

# ASEMS Summer Reading 2017

## BUILD A BETTER WORLD™

“Reading exercises the muscle of imagination. We need strong minds to make a better world.” Tony Abbott

Dear Middle School Students and Parents/Guardians:

Our summer reading program is designed to help students become lifelong readers. The selections have been chosen to encourage students to read for enjoyment. The more students read, the more they learn.

If your child's comfortable reading level is below fourth grade, please ask your child's reading teacher for assistance in selecting summer reading materials that may or may not be on the attached required list.

Sincerely,

The Alan Shawn Feinstein ELA Department

### Summer Requirements

**Read 2 books.** Select *one* from the list and *one* of your choosing.

Each book should be approved by your parent or guardian.

Complete one activity for each of the books you selected.

If you have any questions over the summer, please contact the ELA curriculum coordinator, Cynthia Ballard at [ballardcynthia@coventryschools.net](mailto:ballardcynthia@coventryschools.net).

# Summer Reading Projects

- Create a comic strip that shows either the main event in the story or your favorite part. You must have eight cells, and you should have four on the front and four on the back, so you have enough room. You need to include captions where appropriate AND a one or two sentence summary of what is happening in each cell.
- Create a slideshow using Google Slides, Prezi, Powtoons, or other software.
- Illustrate a book cover with the summary of the plot. Include the title and author. Present a scene from the book on the front page and the summary on the back. (Book Jacket)
- Write an imaginary interview with one of the characters.
- Write a letter to the author that includes two well-developed paragraphs. In the first paragraph, explain what you liked about the book. Be specific!! In the second paragraph, make connections to the characters, their experiences, etc. Think about what you took away from the characters or plot in general. What impacted you, what moved you, what did you learn? Develop each paragraph into five to seven sentences.
- Create a diary, a blog, or a vlog (video blog/diary). Write the diary, blog, or a vlog (video blog/diary) from a character's perspective or from your own as a reader. To access directions go to <http://diaryblogvlogasfms.weebly.com/>

Graphic organizers and samples of each type of response can be found on <http://www.asfms.net>. Click on the ELA Department page and follow the links to summer reading.

*This summer's Rhode Island Library and Information Services theme for teens is Build A Better World: Read!*  
Information about Rhode Island's summer reading program can be found at <http://www.olis.ri.gov/services/srp/>.

# 2017 ASFMS Summer Reading

## Rhode Island Children's Book Award Nominations

### 2017

***Stella by Starlight*** Sharon M. Draper

When a burning cross set by the Ku Klux Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 North Carolina, Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town.

***Took*** Mary Downing Hahn

Daniel and his sister move to a new house and are told stories about a ghost witch who lives nearby. Daniel doesn't believe in the stories until his sister gets a doll and her behavior changes. One day she disappears and Daniel must face the ghost.

***Full Cicada Moon*** Marilyn Hilton

It's 1969, and the Apollo 11 mission is ready to go to the moon. But for half-black, half-Japanese Mimi, moving to a predominantly white Vermont town is enough to make her feel alien. Mimi's appearance is all anyone notices. She struggles to fit in even as she fights for her right to stand out.

***Ellie's Story*** W. Bruce Cameron

From the time she was a puppy, Ellie has been trained as a search and-rescue dog. She soon learns, though, that her job isn't just to save missing or hurt people.

***Masterminds*** Gordon Korman

Eli and the other kids in Serenity, New Mexico are told they're lucky to be living in the most perfect town in America. But when Eli and his friends discover the connection between Serenity and the greatest criminal masterminds in history, they must make a daring escape.

***Paper Things*** Jennifer Richard Jacobson

When forced to choose between staying with her guardian and being with her big brother, Ari chooses her big brother Gage. There's just one problem—Gage doesn't have a place to live.

***A Handful of Stars*** Cynthia Lord

When Lily's blind dog runs away, it's Salma Santiago who manages to catch him. Salma, the daughter of migrant workers, is in the small Maine town with her family for the blueberry-picking season. Salma and Lily become friends but will face some tough truths about friendship and belonging.

***Growing Up Pedro: How the Martinez Brothers Made It from the Dominican Republic All the Way to the Major Leagues*** Matt Tavares

Pedro Martínez would dream of the day he and his brother Ramon, the best pitcher he had ever seen, would play together in the major leagues. But he could never imagine World Series championships, Cy Young awards, and All-Star teams.

### 2016

***Mockingbird*** Kathryn Erskine

Caitlin is a bright fifth grader and gifted artist. She also has Asperger's syndrome. Her brother, Devon, was the one who helped her get by. But a middle-school shooting took his life. Now she has only her widowed father to rely on, and he has problems of his own. With Devon gone, will she have the courage to live fully on her own?

