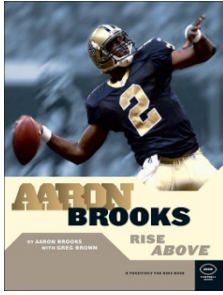


Ms. O'Brien's Summer Reading List



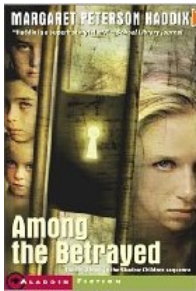
Aaron Brooks: Rise Above by Aaron Brooks and Gregg Brown

New Orleans Saints star quarterback Aaron Brooks takes us on his life journey from starting at "The Bottom"—the name for his childhood neighborhood in Newport News, Virginia—to being one of the elite 32 NFL quarterbacks. Aaron emphasizes the positive vision he had about his future and details how he, step by step, achieved his dreams.



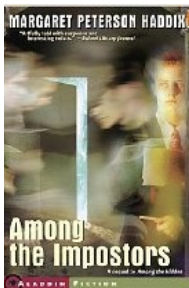
Among the Barons by Margaret Peterson Haddix (series, Book 4)

Luke Garner was given the freedom of an identity card that had belonged to Lee Grant, a Baron, and was sent to boarding school as Lee. But now, just when things are finally starting to go right, Lee's little brother, Smits, arrives at school, and Luke finds himself caught in a web of lies that gets more complex with every passing day – and possibly even lethal. Can Luke trust the grief-stricken Smits to keep his secret? And can he trust Smits's menacing bodyguard, Oscar? Luke finds that living among the Barons puts him in the deadliest danger he has ever faced.



Among the Betrayed by Margaret Peterson Haddix (series, Book 3)

Nina Idi, a third child in a society where families are allowed only two children, has been betrayed by the boy she loved, and arrested by the Population Police for exposing other alleged third children. Angry and confused, Nina knows only one thing for sure: She is innocent of the charges. But now she is faced with the most difficult choice of her life: Get three other prisoners to admit they are shadow children and be spared herself, or refuse to cooperate and be killed. The options are clear. The choice, Nina discovers, is not....



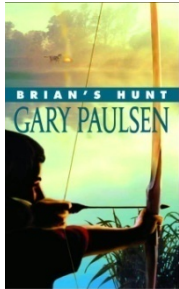
Among the Imposters by Margaret Peterson Haddix (series, Book 2)

In a future where the law limits a family to only two children, third-born Luke has been in hiding for the entire twelve years of his life, until he enters boarding school under an assumed name and is forced to face his fears. This is the second book in The Shadow Children Series. The third book is *Among the Betrayed*.



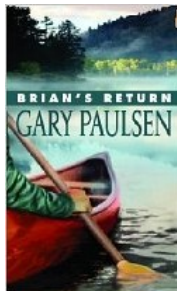
Blended by Sharon M. Draper

Eleven year old Isabella's blended family is more divided than ever in this thoughtful story about divorce and racial identity from the award-winning best selling author Sharon M. Draper



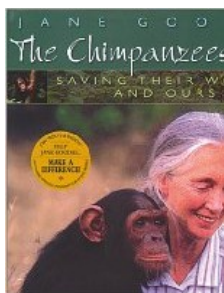
Brian's Hunt by Gary Paulsen

Brian, now 16, is back in the wilderness and encounters a savagely wounded dog. He makes his way to the lake island home of the Cree man he met where he discovers the tragedy that led to the dog's liberation.



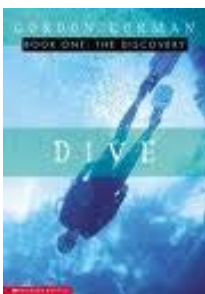
Brian's Return by Gary Paulsen

A deer in his canoe, a bear attack, a leg stabbed with an arrowhead--it's just another week in the life of 16-year-old Brian Robeson. In his opinion, this beats a date at Mackey's Pizza Den, a fight with a bully, and a video game at the mall any day. After having survived a plane crash and 54 days in the Canadian wilderness several years earlier, Brian can't seem to fit into "civilization." The world of high school and family life makes no sense anymore. So Brian begins to plan. It's time to return to the woods. This time, though, he makes no plans to come back home.



The Chimpanzees I Love: Saving Their World and Ours by Jane Goodall

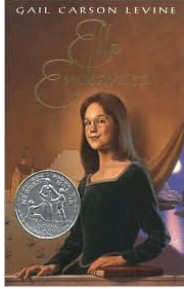
As a child, Jane Goodall dreamed of living with the wild animals of Africa. As a young woman, she amazed the world with her groundbreaking discoveries about chimpanzees, which she documented in her acclaimed National Geographic television specials. Ever since, Dr. Goodall has campaigned unceasingly for the protection of the chimpanzee, now an endangered species. This moving, personal account will inspire readers of all ages to join in her vital work.



