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# Uncover a Good Book!

Let a BMS staff member clue you into your next read

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## **BMS Summer Reading 2017 Book Recommendations**

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### **Alexander, Kwame. *The Playbook: 52 Rules to Aim, Shoot, and Score in this Game Called Life* (NF) - Ms. Jowdy & Ms. Mendes' Pick**

"Kwame Alexander shares poetry and inspiring lessons about the rules of life, as well as uplifting quotes from athletes such as Stephen Curry and Venus Williams and other exemplars like Sonia Sotomayor and Michelle Obama in this motivational and inspirational book just right for graduates of any age and anyone needing a little encouragement"--Provided by publisher. (From the author of the 2015 Newbery Medal Winner *The Crossover*)

### **Balliett, Blue. *Chasing Vermeer* - Ms. McGorty & Mrs. Bouchard's Pick**

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal. (2005 Edgar Award for Best Juvenile, 2005 Agatha Award for Best Children/Young Adult)

### **Barnhill, Kelly. *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* (MG) - Ms. Lozier, Ms. Grieco, & Ms. Annechini's Pick**

"An epic fantasy about a young girl raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, who must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her."--Provided by publisher. (2017 Newbery Medal Winner)

### **Bell, Cece. *El Deafo* (GN) - Ms. Swenson's Pick**

"Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers! In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful--and very awkward--hearing aid"--Provided by publisher. (2015 Newbery Honor Book)

### **Bruchac, Joseph. *Code Talkers: a novel about the Navajo Marines of World War Two* (MG) - Mr. Bradley's Pick**

After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.

### **Cameron, W. Bruce. *A Dog's Purpose: A Novel for Humans* (AF/YA) or *A Dog's Journey: Another Novel for Humans* (YA) - Ms. Paccione & Ms. Spencer**

In *A Dog's Purpose*, Bailey, the canine narrator, offers an inside look at how a dog thinks, feels, and behaves, exploring the unique bond she has with her humans and the many benefits of owning a dog. In *A Dog's Journey*, Buddy the dog, believing that he has achieved his purpose throughout several eventful lives, is drawn to a vibrant but troubled teen who he struggles to help until they are separated.

### **Dallas, Sandra. *Red Berries, White Clouds, Blue Sky* (MG) - Ms. Cole & Ms. Moore's Pick**

"After Pearl Harbor is bombed by the Japanese, twelve-year-old Tomi and her Japanese-American family are split up and forced to leave their California home to live in internment camps in New Mexico and Colorado"--Provided by the publisher. (2017 Nutmeg Award Nominee)

### **Danticat, Edwin. *Untwine* (YA) - World Language Department Pick (Ms. Faucher, Ms. Tate, Ms. Perez, & Mr. Oliveri)**

Identical twin teenagers Giselle and Isabelle Boyer have always been inseparable, and expected to stay that way even though their Haitian American parents are separating--but when the entire family is caught in a car crash, everyone's world is shattered forever.

**Dionne, Erin. *Notes From an Accidental Band Geek* (MG) - Mr. Salvador & Mr. Doble's Pick**

French horn virtuoso Elsie Wyatt resents having to join her high school's marching band playing a melliphone, but finally finds a sense of belonging that transcends the pressure she has always felt to be as good as her father, principal french horn player in the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

**DuPrau, Jeanne. *The City of Ember* (MG) or Middaugh, Dallas. *The City of Ember: The Graphic Novel* (GN) - Ms. Edwards & Ms. Hamylak's Pick**

In the city of Ember, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions.

**Ellis, Deborah. *The Breadwinner* (MG) - Ms. Oliveira & Ms. Kirk's Pick**

Conscious of the strict limitations imposed by the Taliban rulers of Kabul, Afghanistan, on women's freedom and behavior, eleven-year-old Parvana disguises herself as a boy in order to earn money so that her family can survive after her father's arrest.

