FIERCE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2022

JOIN MERRYHILL MIDTOWN FOR A SUMMER READING CHALLENGE THAT CELEBRATES DIVERSITY AND FOSTERS CULTURAL APPRECIATION!

STEP 1:

JrK – 2nd: Independently, or with a family member, read any 5 books from the list below or 5 books of your choosing that celebrate diversity.

3rd – 5th: Read any 3-5 books from the list below or 3-5 books of your choosing that celebrate diversity.

6th – 8th: Read any 2-3 books from the list below or 2-3 books of your choosing that celebrate diversity.

STEP 2:

After reading, record the name of each book read, along with the date and book rating, on the reading log provided. Then, follow the directions on page 2 to create a one-pager for one book you read. When finished, paperclip or staple the reading log to the one-pager - be sure to include your name!

STEP 3:

Completed summer reading challenges can be submitted to the front office during the first week of school, August 22nd-26th. All participants will receive a free dress pass and have the chance for their one-pager to be featured in the school newsletter!

DID YOU KNOW?

Summer reading provides benefits that extend well past the summer months and helps neutralize summer learning loss or what is commonly known as the "summer slide". Benefits of summer reading range from improved comprehension and memory to increased self-esteem and social-emotional skills!

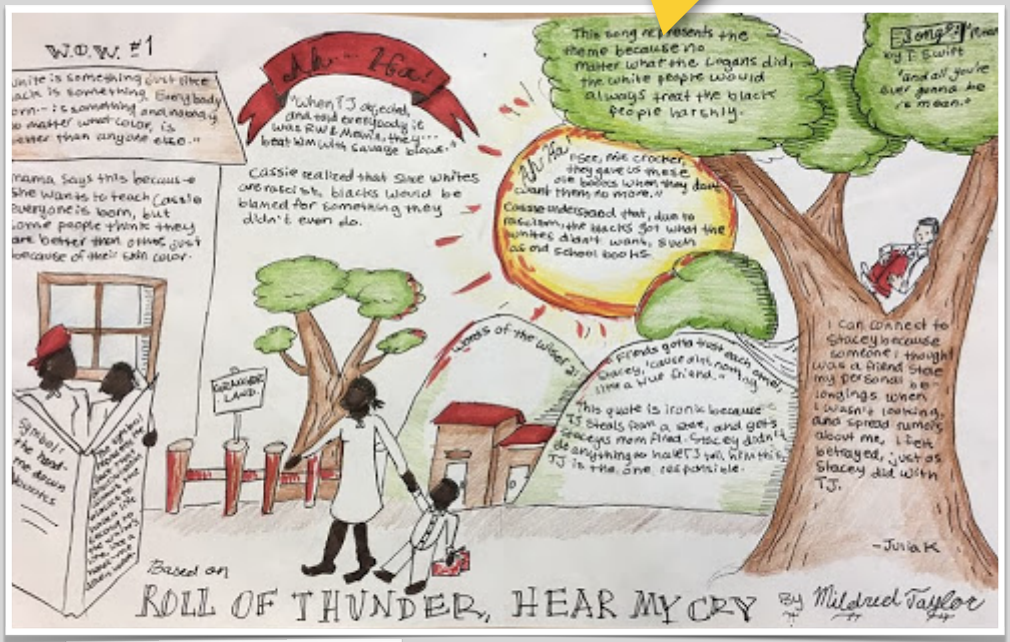
Choosing "just right" books for your child can be challenging! While suggested age/reading groups are provided for the book list below, we encourage parents to consider both reading level and content (language, themes, etc.) before selecting books for summer reading.

