

The Pingry School Summer Reading 2025

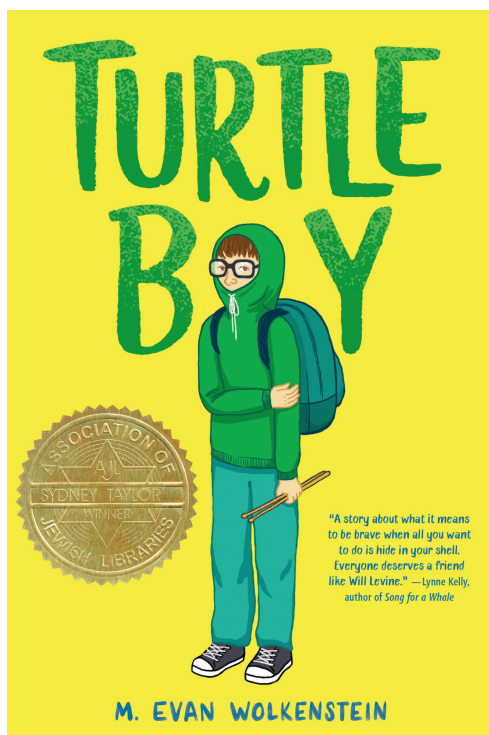
Required Reading for Entering Form I (Grade 7)

All in-coming Grade 7 (Form I) students must purchase a copy of *Turtle Boy* by M. Evan Wolkenstein and read it over the summer. They must also complete the attached [graphic organizer](#) digitally and be ready to share it with their teacher on the first day of school. The graphic organizer will count as their first graded homework assignment of the first trimester. During the first days of school, each student must bring their copy of the novel to use in English class for a summer reading unit.

In addition, each student must read **at least ONE book of their choice** from the list below (please scroll down to page 2) and be ready to discuss it upon their return to school.

We recommend reading the book of choice earlier in the summer and *Turtle Boy* in August.

REQUIRED BOOK (all students must read):



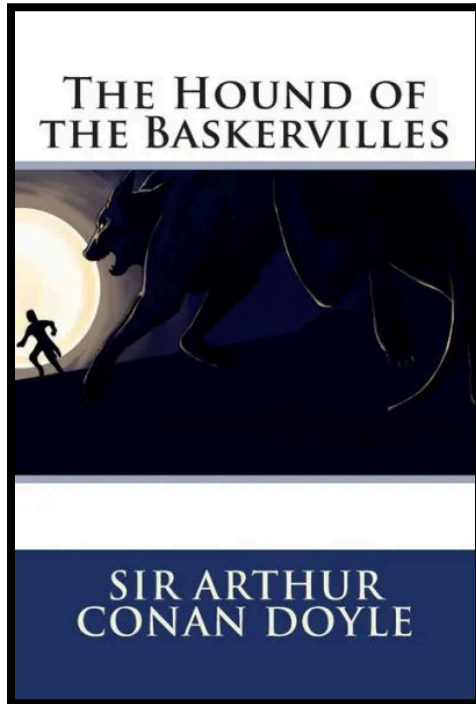
Turtle Boy, M. Evan Wolkenstein

Seventh grade is not going well for Will Levine. Kids at school bully him because of his funny-looking chin. His science teacher finds out about the turtles he spent his summer collecting from the marsh behind school and orders him to release them back into the wild. And for his bar mitzvah community service project, he has to go to the hospital to visit RJ, an older boy struggling with an incurable disease. Unfortunately, Will hates hospitals.

At first, the boys don't get along, but then RJ shares his bucket list with Will. Among the things he wants to do: ride a roller coaster, go to a concert and a school dance, and swim in the ocean. To Will, happiness is hanging out in his room, alone, preferably with his turtles. But as RJ's disease worsens, Will realizes he needs to tackle the bucket list on his new friend's behalf before it's too late. It seems like an impossible mission, way outside Will's comfort zone. But as he completes each task with RJ's guidance, Will learns that life is too short to live in a shell.

