

## Salem Middle School Grade 5-7

### Summer Reading Program 2022

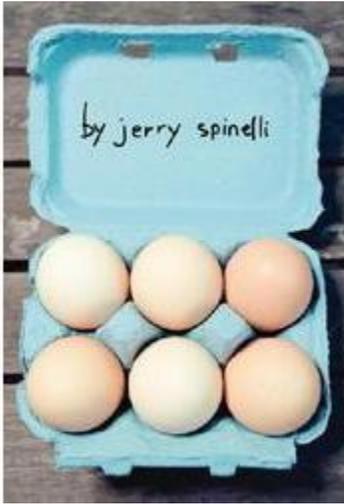
- Students in grade 5, 6 & 7 will choose one book from the list below.

Upon returning to school in September, teachers will assign an essay topic for a summer reading grade. Students will be expected to discuss their book with their peers in a Literature Circle format. Teachers will guide the discussions and assess students' performance.

#### **Directions:**

1. Choose a book and read it carefully
2. Complete your reading log
3. Be prepared to participate in small group discussions for extra credit.
4. Review your book in preparation for an essay that your teachers will assign when you return to school in September.

## Incoming 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Choices



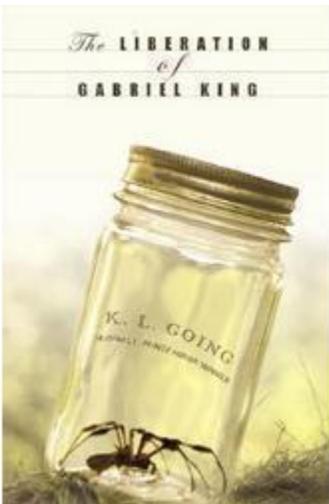
### Eggs (Lexile 610)

By Jerry Spinelli

Nine-year-old David has recently lost his mother to a freak accident, his salesman father is constantly on the road, and he is letting his anger out on his grandmother.

Sarcastic and bossy 13-year-old Primrose lives with her childlike, fortuneteller mother, and a framed picture is the only evidence of the father she never knew. Despite their differences, David and Primrose forge a tight yet tumultuous friendship, eventually helping each other deal with what is missing in their lives.

This powerful, quirky novel about two very complicated, damaged children has much to say about friendship, loss, and recovery.



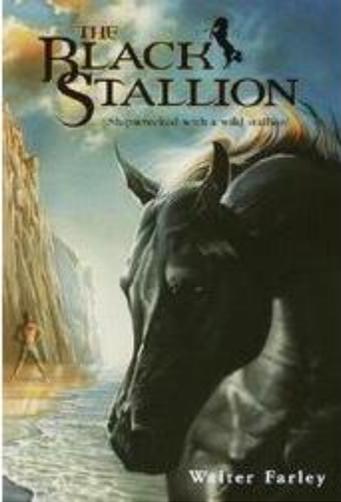
### The Liberation of Gabriel King (Lexile 680)

By K. L. Going

Gabriel King was a born chicken. He's afraid of spiders, corpses, loose cows, and just about everything related to the fifth grade. Gabe's best friend, Frita Wilson, thinks Gabe needs some liberating from his fears. Frita knows something about being brave: She's the only black kid in school in a town with an active Ku Klux Klan.

Together Gabe and Frita are going to spend the summer of 1976 facing down the fears on Gabe's list. But it turns out that Frita has

her own list, and while she's helping Gabe confront his fears, she's avoiding the thing that scares her the most.



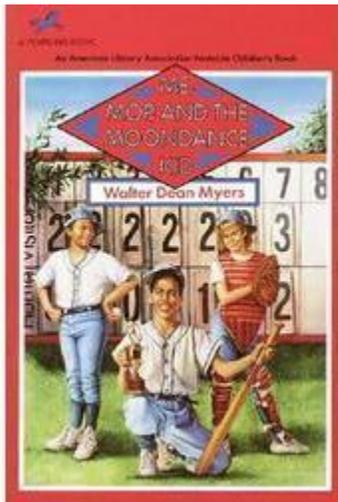
## The Black Stallion (Lexile 680)

(Black Stallion, Book #1)

By Walter Farley

First published in 1941, Walter Farley's best-selling novel for young readers is the triumphant tale of a boy and a wild horse. From Alec Ramsay and the Black's first meeting on an ill-fated ship to their adventures on a desert island and their eventual rescue, this beloved story will hold the rapt attention of readers new and old.

While he is returning home after visiting his uncle in India, Alec Ramsay nearly loses his life when his ship sinks during a storm. Follow the adventures of Alec and the stallion that saves his life as they prepare to enter a horse race to determine the fastest horse in the world.



