

7th Grade Summer Reading

@ OVMS

ATTENTION PARENTS: it's not too late to help your child become a better reader before the new school year begins. Summer is an important time for students to keep reading and improve their language skills. If your child hasn't been reading regularly this summer, they may be in danger of the "summer slide"—a decline in their reading ability.

Numerous studies indicate that students who don't read or read infrequently during their summer vacation see their reading abilities stagnate or decline. This effect becomes more pronounced as students get older and advance through the school system.

"It's like if you play an instrument but put it down for three months," said Laurie Calvert, a teacher who is working as the Director of Teacher Outreach at ED. She wrote an academic thesis on improving summer reading programs at her North Carolina high school. "You're not going to be as good as a person who continues to play the instrument over those three months."

This "summer slide" can be avoided by ensuring that children are as engaged as possible in whatever they choose to read—just as long as they're reading every day.

"Anything that keeps students reading works," Calvert said. "The more engaged you are in the text, the closer you're going to read it. The closer you read it, the more you comprehend. And that process grows your skill."

Source: <https://blog.ed.gov/2011/08/why-summer-reading-pays-off-year-round/>

**Read a series from this list, then complete one of the projects shown on the next page...
Both your project and your signed Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment form are due
to your Reading Teacher by Friday, August 23rd
in order to qualify for your Reading Teacher's REWARD!**

**If you complete your project electronically, you can email/share your work with
your Reading Teacher using the teacher's email address, found on the OVMS web site @
www.sbac.edu/oakview (click "Faculty & Staff").**

THIS WORK IS VOLUNTARY, NOT REQUIRED, FOR OVMS NON-MAGNET PROGRAM STUDENTS.

PARENT/GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The series my child, _____, selected to read from the
summer list was _____ by _____.
student name series name author name

Please check if completed:

- My child has had at least one conversation with me about each of the books that he/she has read in the series, and I was able to get a good grasp of what each book was about.
- My child did her/his own work to complete at least one of the projects recommended in this packet.

parent/guardian name

date

Read a series from the list, complete one of the projects below, and get your parent/guardian's signature...

Both your project and your signed Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment form are due to your Reading Teacher by Friday, August 23rd in order to qualify for your Reading Teacher's REWARD!

If you complete your project electronically, you can email/share your work with your Reading Teacher using the teacher's email address that you can find on the OVMS web site @ www.sbac.edu/oakview (click "Faculty & Staff").

Comprehension Test! – using notebook paper or Google Docs/MS Word or an online quiz generator
Create a multiple choice test that contains at least 20 questions about the series.

1. Each question must have 4 possible choices.
2. Be careful not to use "All of the above" as a choice more than three times.
3. Be careful not to use "None of the above" as a choice more than three times.
4. Do *more* than just ask "who did what" and "what happened when" and "where did that happen" kinds of questions – *be sure to also ask at least three questions* about "why" things happened the way they did, too!

Character Alphabet! – using notebook paper or Google Docs/MS Word

Choose a character you liked from the series and then create sentences using a main word that begins with the next letter in the alphabet – your goal is to show your deep knowledge of the character. You will end up with a sentence for each letter of the alphabet (X and Z will work as long as your main word in the sentence contains that letter)
For example, if your favorite character was the Giant from the tale of "Jack and the Beanstalk", your Character Alphabet might look like this:

A is for the ANGER the giant felt when he realized Jack had stolen his harp and hen.

B is for the BREAD that the giant wanted to make using Jack's bones.

C is for the CHOPPING of the vine that caused the giant to fall to his death.

... and so on until you get to Z! (And remember, most characters have something EXTRA or CRAZY going on at some point in their story....)

Infographic! – using posterboard-sized paper or an online app/site (just Google search the phrase "infographic creator", there are several very good free sites that can be used) or Google Slides/MS PowerPoint

1. Make sure the title of the series is strongly featured.
2. Use words, phrases, and sentences that illustrate or tell about important
(A) Settings, (B) Characters, and (C) Events in the series.
3. Use images (drawn or collected from the internet, magazines, etc.) to help illustrate what you are describing in #2.
4. Work to create at least 12 such words, phrases, or sentences for #2 so that the whole posterboard paper or computer graphic will be covered.
5. The viewer of your Infographic should be able to get a good feel for the main characters, places, and events in the series.

