Summer 2022 Reading Suggestions from Rowley Middle School Library

The Middle School Library is pleased to present this year’s summer reading list. We think you’ll find something appealing here, no matter what kind of reader you are! Books with a Young Adult designator may contain some more intense themes or language and are intended for older middle school readers.

Ahmed, Samira. The War to Save the Worlds.
On a trip downtown, Hyde Park siblings Amira and Hamza come across the forbidden Box of the Moon, which quickly springs to life and threatens to tear about the world. Together they journey to the mystical land of Qaf and end a war to prevent the moon—the barrier between realms—from breaking apart and unleashing terrifying jinn, devs, and ghuls onto earth. You’ll love this exciting fantasy by a Lab parent!

Arlow, Jake. Almost Flying.
Would-be amusement park aficionado Dalia only has two items on her summer bucket list: (1) finally ride a roller coaster and (2) figure out how to make a new best friend. But when her dad suddenly announces that he’s engaged, Dalia finds herself on a roadtrip with her future stepsister, Alexa, and Rani, the new girl from Dalia’s swim team. What starts out as a week of funnel cakes and Lazy River rides goes off the rails when Dalia discovers that Alexa’s girlfriend is joining the trip. And keeping Alexa’s secret makes Dalia realize one of her own: she might have more-than-friend feelings for Rani.

Baptist, Kelly J. The Swag Is in the Socks.
For his 12th birthday, solitary Xavier Moon receives a pair of funky socks and a challenge from his great-uncle saying it’s time to swag out and speak up. First on the list: get into the legendary Scepter League. Xavier has never had the courage to apply before, but his wild socks are getting him some big attention, so maybe it’s time to come out of the shadows and follow in his family’s footsteps. Or maybe Xavier will march down a new path altogether.

Bausum, Ann. Ensnared in the Wolf’s Lair: Inside the 1944 Plot to Kill Hitler and the Ghost Children of His Revenge. (Young Adult)
During the summer of 1944, a secretive network conspired to assassinate Adolf Hitler. But their plot failed, and an enraged Hitler demanded revenge. Using personal interviews with survivors, author Ann Bausum presents the spine-chilling, little-known story of the failed Operation Valkyrie plot, the revenge it triggered, and the families caught in the fray.

Bird, Betsy. Long Road to the Circus.
Suzy Bowles is desperate to see the world. When her uncle moves back home only to skip his farm chores every morning, Suzy decides to investigate. And that’s when she meets legendary former circus queen Madame Marantette and her ostriches. Before
long, Suzy finds herself caught-up in the fast-paced, hilarious world of ostrich riding, that just might be her ticket out of Burr Oak.

Jolene spends every day she can at the library watching twelve-year-old “Addie Earhart” livestream her adventures flying an ultralight plane over the desert. Jolene dreams of what it would be like to fly with her, far away from her own troubled home life where her mother struggles with a narcotic addiction. Then, one day, Addie’s engine abruptly stops, and Jolene watches in horror as the ultralight plummets to the ground and the video goes dark. With no one to turn to for help and armed with only a hand-drawn map and a stolen cell phone, it’s up to Jolene to find a way to save the Desert Aviator.

Burgos, Hilda Eunice. Miosotis Flores Never Forgets.
Miosotis Flores is excited about three things: fostering rescue dogs, goofy horror movies, and her sister Amarilis’s upcoming wedding. As Miosotis struggles to improve her grades so she can adopt a pup of her own, she notices Amarilis behaving strangely: wearing thick clothes in springtime, dropping her friends in favor of her fiancé, even avoiding Miosotis and the rest of their family. What will happen when Miosotis discovers her sister’s secret?