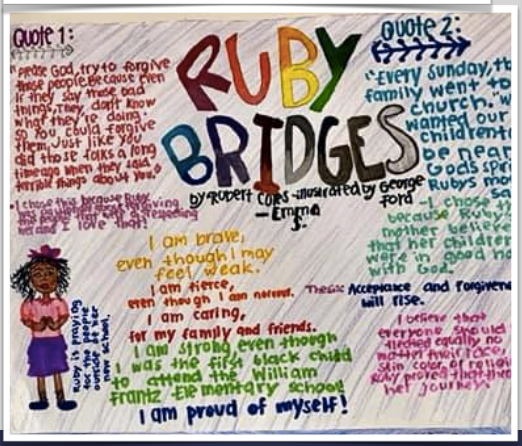
WHAT IS A ONE - PAGER?

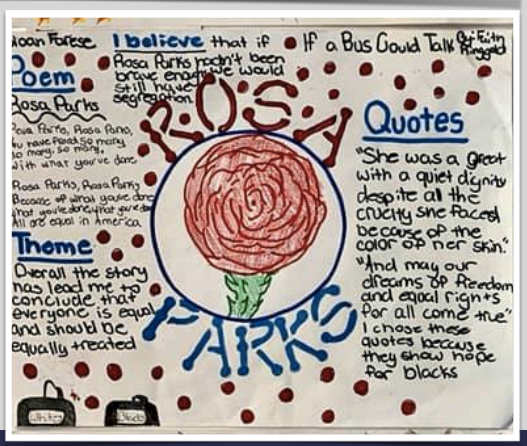
One-pagers invite students to think critically about a text and design a single page of paper featuring key elements of whatever they have just read; one-pagers can be created by hand or digitally. Using quotations, their own words, drawings, symbols, and colors, students highlight important themes, symbols, moments and characters on the page. For example, depending on grade/age, a student may:

- Draw a picture of their favorite character/s or a main event. Students may choose to add labels, quotes, etc.
- Sketch out a timeline of important events.
- Sketch one visual symbol that represents the text's main theme.
- Write out two quotations that show the author's style.
- Include a sketch & a sentence representing the setting.
- Make connections between the text & current events using sketches and text.
- Examine one or two main characters & their development.
- Include a statement about one thing they connected with in the reading.

CHECK OUT THESE EXAMPLES!







SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

RECOMMENDED BOOK LIST

Compiled from Lee & Low Books' Diverse Summer Reading lists, texts include both fiction and non-fiction titles by outstanding authors and illustrators of diverse backgrounds. Titles also feature characters from diverse backgrounds, explore themes of community, family, culture, inclusivity, and include bilingual Spanish-English options – in other words, books that will engage readers all summer long! Please note - this is a limited list of texts; for the full list of titles, please use the button below to visit Lee & Low Books.

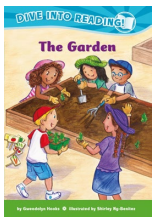
EARLY READERS

THE PERFECT GIFT • Written by Paula Yoo, illustrated by Shirley Ng-Benitez
leeandlow.com/books/the-perfect-gift

In this early chapter book from the popular Confetti Kids series, Mei's little brother is turning 100 days old, and Mei is determined to find the perfect gift for his special day.

SUMMER SUN RISIN' • Written by W. Nikola-Lisa, illustrated by Don Tate
leeandlow.com/books/summer-sun-risin-bebop

This delightful story takes us from sunrise to sunset as an African American boy spends an activity-filled summer day helping his family on their farm. *(Also available in Spanish.)*



THE GARDEN • Written by Paula Yoo, illustrated by Shirley Ng-Benitez
leeandlow.com/books/the-garden

In this early chapter book from the popular Confetti Kids series, Lily and her friends volunteer to help at the public garden, where they learn that plants need water, sun, and–just like them–time to grow.

FAMILY POEMS FOR EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK/POEMAS FAMILIARES PARA CADA DÍA DE LA SEMANA • Written by Francisco X. Alarcón, illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez • leeandlow.com/books/family-poems-for-every-day-of-the-week

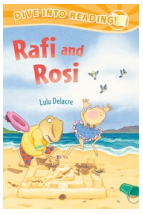
A bilingual collection of poetry by the late Francisco X. Alarcón, acclaimed Chicano poet, celebrating the days of the week and everyday childhood experiences. *(Bilingual English/Spanish.)*

DRUMMER BOY OF JOHN JOHN • Written by Mark Greenwood, illustrated by Frané Lessac • leeandlow.com/books/drummer-boy-of-john-john

A perfect book for aspiring young drummers! A young boy in Trinidad discovers he can create music with discarded metal tins, and goes on to compete in the Carnival band competition.

