

Dear Students,

Shelton Intermediate School has developed a summer reading program that will support you in keeping your reading skills sharp this summer. The assignment you complete is graded when you return to school in August. We hope that you use this reading program as an opportunity to keep up the habit of daily reading.

The most important part of the summer reading program is to **READ**. Read novels, nonfiction, biographies, poetry, short stories, or plays, anything that interests you! Shelton Intermediate School participates in the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge, and a list of suggested books is provided. You can also find great book recommendations from friends and family.

The first part of the program is to read one fiction or nonfiction book of your choice. While only one is required, you can read more to count towards the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge, and be eligible for the SIS summer reading reward, listed below. Record the **book titles** you read on the Shelton Public Schools Summer Reading Bookmark\*, and keep track of the **number of books** you read. (\*The bookmark will be in your LA teacher's Google Classroom.)

The second part of the of program is to complete **one** of the following assignments:

- ★ Complete a one pager. This is a detailed one page artistic representation of the major themes and ideas of the reading. Template and directions are included.
- ★ Complete 4 responses on the provided template. You can write about connections, an interesting part, a big idea, questions, agreeing/disagreeing, or new learning. Responses need to be supported by specific details from the text, and at least 4-5 sentences in length.

This assignment will be due no later than **Friday, September 1, 2023**.

Language Arts teachers will grade this assignment for the first marking period.

Students who read **5** or more YOUNG ADULT (YA) books **will take part in a celebration in September with a sweet treat!** On behalf of the Language Arts Department, let me wish you a happy and safe summer!

Sincerely,  
Alison Rahn  
SIS Reading Consultant



COMPLETE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ASSIGNMENTS ON THE PROVIDED TEMPLATES:

## ONE PAGER DIRECTIONS

A one pager is a way to visually share key ideas and information from what you have learned. When you create a one pager, you are trying to use both visual symbols and important words to clearly and concisely share your most important takeaways with someone else.

For this one pager, a template has been provided to you.

Here's what the one pager **MUST INCLUDE**:

- Book title and author
- 4-5 sentence summary of content that focuses on key characters from the text and how they develop, change, and interact.
- 2 important quotations (with explanation of why they are important)
- 1 sentence describing the author's purpose
- pictures/drawings that visually symbolize the content of the text
- You may also add other symbols, drawings, and words that represent the reading as you wish.

## FOUR RESPONSES DIRECTIONS

As you read, select a response symbol from the chart below. Using 4-5 well-written sentences, explain what is happening in the text which caused you to respond with your selected symbol. **Complete this activity using a single book.** Use the provided template.

Here's what the four responses **MUST INCLUDE**:

Response Symbols	
<b>C</b> – Connection	<b>?</b> – Question
<b>!</b> – Interesting	<b>✓</b> – Agree
<b>Ⓢ</b> – Surprising	<b>✗</b> – Disagree
<b>★</b> – Big idea	<b>💡</b> – New learning

- Book title and author
- 4 well-written responses each 4-5 sentences in length
- Explanations of what is happening in the text which caused you to respond with your selected symbol

## SHELTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2023



Write down the titles of all the books you read this summer. Return this signed bookmark and your assignment to your Language Arts teacher by:  
**Friday, September 1, 2023.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
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11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_
15. \_\_\_\_\_

16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
Student Name:
Parent Signature:



### Reading is Thinking!

I have a question.	?
I can connect to my life, a text, or the world.	C
I thought this was an important part.	★
I learned something new.	💡
I found an interesting part.	!
I found a surprising part.	Ⓢ
I agree with this part of the book.	✓
I disagree with this part of the book.	✗

Name:

# One Pager


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Four Responses

★ - Big idea   ? - Question   ✓ - Agree   C - Connection   ! - Interesting   © - Surprising

Symbol (select one)

Page

Symbol (select one)

Page

1

2

Book Title:

Author:

Symbol (select one)

Page

Symbol (select one)

Page

3

4

★ - Big idea   ? - Question   ✓ - Agree   C - Connection   ! - Interesting   © - Surprising   Response Symbols   ✗ - Disagree   🧐 - New learning

C - Connection

! - Interesting

© - Surprising

★ - Big idea



# The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge

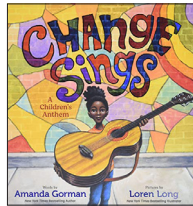
## Reading List

The following books have been compiled from leading recommended reading lists including iRead, 2023 Nominated Nutmeg Books, and 2023 Charter Oak Books. The content in these books and the books themselves should not be construed as an endorsement by the Connecticut State Department of Education or the State of Connecticut.