CHOICES FOR SECOND BOOK:

(This second book of choice is also **REQUIRED**--scroll down to next page)

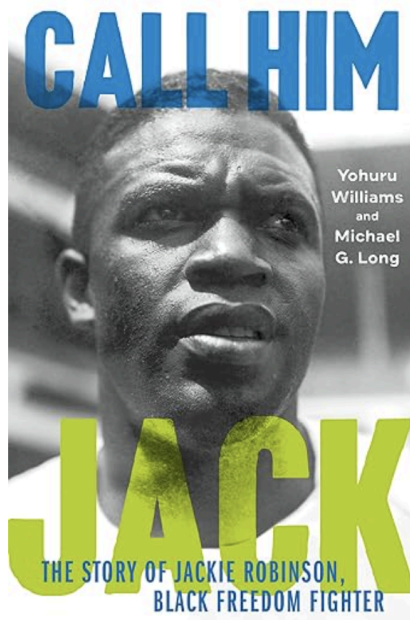


The Hound of the Baskervilles, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Get ready for a journey to the Baskervilles, where the famous detective Sherlock Holmes and his faithful friend Dr. Watson are enlisted to solve the murder of Sir Charles Baskerville.

Could the culprit somehow be mixed up with secretive servant Barrymore, history-obsessed Dr. Frankland, butterfly-chasing Stapleton, or Selden, the Notting Hill murderer at large? Someone's been signaling with candles from the mansion's windows. Nor can supernatural forces be ruled out. Can Dr. Watson--left alone by Sherlock Holmes to sleuth in fear for much of the novel--save the next Baskerville, Sir Henry, from the hound's fangs?

Something unnatural and evil walks the house, lurking for unwary souls. Turn on the lights, lock the doors, close the shutters, hide under the bed cover and get ready to look directly into the dark soul of crime and let the Gothic atmosphere of one of the best works of the Victorian era carry you away.



Call Him Jack, Yohuru Williams and Michael G. Long

An enthralling, eye-opening portrayal of this barrier-breaking American hero as a lifelong, relentlessly proud fighter for Black justice and civil rights.

According to Martin Luther King, Jr., Jackie Robinson was “a sit-inner before the sit-ins, a freedom rider before the Freedom Rides.” According to Hank Aaron, Robinson was a leader of the Black Power movement before there was a Black Power movement. According to his wife, Rachel Robinson, he was always Jack, not Jackie—the diminutive form of his name bestowed on him in college by white sports writers. And throughout his whole life, Jack Robinson was a fighter for justice, an advocate for equality, and an inspiration beyond just baseball.



***King and the Dragonflies*, Kacen Callender**

Kingston James is sure his brother Khalid has turned into a dragonfly. When Khalid unexpectedly passed away, he shed what was his first skin for another to live down by the bayou in their small Louisiana town. Khalid still visits in dreams, and King must keep these secrets to himself as he watches grief transform his family.

It would be easier if King could talk with his best friend, Sandy. But days before he died, Khalid told King to end their friendship, after overhearing a secret about Sandy.

But when Sandy goes missing and King finds his former best friend hiding in a tent in his backyard, he agrees to help Sandy escape from his abusive father, and the two begin an adventure as they build their own private paradise down by the bayou and among the dragonflies. As King's friendship with Sandy is reignited, he's forced to confront questions about himself and the reality of his brother's death.



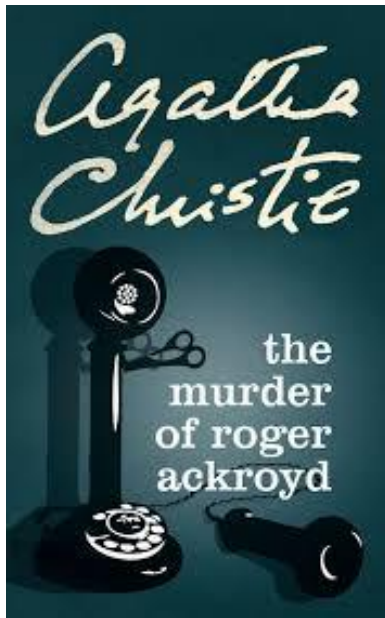
***The Last Cuentista*, Donna Barba Higuera**

There lived a girl named Petra Peña, who wanted nothing more than to be a storyteller, like her abuelita.