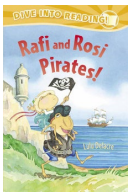
RAINBOW STEW • Written and illustrated by Cathryn Falwell • leeandlow.com/books/rainbow-stew

Three children and their grandfather pick fresh vegetables in his garden and then cook and share a meal of healthy vegetable stew on a rainy summer day.



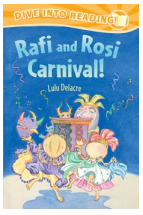
RAFI AND ROSI • Written and illustrated by Lulu Delacre • leeandlow.com/books/rafi-and-rosi

In this chapter book, two Puerto Rican tree frog siblings named Rafi and Rosi explore and learn about nature during their fun adventures on their island home. *(Also available in Spanish.)*



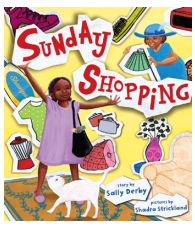
RAFI AND ROSI PIRATES! • Written and illustrated by Lulu Delacre • leeandlow.com/books/rafi-and-rosi-pirates

In this chapter book, Rafi and Rosi explore Puerto Rico's famous El Morro Fort and learn about its Spanish history, treasure, and pirates. *(Also available in Spanish.)*



RAFI AND ROSI CARNIVAL! • Written and illustrated by Lulu Delacre • leeandlow.com/books/rafi-and-rosi-carnival

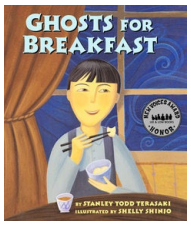
In this chapter book, Rafi and Rosi celebrate Puerto Rico's joyous holiday, Carnival. *(Also available in Spanish.)*



SUNDAY SHOPPING • Written by Sally Derby, illustrated by Shadra Strickland • leeandlow.com/books/sunday-shopping

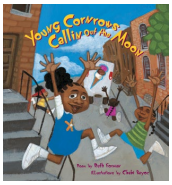
Every Sunday night, a young girl and her grandmother go on an imaginary shopping trip using play money and the advertisements in the newspaper as a guide for their "purchases."

LOWER ELEMENTARY READERS



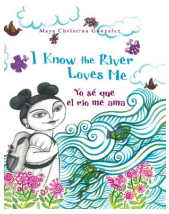
GHOSTS FOR BREAKFAST • Written by Stanley Todd Terasaki, illustrated by Shelly Shinjo • leeandlow.com/books/ghosts-for-breakfast

A Japanese American boy and his father investigate their neighbors' report of ghosts in a nearby farmer's field.



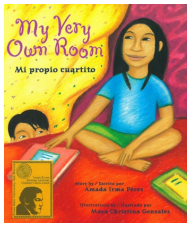
YOUNG CORNROWS CALLIN OUT THE MOON • Written by Ruth Forman, illustrated by Cbabi Bayoc • leeandlow.com/books/young-cornrows-callin-out-the-moon

A poetic celebration of city summer memories, childhood delights, and African American culture and community.



