



BHMS SUMMER READING 2022

Upper Elementary

Fiction



Insiders

Mark Oshiro

Twelve-year-old Hector Munoz, fleeing from bullies, discovers a magical closet that not only provides him sanctuary, but also unites him with two other kids facing similar problems at their own schools, helping them find friendship and strength in each other.

The Beatryce Prophecy

Kate DiCamillo

Assisted by a goat, a boy, and a monk, a girl who is hunted fights evil forces to find her rightful place as royalty in this fairy tale/medieval epic.

Sisters of the Neversea

Cynthia Leitich Smith

In this magical, modern twist on Peter Pan, stepsisters Lily and Wendy are spirited away to Neverland by a mysterious boy and must find a way back to the family they love.



Inkling

Kenneth Oppel

When an inkblot, who can write, listen, learn, and draw, jumps out of Mr. Rylance's sketchbook, Ethan believes he may be the answer to their problems and names him Inkling.

Almost Flying

Jake Maia Arlow

Future stepsisters, Dalia and Alexa, embark on a roadtrip and when Alexa reveals that her girlfriend will be joining, Dalia promises to keep her secret, but realizes she may have one of her own.

Linked

Gordon Korman

When swastikas start appearing around the school, a community of middle schoolers enter a journey of self-discovery and understanding, and form stronger bonds.

Lotería

Karla Arenas Valenti

As she tries to rescue her cousin from dangerous Las Pozas, Clara, 11, becomes an unwitting participant in Life and Death's game of Lotería.

The Marvellers

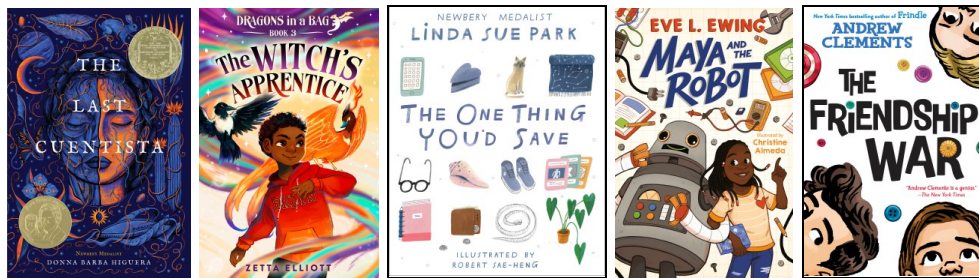
Dhonielle Clayton

Eleven-year-old Ella Durand is the first Conjuror to attend the Arcanum Training Institute, a magic school in the clouds where Marvellers from around the world practice their cultural arts. Despite her excitement, Ella discovers that being the first isn't easy--some Marvellers mistrust her magic.

Shinji Takahashi and the Mark of the Coat

Julie Kagawa

Shinji Takahashi is just an ordinary kid. An ordinary homeschooled smart-alecky kid being raised by his globe-trotting aunt Yui. But when a magical guardian decides to use him as a conduit to awaken its power, Shinji's life takes a turn for the anything-but-ordinary.



Different Kinds of Fruit

Kyle Lukoff

When Annabelle learns that her father shares something big--and surprising--in common with her new nonbinary friend, she begins to see herself, and her family, in a whole new light.

The Last Cuentista

Donna Barba Higuera

After boarding a spaceship with other families of scientists, Petra wakes in the future to find that she is the only person left wishing to remember Earth's stories.

The Witch's Apprentice (Dragons in a Bag series)

Zetta Elliott

Now that he is Ma's apprentice Jax is finding himself mixed up with all sorts of magical doings, like taking care of a phoenix egg which is going to hatch soon, trying to bring back the creatures Sis stole, finding his grandfather, and convincing Sis, the guardian, to reunite the two realms--and hopefully living to see Brooklyn again.

The One Thing You'd Save

Linda Sue Park

Challenged to select the one thing they'd rescue if their home were burning, students learn a lot about themselves and their classmates. Verse inspired by Korean sijo poetry.

Maya and the Robot

Eve L. Ewing, illustrated by Christine Almeda

Fifth grader Maya, feeling lonely without her best friends, finds a robot and uses her scientific skills to make it work. A whole new world opens for her.

Friendship War

Andrew Clements

When Grace takes boxes of old buttons from a building her grandfather bought, she starts a fad at school that draws her closer to one friend, but further from another.



Sal and Gabi Break the Universe

Carlos Alberto Hernandez

In order to heal after his mother's death, thirteen-year-old Sal learns to reach into time and space to retrieve things--and people--from other universes.

Room to Dream (Front Desk series)

Kelly Yang

In the third book of the Front Desk series, Mia and her family take a big vacation.

New From Here

Kelly Yang

When the coronavirus hits Hong Kong, ten-year-old Knox Wei-Evans's mom makes the last-minute decision to move him and his siblings back to California, where they think they will be safe.

