



FIERCE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

JOIN MERRYHILL MIDTOWN FOR A SUMMER READING CHALLENGE THAT CELEBRATES DIVERSITY AND FOSTERS CULTURAL APPRECIATION!

STEP 1:

JrK – 2nd: Independently, or with a family member, read any 5 books from the list below or 5 books of your choosing that celebrate diversity.

3rd – 5th: Read any 3-5 books from the list below or 3-5 books of your choosing that celebrate diversity.

6th – 8th: Read any 2-3 books from the list below or 2-3 books of your choosing that celebrate diversity.

STEP 2:

After reading, record the name of each book read, along with the date and book rating, on the reading log provided. Then, follow the directions on page 2 to create a one-pager for each book you read. When finished, paperclip or staple the reading log to the one-pagers - be sure to include your name!

STEP 3:

Completed summer reading challenges can be submitted to the front office during the first week of school, August 19th - 23rd. All participants will receive a free dress pass and have their work displayed in our FIERCE Lending Library, along with the chance for their one-pagers to be featured in the school newsletter!

DID YOU KNOW?

Summer reading provides benefits that extend well past the summer months and helps neutralize summer learning loss or what is commonly known as the "summer slide". Benefits of summer reading range from improved comprehension and memory to increased self-esteem and social-emotional skills!



WHAT IS A ONE - PAGER?

One-pagers invite students to think critically about a text and design a single page of paper featuring key elements of whatever they have just read; one-pagers can be created by hand or digitally. Using quotations, their own words, drawings, symbols, and colors, students highlight important themes, symbols, moments and characters on the page. For example, depending on grade/age, a student may:

- Draw a picture of their favorite character/s or a main event. Students may choose to add labels, quotes, etc.
- Sketch out a timeline of important events.
- Sketch one visual symbol that represents the text's main theme.
- Write out two quotations that show the author's style.
- Include a sketch & a sentence representing the setting.
- Make connections between the text & current events using sketches and text.
- Examine one or two main characters & their development.
- Include a statement about one thing they connected with in the reading.

CHECK OUT THESE EXAMPLES!





SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

RECOMMENDED BOOK LIST

Compiled from Lee & Low Books' Diverse Summer Reading lists, texts include both fiction and non fiction titles by outstanding authors and illustrators of diverse backgrounds. Titles also feature characters from diverse backgrounds, explore themes of community, family, culture, inclusivity, and include bilingual Spanish-English options – in other words, books that will engage readers all summer long! Please note - this is a limited list of texts; for the full list of titles, please use the button below to visit Lee & Low Books.

EARLY READERS



ONCE AROUND THE BLOCK
written and illustrated by José Lozano
A bilingual ABCs book that fills you in on all the fun neighborhood chatter!



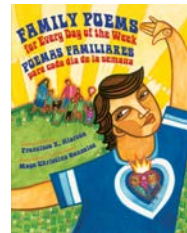
SUMMER SUN RISIN' • Written by W. Nikola-Lisa, illustrated by Don Tate
leeandlow.com/books/summer-sun-risin-bebop

This delightful story takes us from sunrise to sunset as an African American boy spends an activity-filled summer day helping his family on their farm. *(Also available in Spanish.)*



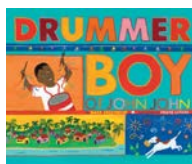
THE GARDEN • Written by Paula Yoo, illustrated by Shirley Ng-Benitez
leeandlow.com/books/the-garden

In this early chapter book from the popular Confetti Kids series, Lily and her friends volunteer to help at the public garden, where they learn that plants need water, sun, and—just like them—time to grow.



FAMILY POEMS FOR EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK/POEMAS FAMILIARES PARA CADA DÍA DE LA SEMANA • Written by Francisco X. Alarcón, illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez • leeandlow.com/books/family-poems-for-every-day-of-the-week

A bilingual collection of poetry by the late Francisco X. Alarcón, acclaimed Chicano poet, celebrating the days of the week and everyday childhood experiences. *(Bilingual English/Spanish.)*



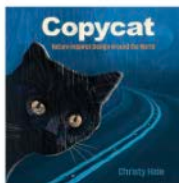
DRUMMER BOY OF JOHN JOHN • Written by Mark Greenwood, illustrated by Frané Lessac • leeandlow.com/books/drummer-boy-of-john-john

A perfect book for aspiring young drummers! A young boy in Trinidad discovers he can create music with discarded metal tins, and goes on to compete in the

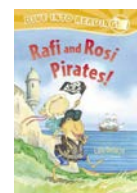


RAINBOW STEW • Written and illustrated by Cathryn Falwell • leeandlow.com/books/rainbow-stew

Three children and their grandfather pick fresh vegetables in his garden and then cook and share a meal of healthy vegetable stew on a rainy summer day.

