



FIERCE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

2023

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 21st-25th. 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!



YOUR

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Protagonist Matilda</p> | <p>Antagonist Mr. and Mrs. Wormwood</p> |
| <p>MATILDA GOOD WINS OVER EVIL</p> | |
| <p>Settings: England</p> | <p>My Favorite Part: When Matilda gets revenge on Mrs. Trunchbull by writing on the board with her powers.</p> |
| <p>Favorite Quotes: Somewhere inside all of us is the power to change the world. If you have good thoughts, they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely.</p> | <p>These books gave Matilda a hopeful and comforting message: You are not alone.</p> |

Wow #1

Julie is something just like all is something. Everybody own - it something and always to matter what color is better than anyone else.

Mama says this because she wants to teach Cassie everyone's born, but some people think they are better than others just because of their skin color.

Cassie realized that she whites are racist, blacks would be blamed for something they didn't even do.

When TJ objected and said everybody is white, Ruby & Mama, they beat him with savage blows.

This song represents the theme because no matter what the L'ngans did, the white people would always treat the black people harshly.

See, the crocker they gave us these one books when they don't want them no more.

Cassie understood that, due to racism, the blacks got what the whites didn't want, such as old school books.

I can connect to Stacey because someone I thought was a friend stole my personal belongings when I wasn't looking, and spread rumors about me. I felt betrayed, just as Stacey did with TJ.

Friends gotta trust each other. Share. Love and respect. This a true friend.

This quote is ironic because TJ steals from a store, and gets scolded from Mrs. Trunchbull. He didn't do anything so he'll tell her that TJ is the one responsible.

Based on **ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY** by Mildred Taylor

Quote 1:
Praise God, try to forgive these people because even if they say these bad things, they don't know what they're doing. So you could forgive them, just like you did those folks a long time ago when they said terrible things about you.

Quote 2:
Every Sunday, the family went to church. We wanted our children to be near God's spirit.

RUBY BRIDGES
by Ruby Bridges - illustrated by George Ford

I am brave, even though I may feel weak.
I am fierce, even though I am silent.
I am caring, for my family and friends.
I am strong, even though I was the first black child to attend the William Franz Elementary School.
I am proud of myself!

I believe that everyone should be treated equally, no matter what color, skin color, or religion. Ruby proved that the world is not perfect.

I chose to be a teacher because I love to help people and I love to teach.

I chose to be a teacher because I love to help people and I love to teach.

The Princess

Word: gentle

Doem

RUBY PARKS

Theme
Overall the story has lead me to conclude that everyone is equal and should be equally treated.

Quotes
"She was a Great with a quiet dignity despite all the cruelty she faced because of the color of her skin."
"And may our dreams of freedom and equal rights for all come true."
I chose these quotes because they show hope for blacks.

Theme
Overall the story has lead me to conclude that everyone is equal and should be equally treated.

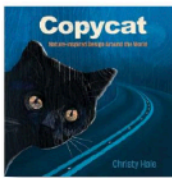


SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

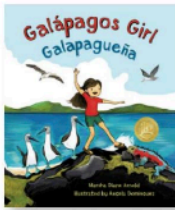
RECOMMENDED BOOK LIST

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.

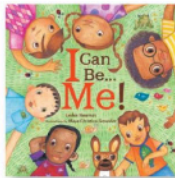
EARLY READERS



COPYCAT
written and illustrated by Christy Hale
Award-winning author-illustrator Christy Hale brings the fascinating concept of biomimicry to life in a uniquely designed book that shows how nature inspires solutions to real-world problems.



GALÁPAGOS GIRL / GALAPAGUEÑA
written by Marsha Diane Arnold,
illustrated by Angela Dominguez
This charming bilingual English & Spanish picture book from the illustrator of *Mango*, *Abuela*, and *Me* introduces the fascinating creatures of the Galápagos Islands through the life of one very lucky girl.



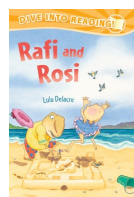
I CAN BE . . . ME!
written by Lesléa Newman,
illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez
From bestselling author Lesléa Newman – a joyful picture book celebration of individuality, uniqueness, and children's freedom to express themselves while engaging in whatever kinds of play they choose.



MARVELOUS MABEL
written by Crystal Hubbard,
illustrated by Alleanna Harris
Meet Mabel Fairbanks, the skating superstar who became the first Black athlete inducted into the US Figure Skating Hall of Fame.



