

## STONEHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL SUGGESTED SUMMER READING - 2018 GRADE 7

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) *“How do we face our fears?”* 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.

You may 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. Use the \* indicators to help you find an appropriate level.

### How do we face our fears?

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

*\*Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin. In the valley of Fruitless mountain, Mini lives in a poor hut with her parents. Her father tells her old folktales of the Jade Dragon and the Old Man on the Moon, who knows the answers to all of life's questions. Inspired by these stories, Mini sets off on an extraordinary journey to find the Old Man on the Moon to ask him how she can change her family's fortune. She is joined on her quest by magical creatures, including a dragon. Fantasy.

*\*The Seventh Most Important Thing* by Shelley Pearsall. Arthur grabbed a brick and hurled it at the trash picker. Arthur had his reasons, and the brick hit the Junk Man in the arm, not the head. But none of that matters to the judge—he is ready to send Arthur to juvie forever. Amazingly, it's the Junk Man himself who offers an alternative: 120 hours of community service . . . working for him. Arthur can't believe it—is he really supposed to rummage through people's trash? Fiction

*\*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

*\*Stef Soto, Taco Queen* by Jennifer Torres. Estefania "Stef" Soto is itching to shake off the onion-and-cilantro embrace of Tia Perla, her family's taco truck. She wants nothing more than for her dad to get a normal job and for Tia Perla to be put out to pasture. It's no fun being known as the "Taco Queen" at school. But just when it looks like Stef is going to get exactly what she wants, and her family's livelihood is threatened, she will have to become the truck's unlikely champion. Fiction.

*\*Al Capone Shines My Shoes* by Gennifer Choldenko. What do you do when your neighbors are a bunch of hit men, con men, and mad dog murderers? Well, if you're Moose Flanagan, you ask the most notorious convict of them all, Al Capone, for help. But when that convict comes through for you and then asks you for a favor in return - suddenly it's a whole different ball game. Picking up where the Newbery Honor winning *Al Capone Does My Shirts* left off, this lively second romp featuring Moose, his friends, and some of Alcatraz's "finest" is just as satisfying as the first. Fiction.

*\*\*Saving Mr. Terupt* by Rob Buyea. Book #3 in this series! Entering grade 7, the students from Mr. Terupt's original fifth grade class miss him. When a fight threatens to break up the group forever, they

think their favorite teacher is the only one who can help them. But the kids soon find out that it's Mr. Terupt who needs saving! Fiction.

**\*\*The False Prince** by Jennifer Nielsen. An adventure filled with action and danger. To unify the divided people in a discontented kingdom, a nobleman of the court devises a cunning plan to find an impersonator of the king's long-lost son and install him as a puppet prince. Four orphans are recruited to compete for the role, including a defiant boy named Sage. Sage knows that Conner's motives are more than questionable, yet his life balances on a sword's point -- he must be chosen to play the prince or he will certainly be killed. But Sage's rivals have their own agendas as well. This is a trilogy – buy all three! Adventure.

**\*\*The Crossover** by Kwame Alexander. *With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering,* announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the basketball court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood; he's got mad beats that tell his family's story in verse, of brotherhood and fighting, and of his mom's strict parenting and his father's health battles. Fiction in verse

**\*\*After Ever After** by Jordan Sonnenblick. Jeff is in eighth grade, getting his first girlfriend, wondering why his best friend and fellow cancer survivor is acting so weird, and coping with some post-cancer disabilities. Jeffrey learns to depend on himself and live life to the fullest. Funny. Fiction. Series.

**\*\*Counting by 7s** by Holly Goldberg Sloane. Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but when they both die in a car crash, Willow's world changes drastically. The triumph of this book is that it is *not* a tragedy. Fiction.

**\*\*The Only Game** by Mike Lupica. Jack is the star of his baseball team and sixth grade is supposed to be his year. Undefeated season. Records shattered. Little League World Series.. That is, until he up and quits. Jack's best friend Gus can't understand how Jack could leave a game that means more to them than anything else. But Jack is done. It's a year of change. Jack's brother has passed away, and though his family and friends and the whole town of Walton thinks baseball is just the thing he needs to move on, Jack feels it's anything but. Sports.

**\*\*\*Little Blog on the Prairie** by Cathleen Davitt Bell. Camp Frontier promises the "thrill" of living like 1890s pioneers. Gen will be thrilled if she survives the summer stuck in a cabin with her family and no modern amenities. Turns out, there are some good points-like the cute boy who lives in the next clearing. But when her texts go viral as a blog, Gen realizes she may have just ruined the best vacation she's ever had. Fiction.

**\*\*\*Bomb: The Race to Build – and Steal – the World's Most Dangerous Weapon** by Steve Sheinkin. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, spying and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb. Non-fiction. Newbery Honor Book.

**\*\*\*Taking Flight** by Michaela DePrince. Michaela shares her dramatic journey from an orphan in West Africa to becoming one of ballet's most exciting rising stars. Michaela was tormented as a "devil child" for a skin condition that makes her skin appear spotted. But it was at the orphanage that Michaela would find a picture of a beautiful ballerina en pointe that would help change the course of her life. Some violent scenes at the beginning of the book – this may not be a good book for a highly-sensitive reader. Memoir.