



Forest Of Reading[®]

2022 Kid Committee List

Red Maple Readers

Ages 12-14, Grades 7-8

Official Wholesaler

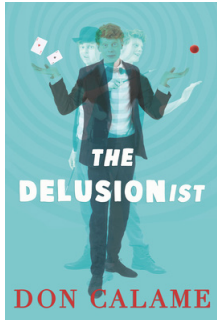
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Suggested Reading List

Red Maple Readers (Ages 12-14, Grades 7-8)



***The Delusionist* by Don Calame (Candlewick Press)**

Fifteen-year-old Quinn Purcell wants only one thing: to win a coveted spot at the Masters of Magic Fantasy Camp. But the competition is stiff, including Dani Darling, an incredibly talented, and incredibly attractive, rival magician who prestidigitates her way into Quinn's heart—unless that's just another of her tricks. To make matters worse, Quinn and his best friend, Perry, have always performed their magic as a team, but the judges want solo acts, and a two-man audition might disqualify them. When Quinn meets his idol, the Dazzling Lazlo, at a diner, it seems like a sign. If he can convince 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—his best friend, his new crush, or his career as a magician? Hilarious and fast-paced, Don Calame's latest novel is full of complicated magic tricks and equally complicated friendships. Quinn's illusions are as good as those in any Vegas act—but can he win a spot at a prestigious magic camp despite an upstaging partner, a cute rival, and a con-artist mentor?



***Eight Days* by Teresa Toten (Scholastic Canada)**

Sami Stanic isn't a crier. She's found it's better to be useful, so people keep you around. It's worked for the past ten years that she has lived with her grandfather. But when unexpected news shakes her world, Sami comes face to face with her deepest fears. Is there anywhere she really belongs? If people knew where she came from, could they still love her? From the towers of Toronto's Thorncliffe Park to Chicago's south side, and back again, Sami and an unusual entourage set off on an eight-day journey that will change her life forever. Along the sometimes heart-wrenching, often hilarious way, Sami uncovers painful secrets – but also the truths that shine a warm light on what home and family really mean.

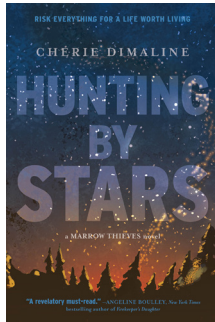


***Heart of Flames (Crown of Feathers #2)* by Nicki Pau Preto (Simon & Schuster)**

You are a daughter of queens. The world is balanced on the edge of a knife, and war is almost certain between the empire and the Phoenix Riders. *Like Nefyra before you, your life will be a trial by fire.* Veronyka finally got her wish to join the Riders, but while she's supposed to be in training, all she really wants to do is fly out to defend the villages of Pyra from the advancing empire. Tristan has been promoted to Master Rider, but he has very different ideas about the best way to protect their people than his father, the commander. Sev has been sent to spy on the empire, but maintaining his cover may force him to fight on the wrong side of the war. And Veronyka's sister, Val, is determined to regain the empire she lost—even if it means inciting the war herself. *Such is your inheritance. A name. A legacy. An empire in ruin.* As tensions reach a boiling point, the characters all find themselves drawn together into a fight that will shape the course of the empire—and determine the future of the Phoenix Riders. Each must decide how far they're willing to go—and what they're willing to lose in the process. *I pray you are able to pass through the flames.*

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***Hunting by Stars (A Marrow Thieves Novel)* by Cherie Dimaline (Penguin Random House Canada)**

Years ago, when plagues and natural disasters killed millions of people, much of the world stopped dreaming. Without dreams, people are haunted, sick, mad, unable to rebuild. The government soon finds that the Indigenous people of North America have retained their dreams, an ability rumored to be housed in the very marrow of their bones. Soon, residential schools pop up—or are re-opened—across the land to bring in the dreamers and harvest their dreams. Seventeen-year-old French lost his family to these schools and has spent the years since heading north with his new found family: a group of other dreamers, who, like him, are trying to build and thrive as a community. But then French wakes up in a pitch-black room, locked in and alone for the first time in years, and he knows immediately where he is—and what it will take to escape. Meanwhile, out in the world, his found family searches for him and dodges new dangers—school Recruiters, a blood cult, even the land itself. When their paths finally collide, French must decide how far he is willing to go—and how many loved ones he is willing to betray—in order to survive. This engrossing, action-packed, deftly-drawn novel expands on the world of Cherie Dimaline's award-winning *The Marrow Thieves*, and it will haunt readers long after they've turned the final page.



