

Newsletter Contents: (click an icon to jump ahead)



Independent Reading



Book Recommendations



The "Lit" Bit

"Quote This"

"When you read to a child, when you put a book in a child's hands, you are bringing that child news of the infinitely varied nature of life. *You are an awakener.*" - Paula Fox



Independent Reading

[Five important reasons to support student choice in independent reading!](#)

What do Brookline students have to say about independent reading?

"I like reading chapter books with my mom and dad. There is a lot of magic in them. A lot of the books I read have fairies and potions in them. I imagine what it looks like if I was there...I like being read to because I like hearing stories, especially long stories... I can just listen and enjoy."

-Stella, grade 1

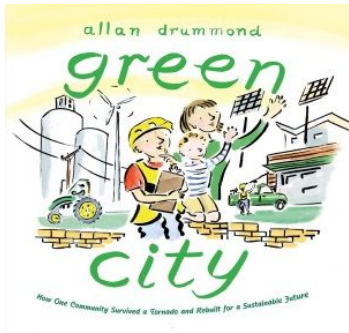
"I love the books I get to read, because they're all super interesting. I love magic, Harry Potter, Percy Jackson, and I get to read about magic all the time. I love that I get to read for so long! I wish we could even read for longer! "

-Ingrid, grade 4

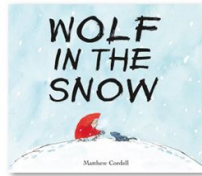
"I read because it helps me grow as a writer, which I really want to be. The books I read provide examples of solid writing. It also allows me to imagine things I can't see in real life which provides a form of escape."

-David, grade 7

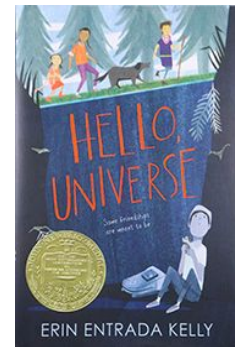
What's **HOT!** on the Bookshelf?!



[Horn Book's Suggestions for Earth Day 2018](#)



[Caldecott Books 2018](#)



[Newbury Awards 2018](#)

Suggestions from the ELA Notebook of . . . a Brookline 7th Grader

#	Title	Author	Genre
1	The Book Thief	Markus Zusak	Historical Fiction
2	The Family Romanov	Candace Fleming	Narrative NF
3	Persepolis	Marjane Satrapi	Memoir
4	The Midnight Star	Marie Lu	Fantasy
5	The Impossible Knife of Memory	Laura Halse Anderson	Realistic Fiction
6	The Sun is Also a Star	Nicola Yoon	Realistic Fiction
7	The Good Braider	Terry Ferish	Realistic Fiction
8	All the Broken Pieces	Ann E Burg	Historical Fiction
9	Brown Girl Dreaming	Jacqueline Woodson	Memoir
10	Throne of Glass	Sarah J Maas	Fantasy
11	Red Queen	Victoria Aveyard	Fantasy
12	The Fifth Wave	Rick Yancey	Science Fiction
13	Unwind	Neal Shusterman	Science Fiction



The “Lit” Bit

Inspiration for Your Community of Readers and Writers



Promoting Diversity in Reading Choices

[Promoting diversity in book choices](#) helps children to view books not only as mirrors that reflect themselves but also as windows that peer into the lives of others.

Watch a [TEDx Natick Talk](#) of Grace Lin speaking about the importance of “windows and mirrors.”

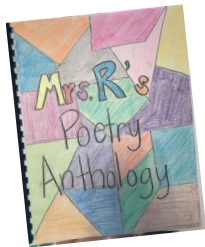
Free Resource: [Newsela](#) publishes high-interest nonfiction articles at five different reading levels. Check out the text set called “A Mile in Our Shoes” which contains articles representing a variety of cultures and identities.

Read this Newsela [article](#) about Marley Dias, a young girl from New Jersey who started a campaign to get more books with black girls as the main characters into the hands of kids.



Comprehension Questions to Ask Your Child

Ever wonder what to ask your children about their independent reading? [Here is a list](#) of questions that might come in handy. They are divided into grade sections: primary (K-2), intermediate (3-5) and middle school (6-8).



Celebrating National Poetry Month

National Poetry Month happens each April. Even though the month is ending, it’s not too late to try out some poetry-inspired activities at home.

1. Create a paper “[anthology](#)” of your favorite poems, or make one online.
2. Buy a [book of poetry](#) from your local bookstore to read together.
3. Chalk a poem on the sidewalk.
4. Have some fun with poetry [games and puzzles](#) from Shel Silverstein
5. Learn about a Children’s poet and watch a [video interview](#) online.

Thank you for reading our first edition of the Brookline ELA Department Newsletter. We welcome your ideas, feedback, and suggestions [here](#).