



Forest Of Reading[®]

2021 Kid Committee List

Red Maple Readers

Ages 12-14, Grades 7-8

Official Wholesaler

tinlids
best books for schools and libraries

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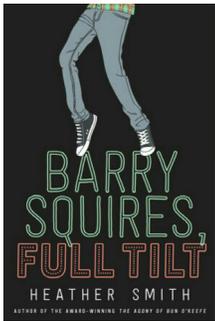
Suggested Reading List

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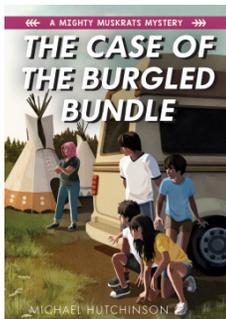
***Alice Fleck's Recipes for Disaster* by Rachelle Delaney (Penguin Random House)**

Alice Fleck's father is a culinary historian, and for as long as she can remember, she's been helping him recreate meals from the past – a hobby she prefers to keep secret from kids her age. But when her father's new girlfriend enters them into a cooking competition at a Victorian festival, Alice finds herself and her hobby thrust into the spotlight. And that's just the first of many surprises awaiting her. On arriving at the festival, Alice learns that she and her father are actually contestants on Culinary Combat, a new reality TV show hosted by Tom Truffleman, the most famous and fierce judge on TV! And to make matters worse, she begins to suspect that someone is at work behind the scenes, sabotaging the competition. It's up to Alice, with the help of a few new friends, to find the saboteur before the entire competition is ruined, all the while tackling some of the hardest cooking challenges of her life ... for the whole world to see.



***Barry Squires, Full Tilt* by Heather Smith (Penguin Random House)**

It's 1995. When the Full Tilt Dancers give an inspiring performance at the opening of the new bingo hall, twelve-year-old Finbar (Barry) Squires wants desperately to join the troupe. Led by Father O'Flaherty, the Full Tilt Irish Step Dancers are the most sought-after act in St. John's, Newfoundland (closely followed by popular bagpiper, Alfie Bragg and his Agony Bag). Having watched Riverdance twice, Barry figures he'll nail the audition. And good thing too – it'd be nice to be known for something other than the port wine stain on his cheek. With questionable talent and an unpredictable temper, Barry's journey to stardom is jeopardized by his parents' refusal to take his dreams seriously. Thankfully, Barry has the support of a lively cast of characters: his ever-present grandmother, Nanny Squires; his adorable baby brother, Gord; an old British rocker named Uneven Steven; a group of geriatrics from the One Step Closer to God Nursing Home; and Saibal, a friend with whom Barry gets up to no good.



***The Case of the Burgled Bundle* by Michael Hutchinson (Second Story Press)**

The Mighty Muskrats, four cousins from the Windy Lake First Nation, are back for another mystery! The National Assembly of Cree Peoples has gathered together in the Windy Lake First Nation, home to the Mighty Muskrats – cousins Chickadee, Atim, Otter, and Sam. But when the memory bundle, the center of a four-day long ceremony, is taken, the four mystery-solving cousins set out to catch those responsible and help protect Windy Lake's reputation! The history and knowledge passed down to each generation through the bundle is at stake! What's worse, prime suspect and long-time bully Pearl takes off to the city with her older brother and known troublemaker, Eddie. If they've brought the burgled bundle with them, the Mighty Muskrats fear it may be lost for good. With clues pointing them in too many different directions, the cousins need to return the missing bundle before the assembly comes to an end.

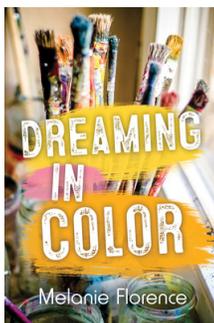
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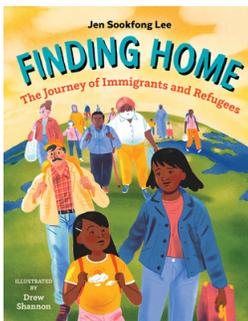
***The Do-Over* by Jennifer Honeybourn (Swoon Reads / Feiwel & Friends)**

In *The Do-Over*, a teenage girl gets the chance to redo her past in this smart and charming YA novel by the author of *When Life Gives You Demons*, Jennifer Honeybourn. Emilia has always wanted to fit in with the A crowd. So, when Ben, the hottest guy in school, asks her out, she chooses him over Alistair, her best friend—even after he confesses his feelings to her. Six months later, Emilia wonders how her life would have been different if she'd chosen Alistair instead. Haunted by her mistake, she finds a magical solution that promises to rectify the past. As a result, everything in her life is different. Different, but not better. What happens if her second chance is her only chance to make things right?



