



2017 Summer Reading Lists

Entering 5th Grade

Prepared by the Todd 5th Grade Teachers.

Welcome to Fifth Grade!

Attached you will find a list of selections for your summer reading. The list is quite comprehensive, so you will have no difficulty finding a book that appeals to every reading preference and ability level. Some may already be too easy, while others may be best saved for a later time. Please take your time to make an appropriate, enjoyable choice. Keep this list as a resource to help you choose books throughout the school year!

As an incoming fifth grader you are required to:

1. Read at least two books from the attached list
2. Pick books from two different genres
3. Share your readings with a parent
4. **Be prepared to discuss orally** with your teacher/classmates on the first day of school the following topics:
 - The best thing that happened in the book is...
 - What I like best/least about this plot is...
 - What I like best/least about one character is...
 - Would you recommend the book to a friend?

Have a wonderful summer! Enjoy your books!

We look forward to seeing you in September!
The Fifth Grade Team



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Note: Any book from a series listed here is acceptable.

Genre: Adventure



Hero by Mike Lupica 289 pages.

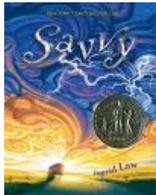
Fourteen-year-old Zach learns he has the same special abilities as his father, who was the president's globe-trotting troubleshooter until "the Bads" killed him. Now Zach must decide whether to use his powers in the same way at the risk of his own life.



The Mysterious Benedict Society [*Mysterious Benedict Society* series] by Trenton Lee Stewart 485 pages.

WATCH THE VIDEO BOOKTALK! Go to: briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.



Savvy by Ingrid Law 352 pages.

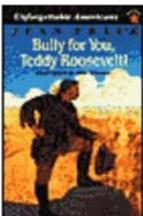
For generations, the Beaumont family has harbored a magical secret. They each possess a savvy—a supernatural power they acquire at 14. On the eve of Mib's big day, she finds herself on an unforgettable odyssey that will force her to make sense of growing up.



Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo 164 pages.

When Michael is swept off his family's yacht, he washes up on a desert island, where he struggles to survive--until he finds he is not alone.

Genre: Biography



Bully for You, Teddy Roosevelt! by Jean Fritz 127 pages.

Follows the life of the dynamic twenty-sixth president, discussing his conservation work, hunting expeditions, family life, and political career.

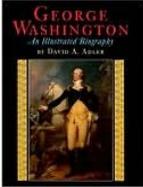


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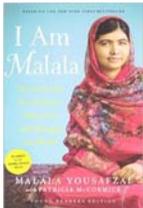
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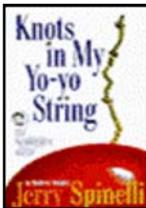
Genre: Biography, cont.



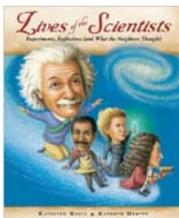
George Washington by David A. Adler 288 pages.
Tells the life story of the first American president, George Washington, focusing largely on the Revolutionary War, and includes a chronology, a table of Revolutionary battles, biographies of Washington's generals and cabinet, illustrations, and maps.



I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World [Young Readers Edition] by Malala Yousafzai with Patricia McCormick 239 pages.
The autobiography of a girl who refused to keep quiet. When the Taliban took over, she spoke up and almost paid the ultimate price.



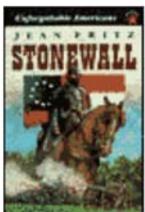
Knots in My Yo-yo String: The Autobiography of a Kid by Jerry Spinelli 160 pages.
This Italian-American Newbery Medalist presents a humorous account of his childhood and youth in Norristown, Pennsylvania.



Lives of Scientists: Experiments, Explosions (and What the Neighbors Thought) by Kathleen Krull 96 pages.
This collective biography of history's most noteworthy scientists includes many interesting lesser known facts about the way they lived.



Sparky by Beverly Gherman 128 pages.
A biography of Peanuts creator Charles Schulz, illustrated with photographs and selections from the comic strip.



Stonewall by Jean Fritz 160 pages.
A biography of the brilliant southern general who gained the nickname Stonewall by his stand at Bull Run during the Civil War.