But Petra's world is ending. Earth has been destroyed by a comet, and only a few hundred scientists and their children – among them 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, bent on erasing the sins of humanity's past. They have systematically purged the memories of all aboard – or purged them altogether.

Petra alone now carries the stories of our past, and with them, any hope for our future. Can she make them live again?

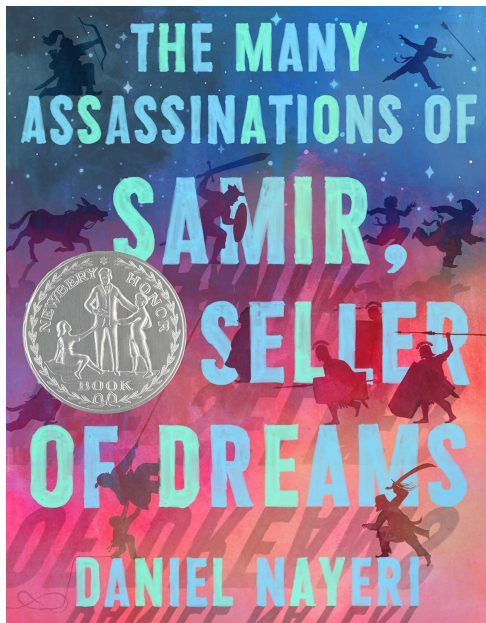


***The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, Agatha Christie**

Agatha Christie's *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* breaks all the rules of traditional mystery writing.

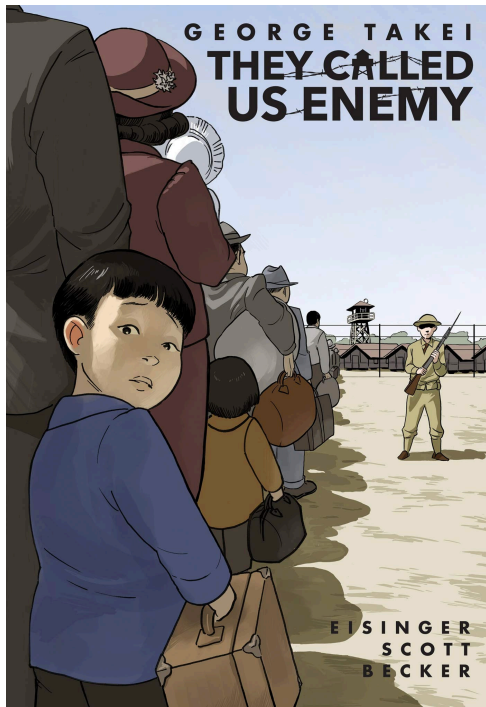
The peaceful English village of King's Abbot is stunned. First, the attractive widow Ferrars dies from an overdose. Not twenty-four hours later, Roger Ackroyd—the man she had planned to marry—is murdered.

It is a baffling, complex case involving blackmail, suicide, and violent death, a cast that taxes Hercule Poirot's "little grey cells" before he reaches one of the most startling conclusions of his fabled career.



***The Many Assassinations of Samir, Seller of Dreams*, Daniel Nayeri**

This is the tale of an exciting journey along the Silk Road with a young Monk and his newfound guardian, Samir, a larger than life character and the so-called "Seller of Dreams". The man is a scammer; his biggest skill being the ability to talk his way into getting what he wants. While that talking did save Monkey's life, it has left a lot of people furious with Samir—furious enough to hire assassins. Monkey decides to try and save Samir from the attempts on his life—as a way to pay off his debt! If he can save Samir six times, he'll be a free man...but will they all survive that long?

