

We hope you read one, some, or many of the books on this suggested list. Reading and rereading is fun and helps improve fluency and comprehension! Parents and guardians – 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 your children. You are not limited to this list - **feel free to explore other books, genres, and authors**.

You can purchase books from our favorite local bookstore, **The Book Oasis**, on Main Street (in-store and curbside pickup available). Click [here](#) for their website.

You can also check books out from the **Stoneham Public Library**. Click the title of each book to go to the library catalog where you can place a hold. Click [here](#) to see a video introducing Rachel, the librarian at the SPL.

Use the \* indicators to help you find an appropriate level.      **\*Easy    \*\*Medium    \*\*\*Challenging**

**\*[The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind](#)** (The Illustrated Version) by William Kamkwamba, Bryan Mealer, Elizabeth Zunon (Illustrator) When 14-year-old William’s Malawi village was hit by a drought, crops began to fail. With no money for food or school, William spent days in the library and figured out how to bring electricity to his village. Amazingly, William built a functioning windmill out of junkyard scraps, and became the local hero who harnessed the wind. Non-fiction.

**\*[Finding Langston](#)** by Lesa Cline-Ransome. In 1946 Langston and his father move to the city, but Langston misses Grandma's Sunday suppers and the magnolia trees his mother loved. It doesn't feel like a better life. But Langston's new home has one fantastic thing. Unlike the whites-only library in Alabama, the Chicago Public Library welcomes everyone. There, hiding out after school, Langston discovers another Langston--a poet whom he learns inspired his mother enough to name her only son after him. Historical Fiction/Poetry

**\*[Book Uncle and Me](#)** by Uma Krishnaswami (Author), Julianna Swaney (Illustrator) Every day, nine-year-old Yasmin borrows a book from Book Uncle, a retired teacher who has set up a free lending library on the street corner. But when the mayor tries to shut down the rickety bookstand, Yasmin has to take her nose out of her book and do something. Fiction

**\*[Dogs of War](#)** by Sheila Keenan. This graphic novel tells the stories of the canine military heroes of World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War. It was inspired by historic battles and real military practice. Each story tells the remarkable adventures of a soldier and his service dog and is rendered with fascinating and beautiful detail, bringing to life the faithful dogs who braved bombs, barrages, and battles to save the lives of countless soldiers. Graphic novel. War.

**\*[Malcolm at Midnight](#)** by W.H. Beck. When Malcolm the rat arrives as the pet at McKenna School, he revels in the attention. He also meets the Midnight Academy, a secret society of classroom pets that keeps the nutters (kids) safe. When the Academy’s iguana leader is kidnapped, Malcolm must prove his innocence—and that even rats can be good guys. Mystery

**\*[A Smart Girl's Guide to Starting Middle School](#)** by Julie Williams. The secret to feeling more confident as you start middle school is having a little insight into what to expect. This book provides that information as well as "Smart Girl's tips" from girls who have already made the grade in the big school. Nonfiction.

\***This Was Our Pact** by Ryan Andrews- It's the night of the annual Autumn Equinox Festival, when the town gathers to float paper lanterns down the river. Legend has it that after drifting out of sight, they'll soar off to the Milky Way and turn into brilliant stars, but could that actually be true? This year, Ben and his classmates are determined to find out where those lanterns really go, and to ensure success in their mission, they've made a pact with two simple rules: No one turns for home. No one looks back. Fantasy/Graphic Novel

\*\***Serafina's Promise** by Ann E. Burg. Serafina has a secret dream. She wants to go to school and become a doctor with her best friend, Julie Marie. Will Serafina have to let go of that dream in the face of crippling poverty and especially after the terrible earthquake that turns her town and country, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, into an unrecognizable landscape? Realistic fiction. Told in verse.

\*\***Song for a Whale** by Lynne Kelly. Twelve-year-old Iris is a tech genius. But she's the only deaf person in her school. When she learns about Blue 55, a real whale who is unable to speak to other whales, Iris understands how he must feel. Then she has an idea: she should invent a way to "sing" to him! But he's three thousand miles away. How will she play her song for him? Fiction/Animals

\*\***Dragons in a Bag** by Zetta Elliott. When Jaxon is sent to spend the day with a mean old lady his mother calls Ma, he finds out she's not his grandmother--but she is a witch! She needs his help delivering baby dragons to a magical world where they'll be safe. Will Jax get the baby dragons delivered safe and sound? Or will they be lost in Brooklyn forever? Fantasy

\*\***Harbor Me** by Jacqueline Woodson It all starts when six kids have to meet for a weekly chat--by themselves, with no adults to listen in. There, in the room they soon dub the ARTT Room (short for "A Room to Talk"), they discover it's safe to talk about what's bothering them--And together, they can grow braver and more ready for the rest of their lives. Fiction

\*\*\***Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science** by John Fleischman. True story, with gory pictures, of a railroad construction foreman blasting rock in 1848 when a thirteen-pound iron rod was shot through his brain. Miraculously, he survived to live another eleven years and become a textbook case in brain science. His story still fascinates today. Non-fiction.

\*\*\***Woods Runner** by Gary Paulsen. Samuel, 13, spends his days in the forest, hunting for food for his family far away from the Revolutionary War that has begun near Boston. But when Samuel's parents are taken away as prisoners, Samuel follows, hiding, moving silently, and determined to find a way to rescue them. Historical fiction.

\*\*\***Birchbark House** by Louise Erdrich. Omakayas, a spirited, 7-year-old Ojibwa girl, shows us the daily life of this Native American family, in which tanning moose hides, picking berries, and scaring crows from the cornfield are as commonplace as encounters with bear cubs and fireside ghost stories. Historical Fiction & Nonfiction. Series.