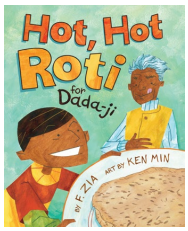
I KNOW THE RIVER LOVES ME/YO SÉ QUE EL RÍO ME AMA • Written and illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez • leeandlow.com/books/i-know-the-river-loves-me-yo-se-que-el-rio-me-ama

In this bilingual book, Maya shows her respect and love for nature and the river. *(Bilingual English/Spanish.)*



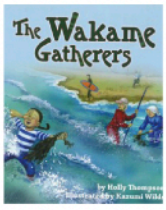
MY VERY OWN ROOM/MI PROPIO CUARTITO • Written by Amada Irma Pérez, illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez • leeandlow.com/books/my-very-own-room-mi-propio-cuartito

In this bilingual book, a young girl yearns for her own space while learning about the strength of family and the importance of dreams. *(Bilingual English/Spanish.)*



HOT, HOT ROTI FOR DADA-JI • Written by F. Zia, illustrated by Ken Min • leeandlow.com/books/hot-hot-roti-for-dada-ji

A young Asian Indian American boy tackles a culinary challenge, renewing his beloved grandfather's spirit and taste buds by baking up his favorite boyhood bread.



Wakame Gatherers • Holly Thompson • illustrated by Kazumi Wilds
https://www.leeandlow.com/books/the-wakame-gatherers

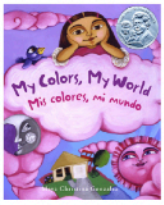
Nanami has two grandmothers: Baachan, who lives with her family in Japan, and Gram, who lives in Maine. When Gram visits Japan for the first time, Nanami's two grandmothers discover that they have much more in common than they think.

THEMES: FAMILY, COMPARE AND CONTRAST, ENVIRONMENT, HOME, GRANDPARENTS, WAR, ASIAN/ASIAN AMERICAN INTEREST

The Hula-Hoopin' Queen • written by Thelma Lynne Godin • illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton
https://www.leeandlow.com/books/the-hula-hoopin-queen

A spunky African American girl has a hula-hooping competition with her friends in Harlem, and soon everyone in the neighborhood—young and old alike—joins in on the fun.

THEMES: INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS, COMPETITION, FAMILY, COMMUNITY, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, AFRICAN AMERICAN INTEREST

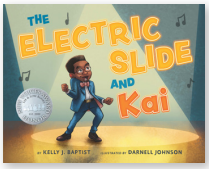


My Colors, My World/Mis colores, mi mundo • written and illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez
https://www.leeandlow.com/books/my-colors-my-world-mis-colores-mi-mundo

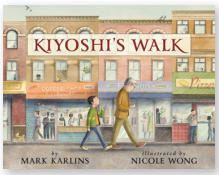
Young readers join Maya as she discovers all the colors in her world. (Bilingual English/Spanish.)

THEMES: COLORS, NATURE, IMAGINATION, ENVIRONMENT, NEIGHBORHOOD, HOME, FAMILIES, ART, LATINO INTEREST

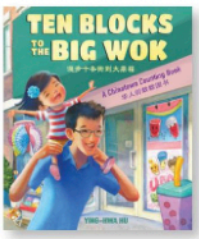
UNDER MY HIJAB
written by Hena Khan, illustrated by Aaliya Jaleel
As a young girl connects with the many female role models in her life, readers come to understand and appreciate the hijab and the Muslim women who choose to wear it.



THE ELECTRIC SLIDE AND KAI
written by Kelly J. Baptist, illustrated by Darnell Johnson
Kai is the only member of his family who can't get the dance steps to the Electric Slide right. But Kai is determined to bust a move in this fun and sweet celebration of African American families.



KIYOSHI'S WALK
written by Mark Karlins, illustrated by Nicole Wong
Where do poems come from? This beautiful picture book about a young aspiring poet and his grandfather shows that the answer lies all around us--if we take the time to look.



