

West Boylston Summer Reading 2020

Middle School Reading List*

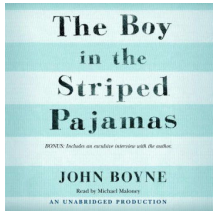


Grades 6-8

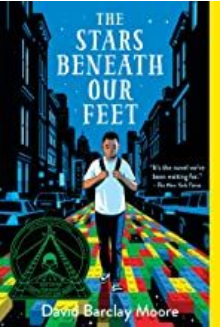
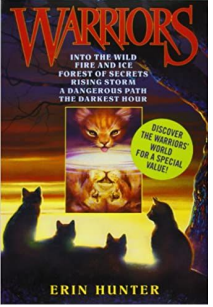
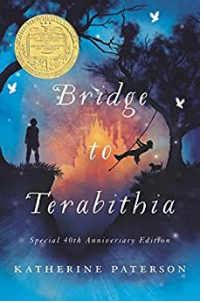

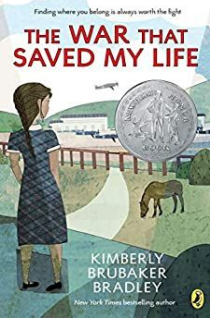
Directions: Each student should read two books over the summer: one from the teacher recommended reading list, and a second book of free choice. Students should submit a minimum of one “Summer Reading Response” Google form, but more entries are welcomed any time a book is read. Any students who submit a Google form will be automatically entered into a raffle contest. Winners will receive special recognition in the Fall.

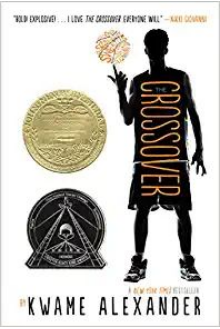
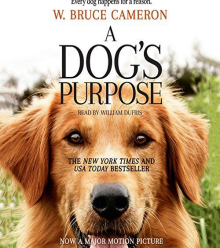
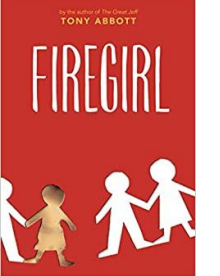
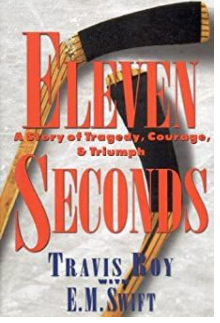

Links to Reading Response forms:

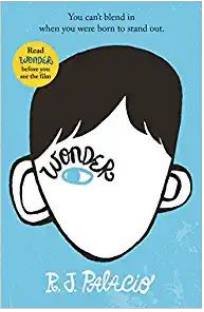
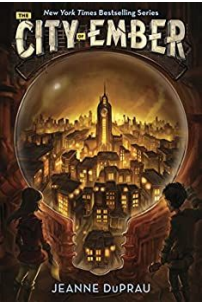
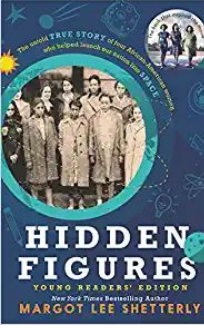
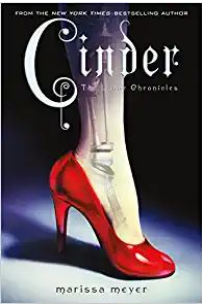

[Fiction](#)

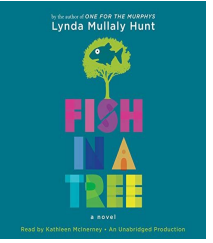

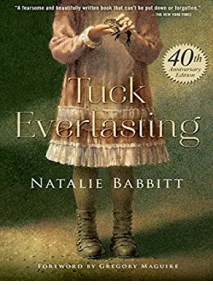
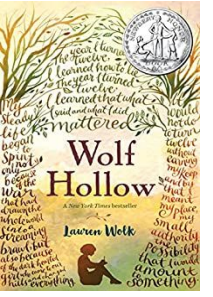
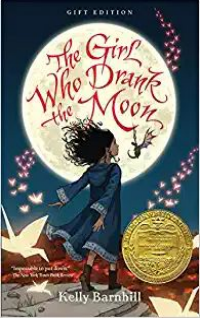
[Non-Fiction](#)