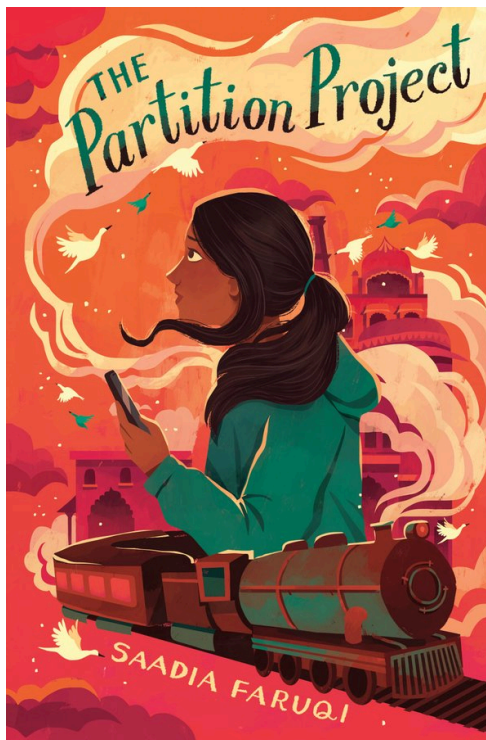


***They Called Us Enemy*, George Takei**

George Takei, actor and activist, woke up as a four-year-old boy to find his own birth country at war with his father's -- and their entire family forced from their home into an uncertain future.

In 1942, at the order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, every person of Japanese descent on the west coast was rounded up and shipped to one of ten "relocation centers," hundreds or thousands of miles from home, where they would be held for years under armed guard.

This graphic memoir, *They Called Us Enemy*, is Takei's account of those years behind barbed wire, the joys and terrors of growing up under legalized racism, his mother's hard choices, his father's faith in democracy, and the way those experiences planted the seeds for his astonishing future.

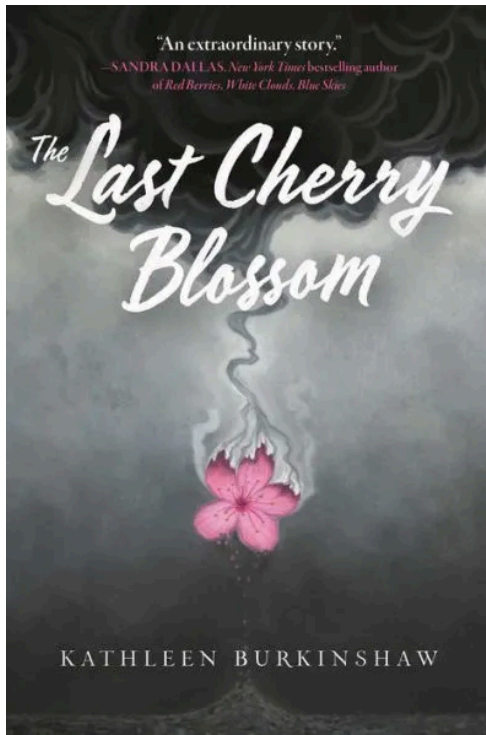


***The Partition Project*, Saadia Faruqi**

When her grandmother comes off the airplane in Houston from Pakistan, Mahnoor knows that having Dadi move in is going to disrupt everything about her life. She doesn't have time to be Dadi's unofficial babysitter—her journalism teacher has announced that their big assignment will be to film a documentary, which feels more like storytelling than what Maha would call "journalism."

As Dadi starts to settle into life in Houston and Maha scrambles for a subject for her documentary, the two of them start talking. About Dadi's childhood in northern India—and about the Partition that forced her to leave her home and relocate to the newly created Pakistan.

As details of Dadi's life are revealed, Dadi's personal story feels a lot more like the breaking news that Maha loves so much. And before she knows it, she has the subject of her documentary.



***The Last Cherry Blossom*, Kathleen Burkinshaw**

Yuriko was happy growing up in Hiroshima when it was just her and Papa. But her aunt Kimiko and her cousin Genji are living with them now, and the family is only getting bigger with talk of a double marriage! And while things are changing at home, the world beyond their doors is even more unpredictable. World War II is coming to an end, and Japan's fate is not entirely clear, with any battle losses being hidden from its people. Yuriko is used to the sirens and the air-raid drills, but things start to feel more real when the neighbors who have left to fight stop coming home. When the bomb hits Hiroshima, it's through Yuriko's twelve-year-old eyes that we witness the devastation and horror.

This is a story that offers young readers insight into how children lived during the war, while also introducing them to Japanese culture. Based loosely on author Kathleen Burkinshaw's mother's first hand experience surviving the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, *The Last Cherry Blossom* hopes to warn readers of the immense damage nuclear war can bring, while reminding them that the "enemy" in any war is often not so different from ourselves.

Please note: All book descriptions from GoodReads.com.