Calame, Don. The Delusionist. (Young Adult)
15-year old Quinn wants one thing: to win a coveted spot at the Masters of Magic Fantasy Camp. But the competition is stiff, including a talented rival magician who prestidigitates her way into Quinn's heart. To make matters worse, Quinn and his best friend have always performed their magic as a team, but the judges want solo acts. When Quinn meets his idol, it seems like a sign. If he can convince the Dazzling Lazlo to spill the secrets to his greatest trick, then the spot at the camp is all but Quinn’s. But is the washed-up magician just using Quinn to run a few scams? When the chips are down, what will Quinn risk?

Chamblain, Joris. Cici’s Journal. (Graphic Novel)
Everybody has one special secret, Cici figures, and if you want to write about people, as she does, you need to understand what’s hiding inside them. But now she’s discovered something truly strange: an old man who disappears into the forest every Sunday with huge pots of paint in all sorts of colors. What is he up to? Why does he look so sad when he comes back? With journal notes, scrapbook pieces, and doodles, Cici assembles clues about the odd and wonderful people she’s uncovered, even as she struggles to understand the mundane: her family and friends.

Chim, Wai. Freedom Swimmer.
Ming survived the famine that killed his parents during China's "Great Leap Forward," and now lives a hard but adequate life working in the fields. When a group of city boys comes to the village as part of a Communist Party re-education program, Ming and his friends aren't sure what to make of the new arrivals. But despite his reservations, Ming befriends a charming city boy called Li, and the two slowly bond over evening swims...
and shared dreams. As the bitterness of life under the Party begins to take its toll on them, they begin to imagine the impossible. This incredible tale about two boys’ swim from mainland China to Hong Kong in search of freedom is inspired by a true story.

**Cline-Ransome, Lesa. Being Clem.**
Clem can make anybody, even his grumpy older sisters, smile with his jokes. But when his family receives news that his father has died in the infamous Port Chicago disaster, everything begins to fall apart. Soon Clem can barely recognize his home--and himself. Can he live up to his father’s legacy? The final book in the trilogy that started with *Finding Langston.*

**Cohen, Jennieke. My Fine Fellow. (Young Adult)**
In a version of 1830s England where the Culinarians, who create gorgeous food and confections, are the crème de la crème of high society, three individuals combine forces to pull off a delectable caper that will bring them fame, fortune, and a little romance, in a gender-reversed re-imagining of "My Fair Lady."

**Emezi, Akwueke. Bitter. (Young Adult)**
After a childhood in foster care, Bitter is thrilled to attend Eucalyptus, a special school where she can focus on her painting, surrounded by other creative teens. But outside this haven, the streets are filled with protests against the deep injustices gripping the city of Lucille. Bitter's instinct is to stay safe within the walls of Eucalyptus, but her friends aren't willing to settle for a world so far away from what they deserve. Pulled between old friendships, her artistic passion, and a new romance, Bitter isn't sure where she belongs. And if she does find a way to help the revolution while being true to who she is, she must also ask: at what cost?

**Eulberg, Elizabeth. The Best Worst Summer.**
Peyton is having the worst summer ever. She's lonely. She's bored...Until she comes across a box buried in her backyard, with a message: "I'm so sorry. Please forgive me." Back in 1989, it's going to be the best summer ever for Melissa and Jessica. They have two whole months to goof around and explore, and they're even going to bury a time capsule! But when one girl's family secret starts to unravel, it's clear things may not go exactly as planned. This mystery unfolds in alternating chapters, from Peyton in present day to Melissa three decades earlier (a time with no cell phones, no social media, and photos that took days to develop, but also a whole lot of freedom...).

**Fleming, Candace. Murder Among Friends: How Leopold and Loeb Tried to Commit the Perfect Crime. (Young Adult)**
In 1924, U of C students Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb (a Lab alum!) decided they would commit the perfect crime by kidnapping and murdering a child from Hyde Park. You can explore every twist and turn of this harrowing case—how two wealthy, brilliant young men planned and
committed what became known as the crime of the century, how they were caught, and how the renowned criminal defense attorney Clarence Darrow enabled them to avoid the death penalty.

