
Uncover a Good Book!

Let a BMS staff member clue you into your next read

BMS Summer Reading 2018 Book Recommendations 7/8

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 2018: Uncover a Good Book!*. You may access the website directly by going to the [Library Learning Commons](#) page under Resources on the Bethel Middle School Website. 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!

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

Alifrenka, Caitlin. *I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives* - Mr. Jud & Ms. Logel's Pick (MG, NF, YA)

The New York Times bestselling true story of an all-American girl and a boy from Zimbabwe and the letter that changed both of their lives forever. It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place. Martin was lucky to even receive a pen-pal letter. There were only ten letters, and fifty kids in his class. But he was the top student, so he got the first one. That letter was the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and changed two lives. In this compelling dual memoir, Caitlin and Martin recount how they became best friends --and better people--through their long-distance exchange. Their story will inspire you to look beyond your own life and wonder about the world at large and your place in it.

Anderson, John David. *Posted* - Ms. Moore's Pick (MG)

A group of middle school students decide to begin leaving sticky notes for each other after cell phones are banned, but soon the kids in school are leaving cutting and cruel notes, and nothing will ever be the same.

Applegate, Katherine. *Wishtree* - Mrs. Rick and Mrs. Hollopeter's Pick (MG)

An old red oak tree tells how he and his crow friend, Bongo, help their human neighbors get along after a threat against an immigrant family is carved into the tree's trunk.

Bolden, Tonya. *Crossing Ebenezer Creek* - Mrs. Boles' Pick (YA)

When Mariah and her young brother Zeke are suddenly freed from slavery, they join Sherman's march through Georgia. Mariah wants to believe that the brutalities of slavery are behind them, but even as hope glimmers, there are many hardships yet to come. When she meets a free black named Caleb, Mariah dreams in a way she never dared . . . of a future worth living and the possibility of true love. But even hope comes at a cost, and as the difficult march continues toward the churning waters of Ebenezer Creek, Mariah's dreams are as vulnerable as ever. In this powerful exploration of a little-known tragedy perfect for fans of Ruta Sepetys, readers will never forget the souls of Ebenezer Creek.

Brady, Tom. *The TB12 (Tom Brady) Method: How to Achieve a Lifetime of Peak Performance* - Mr. Rinas' Pick (AD, NF)

In *The TB12 Method*, Tom Brady explains how he developed his groundbreaking approach to long-term fitness, presenting a comprehensive, step-by-step guide to his personal practice. Brady offers the principles behind pliability, which is at the heart of a new paradigm shift and movement toward a more natural, healthier way of exercising, training, and living--and one that challenges some commonly held assumptions around health and wellness.

Bui, Thi. *The Best We Could Do: An Illustrated Memoir* - Ms. Doheny & Mrs. Tierney's Pick (AD, GN, NF)

An intimate and poignant graphic novel portraying one family's journey from war-torn Vietnam, from debut author Thi Bui. This beautifully illustrated and emotional story is an evocative memoir about the search for a better future and a longing for the past.

Collier, James Lincoln. *My Brother Sam is Dead* - Ms. Skalkos' Pick (MG)

The classic story of one family torn apart by the Revolutionary War. All his life, Tim Meeker has looked up to his brother Sam. Sam's smart and brave -- and is now a part of the American Revolution. Not everyone in town wants to be a part of the rebellion. Most are supporters of the British -- including Tim and Sam's father. With the war soon raging, Tim know he'll have to make a choice -- between the Revolutionaries and the Redcoats . . . and between his brother and his father.

Cleary, Beverly. *Beezus and Ramona* - Mrs. Hamlak & Ms. Edwards' Pick (MG)

Having a little sister like four-year-old Ramona isn't always easy for Beezus Quimby. With a wild imagination, disregard for order, and an appetite for chaos, Ramona makes it hard for Beezus to be the responsible older sister she knows she ought to be...especially when Ramona threatens to ruin Beezus's birthday party. Newbery Medal winner Beverly Cleary delivers a humorous tale of the ups and downs of sisterhood. Both the younger and older siblings of the family will enjoy this book.