To learn more, ask your teacher, principal, school library media specialist, or public librarian.

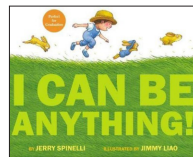


### Preschool



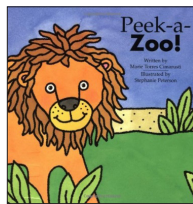
***Change Sings: A Children's Anthem*** by Amanda Gorman

In this stirring, much-anticipated picture book by presidential inaugural poet and activist Amanda Gorman, anything is possible when our voices join together. As a young girl leads a cast of characters on a musical journey, they learn that they have the power to make changes—big or small—in the world, in their communities, and in most importantly, in themselves.



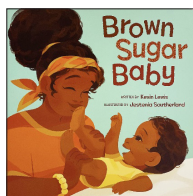
***I Can Be Anything!*** By Jerry Spinelli

This exuberant book offers up everything from a paper plane folder to a puppy dog holder, from a silly joke teller to a snowball smoother.



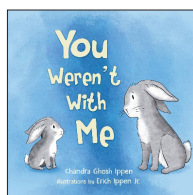
***Peek-a-Zoo!*** By Marie Torres Cimarusti

Little ones love to play peek-a-boo. With its oversize flaps and bright, bold illustrations, this follow-up to the highly successful Peek-a-Moo! is sure to be another hit with young readers. On every page, kids play peek-a-boo with a different animal found at the zoo, guessing what it is, then lifting the flap to find out. Each animal has a different sound that becomes part of the peek-a-boo game: Guess who? "Peek-a-roar!" says the lion. "Peek-a-ooo-ooo-ooo!" says the chimpanzee. The sweet, funny animals will keep kids laughing, while the large trim size and sturdy binding will ensure many hours of lift-the-flap fun!



***Brown Sugar Baby*** by Charlotte Watson Sherman

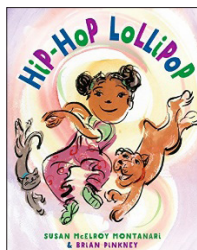
This lyrical first book in the Brown Sugar Baby series is a celebration of the powerful love and protective, comforting instincts of a mother for her child. Its soothing rhythm and tender rhymes are highlighted by whimsical and charming illustrations that are perfect for storytime.



***You Weren't with Me*** by Chandra Ghosh Ippen

Little Rabbit and Big Rabbit are together after a difficult separation, but even though they missed each other, Little Rabbit is not ready to cuddle up and receive Big Rabbit's love. Little Rabbit needs Big Rabbit to understand what it felt like when they were apart. The first book "Once I Was Very Very Scared," was designed to help grown-ups understand and talk to children about stressful events they may have experienced.

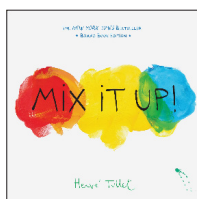




## **Hip-Hop Lollipop**

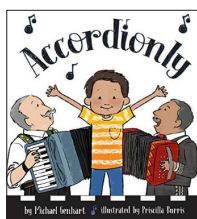
by Susan McElroy Montanari

Watch as Lollipop grooves her way through her bedtime routine, brushing her teeth to the beat and shimmying into pjs. She sways along with her sister, her parents, and even some enthusiastic pets until, finally, Lollie closes her eyes and dances through her dreams. Susan Montanari and Caldecott Honor winner Brian Pinkney offer a playful bedtime read-aloud that perfectly captures the joy of music, movement, and family.



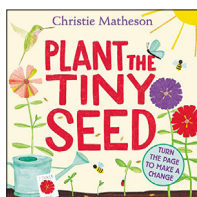
## **Mix It Up!** by Hervé Tullet

With the graphic intensity of Eric Carle, the interactive fun of Poke-a-Dot books, and the humor of The Day the Crayons Quit but with a vision all his own, Hervé Tullet invites readers to MIX IT UP in a dazzling adventure of color and tones, filled with magic and wonder. Follow the artist's simple instructions, and suddenly colors appear... mix... splatter... and vanish in a vivid world powered only by the reader's imagination. The result is not only enchantment and giggles, but a real and deeper understanding of colors brought by a true master of his craft.



## **Accordionly: Abuelo and Opa Make Music** by Michael Genhart

When both grandpas, Abuelo and Opa, visit at the same time, they can't understand each other's language and there is a lot of silence. The grandson's clever thinking helps find a way for everyone to share the day together as two cultures become one family. This unique book includes a bonus fold-out and a note from the author sharing the true story of his own family.

