



Forest Of Reading[®]

2026 Kid Committee List

Silver Birch Fiction Readers

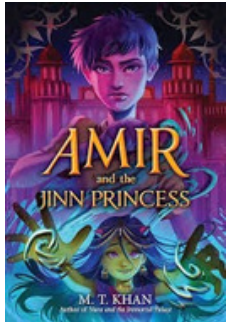
Ages 8–12, Grades 3–6

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Suggested Reading List



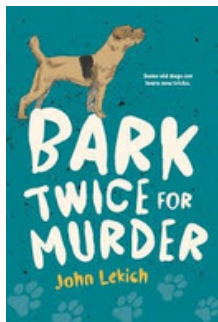
***Amir and the Jinn Princess* by M. T. Khan (Jimmy Patterson Books)**

Twelve-year-old Amir is one of the heirs to the Rafiq Bricks Company, a wealthy brick kiln business in Pakistan—except he wants none of it. Seeing straight through the jeweled smiles and transactional conversations, Amir would rather spend time in the courtyard garden, where he can almost feel his missing mother's presence again.

Amir is devastated when his baba announces plans to remarry by the end of the summer, dropping all searches to find Amir's mother. It's all a business move, just like everything else in his life. His mother was the only one who allowed him to feel normal, but the last anyone's seen of her was a year ago.

But Amir isn't ready to give up yet—determined to find his mother before his life changes forever, Amir teams up with a high-spirited, wide-eyed, shape-shifting jinn princess named Shamsa. His exact opposite. The two make a deal—Shamsa will help Amir navigate the twisty and mysterious realm of jinn, and in exchange Amir must use his wits to help Shamsa win a tournament of heirs and put her on the throne.

Amir and Shamsa must contend with silver-tongued tricksters and magical rivals, and a truth far more devastating than Amir ever expected....



***Bark Twice for Murder* by John Lekich (Orca Book Publishers)**

After the death of his parents, Harry keeps busy by making food for the unhoused in his grandmother's food truck.

That's how he meets and befriends Stanley, an excellent cook and teacher with only two possessions: a precious recipe binder and a grumpy dog named Waffles. Then Stanley turns up dead, the victim of a grisly murder, and his treasured recipe book is gone. Harry is shocked—who would do such a thing? That is exactly what Waffles wants to find out. Yes, Waffles, the dog that is now talking to Harry and only Harry. Waffles reveals that in his past life he was a detective and Stanley's friend before he too was murdered and then reincarnated as a dog. Waffles wants to follow the crumbs and piece together Stanley's murder, but he can't do it without Harry. Will this souped-up duo be able to take down a heaping serving of criminal characters, or will they be the next dish on the murderer's menu?



***Best Friend, Worst Bully* Written and illustrated by Mei Yu (Union Square Kids)**

Mei, Maggie, and Sophie are BEST FRIENDS FOREVER!

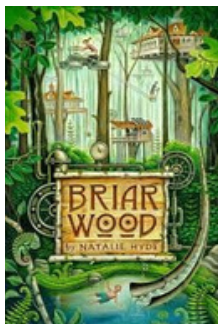
With fourth grade just around the corner, the three girls look forward to another fun school year together. But disaster strikes on the first day of school: MAGGIE'S LEAVING!! Suddenly, Mei and Sophie only have each other. They can still have fun together, right?

But soon, Sophie behaves very differently. She hates Mei's art. She calls her hurtful names. She even plays mean pranks on her. What's going on? Sophie is still Mei's friend, isn't she? So why is she now her ... bully?

Mei begins to fear school, but even at home, there is no escape from her bully. Nowhere feels safe. Can Mei overcome hardship and regain her shattered confidence? Or will her bully ruin her entire year?

With the help of her teacher and new friends, Mei learns what real friendship truly is and what it means to stand up for yourself.

Suggested Reading List



***Briarwood* by Natalie Hyde (DCB Young Readers)**

Can you keep a secret?

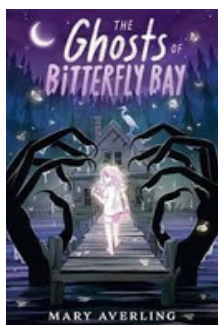
Everyone at Camp Briarwood can. But what actually goes on inside this super-elite summer camp for brilliant young minds? Callie Garcia would do almost anything to see for herself. When her teacher accuses her of cheating on the entrance exam, Callie fears she's lost her only chance to experience Briarwood ... until she receives a job offer from the camp director himself. But the invitation seems to come with some strings attached – and danger. Armed with a scientific mind and a journal of ideas from her inventor great-grandfather, Callie dives into a wondrous world of technological marvels – and discovers a perilous game of cat and mouse between inventors and frauds.



