



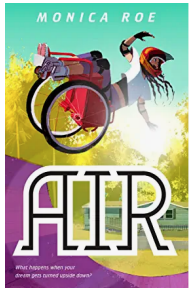
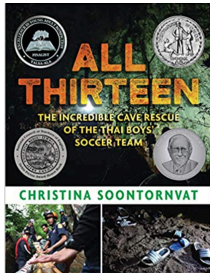
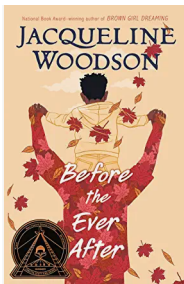
Pollard Summer Reading List

For Rising 7th Grade

Students should read a minimum of two books over the summer. ONE of the books must be from this list. The second book is free choice. Students should complete the summer reading form and will complete an ELA assignment in the fall using one of the books.

<p>Alkaf, Hanna. <i>Queen of the Tiles</i> (2022)</p> 	<p>Najwa Bakri, trying to heal from losing her best friend, ends up embroiled in an investigation of her death amid the cutthroat scene of competitive Scrabble.</p>	<p>Good for students excited for a thriller and ready for an examination of teen mental health.</p>
<p>Arango, Andrea Beatriz. <i>Iveliz Explains It All</i> (2022)</p> 	<p>7th grader Iveliz copes with PTSD and her grandmother's arrival from Puerto Rico in this timely story about overcoming grief.</p>	<p>A powerful verse novel about a 7th grader learning how to address prior trauma. This is a deep and thought-provoking text.</p> <p>*Please note, this book contains references to themes of self harm.</p>
<p>Bajaj, Varsha. <i>Thirst</i> (2023)</p> 	<p>Minni lives in Mumbai, where she deals with the consequences of extreme water shortages in her neighborhood while witnessing an abundance of water in the building where she works. Eventually she has to make a tough decision.</p>	<p>A <i>New York Times</i> bestseller praised for being a fast paced, engaging read.</p>
<p>Chee, Traci. <i>A Thousand Steps into Night</i> (2022)</p> 	<p>Miuko embarks on a quest to reverse the curse that has transformed her into a demon. She finds herself on a journey of self discovery - one that she did not ask for - in order to find herself and the power she has always had inside.</p>	<p>For those who enjoy being steeped in world building and fantastical tales of mythology.</p>

<p>Esplin, J.L., <i>96 Miles</i> (2020)</p> 	<p>Two brothers trek through the desert in an attempt to reach help and much-needed supplies for survival.</p>	<p>Good for readers who want a faced paced survival story.</p>
<p>Gibbs, Stuart. <i>Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation</i> (2023)</p> 	<p>Charlie Thorne, a child-genius, uses her code-breaking skills to search for Einstein's hidden equation in an attempt to save the world.</p>	<p>Stuart Gibbs fans will appreciate this new series about a genius level super spy. Great for graduates of Spy School and FunJungle.</p>
<p>Green, Tim. <i>Final Season</i> (2021)</p> 	<p>Middle school quarterback Benjamin Redd faces what might be his final season in football, as he grapples with his father's ALS diagnosis and his community's expectations.</p>	<p>A standalone football book by Tim Green, the former Atlanta Falcon. Good for fans of Mike Lupica and Tommy Greenwald.</p>
<p>LeZotte, Ann Clare. <i>Show Me a Sign</i> (2021)</p> 	<p>Mary Lambert must contend with new forces that threaten to disrupt the safe and supportive Deaf community on Martha's Vineyard, where she has grown up and thrived. Inspired by true history.</p>	<p>Good for historical fiction fans. Early chapters show the Deaf community of Martha's Vineyard, and then the pace picks up. Will appeal to Jennifer Nielsen fans.</p>
<p>Marsh, Katherine. <i>Nowhere Boy</i> (2020)</p> 	<p>14 year old Ahmed, a refugee from Syria, befriends Max, an American boy from Washington, DC, when they are both lonely and living in Brussels, Belgium. The boys' friendship grows over a series of adventures.</p>	<p>Filled with complex themes of family, friendship, loyalty, fear, Islamophobia, and adversity, the novel ends on a strong note of hope.</p>

<p>Okogwu, Tola. <i>Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun</i> (2022)</p> 	<p>Onyeka is shocked to discover psychokinetic powers that qualify her for admission to the Academy of the Sun, a school in Nigeria where the elite Solari train.</p>	<p>Rick Riordan fans will love this contemporary adventure with Nigerian customs and culture.</p>
<p>Robertson, David A. <i>Barren Grounds</i> (2021)</p> 	<p>Morgan and Eli, two indigenous children living in the same foster home, discover a portal to another world. They must be resilient and learn to rely on each other.</p>	<p><i>One for the Murphys</i> meets <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i>. A portal fantasy, infused with Cree culture.</p>
<p>Roe, Monica. <i>Air</i> (2023)</p> 	<p>12 year old Emmie finds herself facing a community fundraiser that has lost track of her actual needs. Her friends help her to reclaim her agency.</p>	<p>For fans of <i>Out of My Mind</i> and those who like reading about people who push their limits.</p>
<p>Soontornvat, Christina. <i>All Thirteen: the Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team</i> (2020)</p> 	<p>Thailand, 2018, a soccer team of 12 boys go for a casual hike in a public forest and become trapped for two weeks in a flooded cave a half mile underground.</p>	<p>This true tale of survival and resilience is a deep dive into a disaster that kept the entire planet riveted. "All Thirteen" combines great storytelling with photos, diagrams, and maps.</p>
<p>Woodson, Jacqueline. <i>Before the Ever After</i> (2022)</p> 	<p>ZJ and his loving family are faced with new challenges when his father begins to experience negative side effects from injuries he sustained as a pro football player.</p>	<p>This verse novel appeals to fans of football, friends, and families.</p>