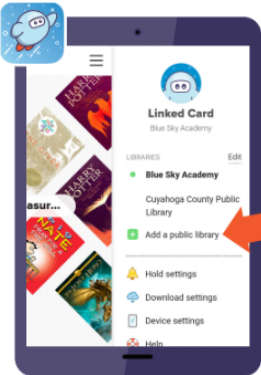


QMS SUMMER READING 2023 - GRADE 8

As we enter the summer months, one of the best ways for students to remain engaged and to increase academic success in the fall is to participate in summer reading. This year we are asking that students read at least two books for summer reading. Students are not expected to complete an assignment during summer vacation, but they are encouraged to take notes on a book so that they can share the book with their peers when we return to school.


While most books are available through online bookstores like Amazon and Barnes and Noble, we are working hard to find ways to keep QMS students reading, regardless of financial constraints. Even if students don't have a library card, they can access eBooks through the Sora App by logging in with their Mansfield Public Schools Google credentials. See the instructions below to begin accessing through Sora.



Here's how to access titles from the library through Sora:

- 1 Install the Sora app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, or go to soraapp.com.
- 2 In Sora, enter your setup code: mansfieldma
- 3 Under your Profile, select **Add a public library** and enter Mansfield Public Library
- 4 When you are ready to borrow a title, sign in with School Google Credentials

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Below you will find some recommended titles for incoming eighth graders. Feel free to choose books from this list or simply use it as a springboard to find other intriguing books. All summaries are taken from Amazon.com unless otherwise noted.

- ❑ ***All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds** In this *New York Times* bestselling novel, two teens—one black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension.
- ❑ ***All-American Girl* by Meg Cabot** “15-year-old Samantha Madison becomes everybody's All-American Girl (HarperCollins, 2002) when she thwarts an attempt on the life of the president. This entry in Meg Cabot's Princess Diaries series focuses on Sam's hopeless crush on her sister's boyfriend, and her growing friendship with the president's son. There's lots of humor as she sorts out her relationships with her popular older sister and brilliant younger sister. There's also changing expectations from classmates who now view Sam as a celebrity. Fortunately, Sam's determination combined with some good advice from a new art teacher lead to a predictable happy ending.”
Barbara Wysocki, Cora J. Belden Library, Rocky Hill, CT
- ❑ ***The Bitter Side of Sweet* by Tara Sullivan** Fifteen-year-old Amadou counts the things that matter. For two years what has mattered are the number of cacao pods he and his younger brother, Seydou, can chop down in a day. The higher the number the safer they are. The higher the number the closer they are to paying off their debt and returning home. Maybe. The problem is Amadou doesn't know how much he and Seydou owe, and the bosses won't tell him. The boys only wanted to make money to help their impoverished family, instead they were tricked into forced labor on a plantation in the Ivory Coast. With no hope of escape, all they can do is try their best to stay alive—until Khadija comes into their lives. She's the first girl who's ever come to camp, and she's a wild thing.

She fights bravely every day, attempting escape again and again, reminding Amadou what it means to be free. But finally, the bosses break her, and what happens next to the brother he has always tried to protect almost breaks Amadou. The three band together as family and try just once more to escape.

