

**May 2018**

**Dear Students and Parents of John Jay Middle School,**

**At JJMS we place a high value on independent reading. Students are expected to read regularly as part of their homework. Summer is a wonderful time to relax and learn with good books. We hope that you will find many reading opportunities this summer. While there is no reading requirement over the summer, we are happy to provide appropriate and popular titles to assist you in making selections. Our list, for incoming 6th, 7th and 8th graders, is meant as a guide to help you find books and build your stamina.**

**Our JJMS Summer Reading Guide is organized by genre, and many of the titles on this list are available in the John Jay Middle School eBook Library. Incoming 7th and 8th grade students can easily access these eBooks by going to the Middle School website, clicking on the Library Information Center, and then clicking on JJMS eBook Library. When prompted to fill in a library number, students should enter their first initial and last name. Unfortunately, incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders will not be in the system until September. Of course, most, if not all, of these titles are available at the public libraries as well.**

**Parents, we understand that the emotional maturity and reading ability of middle school students varies tremendously. We recognize that you are the best judges in guiding your child's selections. We hope that you will find our Summer Reading Guide helpful.**

**Happy Reading!**

**The English Department  
The Library Media Specialist**

## **Adventure**

***Lily's Mountain*** Hannah Moderow

Lily refuses to believe that her father died while climbing Mt. Denali, and convinces her older sister to join her in searching for him. The girls show great determination and strength during their exhausting and dangerous trek.

***Great Wide Sea*** M. H. Herlong

Still mourning the death of their mother, three brothers go with their father on an extended sailing trip off the Florida Keys and have a harrowing adventure at sea. Available in the JJMS eBook Library

***Chasing the Falconers: On the Run Series, Book 1*** Gordon Korman

Aiden and Meg Falconer must escape from a juvenile detention center in order to prove their parents are innocent of charges which would put them in jail for life. There are 6 in the series.

***Ruins of Gorlan: The Ranger's Apprentice Series, Book 1*** John Flanagan

When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battle school, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt, and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger. 11 exciting books in all.

***The Outcasts: Brotherband Chronicles, Book 1*** John Flanagan

This exciting series is related to, but not dependent on *The Ranger's Apprentice*. Hal, Stig, and the other outcasts do not have the size and strength of the older, tough Skandians. When they face off against the Wolves and the Sharks in an ultimate race for survival, they hope that their courage and cunning are enough to help them win in a game that everyone seems to think is a matter of life and death.

***Storm Runners*** Roland Smith

Twelve-year-old Chase Masters travels the country with his father, a "storm runner." He is tested in ways he never could have imagined when he and a new friend are caught in a hurricane near St. Petersburg, Florida.

***Navigating Early*** Clare Vanderpool

The adventure of two boys who end up on a life-changing trip on the Appalachian Trail, where they deal with pirates, buried secrets, and extraordinary encounters. Available in the JJMS eBook Library.

***Bearwalker*** Joseph Bruchac

Although he is the littlest student in his class, thirteen-year-old Baron Braun calls upon the strength and wisdom of his Mohawk ancestors to face both man and beast when he tries to get help for his classmates, who are being terrorized during a school field trip in the Adirondacks. Available in the JJMS eBook Library.

***Peak*** Roland Smith

A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

## Biography

***Amelia Lost: the Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart*** Candice Fleming  
Traces the life of female aviator Amelia Earhart from her childhood to her final flight, discusses the extensive search for her and her missing plane.

***Becoming Ben Franklin: How a Candle-Maker's Son Helped Light the Flame of Liberty*** Russell Freedman  
Franklin is one of the most distinguished and accomplished of Americans.

***Facing the Lion: Growing Up Maasai on the African Savanna*** Joseph Lemasolai Lekuton  
Joseph grew up in northern Kenya among nomadic herders. He came to America to college, unusual among the Maasai.

***The Notorious Benedict Arnold*** Steven Shienkin  
An introduction to the life of Benedict Arnold that highlights not only the traitorous actions that made him legendary, but also his heroic involvement in the American Revolution.

