



**Do you want to star in a commercial about your favorite summer reading book?**

Ask about our exciting Video Booktalk After School Activity!

See Mrs. Phethean or Amy Kaplan (B.M.P.L.) for details.

Go to [www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/](http://www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/) to see the videos!

Prepared by the Todd 5th Grade Teachers.

### Welcome to Fifth Grade!

Attached you will find a list of selections for your summer reading. The list is quite comprehensive, so you will have no difficulty finding a book that appeals to every reading preference and ability level. Some may already be too easy, while others may be best saved for a later time. Please take your time to make an appropriate, enjoyable choice. Keep this list as a resource to help you choose books throughout the school year!

As an incoming fifth grader you are required to:

1. Read at least two books from the attached list
2. Pick books from two different genres
3. Share your readings with a parent
4. Be prepared to discuss orally with your teacher/classmates on the first day of school the following topics:
  - o The best thing that happened in the book is...
  - o What I like best/least about this plot is...
  - o What I liked best/least about one character is...
  - o Would you recommend the book to a friend?

Have a wonderful summer! Enjoy your books!

We look forward to seeing you in September!

The Fifth Grade Team

#### EBOOK INFORMATION:

The APPS Hoopla and Libby (app for Overdrive) are accessible and free to use with your public library card. The icon next to the title shows which APP has that title or series. Amy Kaplan is available throughout the summer at [abgkaplan@wlsmail.org](mailto:abgkaplan@wlsmail.org) with any questions relating to getting a library card or accessing the library APPS.

**Please note that this reading list is organized into the following GENRES:**

Adventure	Humorous Fiction
Biography/Nonfiction	Mystery
Fantasy/Science Fiction	Realistic Fiction
Historical Fiction	



## GENRE: ADVENTURE



**Hero by Mike Lupica 289 pages.**

Fourteen-year-old Zach learns he has the same special abilities as his father, who was the president's globe-trotting troubleshooter until "the Bads" killed him. Now Zach must decide whether to use his powers in the same way at the risk of his own life.



**Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo 164 pages.**

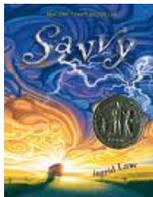
When Michael is swept off his family's yacht, he washes up on a desert island, where he struggles to survive--until he finds he is not alone.



**The Mysterious Benedict Society [Mysterious Benedict Society series] by Trenton Lee Stewart 485 pages.**

**WATCH THE VIDEO BOOK TALK at [briacliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks](http://briacliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks)**

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

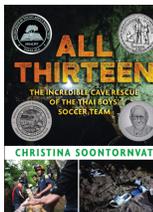


**Savvy by Ingrid Law 352 pages.**

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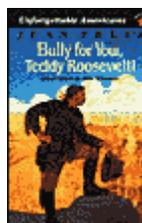
For generations, the Beaumont family has harbored a magical secret. They each possess a savvy—a supernatural power they acquire at 14. On the eve of Mib's big day, she finds herself on an unforgettable odyssey that will force her to make sense of growing up.

## GENRE: BIOGRAPHY/NONFICTION



**All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys Soccer Team by Christina Soontornvat 288 pages.**

On June 23, 2018, twelve young players of the Wild Boars soccer team and their coach enter a cave in northern Thailand seeking an afternoon's adventure. But when they turn to leave, rising floodwaters block their path out. The boys are trapped! ...Combining firsthand interviews of rescue workers with in-depth science and details of the region's culture and religion, [the author]...masterfully shows how both the complex engineering operation above ground and the mental struggles of the thirteen young people below proved critical in the life-or-death mission.



**Bully for You, Teddy Roosevelt! by Jean Fritz 127 pages.**

Follows the life of the dynamic twenty-sixth president, discussing his conservation work, hunting expeditions, family life, and political career.