## Me, Mop, and the Moondance Kid (Lexile 640)

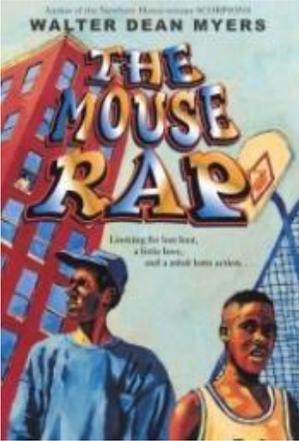
By Walter Dean Myers

Eleven-year-old T.J. and his younger brother Billy, also known as Moondance, have been living with their adoptive parents for a few months now and everything is going well. Now their good friend Mop has to find a home before the orphanage closes and the "leftover" kids are relocated to a new city where T.J. and Moondance will probably never see her again. The Elks, a baseball team that the brothers are members of need a catcher and everyone knows that Mop is the best.

Everyone also knows that the coach and his wife are looking to adopt a child and Mop has schemed that if what better way to get adopted than to prove her worth playing on the team? The Elks go on to win the championship, Mop is adopted by the coach and his wife and happily ever after endings come about for all the subplots that seem to abound in this story, i.e. the orphans pet llama goes missing, a bullying coach gets what is coming to him and the orphanage stays open.

## Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Choices

### The Mouse Rap (Lexile 720)



By Walter Dean Myers

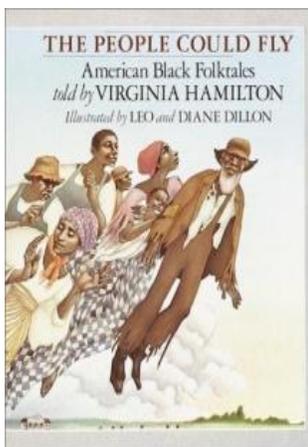
The Mouse should have known that he wasn't going to get nearly as much time to chill or hoop as a dude on summer vacation deserves. One night while tubing out, he sees a news report on some lost loot from a 1930's bank heist, which is supposedly still hidden in Harlem. Soon the Mouse and his crew are searching for clues that will lead them to the treasure.

### A Wrinkle in Time (Lexile 740)



By Madeleine L'Engle

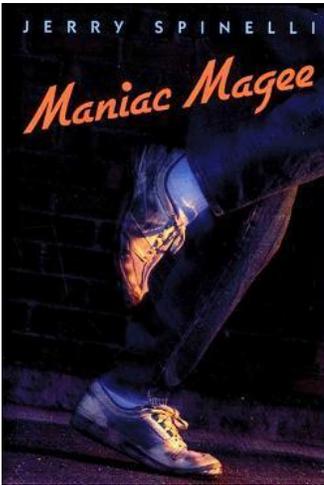
It was a dark and stormy night; Meg Murry, her small brother Charles Wallace, and her mother had come down to the kitchen for a midnight snack when they were upset by the arrival of a most disturbing stranger.



### The People Could Fly: American Black Folktale (Lexile 480)

Told by Virginia Hamilton

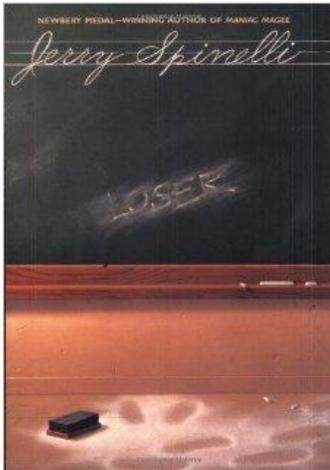
"The well-known author retells 24 black American folk tales in sure storytelling voice: animal tales, supernatural tales, fanciful and cautionary tales, and slave tales of freedom. All are beautifully readable. With the added attraction of 40 wonderfully expressive paintings by the Dillons, this collection should be snapped up."



## Maniac Magee (Lexile 820)

By Jerry Spinelli

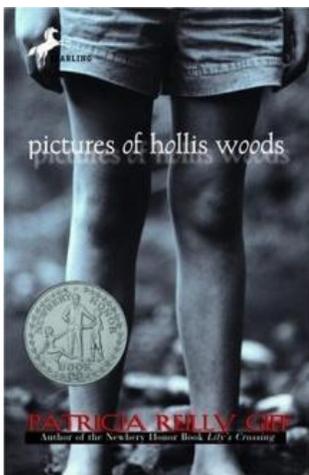
Jeffrey Lionel "Maniac" Magee might have lived a normal life if a freak accident hadn't made him an orphan. After living with his unhappy and uptight aunt and uncle for eight years, he decides to run--and not just run away, but run. This is where the myth of Maniac Magee begins, as he changes the lives of a racially divided small town with his amazing and legendary feats



## Loser (Lexile 650)

By Jerry Spinelli

Just like other kids, Zinkoff rides his bike, hopes for snow days, and wants to be like his dad when he grows up. But Zinkoff also raises his hand with all the wrong answers, trips over his own feet, and falls down with laughter over a word like "Jabip." Other kids have their own word to describe him, but Zinkoff is too busy to hear it. He doesn't know he's not like everyone else. And one winter night, Zinkoff's differences show that any name can someday become "hero."