## Classics

***A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*** Betty Smith  
The story of the Nolan family, poor Irish immigrants in early 20<sup>th</sup> century New York City, especially of Francie's childhood and teen years. Beautiful, poignant.

***The Pearl*** John Steinbeck  
The tragic tale of how a priceless pearl brings heartache to a poor Mexican pearl diver and his family. It is an epic story about how the urge for material things can come into conflict with personal values.

***Where the Red Fern Grows*** Wilson Rawls  
Billy and his precious coonhound pups romp relentlessly through the Ozarks, trying to "tree" the elusive raccoon. In time, the inseparable trio wins the coveted gold cup in the annual coon-hunt contest, captures the wily ghost coon, and bravely fights with a mountain lion. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***The Call of the Wild*** Jack London  
This is an adventure of a dog that is part St. Bernard, part Scotch Shepherd. He is forcibly taken to the Klondike gold fields where he becomes leader of a wolf pack. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***Anne of Green Gables*** L.M.Montgomery  
Marilla Cuthbert and her brother Matthew want to adopt an orphan to help on the farm at Green Gables. They ask for a boy, but they get Anne, who has red hair and freckles, a big heart and who talks and talks and talks. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

## Fantasy

***Frogkisser*** Garth Nix

Princess Anya has the gift of breaking curses with her kiss. When her evil wizard step-father plans to take over the kingdom, she must flee, along with her loyal talking dog and a boy trapped in a newt's body.

***Ghost Hawk*** Susan Cooper

An historical fantasy which begins around 1620, when Little Hawk is nearing proving time to become a man in his Wampanoag tribe. He is sent out into the woods alone, armed only with a bow and arrows, and returns to find his family dead from smallpox.

***The Demon King*** Cinda Williams Chima

Relates the intertwining fates of former street gang leader Han Alister and headstrong Princess Raisa. Han takes possession of an amulet that once belonged to an evil wizard, and Raisa uncovers a conspiracy in the Grey Wolf Court. Book 1 of the *Seven Realms* series. Available in the JJMS eBook Library.

***Found*** Margaret Peterson Haddix

When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.

***Alistair Grim's Odditorium*** Gregory Funaro

In Victorian England, Grubb, an orphan about twelve years old, escapes his life of drudgery as a chimney sweep's apprentice and finds himself in a very strange house filled with magical objects and creatures, but soon he learns that there are dark forces seeking his new master. Book 1 in the *Odditorium* series.

***The Accidental Highwayman*** Ben Tripp

In eighteenth-century England, young Christopher "Kit" Bristol unwittingly takes on the task of his dead master, notorious highwayman (robber) Whistling Jack.

***Birthmarked*** Caragh M. O'Brien

Sixteen-year-old Gaia Stone is a midwife who dutifully delivers at least three babies a month and hands them over to the Enclave, a community within walls where the children are adopted and live with conveniences which are not available to the outside world. She begins to question her loyalty to the group after her mother is brutally taken away from her by the people she serves.

***The Fellowship of the Ring*** J.R.R. Tolkien

In a sleepy village in the Shire, young Frodo Baggins finds himself faced with an immense task, as his elderly cousin Bilbo entrusts the "One Ring" to his care. Frodo must leave his home and make a perilous journey across Middle-earth to the Cracks of Doom, to destroy the ring.

## Historical Fiction

### Grade 6

***Maia of Thebes, 1463 B.C.*** Ann Turner

Maia's brother secretly taught her to read, but when she accuses her uncle of theft, she must flee the city. (Ancient Egypt)

***Pandora of Athens, 399 B.C.*** Barry Denenberg

Pandora dreads her upcoming marriage to a much older man. She meets the philosopher Socrates and begins to question traditional female roles. (Ancient Greece)

***Atticus of Rome, 30 B.C.*** Barry Denenberg

A young slave helps foil a plot against the emperor. (Ancient Greece)

***Crispin: The Cross of Lead*** Avi

Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphan peasant-boy in fourteenth century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.* Winner of the 2003 Newbery Award.

