Mrs. Román’s Summer Reading List 2018

**The Adventures of Tom Sawyer** by Monica Kulling

Join Tom Sawyer's wild adventures along the banks of the Mississippi River in this exciting addition to the Step into Classics line. Tom and his best friend, Huck Finn, share exciting make-believe escapades as treasure hunters, swashbuckling pirates, and soldiers in battle. They also unwittingly become real-life witnesses to a terrible crime!

**Adventures of the Shark Lady: Eugenie Clark Around the World** by Ann McGovern

This amazing marine biologist has many adventures while diving with the great White Shark, being attacked by a giant crab, riding a giant whale shark, meeting monsters of the deep and being trapped 2,000 feet below the sea in a tiny submersible craft on the ocean floor.

**Arthur, for the Very First Time** by Patricia Maclachlan

Arthur Rasby is ten years old and having the worst summer of his life. His parents don’t listen to him, so he writes everything down-everything that’s real-in his journal. But when he goes to stay with his Great-Aunt Elda and Great-Uncle Wrisby on their farm, his world is turned upside down. For the first time Arthur wonders what’s real and what’s not.

**Babe & Me** by Dan Gutman (*Series*)

13-year-old Joe Stoshack time travels and meets baseball greats of the past. In this book, he takes his father along, as they attempt to discover whether Babe Ruth really “called his shot” in the 1932 World Series.

*This book is part of a series. Any other book from this series would be a great choice as well (ex. Jackie & Me, Shoeless Joe & Me).
**The Boys Start the War** by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (*series*)

It’s not the Hatfields vs. the McCoys, but a feud nonetheless when the four Harfield brothers square off against their new neighbors, the Malloy sisters.

*This book is part of a series. Any other book from this series would be a great choice as well.*

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**Brady** by Jean Fritz

Brady has never been trusted with secrets, until now. When he discovers an Underground Railroad station near his family’s farm, he is forced to make his own decision about the slavery controversy. Whatever his decision may be, he knows that this is one secret that must be kept.

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**Bunnicula** by James Howe

This immensely popular children’s story is told from the point of view of a dog named Harold. It all starts when Harold’s human family, the Monroes, goes to see the movie Dracula, and young Toby accidentally sits on a baby rabbit wrapped in a bundle on his seat. How could the family help but take the rabbit home and name it Bunnicula? There is something weird about this rabbit. Pointy fangs, the appearance of a cape, black-and-white coloring, nocturnal habits … it sure seemed like he was a vampire bunny.

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**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** by Roald Dahl

Willy Wonka’s famous chocolate factory is opening at last! But only five lucky children will be allowed inside. And the winners are: Augustus Gloop, an enormously fat boy whose hobby is eating; Veruca Salt, a spoiled-rotten brat whose parents are wrapped around her little finger; Violet Beauregarde, a dim-witted gum-chewer with the fastest jaws around; Mike Teavee, a toy pistol-toting gangster-in-training who is obsessed with television; and Charlie Bucket, Our Hero, a boy who is honest and kind, brave and true, and good and ready for the wildest time of his life!
**Dear Dumb Diary** by Jim Benton (*series*)

This is a series of books about life in Middle School. Jamie Kelly promises everything in her diary is true -- well, true as it needs to be, anyway. You will laugh as you read Jamie's diary entries about her life, especially the ones about the pretty, popular Angeline who, in Jamie's opinion, is a complete goon.

*This book is part of a series. Any other book from this series would be a great choice as well.*

**Diary of a Fairy Godmother** by Esme Raji Codell

Hunky Dory’s mother always told her, "You’ll be the wickedest witch wherever the four winds blow.” And why not? She's at the top of her class in charm school. She can make flowers wilt like wet spaghetti. She can also turn any prince into a frog - but she always changes him back. That’s when she knows she has a problem. Hunky Dory’s interest in “wishcraft” over witchcraft gets her kicked out of charm school. Now she’s determined to follow her heart and become a fairy godmother. But how to go about doing it?