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Genre: Fantasy/Science Fiction



The Book of Three [*Chronicles of Prydain* series] by Lloyd Alexander 124 pages. Taran, Assistant Pig-Keeper to a famous oracular sow, sets out on a hazardous mission to save Prydain from the forces of evil.



Cosmic by Frank Cottrell Boyce 320 pages. Twelve- year-old Liam, who looks like he is thirty and is tired of being treated like he is older than he actually is, decides he is going to pose as the adult chaperone on the first spaceship to take civilians into space. But when he ends up in outer space with a group of kids and no adult supervision, he must think fast to make things right.



Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine 238 pages.
WATCH THE VIDEO BOOKTALK! Go to: briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/
In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.



Harry Potter and the Prisoner of the Order of the Phoenix [*Harry Potter* series] by J.K. Rowling 435 pages.

WATCH THE VIDEO BOOKTALK! Go to: briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/
Harry Potter is a wizard who attends the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, and discovers it is up to him to save the world, which leads to many exciting adventures with his friends Ron and Hermione.



The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe [*The Chronicles of Narnia* series] by C.S. Lewis 189 pages.

Four English schoolchildren find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter.



The Lost Hero [*The Heroes of Olympus* series] by Rick Riordan 553 pages.

Jason, Piper, and Leo, three students from a school for "bad kids," find themselves at Camp Half-Blood, where they learn that they are demigods and begin a quest to free Hera, who has been imprisoned by Mother Earth herself.



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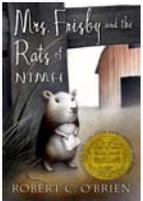
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Genre: Fantasy/Science Fiction cont.



Molly Moon's Incredible Book of Hypnotism [Molly Moon series] by Georgia Byng 371 pages.

Author Georgia Byng mesmerizes audiences with an entrancing tale about a down-and-out orphan who hypnotizes her way to big-time adventures.



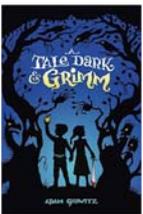
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH by Robert O'Brien 233 pages.

Having no one to help her with her problems, a widowed mouse visits the rats whose former imprisonment in a laboratory made them wise and long lived.



Rapunzel's Revenge by Shannon Hale 144 pages.

Rapunzel, having grown up in a lovely castle with the woman she thought was her mother, is placed in a very tall hollow tree as punishment. She is able to escape and, with the help of Jack, embarks on a plan to free the land from the grip of the witch. [graphic novel]



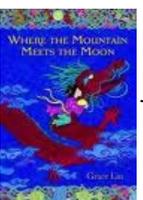
A Tale Dark and Grimm by Adam Gidwitz 256 pages.

Follow Hansel and Gretel as they walk out of their own story and into eight more tales, encountering such wicked creatures as witches, along with kindly strangers and other helpful folk. Based in part on the Grimms' fairy tales.



The Unwanteds [Unwanteds series] by Lisa McMann 400 pages.

In a society that purges thirteen-year-olds who are creative, identical twins Aaron and Alex are separated, one to attend University while the other, supposedly Eliminated, finds himself in a wondrous place where youths hone their abilities and learn magic.



Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin 288 pages.

Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish, and then joins a dragon who cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bringing life to Fruitless Mountain and freshness to Jade River.



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Genre: Historical Fiction



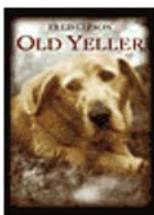
Call It Courage by Armstrong Sperry 95 pages.
Relates how Mafatu, a young Polynesian boy whose name means Stout Heart, overcomes his terrible fear of the sea and proves his courage to himself and his people.



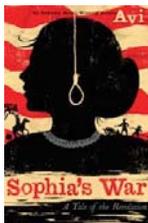
The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick 533 pages.
When 12-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his bigger secret are jeopardized.



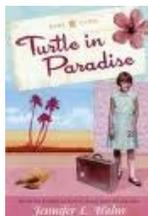
Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool 351 pages.
Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up, and where she hopes to find out some things about his past.