**Foody, Amanda. The Accidental Apprentice.**
Barclay accidentally breaks his town’s most sacred rule: never EVER stray into the Woods! Because within the Woods lurk vicious magical Beasts. To Barclay’s horror, he unwittingly bonds with a Beast and is run out of town by an angry mob. Determined to break this bond and return home, Barclay journeys to find others who have bonded with Beasts and share their powers. Now, Barclay must make a difficult choice: return to the home and rules he’s always known…or embrace the adventure awaiting him.

**Gephart, Donna. Abby, Tried and True.**
When Abby Braverman’s best friend, Cat, moves to Israel, she’s sure it’s the worst thing that could happen. But then her older brother, Paul, is diagnosed with cancer, and life upends again. Now it’s up to Abby to find a way to navigate seventh grade without her best friend, help keep her brother’s spirits up during difficult treatments, and figure out her surprising new feelings for the boy next door.

**Gray, Ayana. Beasts of Prey. (Young Adult)**
Magic doesn’t exist in the broken city of Lkossa anymore, especially for girls like Koffi, an indentured beastkeeper at the notorious Night Zoo. Then Koffi unleashes a power she doesn’t fully understand—and the consequences are dire. Ekon is destined to become an elite warrior. But on the night of his final rite of passage, a fire upends his plans. Koffi and Ekon—each keeping their true motives secret from the other—form a tentative alliance and enter the unknowns of the Greater Jungle to track down the Shetani, a vicious monster plaguing Lkossa. But are they the hunters or the hunted?

**Henley, Ariel. A Face for Picasso. (Young Adult)**
At only eight months old, identical twins Ariel and Zan were diagnosed with a rare condition where the bones in the head fuse prematurely. While the physical aspect of their condition was painful, it was nothing compared to the emotional toll of navigating life with a facial disfigurement—the one that was the inspiration for the book *Wonder*. Ariel explores beauty and identity in her memoir about resilience, family, and the strength it takes to put your life and yourself back together, time and again.

**Higuera, Donna Barba. The Last Cuentista.**
Había una vez … There lived a girl named Petra Peña, who wanted nothing more than to be a storyteller, like her abuelita. But Earth has been destroyed by a comet, and only a few hundred scientists and their children – among them Petra and her family – have been chosen to travel to a new planet and start anew. Asleep for the journey, Petra wakes to the discovery that she is the only person who remembers Earth. A sinister Collective has taken over the ship, purging the memories of all aboard—or purged them
altogether. Petra alone now carries the stories of our past, and with them, any hope for our future. Can she make them live again?

Holmes, Mike. *My Own World.* (Graphic Novel)
All Nathan dreams of is hanging out with his brother and enjoying summer vacation far away from the neighborhood bullies. When he overhears his parents discussing a family crisis, he seeks refuge from his troubles in an abandoned lighthouse. There, Nathan discovers a portal to a berry-colored world, where his imagination takes him on wondrous adventures. In his magical hideaway, Nathan is safe from the anxieties of his life—but can he bring himself to face the real world?

Jurmain, Suzanne. *Murder On the Baltimore Express: The Plot to Keep Abraham Lincoln from Becoming President.*
In 1861, newly elected President Abraham Lincoln set out on a cross-country railroad trip taking him to his inauguration in Washington, D.C. At the same time, a band of fanatic southern Confederate sympathizers decided they would stop him in Baltimore—with a bullet. But as rushing railway trains carried Lincoln towards death, Detective Allan Pinkerton learned of the plot, and set out to save the president. Dive into this incredibly fun and suspenseful true story and learn the secret of Lincoln's great escape.

Korman, Gordon. *Linked.*
Link, Michael, and Dana’s sleepy town is rudely awakened when someone vandalizes their school with a swastika. Because Michael was the first person to see it, he's the first suspect. Because Link is one of the most popular guys in school, everyone’s looking to him to figure it out. And because Dana's the only Jewish girl in the whole town, everyone's treating her more like an outsider than ever. How can these three bring their town back together?