Donnelly, Jennifer. *Beauty and the Beast: Lost in a Book* - Shellie Zancan (YA)

Beauty grows to love the Beast at whose castle she is compelled to stay and through her love releases him from the spell which had turned him from a handsome prince into an ugly beast.

Gephart, Donna. *Lily and Dunkin* - Mrs. Egan's Pick (MG)

Lily Jo McGrother, born Timothy McGrother, is a girl. But being a girl is not so easy when you look like a boy. Especially when you're in the eighth grade. Dunkin Dorfman, birth name Norbert Dorfman, is dealing with bipolar disorder and has just moved from the New Jersey town he's called home for the past thirteen years. This would be hard enough, but the fact that he is also hiding from a painful secret makes it even worse. One summer morning, Lily Jo McGrother meets Dunkin Dorfman, and their lives forever change.

Green, John. *Turtles All the Way Down* - Mrs. Hillyer & Mrs. Mannion's Pick (YA)

Aza Holmes is a young woman navigating daily existence within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts.

Hagen, George. *Gabriel Finley and the Raven's Riddle* - Nicole Ducsay and Nancy Anastasi (MG)

Eleven-year-old Gabriel, with the help of the young raven Paladin, with whom he has a magical bond, travels to the foreboding land of Aviopolis, where he must face challenges and unanswerable riddles to rescue his long-missing father.

Hardinge, Frances. *The Lie Tree* - Ms. Hannequin's Pick (MG, YA)

Faith Sunderly leads a double life. To most people, she is reliable, dull, trustworthy--a proper young lady who knows her place as inferior to men--but inside, Faith is full of questions and curiosity, and she cannot resist a mystery: an unattended envelope, an unlocked door. She also knows secrets no one suspects her of knowing. For one, she knows that her family moved to the close-knit island of Vane because her famous scientist father was fleeing a reputation-destroying scandal. And when her father is discovered dead shortly thereafter, she knows that he was murdered. In pursuit of justice and revenge, Faith hunts through her father's possessions and discovers a strange tree. The tree bears fruit only when she whispers a lie to it, and when that fruit is eaten, it delivers a hidden truth. But while the tree might hold the key to her father's murder, it could also lure his murderer directly to Faith.

Joseph, Lynn. *The Color of My Words* - Ms. Tate and Mrs. Pérez's Pick (MG)

Twelve-year-old Ana Rosa is a blossoming writer growing up in the Dominican Republic, a country where words are feared. Yet there is so much inspiration all around her -- watching her brother search for a future, learning to dance and to love, and finding out what it means to be part of a community -- that Ana Rosa must write it all down. As she struggles to find her own

voice and a way to make it heard, Ana Rosa realizes the power of her words to transform the world around her -- and to transcend the most unthinkable of tragedies.

Keller, Tae. *The Science of Breakable Things* - Mrs. Rinas & Mrs. Esposito's Pick (MG)

Middle schooler Natalie's year-long assignment to answer a question using the scientific process leads to truths about her mother's depression and her own cultural identity.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. *Blackbird Fly* - Dr. Doble, Mr. Salvador, & Mr. Toussaint's Pick (MG)

Apple has always felt a little different from her classmates. She and her mother moved to Louisiana from the Philippines when she was little, and her mother still cooks Filipino foods and chastises Apple for becoming "too American." When Apple's friends turn on her and everything about her life starts to seem weird and embarrassing, Apple turns to music. If she can just save enough to buy a guitar and learn to play, maybe she can change herself. It might be the music that saves her . . . or it might be her two new friends, who show her how special she really is.

Krumwiede, Lana. *Freakling* - Mr. DaPontes' Pick (MG)

A thrilling, fast-paced dystopian novel about the dangers of unchecked power and the dilemmas facing a boy torn between two ways of life. In twelve-year-old Taemon's city, everyone has a power called psi -- the ability to move and manipulate objects with their minds. When Taemon loses his psi in a traumatic accident, he must hide his lack of power by any means possible. But a humiliating incident at a sports tournament exposes his disability, and Taemon is exiled to the powerless colony. The "dud farm" is not what Taemon expected, though: people are kind and open, and they actually seem to enjoy using their hands to work and play and even comfort their children. Taemon adjusts to his new life quickly, making friends and finding unconditional acceptance. But gradually he discovers that for all its openness, there are mysteries at the colony, too -- dangerous secrets that would give unchecked power to psi wielders if discovered. When Taemon unwittingly leaks one of these secrets, will he have the courage to repair the damage -- even if it means returning to the city and facing the very people who exiled him?

