



Senior Summer Reading 2017

The following titles represent some of the best literature available for children at the Senior level. We send this list as a summer gift for your family. Titles may be found and checked out at the Arbor School library, and most should also be available at your public library and local bookstore. We've annotated a selection of books to get you started, and the comprehensive list compiled and added to over the course of several years follows.

An * by a title indicates it is a book from our staff-created Practically Perfect List; (NF) indicates non-fiction; + indicates a new addition to the list.

To a summer filled with joyful experiences of many kinds,
The Arbor Staff

Anderson, Laure Halse Seeds of America trilogy +

The trilogy that began with the bestselling National Book Award Finalist *Chains* and continued with *Forge*, which The New York Times called "a return not only to the colonial era but to historical accuracy." The blistering conclusion, *Ashes*, was released this year and continues its exploration of freedom, individually and as a country.

Babbitt, Natalie Tuck Everlasting; & others

Unbelievably, this beautiful book celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2015. It is a book that makes readers cry and think, it is a book one remembers. NPR wrote: What if you could drink the elixir of life — sip from a magical spring that would make you live forever? Would you do it? That's the question at the heart of Natalie Babbitt's *Tuck Everlasting*, a celebrated book for young readers that's marking its 40th anniversary this year. In the book, 10-year-old Winnie Foster stumbles upon a secret spring and the family the spring has given eternal life to. The father, Angus Tuck, takes Winnie out in a rowboat to explain how unnatural it is to live forever; how the great wheel of life has to turn...

Barakat, Ibtisam Balcony on the Moon: Coming of Age in Palestine (NF) +

In this companion memoir to *Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood* (2007), Ibtisam Barakat continues her tale of growing up in Palestine during the politically turbulent time between 1972–1981 in *Balcony On the Moon: Coming of Age in Palestine*. As a high school student, Barakat reminds herself that while she "cannot do anything about Iraq and Iran, the American

hostages, Lebanon, the civil war and the Palestinian camps,” she can study for her exams. Themes of equal rights and education for girls are especially poignant...

Barnhill, Kelly

The Girl Who Drank the Moon +

Winner of the 2017 Newbery Award, this part fairy tale, part coming of age book, has garnered praise everywhere. “Impossible to put down . . . *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* is as exciting and layered as classics like *Peter Pan* or *The Wizard of Oz*.”—The New York Times Book Review
“A gorgeously written fantasy about a girl who becomes “enmagicked” after the witch who saves her from death feeds her moonlight.”—People

Bawden, Nina

Carrie’s War

From The Guardian: ...When *Carrie’s War* came out in 1973, it spoke to a generation once removed from the Second World War. While the men and women who had fought in those wars never spoke of them at home, we seized on books such as *Carrie’s War* and *Goodnight Mister Tom*. Anne Frank’s diary told us what our grandparents couldn’t, while *The Machine Gunners* confounded our ideas by showing a kind German airman...*Carrie’s War* has had an incendiary impact on our imagination not because it is explosive in any military sense – the guns and bombs of the Second World War are not much in evidence in *Druid’s Bottom*, the rambling house in south Wales where evacuees Carrie Willow and her brother Nick spend much of the story. Yet the novel speaks with painful truth about the ripple effects of war. It was Nina’s [author] war as much as Carrie’s – she herself was evacuated to Ipswich in Suffolk and then to south Wales at the age of 14, and knew her story from the inside.

Beasley, Cassie

Circus Mirandus

A New York Times bestseller and Notable Book of 2015, this review of this truly wonderful book comes from the School Library Journal: Fifth-grader Micah Tuttle has been living with his Grandpa Ephraim since his parents died when he was very young. The two are close; Grandpa Ephraim teaches Micah how to tie complicated knots and tells him fanciful tales about the magical Circus Mirandus and its many performers, including a powerful illusionist called the Lightbender. When Grandpa Ephraim becomes gravely ill, his sister, the strict and dour Aunt Gertrudis, comes to take care of the household. She severely limits Micah’s time with his sick grandfather, and the boy is distraught at the idea of losing the only important person in his life. In a stolen moment, Grandpa Ephraim surprises Micah by revealing that the Circus Mirandus is real, and that the Lightbender promised him a miracle when he was a child. The protagonist begins to hope that his grandfather will get well. The Circus Mirandus arrives in town on the wind, and Micah, with the help of his classmate Jenny Mendoza, seeks out the Lightbender and tries to retrieve the miracle that Grandpa Ephraim has requested. During a whirlwind adventure in the Circus, Micah learns about his family and discovers that the miracle that Grandpa Ephraim asked for might not be the one that Micah had in mind.