TEN BLOCKS TO THE BIG WOK
written and illustrated by Ying-Hwa Hu
This charming bilingual English/Mandarin counting book uses a stroll through Chinatown to introduce readers to the numbers one through ten in Chinese . . . and will leave you hungry besides! *Bilingual English/Mandarin.*

ALL AROUND US
written by Xelena Gonzalez, illustrated by Adriana M. Garcia
Circles are all around us--in the sky, in the earth, in our neighborhoods, in ourselves, and sometimes in the most unusual places. We just have to look for them. *Also available in Spanish.*

ALICIA AND THE HURRICANE: A STORY OF PUERTO RICO/ALICIA Y EL HURACAN: UN CUENTO DE PUERTO RICO
written by Lesléa Newman, illustrated by Elizabeth Erazo Baez
Bestselling author Lesléa Newman offers a tender and timely story of a Puerto Rican child facing a hurricane and her concern for the beloved coquíes of her home island. *Bilingual English/Spanish.*

JUNA AND APPA
Written by Jane Park, illustrated by Felicia Hoshino
From the creators of the award-winning picture book *Juna's Jar*, comes a new magical tale where Juna embarks on a journey to help her biggest hero--her Appa!

IF I WERE A TREE
written by Andrea Zimmerman, illustrated by Jing Jing Tsong
Two siblings journey into the woods in a tender story of branching out and new growth from acclaimed writer Andrea Zimmerman and *New York Times* bestselling illustrator Jing Jing Tsong.

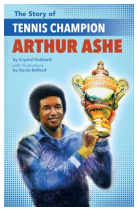
UPPER ELEMENTARY READERS

SEVEN GOLDEN RINGS
written by Rajani LaRocca, illustrated by Archana Sreenivasan
In this clever picture book, an Indian boy untangles a mathematical conundrum to win a place at the Rajah's court.

SHE WAS THE FIRST: THE TRAILBLAZING LIFE OF SHIRLEY CHISHOLM
written by Katheryn Russell-Brown, illustrated by Eric Velasquez
A timely, inspiring picture book biography of the dynamic twentieth-century educator, activist, and politician Shirley Chisholm.

THE STORY OF CAR ENGINEER SOICHIRO HONDA • Written by Mark Weston, illustrated by Katie Yamasaki • leeandlow.com/books/the-story-of-car-engineer-soichiro-honda

The "Story" chapter-book line introduces this fascinating biography of Soichiro Honda, the innovative Japanese motorcycle and car manufacturer and business pioneer.

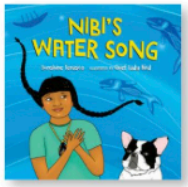


THE STORY OF TENNIS CHAMPION ARTHUR ASHE • Written by Crystal Hubbard, illustrated by Kevin Belford • leeandlow.com/books/the-story-of-tennis-champion-arthur-ashe

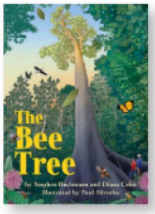
The "Story" chapter-book line features this action-packed tribute to Arthur Ashe, one of the most compelling athletes and humanitarians of the twentieth century.

THE STORY OF WORLD WAR II HERO IRENA SENDLER • Written by Marcia Vaughn, illustrated by Ron Mazellan • leeandlow.com/books/the-story-of-world-war-ii-hero-irean-sendler

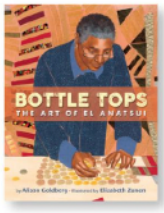
The "Story" chapter-book line celebrates the life of Irena Sendler, a social worker who helped save nearly 2500 Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto during the Nazi occupation of Poland.



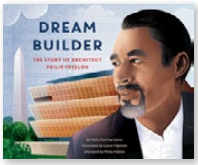
NIBI'S WATER SONG
written by Sunshine Tenasco, illustrated by Chief Lady Bird
This bright and vivacious book from two Native creators celebrates the energy, moxie, and determination of water activists of all ages.



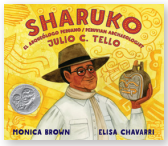
THE BEE TREE
written by Stephen Buchmann and Diana Cohn, illustrated by Paul Mirocha
A story of bees, honey, and a grandfather in Malaysia teaching his grandson honey-gathering in the tall Tualang tree.



BOTTLE TOPS
written by Alison Goldberg, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon
The inspiring biography of Ghanaian artist El Anatsui whose handmade sculptures, created from discarded bottle tops, have received international acclaim and been showcased around the world.