- ❑ ***Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson** “As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom. From acclaimed author Laurie Halse Anderson comes this compelling, impeccably researched novel that shows the lengths we can go to cast off our chains, both physical and spiritual.” Amazon.com
- ❑ ***The Contender* by Robert Lipsyte** “Before you can be a champion, you have to be a contender. Alfred Brooks is scared. He's a highschool dropout and his grocery store job is leading nowhere. His best friend is sinking further and further into drug addiction. Some street kids are after him for something he didn't even do. So Alfred begins going to Donatelli's Gym, a boxing club in Harlem that has trained champions. There he learns it's the effort, not the win, that makes the man -- that last desperate struggle to get back on your feet when you thought you were down for the count.” Amazon.com
- ❑ ***Curveball: The Year I Lost my Grip* by Jordan Sonnenblick** There's nothing All Star pitcher Peter Friedman loves more than baseball. He breathes it, dreams it, and works his tail off to be great. Most kids are nervous about starting high school, but when you're the star athlete, girls, popularity, and all-around stud status are sure to follow. Then a pitching accident over the summer ruins Pete's arm. If he can't play baseball in high school, what is he supposed to do? If he isn't the star pitcher, then who is he? To make matters more complicated, there's something going on with Pete's grampa -- he's acting weird and keeps forgetting important things. The only person Pete can confide in is Angelika, the amazingly cute girl in his photography class who might like Pete as much as he likes her . . . Only, Angie doesn't know if she can date someone who can't be honest with himself, or with the people he's closest to.
- ❑ ***Eragon* by Christopher Paolini** When fifteen-year-old Eragon finds a polished blue stone in the forest, he thinks it is the lucky discovery of a poor farm boy. But when the stone brings a dragon hatchling, Eragon soon realizes he has stumbled upon a legacy nearly as old as the Empire itself. Overnight his simple life is shattered, and, gifted with only an ancient sword, a loyal dragon, and sage advice from an old storyteller, Eragon is soon swept into a dangerous tapestry of magic, glory, and power. Now his choices could save—or destroy—the Empire.
- ❑ ***The Glory Field* by Walter Dean Myers** “‘Those shackles didn't rob us of being black, son, they robbed us of being human.’ This is the story of one family. A family whose history saw its first ancestor captured, shackled, and brought to this country from Africa. A family who can still see remnants of the shackles that held some of its members captive -- even today. It is a story of pride, determination, struggle, and love. And of the piece of the land that holds them together throughout it all. Amazon.com
- ❑ ***Kindred: A Graphic Novel Adaptation* written by Octavia E. Butler and adapted by Damian Duffy** Home is a new house with a loving husband in 1970s California that suddenly transformed into the frightening world of the antebellum South. Dana, a young black writer, can't explain *how* she is transported across time and space to a plantation in Maryland. But she does quickly understand *why*: to deal with the troubles of Rufus, a conflicted white slaveholder--and her [biological ancestor]. Her survival, her very existence, depends on it. This searing graphic-novel adaptation of Octavia E. Butler's science fiction classic is a powerfully moving, unflinching look at the violent disturbing effects of slavery on the people it chained together, both black and white--and made kindred in the deepest sense of the word. (summary from Goodreads @ goodreads.com)
- ❑ ***Legend* by Marie Lu** What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, fifteen-year-old June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the slums, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. But his motives may not be as malicious as they seem. Full of nonstop action, suspense, and romance, this novel is sure to move readers as much as it thrills.
- ❑ ***Letters to the Lost* by Bridgid Kemmerer** Juliet Young always writes letters to her mother, a world-traveling

photojournalist. Even after her mother's death, she leaves letters at her grave. It's the only way Juliet can cope. Declan Murphy isn't the sort of guy you want to cross. In the midst of his court-ordered community service at the local cemetery, he's trying to escape the demons of his past. When Declan reads a haunting letter left beside a grave, he can't resist writing back. Soon, he's opening up to a perfect stranger, and their connection is immediate. But neither Declan nor Juliet knows that they're not actually strangers. When life at school interferes with their secret life of letters, sparks will fly as Juliet and Declan discover truths that might tear them apart.

- ❑ ***Like No Other* by Una LaMarche** *Fate brought them together. Will life tear them apart?* Devorah is a consummate good girl who has never challenged the ways of her strict Hasidic upbringing. Jaxon is a fun-loving, book-smart nerd who has never been comfortable around girls (unless you count his four younger sisters). They've spent their entire lives in Brooklyn, on opposite sides of the same street. Their paths never crossed...until one day, they did. When a hurricane strikes the Northeast, the pair becomes stranded in an elevator together, where fate leaves them no choice but to make an otherwise risky connection. Though their relationship is strictly forbidden, Devorah and Jaxon arrange secret meetings and risk everything to be together. But how far can they go? Just how much are they willing to give up?
- ❑ ***Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott** "Grown-up Meg, tomboyish Jo, timid Beth, and precocious Amy. The four March sisters couldn't be more different. But with their father away at war, and their mother working to support the family, they have to rely on one another. Whether they're putting on a play, forming a secret society, or celebrating Christmas, there's one thing they can't help wondering: Will Father return home safely?" Amazon.com

[Click here for a link to free copy of the book via Project Gutenberg](#)