***Built Like a Bug: How Insects Inspire Everyday Inventions* Written by Anjali Joshi and Illustrated by Kathleen Ng (Annick Press)**

A fascinating look at the ingenious engineering and incredible anatomical design of insects, and how they are inspiring scientists to create a more sustainable world.

Insects are the tiny superheroes of the natural world: from the way they can camouflage themselves to their amazing teamwork, their incredible superpowers have been inspiring scientists for generations. And the more we discover about insect behavior—how they use energy, navigate, adapt, and more—the more they can teach us about how to live.



***The Ghosts of Bitterfly Bay* by Mary Averling (G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers)**

Maudie isn't your typical twelve-year-old girl—she's the ghost of one. Along with her best friend Kit and little brother Scratch, she haunts a cottage in the woods, doing her best to scare off the vacationers and forget her old life.

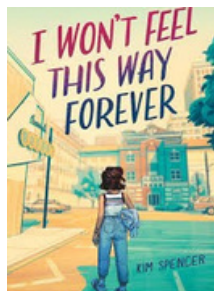
But everything changes when Kit and Scratch go missing. Maudie knows something terrible must have happened, and she's right: Longfingers—a monster from her own nightmares, with spidery fingers and needle-sharp teeth—has stolen her friends away.

Longfingers makes Maudie a twisted deal: find the key to a door

in a mysterious cabin, or she'll never see her friends again. With nobody else to turn to, Maudie has to beg for help from Gianna, the living girl she's been haunting. Together, the girls search for a way to thwart the monster and save Maudie's friends.

But Maudie's keeping secrets about the cabin and her past. Unless she finds a way to finally face the truth, she may never be able to rescue her friends from Longfingers's grasp.

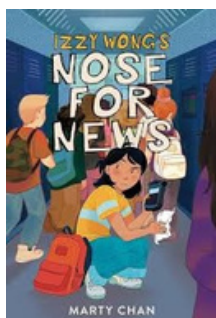
Suggested Reading List



***I Won't Feel This Way Forever* by Kim Spencer (Orca Book Publishers)**

It's the summer of 1989, and Mia is on her own—adjusting to life without her ex-best friend, Lara. Summer vacation starts off well enough as Mia binges MuchMusic and learns how to jar fish with her aunty and uncle. Then her grandma starts feeling unwell. At first, Mia isn't too worried, but when a call comes in from the clinic to say her grandmother has to go to the hospital in Vancouver, everyone realizes this is serious.

Mia and her mom and aunties head to the city to be by her grandmother's side. Mia mostly ping-pongs from the hospital to the motel, but she also gets to see some of the city and eat (too much) takeout. She even joins a basketball camp at the Friendship Centre, where she meets a teen coach who inspires her to get back into the game she loves and delve deeper into what it means to be Indigenous. As time passes, Mia's grandmother's health doesn't improve, and she has to face the fact that her beloved grandma might not get better.



***Izzy Wong's Nose for News* by Marty Chan (Orca Book Publishers)**

Izzy Wong's got a new podcast—and this time she's going to uncover the whole story.

A sixth-grade student with a purpose, Izzy wants to start her own hit investigative podcast. When the girls' washroom at her school mysteriously floods, she's finally got the perfect subject. It doesn't take long to figure out that a student did it on purpose—but who? Izzy sets out on an investigation to find the culprit and interviews anyone who might know anything, including teachers, students and even the principal. But when she runs into difficulty finding the truth and is presented with a juicy lead that may or may not be gossip—but brings in lots of new listeners—Izzy finds herself in hot water. Will her podcast get shut down before she has a chance to find the perpetrator?

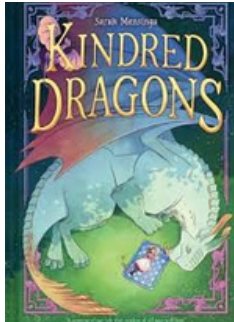


***Kaboom!: Blast Off (Book 1)* Written by Jay Odjick and Illustrated by KC Oster (Scholastic Canada)**

When we meet Zack, he's being looked after by his super-cool Auntie Jess and dreaming of one day being like his hero, slick business tycoon Konstantin Pierce. Zack's parents are away — yet again — for their important careers in “refrigerator sales.” Little does Zack know their true identities: Greywolf and Shadowbird are F.U.S.I.O.N agents on a mission to protect Indigenous artifacts from a nefarious tomb-robber!