***Dreaming in Color* by Melanie Florence (Orca Book Publishers)**

Jennifer McCaffrey has been working hard on her art for years and is thrilled when she is accepted to a prestigious art school. The school is everything she always thought it would be, mostly. There is one group of kids who seem to resent her and say she only got in because of her skin color. Jen, who loves to create new pieces of artwork that incorporate her Indigenous heritage, finds herself a target when the group tells her to stop being “so Indian”. The night before the big art show at school, Jen’s beading art project is defaced. Jen has to find a way not to let the haters win.



***Finding Home: The Journey of Immigrants and Refugees* by Jen Sookfong Lee, Illustrated by Drew Shannon (Orca Book Publishers)**

What drives people to search for new homes? From war zones to politics, there are many reasons why people have always searched for a place to call home. In *Finding Home: The Journey of Immigrants and Refugees* we discover how human migration has shaped our world. We explore its origins and the current issues facing immigrants and refugees today, and we hear the first-hand stories of people who have moved across the globe looking for safety, security and happiness. Author Jen Sookfong Lee shares her personal experience of growing up as the child of immigrants and gives a human face to the realities of being an immigrant or refugee today.



***The Girl of Hawthorn and Glass* by Adan Jerreat-Poole (Dundurn Press)**

Eli isn't just a teenage girl — she's a made-thing the witches created to hunt down ghosts in the human world. Trained to kill with her seven living blades, Eli is a flawless machine, a deadly assassin. But when an assignment goes wrong, Eli starts to question everything she was taught about both worlds, the Coven, and her tyrannical witch-mother. Terrified that she'll be unmade for her mistake, Eli seeks refuge with a group of human and witch renegades. To earn her place, she must prove herself by capturing the Heart of the Coven. With the help of two humans and a girl who smells like the sea, Eli is going to get answers — and earn her freedom.

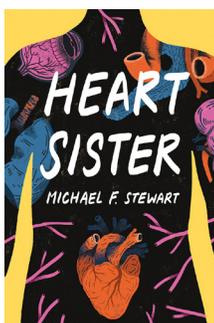
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***Hatch (The Overthrow #2)* by Kenneth Oppel (HarperCollins Canada)**

First the rain brought seeds. Seeds that grew into alien plants that burrowed and strangled and fed. Seth, Anaya and Petra are strangely immune to the plants' toxins and have found a way to combat them. But just as they achieve their first success, the rain begins again. This rain brings eggs. Which hatch into insects. Not small insects. Bird-sized mosquitoes that carry disease. Borer worms that can eat through the foundation of a house. Boat-sized water striders that carry away their prey. Our heroes aren't able to help this time—they've been locked away in a government lab with other kids who are also immune. What is their secret? Could they be ... part alien themselves? Whose side are they on?



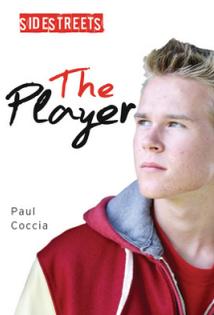
***Heart Sister* by Michael F. Stewart (Orca Book Publishers)**

After his twin sister, Minnie, dies in an accident, Emmitt's world goes sideways. He's lost his best friend and it feels like the family is falling apart without her. But Minnie was an organ donor and Emmitt soon receives an anonymous thank you letter from one of the transplant recipients. Inspiration strikes, and he decides to try and put his sister back together, in spirit. He's going to track down each organ recipient and film them to show his parents the results of Minnie's selfless act and help them move on. But when each recipient falls short of his expectations and the star of his film, the girl who received his sister's heart, refuses to meet him, Emmitt has to turn to extreme measures to find her. What he doesn't know is that his "heart sister" is hiding an agonizing secret, one that could push Emmitt to the breaking point.



***My Long List of Impossible Things* by Michelle Barker (Annick Press)**

The arrival of the Soviet Army in Germany at the end of World War II sends sixteen-year-old Katja and her family into turmoil. The fighting has stopped, but German society is in collapse, resulting in tremendous hardship. With their father gone and few resources available to them, Katja and her sister are forced to flee their home, reassured by their mother that if they can just reach a distant friend in a town far away, things will get better. But their harrowing journey brings danger and violence, and Katja needs to summon all her strength to build a new life, just as she's questioning everything she thought she knew about her country. Katja's bravery and defiance help her deal with the emotional and societal upheaval. But how can she stay true to herself and protect the people she loves when each decision has such far-reaching consequences? Acclaimed writer Michelle Barker's new novel explores the chaos and destruction of the Second World War from a perspective rarely examined in YA fiction—the implications of the Soviet occupation on a German population grappling with the horrors of Nazism and its aftermath.



***The Player* by Paul Coccia (Lorimer Children & Teens)**

Set in the traditionally homophobic world of amateur hockey, this book follows gay goalie Cooper in his struggle with his feelings for a teammate and coming out to his team. Cooper has been hooking up with teammate Pesh in secret, and has to play along when Pesh dates a girl and even tolerate locker-room homophobic talk. When Pesh outs Cooper online, trying to better his own chances at playing pro, Cooper chooses self-esteem and honesty over sex. With a strong and relatable main character, this book is a realistic, positive look at teen relationships — gay or straight.