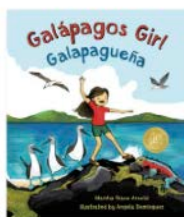


COPYCAT
written and illustrated by Christy Hale
Award-winning author-illustrator Christy Hale brings the fascinating concept of biomimicry to life in a uniquely designed book that shows how nature inspires solutions to real-world problems.

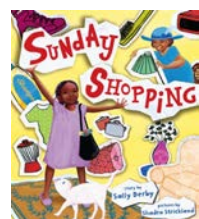


RAFI AND ROSI PIRATES! • Written and illustrated by Lulu Delacre • leeandlow.com/books/rafi-and-rosi-pirates

In this chapter book, Rafi and Rosi explore Puerto Rico's famous El Morro Fort and learn about its Spanish history, treasure, and pirates. *(Also available in Spanish.)*



GALÁPAGOS GIRL / GALAPAGUEÑA
written by Marsha Diane Arnold, illustrated by Angela Dominguez
This charming bilingual English & Spanish picture book from the illustrator of *Mango, Abuela, and Me* introduces the fascinating creatures of the Galápagos Islands through the life of one very lucky girl.



SUNDAY SHOPPING • Written by Sally Derby, illustrated by Shadra Strickland • leeandlow.com/books/sunday-shopping

Every Sunday night, a young girl and her grandmother go on an imaginary shopping trip using play money and the advertisements in the newspaper as a guide for their "purchases."



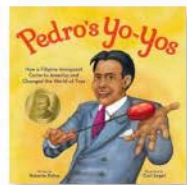
FLAP YOUR HANDS

This fascinating, groundbreaking picture book by an autistic creator celebrates stimming—the repetitive movements that provide focused stimulation to people on the autistic spectrum.



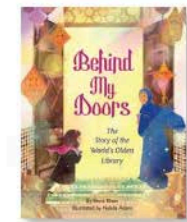
ZAIN'S SUPER FRIDAY

Join Zain and his dad on a special visit to their local mosque to attend jum'ah prayers in this heartwarming picture book from the author of *Under My Hijab*.



PEDRO'S YO-YOS: How a Filipino Immigrant Came to America and Changed the World of Toys

Discover the backstory of one of America's favorite toys, the yo-yo, in this colorful biography of businessman Pedro Flores.



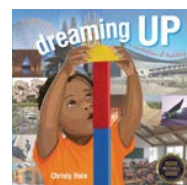
BEHIND MY DOORS: The Story of the World's Oldest Library

Come learn about the oldest operating library in existence that was originally founded by a Muslim woman in 859!



THE WILD ONES and LOS BRAVOS

From the creators of *Zombies Don't Eat Veggies!* comes a heartwarming and epic tale of four best friends who turn to the mythical monsters from their respective cultures to help them save the only home they've ever known (Also available in Spanish).



DREAMING UP • Written and illustrated by Christy Hale • leeandlow.com/books/dreaming-up

A collection of illustrations, concrete poetry, and photographs that shows how young children's constructions, created as they play, are reflected in notable works of architecture from around the world.



MI FAMILIA CALACA / MY SKELETON FAMILY

written by Cynthia Weill, illustrated by Jesús Zarate
Come meet La Familia calaca! They're just like everybody else. Except they're all bones!



THE LION QUEENS OF INDIA

written by Jan Reynolds
Award-winning photojournalist Jan Reynolds offers readers a fascinating glimpse into the world of the endangered Asiatic lions and the female forest rangers who fight to save them.



Call Me Tree/Llámame Árbol • written and illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez

GRADES PreK-3

A gender-neutral tale of self-discovery told by a child who grows, learns about the natural world, embraces others, and is free to become whoever he or she is meant to be—a child as unique as a tree. Bilingual English/Spanish.



I Can Be...Me! • written by Lesléa Newman, illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez

GRADES PreK-3

From bestselling author Lesléa Newman – a joyful picture book celebration of individuality, uniqueness, and children's freedom to express themselves while engaging in whatever kinds of play they choose.



I'll Build You a Bookcase • written by Jean Ciborowski Fahey, illustrated by Simone Shin

GRADES PreK-3

In this charming picture book, children and their caregivers work together to build home libraries and discover the magic and wonder of reading books.



The Talent Show • written by Samantha Thornhill, illustrated by Shirley Ng-Benitez

GRADES PreK-3

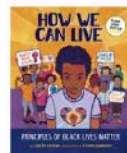
In this new book in the popular Confetti Kids series, Henry is nervous about sharing his dance moves at the school talent show.



Antonio's Card/La tarjeta de Antonio • written by Rigoberto González, illustrated by Cecilia Álvarez

GRADES PreK-5

In this groundbreaking bilingual picture book, Antonio decides to make a Mother's Day card for both his mother and her partner.



