



2017 BFMA Summer Reading List and Theme Song Selection

Every student should pick a song that they identify with or that motivates them. List the song and singer and then write at least one side of a paper on why you like this song and how you relate to it. This will be used as a community building activity at the start of the new year.

For each of the two books that you read on your own, please write a minimum of one page stating the title and the author, discuss the main characters, the setting, the plot, and your opinion of the book.

***All Class Read:** Hidden Figures Young Readers' Edition by Margot Lee Shetterly

Before John Glenn orbited the earth or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as "human computers" used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. This book brings to life the stories of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden, four African-American women who lived through the Civil Rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War, and the movement for gender equality, and whose work forever changed the face of NASA and the country.

In addition to the "all-class read", choose two more books to read over the summer. A list of recommended books follows, but feel free to read any two books of your choice.

Younger readers:

Ape and Armadillo Take Over the World by James Sturm

Ape and Armadillo learn that achieving world domination is a lot less fun without your best friend at your side.

The Book Itch: Freedom, Truth, and Harlem's Greatest Bookstore by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson

The story of the National Memorial African Bookstore, a testament to the power of words and reading and a celebration of culture during some turbulent years.

A Dragon's Guide to the Care and Feeding of Humans by Laurence Yep and Joanne Ryder

A story about dragons with a twist: Miss Drake (the dragon) has a new human pet!

Fable Comics edited by Chris Duffy

Twenty-eight fables from different countries are retold with the help of prominent children's book illustrators.

Flying Lessons & Other Stories edited by Ellen Oh

Ten authors celebrate diversity through tales of Bigfoot, basketball, girl pirates, and more in a highly readable, relatable short-story collection.

Fort by Cynthia DeFelice

Friends Wyatt and Augie spend an unplugged summer in the woods, building a fort and protecting a disabled boy from bullies.

Garvey's Choice by Nikki Grimes

Overweight sci-fi nerd Garvey knows he can never be the athlete his father wants him to be, but maybe, he might be able to find his own path when he joins the school chorus.

Hiawatha and the Peacemaker by Robbie Robertson

A powerful introduction to the story of Hiawatha, the Mohawk who translated the message of unity from the Peacemaker, unifying the five nations of Iroquois.

House of Robots by James Patterson

Sammy has never had an easy time fitting in at school; his mother is an inventor, his dad a graphic novel artist, and his sister is confined at home with an immune condition. When Sammy's mother insists that he take a robot to school with him, he knows that he is in for a record-breaking amount of teasing.

Jazz Day: The Making of a Famous Photograph by Roxane Orgill

This collection of poetry focus on the process art designer Art Kane went through in order to photograph what was to become the iconic 1958 photo of American jazz greats on a stoop in Harlem.

Juana and Lucas by Juana Medina

A little girl growing up in Bogota is determined to learn English before her trip to the U.S. and her visit to Spaceland.

The Jumbies by Tracey Baptiste

Eleven-year-old Corinne must call on her courage and an ancient magic to stop an evil spirit and save her island home.

Lola Levine Is Not Mean! by Monica Brown

Sports-loving Lola accidentally injures a classmate during a recess soccer game and resolves to win back her spot on the field, and her friends, by demonstrating what good sportsmanship is all about.

Moo by Sharon Creech

When Reena found out she was moving to Maine, she pictured lighthouse and lobsters, not a neighbor with a zany cow named Zora.

Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea by Ben Clanton

A narwhal and a jellyfish strike up an unlikely friendship and have adventures under the sea.

Nothing but Trouble by Jacqueline Davies

Maggie, aspiring scientist and hacker, and Lena, a talented artist, team up to add a little mystery and mischief to the last days of Odawahaka Middle School.

Oona Finds an Egg (first in a series) by Adele Griffin

Follow Oona Oodlethunk on her adventures in prehistoric times as she tries to find the perfect pet.

Pax by Sara Pennypacker

Peter leaves home to reunite with his beloved pet fox, Pax.

Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer by Kelly Jones

When she and her family move to a farm, Sophie discovers some unique chickens that need more than just care and feeding.

Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems by Bob Raczka

Raczka offers a collection of twenty-one concrete poems that are a surefire way to draw the attention of young readers and inspire young readers.

Older Readers:

As Brave as You by Jason Reynolds

Being sent to the country for the summer is culture shock for Genie and his older brother, but it offers an opportunity to get to know Grandpop and uncovers some dark family secrets.

Beetle Boy (first in a series) by M. G. Leonard

A giant talking beetle and cast of crazy characters help Darkus search for his missing father, a famous entomologist.

Booked by Kwame Alexander

The thrill of a soccer tournament, the pressure of family expectations, the social minefield of crushes and bullies, and the beauty of words are all explored in this exciting, extraordinary novel in verse.

Fatal Fever: Tracking Down Typhoid Mary by Gail Jarrow

Learn about this dreaded disease that ravaged our country early in the twentieth century in this nonfiction title that reads like a medical mystery.

Fearsome Creatures of the Lumberwoods by Hal Johnson

This reworking of American tall tales features stories of fearsome legendary creatures of the wooded wilds of early North America, including the snoligoster, the hodag, and the hoop snake, with go!w-in-the-dark illustrations.

Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Ally struggles to hide her dyslexia by continually getting in trouble, until a substitute teacher discovers what she is really hiding.

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill

Luna, having been turned into a witch as a young girl, discovers the magic within her while facing an evil force.

Grounded: The Adventures of Rapunzel (first in a series) by Megan Morrison

After leaving her tower for the first time, Rapunzel joins Jack Beanstalker on a perilous journey through the lands of Tyme.

Hour of the Bees by Lindsay Eagar

Carol is stuck in the New Mexican desert one summer with her family and her grandfather who suffers from dementia. He world is rocked by the stories he tells her during that time.

The Inquisitor's Tale, or, the Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog by Adam Gidwitz

Three travelers unite in a journey through medieval France to escape persecution and save their land.

In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse by Joseph Marshall

Jimmy McClean and his grandfather go on a road trip together in order for the boy to learn about his Lakota heritage.

Lost in the Sun by Lisa Graff

Trent blames an unfortunate event for his misfortunes and tries to turn things around. He is able to make that turn when he meets Fallon, and together they help him find the healing and redemption he seeks.

Mark of the Thief (first in a series) by Jennifer A. Nielsen

Nic, a slave in the mines of ancient Rome, escapes after discovering a magical amulet.

One Last Word: Wisdom from the Harlem Renaissance by Nikki Grimes

Grimes evokes the emotion of the Harlem Renaissance through original poetry inspired by greats of the era.

Presenting Buffalo Bill: The Man Who Invented the Wild West by Candace Fleming

A lively, visually detailed look at not only the life of "Buffalo Bill" Cody but also the history of his traveling show, which shaped America's view of the western frontier.

Rhythm Ride: A Road Trip through the Motown Sound by Andrea Davis Pinkney

A narrative history of the Motown record label; the business, the music, the people, and the historical, political, and cultural context of its times.

Samurai Rising by Pamela S. Turner

An epic tale of warriors and rebellion reveals how Minamoto Yoshitsune became the greatest samurai in Japanese history.

Short by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Sensitive about her height, Julia gains new perspective and self-acceptance when she is cast as a munchkin in a summer stock theater production of *The Wizard of Oz*.