Blackwood, Gary

Curiosity; The Shakespeare Stealer (series); & others

From the School Library Journal: Blackwood’s back, baby! And not a minute too soon. Back in 1998, the author released *The Shakespeare Stealer* which would soon thereafter become his

best-known work. A clever blending of historical fiction and adventure, the book allowed teachers the chance to hone Shakespeare down to a kid-friendly level. Since its publication Mr. Blackwood has kept busy, writing speculative fiction and, most recently, works of nonfiction for kids. Then there was a bit of a lull in his writing and the foolish amongst us forgot about him. There will be no forgetting Mr. Blackwood anytime now though. Not after you read his latest work, *Curiosity*. Throwing in everything from P.T. Barnum and phrenology to hunchbacks, Edgar Allan Poe, automatons, chess prodigies, murder, terrible fires, and legless men, Blackwood produces a tour de force to be reckoned with. In the press materials for this book, Penguin calls it “Gary Blackwood’s triumphant return to middle grade fiction.” They’re not wrong. The man’s about to acquire a whole new generation of fans and enthusiasts.

Bondoux, Anne-Laure A Time of Miracles

Set in the early 1990s in the Republic of Georgia, the book incorporates the fall of the Soviet Union and chronicles a boy and the woman who cares for him as they endure a five-year journey across the war-torn Caucasus and Europe, weathering hardships and unforgettable encounters with other refugees searching for a better life. It is a story of exile, but also courage and hope and survival.

Bosch, Pseudonymous The Bad Books (series)

This popular author (Secret series) is back with a novel that’s part mystery, part adventure. This series opener features sixth grader Clay, the younger brother of the hero from the Secret books. After an incident with some graffiti, Clay finds himself spending his summer at Earth Ranch, a camp for delinquent youth on a remote volcanic island. While at camp, Clay encounters a motley crew of eccentric kids; a llama that understands Spanish; a mysterious library; and, perhaps, even a bit of magic. Bosch employs, to great effect, his signature irreverence and hilarity packed into parenthetical asides and footnotes. The end result is a wacky, suspenseful mashup of Shakespeare’s *The Tempest* and a summer camp tale that is a delight to read.

Boyce, Frank Cottrell The Unforgotten Coat

A brief unusual British title that uses Polaroid illustrations to help the narrator recount her experience as a “good guide” to brothers Chingis and Nergui, new classmates recently immigrated from Mongolia. Lots to think about here regarding friendship and immigration. Facebook even makes an appearance at the end.

Bradley, Alan The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie

In his wickedly brilliant first novel, Alan Bradley (who provides hope to all, as his first novel was published when he was 70) introduces one of the most singular and engaging heroines in recent fiction: eleven-year-old Flavia de Luce, an aspiring chemist with a passion for poison. It is the summer of 1950—and a series of inexplicable events has struck Buckshaw, the decaying English mansion that Flavia’s family calls home. A dead bird is found on the doorstep, a postage stamp bizarrely pinned to its beak. Hours later, Flavia finds a man lying in the cucumber patch and watches him as he takes his dying breath. For Flavia, who is both appalled and delighted, life begins in earnest when murder comes to Buckshaw. “I wish I could say I was afraid, but I

wasn't. Quite the contrary. This was by far the most interesting thing that had ever happened to me in my entire life." (publisher's description)

Braxton-Smith, Ananda Merrow +

Classified as historical fiction and set in the Middle Ages on the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea. The author conducted detailed research on the customs and now almost extinct language of the region, and this novel perfectly captures the harshness and beauty of that culture. This exquisitely told work examines the power of stories and how a well-told tale can transcend truth and history and is garnering starred reviews right and left. Mermaids and Vikings abound.

Bruchac, Joseph Code Talker*; Talking Leaves +

From the publisher: Throughout World War II, in the conflict fought against Japan, Navajo code talkers were a crucial part of the U.S. effort, sending messages back and forth in an unbreakable code that used their native language. They braved some of the heaviest fighting of the war, and with their code, they saved countless American lives. Yet their story remained classified for more than twenty years. But now Joseph Bruchac brings their stories to life for young adults through the riveting fictional tale of Ned Begay, a sixteen-year-old Navajo boy who becomes a code talker. His grueling journey is eye-opening and inspiring. This deeply affecting novel honors all of those young men, like Ned, who dared to serve, and it honors the culture and language of the Navajo Indians. Bruchac presents a new work of historical fiction about Sequoyah and the creation of the Cherokee alphabet, *Talking Leaves*. Themes of preserving identity and culture through both spoken and written language will appeal to readers of all ages. A vivid retelling of a pivotal time for the Cherokee nation.

Bryan, Ashley Freedom Over Me +

Using original slave auction and plantation estate documents from the 1820s to the 1860s, Bryan brings to life 11 slaves who once belonged to Cado Fairchilds. Because the documents that inspired his project list few details, Bryan created an age and a work assignment for each of his characters. He explains in an afterword that he began by painting them from his imagination, then studied their faces and started "listening for their voices," and imagining their dreams. This book is an absolute knock-out.

