

SUMMER READING

Incoming 8th Grade



The Book Thief

"It's 1939 in Molching, Germany, and horror is everywhere. Nazi rule has divided the nation into those who are brutalized and those who are merely oppressed... Liesel Meminger [is] a nine-year old girl who faces loss, abandonment, and hopelessness. Yet Liesel finds refuge from her nightmares with her foster mother, who always seems to make the right decision, even in the face of so much wrong; with her foster father, who introduces her to the power of words and books; and with a secret friend, who teaches her how to overcome her fears through telling her own story."

- Scholastic (historical fiction)

Life as We Knew It

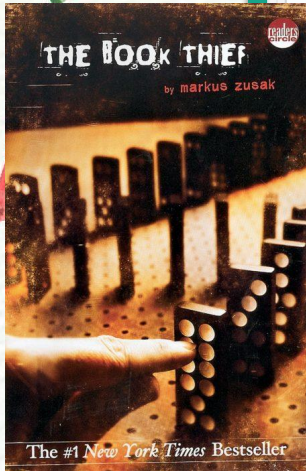
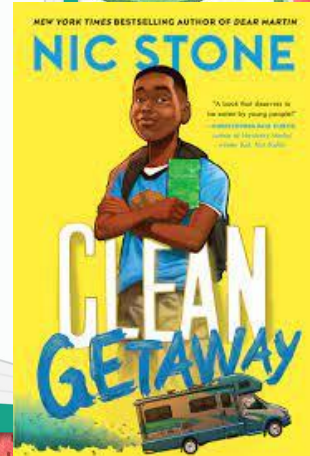
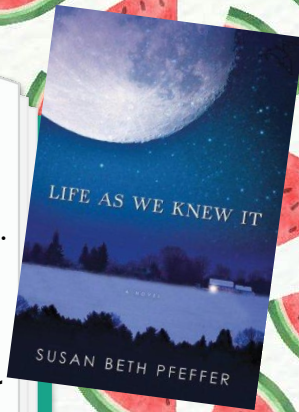
"Miranda's disbelief turns to fear in a split second when a meteor knocks the moon closer to the earth. How should her family prepare for the future when worldwide tsunamis wipe out the coasts, earthquakes rock the continents, and volcanic ash blocks out the sun? As summer turns to Arctic winter, Miranda, her two brothers, and their mother retreat to the unexpected safe haven of their sunroom, where they subsist on stockpiled food and limited water in the warmth of a wood-burning stove."

- Goodreads (science fiction)

Clean Getaway

"Set against the backdrop of the segregation history of the American South, take a trip with New York Times bestselling Nic Stone and an eleven-year-old boy who is about to discover that the world hasn't always been a welcoming place for kids like him, and things aren't always what they seem - his G'ma included."

- Reading Middle Grade (realistic)

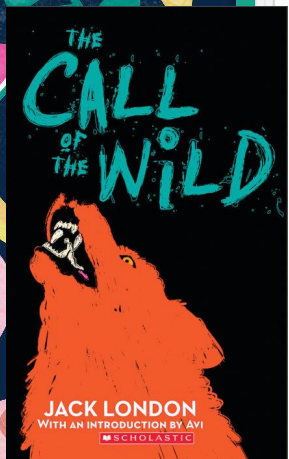


The Call of the Wild

"Buck is an unusual dog, part St. Bernard, and part Scotch shepherd, with wolf blood in his ancestry. He is enjoying his comfortable life as a family pet in California when dog traffickers, who are meeting the demand for sled dogs in the Alaskan gold rush, steal him. The harsh winter is like nothing he has ever experienced, and each day with the sled dog team is a very real struggle for survival. Pushed to the limit, Buck finds instincts he didn't know he had - primordial urges deep within him are being awakened.

Buck is passed from owner to owner, including a brutal group that lacks the resources to survive on their own on the Alaskan frontier. They beat Buck within an inch of his life. When John Thornton saves Buck, he is grateful, and for a time it seems that his domesticated side has won. But when Thornton is killed, Buck heeds the call: he returns to the wild, eventually becoming leader of a wolf pack and the legendary "Ghost Dog" of the Klondike."