In this series launch, acclaimed creator and lifelong comics fan Jay Odjick introduces a superhero for our times.

Suggested Reading List



***Kindred Dragons (Book 1)* Written and Illustrated by Sarah Mensinga (Harry N. Abrams)**

Alice has been unhappy ever since her parents sent her to Prince Edward Island to live with her strict grandmother. Alice is fanciful, prone to telling tall tales, and absolutely OBSESSED with dragons! Fairies deliver dragon eggs to a select few, known as Kindreds, but no egg has ever arrived for Alice.

While wandering the woods alone, she finds and secretly befriends a mysterious old dragon named Brim. Alice is excited to finally have a dragon friend of her own, but when Brim suddenly falls ill, Alice must set out on a desperate quest to save him.

As Alice searches for a cure, she discovers that her connection to dragons is unlike that of any Kindred—but will her new power be enough to save her friend?

Let your imagination take flight in this heartfelt story of friendship, family, and learning to love who you are!



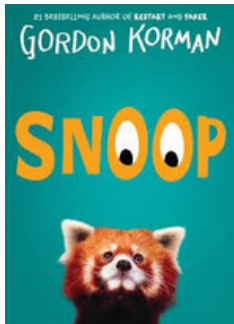
***Planting Sunshine* by Andrée Poulin and Illustrated by Enzo (Groundwood Books)**

When does the war over there become the war over here? In this novel in verse, a boy named Theo can't stop worrying about the war he sees on TV.

In a distant country, war is wreaking havoc. Theo, safe in his house, is horrified by the images of violence he sees on TV, and he can't stop wondering why: Why the war? Why this senseless violence? Why so much hate? His dad says it's complicated, and has no real answers to give him. His friends at school say that kids shouldn't be worried about faraway wars. But Theo can't stop thinking about bombs destroying houses and schools. He starts to feel very, very alone.

Inspired by an unusual act he sees on TV, where a woman gives seeds of the national flower to an enemy soldier, Theo wonders if there's a way that he can help sow the seeds of peace.

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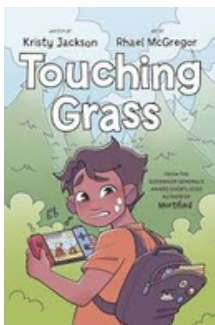
***Snoop* by Gordon Korman (Scholastic Press)**

If Carter hadn't been checking his phone, he might have seen his brother coming down the ski slopes in his direction. And if Carter had seen his brother in time and avoided the crash, he might not have two broken legs right now.

Oops.

Now Carter is stuck at home for weeks, with both his legs in casts. Bored, he starts checking out the live feeds from police cams around his town. Before he knows it, he's obsessed - watching his classmates when they don't know he's looking, and discovering some other VERY STRANGE things going on that no one else is noticing.

But what happens when Carter is found out... and the people he's watching know where he lives?



***Touching Grass* Written by Kristy Jackson and Illustrated by Rhael McGregor (HarperCollins)**

Tristen would do anything to avoid going outside. The bugs sting, the snakes are poisonous, the heat will kill you if the cold doesn't, and bodies of water? Forget it. Tristen likes it best indoors, deep in his online world where it's safe, with his online friends. Something he has a hard time with IRL.

But Tristen is in trouble at school again, and the principal is threatening to kick him out of this third school in two years. His mom believes the answer is to get Tristen off the games and in touch with nature and his Dene roots. This means Tristen has to spend a week at a culture camp in the wilderness. It's his worst nightmare!

And at first it is a nightmare—no internet, no phone reception, no Beps!—and Tristen has no idea how to do any of the skills the other kids seem to do easily. But soon, with some surprising new friends, a few patient teachers and a little help from technology, Tristen begins to think he might be able to hack this nature stuff after all.

Silver Birch



Alessia — Halton Catholic District School Board, **Hugo** — Toronto District School Board, **Rainy** — Havergal College, **Aliya** — Havergal College **Ava** — Toronto District School Board, **Charlotte** — Toronto District School Board, **Tessa** — Toronto District School Board

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