Old Yeller by Fred Gipson 158 pages.
The stray dog was ugly, and a thieving rascal, too. But he sure was clever, and a smart dog could be a big help on the wild Texas frontier, especially with Papa away on a long cattle drive up to Abilene.



Sophia's War by Avi 302 pages.
In 1776, after witnessing the execution of Nathan Hale in New York City, newly occupied by the British army, young Sophia Calderwood resolves to do all she can to help the American cause, including becoming a spy.



Turtle in Paradise by Jennifer Holm 208 pages.
In 1935, when her mother gets a job housekeeping for a woman who does not like children, eleven-year-old Turtle is sent to stay with relatives she has never met in far away Key West, Florida.



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Genre: Historical Fiction cont.



When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead 199 pages.

WATCH THE VIDEO BOOKTALK! Go to: briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/

Miranda tries to figure out what is going on when she starts receiving mysterious notes and her best friend stops talking to her all of a sudden.



Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman 90 pages.

A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws.

Genre: Humorous Fiction



A Crooked Kind of Perfect by Linda Urban 214 pages.

WATCH THE VIDEO BOOKTALK! Go to: briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/

Ten-year-old Zoe Elias, who longs to play the piano but must resign herself to learning the organ instead, finds that her musicianship has a positive impact on her workaholic mother, her jittery father, and her school social life.



Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rats by Lynne Jonell 346 pages.

Hilarious, inventive, and rodent-friendly, this fantastic first novel by acclaimed picture book author Jonell features a lonely girl, a cantankerous talking rat, and a nanny who is doing very, "very" bad things. Includes a fun flip-book feature.



The Pushcart War by Jean Merrill 222 pages.

The outbreak of a war between truck drivers and pushcart peddlers brings the mounting problems of traffic to the attention of both the city of New York and the world.



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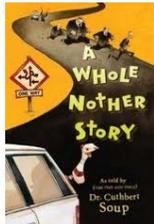
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Genre: Humorous Fiction, cont.



Science Fair by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson 394 pages.
The president of Kprshtskan is plotting to infiltrate the science fair at Hubble Middle School in Maryland in order to take over the United States government, but when Toby Harbinger, an ordinary student, makes up his mind finally to win the fair, the terrorists' plans go awry.



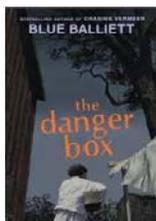
A Whole Nother Story by Chuthbert Soup 264 pages.
Ethan Cheeseman and his children, ages eight, twelve, and fourteen, hope to settle in a nice small town, at least long enough to complete work on a time machine, but spies and government agents have been pursuing them for two years and are about to catch up.



Ungifted by Gordon Korman 280 pages.

WATCH THE VIDEO BOOKTALK! Go to: briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/
Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at middle school.

Genre: Mystery



The Danger Box by Blue Balliett 306 pages.

In small-town Michigan, twelve-year-old Zoomy and his new friend Lorrol investigate the journal found inside a mysterious box, and find family secrets and more valuable treasure, while a dangerous stranger watches and waits.



Found [*The Missing series*] by Margaret Peterson Haddix 314 pages.

When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel.

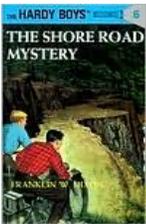


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Genre: Mystery, cont.



Hardy Boys series by Franklin W. Dixon 178 pages.
Frank and Joe Hardy solve a different mystery in this classic book series.

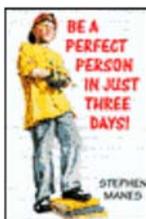


The Name of This Book Is Secret [*Secret* series] by Pseudonymous Bosch 384 pages.
This is the story of a secret, and also a secret story. Cass and Max Ernest are two friendless 11-year-olds who come together to solve the mystery surrounding a dead magician and the clues he left behind. Along the way they must solve puzzles and word games and face incredible danger to answer their questions.



The Seven Keys of Balabad by Paul Haven 288 pages.
Oliver Finch, who lives with his father in Balabad, tries to deal with his boredom when a five-hundred-year-old sacred carpet is stolen and one of his friends disappears, causing Oliver to hunt down members of the Brotherhood of Arachosia and reveal a secret that is centuries old.