**The Doll People** by Ann M. Martin

Annabelle Doll is 8 years old--and has been for over 100 years. Nothing much has changed in the dollhouse during that time, except for the fact that 45 years ago, Annabelle’s Auntie Sarah disappeared from the dollhouse without a trace.

**Everyone Else’s Parents Said Yes** by Paula Danziger

The girls who Matthew constantly pranks threaten to ruin the party he has been anticipating for weeks, until Matthew finally swallows his pride. He and the girls reach an agreement, and Matthew’s 11th birthday celebration turns out to be even better than he expected.

**Five Children and It** by Edith Nesbit

The last thing Cyril, Anthea, Robert, Jane, and their baby brother expect to find while digging in the sand is a Psammead—an ancient Sand-fairy! Having a Sand-fairy for a pet means having one wish granted each day. But the five-some doesn’t realize the trouble that wishes can cause.
**Float** by Laura Martin

Emerson can float...he just can’t do it very well.

His uncontrollable floating is his RISK factor, which means that he deals with Reoccurring Incidents of the Strange Kind. The last place Emerson wants to be is at a government-mandated summer camp for RISK kids like him, so he’s shocked when he actually starts having fun at camp—and he even makes some new friends.

**Free Baseball** by Sue Corbett

Felix knows his dad was a famous baseball player in Cuba—and that his father risked everything to send Felix to America. But his mom won’t reveal anything else. When a team with Cuban players comes into town, Felix wonders if they knew his dad, and sneaks into their locker room to ask. That’s when the players mistake him for their new batboy. To uncover his father’s story, Felix runs away from home to become the team’s batboy. His bittersweet adventure glows with the friendship of a miraculous dog, the warmth of a mother’s love, and the magic of baseball.

**George Washington’s Socks** by Elvira Woodruff

Time travel and historical fiction combine in this novel of the American Revolution. During a camp out, ten-year-old Matthew, his younger sister Katie, and three friends board an old rowboat and are transported to the Delaware River in 1776.

The Great Brain by John D. Fitzgerald (*series*)

The best con man in the Midwest is only ten years old. Tom, a.k.a., the Great Brain, is a silver-tongued genius with a knack for turning a profit. When the Jenkins boys get lost in Skeleton Cave, the Great Brain saves the day. Whether it’s saving the kids at school, or helping out Peg-leg Andy, or Basil, the new kid at school, the Great Brain always manages to come out on top—and line his pockets in the process.

*This book is part of a series. Any other book from this series would be a great choice as well.
**I got a “D” in Salami** by Henry Winkler, Lin Oliver (*series*)

After getting three Ds on his report card, a panicked Hank and his friends go to his mom’s deli. His report card winds up in the meat grinder and Hank watches as his Ds are ground into a big salami—and this particular salami is being made for a very important client. How will Hank get out of this one?

*This book is part of a series. Any other book from this series would be a great choice as well.*

**The Invention of Hugo Cabret** by Brian Selznick

Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. But when his world suddenly interlocks with an eccentric, bookish girl and a bitter old man who runs a toy booth in the station, Hugo’s undercover life and his most precious secret are put in jeopardy.

**Jackie & Me** by Dan Gutman (*series*)

Joe Stoshack can travel through time with the help of his baseball cards. To write a report he goes back to meet one of the greatest baseball players ever, Jackie Robinson. This trip for a short time changes the color of his skin—and forever changes his view of history and his definition of courage.

*This book is part of a series. Any other book from this series would be a great choice as well (ex. Babe & Me, Shoeless Joe & Me).*

**James and the Giant Peach** by Roald Dahl

Have you ever had a dream? Did you ever have the chance to go somewhere you always wanted but the plans got destroyed? Well James's dream to go to NYC seems so close, but his only way getting there is traveling in a giant peach!

