

Grade 8

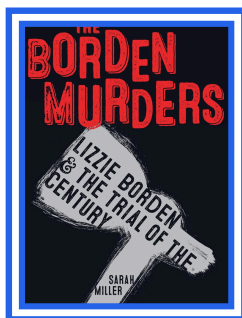
SUMMER READING CHOICES

CHOOSE ONE BOOK FROM THIS LIST TO READ THIS SUMMER. ARRIVE AT SCHOOL IN THE FALL READY TO DISCUSS YOUR BOOK! YOU CAN FIND THESE BOOKS ON SORAAPP.COM AND AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY!

NON FICTION

The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden and the Trial of the Century by Sarah Miller

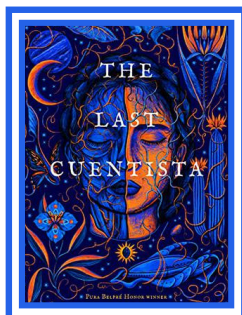
August 4, 1892: Lizzie Borden calls out frantically for help. When the maid and the neighbors come running, they find Lizzie's father, Andrew Borden, murdered in the sitting room of the Borden home at 92 Second Street in Fall River, Massachusetts. Soon after, the body of Lizzie's stepmother, Abby, is discovered upstairs. As the minutes give way to hours, one person rises to the top of the list of suspects: Lizzie herself. But how could a mild-mannered young woman from a prominent family be an axe murderer? In a compelling narrative, Sarah Miller investigates the chilling crime, with research enhanced by period photos, newspaper clippings, and an image from the crime scene. Prepare to devour it and to grapple with the same questions a nation asked itself over a century ago: Did Lizzie do it? And if not, who did?



DYSTOPIAN

The Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera

Once upon a time, 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 — including Petra and her family — have been chosen to journey to a new planet. They are the ones who must carry on the human race. Hundreds of years later, Petra wakes to this new planet, and the discovery that she is the only person who remembers Earth. A sinister collective has taken over the ship during its journey. They have systematically purged the memories of all aboard — or purged the people altogether. Petra alone now carries the stories of our past, and with them, any hope for our future. Can she make them live again?



HISTORICAL FICTION

Rebellion 1776

by Laurie Halse Anderson

In the spring of 1776, 13-year-old Elsbeth Culpepper wakes to the sound of cannons. It's the Siege of Boston, the Patriots' massive drive to push the Loyalists out that turns the city into a chaotic war zone.

Elsbeth's father — her only living relative — has gone missing, leaving her alone and adrift in a broken town while desperately seeking employment to avoid the orphanage. Just when things couldn't feel worse, the smallpox epidemic sweeps across Boston. Now, Bostonians must fight for their lives against an invisible enemy in addition to the visible one. While a treatment is being frantically fine-tuned, thousands of people rush in from the countryside begging for inoculation. At the same time, others refuse protection, for the treatment is crude at best. Elsbeth, who had smallpox as a small child and is now immune, finds work taking care of a large, wealthy family as they await a turn at inoculation, but as the epidemic and the revolution rage on, will she find her father?



NOVEL IN VERSE

Long Way Down

by Jason Reynolds

A gun. That's what 15-year-old Will has shoved in the back waistband of his jeans. See, his brother Shawn was just murdered. And Will knows the rules. Revenge. That's where Will's now heading, with the gun that was his brother's gun. He gets on the elevator, seventh floor. He knows who he's after. Or does he? As the elevator stops on the sixth floor, on comes Buck. Buck, Will finds out, is who gave Shawn the gun before Will took the gun. BUCK IS DEAD. But Buck's in the elevator? Just as Will's trying to think this through, the door to the next floor opens. A teenage girl gets on, waves away the smoke from Dead Buck's cigarette. Will doesn't know her, but she knew him — when they were eight. Stray bullets had cut through the playground, and Will had tried to cover her, but she was hit anyway, and so what she wants to know, is, what if Will MISSES. And so it goes, the whole long way down, as the elevator stops on each floor, and at each stop someone connected to his brother gets on to give Will a piece to a bigger story than the one he thinks he knows. A story that might never know an END... if Will gets off that elevator.

