

Maryvale Preparatory School
Summer Reading 2024
Middle School Grades 6-8

Fantasy & Science Fiction

Barnhill, Kelly. ***The Girl Who Drank the Moon***. - An epic fantasy about a young girl raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, who must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. ***Under Their Skin*** - Twelve-year-old twins Nick and Eryn investigate why their mother and new stepfather are keeping secrets, why they are forbidden to meet their stepsiblings, and, most important, why their lives are in danger. (Or any Young Adult book by Margaret Peterson Haddix)

Lee, Yoon Ha, ***Dragon Pearl*** - Min, a thirteen-year-old girl with fox-magic, stows away on a battle cruiser and impersonates a cadet to solve the mystery of what happened to her older brother in the Thousand World Space Forces.

Okogwu, Tola. ***Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun***.

Onyeka is a British Nigerian girl who's always been self-conscious about her hair and the attention that it draws. A day at the pool changes Onyeka's life as she discovers that her hair can move on its own when she tries saving her best friend, Cheyenne, from drowning. She is further stunned when her mother reveals that she is one of many Solari: people with superpowers found only in Nigeria. Onyeka can control her hair with her kinetic powers, but her emotions cause her hair to get out of control, and using her powers can make her feel sick. Her missing father and the Academy of the Sun, located in Nigeria, may hold the answers to controlling her powers. Okogwu has created an exciting fantasy with Nigerian culture and customs woven into the plot to create excellent world building with interesting characters. A story of a young girl's journey to self-acceptance, this title will leave readers on the edge of their seats in anticipation for the next part in this new series.

Reese, Jenn. ***Above World*** - In a future of high technology and genetic modification, the Coral Kampii, like legendary mermaids, live isolated from the Above World, but when the devices that allow them to breathe underwater start to fail, thirteen-year-old Aluna and her friend Hoku go to that forbidden place to find help.

Ruby, Laura. ***The Shadow Cipher*** - To save their apartment building, Tess, Theo, and Jaime search for the Old York Cipher treasure created by the architects of New York.

Ryan, Carrie & John Parke Davis. ***The Map to Everywhere*** - Twelve-year-old Fin, a master thief from the pirate world of Khaznot Quay, and Marrill, also twelve, of Arizona, cross paths in the magical world of the Pirate Stream while on a quest for a mysterious map.

Shusterman, Neal and Eric Elfman. ***Tesla's Attic***. - With a plot combining science and the supernatural, four kids are caught up in a dangerous plan concocted by the eccentric inventor Nikola Tesla.

Steward, Trenton Lee. ***The Secret Keepers*** - A solitary boy with a penchant for finding "spots where no one would ever think to look" finds a mysterious watch and unravels a series of startling secrets. Growing up in shabby New Umbra, white, 11-year-old Reuben lives with his widowed mother. Exploring a precarious ledge, Reuben finds a case containing a spherical watch that enables him to become temporarily invisible. Excited and empowered, Reuben experiments with his secret watch but is worried when he hears that The Smoke, an ambiguous character controlling New Umbra, is desperate to find the watch and has his bullies searching for it.

Historical Fiction

Draper, Sharon M. ***Stella by Starlight***. When a burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town. (Or any Young Adult book by Sharon M. Draper)

English, Karen. ***It All Comes Down to This***. In the summer of 1965, Sophie's family become the first African Americans to move into their upper middle-class neighborhood in Los Angeles. When riots erupt in nearby Watts, she learns that life and her own place in it are a lot more complicated than they had seemed.

Gratz, Alan. ***Refugee***. Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany, Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994, and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together.

House, Silas and Neela Vaswani. ***Same Sun Here***. A twelve-year-old Indian immigrant in New York City and a Kentucky coal miner's son become pen

pals, and eventually best friends, through a series of revealing letters exploring such topics as environmental activism, immigration, and racism.

Yolen, Jane. ***The Devil's Arithmetic***. Hannah resents the traditions of her Jewish heritage until time travel places her in the middle of a small Jewish village in Nazi-occupied Poland.

Mystery

Beil, Michael, D. ***The Red Blazer Girls: The Vanishing Violin***. Seventh-graders Sophie, Margaret, Rebecca, and Leigh Ann follow a trail of cryptic clues to locate a rare violin, catch the person sneaking into St. Veronica's School for late-night cleaning and redecorating, and outsmart a conniving classmate.

Carey, Benedict. ***Poison Most Vial: A Mystery***. When a famous forensic scientist turns up dead and Ruby's father becomes the prime suspect, Ruby must marshal everyone she can to help solve the mystery and prove her father didn't poison his boss.