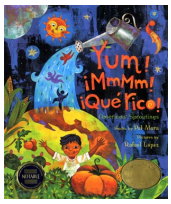


DREAM BUILDER: THE STORY OF ARCHITECT PHILIP FREELON
written by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Laura Freeman
You've seen the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. Now meet the man whose life went into building it.



SHARUKO: Peruvian Archaeologist Julio C. Tello / El arqueólogo peruano Julio C. Tello
written by Monica Brown, illustrated by Elisa Chavarri
A fascinating bilingual picture book biography of Peruvian archaeologist and national icon Julio C. Tello, who unearthed Peru's ancient cultures and fostered pride in the country's Indigenous history.

JULIETA AND THE DIAMOND ENIGMA
written by Luisana Duarte Armendáriz
Nine-year-old Julieta is in Paris when she and her Dad walk in on a thief stealing the Regent Diamond. Can Julieta determine who the thief really is before it's too late?

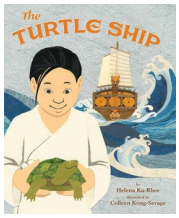


YUM! ¡MMMM! ¡QUÉ RICO!: AMERICAS' SPROUTINGS • written by Pat Mora, illustrated by Rafael Lopez • leeandlow.com/books/yum-mmmm-que-rico-americas-sproutings

A collection of haiku focusing on fourteen foods native to the Americas, celebrating the fun of foods as well as their origins. (*Also available in Spanish.*)

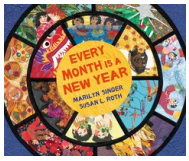
PARROTS OVER PUERTO RICO • Written by Susan L. Roth and Cindy Trumbore, illustrated by Susan L. Roth • leeandlow.com/books/parrots-over-puerto-rico

This innovative picture book reveals the intertwined histories of the Puerto Rican parrot and the island of Puerto Rico, culminating with current efforts to save the parrots from extinction.



THE TURTLE SHIP • Written by Helena Ku Rhee, illustrated by Colleen Kong-Savage • leeandlow.com/books/the-turtle-ship

A young Korean boy named Sun-shin designs one of the greatest battleships in history to fulfill his dream of sailing the world.



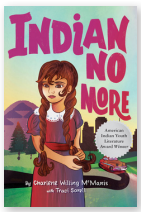
EVERY MONTH IS A NEW YEAR • Written by Marilyn Singer, illustrated by Susan L. Roth • leeandlow.com/books/every-month-is-a-new-year

Happy New Year . . . in July! This versatile collection of engaging original poems showcases New Year celebrations throughout the year and around the world.

¡Sí, se puede! /YES WE CAN!
written by Diana Cohn and Luis J. Rodriguez, illustrated by Francisco Delgado
When the janitors' union strikes for better wages, Carlitos discovers a way to help his mother. *Bilingual English/Spanish.*

MIDDLE SCHOOL READERS

BOY EVERYWHERE
written by A. M. Dassu
What turns citizens into refugees and then immigrants? In this powerful middle-grade debut, Sami and his family embark on a harrowing journey to save themselves from the Syrian civil war.

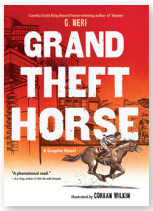


INDIAN NO MORE
written by Charlene Willing McManis with Traci Sorell
Set in the 1950s, a ten-year-old Umpqua girl and her family's tribal rights are terminated and they must relocate from their reservation in Oregon to Los Angeles, where they are expected to assimilate.

STRONG AS FIRE, FIERCE AS FLAME
written by Supriya Kelkar
In 1857 India, 12-year-old Meera escapes a life she has no say in--and certain death on her husband's funeral pyre--only to end up a servant to a British general in the East India Company. When a rebellion against British colonizers spreads, she must choose between relative safety in a British household or standing up for herself and her people.