- [Scholastic](#) (classic/adventure)

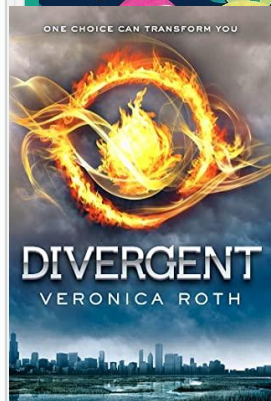


Divergent

"In Beatrice Prior's dystopian world, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). [One day a year] all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. For Beatrice, the decision is between staying with her family and being who she really is—she can't have both. So she makes a choice that surprises everyone, including herself.

During the highly competitive initiation that follows, Beatrice renames herself Tris and struggles alongside her fellow initiates to live out the choice they have made. Together they must undergo extreme physical tests of endurance and intense psychological simulations, some with devastating consequences... Tris also has a secret, one she's kept hidden from everyone because she's been warned it can mean death..."

- [Goodreads](#) (science fiction)





The Hobbit

"Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure. They have launched a plot to raid the treasure hoard guarded by Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon. Bilbo reluctantly joins their quest, unaware that on his journey to the Lonely Mountain he will encounter both a magic ring and a frightening creature known as Gollum."

- [Scholastic](#) (fantasy)



Lord of the Flies

"When a planeload of British schoolboys crash-lands on a deserted Pacific island, the surviving boys struggle to create order among themselves so that they have a chance at being rescued. Differing leaders emerge, but as their terror of the island's mysteries and their own fears about survival overtake them, the boys become increasingly violent. What starts with bullying a little-liked peer eventually descends into madness, murder, and anarchy."

- [Scholastic](#) (realistic/classic/adventure)

Free Lunch

Instead of giving him lunch money, Rex's mom has signed him up for free meals. As a poor kid in a wealthy school district, better-off kids crowd impatiently behind him as he tries to explain to the cashier that he's on the free meal program. The lunch lady is hard of hearing, so Rex has to shout.

Rex also attempts to navigate his first semester of sixth grade—not being able to join the football team, Halloween in a handmade costume, classmates and a teacher who take one look at him and decide he's trouble—all while wearing secondhand clothes and being hungry. His mom and her boyfriend are out of work, and life at home is punctuated by outbursts of violence. Halfway through the semester, his family is evicted and ends up in government-subsidized housing in view of the school. If Rex lingers at the end of last period every day until the buses have left, can he avoid letting anyone see where he lives?

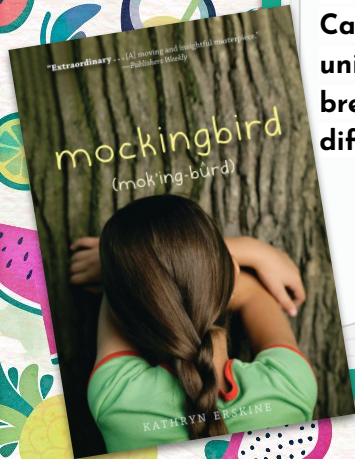
- [Scholastic](#) (nonfiction / memoir)



Mockingbird

Caitlin is a bright fifth grader and a gifted artist. She also has Asperger's syndrome, and lives in a world of her own. Her brother, Devon, was the one who always helped her get by. But a middle-school shooting took his life. Now she has only her widowed father to rely on, and he has problems - and grief - of his own. Can a wise school counselor help Caitlin reach out to a world she's never understood? With Devon gone, will she have the courage to live fully on her own? Caitlin's thought processes, including her own unique brand of logic, are the star of this breathtakingly original novel about the differences that make us who we are.

-[Scholastic](#) (realistic fiction)



The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise

Five years. That's how long Coyote and her dad, Rodeo, have lived on the road in an old school bus, criss-crossing the nation. It's also how long ago Coyote lost her mom and two sisters in a car crash.

Coyote hasn't been home in all that time, but when she learns that the park in her old neighborhood is being demolished — the very same park where she, her mom, and her sisters buried a treasured memory box — she devises an elaborate plan to get her dad to drive 3,600 miles back to Washington state in four days...without him realizing it.

Over the course of thousands of miles, Coyote will learn that going home can sometimes be the hardest journey of all...but that with friends by her side, she just might be able to turn her "once upon a time" into a "happily ever after."

-[Scholastic](#) (realistic fiction)