***Heart of a Samurai: Based on the True Story of Nakahama Manjiro*** Margi Preus

In 1841, rescued by an American whaler after a terrible shipwreck leaves him and his four companions castaways on a remote island, fourteen-year-old Manjiro, who dreams of becoming a samurai, learns new laws and customs as he becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States.

***The Shakespeare Stealer*** Gary Blackwood

A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of "Hamlet," but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship and loyalty.

***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*** Grace Lin

Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish, and she joins a dragon who cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bringing life to Fruitless Mountain and freshness to Jade River. A 2012 Newbery Honor book. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***Sphinx's Princess*** Esther M. Friesner

Although she is a dutiful daughter, Nefertiti's dancing abilities, remarkable beauty, and intelligence garner attention near and far, so much so that her family is summoned to the Egyptian royal court, where Nefertiti becomes a pawn in the power play of her scheming aunt, Queen Tiye. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

## Historical Fiction

### Grade 7

***A Break with Charity*** Ann Rinaldi

While waiting for a church meeting in 1706, Susanna English, daughter of a wealthy Salem merchant, recalls the malice, fear, and accusations of witchcraft that tore her village apart in 1692. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***Seeds of America Trilogy*** Laurie Halse Anderson

***Chains* volume 1** After being sold to a cruel couple in NYC, Isabel spies for the patriots during the American Revolution.

***Forge* volume 2** Corazon and Isabel spend the winter at Valley Forge with Washington's army.

***Ashes* volume 3** Isabel and Corazon, reported as runaways, head south to find Isabel's sister.

***Fever 1793*** Laurie Halse Anderson

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

***Sacajawea*** Joseph Bruchac

Sacajawea, a Shoshoni Indian interpreter, peacemaker, and guide, and William Clark alternate in describing their experiences on the Lewis and Clark Expedition to the Northwest 1805-1806. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***March toward Thunder*** Joseph Bruchac

Louis Nollette, a fifteen-year-old Abenaki Indian, joins the Irish Brigade in 1864 to fight for the Union in the Civil War.

## Historical Fiction

### Grade 8

***Dragon's Gate*** Laurence Yep

The story of the Chinese who labored on the building of the transcontinental railroad. Describes the dangers and prejudice they faced from the Irish bosses and workers.

***Hattie Big Sky*** Kirby Larson

Hattie, an orphan, heads to Montana after inheriting her uncle's homesteading claim. She overcomes enormous obstacles, makes friends, and befriends German American neighbors facing prejudice because of World War I.

***Listen to the Moon*** Michael Morpurgo

A story of the sinking of the Lusitania in 1915. When a girl who was sailing on the Lusitania is found washed up on an island, islanders worry that she is a German spy.

***Ringside 1925: Views from the Scopes Trial: A Novel*** Jennifer Bryant

The year is 1925, and the students of Dayton, Tennessee, are ready for a summer of fishing, swimming, some working, and drinking root beer floats at Robinson's Drugstore. But when their science teacher, J. T. Scopes, is arrested for having taught Darwin's theory of evolution in class, it seems it won't be just any ordinary summer in Dayton. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***The Book Thief*** Marcus Zusak

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel, a young German girl, whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***The War that Saved My Life and  
The War I Finally Won*** Kimberly Bradley

Ada and her little brother Jamie have been evacuated to the English countryside to avoid the bombing of London during World War II. Because of Ada's clubfoot, she has been mistreated by her cruel and bitter mother.

***Fallen Angels*** Walter Dean Myers

This is the riveting account of Richie Perry, a black teenager, on tour of duty in Vietnam in 1967. He and his buddies enlist for different reasons, but share one dream, getting home alive.

