

June 2010



Cambridge Friends School Library
Summer Reading
Suggestions
For Older Readers
recommended for students
entering grades 7 & 8

Please note that this list is intended for students entering grades 7 and 8. While all of these books are recommended, some of the themes and situations presented are most appropriate for mature readers. Since there is a wide variety in interests and abilities among all readers, you may also be interested in our other reading list, Summer Reading Suggestions for Middle Readers, which can be found on our website: www.cfsmass.org/library.htm.

Reading good books during the summer is one of the best ways for you to prepare for the next grade. Not only will reading improve your comprehension and your vocabulary, it will also help you to gain understanding of yourself, other people, other places, and other times. And it is fun! You can do it just about anywhere – in the back of the minivan, on your bunk at summer camp, and, especially, lounging at the beach – just remember to take care not to lose your place!

This list consists of an annotated* selection of new and noteworthy books, divided into a variety of topical reading lists, as well as an author/title listing of older books that are divided into genre categories. Some of these titles were selected by the librarians, and others were suggested by students and teachers. Many of the authors have written a number of books of consistent quality, so if you can't find the specific titles listed, try another book by the same author.

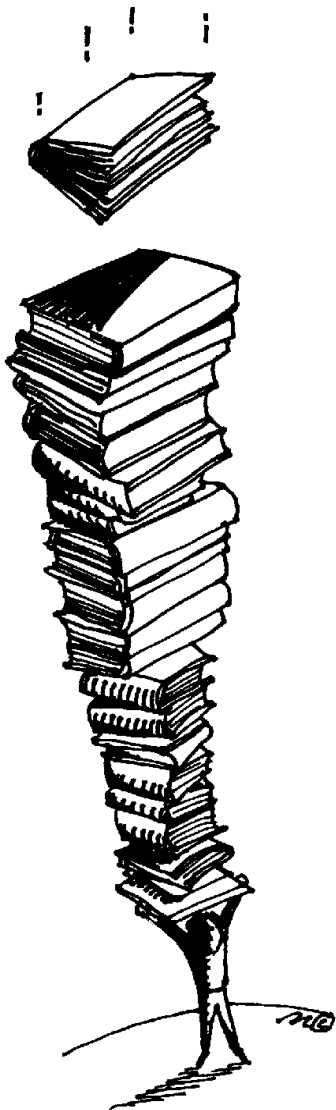
You can practice your library skills by reserving books online at your public library! See the reverse of this page for instructions.

Have a great summer!

**Annotations have been adapted from publishers' information and book reviews.*

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Use your public library and reserve your books online!

To get access to all these great books, use your public library. Communities in Massachusetts belong to large library networks - this means that they share their resources. Materials can be borrowed from any of the member libraries. You can go online, request books, and have them delivered to your own neighborhood branch.

Most of the communities around Cambridge belong to the Minuteman Library Network:

Go to: www.mln.lib.ma.us

To request books, you must have a library card and a PIN. You can go to your public library to get both. If you already have a card, but not a PIN, you can create a PIN online. You can request books from any of the member libraries, and they will be delivered to any library you choose.

- To search the catalog and request books, first click on *My Account*.
- Put in your library card # and PIN. Click *Submit*.
- On the next screen, there is information about your account, such as which books you have signed out and requested. You can renew your books here. You also can begin to search the catalog.
- Under *My Account*, go to *Modify Personal Information* to see if the library has your e-mail address and to designate where you would like to pick up your books. You will get an e-mail message when your books are ready to be picked up.

To search the public library catalog:

The default method of searching the catalog is by **KEYWORD**. You can also choose other search methods, such as **AUTHOR**, **TITLE**, or **SUBJECT**.

Click on a title that interests you. You will see more information about the book, including whether it is currently available. If you want the book, click on *Request Item*.

Use the *HELP* feature if you have any questions.

For the Boston Public Library System go to: www.bpl.org

If your local library is not a member of either of these systems, go to your library's web page on the Internet and find out how to reserve books.

If you liked Hunger Games . . .