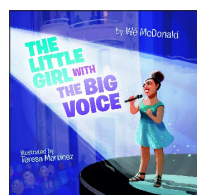


## **Plant the Tiny Seed**

by Christie Matheson

How do you make a garden grow? In this playful companion to the popular Tap the Magic Tree and Touch the Brightest Star, you will see how tiny seeds bloom into beautiful

flowers. And by tapping, clapping, waving, and more, young readers can join in the action! Christie Matheson masterfully combines the wonder of the natural world with the interactivity of reading.



## **The Little Girl with the Big Voice** by Kristen Balouch

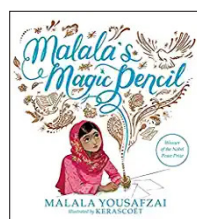
In this vibrantly illustrated picture book, one loud little girl looks for a friend to play with. She searches the jungle high and low for a pal but her BIG voice scares all the animals away! One by one, an elephant, a snake and a croc quickly retreat away from her booming vocals, until at last she finds the perfect playmate-whose "roar" is even louder than hers!

## Elementary: K-1



## **Sweetest Kulu** by Celina Kalluk

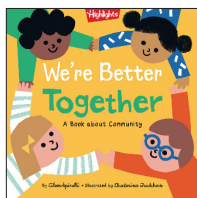
This beautiful bedtime poem, written by acclaimed Inuit throat singer Celina Kalluk, describes the gifts given to a newborn baby by all the animals of the Arctic. Lyrically and tenderly told by a mother speaking to her own little Kulu; an Inuktitut term of endearment often bestowed upon babies and young children, this visually stunning book is infused with the traditional Inuit values of love and respect for the land and its animal inhabitants.



## **Malala's Magic Pencil**

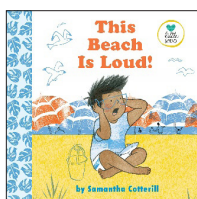
by Malala Yousafzai

Malala's first picture book will inspire young readers everywhere to find the magic all around them. As a child in Pakistan, Malala made a wish for a magic pencil. She would use it to make everyone happy, to erase the smell of garbage from her city, to sleep an extra hour in the morning. But as she grew older, Malala saw that there were more important things to wish for. She saw a world that needed fixing. And even if she never found a magic pencil, Malala realized that she could still work hard every day to make her wishes come true.



***We're Better Together: A Book About Community* by Eileen Spinelli**

Through vibrant illustrations and age-appropriate language, this 26-page storybook helps children learn that they, no matter how young, can make a difference in the world. *We're Better Together* instills in kids the value of compassion, teamwork and community, encouraging them to feel confident in their abilities and their voices.



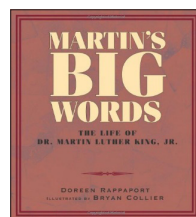
***This Beach Is Loud!* by Samantha Cotterill**

Patience, understanding, and a soothing exercise saves the beach day when excitement turns to sensory overload for this child on the Autism Spectrum. A perfect book for any child with sensory sensitivities. Going to the beach is exciting. But it can also be busy. And loud. Sand can feel hot or itchy or sticky...and it gets everywhere! In *This Beach Is Loud!*, a sensitive boy gets overwhelmed by all the sights, sounds, and sensations at the beach. Luckily, this kiddo's dad has a trick up his sleeve to help his son face these unexpected obstacles.



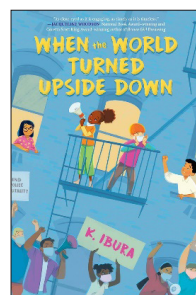
***The Barnabus Project* by Terry Fan, Eric Fan, and Devin Fan**

In a world built for Perfect Pets, Barnabus is a Failed Project, half mouse, half elephant, kept out of sight until his dreams of freedom lead him and his misfit friends on a perilous adventure. A stunning picture book from international bestsellers The Fan Brothers, joined by their brother Devin Fan.



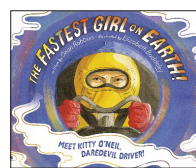
***Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* by Doreen Rappaport**

Martin Luther King, Jr., was one of the most influential and gifted speakers of all time. Doreen Rappaport uses quotes from some of his most beloved speeches to tell the story of his life and his work in a simple, direct way. Bryan Collier's stunning collage art combines remarkable watercolor paintings with vibrant patterns and textures. A timeline and a list of additional books and web sites help make this a standout biography of Dr. King.



