

Birchland Park Summer Reading 2019

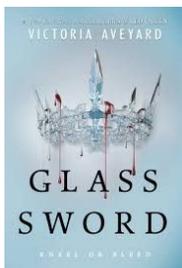
Students at Birchland Park will be exploring the topic of dealing with conflicts with this year's summer reading selections. Through a variety of genres, they will discover the inner strength and fortitude that people show when confronted with obstacles. Students must choose **ONE** book from the following list and be prepared to take a quiz on that book in September.

Parents can purchase any of these books from their favorite bookstore or online source. They are also available on Nook, Kindle, or Audible. In addition, you can borrow them from the public library.

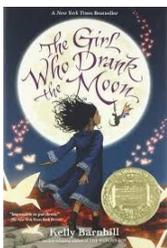
Parents, please be advised of the parental notes attached to some of the selections before purchasing that novel for your child. Books marked with an (*) denote easier reads. For further information about most titles, go to <https://www.commonsemmedia.org/book-reviews>. This is a great resource for learning exactly what content and issues are presented in the book.



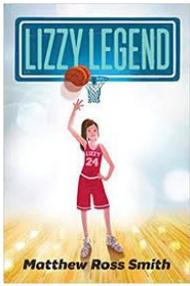
Serafina and the Black Cloak by Robert Beatty (Fantasy) **Mythopoeic Fantasy Award Nominee for Children's Literature (2016)** Twelve-year-old Serafina, who lives in the boiler room in the basement of the wealthy Biltmore estate with her pa, longs to know the truth about her life: What happened to her mother, why she must stay hidden away, and whether -- with only eight toes and unusual golden eyes -- she isn't fully human. At night, Serafina stealthily walks about the mansion, borrowing books from the immense library and, as a self-appointed "Chief Rat Catcher," traps rats that roam the mansion.



Glass Sword (Red Queen Book 2) by Victoria Aveyard: **former Birchland Park student** (Fantasy) **NY Times Bestseller** GLASS SWORD picks up right after *Red Queen* ends, with Red-born Mare in an uneasy alliance with the Scarlet Guard, the underground rebellion that has taken Silver-blooded Prince Cal prisoner as they all escape the betrayal of Maven, now the king. Queen Elara used her mind-control skills to force her apparent Cal to kill his own father, so her son, the second son Maven, could be crowned king. With Maven and Elara in power, they turn their sights to new endeavors...

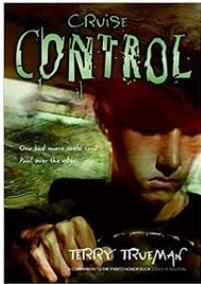


The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill (Fantasy) **Newberry Medal Award Winner 2017** This is the story of Luna, taken as a baby from her family in the Protectorate as part of a cruel ritual designed to keep the populace fearful and compliant. Though the Elders circulate a story that an evil witch demands the annual sacrifice, they don't realize there's actually a good witch who saves and protects the babies. When Xan rescues Luna, she accidentally feeds her moonbeams that "enmagic" her, so she decides to adopt and raise Luna in a family that includes a dragon and a wise bog monster. Luna's magical powers prove to be unpredictable and unruly...



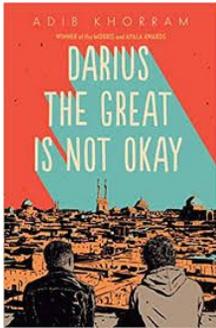
***Lizzy Legend** by Matthew Ross Smith (Sports Story)

Lizzy Trudeau loves basketball. She doesn't have much by way of money, but she has access to the community court, a worn ball named Ginger, and she practices constantly. After fighting to join the boy's team at her school, Lizzy is finally given the opportunity to show off her hard-earned skills. When she answers what she believes is another bill collecting phone call, Lizzy receives a magical wish: the ability to sink every shot. Pure Swish. Now eviscerating the competition in the boy's league is small potatoes—she has the skills to dominate in the NBA...



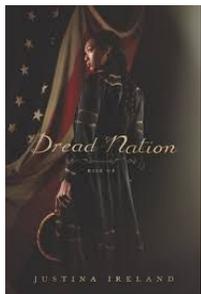
***Cruise Control** by Terry Trueman (Realistic Fiction)

While Cruise Control is a companion to Terry Trueman's Printz Honor book, *Stuck in Neutral*, it is the completely independent story of a family's "other" son -- the one who is healthy, gifted, normal. A talented basketball player struggles to deal with the helplessness and anger that come with having a brother rendered completely dysfunctional by severe cerebral palsy and a father who deserted the family.

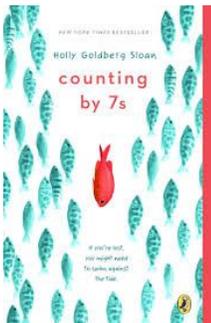


Darius the Great is Not Okay by Adib Khorram (Realistic Fiction) **William C. Morris YA Debut Award (2019), Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature**

(Contains descriptions of male puberty) Darius Grover Kellner is half-Persian and half-American, overweight, bad at sports, a serious *Star Trek* nerd, and works after school at a local tea shop -- all of which makes him a target for verbal bullying by the jocks at his Portland, Oregon, high school. It doesn't help that his architect father keeps telling him to stand up to them and try to "act a little more normal." But they share one very significant thing in common: Both are taking medication for clinical depression...



Dread Nation by Justina Ireland (Fantasy/Science Fiction) ***Warning - For rising 8th-grade students only! (Contains mature themes.) Hugo Award Nominee for Best Young Adult Fantasy and Science Fiction** DREAD NATION is a historical zombie thriller that takes place in an alternative universe in which the Civil War ended when the dead at Gettysburg began to rise up and consume soldiers from both armies. Protagonist Jane McKeene was born just two days before zombies -- aka shamblers -- emerged, and the fact that she's obviously biracial has complicated life...



Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan (Realistic Fiction) **BEA Buzz Book Award for Middle Grades (2013)**

Willow Chance is a 12-year-old adopted girl in Bakersfield, CA, a self-described "person of color" who's obsessed with gardening, rare skin conditions and other medical oddities, teaches herself Vietnamese, and counts by sevens to relax. Her white parents are the only people who really understand her -- her teachers never do, and her only friend moved away. At the start of middle school, she scores 100 percent on a standardized test, prompting her teacher to send her to the school counselor, assuming she cheated. The counselor, a sloppy, burned-out slacker, snaps out of his doldrums when he figures out she's a genius, not a cheater. After Willow loses her parents in a car crash, the counselor takes an interest in her and two other misfit students of his -- a teen brother and sister -- and all of their lives become entwined with devastated Willow's.