Essie O’Neill is afraid of everything, especially the red door in her nightmares. Her mother has remarried, and they must move to dreary North Brother Island, where Essie’s new stepfather runs a quarantine hospital. Essie knows the island is plagued with tragedy, and now something is haunting her. And the red door from her dreams is real, just down the hall from her bedroom in her terrifying new house…

LaRocca, Rajani. *Red, White and Whole.* (Novel in Verse)
Reha feels torn between school, where she’s the only Indian American student, and home, with her family’s traditions and holidays. But her parents don’t understand why she's conflicted—they only notice when Reha doesn't meet their expectations. Reha feels like she and her mother, her Amma, are a universe apart. Then Reha finds out that her Amma is sick. Reha, is determined to make her Amma well again. She'll be the perfect daughter if it means saving her Amma’s life.
Lasky, Katherine. *Faceless.*
Over the centuries, a small clan of spies called the Tabula Rasa has worked ceaselessly to fight oppression. They can pass unseen through enemy lines and “become” other people without being recognized. They are, essentially, faceless. Alice and Louise Winfield are sisters and spies in the Tabula Rasa. They’re growing up in wartime England, where the threat of Nazi occupation is ever near. But Louise wants to live an ordinary life and leaves the agency. Now, as Alice faces her most dangerous assignment yet, she fears discovery, but, most of all, she fears losing her own sister.

Kim, Jessica. *D-39: A Robodog’s Journey*
A devastating civil war divides the future United States. Out in the sparsely populated Worselands, Klynt Tovis doesn’t see much of it. Instead, she spends most of her summer days bored, or restoring artifacts in her Museum of Fond Memories. Real pet dogs are a thing of the past, but one day an incredible antique shows up at the farm: a D-39 robodog, "Real as a dog can be!" When the war makes its way into the empty Worselands, Klynt and D-39 find themselves on an epic journey for survival and hope.

Lee, Stacey. *Luck of the Titanic.* (Young Adult)
Valora Luck has two things: a dream of being circus performer and a ticket for the Titanic, where her brother, Jamie, and an influential circus owner are aboard. But when she’s turned away—Chinese people aren’t allowed into America—she uses all her acrobatic skills to stowaway. Val should keep her head down and stay out of sight. But she has just seven days to find Jamie and convince the circus owner to hire them and get them into the U.S. One night the unthinkable happens, and suddenly Val’s dreams of a new life are crushed under the weight of the only thing that matters: survival.

Little Badger, Darcie. *A Snake Falls to Earth.* (Young Adult)
Nina is a Lipan girl in our world who still believes in the old stories. Oli is a cottonmouth kid from the land of spirits and monsters who’s been cast from home. Nina and Oli have no idea the other exists. But a catastrophic event on Earth—and a strange sickness that befalls Oli’s best friend—will drive their worlds together in ways they haven't been in centuries. And there are some who will kill to keep them apart.

Lloyd, Megan Warner. *Allergic.* (Graphic Novel)
At home, Maggie is the odd one out. Her parents are preoccupied with getting ready for a new baby, and her younger brothers are twins and always in their own world. Maggie loves animals and thinks a new puppy is the answer, but when she goes to select one on her birthday, she breaks out in hives and rashes. She's severely allergic to anything with fur! Can Maggie outsmart her allergies and find the perfect pet?

London, Alex. *City of Thieves.*
Abel has always loved dragons, but after a disastrous showing in his dragon rider’s exam, he’s destined never to fly one himself. All that changes the night his sister
appears at his window, entrusting him with a secret...and a stolen dragon. Turns out, his big sister is a dragon thief! Too bad his older brother is a rising star in Drakopolis law enforcement. To protect his friends and his family, Abel must partner with the stolen beast, riding in kin battles and keeping more secrets than a dragon has scales. When everyone wants him fighting on their side, can Abel figure out what’s worth fighting for?