Creech, Sharon. Walk Two Moons; & others

Winner of the Newbery Medal, this beautifully written story weaves together storylines of culture, identity, loss, coming of age, and family as 13-year-old Sal travels west with her grandparents, and ultimately in search of her mother. The book is frequently taught in classrooms and in an ALAN Review article called "Popular Postmodernism for Young Adult Readers" (Spring/Summer 2002), Stephenie Yearwood says that, "This story is made of stories, by stories, and in between stories." As a result Sal has to reinvent herself so as to handle the truth. "Sal's past is reconsidered, remade and retold in multiple layers here; and it can emerge fully only when she has successfully constructed a new identity for herself—an identity which can face the history." And though we wouldn't necessarily think of this book as a mystery novel, discovering what has actually happened to Sal's mom is something we, the readers, want to figure out. Her first novel

in verse, *Moo*, is a new addition to the library and this uplifting tale reminds us that if we're open to new experiences, life is full of surprises.

Cresswell, Helen The Bagthorpe Saga

Here are hilarious British family stories about the eponymous Bagthorpes. Beginning with *Ordinary Jack*, the series recounts the hijinx of an ordinary boy amid a family of geniuses (or "genii" as Jack calls them). The descriptions are detailed (Dickensian) with complex sentence structure in the service of elaborately funny depictions of various characters and their doings. From *Absolute Zero*, the second in the series, is this description of Uncle Parker's need to win his way back into Grandma's good graces: "He wanted Grandma to know about his prize because she had a very low estimate of him. It had been low indeed since that day, some five years previously, when he had run over Thomas, a cantankerous ginger tom who had, she declared, been the light of her life. He had been the light of no one else's, having been given to scratching, biting, and attacking from corners, and none of the other Bagthorpes held his extinction against Uncle Parker. Some of them actually thanked him for it."

DiCamillo, Kate Raymie Nightingale

Similar in spirit, two-time Newbery medalist Kate DiCamillo is back with the highly anticipated *Raymie Nightingale*. As in her previous award-winning books, DiCamillo once again shows that life's underlying sadnesses can also be studded with hope and humor. [Raymie Clarke has come to realize that everything, absolutely everything, depends on her. And she has a plan. If Raymie can win the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition, then her father will see Raymie's picture in the paper and \(maybe\) come home. To win, not only does Raymie have to do good deeds and learn how to twirl a baton; she also has to contend with the wispy, frequently fainting Louisiana Elefante, who has a show-business background, and the fiery, stubborn Beverly Tapinski, who's determined to sabotage the contest. But as the competition approaches, loneliness, loss, and unanswerable questions draw the three girls into an unlikely friendship — and challenge each of them to come to the rescue in unexpected ways.](#)

Dinerstein, Eric What Elephants Know +

Nepal's breathtaking jungle wildlife and rural culture is the setting, as seen through the eyes of a young outcast, struggling to find his place in the world.

Dumas, Firoozeh It Ain't So Awful, Falafel +

Eleven-year-old Zomorod, originally from Iran, tells her story of growing up Iranian in Southern California during the Iranian Revolution and hostage crisis of the late 1970s. A Booklist starred review noted, "Dumas' semi-autobiographical novel is both funny and affecting, and surprisingly relevant to today's political climate. Readers will be thoroughly invested in Cindy's story, whether holding their breath or laughing out loud, and always hoping that the Yousefzadehs will come out on top."

Dumon Tak, Bibi Soldier Bear

Based on actual happenings during World War II, *Soldier Bear* tells the story of an orphaned bear cub taken on by a group of Polish soldiers in Iran. The soldiers raise the bear and eventually enlist him to ensure that he stays with the company. There is humor and bad behavior (the bear gets chocolate, cigarettes and beer from the soldiers), but there is great warmth and another perspective of WWII.

Eagar, Lindsay Hour of the Bees +

While her friends are spending their summers having pool parties and sleepovers, twelve-year-old Carolina — Carol — is spending hers in the middle of the New Mexico desert, helping her parents move the grandfather she's never met into a home for people with dementia. At first, Carol avoids prickly Grandpa Serge. But as the summer wears on and the heat bears down, Carol finds herself drawn to him, fascinated by the crazy stories he tells her about a healing tree, a green-glass lake, and the bees that will bring back the rain and end a hundred years of drought. As the thin line between magic and reality starts to blur, Carol must decide for herself what is possible — and what it means to be true to her roots. Readers who dream that there's something more out there will be enchanted by this captivating novel of family, renewal, and discovering the wonder of the world.