Cartoon It! (aka "Storyboard It!") – using paper or MS PowerPoint/Google Slides

Think of the plot for the series and create at least one panel (8.5"x11" piece of paper, PPT slide, etc.) to illustrate *each* of those important moments. You should use both images (drawn or collected from the internet, magazines, etc.) as well as words (both descriptions as well as "speech bubbles").

Remember plot structure?

Exposition (Introduces the Setting [where and when] and Main Characters [protagonist, antagonist])

Conflict (What is the problem that the protagonist(s) are faced with having to overcome?)

Rising Action (What events lead up to the "big moment" in the story?) – this will require several pieces of paper or slides because in a series there are *a lot* of different events that lead up to that ultimate "big moment".

Climax (The "big moment" in the story, where the main problem is either solved or it isn't.)

Falling Action (What events happen as a direct result of the Climax?)

Resolution (How is the story ended, how have the main characters changed, what are they doing?)



GENRE: STEAMPUNK

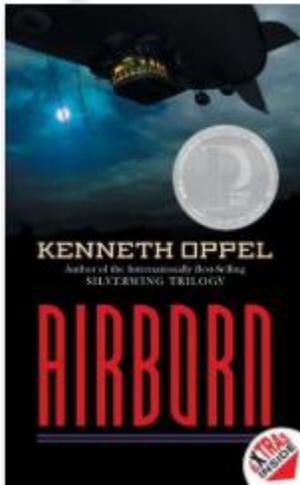
Finishing School series by Gail Carriger

4 Books (Book 1: *Etiquette & Espionage*)

It's one thing to learn to curtsy properly. It's quite another to learn to curtsy and throw a knife at the same time. Welcome to Finishing School.

Fourteen-year-old Sophronia is a great trial to her poor mother. Sophronia is more interested in dismantling clocks and climbing trees than proper manners--and the family can only hope that company never sees her atrocious curtsy. Mrs. Temminnick is desperate for her daughter to become a proper lady. So she enrolls Sophronia in Mademoiselle Geraldine's Finishing Academy for Young Ladies of Quality.

But Sophronia soon realizes the school is not quite what her mother might have hoped. At Mademoiselle Geraldine's, young ladies learn to finish...everything. Certainly, they learn the fine arts of dance, dress, and etiquette, but they also learn to deal out death, diversion, and espionage--in the politest possible ways, of course. Sophronia and her friends are in for a rousing first year's education



GENRE: STEAMPUNK

Matt Cruse series by Kenneth Oppel

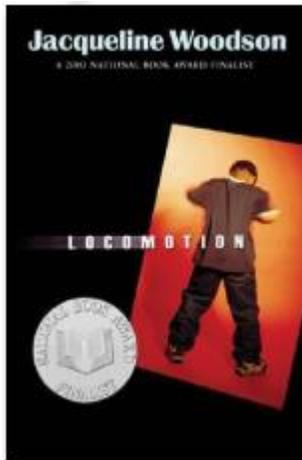
3 Books (Book 1: *Airborn*)

It was so quick it was hard to focus. It was long and lean and had sleek cloud-colored fur. As it soared through the air between trees, its wings flared open for just a second and suddenly it was huge, a completely different creature. And just as quickly the wings pulled in and it was mist again and vanished among the branches.

Matt Cruse is a cabin boy on the Aurora, a huge airship that sails hundreds of feet above the ocean, ferrying wealthy passengers from city to city. It is the life Matt's always wanted; convinced he's lighter than air, he imagines himself as buoyant as the hydrium gas that powers his ship.

One night he meets a dying balloonist who speaks of beautiful creatures drifting through the skies. It is only after Matt meets the balloonist's granddaughter that he realizes that the man's ravings may, in fact, have been true, and that the creatures are completely real and utterly mysterious.

Matt suddenly finds himself in the middle of a swashbuckling adventure in which the air is populated by transcontinental voyagers, pirates, and beings never before dreamed of by the humans who sail the skies.