**The Kid Who Only Hit Homers** by Matt Christopher

When a mysterious man promises to make him a great player, Sylvester accepts and begins a phenomenal home-run streak.
**Little House On the Prairie** by Laura Ingalls Wilder (*series*)

Long, long ago, a little girl named Laura Ingalls headed west toward the prairie with her Pa, her Ma, her sisters, Mary and Carrie, and their good old bulldog, Jack. They traveled far each day in their covered wagon, driving through tall grass until they found just the right spot for their new home. With the help of their kind neighbor, Mr. Edwards, Pa built a snug little house for the family in the middle of the wide-open prairie.

*This book is part of a series. Any other book from this series would be a great choice as well.*

**The Little House in the Big Woods** by Laura Ingalls Wilder (*series*)

Written out of the author’s own experience, this outstanding and beloved story of a pioneer girl and her family has been cherished by generations of readers. The Ingalls family lives in Wisconsin in the late 1800’s where pioneer life is sometimes hard, but always exciting. The nine books in the Little House series offer an unforgettable and unique glimpse into America’s frontier past.

*This book is part of a series. Any other book from this series would be a great choice as well.*

**The Million Dollar Putt** by Dan Gutman (*series*)

Edward Bogie Bogard may be blind, but he can learn just about anything he sets his mind to riding a bike, parasailing, or playing guitar. His dad encourages all of his interests except one: golf. So when a few of his classmates invite him to a driving range, no one is more surprised than Bogie when he turns out to have the swing of a natural player. Now what he needs is a coach to win the golfing tournament with a million-dollar prize.

*This book is part of a series. Any other book from this series would be a great choice as well (ex. hockey: The Million Dollar Goal or basketball: The Million Dollar Shot). However, please do not read The Million Dollar Kick as it is part of our reading curriculum.*

**The Million Dollar Shot** by Dan Gutman (*series*)

Eleven year-old Eddie Ball has a problem. He and his mother have dreamed of moving from the trailer park where they live, but now she has lost her job with Finkle Foods. Eddie and his friend, Annie, learn of a poetry contest sponsored by Finkle Foods. The winner of the contest gets an opportunity to sink a foul shot during halftime at the NBA finals and win one million dollars. Eddie is a good basketball player, and with coaching from Annie's father, he becomes even better.

*This book is part of a series. Any other book from this series would be a great choice as well (ex. golf: The Million Dollar Put or hockey: The Million Dollar Goal). However, please do not read The Million Dollar Kick as it is part of our reading curriculum.*
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo

This adventure story is about a magnificent china rabbit who did not know how to love. He only cared about his looks and only half listens to the young girl he belongs to. This all changes when Edward is tossed overboard on the way to England and begins a journey from the depths of the ocean through many new homes and adventures.

Niagara Falls, or Does It? By Henry Winkler, Lin Oliver (*series)

For Hank, fourth grade does not start out on the right foot. First of all, he gets called to the principal's office on the very first day of school. Then the first assignment his teacher gives him is to write five paragraphs on "What You Did This Summer." Hank is terrified-writing one good sentence is hard for him, so how in the world is he going to write five whole paragraphs? Hank comes up with a plan: instead of writing what he did on vacation, he'll show what he did. But when Hank's "living essay" becomes a living disaster, he finds himself in detention. Strangely enough, however, detention ends up becoming a turning point in his life.

*This book is part of a series. Any other book from this series would be a great choice as well.

Poppy by Avi

Poppy, a mouse, is determined to lead her family to a better life. Mr. Ocaz, the bully and a great horned owl, is equally determined to keep them just where they are.

Sideways Arithmetic From Wayside School by Louis Sachar (*series)

"Everyone take out your spelling books," said Mrs. Jewls. "It's time for arithmetic." Sue is so excited about her first day at Wayside School. But things at Wayside are far from normal, and Sue's teacher, Mrs. Jewls, is completely wacky. She expects the students to add and subtract words! She knows adding apples plus oranges is impossible...or is it? Anything can happen at Wayside School.

*This book is part of a series. Any other book from this series would be a great choice as well.
**Sideways Stories from Wayside School** by Louis Sachar (*series*)
The Wayside School was supposed to be one story high, with 30 classrooms side by side; instead, it was built sideways, with 30 one-classroom stories. As befits such a strange school, these tales are a bit strange too.