Farmer, Nancy The House of the Scorpion; & others

Nancy Farmer has won three Newbery Honors and *The House of the Scorpion* also won the National Book Award and the Printz Award. Her self-written bio on her website is one of the most entertaining reads around. Her books meld history, science fiction, and just pure oddness. But they are epics, and exciting, and incredibly written. Perhaps because she had such an unusual childhood and spent much time alone that her voice is so original. All her books are worth reading. *The House of the Scorpion* and its sequel are intense and gripping books, her subsequent Trolls Trilogy are as expansive but lighter in subject. Publishers Weekly wrote: Many consider Scorpion, which is set in a rogue drug-dealing nation along the old U.S.–Mexico border in the 22nd century, to be one of the best dystopian novels for teen readers.

Forbes, Esther Johnny Tremain

Published in 1944, and subsequent Disney movie in 1957, the book is a classic, and another way for kids to glimpse into a time and place in history through character and story. From Scholastic: Because Johnny is proud of the work he does as a silversmith's apprentice, his master warns him that pride goes before a fall. When Johnny violates the law by working on Sabbath Day, his hand is maimed by hot silver and he must find a new profession. His search lands him in the middle of America's fight for freedom.

Gaiman, Neil The Graveyard Book; & others *

Gaiman's book *Coraline* is higher profile due to its movie success, but *The Graveyard Book* is a hugely powerful and engaging story that should be read. While the setting is typically Gaimanesque, dark and slightly creepy, the messages this tale reveals are moving and thoughtful. Gorgeously written, this is a book that is hard to put down, and Bod, the protagonist, is one of the most likable characters to grace the written page.

Gantos, Jack Dead End in Norvelt; & others

Melding the entirely true and the wildly fictional, *Dead End in Norvelt* is a novel about an incredible two months for a kid named Jack Gantos, whose plans for vacation excitement are shot down when he is "grounded for life" by his feuding parents, and whose nose spews bad blood at every little shock he gets. But plenty of excitement (and shocks) are coming Jack's way once his mom loans him out to help a fiesty old neighbor with a most unusual chore—typewriting obituaries filled with stories about the people who founded his utopian town. As one obituary leads to another, Jack is launched on a strange adventure involving molten wax, Eleanor Roosevelt, twisted promises, a homemade airplane, Girl Scout cookies, a man on a trike, a dancing plague, voices from the past, Hells Angels . . . and possibly murder. Endlessly surprising, this sly, sharp-edged narrative is the author at his very best, making readers laugh out loud at the most unexpected things in a dead-funny depiction of growing up in a slightly off-kilter place where the past is present, the present is confusing, and the future is completely up in the air. Winner of the Newbery and Scott O'Dell awards--from the publisher

Gemeinhart, Dan Some Kind of Courage +; Scar Island +

A Northwest favorite, Washingtonian teacher/librarian/author Dan Gemeinhart delivers another emotional page-turner in *Some Kind of Courage*, a gripping historical novel set in 1890 about a 12-year-old orphan who searches the Northwest frontier for his missing horse and a new family. We also now have *Scar Island*, a book that gives readers a poignant, action-packed story with references to classics *Robinson Crusoe* and *Lord of the Flies*.

Goldman, William The Princess Bride

The movie is terrific, but the book is five times funnier.

Graff, Lisa Absolutely, Almost

A much-lauded book, Graff is an author celebrated for showing and not telling, for writing relatable stories and characters and engaging and unpredictable plot lines. Of the book Publishers Weekly writes: Half-Korean 10-year-old Albie is being forced to switch from his private New York City school to P.S. 183. His new school gives him more specialized attention, but it also means dodging a name-calling bully and making friends other than his buddy Erlan, whose family is starring in a reality TV show. Because of Albie's academic struggles (especially in spelling and math), his mother hires Calista, a college art student, to tutor and spend time with him. Albie isn't happy about these and other developments, and his matter-of-fact observations are often both humorous and poignant.

Grove, SE The Mapmaker's Trilogy +

The Mapmaker's Trilogy is imaginative and heralded by critics and book reviewers all over. It's original and adventuresome. School Library Journal wrote, "This delicious blend of magic, history, and science will continue to delight fans of intricate world-building and rich storytelling." The final book, *The Crimson Skew*, was just released, rounding out its predecessors, *The Golden Specific* and *The Glass Sentence*.

Hardinge, Frances The Lie Tree +

Francis Hardinge continues to be one of the most talented writers out there. Her books are complicated, intriguing, well-researched, with richly developed characters and twisty plots and we own them all. Most recently, *The Lie Tree* was nominated for the Carnegie award and won the Costa Prize Book of the Year and is set in Victorian-era London.

Heiligman, Deborah Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith (NF)

An effective, engaging look at the personal life of a scientist and thinker whose work still affects us today. Heiligman's look at Darwin's life through the lens of his relationships with his family, wife and children is revealing and interesting. Excerpts from the extensive correspondence between Charles and Emma and their relatives and friends illuminate CD's life beyond The Beagle. Particularly moving were the accounts of love and loss of their children.