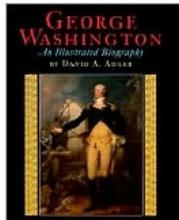


## GENRE: BIOGRAPHY/NONFICTION, cont.



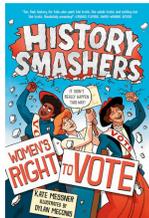
**Exploring the White House: Inside America's Most Famous House by Kate Anderson Brower 230 pages.**

Have you ever wondered what exactly goes on inside 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue? Sure, the president of the United States works and resides there, but do you know who helps keep this historic house running? It's no simple task.



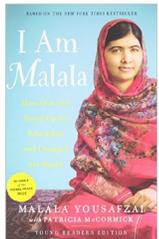
**George Washington by David A. Adler 288 pages.**

Tells the life story of the first American president, George Washington, focusing largely on the Revolutionary War, and includes a chronology, a table of Revolutionary battles, biographies of Washington's generals and cabinet, illustrations, and maps.



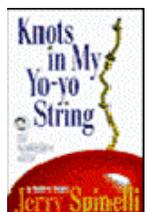
**History Smashers: Women's Right to Vote by Kate Messner 224 pages.**

Myths about the history of women's rights in the U.S.--focusing on the ratification of the 19th Amendment--are debunked; the real deal of what happened is explained.



**I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World [Young Readers Edition] by Malala Yousafzai with Patricia McCormick 239 pages.**

The autobiography of a girl who refused to keep quiet. When the Taliban took over, she spoke up and almost paid the ultimate price.



**Knots in My Yo-yo String: The Autobiography of a Kid by Jerry Spinelli 160 pages.**

This Italian-American Newbery Medalist presents a humorous account of his childhood and youth in Norristown, Pennsylvania.

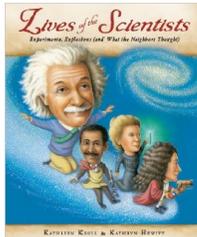


## GENRE: BIOGRAPHY/NONFICTION, cont.



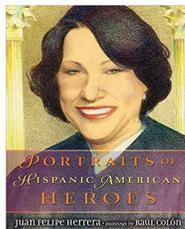
**Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina [Young Readers Edition] by Misty Copeland 192 pages.**

As the first African-American principal dancer at the American Ballet Theatre, Misty Copeland has been breaking down all kinds of barriers in the world of dance. But when she first started dancing--at the late age of thirteen--no one would have guessed the shy, underprivileged girl would one day make history in her field.



**Lives of the Scientists: Experiments, Explosions (and What the Neighbors Thought) by Kathleen Krull 96 pages.**

This collective biography of history's most noteworthy scientists includes many interesting lesser known facts about the way they lived.



**Portraits of Hispanic American Heroes by Juan Felipe Herrera, illustrated by Raúl Colón 96 pages.**

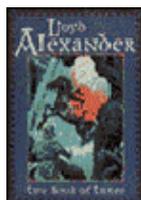
An inspiring tribute to Hispanic Americans who have made a positive impact on the world. This visually stunning book showcases twenty Hispanic and Latino American men and women who have made outstanding contributions to the arts, politics, science, humanitarianism, and athletics.



**Sparky by Beverly Gherman 128 pages.**

A biography of Peanuts creator Charles Schulz, illustrated with photographs and selections from the comic strip.

## GENRE: FANTASY/SCIENCE FICTION



**The Book of Three [Chronicles of Prydain series] by Lloyd Alexander 124 pages.**

Taran, Assistant Pig-Keeper to a famous oracular sow, sets out on a hazardous mission to save Prydain from the forces of evil.



## GENRE: FANTASY/SCIENCE FICTION, cont.



**Cosmic by Frank Cottrell Boyce 320 pages.**

Twelve-year-old Liam, who looks like he is thirty and is tired of being treated like he is older than he actually is, decides he is going to pose as the adult chaperone on the first spaceship to take civilians into space. But when he ends up in outer space with a group of kids and no adult supervision, he must think fast to make things right.



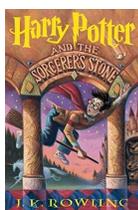
**Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine 238 pages.**

In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.