***When the World Turned Upside Down* by K. Ibura**

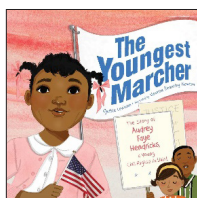
What do you do when the world shuts down? A heartwarming story of friendship and overcoming adversity in a time of COVID, *When the World Turns Upside Down* is about community, giving back, and understanding the world around us through the power of generosity from debut middle grade author K. Ibura.



***The Fastest Girl on Earth!: Meet Kitty O'Neil, Daredevil Driver!* by Dean Robbins, art by Elizabeth Baddeley**

Meet athlete, stuntwoman, and deaf person Kitty O'Neil, who has a serious need for speed! Kitty has already broken speed records in water skiing and boat racing; can she do it in her rocket-powered car, too?

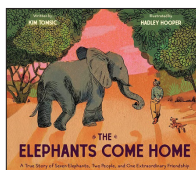
## Elementary: 2-3



***The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, A Young Civil Rights Activist* by Cynthia Levinson**

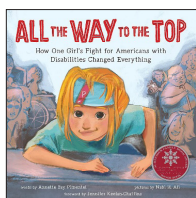
Nine-year-old Audrey Faye Hendricks intended to go places and do things





***The Elephants Come Home: A True Story of Seven Elephants, Two People, and One Extraordinary Friendship*** by Kim Tomsic, art by Hadley Hooper

Did you know that elephants are one of the smartest animals on Earth? You will read about how they learn to trust again and how their friendship with humans.



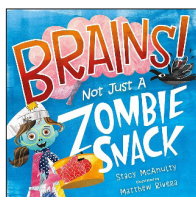
***All the Way to the Top: How One Girl's Fight for Americans With Disabilities Changed Everything*** by Annette Bay Pimentel, art by Nabi H. Ali

Kids just like you can change the world! Meet a girl named Jennifer who had to fight for the right to go to school. What a difference she made when she was just 8 years old!



***Ablaze With Color: A Story of Painter Alma Thomas*** by Jeanne Walker Harvey, art by Loveis Wise

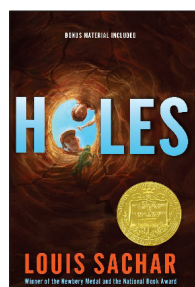
Alma Thomas, an artist and teacher, "set the world ablaze with color." Her colorful abstract paintings were inspired by nature and space travel. This beautiful biography shares the story of how Alma Thomas grew up in the south and became the first African American woman to have her artwork displayed in the White House!



***Brains! Not Just a Zombie Snack*** by Stacy McAnulty and Matthew Rivera

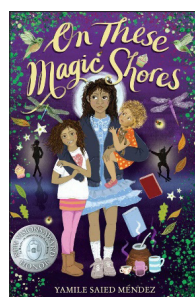
Brains. 78% water, 100% delicious. A zombie chef who has sworn off eating brains salivates over this super powerful organ in this funny and fact-filled picture book. From learning about how the brain processes messages from our five senses, to learning why wrinkly human brains are so much more powerful than smooth mouse brains, this is a hilarious introduction to the organ that does it all. Rich with kid-friendly facts and beautifully brought to life by Matthew Rivera, this is a charming and irresistible picture book.

## Elementary: 4-5



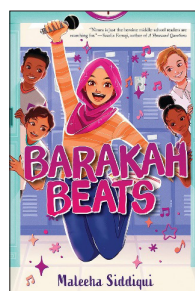
***Holes*** by Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnatses. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. There is no lake at Camp Green Lake. But there are an awful lot of holes.



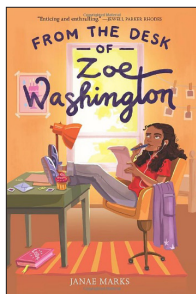
***On These Magic Shores*** by Yamile Saied Méndez

Minerva Soledad Miranda is determined to reach her goals, despite shouldering more responsibility than the other kids at school—like caring for her two sisters while her mom works two jobs. But one night, Minerva's mom doesn't come home, and Minerva has to figure out what to do. Was Mamá snapped up by immigration enforcement? Will the girls be sent to foster homes or holding centers for migrant kids? Minerva and her sisters can't let anyone know Mamá has disappeared. They'll just pretend everything is normal until she comes back.