Best At it

Maulik Pancholy

The start of middle school is making Rahul Kapoor feel increasingly anxious, so his favorite person in the whole world, his grandfather, Bhai, gives him some well-meaning advice: *Find one thing you're really good at and become the BEST at it.*

I Survived... (series)

Lauren Tarshis

History's most exciting and terrifying events are brought to life in this fictional series. Readers will be transported by stories of amazing children and how they survived!

Cress Watercress

Gregory Maguire

When Papa doesn't return from a honey-gathering expedition, Cress (a young rabbit) holds out hope, but her mother assumes the worst. It's a dangerous world for rabbits, after all. Mama moves what's left of the Watercress family to the basement unit of the Broken Arms, a run-down apartment oak. Can a dead tree full of annoying neighbors, and no Papa, ever be home?

Graphic Novels



Blancaflor, the Hero with Secret Powers

Nadja Spiegelman, illustrated by Sergio García Sánchez

A young ogre with powerful magical skills must outwit her father and save a hapless prince.

Stuntboy, in the Meantime

Jason Reynolds, illustrated by Raúl the Third

Portico Reeves, aka Stuntboy, lives in a huge apartment building that he considers his castle. With the help of his friendly neighbors, Stuntboy faces enemies, anxiety, and bickering parents. Not quite a graphic novel...but great appeal to GN readers.

A Tale as Tall as Jacob: Misadventures with My Brother

Samantha Edwards

A realistic and often funny look at living and loving a brother with ADHD. Based on the author's childhood.

Chunky

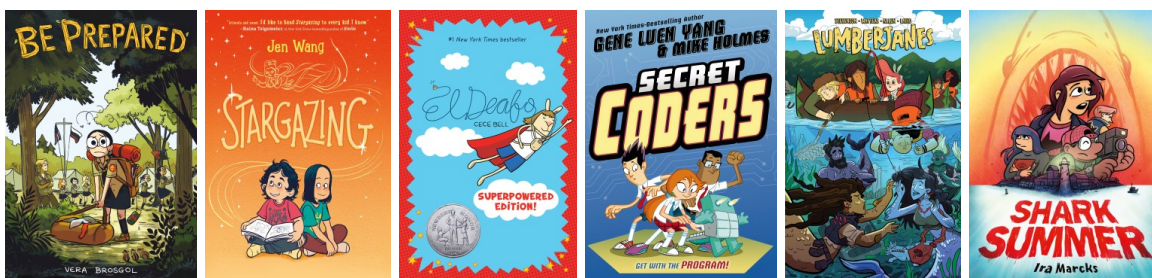
Yehudi Mercado

Hudi, Mexican American and Jewish, laughs his way through his struggles with sports and his health issues, with the help of an imaginary mascot.

Apple Crush (Peapod Farm series)

Lucy Knisley

Jen is just getting used to her life on Peapod Farm with her new stepsisters, Andy and Reese. But when the school year starts, there are even more changes in store for her. As she starts the sixth grade, she finds that her stepsister seems way more interested in crushes and boys than hanging out with her, while Jen wants to know when the world decided boys and girls couldn't be "just friends" anymore.



Be Prepared

Vera Brosgol

All Vera wants to do is fit in--but that's not easy for a Russian girl in the suburbs. Her friends live in fancy houses and their parents can afford to send them to the best summer camps. Vera's single mother can't afford that sort of luxury, but there's one summer camp in her price range--Russian summer camp. Vera is sure she's found the one place she can fit in, but camp is far from what she imagined. And nothing could prepare her for all the "cool girl" drama, endless Russian history lessons, and outhouses straight out of nightmares

Stargazing

Jen Wang

Growing up in the same Chinese-American suburb, perfectionist Christine and artistic, confident, impulsive Moon become unlikely best friends, whose friendship is tested by jealousy, social expectations, and illness.

El Deafo

Cece Bell

Starting at a new school is scary, especially with a giant hearing aid strapped to your chest! At her old school, everyone in Cece's class was deaf. Here, she's different. She's sure the kids are staring at the Phonic Ear, the powerful aid that will help her hear her teacher. Too bad it also seems certain to repel potential friends. Then Cece makes a startling discovery. With the Phonic Ear she can hear her teacher not just in the classroom but anywhere her teacher is in the school: in the hallway . . . in the teachers' lounge . . . in the bathroom!

Secret Coders (series)

Gene Luen Yang

Meet Hopper, Eni, and Josh as they write their first line of code, and join them for their final showdown with Dr. One-Zero.

Lumberjanes (series)

ND Stevenson, creator

Friendship to the max! Five best friends--Jo, April, Mal, Molly, and Ripley--spending the summer

at Lumberjane Scout Camp...defeating yetis, three-eyed wolves, and giant falcons--what's not to love?

Shark Summer

Ira Marcks

When a Hollywood director starts filming a blockbuster action film on the otherwise sleepy island of Martha's Vineyard, thirteen-year-old Gayle and her friends set out to make their own film and solve an island mystery.

Picture Books for Everyone



Born on the Water

Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renée Watson, illustrated by Nikkolos Smith

When a young Black girl comes home upset over a school assignment, her grandmother teaches her 400 years of her history, beginning in 1619. Free verse. Expressive illustrations.