**Ghost Squad by Claribel A. Ortega 256 pages.**

For Lucely Luna, ghosts are more than just the family business. Shortly before Halloween, Lucely and her best friend, Syd, cast a spell that accidentally awakens malicious spirits, wreaking havoc throughout St. Augustine. Together, they must join forces with Syd's witch grandmother, Babette, and her tubby tabby, Chunk, to fight the haunting head-on and reverse the curse, and to save the town and Lucely's firefly spirits before it's too late.



**Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling 435 pages.**

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Harry Potter is a wizard who attends the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, and discovers it is up to him to save the world, which leads to many exciting adventures with his friends Ron and Hermione.



**The Magician's Nephew [The Chronicles of Narnia series] by C.S. Lewis 202 pages.**

Diggory and Polly try to return the wicked witch Jadis to her own world, but the magic gets mixed up and they all land in Narnia— a mystical world where Aslan has gifted animals with human speech.

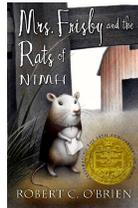


**Molly Moon's Incredible Book of Hypnotism [Molly Moon series] by Georgia Byng 371 pages.**

Author Georgia Byng mesmerizes audiences with an entrancing tale about a down-and-out orphan who hypnotizes her way to big-time adventures.



## GENRE: FANTASY/SCIENCE FICTION, cont.



**Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH by Robert O'Brien 233 pages.**

Having no one to help her with her problems, a widowed mouse visits the rats whose former imprisonment in a laboratory made them wise and long lived.



**Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan [Book 1 is 377 pages.]**

Percy Jackson discovers he is a half-blood: half human and half Greek god. He is the son of Poseidon, and after meeting up with others at Camp Half-Blood he soon finds himself on many adventures and quests to save the world from monsters in this humorous and action-packed fantasy series.



**Rapunzel's Revenge by Shannon Hale 144 pages.**

Rapunzel, having grown up in a lovely castle with the woman she thought was her mother, is placed in a very tall hollow tree as punishment. She is able to escape and, with the help of Jack, embarks on a plan to free the land from the grip of the witch. [graphic novel]



**A Tale Dark and Grimm by Adam Gidwitz 256 pages.**

Follow Hansel and Gretel as they walk out of their own story and into eight more tales, encountering such wicked creatures as witches, along with kindly strangers and other helpful folk. Based in part on the Grimms' fairy tales.



**The Unwanteds [Unwanteds series] by Lisa McMann 400 pages.**

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In a society that purges thirteen-year-olds who are creative, identical twins Aaron and Alex are separated, one to attend University while the other, supposedly Eliminated, finds himself in a wondrous place where youths hone their abilities and learn magic.

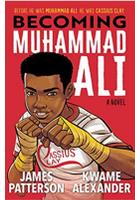


**Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin 288 pages.**

Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish, and then joins a dragon who cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bringing life to Fruitless Mountain and freshness to Jade River.



## GENRE: HISTORICAL FICTION



**Becoming Muhammad Ali: A Novel by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile 320 pages.**

Before he was a household name, Cassius Clay was a kid with struggles like any other. Kwame Alexander and James Patterson join forces to vividly depict his life up to age seventeen in both prose and verse, including his childhood friends, struggles in school, the racism he faced, and his discovery of boxing.



**Call It Courage by Armstrong Sperry 95 pages.**

Relates how Mafatu, a young Polynesian boy whose name means Stout Heart, overcomes his terrible fear of the sea and proves his courage to himself and his people.



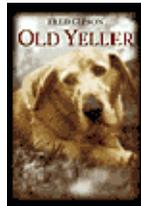
**The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick 533 pages.**

When 12-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his bigger secret are jeopardized.



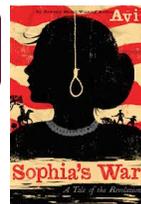
**Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool 351 pages.**

Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up, and where she hopes to find out some things about his past.



**Old Yeller by Fred Gipson 158 pages.**

The stray dog was ugly, and a thieving rascal, too. But he sure was clever, and a smart dog could be a big help on the wild Texas frontier, especially with Papa away on a long cattle drive up to Abilene.