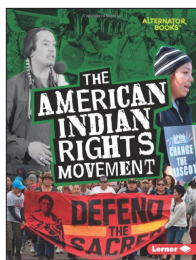
***Barakah Beats*** by Maleeha Siddiqui

Minerva Soledad Miranda is determined to reach her goals, despite shouldering more responsibility than the other kids at school—like caring for her two sisters while her mom works two jobs. But one night, Minerva's mom doesn't come home, and Minerva has to figure out what to do. Was Mamá snapped up by immigration enforcement? Will the girls be sent to foster homes or holding centers for migrant kids? Minerva and her sisters can't let anyone know Mamá has disappeared. They'll just pretend everything is normal until she comes back.



**From the Desk of Zoe Washington**  
by Janae Marks

Zoe Washington isn't sure what to write. What does a girl say to the father she's never met, hadn't heard from until his letter arrived on her twelfth birthday, and who's been in prison for a terrible crime? A crime he says he never committed. Could Marcus really be innocent? Zoe is determined to uncover the truth. Even if it means hiding his letters and her investigation from the rest of her family. Everyone else thinks Zoe's worrying about doing a good job at her bakery internship and proving to her parents that she's worthy of auditioning for Food Network's Kids Bake Challenge.



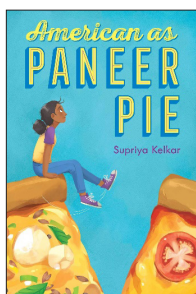
**The American Indian Rights Movement**  
by Eric Braun

Find out about how important players like Sacheen Littlefeather and Russell Means paved the way for current activists and discover how activists are still fighting for better living conditions and environmental justice today.



**Get a Grip, Vivy Cohen!**  
by Sarah Kapit

Vivy Cohen has perfected her knuckle ball. Now, she must convince her overprotective mother to let her join a real team. Told through a series of letters and emails between Vivy and all-star VJ Capello; will Vivy be able to prove once and for all what an amazing pitcher she is?



**American as Paneer Pie**  
by Supriya Kelkar

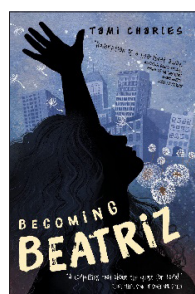
Lehka, a Desi girl, gets bullied a lot at school. She finds herself feeling alone and doesn't know how to do anything about it. But then, another Desi girl comes to town and shows Lehka how to stand up for herself!



**The Accidental Apprentice**  
by Amanda Foody

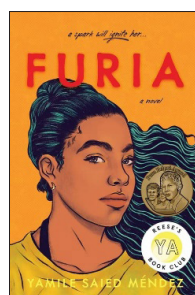
Barclay is an apprentice to a local mushroom farmer. One of the rules in his town is to NEVER go in the woods. One day though, while searching for a mushroom, he becomes an apprentice to something even bigger than he thought, which alters his whole identity, and life itself.

## Middle School



**Becoming Beatriz** by Tami Charles

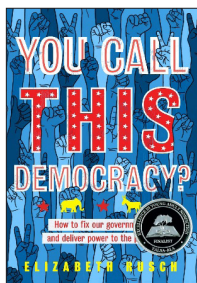
Up until her fifteenth birthday, the most important thing in the world to Beatriz Mendez was her dream of becoming a professional dancer and getting herself and her family far from the gang life that defined their days—that and meeting her dance idol Debbie Allen on the set of her favorite TV show, *Fame*. But after the latest battle in a constant turf war leaves her brother, Junito, dead and her mother grieving, Beatriz has a new set of priorities. How is she supposed to feel the rhythm when her brother's gang needs running, when her mami can't brush her own teeth, and when the last thing she can remember of her old self is dancing with her brother, followed by running and gunshots? When the class brainiac reminds Beatriz of her love of the dance floor, her banished dreams sneak back in. Now the only question is: will the gang let her go?



**Furia** by Yamile Saied Méndez

At home, she is a careful daughter, living within her mother's narrow expectations, in her rising-soccer-star brother's shadow, and under the abusive rule of her short-tempered father. On the field, she is La Furia, a powerhouse of skill and talent. When her team qualifies for the South American tournament, Camila gets the chance to see just how far those talents can take her. In her wildest dreams, she'd get an athletic scholarship to a North American university.

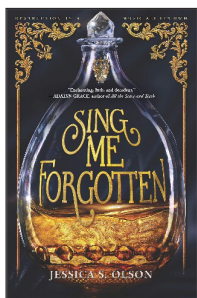




## ***You Call This Democracy?***

by Elizabeth Rusch

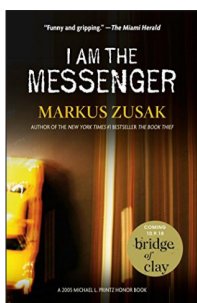
The power to change lies with the citizens of this great country—especially teens! Rather than pointing fingers at people and political parties, *You Call This Democracy?* looks at flaws in the system—and offers a real way out of the mess we are in. Each chapter breaks down a different problem plaguing American democracy, exploring how it's undemocratic, offering possible solutions (with examples of real-life teens who have already started working toward them), and suggesting ways to effect change—starting NOW!