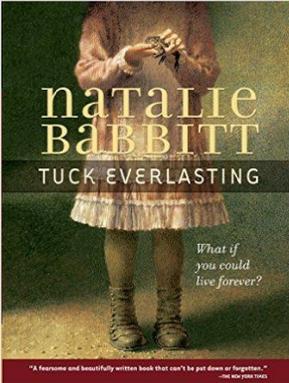


## Pictures of Hollis Woods (Lexile 650)

By Patricia Reilly Giff

Hollis Woods has been in so many foster homes she can hardly remember them all. When Hollis is sent to Josie, she'll do everything in her power to make sure they stay together.

# Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Choices

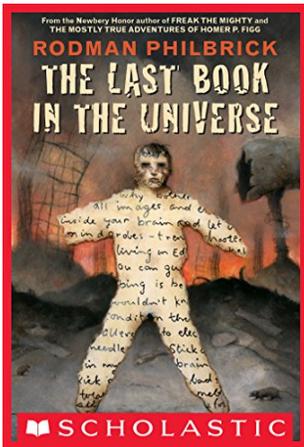


## Tuck Everlasting (Lexile 770)

By Natalie Babbitt

(mandatory for advanced)

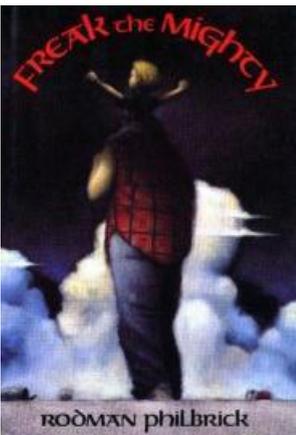
Doomed to—or blessed with—eternal life after drinking from a magic spring, the Tuck family wanders about trying to live as inconspicuously and comfortably as they can. When ten-year-old Winnie Foster stumbles on their secret, the Tucks take her home and explain why living forever at one age is less a blessing that it might seem. Complications arise when Winnie is followed by a stranger who wants to market the spring water for a fortune.



## The Last Book in the Universe (Lexile 740)

By Rodman Philbrick

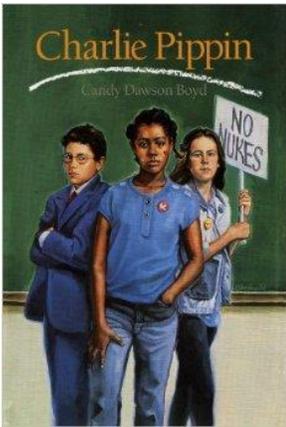
It's the story of an epileptic teenager nicknamed Spaz, who begins the heroic fight to bring human intelligence back to the planet. In a world where most people are plugged into brain-drain entertainment systems, Spaz is the rare human being who can see life as it really is. When he meets an old man called Ryter, he begins to learn about Earth and its past. With Ryter as his companion, Spaz sets off an unlikely quest to save his dying sister -- and in the process, perhaps the world.



## Freak the Mighty (Lexile 1000)

By Rodman Philbrick

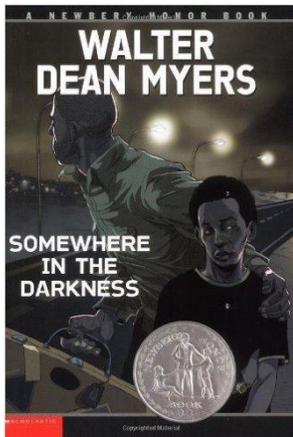
Two boys – a slow learner stuck in the body of a teenage giant and a tiny Einstein in leg braces – forge a unique friendship when they pair up to create one formidable human force.



## Charlie Pippin (Lexile 690)

By Candy Dawson Boyd

Chartreuse “Charlie” Pippin just can't seem to keep out of trouble. At school, she finds herself at odds with the principal when her entrepreneurial skills lead her to break the rules. At home, her father Oscar, a Vietnam veteran, is outraged by her refusal to play it safe like her sister, Sienna, and always do as she is told. But it is when Charlie's restless curiosity leads her to try and learn more about the Vietnam War that the sparks between Charlie and Oscar really begin to fly. Caught between her father's bitterness about his past and her own unflagging need to understand, Charlie wonders for the first time in her life if she is fighting a battle that no one can.



## Somewhere in the Darkness (Lexile 640)

By Walter Dean Myers

Jimmy hasn't seen his father in nine years. But one day he comes back -- on the run from the law. Together, the two of them travel across the country -- where Jimmy's dad will find the man who can exonerate him of the crime for which he was convicted. Along the way, Jimmy discovers a lot about his father and himself -- and that while things can't always be fixed, sometimes they can be understood and forgiven.