## **Mystery**

***When You Reach Me*** Rebecca Stead

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*** Ransom Riggs

Sixteen-year-old Jacob, having traveled to a remote island after a family tragedy, discovers an abandoned orphanage, and, after some investigating, he learns, the children who lived there may have been dangerous and quarantined, and they may also still be alive. There is a sequel *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***The Old Willis Place: A Ghost Story*** Mary Downing Hahn

Tired of the rules that have bound them ever since "the bad thing happened," twelve-year-old Diana ignores her brother's warnings and befriends the daughter of the new caretaker. She sets in motion events that lead to the release of the spirit of an evil, crazy woman who once ruled the old Willis place. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***The London Eye Mystery*** Siobhan Dowd

When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye Ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together. Ted, with his brain that is "wired differently," and impatient Kat try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***Shadow Horse*** Alison Hart

Thirteen-year-old Jas tries to prove that the owner of the farm where she works has killed her favorite horse, Whirlwind. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***Closed for the Season: A Mystery Story*** Mary Downing Hahn

When thirteen-year-old Logan and his family move into a run-down old house in rural Virginia, he discovers that a woman was murdered there. He becomes involved with his neighbor, Arthur, in a dangerous investigation to try to uncover the killer. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***Vanishing Act: Mystery at the U.S. Open*** John Feinstein

Eighth-grade sports reporters Susan, Carol, and Stevie reunite at the U.S. Open tennis championships where they investigate the mysterious disappearance of a top Russian player. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***Murder on the Orient Express*** Agatha Christie

A Russian princess, a Hungarian count, a Swedish beauty, and an assortment of Americans, English, and French are brought together on the elegant Orient Express. A brutal murder and an unexpected blizzard bring in the vacationing detective Hercule Poirot. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*



## **Non-Fiction**

***Girl Rising: Changing the World One Girl at a Time*** Tanya Lee Stone

The stories of 34 girls around the world and how they are breaking down barriers, becoming empowered and creating new possibilities for themselves and other girls. The book is an expansion of the film.

***Let Me Play: The Story of Title IX, the Law that Changed the Future of Girls in America*** Karen Blumenthal

This 1972 federal law stated that no one could be closed out of any education program receiving federal money because of gender. The number of girls playing on high school varsity sports teams increase from 294,015 in 1971-72 to 2,806,998 in 2001-02!

***Poison: Deadly Deeds, Perilous Professions and Murderous Medicines*** Sarah Albee

History and chemistry combine in this humorous book which explores the role poisons have played in history from ancient days to the present.

***Votes for Women: American Suffragists and the Battle for the Ballot*** Winifred Conkling

Women were not given the vote; they had to demand it and fight for it. It was 72 years from the first Women's Rights Convention in 1848 to the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1920, and this book describes the entire period in detail.

***A Dog in the Cave: The Wolves who Made Us Human*** Kay Frydenborg

The author holds that humans influenced dogs' evolution and that dogs influenced humans' evolution.

***Animals that Changed the World*** Keltie Thomas

Describes how more than twenty animal species have changed the course of history, and discusses the uses of sheep, cats, guinea pigs, pigeons, and more.

***How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous*** Georgia Bragg

Shares the sometimes gruesome details of the deaths of nineteen famous historical figures, including King Tut, Pocahontas, George Washington, Edgar Allan Poe, and Marie Curie

***Saving the Ghost of the Mountain: An Expedition among Snow Leopards in Mongolia*** Sy Montgomery

Provides an account of an expedition mounted by the Snow Leopard Trust to the mountains of Mongolia in an effort to learn more about the elusive snow leopard and find ways to keep it from extinction. This is one of many in the excellent series *Scientists in the Field*, showing how scientists work.

***Bomb: The Race to Steal and Build the World's Most Dangerous Weapon*** Steve Sheinken

Examines the history of the atomic bomb, discussing the discovery of the behavior of uranium when placed next to radioactive material, the race to build a bomb, and the impact of the weapon on societies around the world.

## **Realistic Fiction**

***An Uninterrupted View of the Sky*** Melanie Crowther

When Francisco's father is imprisoned on false charges in 1999 Bolivia, Francisco and his sister must move into the prison. He must decide to stay or flee to the grandparents in the countryside.

***Auma's Long Run*** Eucabeth Odhiambo

Auma, a Kenyan girl, has won a track scholarship, but then a strange new disease comes to her village. When her father becomes ill, her future is in question.

