

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! These books tie into this year's Driving Question: "*How do we face our fears?*" 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.

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

\*[I Survived Series](#) by Lauren Tarshis. These books are awesome and there are so many! Find one that is on a topic that is interesting to you! Our favorite - The Great Molasses Flood of 1919 - set in Boston!

\*[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

\*[Out of Left Field](#) by Ellen Klages. Every boy knows Katy Gordon is their best pitcher, even though she's a girl. But in 1957, girls are not eligible to play in Little League. It's not fair, and Katy's going to fight back. Inspired by what she's learning about civil rights in school, she sets out to prove that she's *not* the only girl who plays baseball. Historical 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/Fantasy

\*[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.

\*[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

\*\*[Where the Mountain Meets the Moon](#) by Grace Lin. In the valley of Fruitless mountain, Minli 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, Minli 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 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.

\*\*[Esperanza Rising](#) by Pam Muñoz Ryan. Esperanza always thought she would have a good life on her family's ranch in Mexico, but a sudden tragedy forces her and her mother to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp. Set during the Great Depression. Historical fiction.

\*\*[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.

\*\*[The Only Game](#) by Mike Lupica. Jack is the star of his baseball team and this year is supposed to be his year, until he up and quits. Jack's best friend Gus can't understand how Jack could just give up! 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 isn't so sure. Sports.

\*\*\*[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.

\*\*\*[If I Ever Get Out of Here](#) by Eric Gansworth. Lewis "Shoe" Blake is used to the joys and difficulties of life on the Tuscarora Indian reservation in 1975: But attending a new school off the rez where he is bullied is hard as is figuring out who your real friends are. 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.

\*\*\*[Ice Wolves](#) by Amie Kaufman. Orphaned siblings, Rayna and Anders live in a divided world where those who can transform into ice wolves fight those who can transform into scorch dragons. Their loyalty is tested when Rana is claimed by the scorch dragons and Anders transforms into an ice wolves. To rescue Rana, Anders must learn to live in a whole new world. Fiction. Fantasy.