**Lowe, Mari. Aviva vs. the Dybbuk.**
A long ago "accident." An isolated girl named Aviva. A community that wants to help but doesn't know how. And a ghostly dybbuk only Aviva can see, causing mayhem and mischief that everyone blames on her. As tensions escalate in the Jewish community of Beacon, and the conflict grows between Aviva and the girls at her school, the actions of the dybbuk grow worse. Could real harm be coming Aviva's way? And is it somehow related to the "accident" that took her father years ago?

**Lukoff, Kyle. Different Kinds of Fruit.**
Annabelle loves hearing about the new kid, Bailey’s, life in Seattle, meeting their loquacious (and kinda corny) parents, and hanging out at their house. And it doesn’t hurt that Bailey has a cute smile, nice hands, and smells good. Suddenly sixth grade is anything but the same. And when her father shares that he and Bailey have something big—and surprising—in common, Annabelle begins to see herself and her family in a new light while also realizing that her community might not be as welcoming as she had thought. Together these families discover how the categories that seem to mean so much—boy, girl, gay, straight, fruit, vegetable—aren’t so clear-cut after all.

**Martin, Jetta Grace. Freedom!: The Story of the Black Panther Party.** (Young Adult)
“There is a saying: knowledge is power. The secret is this. Knowledge, applied at the right time and place, is more than power. It’s magic.” The Black Panther Party captured this magic and launched a revolution. From the opening nail-biting showdown against the Oakland Police Department to the closure of the last BPP office in 1982, you’ll be swept up in this story of everyday people who found pride and power in their community and worked to end the systems that had oppressed Black people for decades. This close look at their history can provide a guide for how to build a movement for today.

**Matejek-Morris, Jimmy. My Ex-Imaginary Friend.**
Jack thought he had outgrown his imaginary friend, George…until his dad disappears from his life and his mom's bipolar disorder isn't being properly treated. Jack decides only George can help him figure out how to put his family back together. Meanwhile, the imaginary George has a problem of his own: with nobody to believe in him, he is slowly disappearing. Rejoining Jack is his only hope for survival. Or is it?

**Mercado, Yehudi. Chunky.** (Graphic Novel)
The doctors say Hudi needs to lose weight, and his parents, worried about a medical problem in Hudi’s past, push him to try...(gulp)...sports. Enter Chunky, an imaginary
friend and the cheerleader Hudi’s never had. Baseball ends up being a disaster, but with Chunky’s help, Hudi finds the courage to pursue his true love: comedy. When life at home gets harder, will Chunky’s guidance be enough for Hudi to stay true to himself?

**Mills, Claudia. The Lost Language.**
When Betsy informs Lizard, her best friend, that thousands of the world’s languages are going extinct, Lizard challenges Betsy to save one. As the girls embark on their quest to learn as much as possible of the near-extinct language of Guernésiais, their friendship faces unexpected strains. Then tragedy threatens Betsy’s life beyond what any words can express, and Lizard does something unthinkable…

**Mone, Gregory. Atlantis: The Accidental Invasion.**
Kaya, raised in the undersea, high-tech world of Atlantis, has always been fascinated by the Sun People and other legends about life above the water, despite the government’s insistence that they’re only stories. When a group of officials known as Erasers move to bury those legends for good, Kaya sets out to the surface to uncover the truth. Meanwhile on dry land, giant tsunamis threaten Earth’s coasts, and all Lewis wants is to spend more time with his scientist father. When he stows away on his dad’s top-secret research trip, he finds himself thrown headfirst into an adventure much bigger than he bargained for.

**Paterson, Katherine. Birdie’s Bargain.**
Birdie has questions for God. For starters, why couldn’t God roll history back to September 10, 2001, and fix things so the tragedy and two wars never happened? Her daddy is going to Iraq for a third time and Birdie is sure this is the time he won’t come back. At the very least he’ll be gone, and she, Mom, and baby Billy have moved to Gran’s, where shy Birdie must attend a new school. Doesn’t God remember how hard it was for Birdie to make friends at Bible Camp? Has Birdie been praying wrong? Why else would God break their bargain?