GENRE: REALISTIC

Locomotion series by Jacqueline Woodson

2 Books (Book 1: *Locomotion*)

So this whole book's a poem because poetry's short and this whole book's a poem 'cause Ms. Marcus says write it down before it leaves your brain. I tell her about the smoke and she says

"Good, Lonnie, write that."

Not a whole lot of people be saying "Good, Lonnie" to me so I write the string-of-smoke thing down real fast. Ms. Marcus says "We'll worry about the line breaks later."

When Lonnie Collins Motion "Locomotion" was seven years old, his life changed forever. Now he's eleven, and his life is about to change again. His teacher, Ms. Marcus, is showing him ways to put his jumbled feelings on paper. And suddenly, Lonnie has a whole new way to tell the world about his life, his friends, his little sister Lili, and even his foster mom, Miss Edna, who started out crabby but isn't so bad after all.



GENRE: REALISTIC

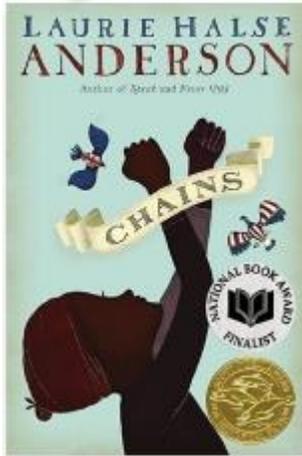
Stargirl series by Jerry Spinelli

2 Books (Book 1: *Stargirl*)

She was elusive. She was today. She was tomorrow. She was the faintest scent of a cactus flower, the flitting shadow of an elf owl. We did not know what to make of her. In our minds we tried to pin her to corkboard like a butterfly, but the pin merely went through and away she flew.

Leo Borlock follows the unspoken rule at Mica Area High School: don't stand out--under any circumstances! Then Stargirl arrives at Mica High and everything changes--for Leo and for the entire school. After 15 years of home schooling, Stargirl bursts into tenth grade in an explosion of color and a clatter of ukulele music, enchanting the Mica student body.

But the delicate scales of popularity suddenly shift, and Stargirl is shunned for everything that makes her different. Somewhere in the midst of Stargirl's arrival and rise and fall, normal Leo Borlock has tumbled into love with her.



GENRE: HISTORICAL

Seeds of America series by Laurie Halse Anderson

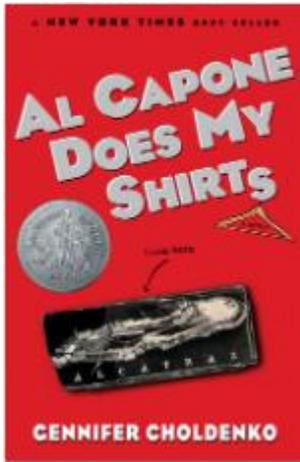
3 Books (Book 1: *Chains*)

Would you risk everything to be free?

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom.

Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel.

When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.



GENRE: HISTORICAL

Al Capone at Alcatraz series by Jennifer Choldenko

4 Books (Book 1: *Al Capone Does My Shirts*)

All Moose wants to do is protect his sister, live up to his parents' expectations, and stay out of trouble.

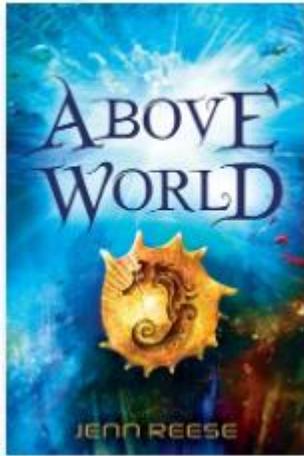
But on Alcatraz, trouble is never very far away.

Moose Flanagan moved to Alcatraz Island so that his father could work as a guard (and especially so his sister could go to a special school in San Francisco). He had to leave his friends and his winning baseball team behind. But it's worth it, right? If his sister can get help, maybe his family will finally be normal.

But on Alcatraz his dad is so busy, he's never around. His mom's preoccupation with sister Natalie's condition (today it would be called autism) is even worse now that there's no extended family around to help with her tantrums and constant needs.