The Discovery (Dive, Book 1) by Gordon Korman

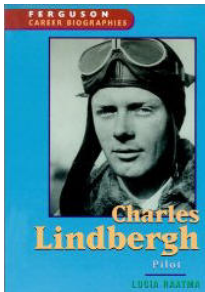
Four kids are diving to explore an underwater habitat that's just been altered by a seismic event. What they find, though, is much more than fish - it's sunken treasure. Can they salvage it without anyone else getting to it first? Will the prospect of wealth set them against one another? And what about those sharks? *Dive* is an action-packed trilogy (it includes books 2 & 3)

*Gordon Korman has other trilogies: *Island*, *Everest*



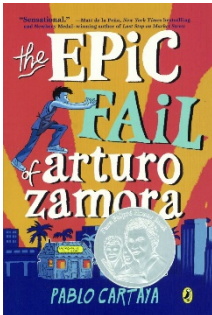
Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine

At birth, Ella is inadvertently cursed by an imprudent fairy named Lucinda, who bestows on her the "gift" of obedience. Anything anyone tells her to do, Ella must obey. Her intelligence and saucy nature keep her in good stead as she sets out on a quest for freedom and self-discovery, trying to track down Lucinda to undo the curse, fending off ogres, befriending elves, and falling in love with a prince along the way. Yes, there is a pumpkin coach, a glass slipper, and a happily ever after, but this is the most remarkable, delightful, and profound version of Cinderella you've ever read.



Ferguson's Career Biography Series

The Ferguson Career Biographies series tells the stories of some of the world's most admired people, focusing on the subject's early education and training, the challenges faced on the job, important career mentors, and career achievements. Students follow each person's journey along one or more career paths and get a sense of the person's historical importance.



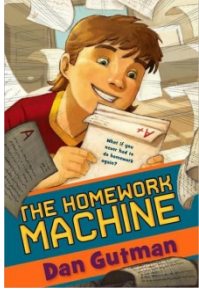
The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora by Pablo Cartaya

Save the restaurant. Save the town. Get the girl. Make Abuela proud. Can thirteen-year-old Arturo Zamora do it all, or is he a big, epic fail?



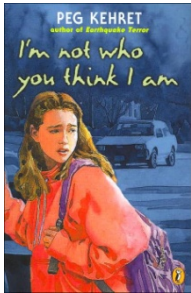
The Ghost Sitter by Peni R. Griffin

Charlotte is looking forward to a great summer in her new home, despite her many baby-sitting duties. Gradually, Charlotte realizes her all-too-normal house is haunted by the ghost of a girl who doesn't – or won't – realize that she's dead.



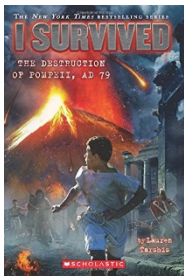
The Homework Machine by Dan Gutman

Fifth-grader Brenton is a computer genius, but the other three members of his work group think he's a nerd. So, when he tells them that he has invented a machine that does homework, they taunt him until he agrees to demonstrate. The machine actually works, and Kelsey, Sam, and Judy convince him to let them use it. At first, they are delighted with their freedom, but things quickly get out of hand.



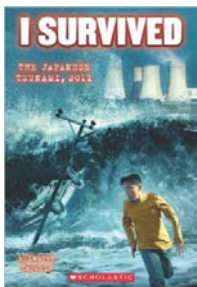
I'm Not Who You Think I Am by Peg Kehret

An odd woman confronts Ginger at the bus stop and divulges an unbelievable secret. While Ginger tries to decide what to do with the woman's strange information, she is involved in a school controversy between some parents and her favorite teacher. Suspense is interwoven with issues of loyalty and honor as Ginger desperately tries to save both her identity and her life.



I Survived: The Destruction of Pompeii, AD 79 by Lauren Tarshis

In this thrilling addition to the *I Survived* series, readers are taken back to antiquity with a young boy trying to escape as the giant Mount Vesuvius erupts. Does he have what it takes to survive the epic destruction?



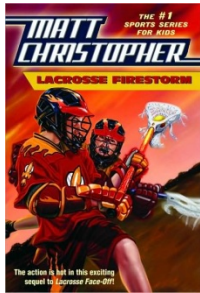
I Survived: The Japanese Tsunami, 2011 by Lauren Tarshis

Visiting his dad's hometown in Japan four months after his father's death would be hard enough for Ben. But one morning the pain turns to fear: first, a massive earthquake rocks the quiet coastal village, nearly toppling his uncle's house. Then the ocean waters rise and Ben and his family are swept away and pulled apart by a terrible tsunami. Now Ben is alone, stranded in a strange country a million miles from home. Can he fight hard enough to survive one of the most epic disasters of all time?