**Paulsen, Gary. Northwind.**
When a deadly plague reaches the small fish camp where he lives, orphan Leif is forced to escape in a cedar canoe. He flees northward, following a wild, fjord-riven shore, navigating from one danger to the next, unsure of his destination. Yet the deeper into his journey he paddles, the closer he comes to his truest self as he connects to “the heartbeat of the ocean…the pulse of the sea.”

**Reynolds, Justin A. It’s the End of the World and I’m in my Bathing Suit.**
On the day of the highly anticipated Beach Bash, Eddie’s mom discovers his monstrous pile of dirty clothes. Now he’s stuck at home by himself doing his laundry. But mid-cycle, the power goes out! Eddie sets out to explore the seemingly empty neighborhood in his glow-in-the-dark swim trunks, flip-flops, and a beach towel. He soon meets up with other
neighborhood kids; as night falls, the crew realizes that they aren't just the only people left in the neighborhood, they might be the only people left...anywhere.

Rinker, Jess. *The Dare Sisters.*
Savannah Dare grew up on legends of Blackbeard from her best friend and fellow treasure hunter grandfather. But now he's gone, and Savannah and her sisters are left to find Blackbeard's lost loot on their own. It was their grandfather's dream, and they can't let him down! No one else in their small town on Ocracoke Island believes the treasure is truly still out there except their grandfather's mysterious old business partner, who's determined to find it himself. And when their family home is endangered, the Dare sisters realize finding the riches might be their only hope!

Have those videos of people making beautiful cards, journals, and signs by hand caught your eye? This book will give you all the tools you need. Step-by-step instructions for getting started with hand lettering will set you on the right track, and you'll love the dozens of fonts to try out in this in-depth resource.

Saeed, Aisha. *Omar Rising.*
The son of a servant, Omar knows his scholarship to Ghalib Academy Boarding School is an incredible opportunity. But when he arrives, his hopes are dashed. First-year scholarship students aren't allowed to join clubs or teams, and they have to do everyone’s chores to “earn their keep”. Then, he learns that the school will try to “weed out” kids like him by making them get much higher grades than the other students. With the help of his new group of friends—and with the threat of expulsion looming over him—he sets out to do what seems impossible: Change a rigged system.

Sepetys, Ruta. *I Must Betray You.* (Young Adult)
Romania, 1989. Cristian dreams of becoming a writer, but Romanians aren't free to dream; they are bound by rules and force. Amidst the tyrannical dictatorship of Nicolae Ceaușescu, Cristian is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer. He’s left with only two choices: betray everyone and everything he loves...or figure out a way to use his position to undermine the most notorious dictator in Eastern Europe. When the time comes, Cristian decides he will join the revolution. But what is the cost of freedom?

Siddiqui, Maleeha. *Barakah Beats.*
Nimra’s nervous about starting public school for the first time, and for good reason: the teachers are mean, the schedule doesn’t make sense, and her best friend Jenna has started giving her the cold shoulder around other kids. To find her way, she joins a popular band at school, Barakah Beats. The problem? At her old Islamic school, Nimra learned that music isn't allowed—and she
knows her parents won’t approve, either. It’s not long before Nimra gets caught up in her lies and must decide whether to betray her bandmates or herself.

**Silverberg, Corey. *You Know, Sex: Bodies, Gender, Puberty, and Other Things.***
In a bright graphic format, this book grounds sex education in social justice, covering not only the big three of puberty—hormones, reproduction, and development—but also power, pleasure, and how to be a decent human being.

**Steiger, A.J. *Cathedral of Bones.***
Simons’ world is filled with amazing Animists who can call upon imps, wraiths, and monsters to dazzle the world and save the day. And Simon? Well, let’s just say that he’s not the greatest Animist. When he embarks on an adventure to a faraway village terrorized by a horrible monster to prove himself, he makes a startling discovery that might unlock the key to his future.