Carter, Ally. ***The Heist Society***. Fifteen-year-old Kat schemes her way into the best boarding school, hoping to leave the thieving antics of her family behind her, but Hal, a former co-conspirator, appears on campus to tell Kat that a powerful mobster believes her father stole art from a priceless collection, and to save him, Kat will have to recover the paintings. (Or any Young Adult book by Ally Carter)

Clooney, Caroline B. ***The Face on the Milk Carton***. A photograph of a missing girl on a milk carton leads Janie to search for her real identity. (Or any Young Adult book by Caroline B. Cooney)

Ireland, Justina. ***Ophie's Ghosts***. In 1920s Georgia, 12-year-old Ophelia Harrison, who is Black, learns that she can see ghosts when her father, killed hours earlier by a white lynch mob, wakes Ophie in the middle of the night to save her and her mother from the same fate. After relocating to Pittsburgh to live with her father's family, Ophie must leave school and work alongside her mother at the opulent Daffodil Manor, owned by the Caruthers family, white, pro-slavery Southerners from Virginia. There, Ophie sees more ghosts than ever, soon learning of her family's legacy of helping sometimes dangerous haints with unfinished business move on. Her fascination with Clara, the old home's most beautiful ghost, draws Ophie into a mystery that reveals the human cost of systemic racism across America and the price routinely paid by those attempting to defy it.

Milford, Kate. **Greenglass House**. At Greenglass House, a smuggler's inn, twelve-year-old Milo, the innkeepers' adopted son, plans to spend his winter holidays relaxing, but soon guests are arriving with strange stories about the house that send Milo and Meddy, the cook's daughter, on an adventure.

Sachar, Louis. **Fuzzy Mud**. Two middle-grade kids take a shortcut home from school and discover what looks like fuzzy mud but is a substance with the potential to wreak havoc on the entire world.

Stevens, Robin. **The Guggenheim Mystery** While visiting their cousin Salim in New York City, Ted and Kat investigate the theft of a famous painting from the Guggenheim Museum for which Salim's mother is the prime suspect.

Vigilante, Danette, **Tia Lugo Speaks No Evil**. Tia Lugo, an asthmatic thirteen-year-old Puerto Rican girl living in NYC, witnesses a murder late one night from her bedroom window. Terrified the killer will do anything to keep her silent and desperate to find the courage to speak out, Tia turns to her grandmother's favorite shopping spot: the botanica.

Real Life Fiction

Alexander, Kwame. **Booked** - Twelve-year-old Nick loves soccer and hates books, but soon learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams.

Cummings, Priscilla. **The Red Kayak**. Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, thirteen-year-old Brady and his best friends, J.T. and Digger, become entangled in a tragedy that tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong. (Or any Young Adult book by Priscilla Cummings)

Dee, Barbara. **Violets are Blue**. Twelve-year-old Renada (Wren) is going through some difficult changes. In a few short months, her parents have divorced, her father has remarried, and Wren has gone through a major move with her mother. On the positive side, she likes her new stepmother, who is pregnant with twins, and quickly makes a friend at her new school. She also follows a YouTuber who specializes in special effects make-up, and working with make-up helps her cope with life. Wren's friend Poppy convinces her to do makeup for the school musical, and Wren is surprised to find herself enjoying the challenge. On the negative side, Wren's mother is behaving erratically, taking long naps on the sofa, missing work, and keeping things locked away in her room. Wren tackles these challenges, along with her own insecurities, with a believable maturity.

Draper, Sharon M. **Blended**. - Piano-prodigy Isabella, eleven, whose black father and white mother struggle to share custody, never feels whole, especially as racial tensions affect her school, her parents both become engaged, and she and her stepbrother are stopped by police. (Or any Young Adult book by Sharon Draper)

Draper, Sharon M. **Out of my Heart** - Melody, whose story began in *Out of My Mind (2010)*, is now a middle-grader. She lives with the effects of cerebral palsy, communicates via a Medi-Talker, and is at the stage in life when she's driven to try new things. With summer on the horizon, she searches out and applies for admission to a camp designed to give kids with disabilities the sleepaway experience.

Fipps, Lisa. **Starfish**. Ellie is a middle school girl who is bullied every day for her weight. Whether it comes from classmates, siblings, or even her mother, Ellie is constantly bombarded with comments about her size. Luckily, her friends help keep her head up most of the time. When her best friend Viv moves away, a new friend, Catalina, fits right into her place. Ellie's dad is also an ally; he stands up to Ellie's mom and decides to take Ellie to a therapist. With the help of Dr. Wood, Ellie learns how to feel comfortable in her own skin.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. **Blackbird Fly**. - Bullied at school, eighth-grader Apple, a Filipino American who loves the music of the Beatles, decides to change her life by learning how to play the guitar.

