

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 year's Driving Question, "*How does what we care about shape our decisions?*" Reading one, some or all of these books will give you a starting place to answer that question. We hope you read many of them! Parents - please help your child choose a book that is appropriate for their interest/reading level. We encourage you to read and discuss the books with them.

You do not have to take notes, nor will there be a quiz. Instead, you will participate in discussions throughout the year as you consider the driving question. While you are reading, keep in mind how the author or characters might answer that question. Use the * indicators to help you find an appropriate level. ***Easy** ****Medium** *****Challenging**

You can order books from our favorite, local bookstore, *The Book Oasis* on Main Street, or check them out from the Stoneham Public Library.

How does what we care about shape our decisions?

****Number the Stars*** by Lois Lowry. As the German troops begin their campaign to "relocate" all the Jews of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie's family hides her best friend, Ellen, and helps smuggle her family to safety. The heroism of an entire nation reminds us that there was pride and human decency in the world even during a time of terror and war. Newbery Medal. Historical fiction.

****A Little Princess*** by Frances Hodgson Burnett. Sara Crewe, falls upon hard times at an English boarding school when her father suddenly dies. Left penniless and at the mercy of a vindictive headmistress, Sara manages to maintain her optimistic outlook and usual goodness, qualities that do not go unnoticed by a mysterious benefactor who eventually transforms her life. Classic.

****The Astounding Broccoli Boy*** by Frank Cottrell Boyce. Rory's favorite book is *Don't Be Scared, Be Prepared*. But he isn't prepared when he suddenly turns green. Stuck in an isolation ward in a hospital with two other remarkably green children, Rory's as confused by his new condition as the doctors, but he wonders if turning green actually means he's turned into a superhero? Rory can't wait to escape the hospital and discover exactly what his superpower might be. Funny. Fiction.

****Hidden Talents*** by David Lubar. Martin and his friends don't like being called losers. But they've been called that for so long even they start to believe it. Until Martin makes an incredible discovery: each of his friends has a special *hidden* talent. Edgeview Alternative School was supposed to be end of the road. But for Martin and his friends, it just might be a new beginning. Fantasy.

***Mr. Terupt Falls Again** by Rob Buyea. Fifth-grade was full of unforgettable events for Mr. Terupt and his class at Snow Hill School. Seven students are back, and they've been granted the rare opportunity to spend one more year with their beloved teacher before they graduate from elementary school. Mr. Terupt helps his students be the best they can be—and enlists their help to pull off an extra-special project. But will there be a happy ending for all? Fiction.

****The Great Wall of Lucy Wu** by Wendy Wan-Long Shang. Lucy, aspiring basketball star and interior designer, is excited to rule the school as a sixth grader and take over the bedroom she has always shared with her sister. Her plans are shattered when she finds out that Yi Po, her great-aunt, is coming to visit for several months -- and is staying in Lucy's room. Funny. Fiction.

****The City of Ember** by Jeanne DuPrau. The only light during the "day" comes from lamps that cast a yellowish glow over the underground city - until they begin to flicker. When the generator starts to fail, twelve-year-old Doon and Lina set out on a mission after Lina finds a very old paper to find the city of light. Series. Read them all! Adventure. Fantasy.

****Out of My Mind** by Sharon Draper. Ten-year-old Melody has cerebral palsy; because she cannot communicate, no one knows how she feels, what she sees, what she wants, or what she dreams. A new communication device changes that, but some things, such as being accepted by her peers, don't change as easily. Fiction

****First Team** by Tim Green. With his strong left arm, Brock knows he can be a great quarterback with the help of his new friend, Mak, but the coaches have plans of their own, especially for the kids from the wrong side of the tracks, which is exactly where Brock now lives. As Brock is trying to fit in, his father's past is catching up to him. Will Brock finally be able to navigate his new life, or will his past force him back on the run? Fiction. Sports.

*****Inside Out and Back Again** by Thanhha Lai. When the Vietnam War reaches her home in Saigon, ten-year-old Hà and her family are forced to flee on a ship headed for America. Hà discovers the foreign world of Alabama: the coldness of its strangers, the dullness of its food, the strange shape of its landscape . . . and the strength of her very own family. Historical fiction.

*****Scat** by Carl Hiaasen. The most feared biology teacher ever is missing after a school field trip to Black Vine Swamp. Two students figure the class delinquent, Smoke, has something to do with her disappearance. And he does! But not in the way they think. There's a lot more going on in Black Vine Swamp than any one player in this twisted tale can see. Lots of action! Mystery.

*****Princess Academy** by Shannon Hale. Miri lives on a mountain until the king's priests divine that her small village is the home of the future princess. The king's ministers set up an academy on the mountain; every teenage girl must attend and learn how to become a princess. When bandits seek out the academy to kidnap the future princess, Miri must rally the girls together and use a power unique to the mountain dwellers to save herself and her classmates. Newbery Honor. Fiction. Series.

*****The Wednesday Wars** by Gary D. Schmidt. In 1967, Holling is spending time in seventh grade under his desk for nuclear bomb practice raids, listening to his flower-child sister argue about the

Vietnam War with his work/reputation obsessed father, being chased by rats and trying to avoid bullies at school while figuring out girls. Funny. Fiction. Newbery Honor

******Blackthorn Key*** by Kevin Sands. Christopher was learning how to solve complex codes and creating powerful potions and weapons as an apprentice to Master Blackthorn—with maybe an explosion or two along the way. But when a mysterious cult begins to prey on London's apothecaries, the trail of murders grows closer to Blackthorn's shop. Christopher must use every skill he's learned to discover the key to a terrible secret with the power to tear the world apart. Fiction.