## ***Sing Me Forgotten***

by Jessica S. Olson

Cast into a well at birth for being one of the magical few who can manipulate memories when people sing, she was saved by Cyril, the opera house's owner. Since that day, he has given her sanctuary from the murderous world outside. All he asks in return is that she use her power to keep ticket sales high—and that she stay out of sight. For if anyone discovers she survived, Isda and Cyril would pay with their lives.

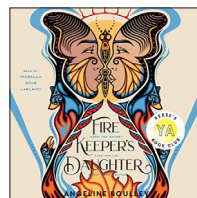


## ***I Am the Messenger***

by Markus Zusak

Ed Kennedy is an underage cabdriver without much of a future. He's pathetic at playing cards, hopelessly in love with his best friend, Audrey, and utterly devoted to his coffee-drinking dog, the Doorman. His life is one of peaceful routine and incompetence until he inadvertently stops a bank robbery.

That's when the first ace arrives in the mail. That's when Ed becomes the messenger. Chosen to care, he makes his way through town helping and hurting (when necessary) until only one question remains: Who's behind Ed's mission?



## ***Fire Keeper's Daughter***

by Angeline Boulley

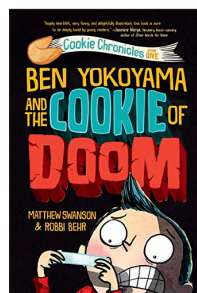
Eighteen-year-old Daunis Fontaine has never quite fit in, both in her hometown and on the nearby Ojibwe reservation. She dreams of a fresh start at college, but when family tragedy strikes, Daunis puts her future on hold to look after her fragile mother. The only bright spot is meeting Jamie, the charming new recruit on her brother Levi's hockey team. Yet even as Daunis falls for Jamie, she senses the dashing hockey star is hiding something. Everything comes to light when Daunis witnesses a shocking murder, thrusting her into an FBI investigation of a lethal new drug.



## ***The Wondrous Workings of Planet Earth: Understanding Our World and Its Ecosystems***

by Rachel Ignotofsky

Making earth science accessible and entertaining through art, maps, and infographics, *The Wondrous Workings of Planet Earth* explains how our planet works—and how we can protect it—from its diverse ecosystems and their inhabitants, to the levels of ecology, the importance of biodiversity, the cycles of nature, and more. Science- and nature-loving readers of all ages will delight in this utterly charming guide to our amazing home.



## ***Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Doom***

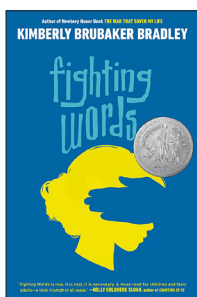
After ordering Chinese food for the first time, eight-year-old, noodle-loving Ben Yokoyama receives an intriguing fortune cookie message. Can Ben and best friend Janet fulfill his fortune while avoiding his love of mischief?



## **Playing the Cards You're Dealt**

by Varian Johnson

Ten-year-old Anthony ("Ant") Joplin is navigating fifth grade, girls, best friends, and the family tradition of competing in the annual Spades Tournament. If that isn't enough, secrets threaten to tear it all apart in this hopeful look at legacies.



## **Fighting Words**

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Della and her older sister Suki are inseparable. Ever since their mother went to jail and her boyfriend took them, Suki has taken care of and protected Della. When the girls are sent to live in foster care things start to improve. But an incident involving Suki makes Della realize how much her big sister has shouldered. To get the help they need, Della must learn to speak up.

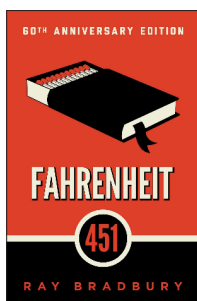


## **Other Words for Home**

by Jasmine Warga

Jude leaves behind her brother and father to travel to the United States with her mother for refuge. Trying to bridge the differences between her Syrian life and her new home in Cincinnati, Jude searches for an identity that fits all of her.