Hoose, Phillip The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and
The Churchill Club (NF)

At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation's leaders, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis if the adults would not. Can you believe that?! Naming their secret club after the fiery British leader, the young patriots in the Churchill Club committed countless acts of sabotage, infuriating the Germans, who eventually had the boys tracked down and arrested. But their efforts were not in vain: the boys' exploits and eventual imprisonment helped spark a full-blown Danish resistance. The author found Knud himself still alive, and the book includes his first-hand accounts.

Ignatofsky, Rachel Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the
World (NF) +

A gloriously illustrated celebration of trailblazing women. *Women in Science* highlights the contributions of fifty notable women to the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, from both the ancient and modern worlds. The book also contains fascinating infographics and an illustrated scientific glossary. The extraordinary women profiled include well-known figures like the physicist and chemist Marie Curie, as well as lesser-known pioneers such as Katherine Johnson, the African-American mathematician who calculated the trajectory of the Apollo 11 mission to the moon. *Women in Science* celebrates the achievements of the intrepid women who have paved the way for the next generation of female engineers, biologists, mathematicians, doctors, astronauts, physicists and beyond ...

Jackson, Linda Williams Midnight Without a Moon +

It's Mississippi in the summer of 1955, and Rose Lee Carter can't wait to move north. But for now, she's living with her sharecropper grandparents on a white man's cotton plantation. Then, one town over, an African American boy, Emmett Till, is killed for allegedly whistling at a white woman. When Till's murderers are unjustly acquitted, Rose realizes that the South needs a change . . . and that she should be part of the movement. Jackson's moving debut seamlessly

innocence and wide-open-sky of that collides with real-life unpredictability and loss. It won the Newbery Medal in 1978 and ALA Notable Book awards and it is gorgeously and sensitively written.

Pennypacker, Sara Pax

Pennypacker (Clementine series) is back with a new book earning rave reviews everywhere, Pax, a story about a boy and his relationship with a fox. But this haunting, hopeful, tearjerker book is about so much more, and probably more appropriate for Intermediates, or even Seniors. Perspectives alternate between the boy and the fox, and readers learn that a terrible war rages in this land. Peter's father is about to leave for the frontlines, and while he's away, Peter must live with his grandfather out in the country—and his father makes it clear that there is no place for Pax in Peter's temporary home. Almost as soon as he arrives at his grandfather's, Peter is overcome with guilt, and he sets off under the cover of darkness to trek the 300 miles back to his home, where he prays he'll find Pax. The loyal fox, meanwhile, must figure out how to survive in the wild—though never losing hope that his boy will return for him.

Perkins, Lynne Rae As Easy As Falling Off the Face of the Earth

On his way to summer camp from Wisconsin to Montana, 16-year-old Ry receives notice that camp is cancelled because “a statistically improbable number of things have gone wrong.” Ry hops off the train to find cell phone service so he can call & find out what to do next. Atop a distant hill in Nowhere, Montana, Ry is shocked to watch his train (and all of his belongings) pull away without him. So begins his odyssey. The book also includes the author's terrific line drawings and comics of the doings of Ry's pair of Labrador Retrievers.

Raskin, Ellen The Westing Game

A wonderful, twisty mystery with 16 suspects gathered at the behest of the murdered Mr. Westing. I bet you'll never guess.

Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan The Yearling

If you missed reading this gorgeous book in the Intermediates, read it this summer. Living in the lush, vividly wrought environs of early 20th-century central Florida, Jody is allowed to adopt an orphaned fawn. Their tender relationship thrives amid the harsh wilderness, roughhousing neighbors, and subsistence farming. Do not graduate without reading this poignant, funny, compelling novel of Jody and his beloved yearling deer, Flag.

Reef, Catherine Florence Nightingale: The Courageous Life of the Legendary Nurse (NF) +

A gorgeous new, pretty extensive, book about her life was just published by veteran biographer Catherine Reef. *Florence Nightingale: The Courageous Life of the Legendary Nurse* includes much backstory on Nightingale's family and the Victorian Era, while highlighting Nightingale's complex character and her commitment to what she believed, as well as her refusal to follow convention. Did you know she also founded the first secular nurse-training school?

Reynolds, Jason As Brave As You +
Kirkus Award Finalist Schneider Family Book Award Winner Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book When two brothers decide to prove how brave they are, everything backfires—literally—in this “pitch-perfect contemporary novel” (Kirkus Reviews, starred review) by the winner of the Coretta Scott King – John Steptoe Award.

Sachar, Louis The Cardturner; & others
Amusing, brainy about bridge (the card game--really!) without being overbearing (as was Melville, notes the narrator, in *Moby-Dick*). Overall, a fine read with a wry narrator who, although 17 years old, learns to enjoy the company of an aging uncle who plays competitive bridge. The story is a great one about relationship, trust, fair play and doing what you love. More than one student has expressed an interest in learning bridge after reading this funny, satisfying story.