And, of course, there's never enough money.

When Moose meets Piper, the cute daughter of the warden, he knows right off that she's trouble. But she's also strangely irresistible.



GENRE: DYSTOPIAN

Above World series by Jenn Reese

3 Books (Book 1: *Above World*)

Aluna squeezed the necklace in her fist. Makina was dead. Suddenly, it didn't matter that Great White had almost caught her. It didn't matter that her legs ached and her eyes burned and her head was starting to pound.

She wanted answers.

Thirteen-year-old Aluna has lived her entire life under the ocean with the Coral Kampii in the City of Shifting Tides. But after centuries spent hidden from the Above World, her colony's survival is in doubt. The Kampii's breathing necklaces are failing, but the elders are unwilling to venture above water to seek answers. Only headstrong Aluna and her friend Hoku are stubborn and bold enough to face the terrors of land to search for way to save their people.

But can Aluna's warrior spirit and Hoku's tech-savvy keep them safe? Set in a world where overcrowding has led humans to adapt—growing tails to live under the ocean or wings to live on mountains—here is a ride through a future where greed and cruelty have gone unchecked, but the loyalty of friends remains true.



GENRE: DYSTOPIAN

Slated series by Teri Terry

4 Books (Book 1: *Slated*)

Who can you trust when everyone is a stranger?

Kyla's memory has been erased, her personality wiped blank, her memories lost for ever.

She's been Slated.

The government claims she was a terrorist and that they are giving her a second chance - as long as she plays by their rules. But echoes of the past whisper in Kyla's mind. Someone is lying to her, and nothing is as it seems. Who can she trust in her search for the truth?



GENRE: SCIENCE FICTION

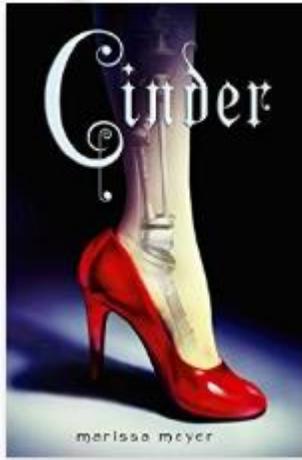
Randoms series by David Liss

3 Books (Book 1: *Randoms*)

Zeke Reynolds comes from a long line of proud science fiction geeks.

He knows his games, comics, movies, and TV shows like Captain Kirk knows the starship . So it's a dream come true when he learns the science fiction he loves so much is based on reality—and that he's been selected to spend a year on a massive space station. To evaluate humanity's worthiness, the Confederation of United Planets has hand picked three of Earth's most talented young people—and then there's Zeke. He's the random.

Unfortunately, Zeke finds life in space more challenging than he'd hoped. When he saves his transport ship from a treacherous enemy attack, he's labeled a war criminal. Now despised by the Confederation, rejected by his fellow humans, and pursued by a ruthless enemy, Zeke befriends the alien randoms: rejected by their own species, but loyal to each other. But their presence in the Confederation may not be so random after all, and as the danger increases, Zack's knowledge of science fiction might be the only thing that can save himself, his friends, and Earth itself.



GENRE: SCIENCE FICTION

The Lunar Chronicles series by Marissa Meyer

4 Books (Book 1: *Cinder*)

A forbidden romance.

A deadly plague.

Earth's fate hinges on one girl . . .

CINDER, a gifted mechanic in New Beijing, is also a cyborg. She's reviled by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister's sudden illness. But when her life becomes entwined with the handsome Prince Kai's, she finds herself at the centre of a violent struggle between the desires of an evil queen - and a dangerous temptation.

Cinder is caught between duty and freedom, loyalty and betrayal. Now she must uncover secrets about her mysterious past in order to protect Earth's future.

This is not the fairytale you remember. But it's one you won't forget.



GENRE: SCIENCE FICTION

The Reckoners series by Brandon Sanderson

3 Books (Book 1: *Steelheart*)

Ten years ago, Calamity came.

It was a burst in the sky that gave ordinary men and women extraordinary powers. The awed public started calling them Epics.