**Sophia's War by Avi 302 pages.**

In 1776, after witnessing the execution of Nathan Hale in New York City, newly occupied by the British army, young Sophia Calderwood resolves to do all she can to help the American cause, including becoming a spy.



## GENRE: HISTORICAL FICTION, cont.



**Turtle in Paradise by Jennifer Holm 208 pages.**

In 1935, when her mother gets a job housekeeping for a woman who does not like children, eleven-year-old Turtle is sent to stay with relatives she has never met in far away Key West, Florida.



**Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman 90 pages.**

A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws.

## GENRE: HUMOROUS FICTION



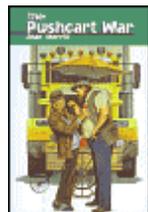
**A Crooked Kind of Perfect by Linda Urban 214 pages.**

Ten-year-old Zoe Elias, who longs to play the piano but must resign herself to learning the organ instead, finds that her musicianship has a positive impact on her workaholic mother, her jittery father, and her school social life.



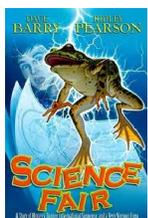
**Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rats by Lynne Jonell 346 pages.**

Hilarious, inventive, and rodent-friendly, this fantastic first novel by acclaimed picture book author Jonell features a lonely girl, a cantankerous talking rat, and a nanny who is doing very, "very" bad things. Includes a fun flip-book feature.



**The Pushcart War by Jean Merrill 222 pages.**

The outbreak of a war between truck drivers and pushcart peddlers brings the mounting problems of traffic to the attention of both the city of New York and the world.



**Science Fair by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson 394 pages.**

The president of Kprshtskan is plotting to infiltrate the science fair at Hubble Middle School in Maryland in order to take over the United States government, but when Toby Harbinger, an ordinary student, makes up his mind finally to win the fair, the terrorists' plans go awry.

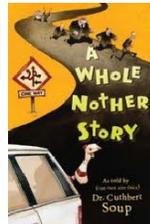


## GENRE: HUMOROUS FICTION, cont.



**Ungifted by Gordon Korman 280 pages.**

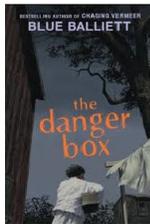
Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at middle school.



**A Whole Nother Story by Chutbert Soup 264 pages.**

Ethan Cheeseman and his children, ages eight, twelve, and fourteen, hope to settle in a nice small town, at least long enough to complete work on a time machine, but spies and government agents have been pursuing them for two years and are about to catch up.

## GENRE: MYSTERY



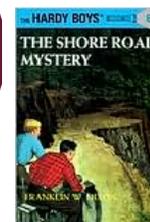
**The Danger Box by Blue Balliett 306 pages.**

In small-town Michigan, twelve-year-old Zoomy and his new friend Lorrol investigate the journal found inside a mysterious box, and find family secrets and more valuable treasure, while a dangerous stranger watches and waits.



**Found [The Missing series] by Margaret Peterson Haddix 314 pages.**

When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel.



**Hardy Boys series by Franklin W. Dixon 178 pages.**

Frank and Joe Hardy solve a different mystery in this classic book series.



## GENRE: MYSTERY, cont.



**The Harlem Charade by Natasha Tarpley 320 pages.**

Seventh-graders Jin, Alexandra, and Elvin come from very different backgrounds and circumstances, but they all live in Harlem, and when Elvin's grandfather is attacked they band together to find out who is responsible--and the search leads them to an enigmatic artist whose missing masterpieces are worth a fortune, and into conflict with an ambitious politician who wants to turn Harlem into an historic amusement park.



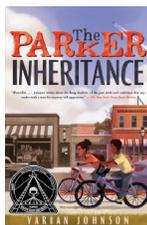
**The Name of This Book Is Secret [Secret series] by Pseudonymous Bosch 384 pages.**  
**WATCH THE VIDEO BOOK TALK at [briacliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks](http://briacliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks)**

This is the story of a secret, and also a secret story. Cass and Max Ernest are two friendless 11-year-olds who come together to solve the mystery surrounding a dead magician and the clues he left behind. Along the way they must solve puzzles and word games and face incredible danger to answer their questions.