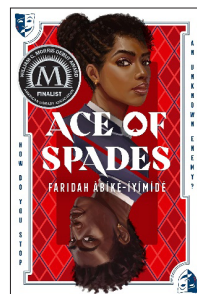
## High School



## **Fahrenheit 451**

by Ray Bradbury

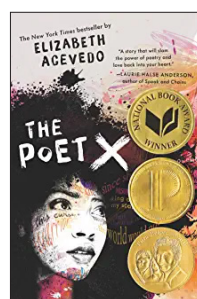
Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television "family." But when he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn't live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books



## **Ace of Spades**

by Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé

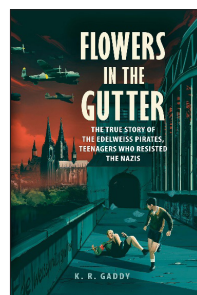
When two Niveus Private Academy students, Devon Richards and Chiamaka Adebayo, are selected to be part of the elite school's senior class prefects, it looks like their year is off to an amazing start. After all, not only does it look great on college applications, but it officially puts each of them in the running for valedictorian, too. Shortly after the announcement is made, though, someone who goes by Aces begins using anonymous text messages to reveal secrets about the two of them that turn their lives upside down and threaten every aspect of their carefully planned futures.



## **The Poet X**

by Elizabeth Acevedo

Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers—especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman, who her family can never know about.



## **Flowers in the Gutter: The True Story of the Edelweiss Pirates, Teenagers Who Resisted the Nazis**

by K. R. Gaddy

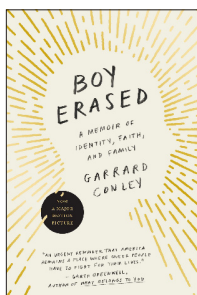
Fritz, Gertrud, and Jean were classic outsiders: their clothes were different, their music was rebellious, and they weren't afraid to fight. But they were also Germans living under Hitler, and any nonconformity could get them arrested or worse. As children in 1933, they saw their world change. Their earliest memories were of the Nazi rise to power and of

their parents fighting Brownshirts in the streets, being sent to prison, or just disappearing. The Gestapo pursued and arrested hundreds of Edelweiss Pirates. In World War II's desperate final year, some Pirates joined in sabotage and armed resistance, risking the Third Reich's ultimate punishment. This is their story.



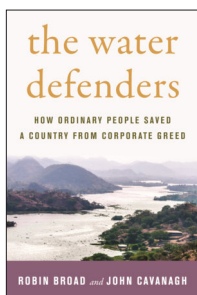
**No Planet B: A Teen Vogue Guide to the Climate Crisis** by Lucy Diavolo

An urgent call for climate justice from Teen Vogue, one of this generation's leading voices, using an intersectional lens — with critical feminist, indigenous, antiracist and internationalist perspectives. As the political classes watch our world burn, a new movement of young people is rising to meet the challenge of climate catastrophe. This book is a guide, a toolkit, a warning and a cause for hope.



**Boy Erased** by Garrard Conley

The son of a Baptist pastor and deeply embedded in church life in small town Arkansas, as a young man Garrard Conley was terrified and conflicted about his sexuality. When Garrard was a nineteen-year-old college student, he was outed to his parents, and was forced to make a life-changing decision: either agree to attend a church-supported conversion therapy program that promised to "cure" him of homosexuality; or risk losing family, friends, and the God he had prayed to every day of his life.



**The Water Defenders: How Ordinary People Saved a Country from Corporate Greed** by Robin Broad and John Cavanagh

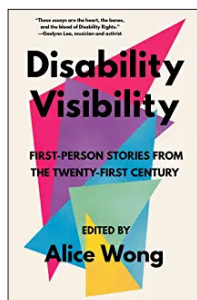
The David and Goliath story of ordinary people in El Salvador who rallied together with international allies to prevent a global mining corporation from poisoning the country's main water source. At a time when countless communities are resisting powerful corporations—from Flint, Michigan, to the Standing Rock Reservation, to

Didipio in the Philippines, to the Gualcarque River in Honduras—The Water Defenders tells the inspirational story of a community that took on an international mining corporation at seemingly insurmountable odds and won not one but two historic victories.



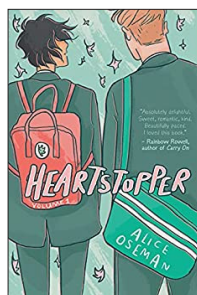
**The Rise of Kyoshi** by F. C. Yee

F. C. Yee's The Rise of Kyoshi delves into the story of Kyoshi, the Earth Kingdom-born Avatar. The longest-living Avatar in this beloved world's history, Kyoshi established the brave and respected Kyoshi Warriors, but also founded the secretive Dai Li, which led to the corruption, decline, and fall of her own nation. The first of two novels based on Kyoshi, The Rise of Kyoshi maps her journey from a girl of humble origins to the merciless pursuer of justice who is still feared and admired centuries after she became the Avatar.