But Epics are no friend of man. With incredible gifts came the desire to rule.

And to rule man you must crush his will.

Nobody fights the Epics...nobody but the Reckoners. A shadowy group of ordinary humans, they spend their lives studying Epics, finding their weaknesses, and then assassinating them.

And David wants in. He wants Steelheart — the Epic who is said to be invincible. The Epic who killed David's father. For years, like the Reckoners, David's been studying, and planning — and he has something they need. Not an object, but an experience.

He's seen Steelheart bleed. And he wants revenge.



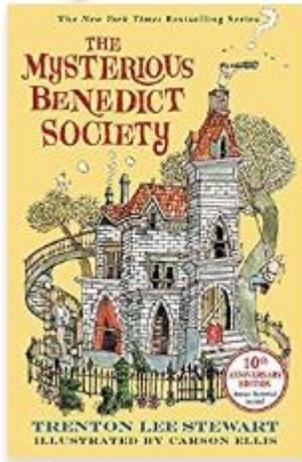
GENRE: SPORTS

Track series by Jason Reynolds

4 Books (Book 1: *Ghost*)

Is he running for his life, or from it?

Running. That's all that Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But never for a track team. Nope, his game has always been ball. But when Ghost impulsively challenges an elite sprinter to a race -- and wins -- the Olympic medalist track coach sees he has something: crazy natural talent. Thing is, Ghost has something else: a lot of anger, and a past that he is trying to outrun. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed and meld with the team, or will his past finally catch up to him?



GENRE: MYSTERY/SUSPENSE

The Mysterious Benedict Society series by Trenton Lee Stewart

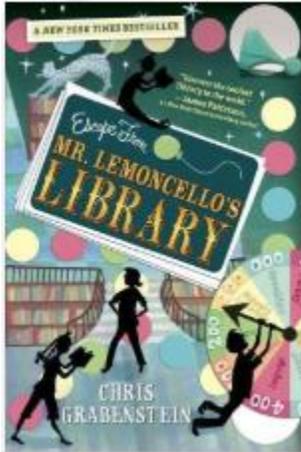
5 Books (Book 1: *The Mysterious Benedict Society*)

"Are you a gifted child looking for special opportunities?"

When this peculiar ad appears in the newspaper, dozens of children enroll to take a series of mysterious, mind-bending tests. (And you, dear reader, can test your wits right alongside them.)

But in the end just four very special children will succeed. Their challenge: to go on a secret mission that only the most intelligent and resourceful children could complete. To accomplish it they will have to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

As our heroes face physical and mental trials beyond their wildest imaginations, they have no choice but to turn to each other for support. But with their newfound friendship at stake, will they be able to pass the most important test of all?



GENRE: MYSTERY/SUSPENSE

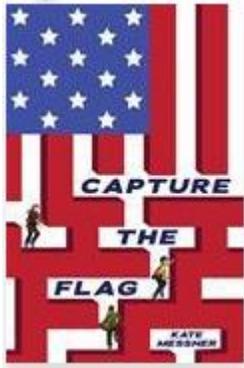
Mr. Lemoncello's Library series by Chris Grabenstein

4 Books (Book 1: *Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library*)

Winning an invitation to the opening-night lock-in at the new library took a lot of work and some luck. Getting home will be a whole other story...

Kyle Keeley is the class clown, popular with most kids, (if not the teachers), and an ardent fan of all games: board games, word games, and particularly video games. His hero, Luigi Lemoncello, the most notorious and creative gamemaker in the world, just so happens to be the genius behind the building of the new town library.

Lucky Kyle wins a coveted spot to be one of the first 12 kids in the library for an overnight of fun, food, and lots and lots of games. But when morning comes, the doors remain locked. Kyle and the other winners must solve every clue and every secret puzzle to find the hidden escape route. And the stakes are very high.