**Nancy Drew: The Hidden Staircase [Nancy Drew series] by Carolyn Keene 192 pages.**

In this mystery, Nancy Drew has two mysteries to solve. Not only is her father in danger, but things are mysteriously going missing at an old mansion and everyone thinks it is haunted. They put Nancy Drew, teenage sleuth, on the case...



**The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson 331 pages.**

Candice is spending the summer in the house that belonged to her grandmother, who died after being dismissed as city manager for having the city tennis courts dug up looking for buried treasure. When Candace finds the letter that sent her grandmother digging, with the help of her new friend Brandon, she sets out to exonerate her grandmother and expose injustice committed against an African American family.



**Vanished by Sheela Chari 336 pages.**

Eleven-year-old Neela must solve the mystery when her beautiful, but cursed, veena, a classical Indian musical instrument, goes missing.



## GENRE: REALISTIC FICTION



**Amina's Voice by Hena Khan 384 pages.**

A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while also navigating friendships and trying to blend in at school.



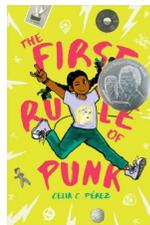
**Be a Perfect Person in Just Three Days by Stephen Manes 76 pages.**

Milo, tired of problems with his sister, parents, and classmates, finds a book in the library which promises to make him perfect in just three days.



**Everything for a Dog by Ann M. Martin 211 pages.**

\*\* Sad story alert. \*\* In parallel stories, Bone, an orphaned dog, finds and loses a series of homes, Molly, a family pet, helps Charlie through the grief and other after-effects.



**The First Rule of Punk by Cecelia C. Pérez 310 pages.**

Twelve-year-old María Luisa O'Neill-Morales (who prefers to be called Malú) reluctantly moves with her Mexican-American mother to Chicago and starts seventh grade with a bang--violating the dress code with her punk rock aesthetic, spurning the middle school's most popular girl, and starting a band.



**Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt 276 pages.**

Ally feels so afraid and incredibly dumb. She's hiding an important fact about herself from everyone — even her family. With the help of her new teacher she overcomes her fears and finds out how amazing she is.



**Force Out by Tim Green 282 pages.**

When Joey has to compete with his best friend, Zach, for a single spot on an elite baseball team, he is forced to decide how far he is willing to go to win.



## GENRE: REALISTIC FICTION, cont.



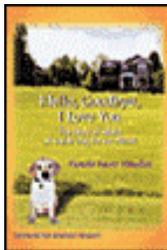
**Front Desk by Kelly Yang 304 pages.**

Recent immigrants from China and desperate for work and money, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California, even though the owner, Mr. Yao is a nasty skinflint who exploits them; while her mother (who was an engineer in China) does the cleaning, Mia works the front desk and tries to cope with demanding customers and other recent immigrants--not to mention being only one of two Chinese in her fifth grade class, the other being Mr. Yao's son, Jason.



**Half a Chance by Cynthia Lord 218 pages.**

Lucy spends the summer taking pictures to enter in a photography contest and making a new friend in the town that she just moved to with her mother and traveling photographer father.



**Hello, Goodbye, I Love You: The Story of Aloha a Guide Dog for the Blind by Pamela Bauer Mueller 160 pages.**

This is the story of seventh-grader Diego, who raises a puppy to become a guide dog for the blind, and of Miss Kimberly Louise, a woman who loses her sight as the result of an automobile accident.



**Merci Suárez Changes Gears by Meg Medina 355 pages.**

6th grader Merci is not like the other kids at her private school in Florida because she is a scholarship student. Bossy Edna, who likes the new boy, is jealous of Merci because she's his assigned Sunshine Buddy. And at home, Merci's grandfather and trusted ally, Lolo, has been acting strangely lately.