How We Can Live: Principles of Black Lives Matter • written by Laleña García, illustrated by Caryn Davidson

GRADES PreK-5

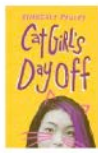
The first children's book to feature material from the Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation, this beautiful picture book will engage hearts and minds as it introduces children to the guiding principles of the Black Lives Matter movement.



Sparkle Boy • written by Lesléa Newman, illustrated by Maria Mola

GRADES PreK-5

Young Casey loves sparkly things, but his older sister Jessie does not approve of his interest until an encounter with bullies helps her learn to accept and respect Casey for who he is.



Cat Girl's Day Off • written by Kimberly Pauley

GRADES 5-8

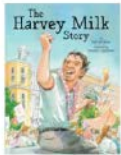
In this hilarious YA homage to Ferris Bueller's Chicago, Natalie must use her Talent of talking to cats to solve a high-profile celebrity kidnapping.



Miosotis Flores Never Forgets • written by Hilda Eunice Burgos

GRADES 5-8

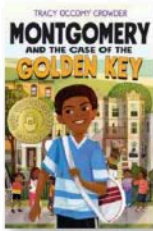
Perfect for fans of Meg Medina and Barbara O'Connor, this heartfelt novel about family, pets, and other things we hold close is one that you'll never forget.



The Harvey Milk Story • written by Kari Krakow, illustrated by David Gardner

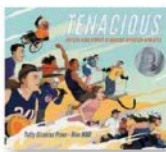
GRADES 3-5

A hopeful and inspiring biography of the historic gay activist Harvey Milk, who gave people the courage to be proud of who they are.



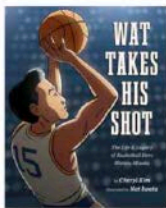
MONTGOMERY AND THE CASE OF THE GOLDEN KEY

It's 2008, and ten-year-old Montgomery "Monty" Carver is out to find the origin of a golden key found in his Southside Chicago community—which may or may not host the next Olympic games, or supply the next President of the United States, or... have a potential ghost hanging around.



TENACIOUS: Fifteen Adventures Alongside Disabled Athletes

Meet fifteen remarkable athletes who use adaptive equipment in this beautiful and truth-telling picture book.



WAT TAKES HIS SHOT: The Life & Legacy of Basketball Hero Wataru Misaka

Check out this unique bilingual English and Spanish series featuring Maximilian, an 11-year-old lucha libre fan that's always looking for an adventure, Luchador action, and drama, making for an engaging roller coaster ride for young readers.



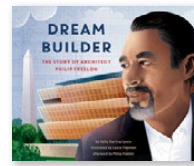
BREAKING TO THE BEAT

Pink goats, blue rabbits, and purple cats—oh my! Manuel has the determination and imagination to create them all!



MILES OF STYLE: Eunice W. Johnson and the EBONY Fashion Fair

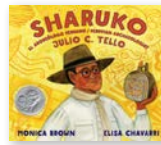
A chic biography about Eunice W. Johnson who brought elegant and contemporary fashion to Black America through the annual EBONY Fashion Fair!



DREAM BUILDER: THE STORY OF ARCHITECT PHILIP FREELON

written by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Laura Freeman

You've seen the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. Now meet the man whose life went into building it.



SHARUKO: Peruvian Archaeologist Julio C. Tello / El arqueólogo peruano Julio C. Tello

written by Monica Brown, illustrated by Elisa Chavarri

A fascinating bilingual picture book biography of Peruvian archaeologist and national icon Julio C. Tello, who unearthed Peru's ancient cultures and fostered pride in the country's Indigenous history.



JULIETA AND THE DIAMOND ENIGMA

written by Luisana Duarte Armendáriz
Nine-year-old Julieta is in Paris when she and her Dad walk in on a thief stealing the Regent Diamond. Can Julieta determine who the thief really is before it's too late?



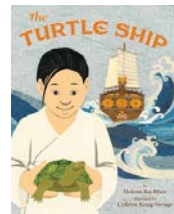
YUM! ¡MMMM! ¡QUÉ RICO!: AMERICAS' SPROUTINGS • written by Pat Mora, illustrated by Rafael Lopez • leeandlow.com/books/yum-mmmm-que-rico-americas-sproutings

A collection of haiku focusing on fourteen foods native to the Americas, celebrating the fun of foods as well as their origins. (Also available in Spanish.)



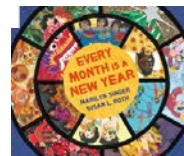
PARROTS OVER PUERTO RICO • Written by Susan L. Roth and Cindy Trumbore, illustrated by Susan L. Roth • leeandlow.com/books/parrots-over-puerto-rico

This innovative picture book reveals the intertwined histories of the Puerto Rican parrot and the island of Puerto Rico, culminating with current efforts to save the parrots from extinction.



