



# Summer Book Recommendations\* from HMS Staff!

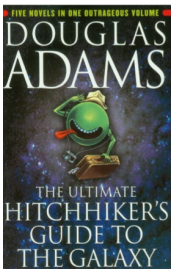
\*The following books are only recommendations; students may read any appropriate book for their summer reading project. Parents, please review any book your child chooses to read.



**Mrs. Klena (School Principal)** *All The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr

This is a great book for students who want to read a good story and learn more about World War II. It's a long book but there's time to read over the summer.

Pages: 500 Genre: Historical Fiction

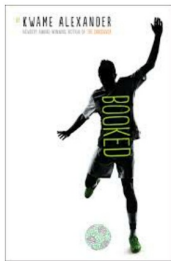


**Mrs. Galm (8th Grade Teacher)** *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams

Seconds before the Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised edition of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* who, for the last fifteen years, has been posing as an out-of-work actor.

Together this dynamic pair begin a journey through space aided by quotes from *The Hitchhiker's Guide* and a galaxy-full of fellow travelers.

Pages: 180 Genre: Science Fiction



**Mrs. Ziab (8th Grade Teacher)** *Booked* by Kwame Alexander

Soccer, rap, trouble at home, and UGH—why do we HAVE to know all these big words? In this book in verse (poetry), middle schooler Nick juggles soccer balls, friendships and life. This is a fun read, whether reading in your head, or rapping out loud!

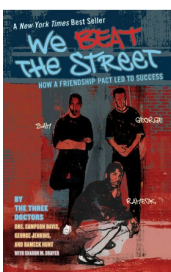
Pages: 320 Genre: Realistic Fiction in Verse



**Miss. C. (7th Grade Teacher)** *Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard

This is a world divided by blood - red or silver. The Reds are commoners, ruled by a Silver elite in possession of god-like superpowers. The main character is named Mare, and is a Red girl who happens to be in possession of very strong powers herself. The Silvers fear Mare and try to hide her in plain view, declaring her a long-lost Silver princess, now engaged to a Silver prince. Despite the danger that she is in Mare works with the Red Guard (a Red resistance group) to bring down the Silver regime.

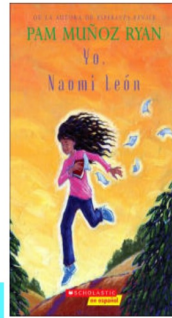
Pages: 320 Genre: Realistic Fiction in Verse



**Mrs. Parchment (8th Grade Teacher)** *We Beat the Street* by Drs. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt with Sharon Draper

After hearing a presentation at their school, three boys growing up in Newark, New Jersey make a friendship pact to avoid going the way of their friends who get into drug-dealing, gangs, and prison. They face many hardships on their journey to complete medical and dental schools, but are eventually successful.

Pages: 194 Genre: Nonfiction



**Ms. Abston (7th Grade Teacher)** *Ya*, Naomi Leon by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Naomi and her brother are living happily with their bisabuela in California when their mom suddenly comes back into their lives. Things don't go very well, and the kids and their great grandmother decide to drive to Mexico, the family's homeland, in search of Naomi and Owen's dad. Their exciting and challenging quest will keep you eagerly turning pages to find out how the family sorts itself out and what they learn along the way.

Pages: 275 Genre: Realistic Fiction

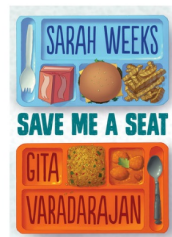


**Ms. Brinkman (Librarian)** *Garvey's Choice* by Nikki Grimes

Garvey's father has always wanted Garvey to be athletic, but Garvey is interested in everything BUT. Feeling like a failure, he comforts himself with food. Garvey is kind, funny, smart, a loyal friend, and he is also overweight, teased by bullies, and lonely.

When his only friend encourages him to join the school chorus, Garvey's life changes. The chorus finds a new soloist in Garvey and, through chorus, Garvey finds a way to accept himself, and a way to finally reach his distant father—by speaking the language of music instead of the language of sports.

Pages: 120 Genre: Realistic Fiction in Verse



**Ms. Brinkman (Librarian)** *Save Me a Seat* By Gita Varadarajan and Sarah Weeks

Ravi is the brand new kid in school, and is used to being the brightest student in the class. Joe has been in the same school for a while, and is used to having all kinds of problems that usually mean he ends up with the counselor. Ravi and Joe forge the unlikelyst of sort-of-friendships when they both have to contend with the school bully. A completely believable story that will make you think.

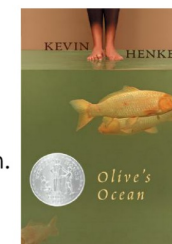
Pages: 216 Genre: Realistic Fiction



**Ms. Killian (Reading Teacher)** *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds

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

Pages: 194 Genre: Nonfiction



**Ms. Waggoner (8th Grade Teacher)** *Olive's Ocean* by Kevin Henkes

Martha spends her Summer vacation trying to figure out why Olive, a classmate she never knew well, wrote about her in her journal before she died. If you loved Kevin Henkes' work in *Waiting* or the *Lily Mouse* books, you will recognize his fantastic story-telling and the way he treats readers like mature individuals who can handle tough topics.