Genre: Realistic Fiction



Be a Perfect Person in Just Three Days by Stephen Manes 76 pages.
Milo, tired of problems with his sister, parents, and classmates, finds a book in the library which promises to make him perfect in just three days.



Everything for a Dog by Ann Martin 211 pages.
** Sad story alert. **
In parallel stories, Bone, an orphaned dog, finds and loses a series of homes, Molly, a family pet, helps Charlie through the grief and other after-effects of his brother's death, and lonely Henry pleads for a dog of his own.



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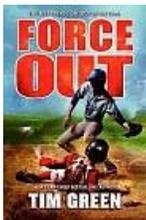
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Genre: Realistic Fiction, cont.



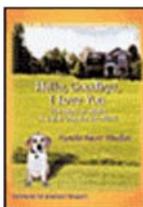
Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt 276 pages.
Ally feels so afraid and incredibly dumb. She's hiding an important fact about herself from everyone — even her family. With the help of her new teacher she overcomes her fears and finds out how amazing she is.



Force Out by Tim Green 282 pages
When Joey has to compete with his best friend, Zach, for a single spot on an elite baseball team, he is forced to decide how far he is willing to go to win.



Half a Chance by Cynthia Lord 218 pages.
Lucy spends the summer taking pictures to enter in a photography contest and making a new friend in the town that she just moved to with her mother and traveling photographer father.



Hello, Goodbye, I Love You: The Story of Aloha a Guide Dog for the Blind by Pamela Bauer Mueller 160 pages.
This is the story of seventh-grader Diego, who raises a puppy to become a guide dog for the blind, and of Miss Kimberly Louise, a woman who loses her sight as the result of an automobile accident.



My Mother Got Married: And Other Disasters by Barbara Park 148 pages.
Twelve-year-old Charles experiences many difficulties in adjusting to a new stepfather, stepsister, and stepbrother.

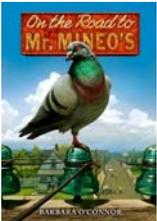


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Genre: Realistic Fiction, cont.



On the Road to Mr. Mineo's by Barbara O'Connor 181 pages.
Sherman, a one-legged pigeon, sets everyone aflutter in a small southern town.



One-Eyed Cat by Paula Fox 216 pages.
An eleven-year-old boy gains a new understanding of himself and his father after a trip to Florida with unusual people.



Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper 295 pages.

WATCH THE VIDEO BOOKTALK! Go to: briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/

A brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy faces people's misunderstandings of her abilities, and discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.



Rain Reign by Ann M. Martin 226 pages.

The only thing Rose might love more than homonyms is her dog, and now her beloved dog is lost after a horrific storm.



Raymie Nightingale by Kate DiCamillo 272 pages.

Raymie plans to win the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition, so her father, who left town two days ago with a dental hygienist, will see Raymie's picture in the paper and come home. Raymie's two new girlfriends have plans for the contest, too, but all the girls discover something much more important.

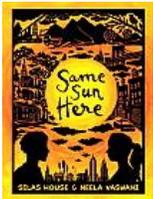


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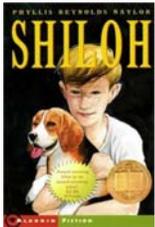
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Genre: Realistic Fiction, cont.



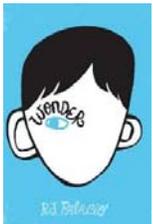
Same Sun Here by Silas House & Neela Vaswani 297 pages.
A 12-year-old Indian immigrant in New York City and a Kentucky coal miner's son become pen pals, and eventually best friends, through a series of revealing letters exploring such topics as environmental activism, immigration and racism.



Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor 147 pages.
WATCH THE VIDEO BOOKTALKS! Go to: briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/
When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.



The View From Saturday by E. L. Konigsburg 163 pages.
Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.



Wonder by R.J. Palacio 315 pages.
Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

This is the end of the official summer reading list.

The next two pages have Peer Recommended Video Booktalk Titles!