THE TURTLE SHIP • Written by Helena Ku Rhee, illustrated by Colleen Kong-Savage • leeandlow.com/books/the-turtle-ship

A young Korean boy named Sun-shin designs one of the greatest battleships in history to fulfill his dream of sailing the world.



EVERY MONTH IS A NEW YEAR • Written by Marilyn Singer, illustrated by Susan L. Roth • leeandlow.com/books/every-month-is-a-new-year

Happy New Year . . . in July! This versatile collection of engaging original poems showcases New Year celebrations throughout the year and around the world.



COOL MELONS TURN TO FROGS! • Written by Matthew Gollub, illustrated by Kazuko G. Stone • leeandlow.com/books/cool-melons-turn-to-frogs-the-life-and-poems-of-issa

This award-winning book is an introduction to haiku poetry and the life of Issa (b. 1763), Japan's premier haiku poet, told through narrative, art, and translations of Issa's most beloved poems for children.



STRONG AS FIRE, FIERCE AS FLAME

written by Supriya Kelkar

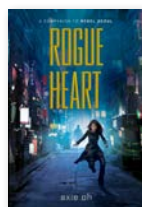
In 1857 India, 12-year-old Meera escapes a life she has no say in—and certain death on her husband’s funeral pyre—only to end up a servant to a British general in the East India Company. When a rebellion against British colonizers spreads, she must choose between relative safety in a British household or standing up for herself and her people.



ON THESE MAGIC SHORES

written by Yamile Saied Méndez

When Mamá fails to return home after her evening job, it is up to 12-year-old Minerva to take care of her younger sisters and hold the family together all while trying to act in her school’s play of Peter Pan.



ROGUE HEART

written by Axie Oh

Warcross meets *Final Fantasy* in this companion novel to *Rebel Seoul*, in which a young telepath joins a rebel group on a secret mission to end a decades-long world war.



THE SHADOW PRINCE

Five Deadly Tests, Only One Shadow Prince. In this middle grade novel set in an alternate Egyptian universe, twelve-year-old Ash must compete and survive to become the shadow—and protector—of the prince.

THE LONGEST NIGHT IN EGYPT

The Shadow Prince saga continues as Ash and his heroic friends rush to save Ra from the belly of Apep and bring light back to an Egypt that has been plunged into darkness.



BOY, EVERYWHERE

What turns citizens into refugees and then immigrants? In this powerful middle-grade debut, Sami and his family embark on a harrowing journey to save themselves from the Syrian civil war.

KICKED OUT

In this stand-alone companion novel to the acclaimed *Boy, Everywhere*, A. M. Dassu returns to extend the story of Sami’s best friend Ali, who organizes a charity soccer match for their friend Aadam while his whole life is privately unraveling.



SAFE PASSAGE

From Coretta Scott King Honor-winning author of *Yummy G. Neri* comes an epic journey across the South Side of Chicago for Darius, his little sister Cissy, and his best friend Booger as they set out to find an armored truck that has lost a payload of cash.

Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty

A graphic novel based on the life and death of Robert “Yummy” Sandifer, an eleven-year-old gang member from Chicago’s Southside who was killed by his own gang members.



BLESSING'S BEAD

written by Debby Dahl Edwardson

A wonderful middle-grade fantasy debut Now in paperback: the acclaimed middle-grade novel tracing four generations of an Iñupiaq family in Alaska, which the *Washington Post* praised as “a rare and beautiful book.”



FIGHT BACK

written by A. M. Dassu

Amina's Voice meets *A Good Kind of Trouble* in this story about 13-year-old Aaliyah, who feels alone after putting on a hijab for the first time, but finds friends and allies through organizing a protest at her school.



SPECULATION

written Nisi Shawl

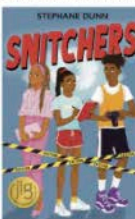
A wonderful middle-grade fantasy debut about Black families, family history, family curses ... and a really marvelous pair of spectacles.



MÈO AND BÉ

written by Doan Phuong Nguyen

Just before the United States enters the Vietnam War, eleven-year-old Bé and her three-footed kitten Mèo must rise above the injustices of war to find the comfort, safety, and love of a found family.



SNITCHERS

written by David Bowles, illustrated by Charlene Bowles

When the grownups can't do it, three friends join together to figure out who killed a little boy in their neighborhood in this stunning debut YA by award-winning playwright Stephane Dunn.



WHEN A BROWN GIRL FLEES

In this contemporary novel from new voice Aamna Qureshi, a Muslim teen runs away from home only to find herself on a breathtaking journey of healing, self-love, and hope.



GABI, A GIRL IN PIECES

In this groundbreaking William C. Morris Award winner for a YA debut, Gabi's life is a mess—her family, her friends, her attempts at a love life—but writing helps, especially since it turns out she's pretty good at poetry.