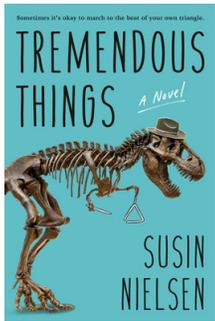
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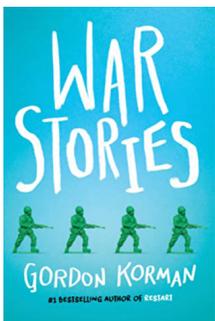
***The Stone of Sorrow (Runecaster Book One)* by Brooke Carter (Orca Book Publishers)**

In a land of myth and ice, seventeen-year-old Runa Unnursdóttir is not the runecaster her clan has been hoping for. She spends her days daydreaming of sailing away and exploring the world instead of studying the runes and learning her spells. The villagers consider her odd, in looks and in manner. She's nothing like her talented sister, Sýr, keeper of the sacred moonstone that ensures the village's continued survival. But when a rival clan led by an evil witch raids the village and kidnaps her sister, Runa is forced to act. With a fallen Valkyrie by her side, and the help of a gorgeous half-elf Runa is not quite sure she can trust, the apprentice must travel to the site of an ancient runecasting competition to try to win back the magical gem. But the journey will not be easy; the three unlikely companions encounter malevolent and supernatural creatures at every turn. Somehow, Runa must summon the courage and strength to face her destiny, a destiny she never wanted. Or die trying.



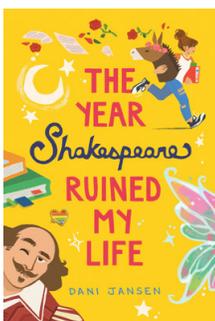
***Tremendous Things* by Susin Nielsen (Penguin Random House)**

We all have moments that define us. For the comically clueless Wilbur, his moment happened on the first day of middle school, when someone shared his private letter with the entire student body. It revealed some of Wilbur's innermost embarrassing thoughts that no one else should ever know. Now it's the start of ninth grade and Wilbur hasn't been able to escape that major humiliation. His good friend Alex stuck by him, but Alex doesn't have as much time since he started dating Fabrizio. Luckily, Wil can confide in his best friend: his elderly neighbor Sal. Also, Wil's in the school band, where he plays the triangle. They're doing an exchange program with students from Paris, and Wilbur's billet, Charlie, a tall, chic young woman who plays the ukulele and burps with abandon, captures his heart. Charlie likes him, but only as a friend. So Alex, Fabrizio and Sal host a Queer Eye-style intervention to get Wil in shape and to build his confidence so he can impress Charlie when their band visits Paris, and just maybe replace humiliation with true romance in the City of Love.



***War Stories* by Gordon Korman (Scholastic Canada)**

There are two things Trevor loves more than anything else: playing war-based video games and his great-grandfather Jacob, who is a true-blue, bona fide war hero. At the height of the war, Jacob helped liberate a small French village, and was given a hero's welcome upon his return to America. Now it's decades later, and Jacob wants to retrace the steps he took during the war, from training to invasion to the village he is said to have saved. Trevor thinks this is the coolest idea ever. But as they get to the village, Trevor discovers there's more to the story than what he's heard his whole life, causing him to wonder about his great-grandfather's heroism, the truth about the battle he fought, and the importance of genuine valor.



***The Year Shakespeare Ruined My Life* by Dani Jansen (Second Story Press)**

Alison Green, desperate Valedictorian-wannabe, agrees to produce her school's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. That's her first big mistake. The second is accidentally saying yes to a date with her oldest friend, Jack, even though she's crushing on Charlotte. Alison manages to stay positive, even when her best friend starts referring to the play as "Ye Olde Shakespearean Disaster." Alison must cope with the misadventures that befall the play if she's going to survive the year. She'll also have to grapple with what it means to be "out" and what she might be willing to give up for love.

The 2021 Committee

Met Virtually on May 5, 2021



Red Maple



First Row (L-R): Lexi – Thames Valley District School Board (Lambeth), **Meredith Tutching** – Director of the Forest of Reading, **Maya** – Limestone District School Board (Kingston)

Second Row (L-R): Colin – Thames Valley District School Board (London), **Naomi** – Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (Peterborough), **Makaylah** – Thames Valley District School Board (Aylmer)

Third Row (L-R): Jess Longthorne – Facilitator of the Kid Committee – Red Maple, **Sasha** – Simcoe County District School Board (Everett), **Paige** – Avon Maitland District School Board (Stratford)

Fourth Row (L-R): Chloe – Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (Ancaster), **Ella** – Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (Hamilton), **Isaac** – Thames Valley District School Board (London)

About Jess Longthorne, the Kid Committee – Red Maple Facilitator:
Teacher-Librarian, Simcoe County District School Board, Red Maple Steering and Selection Committee Member