Law, Keith. *Smart Baseball: The Story Behind the Old Stats That Are Ruining the Game, the New Ones That Are Running It, and the Right Way to Think About Baseball* - Mr. Douglass & Mr. Maxwell's Pick (AD, NF)

Predictably Irrational meets Moneyball in ESPN veteran writer and statistical analyst Keith Law's iconoclastic look at the numbers game of baseball, proving why some of the most trusted stats are surprisingly wrong, explaining what numbers actually work, and exploring what the rise of Big Data means for the future of the sport.

Legrand, Claire. *Some Kind of Happiness* - Mrs. Getz & Mrs. Moore's Pick (MG)

Finley Hart is sent to her grandparents' house for the summer, but her anxiety and overwhelmingly sad days continue until she escapes into her writings which soon turn mysteriously real and she realizes she must save this magical world in order to save herself.

Letts, Elizabeth. *The Eighty-Dollar Champion: Snowman, The Horse That Inspired a Nation* - Mrs. Teranovich's Pick (NF)

Harry de Leyer first saw the horse he would name Snowman on a truck bound for the slaughterhouse. The recent Dutch immigrant recognized the spark in the eye of the beaten-up nag and bought him for eighty dollars. On Harry's modest farm on Long Island, he ultimately taught Snowman how to fly. Here is the dramatic and inspiring rise to stardom of an unlikely duo. One show at a time, against extraordinary odds and some of the most expensive thoroughbreds alive, the pair climbed to the very top of the sport of show jumping. Their story captured the heart of Cold War-era America--a story of unstoppable hope, inconceivable dreams, and the chance to have it all. They were the longest of all longshots--and their win was the stuff of legend.

Mullaly Hunt, Lynda. *One for the Murphys* - Mrs. Jowdy and Ms. Mendes' Pick (MG)

Carley struggles with being open to love after she suffers a betrayal that forces her to move in with a foster family.

Olson, Tod. *Lost in the Pacific: 1942* - Mr. Marrota & Mr. Schrader's Pick (MG, NF)

A new narrative nonfiction series about a real-life band of World War II soldiers who became stranded at sea and had to fight for survival. World War II, October 1942: a plane carrying eight Americans crashes into the middle of the Pacific Ocean. With only four oranges and no fresh water between them, the crew had to band together and rely on each other for survival. What they thought would be only a few hours or days before they were rescued turned into weeks lost at sea fighting off sharks, dehydration, hunger, and extreme heat. *Lost in the Pacific* vividly retells this incredible true story for a young audience.

Park, Linda Sue. *A Long Walk to Water* - Mrs. Faucher's Pick (MG+)

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.

Pennypacker, Sarah. *Pax* - Mrs. Fernand's Pick (MG)

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

Pla, Sally. *The Someday Birds* - Ms. Chifari's Pick (MG)

Charlie, twelve, who has autism and obsessive compulsive disorder, must endure a cross-country trip with his siblings and a strange babysitter to visit their father, who will undergo brain surgery.

Reynolds, Jason. *Ghost* - Ms. Lamothe's Pick (MG)

Ghost, a naturally talented runner and troublemaker, is recruited for an elite middle school track team. He must stay on track, literally and figuratively, to reach his full potential

Riordan, Rick. *The Lightning Thief* - Mr. Hagan & Mrs. Obasi's Pick (MG)

Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon, and is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and the demigod daughter of Athena who join him in a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war.

Riordan, Rick. *The 39 Clues: The Maze of Bones* - Mr. Flynn's Pick (MG)

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.

Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter #1-3 (Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, and Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban)* - Ms. Capuano, Ms. D'Andrea, & Mrs. Recklett's Pick (MG)

Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Rucka, Greg. *Star Wars: Before the Awakening* - Ms. Kunz & Mr. Perlman's Pick (MG)

A companion piece to the "Journey to Star Wars: The Force Awakens" character novels, *Star Wars: Before the Awakening* is an anthology book that focuses on the lives of Rey, Finn, and Poe before the events of the *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Echo* - Ms. Oliveira & Mrs. Murphy's Pick (MG)

Otto is lost in a forbidden forest when he suddenly encounters three mysterious sisters. At that moment, his destiny becomes linked to the unusual search that involves a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Decades later, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California become interwoven when the same harmonica reaches them. These children will face major challenges: rescuing a parent, protecting a sibling, and keeping a family together. Richly imagined and masterfully crafted, *Echo* pushes the boundaries of genre, form, and storytelling innovation to create a wholly original novel that will resound in your heart long after the last note has been struck.

Sachar, Louis. *Fuzzy Mud* - Mrs. Emerick & Mrs. Tegmier's Pick (MG)

Two middle-grade kids take a shortcut home from school and discover what looks like fuzzy mud but is actually a substance with the potential to wreak havoc on the entire world

Swartz, Elly. *Finding Perfect* - Mrs. Grieco's Pick (MG)

With some help from her siblings and friends, Molly is able to face her OCD and be strong enough to get help for it.

Terry, Ellie. *Forget Me Not* - Ms. Antonucci's Pick (MG)

Calliope June has Tourette syndrome. Sometimes she can't control the noises that come out of her mouth, or even her body language. When she and her mother move yet again, she tries to hide her TS. But soon the kids in her class realize she's different. Only her neighbor, who is also the class president, sees her as she truly is--a quirky kid, and a good friend. But is he brave enough to take their friendship public? As Callie navigates school, she must also face her mother's new relationship and the fact that she might be moving again--just as she's starting to make friends and finally accept her differences. This story of being true to yourself will speak to a wide audience.

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

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

BMS Summer Reading 2018

Where can I get it?

Our Bethel Public Library will have many, if not all, in stock for check out. You can also request a copy from another library in the library loan system. BPL will be able to help you with that.

Additionally, Bethel's own Byrd's Books has copies either in stock or available to order (See attached form due **June 11th**). They have a list of all the books on the BMS summer reading list in the store.

Lastly, books can be acquired through Amazon, Barnes and Noble or possibly at Relay Bookhouse or Rainy Day Paperback Exchange in town.



Bethel Middle School Summer Reading List Book 2018 Order Form – DUE **Monday June 11th**

Order here and the books will be delivered to your student at the school. Every effort has been made to get the paperback edition, when available. A portion of the sales goes to the Bethel Education Foundation.

Student Name: _____

Homeroom Teacher: _____ **School:** _____

Parent Name: _____ **Phone number:** _____

All prices are **discounted and include Connecticut sales tax**

(cash or make check payable to **Byrd's Books**). A portion of the sales goes to the BEF

QTY	TITLE	Author	Format	Price (includes sales tax)	Total
	I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives	Alifirenka, Caitlin.	Paperback	\$10.50	
	Posted	Anderson, John David	Paperback	\$6.25	
	Wishtree	Applegate, Katherine	Hardcover	\$13.60	
	Crossing Ebenezer Creek	Bolden, Tonya	Paperback	\$10.50	
	The TB12 (Tom Brady) Method: How to Achieve a Lifetime of Peak Performance	Brady, Tom	Hardcover	\$24.00	
	The Best We Could Do: An Illustrated Memoir	Bui, Thi	Paperback	\$14.00	
	My Brother Sam is Dead	Collier, James Lincoln	Paperback	\$6.25	
	Beezus and Ramona	Cleary, Beverly	Paperback	\$7.25	
	Beauty and the Beast: Lost in a Book	Donnelly, Jennifer	Hardcover	\$13.60	
	Lily and Dunkin	Gephart, Donna	Paperback	\$7.25	
	Turtles All the Way Down	Green, John	Hardcover	\$16.00	