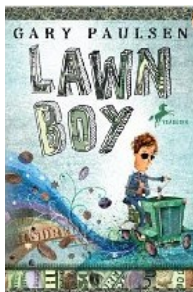
Journey by Patricia MacLachlan

Journey is eleven the summer his mother leaves him and his sister, Cat, with their grandparents. He is sad and angry, and spends the summer looking for the clues that will explain why she left.



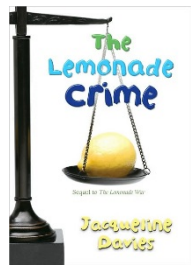
Lacrosse Firestorm by Matt Christopher

It's early summer, and things are really heating up between Garry Wallis and Michael Donofrio. At the end of last season, Garry sabotaged Michael's chances of becoming the league's top scorer. Now Michael is taking his revenge. He's got plenty of opportunity, too, for the Rockets are taking part in a week-long lacrosse tournament held at an overnight camp. Garry tries to ignore Michael, but the bullying finally gets to him- and what happens next sets off a string of near-disasters that finds Garry in the heart of a firestorm. *Any other book from this series would be a great choice as well.*



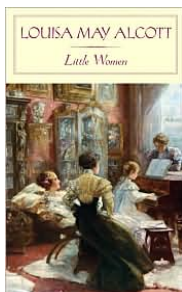
Lawn Boy by Gary Paulsen

When the narrator's grandmother gives him an old rider mower for his 12th birthday, his life changes; he senses "some kind of force behind it." He begins a dizzying ascent up the financial ladder. The young tycoon ends up smarter than when he started out, *and* worth half a million dollars.



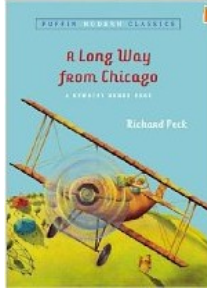
The Lemonade Crime by Jacqueline Davies

Following the laws of our legal system, Evan and Jessie's fourth grade class concocts a courtroom on the playground, putting Scott Spencer, alleged thief, on trial. They create a legitimate courtroom with a judge, witnesses, a jury of their peers, and surprising consequences.



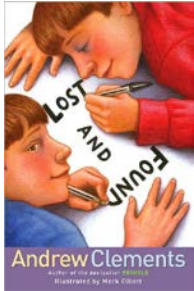
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

The four March girls -- practical Meg, rambunctious Jo, sweet Beth and childish artist Amy -- live in genteel poverty with their mother Marmee; their father is away in the Civil War. Despite having little money, the girls keep their spirits up with writing, gardening, homemade plays, and the occasional romp with wealthier pals.



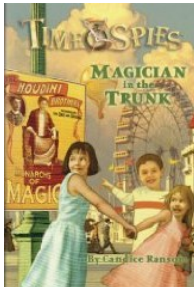
A Long Way From Chicago by Richard Peck

A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother.



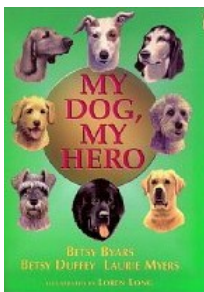
Lost and Found by Andrew Clements

When the Graysons move to a new town, 12-year-old twins Jay and Ray take advantage of a paperwork glitch at school to see what it would be like not to be regarded as one of a matched pair. They take turns going to school, each answering to the name Jay Grayson. Though physically Ray and Jay are nearly identical, their different personalities, abilities, and interests (not to mention the difficulties of one twin staying home each day and logistics of not appearing together in public) make it difficult to keep up the game for long.



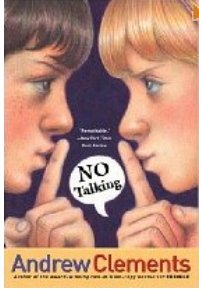
Magician in the Trunk by Candice Ransom

Mattie, Sophie, and Alex stumble onto a magical mystery at the Chicago Worlds Fair in 1893. Young Harry Houdini's magic show is failing and the kids decide to lend a hand. However, before they can sell one ticket, they're accused of stealing a priceless treasure. Can the world's greatest magician help the Times Spies conjure up the real thief?



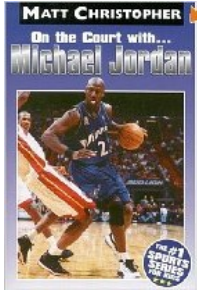
My Dog, My Hero by Betsy Byars

This delightful book is a collection of eight stories about extraordinarily heroic dogs. Each of the tales is told from the point of view of a contestant entering a dog in the My Hero contest. Drama, humor, excitement, and love fuel these short, well-written stories that are certain to be relished by dog lovers.