**Disability Visibility (Adapted for Young Adults): 17 First-Person Stories for Today** by Alice Wong

One in five people in the United States lives with a disability. Some disabilities are visible, others less apparent—but all are underrepresented in media and popular culture. Activist Alice Wong brings together this urgent, galvanizing collection of contemporary essays by disabled people, just in time for the thirtieth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.



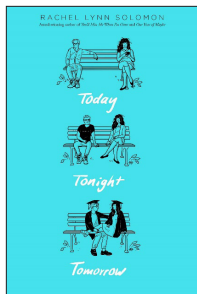
**Heartstopper** by Alice Oseman

When teens Charlie Spring and Nick Nelson are forced to sit together in school, they are both happily surprised at the start of an easy friendship. Charlie is sort of high-strung and anxious after being outed as gay last year, and Nick is a very friendly, outgoing member of the school rugby team. When Charlie starts to fall hard for Nick, he thinks he's hopelessly crushing on his straight friend — but love can be surprising, and maybe it's not as hopeless as it seems?





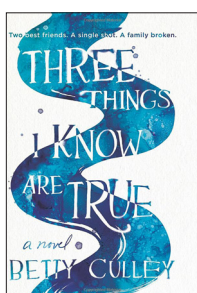
## Connecticut Reads 2023: The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge



### **Today, Tonight, Tomorrow**

by Rachel Lynn Solomon

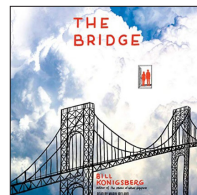
Rowan Roth and Neil McNair have been bitter rivals for all of high school. They have one last chance to best each other in Howl, a senior class game on the last night of high school. After being targeted by other students they reluctantly join forces, at least until they are the last two players standing.



### **Three Things I Know Are True**

by Betty Culley

Liv's brother Jonah accidentally shot himself with his best friend's father's gun. Now, his 24/7 medical needs and an ugly lawsuit threaten to dominate their lives. In this haunting novel in verse, Liv must harness the power of forgiveness to forge a new path through the aftermath of tragedy.



### **The Bridge** by Bill Konigsberg

Aaron and Tillie are strangers until they lock eyes as each is about to jump off the George Washington Bridge to their death. Readers will hear four different captivating narratives that explore the impact of mental illness, suicide, and recovery.



### **In the Wild Light** by Jeff Zentner

Would you leave the only place you've ever known and the people who love you to follow a dream? Cash and Delaney take a chance and leave rural Tennessee for an elite prep school in Connecticut where their bond of friendship is more important than ever.

## StoryWalk®

StoryWalk® is an innovative and delightful way to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. Laminated pages from a children's book are attached to wooden stakes, which are installed along an outdoor path. As you stroll down the trail, you're directed to the next page in the story. Take a StoryWalk® at these locations:

### **The Mark Twain Library**

439 Redding Rd., West Redding  
Featured book: *A Pig Parade is a Terrible Idea* by Michael Ian Black

### **New Pond Farm Education Center**

101 Marchant Rd., Redding  
Featured book: *Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCloskey

### **The Redding Historic Parade Path & Gazebo**

100 Hill Rd., Redding,  
Featured book: *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson

### **Putnam Memorial: A Connecticut State Park**

73-79 Putnam Park Rd., Redding  
Featured book: *Chez Bob* by Bob Shea

### **Redding Land Trust McCormack Preserve**

Located at the intersection of Picketts Ridge Rd. and George Hull Hill Rd., Redding

Featured book: *Duck on a Bike* by David Shannon

### **Saugatuck Universal Access Trail**

100-198 Newtown Tpke., Redding  
Featured book: *The Hike* by Alison Farrell

### **Ruby & Elizabeth Cohen Woodlands**

96 McDonald Rd., Colchester  
New books are posted every 4 to 6 weeks

### **StoryWalk® at Macricostas**

121 Christian St., New Preston  
Books are changed seasonally

### **The Brookfield Library's StoryWalk®**

182 Whisconier Rd., Brookfield  
Featured book: *White is the Moon* by Valerie Greeley

### **The Splash Pad at Eisenhower Park**

780 North St., Milford

### **Dinosaur State Park**

400 West St., Rocky Hill

### **CT State Parks StoryWalk® Program coming soon:**

**Goodwin State Forest**  
Hampton

**Hammonasset Beach State Park**  
Madison

**Osbornedale State Park**  
Derby