GENRE: MYSTERY/SUSPENSE

Silver Jaguar series by Kate Messner

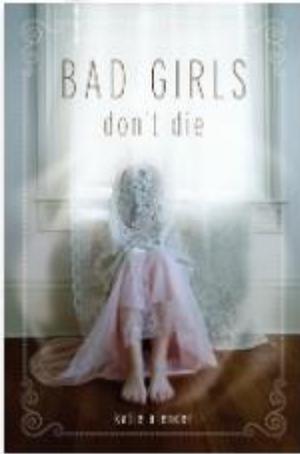
3 Books (Book 1: *Capture the Flag*)

They never should have unlocked the door.

They never should have let them in.

Anna, José, and Henry are complete strangers with more in common than they realize. Snowed in together at a chaotic Washington D.C. airport, they encounter a mysterious tattooed man, a flamboyant politician, and a rambunctious poodle named for an ancient king. Even stranger, news stations everywhere have announced that the famous flag that inspired "The Star-Spangled Banner" has been stolen! Anna, certain that the culprits must be snowed in too, recruits Henry and José to help catch the thieves and bring them to justice.

But when accusations start flying, they soon realize there's more than justice at stake. As the snow starts clearing, Anna, José, and Henry find themselves in a race against time (and the weather!) to prevent the loss of an American treasure.



GENRE: HORROR

Bad Girls Don't Die series by Katie Alender

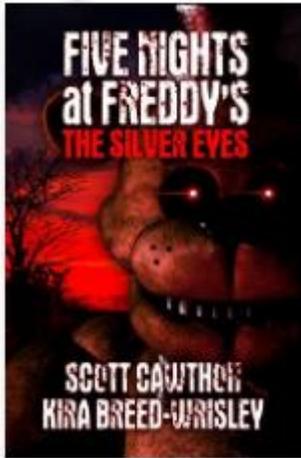
3 Books (Book 1: *Bad Girls Don't Die*)

Out of the corner of my eye, I got a sense of the light growing larger – and then I realized it wasn't getting bigger – it was getting closer.

It was following us.

Alexis thought she led a typically dysfunctional high school existence. Dysfunctional like her parents' marriage; her doll-crazy twelve-year-old sister, Kasey; and even her own anti-social, anti-cheerleader attitude. When a family fight results in some tearful sisterly bonding, Alexis realizes that her life is creeping from dysfunction into danger. Kasey is acting stranger than ever: her blue eyes go green sometimes; she uses old-fashioned language; and she even loses track of chunks of time, claiming to know nothing about her strange behavior. Their old house is changing, too. Doors open and close by themselves; water boils on the unlit stove; and an unplugged air conditioner turns the house cold enough to see their breath in.

Alexis wants to think that it's all in her head, but soon, what she liked to think of as silly parlor tricks are becoming life-threatening--to her, her family, and to her budding relationship with the class president. Alexis knows she's the only person who can stop Kasey -- but what if that green-eyed girl isn't even Kasey anymore?



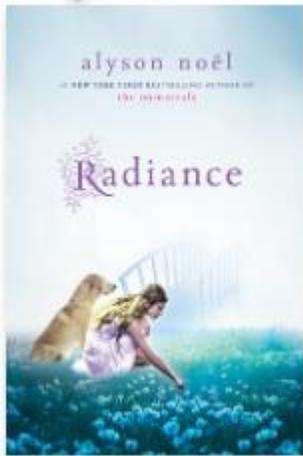
GENRE: HORROR

Five Nights at Freddy's series by Scott Cawthon and Kira Breed-Wrisley

3 Books (Book 1: *The Silver Eyes*)

Suddenly the console in front of her was wrenched away. It toppled over, thrown down like a toy. The power cords beneath her hands and knees were yanked away, and Charlie slipped, almost falling. She caught herself and looked up just in time to see the downward swing of a hook...

Based on the bestselling horror video game series, *Five Nights at Freddy's* follows a young woman named Charlotte, who reunites with her childhood friends on the anniversary of the tragedy that ripped their town apart. It's been exactly ten years since the murders at Freddy Fazbear's Pizza, and Charlotte, who goes by the name Charlie, has spent the last ten years trying to forget. Her father had owned Freddy Fazbear's Pizza and had built its four adult-sized animatronic animals. After meeting up with her friends, curiosity leads them back to the old pizza place, and they find it hidden, but still standing. They discover a way inside, but things are not as they used to be: the four mascots that delighted and entertained them as children have changed. The animatronic animals have a dark secret and a murderous agenda.