Kim, Michelle. **Running Through Sprinklers**. - Sara and Nadine have been like two halves of the same person, but when Nadine skips a grade and begins high school first, Sara must discover who she is without Nadine.

Mahoney, Kristin **The 47 People You'll Meet in Middle School**. Middle school is a strange time, and Augusta (or Gus) isn't sure how to handle it all. Her parents are getting divorced, her best friend is going to a different school, a group of mean girls is teasing her, and she's not sure who would make a good new friend. Through chapters conceptualized as a list of letters to a younger sister, Gus tells about all the people she's met in school, chronicling her journey of awkward moments, new friendships, emotional turmoil, and that middle-grade feeling of wondering what others think of you and not being sure who you are.

Messner, Kate. **Breakout** - From multiple perspectives, tells of a time capsule project and the middle schoolers who contribute, including future journalist Nora Tucker and newcomer Elidee Jones, whose brother is in the local prison.

Parks, Amy, Noelle. **Summer of Brave**. Lilla and her friends Vivi and Knox make a fun Summer Wish every year. This year, however, Vivi's wish for the summer is for Knox and Lilla to be brave. More specifically, she wishes that Lilla would tell the truth, even when it makes people unhappy. Lilla has been hiding her true feelings for too long now, and the thought of opening up to her parents about her reactions to their divorce and living arrangement, their dreams for her in high school, and even to her own best friends is scary. This summer between seventh and eighth grade is a big turning point for her, though, and she needs to make her needs known before others make decisions for her that will make her unhappy.

Saeed, Aisha. **Amal Unbound** - In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg. **Counting by 7s**. - Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident.

Woodson, Jacqueline. **Harbor Me**. - When six students are chosen to participate in a weekly talk with no adults allowed, they discover that when they're together, it's safe to share the hopes and fears they must hide from the rest of the world. (Or any Young Adult book by Jacqueline Woodson)

Supernatural/Horror

Auxier, Jonathan. **The Night Gardener**. Irish orphans Molly, fourteen, and Kip, ten, travel to England to work as servants in a crumbling manor house where nothing is quite what it seems to be, and soon the siblings are confronted by a mysterious stranger and secrets of the cursed house.

Cooper, Rose. **I Text Dead People**. As if living in a creepy house on cemetery grounds weren't horrible enough, Annabelle accidentally becomes a guide that bridges the gap between the living and the dead with her cell phone, which means she is pestered by the deceased 24/7. And until she helps them with their absurd unresolved issues and ridiculous requests, no one will be able to rest in peace.

Hahn, Mary Downing. **One for Sorrow: A Ghost Story**. When the unlikeable Elsie dies in the influenza pandemic of 1918, she comes back to haunt Annie to make sure she'll be Annie's best--and only--friend soon. (Or any Young Adult book by Mary Downing Hahn)

Legrand, Claire. ***The Cavendish Home for Boys and Girls***. Practically perfect twelve-year-old Victoria Wright must lie, sneak, and break the rules when her investigation of the disappearance of her best--and only--friend, Lawrence, reveals dark secrets about her town and the orphanage run by the reclusive Mrs. Cavendish.

Stroud, Jonathan. ***The Screaming Staircase***. Follows three young operatives of a psychic detection agency as they battle an epidemic of ghosts in London.

Nonfiction - Biographies

Any biography for Young Adults. Please choose someone that is ***new to you***, that you are interested in, and who has contributed to society in a meaningful way. ***Some Examples:***

Acevedo, Sylvia. ***Path to the Stars: My Journey from Girl Scout to Rocket Scientist***. The inspiring memoir for young readers about a Latina rocket scientist whose early life was transformed by joining the Girl Scouts and who currently serves as CEO of the Girl Scouts of the USA.

Beals, Melba Pattillo. ***March Forward, Girl: From Young Warrior to Little Rock Nine***. A member of the Little Rock Nine shares her memories of growing up in the South under Jim Crow.

Thimmesh, Catherine. ***Girls Solve Everything: Stories of Women Entrepreneurs Building a Better World***. Women all over the globe are asking questions that affect lives and creating businesses that answer them. Like, can we keep premature babies warm when they're born far from the hospital? Or can the elderly stay in their homes and eat a balanced diet? Women are taking on and solving these issues with their ingenuity and business acumen.

Voiklis Charlotte Jones and Lena Roy. ***Becoming Madeleine: A Biography of the author of A Wrinkle in Time by her Granddaughters***. Charlotte Jones Voiklis and Léna Roy chronicle the life and career of their grandmother, author Madeleine L'Engle.

(All synopses are from the Follett Destiny Library catalog, or Titlewave)