

# Green Acres School


## Reading Suggestions for 7th or 8th Graders

(with the exception of ten books that are recommended for 8<sup>th</sup> graders only)

Updated June 2019

This list includes:

- Fiction
- Poetry
- Short Stories
- Biography and Memoir
- Other Nonfiction

Graphic books are denoted with the  symbol.

### Fiction

**Acevedo, Elizabeth.**

*The Poet X*

Poignant and real, beautiful and intense, this story of first-generation Dominican-American teen Xiomara Batista's struggle to define herself is as powerful as Xiomara's name: 'one who is ready for war.' Verse fiction. (Adapted from *Kirkus Reviews*) **Recommended for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.**

 **Anderson, Laurie Halse; illus.**

*Speak: The Graphic Novel*

**by Emily Carroll.**

"Anderson's timeless and important tale of high-school sexual assault and its aftermath undergoes a masterful graphic novel transformation... Powerful, necessary, and essential." (*Kirkus Reviews*) **Recommended for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.**

**Beckhorn, Susan.**

*The Wolf's Boy*

"Sometime in prehistory, a crippled boy and his wolf companion face coming-of-age challenges... This bracing, well-told story, laced with themes of self-responsibility, compassion, and honor, is both vital and nourishing." Historical fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Bliss, Bryan.**

*We'll Fly Away*

"From death row, a young man navigates prison and writes to his best friend in this powerful work of realistic fiction." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*) **Recommended for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.**

**Bracken, Alexandra.**

*Passenger*

"A dedicated violinist finds her life taking a different turn when she learns that she is a time traveler in this series opener." Fantasy. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker.**

*For Freedom: The Story of a French Spy*

"A teenager transforms from a schoolgirl to a spy in this true story of heroism in wartime." Historical fiction. (Publisher)

 **Brosgol, Vera.**

*Anya's Ghost*

"A deliciously creepy page-turning gem from first-time writer and illustrator Brosgol finds brooding teenager Anya trying to escape the past—both her own and the ghost haunting her. ... A book sure to haunt its reader long after the last past is turned—exquisitely eerie." Graphic supernatural fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Crowder, Melanie.**

*An Uninterrupted View of the Sky*

"Francisco, a middle-class Bolivian high school senior, and his younger sister must move into a dangerous prison after their indigenous father is wrongfully arrested. ... A riveting, Dickensian tale set in 1990s Bolivia." Historical fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Crowder, Melanie.**

*Audacity*

"A novel in verse featuring the real-life Clara Lemlich, a courageous, tenacious warrior for workers' rights in turn-of-the-20th-century New York City. ... Compelling, powerful and unforgettable." Verse historical fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Deracine, Anat.**

*Driving by Starlight*

"Two teenage girls in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, rebel against a patriarchal culture while struggling to navigate their complex family lives." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Deuker, Carl.**

*Payback Time*

A suspenseful novel "combining a Seattle high-school football team's march toward the state championship game with a school reporter's investigation of an apparent ringer that the coach has slipped in to bolster the defense." Fiction. (*Booklist*)

**Deuker, Carl.**

*Runner*

"Seventeen-year-old Chance Taylor agrees to be a runner, picking up mysterious parcels on his daily running route and passing them on ..., knowing that it's probably wrong and likely dangerous, but it pays very well." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Easton, Tom.**

*Boys Don't Knit (in Public)*

"After a brush with the law, Ben, a dyed-in-the-wool worrier, must take up a new hobby and chooses knitting, an activity at which he excels but must try to keep secret from his friends, enemies, and sports-obsessed father." Fiction. (Publisher)

**Farizan, Sara.**

*Here to Stay*

"Bijan is a varsity athlete at a Boston-area prep school whose otherwise ordinary life gets disrupted when a cyberbully torments him because of his Iranian-Jordanian heritage. ... Powerful." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Gratz, Alan.**

*Grenade*

"In the waning days of World War II, two young soldiers tell both sides of their fight to survive. ... Intense and fast-paced, this is a compelling, dark, yet ultimately heartening wartime story." Historical fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Gratz, Alan.**

*Refugee*

"Parallel stories of three different middle school-aged refugees—Josef from Nazi Germany in 1938, Isabel from 1994 Cuba, and Mahmoud from 2015 Aleppo—eventually intertwine for maximum impact." Historical fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Green, Sally.**

*Half Bad*

"In modern-day England, where witches live alongside humans, Nathan, son of a White witch and the most powerful Black witch, must escape captivity before his seventeenth birthday and receive the gifts that will determine his future." Fantasy. (Publisher) The sequel is *Half Wild*.

**Hardinge, Frances.**

*The Lie Tree*

"Thematically rich, stylistically impressive, absolutely unforgettable. ... Mystery, magic, religion, and feminism swirl together in Hardinge's latest heady concoction, set amid the scientific ferment following the publication of *The Origin of Species*." Historical fantasy/Horror. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

 **Jamieson, Victoria.**

*All's Faire in Middle School*

"A home-schooled squirreling sallies forth to public school, where the woods turn out to be treacherous and dragons lie in wait." Graphic fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Kiely, Brendan.**

*The Last True Love Story*

"Teddy, 17, makes a promise to his Alzheimer's-stricken grandfather, Gpa, to bring him home from assisted living before he forgets Teddy's deceased grandmother. ... Readers will be swept up in Kiely's musical prose as Teddy learns about love, romance, forgiveness, and reconciliation." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Kluger, Steve.**

*My Most Excellent Year: A Novel of Love, Mary Poppins, & Fenway Park*

"A modern-day tale of baseball, romance, Broadway musicals and even baseball at the Manzanar National Historic Site ... written in letters, instant messages, school assignments and e-mails." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