GENRE: FANTASY

Riley Bloom series by Alyson Noël

4 Books (Book 1: *Radiance*)

Most people think that death is the end. The end of life – of good times – the of, well, pretty much everything. But those people are wrong. Dead wrong. And I should know. I died almost a year ago.

Riley has crossed the bridge into the afterlife—a place called Here, where time is always Now. She has picked up life where she left off when she was alive, living with her parents and dog in a nice house in a nice neighborhood. When she's summoned before The Council, she learns that the afterlife isn't just an eternity of leisure. She's been assigned a job, Soul Catcher, and a teacher, Bodhi, a possibly cute, seemingly nerdy boy who's definitely hiding something. They return to earth together for Riley's first assignment, a Radiant Boy who's been haunting a castle in England for centuries. Many Soul Catchers have tried to get him to cross the bridge and failed. But all of that was before he met Riley . . .



GENRE: FANTASY

Magisterium series by Holly Black and Cassandra Clare

5 Books (Book 1: *The Iron Trial*)

Friends and foes. Danger and magic. Death and life.

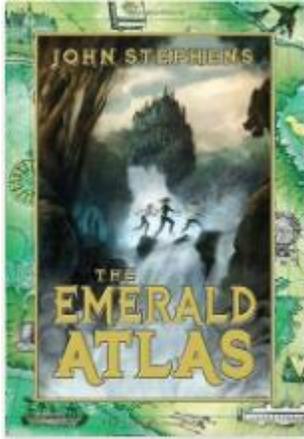
Most kids would do anything to pass the Iron Trial.

Not Callum Hunt. He wants to fail.

All his life, Call has been warned by his father to stay away from magic. If he succeeds at the Iron Trial and is admitted into the Magisterium, he is sure it can only mean bad things for him.

So he tries his best to do his worst – and fails at failing.

Now the Magisterium awaits him. It's a place that's both sensational and sinister, with dark ties to his past and a twisty path to his future.



GENRE: FANTASY

The Books of Beginning series by John Stephens

3 Books (Book 1: *The Emerald Atlas*)

Three siblings, impatiently awaiting the return of their long lost parents. Together they will learn:

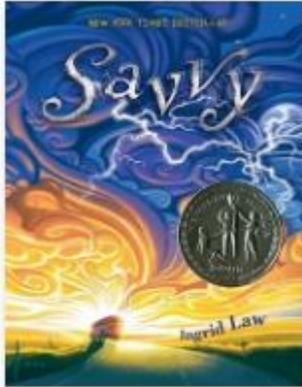
1. *Magic is real.*
2. *Emma knows the word "please".*
3. *Only they can save the world.*

Kate, Michael, and Emma have been in one orphanage after another for the last ten years, passed along like lost baggage.

Yet these unwanted children are more remarkable than they could possibly imagine. Ripped from their parents as babies, they are being protected from a horrible evil of devastating power, an evil they know nothing about.

Until now.

Before long, Kate, Michael, and Emma are on a journey through time to dangerous and secret corners of the world...a journey of allies and enemies, of magic and mayhem. And — if an ancient prophesy is correct — what they do can change history, and it is up to them to set things right.



GENRE: FANTASY

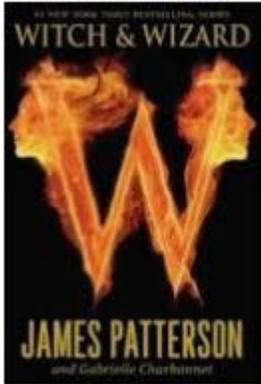
Savvy series by Ingrid Law

3 Books (Book 1: *Savvy*)

What if your grandpa moves mountains, one of your brothers causes hurricanes, another creates electricity... and now it's your turn?

For generations, the Beaumont family has harbored a magical secret. They each possess a "savvy" -a special supernatural power that strikes when they turn thirteen. Grandpa Bomba moves mountains, her older brothers create hurricanes and spark electricity . . . and now it's the eve of Mibs's big day.

