

BMS Summer Reading 2015

6th Grade

- **[Out of My Mind](#), by Sharon M. Draper**
 - *From the Publisher:* Eleven-year-old Melody Brooks has a photographic memory, synesthesia, and cerebral palsy. She can't speak or feed herself, and her motor skills are limited to whatever her thumbs can manage. The neighbor woman who takes care of Melody while her parents work is determined that Melody will learn as much as possible, and she works tirelessly to expand the girl's vocabulary. Eventually, with the help of a communication device, Melody manages to show her teachers and classmates just how much she knows.

- **[Stargirl](#), by Jerry Spinelli**
 - *From the Publisher:* Stargirl. She's as magical as the desert sky. As strange as her pet rat. As mysterious as her own name. And she captures Leo Borlock's heart with just one smile. But when the students of Mica High turn on Stargirl for everything that makes her different, Leo urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her: normal. In the spirit of nonconformity, Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli weaves a tense, emotional tale about the perils of popularity--and the inspiration of first love.

- **[The Contract](#), by Derek Jeter**
 - *From the Publisher:* The debut book in the Jeter Publishing imprint, *The Contract* is a middle grade baseball novel inspired by the youth of legendary sports icon and role model Derek Jeter. As a young boy, Derek Jeter dreams of being the shortstop for the New York Yankees. He even imagines himself in the World Series. So when Derek is chosen for the Little League Tigers, he hopes to play shortstop. But on the day of the assignments, Derek Starts at second base. Still, he tries his best while he wishes and dreams of that shortstop spot. And to help him stay focused on school, his parents make him a contract: keep up the grades or no baseball. Derek makes sure he always plays his best game—on and off the baseball field!

- **[Wonder](#), by R.J. Palacio**
 - *From the Publisher:* #1 New York Times Best Seller. August Pullman was born with a facial difference that prevented him from going to a mainstream school--until now. He's about to enter fifth grade at Beecher Prep, and if you've ever been the new kid, then you know how hard that can be. The thing is Auggie's just an ordinary kid, with an extraordinary face. But can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, despite appearances?

BMS Summer Reading 2015

7th Grade

- **[Home of the Brave](#), by Katherine Applegate**
 - *From the Publisher:* Kek comes from Africa. In America he sees snow for the first time, and feels its sting. He's never walked on ice, and he falls. He wonders if the people in this new place will be like the winter - cold and unkind. In Africa, Kek lived with his mother, father, and brother. But only he and his mother have survived, and now she's missing. Kek is on his own. Slowly, he makes friends: a girl who is in foster care; an old woman who owns a rundown farm, and a cow whose name means "family" in Kek's native language. As Kek awaits word of his mother's fate, he weathers the tough Minnesota winter by finding warmth in his new friendships, strength in his memories, and belief in his new country.

- **[The Red Pencil](#), by Andrea Davis Pinkney**
 - *From the Publisher:* Finally, Amira is twelve. Old enough to wear a *toob*, old enough for new responsibilities. And maybe old enough to go to school in Nyala-- Amira's one true dream. But life in her peaceful Sudanese village is shattered when the Janjaweed arrive. The terrifying attackers ravage the town and unleash unspeakable horrors. After she loses nearly everything, Amira needs to dig deep within herself to find the strength to make the long journey-- on foot-- to safety at a refugee camp. Her days are tough at the camp, until the gift of a simple red pencil opens her mind-- and all kinds of possibilities.

- **[A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story](#), by Linda Sue Park**
 - *From the Publisher:* The *New York Times* bestseller *A Long Walk to Water* begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way.

- **[Lost Boy, Lost Girl: Escaping Civil War in Sudan](#), by John Bul Dau & Martha Arual Akech**
 - *From the Publisher:* One of thousands of children who fled strife in southern Sudan, John Bul Dau survived hunger, exhaustion, and violence. His wife, Martha, endured similar hardships. In this memorable book, the two convey the best of African values while relating searing accounts of famine and war. There's warmth as well, in their humorous tales of adapting to American life. For its importance as a primary source, for its inclusion of the rarely told female perspective of Sudan's lost children, for its celebration of human resilience, this is the perfect story to inform and inspire young readers.

BMS Summer Reading 2015

8th Grade

- **[Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children](#), by Ransom Riggs**
 - *From the Publisher:* A *New York Times* #1 best seller. A Mysterious Island. A horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that Miss Peregrine's children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. A spine-tingling fantasy illustrated with haunting vintage photography.
- **[The Giver](#), by Lois Lowry**
 - *From the Publisher:* *The Giver*, the 1994 Newbery Medal winner, has become one of the most influential novels of our time. The haunting story centers on twelve-year-old Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community.
- **[The Help](#), by Kathryn Stockett**
 - *From the Publisher:* Twenty-two-year-old Skeeter has just returned home after graduating from Ole Miss. She may have a degree, but it is 1962, Mississippi, and her mother will not be happy till Skeeter has a ring on her finger. Aibileen is a black maid, a wise, regal woman raising her seventeenth white child. Something has shifted inside her after the loss of her own son, who died while his bosses looked the other way. Minny, Aibileen's best friend, is short, fat, and perhaps the sassiest woman in Mississippi. She can cook like nobody's business, but she can't mind her tongue, so she's lost yet another job. Seemingly as different from one another as can be, these women will nonetheless come together for a clandestine project that will put them all at risk. And why? Because they are suffocating within the lines that define their town and their times. And sometimes lines are made to be crossed.
- **[The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them](#), by Erin Gruwell**
 - The book tells the story of how young English teacher Erin Gruwell addressed the problem of racial and ethnic intolerance in her classroom, and features excerpts from the diaries of her students, addressing issues such as abuse, drugs, crime, homelessness and racism. Gruwell's students become known as The Freedom Writers. This is an inspiring coming-of-age story about a group of "at risk" teens that have a life-changing journey with the help of their teacher.