**Stoddard, Lindsey. *Bea Is for Blended.***
Bea and her mom have always been a two-person team. But now her mom is marrying Wendell, and their team is growing by three boys, two dogs, and a cat. Finding her place in her new blended family may be tough, but when Bea finds out her school might not get the all-girls soccer team they’d been promised, she learns that the bigger the team, the stronger the fight—and that for the girls to get what they deserve, they’re going to need a squad behind them.

**Stroud, Jonathan. *The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne.***
Scarlett McCain is a shoot-first ask-questions-later kind of outlaw, on the run from her latest crime when she runs across Albert Browne. He is the sole survivor of a horrific accident, and against her better judgement, Scarlett agrees to guide him to safety. This is a mistake. Soon, there are men with dogs and guns and explosives hot on their heels…and Scarlett realizes that Albert Browne might be hiding the most dangerous secret of all.

**Valenti, Karla. *Lotería.***
In the hottest hour of the hottest day of the year, a fateful wind blows into Oaxaca City, slipping into the window of a girl named Clara. Unbeknownst to her, Clara has been marked for la Lotería. Life and Death deal the Lotería cards but once a year. If Life wins, Clara will live to a ripe old age. If Death prevails, she’ll flicker out like a candle. But Clara knows none of this. All she knows is that her young cousin Esteban has vanished, and in order to save him, she’ll have to travel to the mythical Kingdom of Las Pozas, where every action has a price, and every choice has consequences.

**Westley, Erica. *Fastpitch.***
*Fastpitch* brings softball’s vibrant 129-year history to life. From its humble beginnings in 1887, when it was invented in a Chicago boat club and played with a broomstick, to the rise in the 1940s and 1950s of professional-caliber, company-sponsored teams that
toured the country in style, this is a thorough and thoroughly entertaining chronicle of softball’s unique history and the role it plays in our culture today.

Yang, Kelly. *New From Here.*
When the coronavirus hits Hong Kong, Knox Wei-Evans’s mom makes the last-minute decision to move back to California. Knox’s new classmates think that because he’s from Asia, he must have brought over the virus. At home, Mom just got fired and is panicking over the loss of health insurance, and Dad doesn’t even know when he’ll see them again, since he had to remain in Hong Kong for work and all the flights have been cancelled. As racism skyrockets during COVID-19, Knox tries to stand up to hate, while finding his place in his new country. Can you belong if you’re feared; can you protect if you’re new? And how do you keep a family together when you’re oceans apart?

Youngblood, Leslie C. *Forever This Summer.*
Georgie has no idea what to expect when she, Mama, and Peaches are plopped down in Bogalusa, Louisiana, where Mama grew up. Georgie wants to help at the once-famous family diner that served celebrities like the Jackson 5 and the Supremes, but Mama is treating her like a baby. When she finally gets permission to explore on her own, Georgie makes friends with Markie, a foster kid with a limb difference and a huge attitude. Then Markie asks Georgie to help her find her mom, and suddenly summer has a real purpose—and some surprising secrets.

Zabarsky, Jess. *Coming Back.* (Young Adult; Graphic Novel)
Preet is magic. Valissa is not. Valissa might have a chance to prove her worth in world that values magic above all, but it means leaving Preet behind. Preet might be able to make her way on her own, but it means breaking the most sacred laws. Can these star-crossed lovers ever find a way to be together?

Born into the Space Race, the Red Scare, and the dawning Civil Rights Movement, visionary writer Octavia Butler experienced a childhood that shaped her into the groundbreaking science-fiction storyteller whose novels continue to challenge and delight readers 15 years after her death. A fascinating look at her life and literary legacy.

Finally, we’ve attached next year’s Caudill list, in case you want to get a head start! Happy reading!