

Jefferson Middle School

Summer 2017 Reading Program

Incoming Seventh Graders are to select two of the following titles to read over the summer and be prepared to discuss and speak to the books read in their English class:

The Blackhope Enigma Flavin, Teresa	The Buddha's Diamonds Marsden, Carolyn
Ender's Game Card, Orson Scott	Full Cicada Moon Hilton, Marilyn
The Girl Who Drank the Moon Barnhill, Kelly	The Girls Koss, Amy Goldman
Knots in My Yo-Yo String Spinelli, Jerry	The Land of Forgotten Girls Entrada Kelly, Erin
Poison Is Not Polite Stevens, Robin	What Came from the Stars Schmidt, Gary

The Blackhope Enigma By: Flavin, Teresa

For centuries, Blackhope Tower has been shrouded in intrigue, centering on a labyrinth and painting in the Mariner's Chamber. When 14-year-old Sunni Forrest visits the tower and sees her stepbrother, Dean, disappear, seemingly into the painting itself, she must find him and risk being drawn into the heart of the Blackhope enigma. This is an action-packed novel that follows Dean, Sunni, and her friend Blaise on a journey to the heart of an age-old mystery.

The Buddha's Diamonds By: Marsden, Carolyn

This graceful narrative is based in part on Niêm's childhood in Vietnam. Buddhist concepts are gently introduced and explained in the context of the story, but, more importantly, they are reflected in the tone and style. Tinh may be more spiritual than many of the youngsters in his village, but, at 10, he is still a child. He wants to play with his friends and he covets his cousin's fancy toys. At the same time, he has started to take on many adult responsibilities and is proud to work with his Ba catching fish to feed and support his family. When a storm hits his village, his father entrusts Tinh to secure their boat, but the boy panics and fails to do so. In reality, there was little that could have been done under the circumstances, but he clings to the hope that he can salvage it and win back his father's confidence. The sense of duty that he feels leads him to rethink his actions and his priorities. Cultural references are beautifully integrated into this lovely coming-of-age story.

Ender's Game By: Card, Orson Scott

Child-hero Ender Wiggin must fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race if mankind is to survive.

Full Cicada Moon By: Hilton, Marilyn

Mimi tells her story in this novel in verse that will resonate with fans of Jacqueline Woodson's *Brown Girl Dreaming* (Penguin, 2014). The seventh grader describes arriving in small-town Vermont from Berkeley in 1969. While filling out a form, the teen is perplexed by which

ethnicity to check off: her father is a black college professor, and her mother is Japanese (they married when he was a soldier stationed overseas). In 1969, mixed race is not an option on the form, nor is Oriental the same as Japanese. Mimi is fascinated by space and the moon landing. She designs a science project for school that requires the use of power tools—all this during a time when girls were not expected to be interested in science and were required to take home economics rather than shop. When Mimi bucks convention, there are repercussions and punishments. She weathers these with support from a smart girlfriend as well as a loyal and tender boy next door. Mimi's parents are engaged in and support the budding scientist's projects. This novel stands out with its thoughtful portrayal of race and its embrace of girls in science and technical fields. The verse, though spare, is powerful and evocative, perfectly capturing Mimi's emotional journey.

The Girl Who Drank the Moon By: Barnhill, Kelly

"Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch in the forest, Xan, is kind and gentle. She shares her home with a wise Swamp Monster named Glerk and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, Fyrian. Xan rescues the abandoned children and delivers them to welcoming families on the other side of the forest, nourishing the babies with starlight on the journey. One year, Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the ordinary child with extraordinary magic. Xan decides she must raise this girl, whom she calls Luna, as her own. To keep young Luna safe from her own unwieldy power, Xan locks her magic deep inside her. When Luna approaches her thirteenth birthday, her magic begins to emerge on schedule--but Xan is far away. Meanwhile, a young man from the Protectorate is determined to free his people by killing the witch. Soon, it is up to Luna to protect those who have protected her--even if it means the end of the loving, safe world she's always known."

The Girls By: Koss, Amy Goldman

When the other members of Maya's clique decide to ostracize her, the girl is shocked and devastated. She has no clue what she could have done wrong and neither do Brianna, Rene or Darcy. However, Candace is their leader, the self-assured one, the one who decides who's in and who's not and suddenly, Maya's not. In brief chapters that jump from one girl's perspective to another, a picture emerges of social status and peer pressure among middle schoolers who are struggling to figure out who they are, where they belong, and maybe even what is right.

Knots in My Yo-Yo String By: Spinelli, Jerry

From first memories through high school, including first kiss, first punch, and first trip to the principal's office, Newbery Medalist, Jerry Spinelli, has penned his autobiography with all the warmth, humor, and drama of his best-selling fiction.

The Land of Forgotten Girls By: Kelly, Erin Entrada

Abandoned by their father and living in poverty with their heartless stepmother in Louisiana, two sisters from the Philippines, twelve-year-old Sol and six-year-old Ming, learn the true meaning of family.

Poison Is Not Polite By: Stevens, Robin

In 1930s England, schoolgirl detectives Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are at Daisy's home for the holidays when someone falls seriously, mysteriously ill at a family party, but no one present is what they seem--and everyone has a secret or two--so the Detective Society must do everything they can to reveal the truth ... no matter the consequences.

What Came from the Stars By: Schmidt, Gary

In a desperate attempt for survival, a peaceful civilization on a faraway planet besieged by a dark lord sends its most precious gift across the cosmos into the lunchbox of Tommy Pepper, 6th-grader, of Plymouth, Massachusetts.