- ❑ ***Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs** A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs. It all waits to be discovered in *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, an unforgettable novel that mixes fiction and photography in a thrilling reading experience. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow—impossible though it seems—they may still be alive. A spine-tingling fantasy illustrated with haunting vintage photography, *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* will delight adults, teens, and anyone who relishes an adventure in the shadows.
- ❑ ***Moves Make the Man* by Bruce Brooks** "Reverse spin, triple pump, reverse dribble, stutter step with twist to the left, stutter into jumper, blind pass. These are me. The moves make the man. The moves make me. Jerome Foxworthy -- the Jayfox to his friends -- likes to think he can handle anything. He handled growing up without a father. He handled being the first black kid in school. And he sure can handle a basketball. Then Jerome meets Bix Rivers -- mysterious and moody, but a great athlete. So Jerome decides to teach Bix his game. He can tell that Bix has the talent. All he's got to do is learn the right moves...." Amazon.com
- ❑ ***The Nazi Hunters* by Neal Bascomb** "In 1945, at the end of World War II, Adolf Eichmann, the head of operations for the Nazis' Final Solution, walked into the mountains of Germany and vanished from view. Sixteen years later, an elite team of spies captured him at a bus stop in Argentina and smuggled him to Israel, resulting in one of the century's most important trials -- one that cemented the Holocaust in the public imagination." Amazon.com
- ❑ ***Notes from the Midnight Driver* by Jordan Sonnenblick** "Alex Peter Gregory, you are a moron!" Laurie slammed her palms down on my desk and stomped her foot. I get a lot of that. One car crash. One measly little car crash. And suddenly, I'm some kind of convicted felon. My parents are getting divorced, my dad is shacking up with my third-grade teacher, I might be in love with a girl who could kill me with one finger, and now I'm sentenced to babysit some insane old guy. What else could possibly go wrong? This is the story of Alex Gregory, his guitar, his best gal pal Laurie, and the friendship of a lifetime that he *never* would have expected.
- ❑ ***Refugee* by Alan Gratz** "JOSEF is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world . . . ISABEL is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America . . . MAHMOUD is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe . . . All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All

will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of *tomorrow*. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end.” Amazon.com

- ❑ ***Rules of the Road* by Joan Bauer** “Jenna has just turned 16 and gotten her drivers license. Her life should be full of excitement and hope for the future. Instead she has to deal with her low grades and an alcoholic father. She does have a job selling shoes after school, which is something she is really good at. She would rather see someone in a pair of quality shoes than the shabby things sold at bargain chain stores. When Mrs. Gladstone, the owner of the store asks Jenna to drive her across the country to visit her other stores will she get more than she bargained for? Along the way Jenna learns some old truths and meets new and old friends. Will this help Jenna in other parts of her life?” Reviewed by [Linda K.](#), *North County Regional* ; [cmlibrary.org](#)
- ❑ ***The Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen** Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She’s not comforted by the news that she’ll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run? As she struggles to cope, Jessica feels that she’s both in the spotlight and invisible. People who don’t know what to say act like she’s not there. Jessica’s embarrassed to realize that she’s done the same to a girl with CP named Rosa. A girl who is going to tutor her through all the math she’s missed. A girl who sees right into the heart of her. With the support of family, friends, a coach, and her track teammates, Jessica may actually be able to run again. But that’s not enough for her now. She doesn’t just want to cross finish lines herself—she wants to take Rosa with her.
- ❑ ***Scythe* by Neal Shusterman** A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end life—and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control. Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe—a role that neither wants. These teens must master the “art” of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own.
- ❑ ***Stamped* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi** Through a gripping, fast-paced, and energizing narrative written by beloved award-winner Jason Reynolds, this book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas--and on ways readers can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives.
- ❑ ***Warriors Don’t Cry* by Melba Pattillo Beals** “In 1957, Melba Pattillo turned sixteen. That was also the year she became a warrior on the front lines of a civil rights firestorm. Following the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling, *Brown v. Board of Education*, Melba was one of nine teenagers chosen to integrate Little Rock’s Central High School. Throughout her harrowing ordeal, Melba was taunted by her schoolmates and their parents, threatened by a lynch mob’s rope, attacked with lighted sticks of dynamite, and injured by acid sprayed in her eyes. But through it all, she acted with dignity and courage, and refused to back down. This is her remarkable story.” Amazon.com