Pages: 217 Genre: Mystery

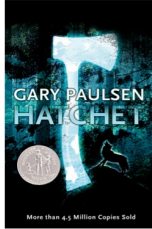


### Mrs. Wildason (Testing Coordinator) *The Selection* by Kiera Cass

For thirty-five girls, the Selection is the chance of a lifetime. The opportunity to escape the life laid out for them since birth. To be swept up in a world of glittering gowns and priceless jewels. To live in the palace and compete for the heart of the gorgeous Prince Maxon.

But for America Singer, being Selected is a nightmare...

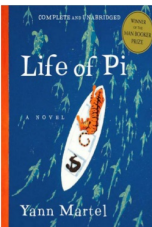
Pages: 352 Genre: Fantasy/Science Fiction/Romance



### Mrs. Mann (8th Grade Teacher) *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen

Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is on his way to visit his father when the single-engine plane in which he is flying crashes. Suddenly, Brian finds himself alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but a tattered Windbreaker and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present—and the dreadful secret that has been tearing him apart since his parent's divorce. But now Brian has no time for anger, self pity, or despair—it will take all his know-how and determination, and more courage than he knew he possessed, to survive.

Pages: 186 Genre: Realistic Fiction/Adventure



### Mr. Harris (7th Grade Teacher) *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

After a shipwreck, sixteen year old Pi finds himself alone in a lifeboat. His only companions? A hyena, an orangutan, a wounded zebra, and Richard Parker, a 450-pound Bengal tiger. How can he survive? Essential reading for life. Beautiful and mysterious!

Pages: 186 Genre: Adventure Fiction



### Mrs. Case (Reading Teacher) *Knucklehead* by Jon Scieszka

Jon Scieszka is an author who is famous for his hilarious writing and unique storytelling. In this memoir, Jon tells stories about what it was like growing up in a family of 6 brothers with his father as his school principal!

Pages: 112 Genre: Funny Memoir



### Mrs. Madkour (8th Grade Teacher) *House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

Share Esperanza's journey as she comes of age and strives for a better life.

Pages: 110 Genre: Realistic Fiction



### Ms. Niles (Student Services) *Full Cicada Moon* by Marilyn Hilton

Really cool book about a girl moving to a new state in 1969 and facing racial tensions (she is half black and half Japanese). She defies stereotypes and gets all science-y too. She breaks molds. "This lyrical novel-in-verse follows her journey to fit into the world and to better it.

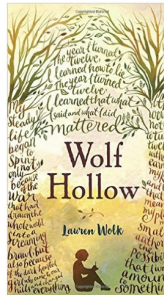
Pages: 382 Genre: Realistic Fiction in Verse



### Mrs. Goldman (8th Grade Teacher) *The Someday Birds* by Sally J. Pla

A young boy fueled by his routines (and chicken nuggets) learns how to navigate the unexpected during a cross-country road trip with a few other interesting characters. Charlie uses his love of birds and keen powers of observation as tools to deal with the trials of his trip as well as the tumultuous emotions he feels after learning that his father has been seriously injured. A whimsical read, *The Someday Birds* explores connections between the natural world and human behavior.

Pages: 336 Genre: Realistic Fiction



### Mrs. Hatch (7th Grade Teacher) *Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk

This is the story of 12 year old Annabelle who lives in the rural Pennsylvania countryside following WWII. The farming community of Wolf Hollow all knows one another, but most people are uncomfortable around Toby (a shell-shocked veteran) and his habit of circling the hills with "three long guns slung across his back." Yet Toby has always been kind to Annabelle. Then Annabelle's life turns upside down when Betty Glangarry moves in with her grandparents and becomes the local bully. In a twist of events, Annabelle and her brothers are put in danger because of Betty.

Will Toby come to the rescue? Will Annabelle's parents believe her side of the story? Read the book to find out!

Pages: 336 Genre: Realistic Fiction



### Mrs. Ginsburg (7th Grade Teacher) *Lockdown: Escape From Furnace* by Alexander Gordon Smith

Furnace Penitentiary is the world's most secure prison for young offenders. Sentenced to life without parole for a murder he didn't commit, Alex Sawyer knows he has two choices: find a way out, or resign himself to a death, in the darkness at the bottom of the world. Soon Alex discovers that the prison is a place of pure evil, where inhuman creatures in gas masks stalk the corridors at night, where giants in black suits drag screaming inmates into the shadows, where deformed beasts can be heard howling from the blood-drenched tunnels below. And behind everything is the mysterious, all-powerful warden, a man as cruel and dangerous as the devil himself..

Together with a bunch of inmates—some innocent kids who have been framed, others cold-blooded killers—Alex plans an escape. But as he starts to uncover the truth about Furnace's deeper, darker purpose, Alex's actions grow ever more dangerous, and he must risk everything to expose this nightmare that's hidden from the eyes of the world.

Pages: 304 Genre: Horror

### Mrs. Little (7th Grade Teacher) *Unwind* by Neal Shusterman

A new law is made: The Bill of Life states that human life may not be touched from the moment of conception until a child reaches the age of thirteen. Between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, however, a parent may choose to retroactively get rid of a child through a process called "unwinding." Unwinding ensures that the child's life doesn't "technically" end by transplanting all the organs in the child's body to various recipients. Now troublesome or unwanted teens are able to easily be unwound.

This book follows three teens who all become runaway Unwinds: Connor, a rebel whose parents have ordered his unwinding; Risa, a ward of the state who is to be unwound due to cost-cutting; and Lev, his parents' tenth child whose unwinding has been planned since birth as a religious tithing. As their paths intersect their lives hang in the balance.

Pages: 384 Genre: Horror