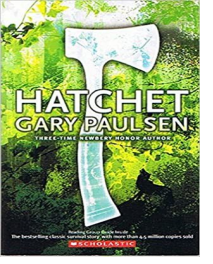
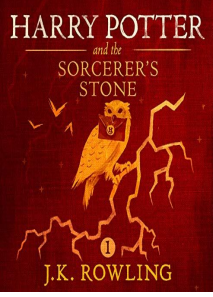
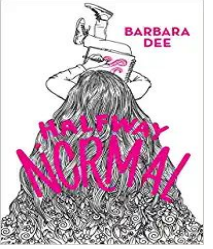
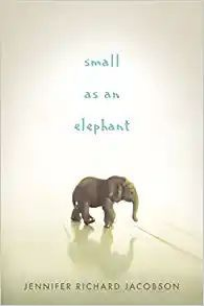
Book Titles		
	<p>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas By: John Boyne</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>Berlin, 1942: When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move to a new house far, far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people in the distance. But Bruno longs to be an explorer and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different from his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.</p>
	<p>Million Dollar Throw By: Mike Lupica</p>	<p>Everyone calls Nate Brodie "Brady" because he's a New England quarterback, just like his idol, Tom Brady. And now he's got a chance to win a million dollars by throwing one pass through a target at halftime in the Patriots; Thanksgiving night game. More than anything, Nate's family needs the money—his dad's been downsized, his mom's working two jobs, and they're on the verge of losing their house. The worry is more weight than a 13-year-old can bear, and it's affecting his playing for his own football team. Suddenly the boy with the golden arm is having trouble completing a pass . . . but can he make the one that really counts?</p>
	<p>Guardians of Ga'hoole series By: Kathryn Lasky</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>Enter the world of the owls and meet the heroes who keep it safe. Born in the forest of the barn owls, Soren loves life's little pleasures, like the feel of a centipede pattering down his throat. But evil lurks in the owl world, and threatens to change the course of Sorens life forever.</p>


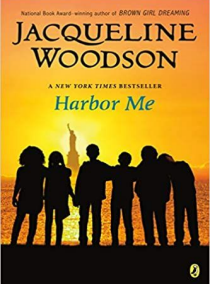
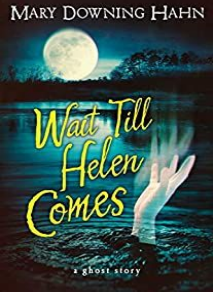
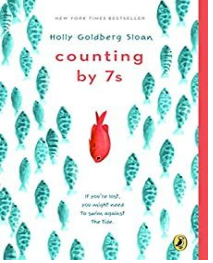
	<p>The Stars Beneath Our Feet By: David Barclay Moore</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>It's Christmas Eve in Harlem, but twelve-year-old Lolly Rachpaul and his mom aren't celebrating. They're still reeling from his older brother's death in a gang-related shooting just a few months earlier. Then Lolly's mother's girlfriend brings him a gift that will change everything: two enormous bags filled with Legos. Lolly's always loved Legos, and he prides himself on following the kit instructions exactly. Now, faced with a pile of building blocks and no instructions, Lolly must find his own way forward. His path isn't clear—and the pressure to join a "crew," as his brother did, is always there.</p>
	<p>Warriors series By: Erin Hunter</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>For generations, four Clans of wild cats have shared the forest according to the laws laid down by their ancestors. But now ThunderClan is in grave danger. Rival ShadowClan is growing stronger, a traitor may be hiding in their midst, and rising tensions threaten every cat in the forest. In the dark days ahead, ThunderClan's fate will rest in the paws of an unexpected hero: an ordinary house cat named Rusty...who may yet turn out to be the bravest warrior of them all.</p>
	<p>Bridge to Terabithia By: Katherine Paterson</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>Jess Aarons has been practicing all summer so he can be the fastest runner in the fifth grade. And he almost is, until the new girl in school, Leslie Burke, outpaces him. The two become fast friends and spend most days in the woods behind Leslie's house, where they invent an enchanted land called Terabithia. One morning, Leslie goes to Terabithia without Jess and a tragedy occurs.</p>
	<p>Shadow Children series By: Margaret Peterson Haddix</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>Imagine a world where families are allowed only two children. Illegal third children—shadow children—must live in hiding. If they are discovered, there is only one punishment: Death.</p>
	<p>The War that Saved My Life By: Kimberly Brubaker Bradley</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>Ten-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him. So begins a new adventure for Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in.</p>