Thanks to the Harry Potter phenomenon, the publishing industry has discovered how great fantasy adventure can be. Here are a few of the latest and best:

The Compound by S.A. Bodeen

Eli and his family have lived in the underground Compound for six years. The world they knew is gone, and they've become accustomed to their new life. Accustomed, but not happy. No amount of luxury can stifle the dull routine of living in the same place. Eli's father built the Compound to keep them safe. But are they safe—really?

Found (The Missing, Book 1) by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Jonah has always known that he was adopted, and he's never thought it was any big deal. Then he and a new friend, Chip, who's also adopted, begin receiving mysterious letters. The first one says, "You are one of the missing." The second one says, "Beware! They're coming back to get you." (sequel: *Sent*)

Gone by Michael Grant

In the blink of an eye, everyone over the age of fifteen disappears. No teachers, no cops, no doctors, no parents. Gone, too, are the phones, internet, and television. There is no way to get help. Hunger threatens. Bullies rule. It's a terrifying new world. Sides are being chosen and war is threatening. (follow-ups: *Hunger*, *Lies*)

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures.

InCarceron by Catherine Fisher

"Incarceron" is a prison so vast that it contains not only cells, but also metal forests, dilapidated cities, and vast wilderness. Finn has no memory of his childhood and is sure that he came from outside Incarceron. Very few prisoners believe that there is an Outside, however, which makes escape pretty much impossible.

Knife of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness

Ever since the settlers were infected with the Noise germ, Todd can hear everything the men think, and they hear everything he thinks. Todd is just a month away from becoming a man, but in the midst of the cacophony, he knows that the town is hiding something from him. (1st of a trilogy: 2nd book: *The Ask & the Answer*, 3rd book: *Monsters of Men* due out 9/10)

The Maze Runner by James Dashner

When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his first name. His memory is blank. Thomas was expected, but the next day, a girl is sent up — the first girl to ever arrive in the Glade. And more surprising yet is the message she delivers. (follow-up: *The Scorch Trials* due out 10/2010)

Nation by Terry Pratchett

Alone on a desert island -- everything and everyone he knows and loves has been washed away in a storm - - Mau is the last surviving member of his nation. He's completely alone -- or so he thinks until he finds the ghost girl. She has no toes, wears strange lacy trousers like the grandfather bird, and gives him a stick that can make fire.

The Red Pyramid by Rick Riordan

A brand-new series from the creator of the "New York Times"-bestselling Percy Jackson and the Olympians series. Need we say more? OK, maybe, it's about Egyptian gods, and it's just as good as Percy Jackson!

The Roar by Emma Clayton

Mika and Ellie live in a future behind a wall. It was built to keep out the animals, because animals carry the plague. At least that's what Ellie, who was kidnapped as a child, has always been taught. But when she comes to suspect the truth behind her captivity, she's ready to risk exposure to the elements and answer the call of the wild. Listen. Can you hear it? She's strapping on her headset, jumpstarting her Pod Fighter, and-- with her capuchin monkey at her back--she's breaking out!

If you liked *Twilight* . . .

Stephenie Meyer combined so many elements – romance, fantasy, adventure – who can really say what made Bella and Edward’s story so riveting. It’s a bit difficult to know how to recommend the next best read, but if you liked *Twilight*, give these a try:

Adoration of Jenna Fox by Mary E. Pearson

Jenna has just awoken from a year-long coma — so she’s been told — and she is still recovering from the terrible accident that caused it. But what happened before that? And who is she really?

Book of a Thousand Days by Shannon Hale

When Dashti, a maid, and Lady Saren, her mistress, are shut in a tower for seven years for Saren's refusal to marry a man she despises, the two prepare for a very long and dark imprisonment. But the arrival outside the tower of Saren's two suitors -- one welcome, and the other decidedly less so -- brings both hope and great danger, and Dashti must make some desperate choices.

City of Bones (Mortal Instruments Trilogy) by Cassandra Clare

This is one of the top 8th grade reads of the year. It has it all – adventure, fantasy, great characters and a bit of forbidden romance. Clary has always been able to see fairies, but she’s been taught never to let on about her abilities. One night however, she can’t stop herself.