As if waiting weren't hard enough, the family gets scary news two days before Mibs's birthday: Poppa has been in a terrible accident. Mibs develops the singular mission to get to the hospital and prove that her new power can save her dad. So she sneaks onto a salesman's bus . . . only to find the bus heading in the opposite direction. Suddenly Mibs finds herself on an unforgettable odyssey that will force her to make sense of growing up-and of other people, who might also have a few secrets hidden just beneath the skin.



GENRE: FANTASY

Witch & Wizard series by James Patterson

5 Books (Book 1: *Witch & Wizard*)

Your books, music, and art – banned!

The world is changing – the government has seized control of every aspect of society, and now kids are disappearing.

For fifteen-year-old Wisty and her older brother Whit, life turns upside-down when they are hauled out of bed one night, separated from their parents, and thrown into a secret compound for no reason they can comprehend. The new government is clearly trying to suppress Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Being a Normal Teenager.

Imprisoned together and condemned to death, Wisty and Whit begin exhibiting strange abilities and powers they never dreamed of. Maybe there *is* a reason they were singled out. Can this newly discovered witch and a wizard master their skills in time to save themselves, their parents-and maybe the world?



GENRE: ADVENTURE

Spirit Bear series by Ben Mikaelson

2 Books (Book 1: *Touching Spirit Bear*)

Can a mythical bear help a boy beyond human reach?

Whatever you do to the animals, you do to yourself. Remember that.

Cole Matthews is angry. Angry, defiant, smug--in short, a bully. His anger has taken him too far this time, though. After beating up a ninth-grade classmate to the point of brain damage, Cole is facing a prison sentence.

But then a Tlingit Indian parole officer named Garvey enters his life, offering an alternative called Circle Justice, based on Native American traditions, in which victim, offender, and community all work together to find a healing solution. Privately, Cole sneers at the concept, but he's no fool--if it gets him out of prison, he'll do anything.

Ultimately, Cole ends up banished for one year to a remote Alaskan island, where his arrogance sets him directly in the path of a mysterious, legendary white bear. Mauled almost to death, Cole awaits his fate and begins the transition from anger to humility.



GENRE: ADVENTURE

Marty and Grace series by Roland Smith

4 Books (Book 1: *Cryptid Hunters*)

Can a mythical bear help a boy beyond human reach?

Whatever you do to the animals, you do to yourself. Remember that.

After their parents are lost in an accident, thirteen-year old twins Grace and Marty are whisked away to live with their Uncle Wolfe – an uncle that they didn't even know they had! The intimidating Uncle Wolfe is an anthropologist who has dedicated his life to finding cryptids, mysterious creatures believed to be long extinct.

Just as the twins and their uncle are getting to know one another, Wolfe finds out that his nemesis, Dr. Blackwood, is headed to a Congolese jungle to poach a dinosaur and her clutch. Wolfe has to mobilize his team immediately if he wants to beat Blackwood to the jungle. And his team does not include the twins.

But Grace and Marty aren't easily left behind.



GENRE: ADVENTURE

Jack Blank Adventure series by Matt Myklusch

3 Books (Book 1: *The Accidental Hero* [alternate title: *Jack Blank and the Imagine Nation*])

Jack Blank doesn't know who he is or where he comes from. He doesn't even know his real last name. His aptitude tests predict that he will spend a long, unhappy career as a toilet brush cleaner.

All Jack Blank knows is his bleak, dreary life at St. Barnaby's Home for the Hopeless, Abandoned, Forgotten, and Lost, an orphanage that sinks further into the swampland of New Jersey with each passing year. His only chance at escape comes through the comic books donated years ago to the orphanage that he secretly reads in the dark corners of the library.

Everything changes one icy gray morning when Jack receives two visitors that alter his life forever. The first is a deadly robot straight out of one of his comic books that tries its best to blow him up. The second is an emissary from a secret country called the Imagine Nation, an astonishing place where all the fantastic and unbelievable things in our world originate — including Jack.

Jack soon discovers that he has an amazing ability — one that could make him the savior of the Imagine Nation and the world beyond, or the biggest threat they've ever faced.