***Iron Widow* by Xiran Jay Zhao (Penguin Random House Canada)**

The boys of Huaxia dream of pairing up with girls to pilot Chrysalises, giant transforming robots that can battle the mecha aliens that lurk beyond the Great Wall. It doesn't matter that the girls often die from the mental strain. When 18-year-old Zetian offers herself up as a concubine-pilot, it's to assassinate the ace male pilot responsible for her sister's death. But she gets her vengeance in a way nobody expected—she kills him through the psychic link between pilots and emerges from the cockpit unscathed. She is labeled an Iron Widow, a much-feared and much-silenced kind of female pilot who can sacrifice boys to power up Chrysalises instead. To tame her unnerving yet invaluable mental strength, she is paired up with Li Shimin, the strongest and most controversial male pilot in Huaxia. But now that Zetian has had a taste of power, she will not cower so easily. She will miss no opportunity to leverage their combined might and infamy to survive attempt after attempt on her life, until she can figure out exactly why the pilot system works in its misogynist way—and stop more girls from being sacrificed.



***Lessons in Fusion* by Primrose Madayag Knazan (Great Plains Publications)**

Sixteen-year-old Sarah (it's pronounced SAH-rah, thank you) has a successful blog creating fusion recipes. When Sarah is invited to compete on Cyber Chef, a virtual cooking competition that soars in popularity at the height of the pandemic, her twists on her Baba's recipes are not enough to pique the palate of the show's producers. She is pushed to present dishes that represent her Filipinx culture, but these flavours are foreign to her since her parents raised her emphatically Jewish. To survive Cyber Chef and find her cultural identity, Sarah must discover why her mother turned her back on all things Filipinx, and learn the true meaning of fusion.

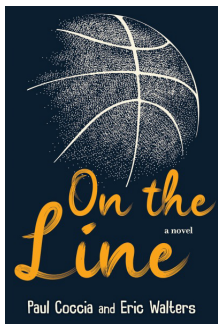
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Mountain Runaways by Pam Withers (Dundurn Press)

Will their wilderness skills be enough to survive the dangerous Rocky Mountains? First a Canadian Rockies avalanche kills their parents. Then Children's Services threatens to separate them. That's when the three Gunnarsson kids decide to run away into the mountains and fend for themselves until the oldest turns eighteen and becomes their legal guardian. Not many would dare. But Jon, Korka, and Aron's parents ran a survival school. Turns out their plan is full of holes. When food and equipment go missing and illness and injury strike, things get scary. They're even less prepared for encounters with dangerous animals and a sketchy woods dweller. On top of that, grief, cold, hunger, and sibling infighting threaten to tear them apart, while the search parties are closing in on them. Do Jon, Korka, and Aron really have what it takes to survive?



On the Line by Paul Coccia and Eric Walters (Orca Book Publishers)

Thirteen-year-old basketball star Jordan Ryker feels like his life is falling apart. All Jordie wanted was for his parents to stop fighting. Soon, he gets his wish. His parents separate and then his dad announces he's gay. Shocked, Jordie struggles with how to process all this. His dad taught him everything he knows about basketball, and there's an important championship game coming up. He needs him more than ever. But Jordie feels like his dad has abandoned his family. He doesn't want anything to do with him now and he definitely doesn't want to meet his dad's new boyfriend. It takes a new girl with wicked basketball skills and a revelation from his best friend to help Jordie realize that while some things change, other things never do.