Ever by Gail Carsten Levine

Falling in love is never easy, but falling in love with an immortal god while your days on earth are numbered is almost more than a young girl can bear. Attempting to thwart her fate, Kezi and her love, Olus -- the god of wind and loneliness – have to take on a series of dangerous and increasingly impossible quests.

Graceling by Kristin Cashore

Katsa is able to kill a man with her bare hands -- she's a Graceling, one of the rare people born with an extreme skill. Then she first meets Prince Po, graced with combat skills equal to her own. It seems like a simple plot, but once you think you've got it all figured out, well, then it gets interesting. (companion book: *Fire*)

A Great and Terrible Beauty by Libba Bray

It's 1895, and after the suicide of her mother, 16-year-old Gemma is shipped off from the life she knows in India to an English boarding school. Lonely, guilt-ridden, and prone to visions of the future, Gemma's reception is decidedly chilly. To make things worse, she's been followed by a mysterious young Indian man. And then she has to deal with her fellow classmates . . .

A Northern Light by Jennifer Donnelly

Sixteen year old Mattie hopes for better, but may be stuck marrying the farm boy next door. Taking a job at a local hotel thrusts her into a murder mystery that she certainly didn't anticipate and may not be able to solve. Inspired by actual events, this is one not to be missed.

Tiger Moon by Antonia Michaelis

Farhad is a young thief and master of many disguises but not of his own heart. With the help of a sarcastic tiger, he must save a Hindu princess from marriage to a demon king. The folklore of India is woven into the unlikely romance, the friendship between boy and tiger and the sacrifice their journey demands.

Toads and Diamonds by Heather Tomlinson

Diribani has come to the village well to get water for her family. She never expected to meet a goddess there. Yet she is granted a remarkable gift: flowers and precious jewels drop from her lips whenever she speaks. Blessings and curses are never so clear as they might seem, however.

Wings by Aprilynne Pike

Laurel's life is the very definition of normal . . . until the morning when she wakes up to discover something blooming from her back. With the help of an alluring faerie sentry who holds the key to her true past, Laurel must race to save her human family from the centuries-old faerie enemies who walk among them. (sequel: *Spells*)

Wondrous Strange by Lesley Livingston

For seventeen-year-old actress Kelley Winslow, faeries are just something from childhood stories. Then she meets Sonny Flannery, whose steel-gray eyes mask an equally steely determination to protect her. A true rival to *Twilight* for romance and intrigue. (sequel: *Darklight*)

MORE SCI/FI & FANTASY

- Adams, Douglas – Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy
- *Alexander, Lloyd – The Book of Three (Prydain Chronicles)
- Allende, Isabelle – City of Beasts
- Anderson, M.T. – Feed
- Atwater-Rhodes, Amelia. In The Forests of the Night
- Barker, Clive – Abarat
- Barron, T.A. – The Lost Years of Merlin (series)
- Billingsley, Franny – The Folk-Keeper, Well-Wished
- Card, Orson Scott – Ender (series)
- Cooper, Susan – Over Sea, Under Stone
- Crossley-Holland, Kevin – The Seeing Stone (series)
- De Mari, Silvana – The Last Dragon
- DuPrau, Jeanne – The City of Ember (series)
- Edward Eager – Half Magic, Knight’s Castle, The Time Garden
- *Farmer, Nancy – The House of the Scorpion
- *Fisher, Catherine – The Oracle Betrayed (series)
- Gardner, Sally – I, Coriander
- Gruber, Michael – The Witch’s Boy
- Hoffman, Mary – Stravaganza (series)
- Ibbotson, Eva – Secret of Platform 13, Island of the Aunts
- *Jones, Dianna Wynne – Dark Lord of Derkholm, Chrestomanci (series)
- Kindl, Patrice – Owl in Love
- Lanagan, Margo – Black Juice
- LeGuin, Ursula – Wizard of Earthsea (series)
- L’Engle, Madeleine – A Wrinkle in Time, A Wind in the Door, Swiftly Tilting Planet
- Lewis, C.S. – The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (series)
- MacHale, D.J. – Pendragon (series)
- Maguire, Gregory – Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister, Wicked
- Martin, Rafe – Birdwing
- Napoli, Donna Jo – Beast, Spinner
- Nix, Garth – Abhorsen trilogy, Keys to the Kingdom (series)
- Paolini, Christopher – Eragon (series)
- *Paver, Michelle – Chronicles of Ancient Darkness (series)
- Philbrick, Rodman – The Last Book in the Universe
- Pierce, Tamora – Alanna: the First Adventure (Song of the Lioness series), Wild Magic (The Immortals series)
- Pratchett, Terry – Discworld (series), Wee Free Men (series)
- Pullman, Philip – The Golden Compass (His Dark Materials series)
- Reeve, Philip – Mortal Engines (The Hungry City Chronicles series)
- Riordan, Rick – Percy Jackson & the Olympians (series)
- Rowling, J.K. – Harry Potter
- Sage, Angie – Magyk (Septimus Heap (series))
- Stroud, Jonathan – Bartimaeus Trilogy (series)
- Thompson, Kate – Switchers
- Tolkein, J.R.R. – The Hobbit, Lord of the Rings (series)
- Wein, Elizabeth – The Lion Hunter, The Empty Kingdom
- *Westerfeld, Scott – The Uglies, (The Pretties, Specials & The Midnighters series)
- Wrede, Patricia – Dealing With Dragons (series)