MI FAMILIA CALACA / MY SKELETON FAMILY
written by Cynthia Weill,
illustrated by Jesús Zarate
Come meet La Familia calaca! They're just like everybody else. Except they're all bones!



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.)



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.



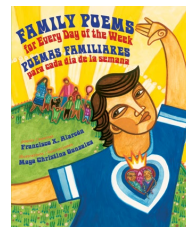
THE GARDEN • Written by Paula Yoo, illustrated by Shirley Ng-Benitez
leeandlow.com/books/the-garden

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.



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.)



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.)

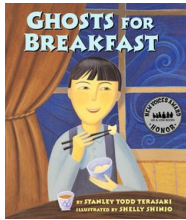


RAINBOW STEW • Written and illustrated by Cathryn Falwell • leeandlow.com/books/rainbow-stew

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.



ONCE AROUND THE BLOCK
written and illustrated by José Lozano
A bilingual ABCs book that fills you in on all the fun neighborhood chatter!



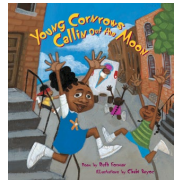
GHOSTS FOR BREAKFAST • Written by Stanley Todd Terasaki, illustrated by Shelly Shinjo • leeandlow.com/books/ghosts-for-breakfast

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



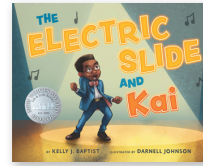
UNDER MY HIJAB written by Hena Khan, illustrated by Aaliya Jaleel

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.



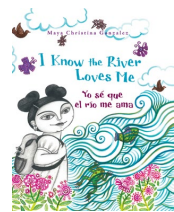
YOUNG CORNROWS CALLIN' OUT THE MOON • Written by Ruth Forman, illustrated by Cbabi Bayoc • leeandlow.com/books/young-cornrows-callin-out-the-moon

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



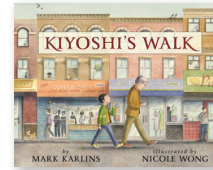
THE ELECTRIC SLIDE AND KAI written by Kelly J. Baptist, illustrated by Darnell Johnson

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.



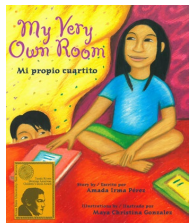
I KNOW THE RIVER LOVES ME/YO SÉ QUE EL RÍO ME AMA • Written and illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez • leeandlow.com/books/i-know-the-river-loves-me-yo-se-que-el-río-me-ama

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



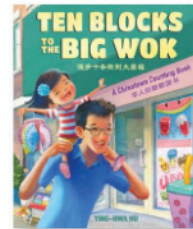
KIYOSHI'S WALK written by Mark Karlins, illustrated by Nicole Wong

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.



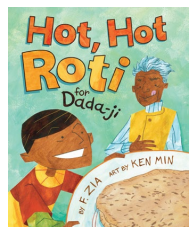
MY VERY OWN ROOM/MI PROPIO CUARTITO • Written by Amada Irma Pérez, illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez • leeandlow.com/books/my-very-own-room-mi-propio-cuartito

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.)



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.



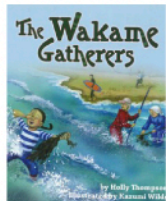
HOT, HOT ROTI FOR DADA-JI • Written by F. Zia, illustrated by Ken Min • leeandlow.com/books/hot-hot-roti-for-dada-ji

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.



ALL AROUND US written by Xelena Gonzalez, illustrated by Adriana M. Garcia

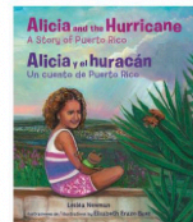
Circles are all around us--in the sky, in the earth, in our neighborhoods, in ourselves, and sometimes in the most unusual places. We just have to look for them. Also available in Spanish.



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

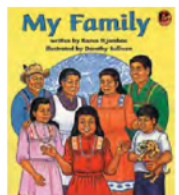
Nanami has two grandmothers: Baachan, who lives with her family in Japan, and Gram, who lives in Maine. When Gram visits Japan for the first time, Nanami's two grandmothers discover that they have much more in common than they think.

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



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 coquies of her home island. Bilingual English/Spanish.