**Fry, Jason. *Journey to Star Wars: The Force Awakens The Weapon of a Jedi: A Luke Skywalker Adventure* (MG) - Mr. Perlman & Ms. Kunz's Pick**

"In this story, set between "Star Wars: A New Hope" and "Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back," Luke finds himself drawn to a mysterious planet, where he must use the Force to save a young girl--and survive in a dangerous duel against a strange new villain. Hidden within the story are clues about the...new film "Star Wars: The Force Awakens"---Dust jacket.

**Gibbs, Stuart. *Space Case* (MG) - Mr. DaPonte, Ms. Zancan, Ms. Barbery, & Ms. Chifari's Pick**

"Dashiell Gibson, who lives on Moon Base Alpha, has to solve a murder of one of the moon's most prominent doctors"--Provided by publisher. (2017 Nutmeg Award Nominee, 2015 Edgar Award for Best Juvenile Nominee)

**Hahn, Mary Downing. *Took: A Ghost Story* (MG) - Ms. DiIorio & Ms. Heinzer's Pick**

"A witch called Old Auntie is lurking near Dan's family's new home. He doesn't believe in her at first, but is forced to accept that she is real and take action when his little sister, Erica, is 'took' to become Auntie's slave for the next fifty years"--Provided by publisher. (2018 Nutmeg Award Nominee)

**Horowitz, Anthony. *Stormbreaker* (MG) - Mr. Flynn's Pick**

After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6.

**Kizer, Amber. *A Matter of Days* (YA) - Ms. Hannequin's Pick**

In the not-too-distant future when a global pandemic kills most of humanity, a teenaged girl and her younger brother struggle to survive.

**Kopelman, Lieutenant Colonel Jay. *From Baghdad, With Love: A Marine, the War, and a Dog Named Lava* (NF/AD) - Mr. Hagan's Pick**

Tells the true story of a dog named Lava, who was rescued from an abandoned house in Fallujah, Iraq, cared for by the Marines who found him, and eventually permitted to come to the United States.

**Kurkjian, Tim. *I'm Fascinated by Sacrifice Flies: Inside the Game We All Love* (NF/AD) - Mr. Douglass & Mr. Maxwell's Pick**

In the aftermath of the Steroid Era that stained the game of baseball, at a time when so many players are so rich and therefore have a sense of entitlement that they haven't earned, ESPN baseball commentator Tim Kurkjian shows readers how to love the game more than ever, with incredible insight and stories that are hilarious, heartbreaking and revealing.

**Malterre, Elona. *The Last Wolf of Ireland* (MG) - Physical Education/Health Department's Pick (Mr. Marotta, Mr. Schrader, Mr. Rinas, & Ms. Tegmier)**

Despite the frightening stories they've heard about wolves, a boy and girl, living in Ireland in the 1780's, attempt to defy authority and save the last wolf left in the country.

**Nielsen, Jennifer. *A Night Divided* (MG) - Ms. Boles & Ms. D'Andrea's Pick**

With the rise of the Berlin Wall, twelve-year-old Gerta finds her family suddenly divided. She, her mother, and her brother Fritz live on the eastern side, controlled by the Soviets. Her father and middle brother, who had gone west in search of work, cannot return home. Gerta knows it is dangerous to watch the wall, to think forbidden thoughts of freedom, yet she can't help herself. She, her family, her neighbors and friends are prisoners in their own city.

**Pastis, Stephan. *Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made* (MG) - Ms. Mannion & Mr. Watson's Pick**

Meet Timmy Failure, the founder, president, and CEO of the best detective agency in town, probably the nation. And his lazy sidekick, Total, a 1,500-pound polar bear. A good book for Diary of a Wimpy Kid lovers!

**Peevyhouse, Parker. *Where Futures End* (YA) - Ms. Murphy's Pick**

Five teens, five futures: Dylan develops a sixth sense that allows him to glimpse another world. Ten years from now, Brixney must get more hits on her social media feed or risk being stuck in a debtors' colony. Thirty years from now, Epony scrubs her entire online profile from the web and goes "High-Concept." Sixty years from now, Reef struggles to survive in a city turned virtual game board. And more than one hundred years from now, Quinn uncovers the alarming secret that links them all. These are stories about a world that is destroying itself, and about the alternate world that might be its savior. Unless it's just the opposite.