**Librarian Favorites*

Realistic fiction

Sometimes the real world is more than enough . . .

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie

In his first book for young adults, bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

All of the Above by Shelley Pearsall

Everyone knows that Washington Middle School is a dead end and its students have no future. Then, Mr. Collins, the seventh-grade math teacher challenges several students to build the world's largest tetrahedron. Interspersed throughout the text are illustrations by award-winning artist Javaka Steptoe -- as well as barbecue recipes -- and even a few math problems.

Black Box by Julie Schumacher

Elena's older sister, Dora, is diagnosed with depression and has to be admitted to the hospital. Life begins to fall apart for Elena as well. One of the only people who seems to understand is Jimmy Zenk -- who failed at least one grade and wears black every day. Elena will do anything to help her sister get better -- even when it seems like too much.

Climbing the Stairs by Padma Venkatraman

During World War II, fifteen-year-old Vidya dreams of attending college. After a tragedy befalls her beloved father, she is forced to assume a more traditional role in her grandfather's segregated house. True to herself, she seeks to carve a place for an educated girl amidst both British oppression, Nazi threats, and the struggle for Indian statehood.

Dairy Queen by Catherine Gilbert Murdock

DJ gets a summer job training the rival high school's spoiled quarterback. She enjoys busting his butt with a tough regimen of weights and running, until she starts to fall for him. After all, a popular jock would never go for a farm girl, would he?

Every Soul a Star by Wendy Mass

Told from three distinct voices and perspectives, this book weaves an intricate and compelling story about strangers coming together, unlikely friendships, and finding one's place in the universe.

Jumped by Rita Williams-Garcia

Acclaimed author Rita Williams-Garcia intertwines the lives of three very different teens in this fast-paced, gritty narrative about choices and the impact that even the most seemingly insignificant ones can have.

Marcelo in the Real World by Francesco X. Stork

Reminiscent of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" in the intensity and purity of its voice, this extraordinary novel is a love story, a legal drama, and a celebration of the music each of us hears inside.

North of Beautiful by Justina Chen Headley

Written in lively, artful prose, award-winning author Justina Chen Headley has woven together a powerful novel about a fractured family, falling in love, travel, and the meaning of true beauty.

Red Glass by Laura Resau

One night Sophie and her parents take in Pedro, a 6-year-old Mexican boy who is the sole survivor of a border crossing. Sophie loves Pedro - her Principito, or Little Prince. But after a year, Pedro's surviving family in Mexico makes contact, and Sophie must travel with Pedro to his hometown so that he can make a heart wrenching decision.

Sunrise Over Fallujah by Walter Dean Myers

Robin "Birdy" Perry, a new army recruit from Harlem, isn't quite sure why he joined the army, but he's sure where he's headed: Iraq. His unit is supposed to help secure and stabilize the country and successfully interact with the Iraqi people. Officially, the code name for their maneuvers is Operation Iraqi Freedom. But the young men and women in the CA unit have a simpler name for it - war.