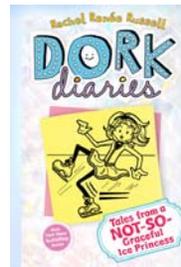
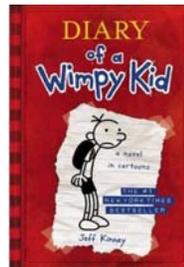
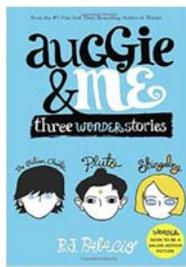
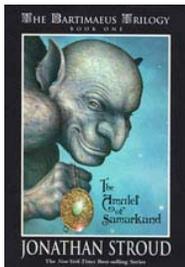


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Peer Recommended Video Booktalk Titles

Please note that the following titles are NOT a part of the Todd School official summer reading list. However, students at Todd School enjoyed them and created video booktalks to recommend them to their peers.

***Amulet of Samarkand [The Bartimeus Trilogy]* by Jonathan Stroud**

Watch the video booktalk! Go to: www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/

Nathaniel, a magician's apprentice, summons up the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Lovelace.

***Auggie and Me: Three Wonder Stories* by P.J. Palacio**

Watch the video booktalk! Go to: www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/

Auggie & Me is a new side to the *Wonder* story: three new chapters from three different characters -- bully Julian, oldest friend Christopher and classmate Charlotte -- giving insight into how Auggie has touched their own lives.

***Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series by Jeff Kinney**

Watch the three video booktalks! Go to: www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/

Nothing ever seems to go right for middle schooler Greg Heffley, in school or at home...or even on vacation in this funny series told through cartoons and prose.

***Dork Diaries: Tales of a Not-So-Graceful-Ice-Princess* by Rachel Renee Russell**

Watch the video booktalk! Go to: www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/

When her crush Brandon reveals that the animal shelter where he volunteers is in danger of being closed, Nikki and her friends enter an ice skating competition to help raise money, an effort that is compromised by an interfering Mackenzie.

***Eragon* by Christopher Paolini**

Watch the video booktalk! Go to: www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/

In Aagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.

***Magnus Chase: The Sword of Summer* by Rick Riordan**

Watch the video booktalk! Go to: www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/

Magnus Chase, a homeless boy living in Boston, finds out he is the son of a Norse god.

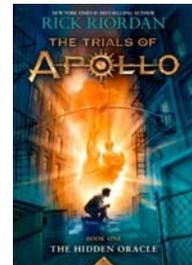
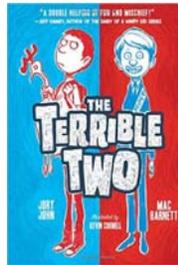


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Peer Recommended Video Booktalk Titles

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Pax by Sarah Pennypacker

Watch the video booktalk! Go to: www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/

After being forced to give up his pet fox Pax, a young boy named Peter decides to leave home and get his best friend back.

Smile by Raina Telgemeier

Watch the video booktalk! Go to: www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/

From sixth grade through tenth, Raina copes with a variety of dental problems that affect her appearance and how she feels about herself.

Sisters by Raina Telgemeier

Watch the video booktalk! Go to: www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/

Raina uses her signature humor and charm in both present-day narrative and perfectly placed flashbacks to tell the story of her relationship with her sister, which unfolds during the course of a road trip from their home in San Francisco to a family reunion in Colorado.

The Terrible Two by Mac Barnett and Jory John

Watch the video booktalk! Go to: www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/

When master prankster Miles Murphy moves to sleepy Yawnee Valley, he challenges the local, mystery prankster in an epic battle of tricks but soon the two join forces to pull off the biggest prank ever seen.

The Toymaker's Apprentice by Sherri Smith

Watch the video booktalk! Go to: www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/

Journeyman toymaker Stefan Drosselmeyer is recruited by his mysterious cousin, Christian, to find a mythical nut that will save Boldavia's princess and his own kidnapped father from a fanatical Mouse Queen and her seven-headed Mouse Prince, who have sworn to destroy the Drosselmeyer family.

Trials of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle by Rick Riordan

Watch the video booktalk! Go to: www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/

After angering his father Zeus, the god Apollo is cast down from Olympus. He must learn to survive in the modern world until he can somehow find a way to regain Zeus's favor.