***Dig Too Deep*** Amy Allgeyer

Is the water safe to drink in Libby's Kentucky town or is the coal mining company polluting it and covering up their actions? Libby's search for the truth is dangerous.

***Lost in the Sun*** Lisa Graff

Trent is consumed with guilt from accidentally caused the death of a boy during a hockey game. A new friend helps him move on.

Auma's Long Run

***The Bitter Side of Sweet*** Tara Sullivan

Explores the chocolate industry, and how children are kept in slavery on plantations that grow the cacao pods. It will make you think about chocolate differently.

***The Mighty Miss Malone*** Christopher Paul Curtis

Deza Malone, the smartest girl in her class in Gary, Indiana, accompanies her mother and older brother on a trip to find her father, an African American man who left to find work after the Great Depression hit. They end up in a Hooverville outside of Flint, Michigan, and her brother attempts to be a performer while Deza and her mother search for a home. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***Seaglass Summer*** Anjali Banerjee

Eleven-year-old Poppy Ray longs to be a veterinarian, but she's never had a pet. This summer, she's going to spend a month with her uncle Sanjay, veterinarian and owner of the Furry Friends Animal Clinic on an island off the Washington coast. She loves tending to the dogs, cats, and even a bird but she's not prepared for quirky pet owners, gross stuff, or scary emergencies. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***Mockingbird*** Kathryn Erskine

Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school. While at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.

***The Thing about Luck*** Cynthia Kadohata

Just when twelve-year-old Summer thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong in a year of bad luck, an emergency takes her parents to Japan, leaving Summer to care for her little brother. She also has to help her grandmother cook, do laundry for harvest workers, and more surprising tasks.

***The Geography of You and Me*** Jennifer Smith

A friendship (or is it a romance?) develops when sixteen-year-old Lucy Patterson and seventeen-year-old Owen Buckley meet on an elevator rendered useless by a New York City blackout. Soon after, the two teenagers leave the city, but as they travel farther away from each other geographically, they stay connected emotionally, in this story set over the course of one year. *Available in JJMS eBook*

***Okay for Now*** Gary D. Schmidt

Fourteen-year-old Doug faces many challenges, including a brother traumatized by Vietnam, suspicious teachers and police officers, and isolation, but when he meets a girl known as Lil Spicer, he develops a close relationship with her and finds a safe place at the local library.

***Every Soul a Star*** Wendy Mass

Ally, Bree, and Jack meet at Moon Shadow, an isolated campground, to watch a total eclipse of the sun; but soon they begin to learn a great deal about themselves, each other, and the universe. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***Liar and Spy*** Rebecca Stead

Seventh-grader Georges adjusts to moving from a house to an apartment, his father's effort to start a new business, his mother's extra shifts as a nurse, being picked on at school, and Safer, a boy who wants his help spying on another resident of their building. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***How to Survive Middle School*** Donna Gephart

When eleven-year-old David Greenberg's best friend makes the start of middle school even worse than he feared it could be, David becomes friends with Penny, who shares his love of television shows and posts one of their skits on YouTube, making them wildly popular--online, at least. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library*

## Science Fiction

***Dangerous*** Shannon Hale

When aspiring astronaut Maisie Danger Brown, who was born without a right hand, and the other space camp students get the opportunity to do something amazing in space, Maisie must prove how dangerous she can be and how far she is willing to go to protect everything she has ever loved. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***The Reluctant Assassin: Book one of the W.A.R.P. series*** Eoin Colfer

First in the WARP series. Riley, a teen orphan boy living in Victorian London, has had the misfortune of being apprenticed to Albert Garrick, an illusionist who has fallen on difficult times and now uses his unique conjuring skills to gain access to victims' dwellings. The intended victim turns out to be a scientist from the future, part of the FBI's Witness Anonymous Relocation Program (WARP), and Riley is unwittingly transported via wormhole to modern day London.