Salisbury, Graham Under the Blood-Red Sun (series); & others *
Local and widely celebrated writer, Salisbury is perhaps best known for his WWII novel set in Hawaii, *Under a Blood Red Sun*, which is book number one in the quartet Prisoners of the Empire series, all set in Hawaii and dealing with the Japanese-American experience during WWII through the eyes of a tween and then teen boy. His books are very well written with engaging stories that entertain as well as inform.

Sands, Kevin Blackthorn Key (series) +
Set in 1600s London, the Blackthorn Key series made an auspicious splash with its historical accuracy and action-filled, puzzle-solving plot. Both books, including the second one set around the Plague are riveting. The third will be released in September.

Savit, Gavriel Anna and the Swallow Man +
Set in 1939 Poland, this is a gorgeous, tender, powerful book that becomes more allegorical than plot-based as it moves along. This book is receiving tremendous accolades worldwide—the Wall Street Journal called it “exquisite.” As the subject is chilling, similar to *The Book Thief*, the lyrical prose explores love and its capacity, as well as its limits.

Say, Allen Drawing from Memory (NF); & others
Caldecott Medalist Allen Say presents a graphic novel chronicling his journey as an artist during WWII, when he apprenticed under Noro Shinpei, Japan’s premier cartoonist. Part memoir, part graphic novel, part narrative history, *Drawing from Memory* presents a complex look at the real-life relationship between a mentor and his student. With watercolor paintings, original cartoons, vintage photographs, and maps, we learn about a fellow Portlander’s journey.

Schlitz, Laura Amy A Drowned Maiden's Hair
Maud Flynn is known at the orphanage for her impertinence, so when the charming Miss Hyacinth and her sister choose Maud to take home with them, the girl is as baffled as anyone. It seems the sisters need Maud to help stage elaborate séances for bereaved, wealthy patrons.

announced, Fadi sees his chance to return to Afghanistan and find his sister. But can one photo really bring Mariam home? Based in part on the Ms. Senzai's husband's own experience fleeing his home in Soviet controlled Afghanistan in the 1970s, *Shooting Kabul* is a powerful story of hope, love, and perseverance. The sequel, *Saving Kabul Corner*, was released in 2016.

Sepahban, Lois Paper Wishes

Taking place in 1942, *Paper Wishes* is a historical novel that begins on Bainbridge Island with a Japanese-American family's peaceful life. That all changes when they are sent to a prison camp in the desert following the Pearl Harbor bombing. While the themes explore a dark spot in American history, the story also carries elements of hope, family, and finding one's voice.

Sheinkin, Steve Port Chicago 50 Disaster Mutiny (NF)

National Book Award Finalist and Newbery Honor title, this excellent nonfiction book tells the little-known World War II civil rights drama of 50 African American sailors in a strictly segregated U.S. Navy who stood up for their humanity and were charged with mutiny. In 1944, these servicemen peacefully refused to continue loading warships with bombs and ammunition under dangerously unsafe conditions. And the reviews, they are aplenty:

"Sheinkin tells this shameful history with the deft, efficient pacing of a novelist.... It's an impressive work and an inspiring one." –New York Times

"Sheinkin delivers another meticulously researched WWII story, one he discovered while working on his Newbery Honor book, *Bomb*.... A gripping, even horrific account of a battle for civil rights predating Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr." –Publishers Weekly, starred review. "In this thoroughly researched and well-documented drama, Sheinkin lets the participants tell the story, masterfully lacing the narrative with extensive quotations drawn from oral histories, information from trial transcripts and archival photographs." — Kirkus, starred review

Sheinkin, Steve Undefeated: The Astonishing Rise of Jim Thorpe +; Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War (NF) +

Two additional in-depth and amazingly rendered books. Of *Undefeated*, the NY Times Book Review put it perfectly: "Sheinkin has made a career of finding extraordinary stories in American history, researching them exhaustively and recounting them at a nimble pace for readers aged 10 and up . . . Thorpe's greatness may be aspirational, but Sheinkin's brisk and forthright delivery makes it seem entirely possible." Nominated for the National Book Award for Young People's Literature, *Sheinkin's Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War* recounts the story of how whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg transformed from obscure government analyst into "the most dangerous man in America," and risked everything to expose years of government lies during the Nixon/Cold War era by leaking the Pentagon Papers. Too dry or complex for middle schoolers? Think again!