**Pennypacker, Sara. *Pax* (MG) - Ms. Anastasi's Pick**

"After being forced to give up his pet fox Pax, a young boy named Peter decides to leave home and get his best friend back"--Provided by publisher. (2016 National Book Awards Finalist)

**Philbrick, Rodman. *Freak the Mighty* (MG) - Ms. Obasi's Pick**

Max, a large eighth-grader with a learning disability, becomes friends with Freak, an intelligent boy who is physically impaired.

**Riordan, Rick. *39 Clues: The Maze of Bones* (MG) - Ms. Recklet, Ms. Getz, & Ms. Hillyer's Pick**

Minutes before she died Grace Cahill changed her will, leaving her descendants an impossible decision: "You have a choice - one million dollars or a clue." Grace is the last matriarch of the Cahills, the world's most powerful family. Everyone from Napoleon to Houdini is related to the Cahills, yet the source of the family power is lost. 39 Clues hidden around the world will reveal the family's secret, but no one has been able to assemble them. Now the clues race is on, and young Amy and Dan must decide what's important: hunting clues or uncovering what REALLY happened to their parents.

**Ruiz, Don Miguel. *The Four Agreements: A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom* (NF/AD) - Mr. Bruvig & Ms. Antonucci's Pick**

The Four Agreements - always be impeccable with your word, don't take anything personally, don't make assumptions, and always do your best. Presents advice on how to gain personal freedom by following the wisdom of the Toltecs. The Four Agreements offer a powerful code of conduct that can rapidly transform our lives to a new experience of freedom, true happiness, and love.

**Sloan, Holly Goldberg. *Counting by 7s* (MG) - Ms. Rinas & Ms. Esposito's Pick**

Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident. (2016 Nutmeg Award Winner)

**Spinelli, Jerry. *Crash* (MG) - Ms. Emerick's Pick**

Crash Coogan, rising football sensation, and his friend, Mike make a regular practice of tormenting the school nerd, Penn Webb, but when Mike takes a prank too far, Crash finds himself locked in a moral dilemma.

**Weeks, Sarah. *Pie* (MG) - Ms. Hollopeter & Ms. Rick's Pick**

Alice's Aunt Polly passes away and entrusts the recipe for her world-famous pie crust to her cat, which she leaves in Alice's care, and as everyone, including Alice, tries to discover the secret ingredients, Alice learns some important lessons about faith, love, and family. (2016 Nutmeg Award Nominee)

**Woodson, Jacqueline. *Brown Girl Dreaming* (MG) - Ms. Doheny & Ms. Tierney's Pick**

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. (2015 Coretta Scott King Author Award, 2015 Newbery Honor Book)

**Young, Karen Romano. *Hundred Percent* (MG) - Ms. Burns' Pick**

Christine Gouda, called Tink, and her best friend Jackie are entering sixth grade, and suddenly everything seems awkward and just plain wrong--boys are behaving differently, clothes do not fit the way they should, long term friendships suddenly seem tenuous, and most of all she needs a new nickname because "Tink" just does not fit anymore. (Local author!)

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(YA) Young Adult  (MG) Middle Grades  (AF) American Fiction  (NF) Nonfiction  (GN) Graphic Novel  (AD) Adult Guidance Suggested

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## Dear parents,

We are proud to offer a wonderful collection of books and authors for our students to choose from this summer. Books selections reflect a variety of topics, genres, reading and interest levels aimed to suit the needs of a diverse population of readers. We acknowledge that while teachers have recommended many excellent selections, you have the ultimate authority in determining the proper book for your child. A website has been linked to the BMS Library Learning Commons (LLC) page specifically for *Summer Reading 2017: Uncover a Good Book!*. You may access the website directly by going to <http://bmssummerreading2017.weebly.com/>. Look for special icons next to book titles that link to a variety of resources. Please utilize these resources, as well as information provided on the BMS LLC website, to become familiar with the book selections. Since this is a community effort to engage students in the reading process, we welcome your involvement through collaborative reading and book discussions at home. When available, links to book discussion guides have been provided. As always, thank you for your commitment to your student's success!

"The more that you read, the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." - Dr. Seuss

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