

Reading is a wonderful way to meet new books and authors, make new discoveries, and be entertained!

Our *suggested* list of books will encourage you to think about the Driving Question (DQ) *“Why do our choices matter?”*

Reading one or a few of these books will help you answer that question. There will be no quiz. You do not have to take notes. Instead, *you will participate in a discussion* and *write an in-class journal* as you consider the DQ. If you do not read any of these books, you may reference other books, blogs or articles you have read this summer or other years, or refer to historical, personal or current events. Keep in mind how the author or characters might answer the DQ.

We encourage you to order books from our favorite, local bookstore, *The Book Oasis* on Main Street, or check them out from the *Stoneham Public Library* - sometimes there is a waiting list.

### Why do our choices matter?

**\*Easy \*\*Medium \*\*\*Challenging**

**\**The Stonekeeper***: Amulet Series by Kazu Kibuishi. After their father is killed in a car accident, Emily and her younger brother move to their mother's creepy ancestral home. Strange noises lure them to the basement, and Emily's mom is kidnapped by a gruesome tentacled monster. If the children hope to rescue her, they must make new friends, face many dangers, and learn more about the strange amulet that Emily finds. Graphic Novel: Series - read them all!

**\**A Mango-Shaped Space*** by Wendy Mass. Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the death of her cat, Mango. Fiction.

**\**The Rules of Survival*** by Nancy Werlin. Seventeen-year-old Matt writes an extended letter to his youngest sister, Emmy, recalling their childhood with Nikki, their sadistic and mentally disturbed mother. When Nikki, just out of jail, kidnaps Emmy, Matt finds out exactly how far he will go to ensure his sister's safety. Fiction. Mature readers.

**\**Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend*** by Matthew Dicks. Budo is Max's imaginary friend. But though only Max can see him, he is real. He and the other imaginary friends watch over their children until the day comes that the child stops imagining them. And then they're gone. Budo has lasted longer than most imaginary friends - four years - because Max needs him more. His parents argue about sending him to a special school, but Max is perfectly happy if everything is just kept the way it is, and nothing out of the ordinary happens. Unfortunately, something out of the ordinary is going to happen - and then he'll need Budo more than ever...Fiction.

**\*\**This Star Won't Go Out*** by Esther Earl. This is the true story of the girl who inspired John Green's book *The Fault in Our Stars*. Esther, a MA resident, was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 12. The book is comprised of her diary entries, her family's CaringBridge updates, and comments from friends. Memoir/Biography.

**\*\**The Graveyard Book*** by Neil Gaiman. Bod is an unusual boy who inhabits an unusual place—he's the only living resident of a graveyard. Raised from infancy by the ghosts, werewolves, and other cemetery

creatures, Bod has learned a lot, such as the ability to Fade so mere mortals cannot see him. Can a boy raised by ghosts face the wonders and terrors of the worlds of both the living and the dead? Newbery Medal and Carnegie Medal book. Fantasy.

**\*\**Life As We Knew It*** by Susan Beth Pfeffer. When an asteroid pushes the moon closer to Earth, tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions disrupt life across the planet. Written in the form of 16-year-old Miranda's diary, this story depicts one family's struggle to survive in a world drastically changed. Fiction. Survival. Series. Read them all!

**\*\**Listen, Slowly*** by Thanhha Lai. Mai's parents are making her spend her vacation in Vietnam so she can learn more about her roots and help her grandmother learn what really happened to her grand-father during the Vietnam War. Since Mai barely knows the language or customs, she is desperately counting down the days until she can go back home. But as time goes on, Mai begins to grow closer to her family and develops an understanding of a culture and an entire world that she never really knew about. Funny at times and amazing. Fiction.

**\*\**Soldier Boys*** by Dean Hughes. At the age of 15, Dieter's devotion gets him promoted from a Hitler Youth into the German army. Spence, just 16, drops out of his Utah high school to train as a paratrooper. Their worst fear was that the war would end before they could prove themselves. But when they finally see action, it's like nothing they could have ever imagined. Historical fiction.

**\*\**The Iron Trial*** by Holly Black. All his life, Call has been warned by his father to stay away from magic. If he succeeds at the Iron Trial and is admitted into the Magisterium, he is sure it can only mean bad things for him. So he tries his best to do his worst - and fails at failing. Now the Magisterium awaits him. It's a place that's both sensational and sinister, with dark ties to his past and a twisty path to his future. The Iron Trial is just the beginning, for the biggest test is still to come . . . Fantasy. Series.

**\*\*\**The Call of the Wild*** by Jack London. Buck, a sturdy crossbreed canine (half St. Bernard, half shepherd), is a dog born to luxury and raised in a sheltered Californian home. But then he is kidnapped and sold to be a sled dog in the harsh and frozen Yukon Territory. Passed from master to master, Buck embarks on an extraordinary journey, proving his unbreakable spirit...Fiction - Classic.

**\*\*\**The Book Thief*** by Markus Zusak. Death narrates this WWII story of a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel survives by stealing books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau. Historical fiction. Best for mature readers.

**\*\*\**The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club*** by Phillip Hoose. At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation's leaders, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen and his friends decided to take action against the Nazis. Naming their secret club after the fiery British leader, the young patriots in the Churchill Club committed countless acts of sabotage, infuriating the Germans, who eventually arrested the boys. The boys' efforts and eventual imprisonments helped spark a full-blown Danish resistance. Non-fiction.

