2019 Burke Middle School Summer Reading Suggestions

Summer is a wonderful time to read for fun, experience new worlds, discover different points of view and travel to different universes. Here is a list of some suggested books to try. Most are in paperback and digital, some are excellent audiobooks and all are available from your public library. Have fun reading!

**A Corner of the Universe** by Ann M. Martin new in pbk
The summer that Hattie turns twelve, she meets the childlike uncle she never knew and becomes friends with a girl who works at the carnival that comes to Hattie's small town. Her life is turned upside down by connecting with people she never thought she would. A Newbery Award winner just out in paperback.

**Bamboo People** by Mitali Perkins pbk
Two Burmese boys, one a Karenni refugee and the other the son of an imprisoned Burmese doctor, meet in the jungle and they must learn, in order to survive, to trust each other. The author came to Burke this Spring and did a writing workshop with the 7th and 8th graders.

**Brazen: Rebel Ladies who Rocked the World** by Penelope Bagieu pbk
With her characteristic wit and dazzling drawings, celebrated graphic novelist Pénélope Bagieu profiles the lives of these feisty female role models, some world famous, some little known. From Nellie Bly to Mae Jemison or Josephine Baker to Naziq al-Abid, the stories in this comic biography are sure to inspire the next generation of rebel ladies.

**Eventown** by Corey Ann Haydu
To Elodee, eleven, things seem a little too perfect in Eventown when she moves there with her parents and identical twin, Naomi, especially since forgetting the past is so highly valued. Everything may be "even" in Eventown but is there a price to pay for perfection-and pretending?

**Girl Who Drank the Moon** by Kelly Barnhill pbk
An epic fantasy about a young girl raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, who must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her. As Luna's thirteenth birthday approaches, her magic begins to emerge with dangerous consequences. 2017 Newbery Award winner just out in paperback.

**Harbor Me** by Jacqueline Woodson
When six students are chosen to participate in a weekly talk with no adults allowed, they discover that when they're together, it's safe to share the hopes and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world. A new book from Jacqueline Woodson is always a gift—try any of her titles.

**Illegal** by Eoin Colfer pbk
Ebo is alone. His brother, Kwame, has disappeared, and Ebo knows it can only be to attempt the hazardous journey to Europe, and a better life, the same journey their sister set out on months ago. He also sets out leaving Ghana for a new life, hopefully, to reunite with his family. Through the Sahara Desert to Tripoli then onto the merciless sea. The Graphic Format makes this journey even more powerful to read.

**Marcus Vega Doesn’t Speak Spanish** by Pablo Cartaya pbk
When you look like this and you’re only in the eighth grade you are both a threat and a target. After a fight at school leaves Marcus facing suspension, Marcus's mother takes him and his younger brother, who has Down syndrome, to Puerto Rico to visit relatives they do not remember or have never met. And Marcus is compelled to find his father.
The Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani pbk (and audiobook)

Shy twelve-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing to her deceased Muslim mother in the pages of her diary. Also an award winning audiobook.

The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson pbk

Twelve-year-old Candice Miller is spending the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, in the old 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. She finds the letter that caused the treasure hunt and sets out with Brandon to solve the mystery that exposes an injustice committed against an African-American family in the town and exonerate her grandmother. Students at Burke loved this book this year!

Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo pbk and audiobook

A novel-in-verse by a Washington DC author this is the story of Xiomara Batista who feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves she's learned to let her fists and fierceness do the talking. She's asked to join the Slam Poetry group at school but can only defy her Mami to do it. The award winning audiobook is read by the author.

Prince and the Dressmaker by Jen Wang pbk

Prince Sebastian hides from his parents his secret life of dressing up as the hottest fashion icon in Paris, the fabulous Lady Crystallia, while his friend Frances the dressmaker strives to keep her friend's secret.

Slider by Pete Hautman pbk

Hoping to win a cash prize in a pizza eating contest after racking up a tab on his mother's credit card, David must juggle his competitive eating training with the responsibility of looking after his autistic younger brother.

Voces Sin Fronteras-Our Stories Our Truth forward by Meg Medina pbk

Bilingual collection of essays and stories in Spanish and English. From the Forward: "Courage is what strikes me most about this collection of artwork and writing." Published in Washington, DC by Shout Mouth Press.

The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley pbk

A young disabled girl, Ada, 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. Ada teaches herself to ride, to read and watches for German spies until their mother wants them back.

Websites and Public Libraries to visit for more suggestions:

Great Graphic Novels for Teens 2017
Epic Reads: Young Adult Books & Books for Teens
Reading Rants! Out of the Ordinary Teen Booklists!
Teenreads
DC Public Library Teen
PG County memorial Library Teens
Montgomery County Public Library Teens
Fairfax County Library Teens
Arlington County Library Teens