***The Finisher*** David Baldacci

Vega Jane was always told no one could leave the town of Wormwood. She was told there was nothing outside but a forest filled with danger and death. And she always believed it -- until the night she saw Quentin Herms run away. \*

***SYLO*** D. J. MacHale

Pemberwick Island, Maine is occupied by a Navy section called SYLO. They claim a virus has been unleashed, but Tucker Pierce, who has seen strange aircraft and experienced the power of the Ruby, realizes something else is going on.

***Legend*** Marie Lu

In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, fifteen-year-olds Day, a famous criminal, and June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy. A Westchester Library System "Battle of the Books" title.

***Mila 2.0*** Debra Driza

Sixteen-year-old Mila discovers she is not who or what she thought she was, which causes her to run from both the CIA and a rogue intelligence group. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***Avalon*** Mindee Arnett

Jeth Seagrave is the leader of a ragtag team of teenage mercenaries who skirt the line between honor and the law in an attempt to win freedom for his sister and himself in the form of their parents' old spaceship, Avalon. Book 1 of the *Avalon* series. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***The Last Dog on Earth*** Daniel Ehrenhaft

When a mysterious disease that infects dogs sweeps the country, Logan Moore's dog, Jack is in terrible danger and the two friends go on the lam to keep Jack from being shot on sight. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

## **Sports**

***Heat*** Mike Lupica

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball. Rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

***The Girl Who Threw Butterflies*** Mick Cochrane

Eighth-grader Molly's ability to throw a knuckleball earns her a spot on the baseball team, which not only helps her feel connected to her recently deceased father, who loved baseball, it helps in other aspects of her life, as well.

***The Rivalry: Mystery at the Army-Navy Game*** John Feinstein

Teen sportswriters Stevie Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson are assigned to cover the football game between long-time rivalries Army and Navy, and, after noticing the actions of secret service agents, they begin to suspect that the president, who is going to attend the event, is in danger.

***Dairy Queen*** Catherine Murdock

After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***The Running Dream*** Wendelin Van Draanen

When a school bus accident leaves sixteen-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb and her track team finds a wonderful way to help rekindle her dream of running again. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***The Off Season*** Catherine Murdock

High school junior D. J. Schwenk staggers under the weight of caring for her badly injured brother, her responsibilities on the dairy farm, a changing relationship with her friend Brian, and her own athletic aspirations.

***The Crossover*** Kwame Alexander

Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health. The 2015 Newbery Award winner. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library.*

***Booked*** Kwame Alexander

A boy who loves soccer discovers the power of words from a dictionary of weird and wonderful words which his father, a linguistics professor, created and makes him read every day.

## **Top Ten Books** *Recommended by John Jay Students*

***Divergent, Book 1*** Veronica Roth

In a future Chicago, sixteen-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library*

***Everything, Everything*** Nicola Yoon

Maddy, a teen with an immune deficiency disease, must remain inside sanitized spaces. When she and the new boy next door become friends, she dares to go outside.

***The Sun is Also A Star*** Nicola Yoon

Love story between Natasha, whose family is about to be deported to Jamaica, and Daniel, who has always been the “good son.”

***A Mango-Shaped Space*** Wendy Mass

Mia has synesthesia, a condition where she sees colors and figures when she hears sounds. This blending of perceptions can be overwhelming.

***The Mysterious Benedict Society*** Trenton Lee Stewart

Four gifted children are sent to investigate a mysterious institution run by a brilliant but evil man. There are two sequels.

***Stargirl*** Jerry Spinelli

In this story about the dangers of nonconformity, Stargirl, who has always been home-schooled, changes her new high school.

***The Hunger Games*** Suzanne Collins

Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen accidentally becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a grave competition hosted by the Capitol where young boys and girls are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death.

***Catching Fire*** Suzanne Collins (Sequel to *The Hunger Games*)

Katniss and Peeta must convince the government that they are truly in love, that they were not just pretending as an act of defiance to win the Hunger Games.

***The Maze Runner*** James Dashner

Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape. *Available in the JJMS eBook Library*

***Wonder*** R.J. Palacio

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.