A Kid Like Gavin (*July publication*)

Kyle Lukoff

A celebratory and empowering story from young trans activist Gavin Grimm, that follows the true story of how a young boy stood up for himself--and made history along the way.

I Am an American: The Wong Kim Ark Story

Martha Brockenbrough, with Grace Lin, illustrated by Julia Kuo

He challenged the Supreme Court on his right to be called citizen; and won. When American-born Wong Kim Ark returns home to San Francisco after a visit to China, he's stopped and told he cannot enter: he isn't American. What happens next would forever change the national conversation on who is and isn't American.

Light for All

Margarita Engle, illustrated by Raúl Colón

Discover the myriad contributions that all immigrants have made as they come to join family or start their own lives together in a new country they call home. Coming with their hopes, dreams, and determination, generations of immigrants have made the fabric of this country diverse, vivid, and welcoming.

A Queen to the Rescue: The Story of Henrietta Szold, Founder of Hadassah

Nancy Churnin, illustrated by Yevgenia Nayberg

Inspired by the heroine of the Purim story, an American Jewish woman led humanitarian causes, risking her own life for those in peril and survivors of war and persecution.

Hear the Wind Blow

Doe Boyle, illustrated by Emily Paik

With mounting intensity, each poetic stanza evokes shifts in weather and matches a category on the Beaufort Windforce Scale.

Watercress

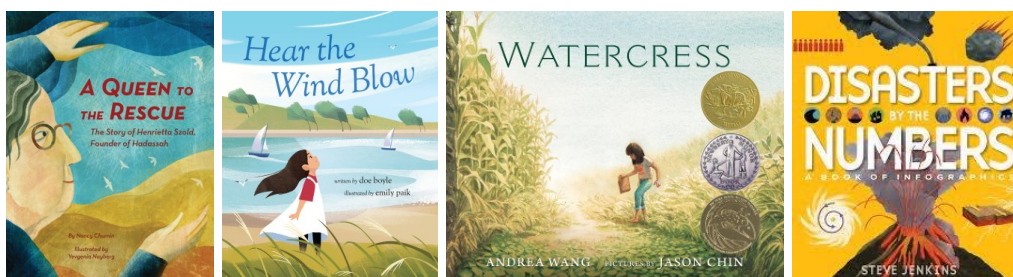
Andrea Wang, illustrated by Jason Chin

A Chinese American girl, angry and embarrassed when her immigrant parents gather watercress from a roadside ditch, learns why it is important to them.

Disasters By the Numbers

Steve Jenkins

Packed with data, this engaging book describes the science behind disasters with detailed infographics and illustrations.



Nonfiction



Rolling Warrior: The Incredible, Sometimes Awkward, True Story of a Rebel Girl on Wheels Who Helped Spark a Revolution

Judith Heumann, with Kristen Joiner

Heumann, paralyzed at 18 months after falling ill with polio, has engaged in an inspiring lifelong fight for people with disabilities to be treated as equal citizens.

Stamped (for Kids) : Racism, Antiracism, and You

Sonja Cherry-Paul & Ibram X. Kendi

RACE. Uh-oh. The R-word. But actually talking about race is one of the most important things to learn how to do. [Readers] will discover where racist ideas came from, identify how they impact America today, and meet those who have fought racism with antiracism. Along the way, they'll learn how to identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their own lives.

Plagues and Pandemics (History Smashers series)

Kate Messner

Myths! Lies! Secrets! Uncover the hidden truth about history's pandemics, from the Black Death to COVID-19.

I Ate Sunshine for Breakfast : a Celebration of Plants Around the World

Michael Holland

Did you know that the rubber in your shoes came from a tree? Ever wondered where your breakfast cereal is grown? Have you remembered to thank a bee today for the food you ate for dinner last night? Get ready to learn everything you never knew about plants. Includes activities.

I Will Protect You: a True Story of Twins Who Survived Auschwitz

Eva Mozes Kor

Eva and Miriam had a mostly happy childhood. Theirs was the only Jewish family in their small village, but they didn't think much of it until anti-Semitism reared its ugly head in their school. Then, in 1944, their family was deported to Auschwitz. This is the story of the sisters' survival.

A message from Rebecca:

Remember: Your summer reading is yours. All reading counts.

If you're looking for something to read, start with this list — but allow yourself to read anything that makes you glad to be reading!

If you're stuck, send me a message [rduvall@bhmsny.org] and I'll come up with some suggestions just for you.

For more suggestions, be sure to check out **Brooklyn Public Library's and New York Public Library's Summer Reading Programs:**

summerreading.org

There are free events throughout the summer in libraries across Brooklyn and Manhattan — and everyone is welcome.

There are even [games](#) to borrow & "[grab & go craft kits](#)"

Get your own library card and go wild!

Finally, remember to **visit [SORA](#)** (log in with your school Google account and password), where you'll find many of the titles from this list in eBook and audiobook form.

Enjoy summer!

