BHMS SUMMER READING 2022

Middle School Suggestions

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.

Amari and the Night Brothers
B. B. Alston
Brave and resourceful Amari, bullied and determined to find her long-missing brother, receives an invitation in his handwriting to join the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs.

When the World Was Ours
Liz Kessler
On the verge of World War II, three nine-year-old German friends—two Jewish and one a future Nazi—find their lives torn apart.

Both Can Be True
Jules Machias
Daniel and Ash initially bond over rescuing a dog; attractions form, but what will happen when Daniel discovers Ash is nonbinary?

Healer and Witch
Nancy Werlin
Sylvie and her mother and grandmother are beloved, trusted healers in their medieval French village, though some whisper that fifteen-year-old Sylvie and her grand-mere deal in more than herbs and medicines.
Firekeeper’s Daughter
Angeline Boulley
As her Ojibwe community is ravaged by drug overdoses, Daunis, 17, works with the FBI to identify the dealers.

Family of Liars
E. Lockhart
The thrilling prequel to We Were Liars takes readers back to the story of another summer, another generation, and the secrets that will haunt them for decades to come.

Everything Sad is Untrue (A True Story)
Daniel Nayeri
In an Oklahoman middle school, Khosrou (whom everyone calls Daniel) stands in front of a skeptical audience of classmates, telling the tales of his family’s history, stretching back years, decades, and centuries. At the core is Daniel’s story of how they became refugees—starting with his mother’s vocal embrace of Christianity in a country that made such a thing a capital offense, and continuing through their midnight flight from the secret police, bribing their way onto a plane-to-anywhere.

The Losers at the Center of the Galaxy
Mary Winn Heider
Middle school siblings find separate paths to wholeness following the disappearance of their father, an ex-football player with CTE.

Hollow Chest
Brita Sandstrom
In 1945, when Charlie’s brother comes home to London from the war, he is not the same. Charlie embarks on a quest to find his brother’s heart, eaten by mysterious wolves.

Alone
Megan E. Freeman
Maddie wakes from a canceled sleepover to find her Colorado town has been evacuated. Shuttling between the homes of her divorced parents, she struggles to survive.

Cold
Mariko Tamaki
Todd replays the events that lead to his death in the local park, watching as detectives investigate his murder and talk to the students responsible for it, and meanwhile Georgia, who does not know Todd, cannot stop thinking about him.
How to Become a Planet
Nicole Melleby
Fighting her diagnosis of depression and anxiety, Pluto rejects the help of most people as she tries to find some acceptance within herself.

Ancestor Approved
Cynthia Leitich Smith, ed.
Stories at a powwow in a high school gym in Michigan bring together families from different tribal nations to celebrate their ancestors and their heritage.

Living Ghosts & Mischievous Monsters: Chilling American Indian Stories
Dan Sasuweh Jones
Thirty-two shivery tales.

Children of Blood and Bone
Tomi Adeyemi
Seventeen-year-old Zelie, her older brother Tzain, and rogue princess Amari fight to restore magic to the land and activate a new generation of magi, but they are ruthlessly pursued by the crown prince, who believes the return of magic will mean the end of the monarchy.

Warcross Series
Marie Lu
For the millions who log in every day, Warcross isn't just a game - it's a way of life. The obsession started ten years ago and its fan base now spans the globe, some eager to escape from reality and others hoping to make a profit. Struggling to make ends meet, teenage hacker Emika Chen works as a bounty hunter, tracking down Warcross players who bet on the game illegally. But the bounty-hunting world is a competitive one, and survival has not been easy. Needing to make some quick cash, Emika takes a risk and hacks into the opening game of the international Warcross Championships-only to accidentally glitch herself into the action and become an overnight sensation.

Ship Breaker Series
Paolo Bacigalupi
In a futuristic world, teenaged Nailer scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living, but when he finds a beached clipper ship with a girl in the wreckage, he has to decide if he should strip the ship for its wealth or rescue the girl.

Last Night at the Telegraph Club
Malinda Lo
Aspiring scientist Lily Hu, 17, is conflicted between the expectations of her traditional upbringing in 1950s Chinatown and her awakening sexuality.
Leonard (*My Life as a Cat*)
Carlie Sorosiak
Leonard, an alien, is sent to earth for a sabbatical, but in a mix-up, he arrives as a cat in need of rescue. Eleven year-old Olive finds him.

**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.

**Summer of Brave**
Amy Noelle Parks
Compliant Lilla has always done what her competitive, bickering, divorced parents wanted, but they have conflicting visions for her future. How can she forge a path for herself?

**Tight**
Torrey Maldonado
After his quick-tempered father gets in a fight and is sent back to jail, sixth-grader Bryan, known for being quiet and thoughtful, snaps and follows new friend Mike into trouble.

**Dragon Hoops**
Gene Luen Yang
Gene Luen Yang understands stories -- comic book stories, in particular. Big action. Bigger thrills. And the hero always wins. But Gene doesn't get sports. As a kid, his friends called him 'Stick' and every basketball game he played ended in pain. He lost interest in basketball long ago, but at the high school where he now teaches, it's all anyone can talk about...