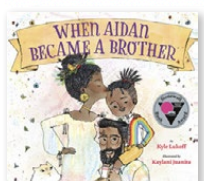


My Family • written by Karen Hjemboe, illustrated by Dorothy Sullivan • A Cherokee girl learns traditional skills and customs from the members of her family. (Also available in Spanish.)
Leveled reading

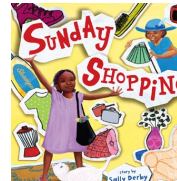


JUNA AND APPA Written by Jane Park, illustrated by Felicia Hoshino

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!



WHEN AIDAN BECAME A BROTHER written by Kyle Lukoff, illustrated by Kaylani Juanita
A celebration of the changes in a transgender boy's life, from his initial coming-out to becoming a big brother.



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."



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.

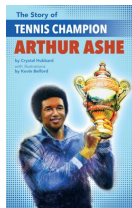


SHE WAS THE FIRST: THE TRAILBLAZING LIFE OF SHIRLEY CHISHOLM
 written by Kathryn Russell-Brown, illustrated by Eric Velasquez
 A timely, inspiring picture book biography of the dynamic twentieth-century educator, activist, and politician Shirley Chisholm.



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.



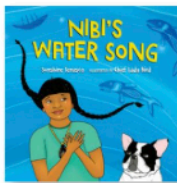
THE STORY OF TENNIS CHAMPION ARTHUR ASHE • Written by Crystal Hubbard, illustrated by Kevin Belford • leeandlow.com/books/the-story-of-tennis-champion-arthur-ashe

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.



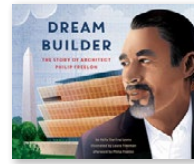
NIBI'S WATER SONG
 written by Sunshine Tenasco, illustrated by Chief Lady Bird
 This bright and vivacious book from two Native creators celebrates the energy, moxie, and determination of water activists of all ages.



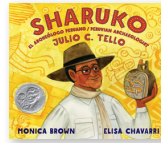
THE BEE TREE
 written by Stephen Buchmann and Diana Cohn, illustrated by Paul Mirocha
 A story of bees, honey, and a grandfather in Malaysia teaching his grandson honey-gathering in the tall Tualang tree.



SÉLAVI, THAT IS LIFE: A HAITIAN STORY OF HOPE
 written and illustrated by Youme
 On the streets of Haiti, a homeless child learns the meaning of family, solidarity, and hope.



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.

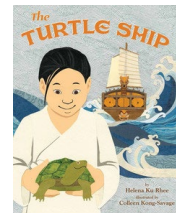


JULIETA AND THE DIAMOND ENIGMA
 written by Luisana Duarte Armendáriz
 Nine-year-old Julieta is in Paris when she and her Dad walk in on a thief stealing the Regent Diamond. Can Julieta determine who the thief really is before it's too late?



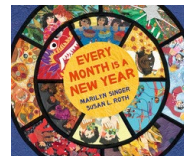
PARROTS OVER PUERTO RICO • Written by Susan L. Roth and Cindy Trumbore, illustrated by Susan L. Roth • leeandlow.com/books/parrots-over-puerto-rico

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.



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.



THE TURQUOISE ROOM/EL CUARTO TURQUESA
 written by Monica Brown, illustrated by Adriana Garcia
 Bestselling author Monica Brown takes us on a magical journey into the lives of generations of creative women in her family in this gorgeously illustrated bilingual picture book.

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.



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.



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.



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.

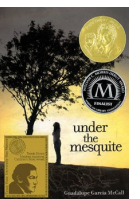


THE MAGNOLIA SWORD
written by **Sherry Thomas**
Bestselling author Sherry Thomas weaves an enthralling #ownvoices retelling of a story that has thrilled readers for centuries: the Ballad of Mulan.



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.



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.



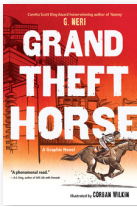
RISE!: FROM CAGED BIRD TO POET OF THE PEOPLE, MAYA ANGELOU
written by **Bethany Hegedus**,
illustrated by **Tonya Engel**
Writer, activist, trolley car conductor, dancer, mother, and humanitarian—Maya Angelou's life was marked by transformation and perseverance. In this comprehensive picture-book biography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



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.



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.



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.



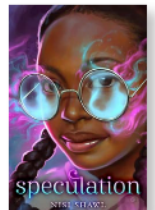
THE SKY WE SHARED
written by **Shirley Reva Vernick**
This young YA novel weaves little-known historical events into a thoughtful tale of two teens—one American, the other Japanese—whose wartime lives on opposite sides of the world lead them to discover that hate for an “enemy” leaves a heavy heart.



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.*



BLESSING'S BEAD
written by **Debby Dahl Edwardson**
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