Shusterman, Neil; Eric Elfman The Accelerati Trilogy

This National Book Award winner (Shusterman), and screenwriter (Elfman) teamed up for a set of books appealing to adventure and mystery enthusiasts, as well as budding scientists. With

titles like *Hawking's Hallway*, *Tesla's Attic*, and *Edison's Hallway*, one can gain a clue as to why. The Bulletin for the Center for Children's Books writes in their starred review: Shusterman and Elfman have crafted a plot more devious, characters far quirkier, climaxes (yes, there are two) more breathless, and a narration much, much funnier than recent mad-science offerings. Sticking with a third-person narration frees the authors to be as wryly and sophisticatedly witty as they please without compromising the veracity of their middle-school cast, resulting in storytelling as delightful as the story being told.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg *Counting by 7s*; Short +

From the Washington Post: Happily, we can add Holly Goldberg Sloan's tender, nuanced *Counting by 7s* to the contemporary novels that seek to embrace the broader range of the American experience. Adopted at birth by a loving white couple, 12-year-old Willow Chance is a "person of color" (her term) and a genius obsessed with medical conditions and plants. At her California middle school, Willow's oddities soon land her in weekly sessions with the district's incompetent counselor. There she befriends a scrappy teen named Mai Nguyen. When Willow's parents suddenly die, Mai persuades her mother, Pattie, to take in the girl on a temporary basis. Thanks to her history as a bullied mixed-race kid in Vietnam, Pattie bonds fiercely with the grieving child. This lovely, wise tale is not just about loss but about survival, connection and kindness, and its narrative style underscores the theme of community. Sloan's newest book, *Short*, is a heartwarming, funny middle-grade novel. Julia grows into herself while playing a Munchkin in a production of *The Wizard of Oz*.

Smith, Jr., Charles R. *28 Days: Moments in Black History That Changed the World* (NF) +
Fueled by childhood memories of hearing the same Black History Month stories about the same people and events told the same way over and over, prolific author Charles R. Smith, Jr., sought to convey the importance and relevance of African American contributions and milestones in *28 Days: Moments in Black History That Changed the World*, 28 brief descriptions of crucial people or events in black history, ranging from 1770 to the present, from Crispus Attucks, the first man shot in the Boston Massacre, sparking the Revolutionary War, to Madame C. J. Walker, who after years of adversity became the wealthiest black woman in the country, as well as one of the wealthiest black Americans, to Barack Obama.

Sweet, Melissa *Some Writer!: The Story of E.B. White* (NF) +

Two-time Caldecott Honor winner, Melissa Sweet, came out with a new whimsical, beautiful, and well-researched biography of EB White that combines White's personal letters, photos, and family ephemera with her own exquisite artwork to tell the story of this American literary icon. White's granddaughter wrote the afterword.

Turner, Pamela S. *Samurai Rising: the Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune* +

This sweeping tale of warriors and bravery, rebellion and revenge, reads like a novel, but is the true story of the greatest samurai in Japanese history. Starred reviews all over the place. Riveting, and a page-turner in ways not commonly associated with nonfiction.

Voigt, Cynthia The Tillerman Cycle.

The four Tillerman children have lost both of their parents. Sammy, Maybeth, James and Dicey must find a place to call home and discover who they are. In an intricate web of familial ties, the Tillerman children must face a cold world with only each other for support. This critically acclaimed 7-book series follows the lives of these children along with their family and friends, shining a glaring light on the realities of a seemingly foreign world that lie in our own backyards.

Walsh, Jill Paton The Emperor's Winding Sheet

Set in 15th century Constantinople as the Byzantine Empire falls, the story follows a boy as he navigates treachery, displays courage, endurance, and faith. A well-written and fast-paced story that also delivers a dose of history as a bonus.

Wiles, Deborah The Aurora County trilogy; The Sixties trilogy

Wiles' books incorporate a lot of the American south and celebrate and look honestly at community and values. The second book in the Sixties trilogy was a National Book Award finalist and this is how they discussed the book: Parallel narratives of two children—one black, one white—propel the reader into the events and emotions of Freedom Summer, 1964, in Greenwood, Mississippi. Peppered throughout the fiction, Wiles deftly places nonfiction—politics to pop culture: quotes, articles, editorials, biographical sketches, songs, and a wealth of visual materials that provide historical context. Compelling characters and multiple perspectives immerse readers into the texture of that tumultuous time and invite them to reflect on issues today...As she did in her groundbreaking documentary novel *Countdown*, Deborah Wiles uses stories and images to tell the riveting story of a certain time and place — and of kids who, in a world where everyone is choosing sides, must figure out how to stand up for themselves and fight for what's right.

Williams-Garcia, Rita One Crazy Summer (Gaither Girls series)

The first in a trilogy, this moving, funny, Newbery Honor novel also won the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction, the Coretta Scott King Award, and was a National Book Award Finalist. Set during a pivotal moment in African American history, this vibrant novel shows the subtle ways that political movements affect personal lives; but just as memorable is the finely drawn, universal story of children reclaiming a reluctant parent's love. These books are honest and real.