	<p>The Crossover series (Crossover, Rebound, Booked) By: Kwame Alexander *Also available in graphic novel format</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. 'Cuz tonight I'm delivering," raps twelve-year-old Josh Bell. Thanks to their dad, he and his twin brother, Jordan, are kings on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood—he's got mad beats, too, which help him find his rhythm when it's all on the line. As their winning season unfolds, things begin to change. When Jordan meets a girl, the twins' bond unravels. Told in dynamic verse, this fast and furious middle grade novel that started it all absolutely bounces with rhythm and bursts with heart.</p>
	<p>A Dog's Purpose By: W. Bruce Cameron</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p><i>A Dog's Purpose</i> shares the soulful and surprising story of one devoted dog who finds the meaning of his own existence through the lives of the humans he teaches to laugh and love.</p>
	<p>Firegirl By: Tony Abbott</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>From the moment Jessica arrives, life is never quite the same for Tom and his seventh-grade classmates. They learn that Jessica has been in a fire and was badly burned, and will be attending St. Catherine's will receiving medical treatments. Despite her appearance and the fear she evokes in him and most of the class, Tom slowly develops a tentative friendship with Jessica that changes his life.</p>
	<p>Eleven Seconds: A Story of Tragedy, Courage, & Triumph By: Travis Roy</p>	<p>In this heartfelt testament to the power of love and the strength of the human spirit, Travis Roy, who suffered a devastating injury eleven seconds into his first college hockey game, reveals how he has managed to cope after the accident and, with the help of family and friends, overcome tremendous barriers to begin a new life.</p>
	<p>The Pearl By: John Steinbeck</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>Like his father and grandfather before him, Kino is a poor diver, gathering pearls from the gulf beds that once brought great wealth to the Kings of Spain and now provide Kino, Juana, and their infant son with meager subsistence. Then, on a day like any other, Kino emerges from the sea with a pearl as large as a sea gull's egg, as "perfect as the moon." With the pearl comes hope, the promise of comfort and of security....</p>

	<p>Wonder By: R.J. Palacio</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face.</p>
	<p>Book of Ember Series By: Jeanne DuPrau</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to flicker. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. She and her friend Doon must race to figure out the clues before the lights go out on Ember forever!</p>
	<p>Hidden Figures, Young Readers Edition By: Margaret Lee Shetterly</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>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.</p>
	<p>Cinder (Part of The Lunar Chronicles Series) By: Marissa Meyer</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>Humans and androids crowd the raucous streets of New Beijing. A deadly plague ravages the population. From space, a ruthless lunar people watch, waiting to make their move. No one knows that Earth's fate hinges on one girl. . . .</p>
	<p>The Golden Compass (His Dark Materials Series) By: Philip Pullman</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>Philip Pullman takes readers to a world where humans have animal familiars and where parallel universes are within reach. Lyra is rushing to the cold, far North, where witch clans and armored bears rule. North, where the Gobblers take the children they steal—including her friend Roger. North, where her fearsome uncle Asriel is trying to build a bridge to a parallel world. Can one small girl make a difference in such great and terrible endeavors?</p>

	<p>Fish in a Tree By: Linda M. Hunt</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>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.</p>
	<p>Ender Wiggins Series By: Orson Scott Card</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>Once again, Earth is under attack. An alien species is poised for a final assault. The survival of humanity depends on a military genius who can defeat the aliens. But who? Ender Wiggin. Brilliant. Ruthless. Cunning. A tactical and strategic master. And a child. Recruited for military training by the world government, Ender's childhood ends the moment he enters his new home: Battle School.</p>
	<p>Tuck Everlasting By: Natalie Babbitt</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p><i>What if you could live forever?</i> Is eternal life a blessing or a curse? That is what young Winnie Foster must decide when she discovers a spring on her family's property whose waters grant immortality. Members of the Tuck family, having drunk from the spring, tell Winnie of their experiences watching life go by and never growing older. But then Winnie must decide whether or not to keep the Tucks' secret—and whether or not to join them on their never-ending journey.</p>
	<p>Wolf Hollow By: Lauren Wolk</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>Despite growing up in the shadows cast by two world wars, Annabelle has lived a mostly quiet, steady life in her small Pennsylvania town. A new student Betty Glengarry 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.</p>
	<p>The Girl Who Drank the Moon By: Kelly Barnhill</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch in the Forest, Xan, is kind. She shares her home with a wise Swamp Monster and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon. Xan rescues the children and delivers them to welcoming families on the other side of the forest, nourishing the babies with starlight on the journey. One year, Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the ordinary child with extraordinary magic. Xan decides she must raise this girl, whom she calls Luna, as her own. As Luna's thirteenth birthday approaches, her magic begins to emerge—with dangerous consequences.</p>