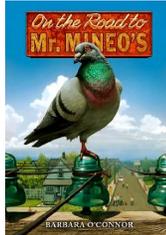


**My Mother Got Married: And Other Disasters by Barbara Park 148 pages.**

Twelve-year-old Charles experiences many difficulties in adjusting to a new stepfather, stepsister, and stepbrother.



## GENRE: REALISTIC FICTION, cont.



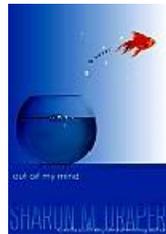
**On the Road to Mr. Mineo's by Barbara O'Connor 181 pages.**

Sherman, a one-legged pigeon, sets everyone aflutter in a small southern town.



**One-Eyed Cat by Paula Fox 216 pages.**

An eleven-year-old boy gains a new understanding of himself and his father after a trip to Florida with unusual people.



**Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper 295 pages.**

A brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy faces people's misunderstandings of her abilities, and discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.



**Rain Reign by Ann M. Martin 226 pages.**

The only thing Rose might love more than homonyms is her dog, and now her beloved dog is lost after a horrific storm.

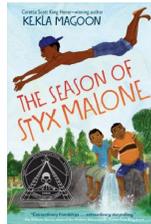


**Raymie Nightingale by Kate DiCamillo 272 pages.**

Raymie plans to win the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition, so her father, who left town two days ago with a dental hygienist, will see Raymie's picture in the paper and come home. Raymie's two new girlfriends have plans for the contest, too, but all the girls discover something much more important.



## GENRE: REALISTIC FICTION, cont.



**The Season of Styx Malone by Kekla Magoon 297 pages.**

Caleb Franklin and his younger brother, Bobby Gene, spend an extraordinary summer with their new, older neighbor, Styx Malone, a foster boy from the city.



**Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor 147 pages.**

When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.



**The View from Saturday by E. L. Konigsburg 163 pages.**

Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.



**Wonder by R.J. Palacio 315 pages.**

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

\*\*\* end of official summer reading list \*\*\*



Go to the next page to find the peer recommended video book talk titles.

**These are NOT a part of the official summer reading list.**

However, students at Todd School enjoyed them and created book talks to recommend them to their peers!



### Peer Recommended Video Booktalk Titles

Please note that these titles below are NOT a part of the Todd School official summer reading list. However, students at Todd School enjoyed them and created video booktalks to recommend them to their peers.



#### Heroes of Olympus: The Blood of Olympus by Rick Riordan

The Greek and Roman demigods must simultaneously prevent the earth mother, Gaea, from waking, and stop war from breaking out at Camp Half-Blood.

#### Keeper of the Lost Cities series by Sharon Messenger - 3 book talks!

At age twelve, Sophie learns that the remarkable abilities that have always caused her to stand out identify her as an elf, and after being brought to Eternalia to hone her skills, discovers that she has secrets buried in her memory for which some would kill.

#### King George What Was His Problem? by Steve Sheinkin

Entire books have been written about the causes of the American Revolution. This isn't one of them. What it is, instead, is utterly interesting anecdotes (John Hancock fixates on salmon)... close-up narratives filled with little-known details, lots of quotes...and action.

It's the story of the birth of our nation, complete with soldiers, spies, salmon sandwiches, and real facts you can't help but want to tell to everyone you know.

#### Spy School by Stuart Gibbs - 2 book talks!

Twelve-year-old Ben Ripley leaves his public middle school to attend the CIA's highly secretive Espionage Academy, which everyone is told is an elite science school.

#### Twenty-Thousand Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne

Originally published in 1870, Verne's amazing undersea adventure is one of the earliest science fiction novels ever written. Since that time, generations of readers have plunged below the ocean's waves with Captain Nemo and his first-ever submarine, The Nautilus. It's a voyage of exploration and the imagination.

#### The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

#### Wings of Fire series by Tui Sutherland - 3 book talks!

A thrilling saga in the worlds of dragons filled with mystery and adventure. This NY Times best selling series was also adapted by the author with art by Mike Holmes into an exciting graphic novel series. Two books from the original series and one of the graphic novels are featured in the book talks.

*\*\*Please note that most of the video book talk title annotations above are from the Westchester Library System catalog*