

Reading and rereading is fun and helps improve fluency and comprehension! Summer reading is required; this list offers suggestions, but feel free to read a book that is not on this list and explore other books, genres, and authors. These books tie into this year's **Driving Question: "Why do our stories matter?"** Within the first three weeks of school, students will be offered a menu of options to connect their book to the Driving Question. If a student does not read any book of their choice, they will still participate in the menu of options by discussing current, historical, or personal events that tie into the DQ. The highest possible grade would be a C.

You can purchase books from our favorite local bookstore, The Book Oasis, on Main Street (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

*[A Boy at War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor](#) by Harry Mazer. While fishing with friends off Honolulu on 12-7-41, Adam is caught in Japanese air attack. Through the chaos of the next few days, he tries to find his father who was serving on the U.S.S. Arizona when the bombs fell. Historical fiction. Series.

*[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.

*[Ghost Boys](#) by Jewell Parker Rhodes. Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing. May not be a good fit for sensitive readers. Fiction. Historical Fiction.

*[Elle and Coach: Diabetes, the Fight for My Daughter's Life, and the Dog Who Changed Everything](#) by Stefany Shaheen, Mark Dagostino. True story of a mom of four who struggles to care for her daughter who has Type 1 diabetes - and then along comes a service dog, Coach, who changes their lives in amazing ways. Non-fiction.

*[Long Way Down](#) by Jason Reynolds. This fiercely stunning novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds—the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother. Verse - Fiction.

*[The Magic Fish](#) by Trung Le Nguyen. Tiễn has a secret he's been keeping, and it might change everything. This story deals with the complexity of family and how stories can bring us together. It's hard enough trying to communicate with your parents as a kid, but Tiễn doesn't even have the right words because his parents are struggling with their English. Is there a Vietnamese word for what he's going through? Graphic Novel.

****[The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond](#)** by Brenda Woods. This moving, uplifting story of a girl finally meeting the African American side of her family explores racism and how it feels to be biracial, and celebrates families of all kinds. Coretta Scott King Honor winner. Fiction.

****[Marrow Thieves](#)** by Cherie Dimaline. In a futuristic world ravaged by global warming, people have lost the ability to dream, and the dreamlessness has led to widespread madness. The only people still able to dream are North America's Indigenous people, and it is their marrow that holds the cure for the rest of the world. Futuristic.

****[Sold](#)** by Patricia McCormick. As this story, written in free verse, opens, 13-year-old Lakshmi lives in Nepal, goes to school and thinks of the boy she is to marry. Then her stepfather sells her into prostitution in India. If she works off her family's debt, she can leave, but that is virtually impossible until an American comes to the brothel to rescue girls. For mature readers Realistic fiction.

****[The Boy on the Wooden Box](#)** by Leon Leyson. True story of Leon's World War II survival as a Jew who was rescued by Oksar Schindler when he provided work opportunities for Leon's family. Mature reader. Autobiography.

****[Legend](#)** by Marie Lu. Set in the future, the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation at war with its neighbors. Two fifteen-year-olds, from different worlds, wealthy June trained for success in the Republic's highest military circles and Day, the country's most wanted criminal, try to uncover the shocking truth that brings them together. Futuristic. Series.

****[Checked](#)** by Cynthia Kadohata. There are very few things Conor and his dad love more than hockey, and one of those things is their Doberman, Sinbad. When Sinbad is diagnosed with cancer, Conor chooses to put his hockey lessons and practices on hold so they can pay for Sinbad's chemotherapy. Then, a hit on the ice, and then, well, what happens when the one thing that makes you feel special, is no longer available? Fiction

****[Ashfall](#)** by Mike Mullen. Alex plans to play computer games when he is left alone for the weekend. Then the Yellowstone supervolcano erupts and the world becomes a nightmare. Alex begins a journey to find his family with Darla, a travel partner he meets along the way. Together they must find the strength and skills to survive and outlast an epic disaster. Post-apocalyptic, Survival, series.

*****[Tuesdays with Morrie](#)** by Mitch Albom. Morrie, a history professor at Brandeis University is dying from ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). A former student, Albom, a fairly well-known sports writer, heard about his teacher and starts to visit him on Tuesdays. Great book to remind you what really matters in life. (Can be downloaded to PCs, iPods, and MP3 players from SPL) Nonfiction.

*****[Gifts](#)** by Ursula LeGuin. This novel tells of wondrous gifts that can summon animals, move land, or create fire and of the proud cruelty of power, how hard it is to grow up, and of how much harder still it is to find, in the world's darkness, gifts of light for two young people who struggle with their gifts. Fantasy/Series.

*****[The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi](#)** by Neal Bascomb. In 1945, Adolf Eichmann, in charge of the Nazis' Final Solution, vanished into the mountains. An elite team of spies captured him, 16 years later, in Argentina and smuggled him to Israel for trial. A blind Argentinean and his teenage daughter put themselves at great risk to help. Nonfiction.