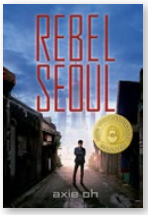
ALL THE STARS DENIED
written by Guadalupe García McCall
The story of the hidden history of the United States first mass deportation event, which swept up hundreds of thousands of Mexican American citizens during the Great Depression.

ON THESE MAGIC SHORES
written by Yamile Saied Méndez
When Mamá fails to return home after her evening job, it is up to 12-year-old Minerva to take care of her younger sisters and hold the family together all while trying to act in her school's play of Peter Pan.



GRAND THEFT HORSE
written by G. Neri, illustrated by Corban Wilkin
The powerful story of the author's cousin Gail Ruffu, who stole a racehorse to save it, and ended up taking on the whole racing industry to fight for the humane treatment of animals.

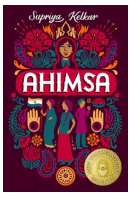
ROGUE HEART
written by Axie Oh
Warcross meets *Final Fantasy* in this companion novel to *Rebel Seoul*, in which a young telepath joins a rebel group on a secret mission to end a decades-long world war.



REBEL SEOUL
written by Axie Oh
When Jaewon is assigned to partner with supersoldier Tera in Neo Seoul's top weapons development division, he must decide where he stands: with the people his rebel father protected or with the totalitarian government that claims it will end all war.

THE MAGNOLIA SWORD
written by Sherry Thomas
Bestselling author Sherry Thomas weaves an enthralling #ownvoices retelling of a story that has thrilled readers for centuries: the Ballad of Mulan.

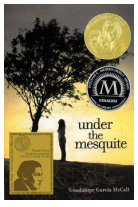
SUMMER OF THE MARIPOSAS
written by Guadalupe García McCall
In this creative retelling of *The Odyssey*, fifteen-year-old Odilia and her younger sisters embark on a journey to return a dead man to his family in Mexico and must outwit monsters and witches to make it back home again. *Also available in Spanish.*



AHIMSA • Written by Supriya Kelkar • leeandlow.com/books/ahimsa

In this historical novel set in India, Gandhi asks for one member of each family to join the fight for independence from the British, and when Anjali's mother is jailed for doing so, Anjali must step out of her comfort zone to take over her mother's work.

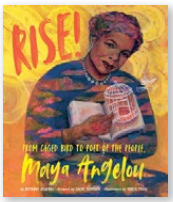
THE SKY WE SHARED
written by Shirley Reva Vernick
This young YA novel weaves little-known historical events into a thoughtful tale of two teens—one American, the other Japanese—whose wartime lives on opposite sides of the world lead them to discover that hate for an "enemy" leaves a heavy heart.



UNDER THE MESQUITE • Written by Guadalupe Garcia McCall • leeandlow.com/books/under-the-mesquite

Lupita, a budding actor and poet in a close-knit Mexican American immigrant family, comes of age as she struggles with adult responsibilities during her mother's long illness.

THE SHADOW PRINCE
written by David Anthony Durham
In this middle grade solarpunk novel set in an alternate Egyptian universe, twelve-year-old Ash must compete and survive to become the shadow—and protector—of the prince.



RISE!: FROM CAGED BIRD TO POET OF THE PEOPLE, MAYA ANGELOU
written by Bethany Hegedus, illustrated by Tonya Engel
Writer, activist, trolley car conductor, dancer, mother, and humanitarian--Maya Angelou's life was marked by transformation and perseverance. In this comprehensive picture-book biography geared towards older readers, Bethany Hegedus lyrically traces Maya's life to her triumphant rise as a poet of the people.

RISE OF THE HALFLING KING: TALES OF THE FEATHERED SERPENT #1
written by David Bowles, illustrated by Charlene Bowles
A middle grade graphic novel follows the adventures of a magical boy from Maya mythology. The first of a series based on ancient Mesoamerican myths and legends.

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SUMMER READING LOG

Name_____

Grade_____

DATE	TITLE	RATING
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