More Realistic fiction

Contemporary

Anderson, Laurie Halse – Speak, Catalyst
Bauer, Joan – Hope Was Here, Rules of the Road
Birdsall, Jean – The Penderwicks
Blacker, Terrence – Boy 2 Girl
Brashares, Ann – The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants
Bryant, Annie – Beacon Street Girls (series)
Choldenko, Jennifer – Al Capone Does My Shirts
Curtis, Christopher, Paul – Bucking the Sarge
Davis, Sampson, et al. – We Beat the Street: How a Friendship Pact Led to Success
Dessen, Sarah – This Lullaby, Just Listen
Hiassen, Carl – Flush, Hoot
Holt, Kimberly Willis – When Zachary Beaver Came to Town
Johnson, Angela – Humming Whispers, Heaven
Koertge, Ronald – Stoner and Spaz
Konigsberg, E.L. – Silent to the Bone, The View from Saturday
Levithan, David – Boy Meets Boy
Nye, Naomi Shihab – Habibi
Paterson, Katherine – The Same Stuff as Stars
Philbrick, Rodman – Freak the Mighty
Ryan, Pam Munoz – Esperanza Rising
Sonnenblick, Jordan – Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie
Soto, Gary – Pacific Crossing
Spinelli, Jerry – Maniac Magee, Stargirl
Staple, Suzanne Fisher – Dangerous Skies, Shiva's Fire
Tashjian, Janet – The Gospel According to Larry (series)
Wittlinger, Ellen – Hard Love, What's in a Name, Parrotfish
Wolff, Virginia – Make Lemonade, True Believer
Woodson, Jacqueline – Last Summer with Maizon (series), Hush, Miracle Boys

HISTORICAL

Blackwood, Gary –
The Shakespeare Stealer (series)
Curry, Jane Louise – The Black Canary
Cushman, Karen – The Midwife's Apprentice, Matilda Bone
Grant, K.M. – Blood Red Horse (De Granville trilogy)
Ketchum, Liza – Where the Great Hawk Flies
McGraw, Eloise Jarvis – The Golden Goblet, Mara: Daughter of the Nile
Kadohata, Cynthia – Weedflower
Lerangis, Peter – Smiler's Bones
Osborne, Mary Pope – The Perilous Gard
Peck, Richard – The River Between Us
Richardson, V.A. – House of Windjammer (series)
Rinaldi, Ann – The Fifth of March, Wolf by the Ears
Schmidt, Gary D. – Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy
Taylor, Mildred – The Land
Wilson, Diane Lee. Black Storm Comin'
Yep, Laurence – Golden Mountain Chronicles (series)
Yolen, Jane – Girl in a Cage, Queen's Own Fool

Humor

Anderson, M.T. – Burger Wuss
Dhami, Narinder – Bindi Babes
Howe, James – The Misfits
Kinney, Jeff – Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Roderick Rules
Korman, Gordon – Son of the Mob, No More Dead Dogs
Peck, Richard – The Teacher's Funeral
Rennison, Louise – Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging (series)
Shusterman, Neal – The Schwa Was Here
Tolan, Stephanie S. – Surviving the Applewhites
Yee, Lisa – Millicent Min, Girl Genius

Mystery/Suspense/Adventure

For those who like to live dangerously . . .

Black Duck by Janet Taylor Lisle

When Ruben and Jed find a dead body on the Rhode Island shore, they are certain it has something to do with smuggling liquor. Suddenly, the boys find themselves caught in a war between two Prohibition gangs.

Crooked River by Shelley Pearsall

In the year 1812, a white trapper is murdered and a young Chippewa Indian stands accused. In a world of crude frontier justice where evidence is often overlooked in favor of vengeance, he struggles to make sense of the white man's court.

Dooley Takes the Fall by Norah McClintock

Dooley witnesses a fellow student's untimely death. Right away, Dooley knows he's in trouble. For one thing he's got a record. For another, the dead kid isn't exactly a stranger - and he's no friend.