**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.

**The Legend of Auntie Po**
Shing Yin Khor
Mei, 13, narrates life in an 1885 logging camp, using Paul Bunyan stories with Chinese matriarch Auntie Po as protagonist. Bold digital pencil and watercolor art.
The Magic Fish
Trung Le Nguyen
Real life isn’t a fairytale. But Tiến still enjoys reading his favorite stories with his parents from the books he borrows from the local library. It’s hard enough trying to communicate with your parents as a kid, but for Tiến, he doesn’t even have the right words because his parents are struggling with their English. Is there a Vietnamese word for what he’s going through?

They Called Us Enemy
George Takei
Actor, author, and activist George Takei recounts his childhood imprisoned within American concentration camps for Japanese Americans during World War II and the impact the experience had on his later life.

Huda F Are You?
Huda Fahmy
Huda and her family just moved to Dearborn, Michigan, a small town with a big Muslim population. In her old town, Huda knew exactly who she was: She was the hijabi girl. But in Dearborn, everyone is the hijabi girl. Huda is lost in a sea of hijabis, and she can’t rely on her hijab to define her anymore. She has to define herself. So she tries on a bunch of cliques, but she isn’t a hijabi fashionista or a hijabi athlete or a hijabi gamer. She’s not the one who knows everything about her religion or the one all the guys like. She’s miscellaneous, which makes her feel like no one at all.

New Kid & Class Act
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.

Just Breathe
Mallika Chopra
Beginners will learn the basics of meditation and how to get started, and those more experienced will learn how to improve their practice.

This Is Our Rainbow: 16 Stories of Her, Him, Them, and Us
Katherine Locke and Nicole Melleby, ed.
A unique collection of stories, including a few in graphic format, with diverse characters—most at the beginning of adolescence—exploring their gender and sexual identity.
The 57 Bus
Dashka Slater
If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes.

Challenge everything: the Extinction Rebellion Youth Guide to Saving the Planet
Blue Sandford
A guide for saving the planet: start with questions and act upon conclusions. Included is advice on how to take control as a consumer.

The Parrot Who Thought She Was A Dog
Nancy Ellis-Bell
A touching, laugh-out-loud memoir that reminds us that love can come from the most unexpected places
Nancy Ellis-Bell has always had a love—and a weakness—for animals. She’d already spent a lifetime taking in rescue animals when she and her husband brought home an exotic, wild-caught, one-footed macaw. And so it was that Sarah came into their lives—and changed them forever.

(Don't) Call Me Crazy: 33 Voices Start the Conversation About Mental Health
Kelly Jensen, ed.
What's "crazy"? -- Where "crazy" meets culture -- The mind-body connection -- Beyond stress and sadness -- To be okay. An anthology of essays and illustrations that illuminate mental health topics in a straightforward way.

Every Body Shines: Sixteen Stories about Living Fabulously Fat
Cassandra Newbould, ed.
A math genius in space, a star hockey player, a fireman, a mermaid, and more are among those coping with attitudes about body size.

The (Other) F Word
Angie Manfredi, ed.
This dazzling collection of art, poetry, essays, and fashion tips is meant for people of all sizes who desire to be seen and heard in a culture consumed by a narrow definition of beauty. By combining the talents of renowned fat YA and middle-grade authors, as well as fat influencers and creators, The (Other) F Word offers teen readers and activists of all ages a tool for navigating our world with confidence and courage.
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.

When They Call You a Terrorist (Young Adult Edition)
Patrisse Khan-Cullors
From one of the co-founders of the Black Lives Matter movement comes a poetic memoir and reflection on humanity. Necessary and timely, Patrisse Khan-Cullors’ story asks us to remember that protest in the interest of the most vulnerable comes from love. Leaders of the Black Lives Matter movement have been called terrorists, a threat to America. But in truth, they are loving women whose life experiences have led them to seek justice for those victimized by the powerful.

Do All Indians Live in Tipis? : Questions and Answers  (2nd ed.)
National Museum of the American Indian
How much do you really know about totem poles, tipis, and Tonto? There are hundreds of Native tribes in the Americas, and there may be thousands of misconceptions about Native customs, culture, and history. In this illustrated guide, experts from Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian debunk common myths and answer frequently asked questions about Native Americans past and present.

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You
Jason Reynolds & Ibram X. Kendi
A timely, crucial, and empowering exploration of racism--and antiracism--in America. This is NOT a history book. This is a book about the here and now. A book to help us better understand why we are where we are.... Through a gripping, fast-paced, and energizing narrative written by beloved award-winner Jason Reynolds, this book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas--and on ways readers can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives.

Gender Identity: Beyond Pronouns and Bathrooms
Maria Cook
Introduces the cultural significance of gender identity in the United States and beyond. [Readers] learn about the history of LGBTQ rights, with a particular focus on transgender rights, along with research activities.

Growing Up Trans: in Our Own Words
Lindsay Herriot and Kate Fry, ed.
What does it mean to be young and transgender today? Stories, essays, art and poetry created by trans youth aged 11 to 18. ...a toolkit for all young people about what understanding, acceptance and support for the trans community looks like.
**A Note About Summer Reading**

**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](http://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. You can read these using the Sora App (for [Apple](https://www.apple.com) & [Android](https://play.google.com)) — you can even send your titles to a Kindle. Let me know if you’d like any help getting set up or navigating Sora.

Enjoy summer! ☀️📚♥

Rebecca