Woodson, Jacqueline Brown Girl Dreaming (NF)

Winner of this year's National Book Award and a Newbery Honor book, *Brown Girl Dreaming* is a verse memoir of Woodson's childhood in the 1960s and 1970s growing up in both New York and South Carolina. Remnants of Jim Crow were lived through and the book serves as a powerful and creative history lesson on civil rights, as well as exploring memories of struggling learning to read and discovering her voice as a writer.

Other wonderful books to enjoy:

Adams, Douglas	The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy series
Adams, Richard	Watership Down *
Aiken, Joan	Bridle the Wind
Alcott, Louisa May	Little Women *
Alexander, Lloyd	The Arkadians; & others
Anderson, MT	Octavian Nothing; & others
Austen, Jane	Sense and Sensibility
Avi	Beyond the Western Sea; & others
Banerjee, Chitra	The Conch Bearer
Baum, Frank L.	The Wonderful Wizard of Oz *
Baumann, Hans	I Marched with Hannibal
Bawden, Nina	The Peppermint Pig
Blos, Joan W.	A Gathering of Days
Bond, Nancy	A String in the Harp
Bosse, Malcolm	The Examination
Bradbury, Ray	Fahrenheit 451; & others
Brontë, Emily	Wuthering Heights
Card, Orson Scott	Ender's Game
Carroll, Lewis	Alice in Wonderland
Chambers, Aidan	Postcards from No Man's Land
Cooper, Susan	King of Shadows
Calhoun, Dia	Aria of the Sea
Cameron, Eleanor	The Court of Stone Children
de Treviño, Elizabeth Borton	I, Juan de Pareja
Dickens, Charles	A Tale of Two Cities
du Bois, William Pen	The 21 Balloons
Dumas, Alexandre	The Three Musketeers
Fletcher, Susan	Shadow Spinner; & others
Frank, Anne	The Diary of a Young Girl *
Gaarder, Joseph	Sophie's World *
Garner, Alan	The Stone Book Quartet
Gonzalez, Christina Diaz	The Red Umbrella
Hardinge, Frances	Fly By Night
Hauggaard, Erik C.	Hakon of Rogen's Saga; The Little Fishes
Hautzig, Esther	The Endless Steppe *
Hemingway, Ernest	For Whom the Bell Tolls; Old Man and the Sea
Hendry, Frances Mary	Quest for a Maid
Howker, Janni	Badger on the Barge
Kadohata, Cynthia	Kira-Kira
Kelly, Eric P.	The Trumpeter of Krakow
Krakauer, Jon	Into Thin Air
L'Engle, Madeleine	A Ring of Endless Light; & others
Lee, Harper	To Kill a Mockingbird *

Matas, C.	Lisa
Mikaelsen, Ben	Touching Spirit Bear *; & others
Milford, Kate	Greenglass House
Mowat, Farley	Never Cry Wolf
Myers, Walter Dean	The Glory Field; & others
O'Dell, Scott	The Hawk that Dare Not Hunt by Day
Potok, Chaim	My Name is Asher Lev
Preus, Margi	West of the Moon
Pullman, Philip	Golden Compass series; & others *
Richter, Hans Peter	Friedrich
Sepetys, Rachel	Between Shades of Gray *
Sheth, Kashmira	Boys Without Names
Smith, Betty	A Tree Grows in Brooklyn *
Spiegelman, Art	Maus I, II (NF) *
Spinelli, Jerry	Stargirl; & others
Staples, Elizabeth	Shabanu
Stevenson, Robert Louis	Treasure Island
Stewart, Trenton Lee	The Mysterious Benedict Society
Sutcliff, Rosemary	Warrior Scarlet; & others
Temple, Frances	The Ramsay Scallop
Tolkien, J.R.R.	The Lord of the Rings; & others *
Turner, Megan Whalen	The Thief
Treece, Henry	The Windswept City
Twain, Mark	Adventures of Huckleberry Finn; & others
Ullman, James Ramsey	Banner in the Sky
Uris, Leon	Exodus
Wein, Elizabeth	Code Name Verity; Rose Under Fire
White, T.H.	The Once and Future King *
Willard, Barbara	The Lark and the Laurel (The Mantlemass Chronicles)
Wojciechowska, Maia	Shadow of a Bull
Zusak, Markus	The Book Thief *

Some helpful tips for promoting reading and the love of books in kids (from [Raising Kids Who Read](#), by Daniel T. Willingham).

- Make it easy to access books.
- Help your child find a good time and place to read.
- Encourage and promote the habit of ongoing pleasure reading at home.
- Read as a family--whether aloud, or everyone silently reading their own book in the same room.
- Be a model of love of reading and love of knowledge. Gdoc/SR Sustaining Books 2016 K 4.10.16