Eyes of the Emperor by Graham Salisbury

Eddy Okana lies about his age and joins the Army in his hometown of Honolulu only weeks before the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor. The Army sends Eddy and a small band of Japanese-American soldiers on a secret mission - a special job that only they can do.

Flygirl by Sherri L. Smith

Ida Mae Jones dreams of flight. Her daddy was a pilot and being black didn't stop him from fulfilling his dreams. But her daddy's gone now, and being a woman, and being black, are two strikes against her.

Go Big or Go Home by Will Hobbs

Fourteen-year-old Brady and his cousin Quinn love extreme sports, but nothing could prepare them for the aftermath of Brady's close encounter with a meteorite after it crashes into his Black Hills, South Dakota, bedroom.

Little Brother by Cory Doctorow

Marcus, a.k.a "w1n5t0n," figures he already knows how the system works - and how to work the system. Smart, fast, and wise to the ways of the networked world, he has no trouble outwitting his high school's intrusive but clumsy surveillance systems. But then he gets picked up by Homeland Security.

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd

Ted and Kat watched their cousin Salim board the London Eye ferris wheel. But after half an hour it landed and everyone trooped off - except Salim. Where could he have gone? How on earth could he have disappeared into thin air?

Peak by Roland Smith

After Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with two choices: wither away in Juvenile Detention or to go live with his long-lost father, who runs a Mount Everest climbing company. Peak quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached. "Big" strings.

Re-Gifters by Mike Carey

Meet Jen Dik Seong or "Dixie" as she's known to her friends. Korean American, dirt poor, and living on the ragged edge of LA's Koreatown, Dixie's only outlet is the ancient martial art of hapkido. In fact, she's on the verge of winning a championship, until she falls for fellow hapkido fan/California surfer boy Adam and gets thrown spectacularly off her game. *graphic novel format*

Smiler's Bones by Peter Lerangis

In 1897, Robert Peary brought six polar Eskimos to the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Soon four of them had died, one returned to Greenland, and one boy, Minik, was left. This is his story.

Unwind by Neal Shusterman

In a society where unwanted teens are salvaged for their body parts, three runaways fight the system that would "unwind" them. Brought together by chance, and kept together by desperation, these three unlikely companions make a harrowing cross-country journey, knowing their lives hang in the balance.



Sports

For when the Red Sox have an off day or get rained out . . .

Batboy by Mike Lupica

Mike Lupica, the reigning king of sports books for kids pens another winner just in time for the baseball season.

Ironman by Chris Crutcher

Bo Brewster has been at war with his father for as long as he can remember. The rage he feels give him the energy as a triathlete to press his body to the limit, but it also costs him his spot on the football team. He is sent to Mr. Nak's Anger Management Group – which he 's convinced is populated with future serial killers and freeway snipers.

Night Hoops by Carl Deuker

Nick Abbot knows he can handle being on the varsity basketball team, but Trent Dawson, the troubled boy from across the street, is also on the team. In their nightly practices, they begin to work out their differences to form an uneasy friendship.

Pop by Gordon Korman

When Marcus begins school, he meets the starting quarterback on the team: Troy Popovich. Right from the beginning, Marcus and Troy disagree—about football, about Troy's ex-girlfriend, Alyssa, but most of all about what's good for Charlie, Troy's ex-football playing dad.

Rucker Park Setup by Paul Volponi

Best friends Mackey and J.R. have waited their whole lives to win the basketball tournament at Rucker Park, where their favorite pro 9alers square off against street legends. But the day of their big game, J.R. is fatally stabbed and it's Mackey's fault, even though he didn't wield the knife. Now Mackey has a score to settle, but the killer is watching his every move.

More Sports

Bloor, Edward – [Story Time](#), [Tangerine](#)

Crutcher, Chris – [Athletic Shorts](#), [Stotan!](#),

Feinstein, John – [Last Shot](#)

Klass, David – [Home of the Braves](#)

Lupica, Mike – [Heat](#), [Travel Team](#)

Lynch, Chris - [Iceman](#)

Myers, Walter Dean – [Slam](#)

Soto, Gary – [Baseball in April and Other Stories](#)

Weaver, Will – [Striking Out](#)