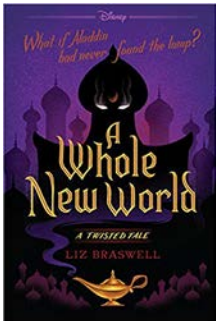
No Talking by Andrew Clements

Dave Packer's classmates are so boisterous and difficult to quiet down that the teachers have dubbed them "The Unshushables." Dave has just read about Mahatma Gandhi and learned that the man practiced silence one day a week to bring order to his mind. Though Dave likes to talk nonstop, he's determined to give the idea a try.



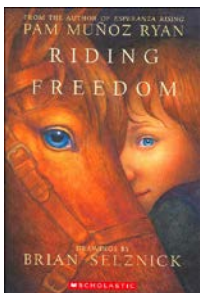
On the Court with Michael Jordan by Matt Christopher

Matt Christopher, the number one sports writer for kids, profiles basketball superstar Michael Jordan, covering his childhood, college career, rookie years, and current professional standing. Real-life sports action makes for a reading experience that's not to be missed. *Any other biographies from this author are a great choice as well.*



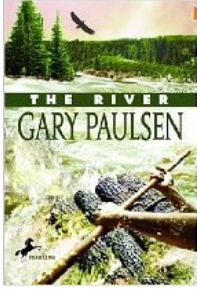
A Whole New World: Twisted Tales (#1) by Liz Braswell

Welcome to a new YA series that reimagines classic Disney stories in surprising new ways. Each book asks the question: What if one key moment from a familiar Disney film was changed? This dark and daring version of *Aladdin* twists the original story with the question: What if Jafar was the first one to summon the Genie?



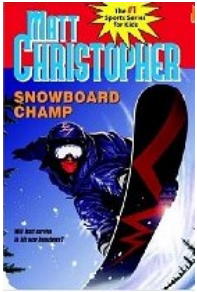
Riding Freedom by Pam Munos Ryan

This fictionalized biography of the first woman to vote in the state of California, and perhaps in the whole United States, is fascinating. Charlotte Parkhurst, known as Charley, spent most of her life masquerading as a man. Raised in an orphanage where she is the only girl, she is prevented from being adopted by the staff, who put her to work in the kitchen. Her preference is to be with the horses and the elderly man who cares for them.



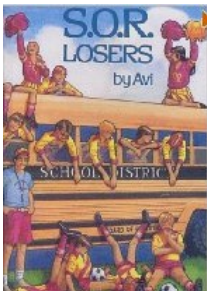
The River by Gary Paulsen

"We want you to do it again." These words, spoken to Brian Robeson, will change his life. Two years earlier, Brian was stranded alone in the wilderness for 54 days with nothing but a small hatchet. Yet he survived.



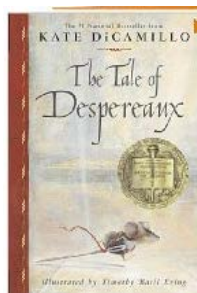
Snowboard Champ by Matt Christopher

When Matt Harper's mother accepts a mysterious government job overseas, the boy must leave his home in Chicago to live with his Uncle Clay for a year in Dragon Valley. He is not happy but decides that he'll be fine as long as he can hit the slopes and snowboard. Then he runs into Riley, the best snowboarder and most popular boy in the eighth grade, and soon rumors are being spread about his past—that he was in a gang, did drugs, and that his mother is in prison. Matt must find a way to prove his innocence before Riley's campaign ruins him.



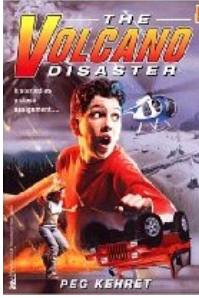
S.O.R. Losers by Avi

The South Orange River (S.O.R.) School is big on sports and famous for not losing a game all season. That all changes when the school insists that some seventh-grader non-jocks form a soccer team. The new team is sure that losing their first game 32-0 will put an end to their athletic adventure, but no such luck.



The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo
(Author of *Because of Winn-Dixie*)

Welcome to the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of a rat called Roscuro, who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl who harbors a simple, impossible wish. These three characters are about to embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and, ultimately, into each other's lives.



Turtle in Paradise by Jennifer L. Holm

Eleven year old Turtle has life-changing adventures when she goes to live with a family she has never met in 1935 Key West, Florida. A follow-up to the hilarious book, *Full of Beans*.



Within My Reach...My Everest Story by Mark Pfitzer

In May 1996, Mark Pfitzer at age 16 was the youngest climber on Mount Everest to reach 26,000 feet, and his gripping autobiography focuses exclusively on his mountain climbing achievements.