*This book is part of a series. Any other book from this series would be a great choice as well.*

**Stay Keeper's Story** by Lois Lowry
This is the story of a dog who tells his own tale. As a pup he is separated from his mother and siblings. Through it all, Keeper can't forget his long lost little sister. If only they could be together again, life would be perfect. But an old enemy is watching and waiting to make his move.

**Summer Reading Is Killing Me** by Jon Scieszka
Joe, Fred, and Sam have no idea why they've been transported to a playground. All they know is that there's a 250-pound chicken and it's headed straight for them. While Joe's racking his brains for the magic words to stop a charging chicken, he suddenly has a flash of what's going to happen next. It's exactly like the book he just read. Turns out Fred put their summer reading list inside The Book (the magic one, that is)—and now they're destined to spend their summer living stories that were only meant to be read.

**Summer School! What Genius Thought That Up?** by Henry Winkler, Lin Oliver (*series*)
Hank Zipzer has just finished fourth grade. Instead of a summer of relaxation, he must go to summer school while his two best friends, Frankie and Ashley, attend an exciting summer camp—the Junior Explorers Program. Hank has had trouble at school because he has "learning challenges." This means he has difficulty recalling facts and he does not perform well under pressure. Lucky for Hank, his summer school teacher is both a good friend and sympathetic teacher.

*This book is part of a series. Any other book from this series would be a great choice as well.*
**The Team that Couldn’t Lose** by Matt Christopher

A young, inexperienced football team discovers its beginner’s luck is due to a series of mysterious but successful plays anonymously sent to the coach.

**There’s a Boy in the Girls’ Bathroom** by Louis Sachar

Bradley Chalkers tells enormous lies, he picks fights with girls, and teachers say that he has serious behavior problems. Bradley may be the strangest kid in school, but he’s not completely hopeless! The triumph of this weird, insecure middle school bully will appeal to every reader who’s cheered for – or been – the underdog.

**Tom’s Midnight Garden** by Philippa Pearce

Tom is furious. His brother, Peter, has measles, so now Tom is being shipped off to stay with Aunt Gwen and Uncle Alan in their boring old apartment. There’ll be nothing to do there and no one to play with. Tom just counts the days till he can return home to Peter. Then one night the landlady’s antique grandfather clock strikes thirteen times leading Tom to a wonderful, magical discovery and marking the beginning of a secret that’s almost too amazing to be true.

**Wayside School is Falling Down** by Louis Sachar (*series)

The wacky school first portrayed in *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* is back. But in the sequel, the students venture further than they dared before: Myron walks down to the basement, Allison finds the nonexistent 29th floor, Mrs. Jewls drops a brand-new computer from the 30th floor, Jenny reads a story backwards, and a substitute teacher turns the tables on the class.

*This book is part of a series. Any other book from this series would be a great choice as well.*
**Who Was Ben Franklin** by Dennis Fradin (*series*)

This is an often funny, always engaging introduction to one of America's most fascinating founding fathers. Franklin is affectionately and respectfully depicted as a man of insatiable intellectual curiosity with a tireless creative and inventive mind who played indispensable roles in the War for Independence and the establishment of the U.S. government.

* This book is part of a series. Any other book from this series would be a great choice as well. However, please do not read *Who is Malala Yousafzai, Who was King Tut, or Who Was Nelson Mandela*, as they are part of our reading curriculum.

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**The Wild Robot** by Peter Brown

When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is--but she knows she needs to survive. After battling a fierce storm and escaping a vicious bear attack, she realizes that her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island’s unwelcoming animal inhabitants.

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**The Willoughbys** by Lois Lowry

Tim, Jane, and the twins, Barnaby A and Barnaby B, are four rather ordinary children. They just happen to have extraordinarily horrible parents. And that requires some extraordinary scheming including trying to rid themselves of their terrible parents. This is a humorous book.

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*World of Adventure Series – by Gary Paulsen*  
(*same series as Escape From Fire Mountain*)