Required Reading: **Seedfolks by Paul Fleischman**

*This short story collection tells the stories of the many different people whose lives are touched by a community garden.*

*You will be discussing this book at the beginning of the school year so you'll probably want to read it as close to September as possible. In addition to Seedfolks, you are required to read one book from the Recommended Reading list below.*

---

**Recommended:** Summer is the perfect time to enjoy some fun, relaxing reading. To get you started, we have created this list of award winners, new titles and old favorites. Enjoy! Angie & Emily

- **Ash by Malinda Lo**
  Described as "Cinderella...with a twist," this story is in many ways the familiar fairy tale about a girl’s move from comfort to despair to true love (with a little help from fairies and magic).

- **A Crack in the Sea by H.M. Bouwman**
  Three sets of siblings are brought together on an adventure of a lifetime by a little magic, helpful sea monsters and a special portal that only opens when least expected.

- **The Distance Between Us: Young Readers Edition by Reyna Grande**
  This honest first-person account may be a mirror for many readers, allowing them to see reflections of their own strengths, possibilities, and hopes.

- **Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans by Don Brown**
  On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina’s monstrous winds and surging water overwhelmed the protective levees around low-lying New Orleans, Louisiana.

- **Flying Lessons & Other Stories edited by Ellen Oh**
  Whether it is basketball dreams, family fiascos, first crushes, or new neighborhoods, this bold anthology—written by the best children’s authors—celebrates the uniqueness and universality in all of us.

- **Game World by Christopher John Farley**
  In order to save his sister and his friends, Dylan must solve a dangerous mystery in three days and uncover secrets about Xamaica, his family, and himself.
Hidden Figures: the Untold True Story of Four African-American Women Who Helped Launch Our Nation Into Space by Margot Lee Shetterly
The uplifting, amazing true story of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, & Christine Darden.

Lost in the Sun by Lisa Graff
For Trent, middle school feels like a fresh start, a chance to prove to everyone that he’s not the horrible screw-up they seem to think he is.

March: Books 1-3 by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell
Discover the inside story of the Civil Rights Movement through the eyes of one of its most iconic figures, Congressman John Lewis.

Jazmin's Notebook by Nikki Grimes
With exuberance, passion, perception, and wit, 14-year-old Jazmin Shelby fills her notebook with glimpses of her life, neighborhood, family, and dreams in Harlem in the 1960s.

A Mango-shaped Space by Wendy Mass
Mia Winchell has synesthesia, the mingling of perceptions whereby a person can see sounds, smell colors, or taste shapes.

One Crazy Summer by Rita Garcia-Williams
Three Brooklyn sisters thought summer in California with their mom would mean Disneyland and Hollywood, instead it's Black Panther camo and cheap Chinese takeout.

A Summer Life by Gary Soto
In this lively collection of short essays, Soto takes his reader to a ground-level perspective, recreating in vivid detail the sights, sounds, smells, and textures he knew growing up in his Fresno, California, neighborhood.

The Thing About Luck by Cynthia Kadohata
There is bad luck, good luck, and making your own luck—which is exactly what Summer must do to save her family.

A Time to Dance by Padma Venkatraman
Veda, a classical dance prodigy in India, lives and breathes dance—so when an accident leaves her a below-knee amputee, her dreams are shattered.

Zombie Baseball Beatdown by Paolo Bacigalupi
The zombie apocalypse begins on the day Rabi, Miguel, and Joe are practicing baseball near their town's local meatpacking plant and nearly get knocked out by a really big stink!