rec, creating a castle-like space of his own in the church lot. Jolene scoffs, calling him a dreamer—he doesn't live in the "real world" like she does.



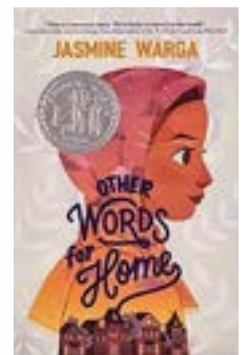
Endling: The Last by Katherine Applegate

Byx is the youngest member of her daime pack. Believed to possess remarkable abilities, her mythical doglike species has been hunted to near extinction in the war-torn kingdom of Nedarra. After her pack is hunted down and killed, Byx fears she may be the last of her species. The Endling. So Byx sets out to find safe haven, and to see if the legends of other hidden dairnes are true. Along the way, she meets new allies—both animals and humans alike—who each have their own motivations for joining her quest. And although they begin as strangers, they become their own kind of family—one that will ultimately uncover a secret that may threaten every creature in their world.



Other Words for Home - Jasmine Warga

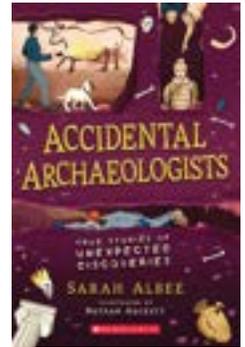
Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives. At first, everything in America seems too fast and too loud. The American movies that Jude has always loved haven't quite prepared her for starting school in the US—and her new label of "Middle Eastern," an identity she's never known before.



Non-Fiction Choices:

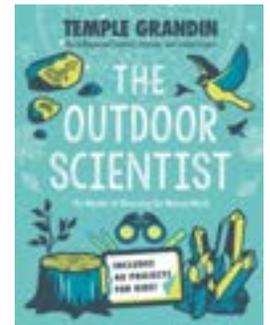
Accidental Archaeologist: True Stories of Unexpected Discoveries by Sarah Albee

Science meets real-life mystery in this adventurous look at incredible unexpected finds that changed history. Secret treasures are buried all around us -- you just have to look for them! *Accidental Archaeologists* takes you on an adventure through time to relive some of the coolest surprise discoveries by totally ordinary people all over the world. Meet:- The cowboy who found an ancient skeleton- A famous king buried underneath a parking lot- The team who found New York City's hidden African Burial Ground- A boy who finds the Dead Sea Scrolls while looking for his lost goat- And many more. Packed with incredible stories and expert tips for making your own exciting finds, this is an accessible, action-packed introduction to the world of archaeology.



The Outdoor Scientist: The Wonder of Observing the Natural World by Temple Grandin PhD

From *New York Times* bestselling author and world-renowned scientist and autism spokesperson Temple Grandin comes a book about exploring the world around us, asking questions, and making sense of what we see--with 40 fun outdoor activities that promote independent thinking, which kids can enjoy all year round! What are the aerodynamics of skipping stones or the physics of making sandcastles? Do birds use GPS to navigate their migratory routes? In this book, Dr. Temple Grandin, an inventor and world-renowned scientist, introduces readers to geologists, astrophysicists, oceanographers, and many other scientists who unlock the wonders of the natural world.



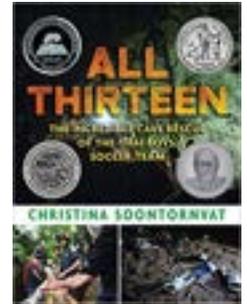
Born to Fly - Steve Sheinkin

Just nine years after American women finally got the right to vote, a group of trailblazers soared to new heights in the 1929 Air Derby, the first women's air race across the U.S. Follow the incredible lives of legend Amelia Earhart, who has captivated generations; Marvel Crosson, who built a plane before she even learned how to fly; Louise Thaden, who shattered jaw-dropping altitude records; and Elinor Smith, who at age seventeen made headlines when she flew under the Brooklyn Bridge. These awe-inspiring stories culminate in a suspenseful, nail-biting race across the country that brings to life the glory and grit of the dangerous and thrilling early days of flying.



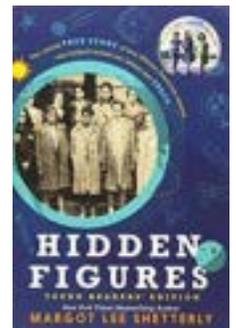
***All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team* by Christina Soontornvat**

On June 23, 2018, twelve young players of the Wild Boars soccer team and their coach entered a cave in northern Thailand seeking an afternoon's adventure. But when they turn to leave, rising floodwaters block their path out. The boys are trapped! Before long, news of the missing team spreads, launching a seventeen-day rescue operation involving thousands of rescuers from around the globe. As the world sits vigil, people begin to wonder: how long can a group of ordinary kids survive in complete darkness, with no food or clean water?



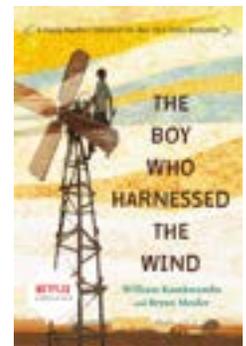
***Hidden Figures: Young Readers' Edition* by Margot Lee Shetterly, Bahni Turpin, et al.**

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 book brings to life the stories of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden, who lived through the Civil Rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War, and the movement for gender equality, and whose work forever changed the face of NASA and the country.



***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba & Bryan Mealer**

When a terrible drought struck William Kamkwamba's tiny village in Malawi, his family lost all of the season's crops, leaving them with nothing to eat and nothing to sell. William began to explore science books in his village library, looking for a solution. There, he came up with the idea that would change his family's life forever: he could build a windmill. Made out of scrap metal and old bicycle parts, William's windmill brought electricity to his home and helped his family pump the water they needed to farm the land.



West Boylston Middle School
Summer Reading Response 2022

Name: _____

1. What is the title of the book you read for summer reading and who is the author?

2. Why did you choose this book?

3. What was the most interesting event in the book or fact that you learned?

4. How does this book relate to the theme of discovery?

5. What did you learn from reading this book?

6. Rate your book on a scale of 1-5 (1 is the worst, 5 is the best!). Circle your rating below.

1

2

3

4

5

Book Review

Please write a review of this book. How? Most reviews include a brief summary of the story or topic (no spoilers, please), explain why you (the reader) enjoyed or did not enjoy the book, and suggest who else might be interested in reading this book (example: people who love mysteries).



Summer Reading Books

The Beaman Memorial Public Library staff is happy to help you obtain the books you need for Summer Reading. Beaman Library will have at least 2 copies of each book included on the Summer Reading list available for borrowing during the summer months. Each title may be borrowed for 2 weeks with no renewals. To borrow a book to complete your Summer Reading, visit Beaman Library, then select and borrow the book you would like*. All titles will be on display in Beaman Library's Teen Space for easy browsing and selection.

Visit Beaman Library's Teen Programming page (<https://tinyurl.com/TeenProgrammingatBeaman>) as well. Here you will find information about Beaman Library's Summer Reading Program, upcoming events, and links to the online catalog for each of the books included on your Summer Reading list.

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