	<p>Hatchet By: Gary Paulsen</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>On his way to visit his recently divorced father in the Canadian mountains, thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is the only survivor when the single-engine plane crashes. His body battered, his clothes in shreds, Brian must now stay alive in the boundless Canadian wilderness.</p>
	<p>Harry Potter series By: JK Rowling</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>Orphaned as an infant, young Harry Potter has been living a less-than-fortunate life. Belittled by his pompous uncle and sniveling aunt (not to mention his absolute terror of a cousin, Dudley), Harry has resigned himself to a mediocre existence in the cupboard under the stairs. But then the letters start dropping on the doormat at Number Four, Privet Drive. Addressed to “Mr. H. Potter” and stamped shut with a purple wax seal, the peculiar envelopes are swiftly confiscated by his relentlessly cruel family. But nothing stops Rubeus Hagrid, a great beetle-eyed giant of a man, from kicking down the door and bursting in with astonishing news: Harry Potter is a wizard—and not only a wizard, he’s an incredibly famous wizard.</p>
	<p>Halfway Normal By: Barbara Dee</p>	<p>Norah Levy has just completed two years of treatment for leukemia and is ready to go back to the “real world” of middle school. She knows it’ll be tricky—but like the Greek mythological characters she read about while she was sick, Norah’s up for any challenge. But seventh grade turns out to be harder than she thought.</p>
	<p>Small as an Elephant By: Jennifer Jacobson</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>Ever since Jack can remember, his mom has been unpredictable, sometimes loving and fun, other times caught in a whirlwind of energy and "spinning" wildly until it's over. But Jack never thought his mom would take off during the night and leave him with no way to reach her and barely enough money for food. Any other kid would report his mom gone, but Jack knows by now that he needs to figure things out for himself - starting with how to get from the backwoods of Maine to his home in Boston before DSS catches on. With nothing but a small toy elephant to keep him company, Jack begins a journey that will test his wits and his loyalties - and his trust that he may be part of a larger herd after all.</p>

	<p>No Summit Out of Sight By: Jordan Romero</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>On May 22, 2010, at the age of thirteen, American teenager Jordan Romero became the youngest person to climb to the summit of Mount Everest. At fifteen, he became the youngest person to reach the summits of the tallest mountains on each of the seven continents. In this energizing memoir for young adults, Jordan recounts his experience, which started as a spark of an idea at the age of nine and, many years of training and hard work later, turned into a dream come true.</p>
	<p>Harbor Me By: Jacqueline Woodson</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>It all starts when six kids have to meet for a weekly chat--by themselves, with no adults to listen in. There, in the room they soon dub the ARTT Room (short for "A Room to Talk"), they discover it's safe to talk about what's bothering them--everything from Esteban's father's deportation and Haley's father's incarceration to Amari's fears of racial profiling and Ashton's adjustment to his changing family fortunes. When the six are together, they can express the feelings and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world. And together, they can grow braver and more ready for the rest of their lives.</p>
	<p>Wait Till Helen Comes By: Mary Downing Hahn</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>Twelve-year-old Molly and her ten-year-old brother, Michael, have never liked their seven-year-old stepsister, Heather. Ever since their parents got married, she's made Molly and Michael's life miserable. Now their parents have moved them all to the country to live in a house that used to be a church, with a cemetery in the backyard. If that's not bad enough, Heather starts talking to a ghost named Helen and warning Molly and Michael that Helen is coming for them. Molly feels certain Heather is in some kind of danger, but every time she tries to help, Heather twists things around to get her into trouble. It seems as if things can't get any worse. But they do--when Helen comes.</p>
	<p>Counting by 7s By: Holly Goldberg Sloan</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now. Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world.</p>

*Images and editorial reviews were copied, edited, or adapted from www.amazon.com.

The books for this list were recommended by the West Boylston Middle/High School teachers in all subject areas.

Beaman Library is virtually here for you!

Although Beaman Library is not yet open to the public, the staff is working, and happy to help you obtain the books you need for your Summer Reading assignments. We are preparing plans to begin curbside pick-up

soon, allowing you to pick up a book you reserved. Speaking of reserving books, there are links to the catalog from the titles in this list, so you can easily request what you want to read using your Library card and pin number*. It may take a week or more for your reserve to reach us. We will let you know when the book you have requested has arrived and is ready for pick-up. There are links to eBooks and digital audiobooks on the list as well, if you'd rather read a digital version. You will need to download the free [Overdrive](#) or [Libby](#) app, and set up a digital account, using your email, library card number and pin number*. Learn more [here](#).

*If you have trouble getting into your account or don't know your pin number, please give us a call. If you don't have a library card, please call us at 508-835-3711. We will also need to speak with your parent, or guardian, at that time.

And, since you are reading books this summer anyway, why not join the [Virtual Teen Summer Reading Program](#) sponsored by The Friends of Beaman Library. It runs from June 16-August 15, is for students entering grades 6-12 and you might just win a gift certificate at the end of the summer! Learn all about this program and upcoming virtual Zoom events for teens [here](#).

To get information about the Library's evolving reopening plans, join the email list [here](#).

Happy reading!

Sue Gomes & Jessica Wright
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