***Absolutely Almost*** Lisa Graff

It's hard not to be good at anything. Just ask ten-year-old Albie, who is failing math and is the target of the school bully. Albie learns to cope with the stress of a new school while learning to stand up to the bully and make new friends.

***Rain Reign*** Ann M. Martin

Rose is a special 12 year-old year who is obsessed with homophones and prime numbers. During a terrible storm, her dog goes missing and it is up to her to find him. When she finds her dog, her reunion does not go exactly as planned.

### 2015

***Athlete vs. Mathlete*** W.C. Mack

When their two worlds collide in seventh grade, fraternal twins and opposites Owen and Russell find themselves in direct competition at school, on the court, and at home.

### 2014

***The One and Only Ivan*** Katherine Applegate

When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

***Ungifted*** Gordon Korman

Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at middle school.

### 2013

***Inside Out & Back Again*** Thanhha Lai

Based on the author's own life, a ten-year-old girl experiences the culture shock of moving to America from Vietnam; this story expresses both the humor and heartbreak of this time in her life.

\*\*Mature Themes: not all books are suitable for all readers

***ASFMS Student Recommended***

# 2017 ASFMS Summer Reading

## Rhode Island Teen Book Award Nominations

### 2017

**All American Boys** Brendan Kiely & Jason Reynolds

Rashad and Quinn—one black, one white, both American—face the unspeakable truth that racism and prejudice didn't die after the civil rights movement. This is a multi-faceted look at race relations in America. \*\*

**The Crossover** Kwame Alexander

Josh and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood; he's got mad beats, too, and tells his family's story in verse. This is a fast and furious novel of family and brotherhood.

**Everything, Everything** Nicola Yoon

Maddy has a disease that prevents her from coming in contact with anything in the outside world. When Olly, tall and lean, moves in next door, Maddy knows she is going to fall in love with him and "It's almost certainly going to be a disaster."\*\*

**The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club** Phillip Hoose

At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved to take action against the Nazis. With his brother and friends, he formed a secret club and named it after the British leader, Winston Churchill. The Churchill Club committed countless acts of sabotage, infuriating the Germans, who eventually had the boys tracked down and arrested.

### 2016

**Brown Girl Dreaming** Jacqueline Woodson

In this verse memoir, Woodson describes how the love and support of her family, during the turbulent time of the civil rights movement, helped her to "hold fast" to her dreams.

**Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek** Maya Van Wagenen  
With mixed results and many surprises, Maya attempts to become part of the "in" crowd by following advice found in a 1950's popularity guide in this humorous memoir.

**The Scar Boys** Len Vlahos

A severely burned teenager. A guitar. Punk rock. A rock 'n' roll road trip. Through an unconventional college application essay, Harry tells about finding his place in the world. \*\*

**Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass** Meg Medina

Before school, someone tells Piddy Sanchez that Yaqui Delgado wants to beat her up. At first, Piddy is unconcerned, but as the harassment escalates, avoiding Yaqui and her gang starts to take over Piddy's life. \*\*

\*\*Mature Themes: not all books are suitable for all readers

### 2015

**Eleanor & Park** Rainbow Rowell

Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits—smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try. \*\*

**Weight of Water** Sarah Crossan

As she and her mother move to a crumbling apartment, recent immigrant Kasienka has a difficult transition when girls at school tease her for being different and as well as for her broken English.

**Steelheart** Brandon Sanderson

At age eight, David watched as his father was killed by an Epic, a human with superhuman powers, and now, ten years later, he joins the Reckoners—the only people who are trying to kill the Epics and end their tyranny.

### 2014

**Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip** Jordan Sonnenblick

Peter's athletic dreams are shattered by injury, though he becomes a sports photographer gaining insight and equipment from his aging grandfather as well as a new girlfriend.

**Drama** Raina Telgemeier

With budding relationships everywhere, Callie rides an emotional rollercoaster while serving on the stage crew for a middle school theater production. (Graphic novel)

## Rhode Island Middle School Book Nominations

### 2018

**Ghost** Jason Reynolds

Ghost has been chosen for an middle school track team that could qualify him for the Junior Olympics. Struggling to deal with his past and present, Ghost receives help from his coach.

**Falling Over Sideways** Jordan Sonnenblick

Claire has high expectations for her last year of middle school. But when her father has a stroke, Claire struggles to find her footing in a life she no longer recognizes.

**Lily and Dunkin** Donna Gephart

This is the story of a transgender girl named Lily, a bipolar boy named Dunkin, and a tree named Bob. It's about finding out who you're meant to be and finding the people who will encourage you to reach for the sky, not chop you down. \*\*

**ASFMS Student Recommended**