The Red Palace by June Hur (Feiwel & Friends)

Joseon (Korea), 1758. There are few options available to illegitimate daughters in the capital city, but through hard work and study, eighteen-year-old Hyeon has earned a position as a palace nurse. All she wants is to keep her head down, do a good job, and perhaps finally win her estranged father's approval. But Hyeon is suddenly thrust into the dark and dangerous world of court politics when someone murders four women in a single night, and the prime suspect is Hyeon's closest friend and mentor. Determined to prove her beloved teacher's innocence, Hyeon launches her own secret investigation. In her hunt for the truth, she encounters Eojin, a young police inspector also searching for the killer. When evidence begins to point to the Crown Prince himself as the murderer, Hyeon and Eojin must work together to search the darkest corners of the palace to uncover the deadly secrets behind the bloodshed.

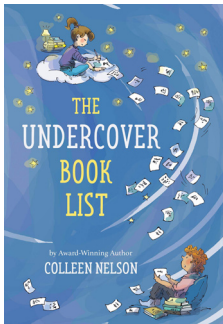
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***Rescue At Lake Wild* by Terry Lynn Johnson (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)**

Everyone knows that twelve-year-old Madison “Madi” Lewis is not allowed to bring home any more animals. After she’s saved hairless mice, two birds, a rabbit, and a stray tom cat that ended up destroying the front porch, Madi’s parents decide that if they find one more stray animal in the house, she won’t be allowed to meet Jane Goodall at an upcoming gala event. But when Madi and her two best friends, Aaron and Jack, rescue beaver kits whose mother was killed, they find themselves at the center of a local conspiracy that’s putting the beavers and their habitats in danger. As Madi and her friends race to uncover the threat targeting the beavers, Madi must put her animal whisperer skills to the test in both raising the orphaned beaver kits and staying out of trouble long enough.



***The Undercover Book List* by Colleen Nelson (Pajama Press)**

He’s known as the class troublemaker. She’s known as the bookworm. But when every note they send is anonymous, identity is suddenly what they make it. Between her father’s posting overseas and her best friend Sienna’s move to the other side of the country, seventh grade is looking lonely for Jane MacDonald. But Sienna has left her with one last trick: a hidden message in a library book—the perfect plot to start a secret club and find Jane a new book-loving friend. Tyson Flamand has problems of his own. Since the fourth grade he’s had a reputation as a bad kid, and there’s no point fighting it when teachers always think the worst. So when he finds an anonymous note in the library looking for a nerdy new friend, he knows he’s the last person in the world it could be meant for. But something makes him answer it anyway, and Tyson finds himself pulled into a secret book club where being hidden may be the first step to being truly seen.



***Zara Hossain Is Here* by Sabina Khan (Scholastic Canada)**

Ever since her family moved to Texas from Pakistan when she was a baby, seventeen-year-old Zara Hossain has only ever called Corpus Christi home. Being the only Muslim girl at her conservative Catholic school, blending in isn’t really an option, especially with people like Tyler Benson always tormenting her. But one day Tyler takes things too far by defacing Zara’s locker with a racist message, which gets him suspended. As an act of revenge, Tyler and his friends vandalize the Hossains’ house with Islamophobic graffiti, which leads to a violent crime that puts Zara and her family’s entire future at risk. Now she must choose between fighting to stay in the only place she’s ever called home and losing the life she loves and everyone in it. *Zara Hossain Is Here* is a timely and intimate novel about what it means to be an immigrant in America today and the endurance of hope and faith in the face of hate.

The 2022 Committee

Met Virtually in May 2022



Red Maple



Meredith Tutching — *Director of the Forest of Reading*, **Abigail** — Peel District School Board, **Gurnoor** — Peel District School Board, **Jasmine** — Upper Grand District School Board, **Julien** — Simcoe County District School Board, **Leanna** — Simcoe County District School Board, **Logan** — Waterloo Region District School Board, **Michelle** — Peel District School Board, **Pania** — Simcoe County District School Board, **Riley** — Simcoe County District School Board, **Mike** — Bluewater District School Board

About Jess Longthorne, the Kid Committee — Red Maple Facilitator:

Teacher-Librarian, Simcoe County District School Board, Red Maple Steering and Selection Committee Member