 **Larson, Hope.**

*All Summer Long*

"Summer adventures begin when Bina accidentally locks herself out of her house in Larson's newest middle-grade graphic novel." Graphic fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Latham, Jennifer.**


*Dreamland Burning*

"The discovery of a skeleton connects the lives of two teens, a century apart, with the brutality and terror of the 1921 Tulsa race riots. ... An unflinching, superbly written story about family, friendship, and integrity, set during one of America's deadliest race riots." Mystery/Historical fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*) **Recommended for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.**

**Mafi, Tahereh.**

*A Very Large Expanse of Sea*

"After attending three different high schools, Shirin's used to finding her way in new places. ... A moving coming-of-age narrative about the viciousness of Islamophobia and the unwavering power of love in post-9/11 America." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

 **Medina, Tony; illus. by John Jennings and Stacey Robinson.**

*I Am Alfonso Jones*

"From the afterlife, black teenager Alfonso Jones, a 15-year-old victim of police brutality, watches the effect his murder has on his loved ones and community. ... Painfully important." Graphic fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Miller, Samuel.**

*A Lite Too Bright*

"A boy with a muddled past embarks on a cross-country journey to uncover the mystery behind the last week of his famous grandfather's life." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Mosier, Paul.**

*Train I Ride*

"A poignant story about a young girl's travels by train from Los Angeles to Chicago in which she learns along the way that she can find family wherever she is." Fiction. (*Publishers Weekly*)

**Murphy, Julie.**

*Puddin'*

"Vandalism throws a teen of unflagging cheer into regular contact with her polar opposite in this novel told in alternating first-person chapters." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

- Older, Daniel José.** *Shadowshaper*  
 "When walking corpses—and worse—show up in the city, a teen discovers family secrets and ancestral powers." Urban fantasy. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Rossi, Veronica.** *Under the Never Sky* (trilogy)  
 "Exiled from her home, the enclosed city of Reverie, Aria knows her chances of surviving in the outer wasteland—known as The Death Shop—are slim. Then Aria meets an Outsider named Perry. He's wild—a savage—and her only hope of staying alive. ... Inspired, offbeat and mesmerizing." Science fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Sáenz, Benjamin Alire.** *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*  
 "... an introspective coming-of-age story about two Mexican-American boys growing up in El Paso, Texas, in 1987. It brings up questions of identity, particularly in terms of sexuality and sexual orientation." Fiction. (*Common Sense Media*)
- Sayre, Justin.** *Pretty*  
 Sophie, a pretty, light-skinned black teen whose moody mother is a freelance fashion journalist, considers the real meaning of beauty through a high school project, and discovers that it is nothing like what she finds in her mother's fashion magazines. Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Shabazz, Ilyasah and Kekla Magoon.** *X*  
 "Teaming with veteran Magoon, the third daughter of Malcolm X draws upon history and family stories to create a novel about her father's life before the 'X.'" Historical fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Shusterman, Neal.** *Bruiser*  
 "Inexplicable events start to occur when 16-year-old twins Tennyson and Brontë befriend a troubled and misunderstood outcast, aptly nicknamed Bruiser, and his little brother, Cody." Science fiction. (Publisher)
- Shusterman, Neal and Jarrod Shusterman.** *Dry*  
 "When a calamitous drought overtakes southern California, a group of teens must struggle to keep their lives and their humanity in this father-son collaboration. ... Mouths have never run so dry at the idea of thirst." Thriller. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- G Stevenson, Noelle.** *Nimona*  
 "A not-so-bad villain fighting against a not-so-good hero teams up with a spunky shape-shifting heroine in a cleverly envisioned world." Graphic fantasy. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Thomas, Angie.** *The Hate U Give*  
 "Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter is a black girl and an expert at navigating the two worlds she exists in: one at Garden Heights, her black neighborhood, and the other at Williamson Prep, her suburban, mostly white high school." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*) **Recommended for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.**
- Watson, Renée.** *Piecing Me Together*  
 "Sixteen-year-old Jade dreams of success beyond her neighborhood despite the prejudices that surround her. ... A timely, nuanced, and unforgettable story about the power of art, community, and friendship." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Winters, Cat.** *The Steep and Thorny Way*  
 "A biracial teen seeks justice for her murdered father in Prohibition-era Oregon. ... A riveting story of survival, determination, love, and friendship. Historical mystery. (*Kirkus Reviews*) **Recommended for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.**

**Yoon, Nicola; illus. by David Yoon.**

*Everything, Everything*

"Suffering from 'bubble baby disease,' Madeline has lived for 18 years in a sterile, sealed house with her physician mother. ... This heartwarming story transcends the ordinary by exploring the hopes, dreams, and inherent risks of love in all of its forms." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Yoon, Nicola.**

*The Sun Is Also a Star*

"Natasha and Daniel meet, get existential, and fall in love during 12 intense hours in New York City. ... With appeal to cynics and romantics alike, this profound exploration of life and love tempers harsh realities with the beauty of hope in a way that is both deeply moving and satisfying." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*) **Recommended for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.**

**Zoboi, Ibi.**

*American Street*

"Fabiola Toussaint is a black immigrant girl whose life is flipped upside down when she moves to Detroit, Michigan from her homeland of Haiti and her mother is detained by ICE, leaving her to go on alone." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Recommended for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.**

## Poetry and Short Stories

**Giles, Lamar, ed.**

*Fresh Ink: An Anthology*

"Thirteen leading YA voices from diverse backgrounds lend their talents to this anthology of 12 fictional short stories. ... beautiful, moving, and insightful collection." Short stories. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Grimes, Nikki.**

*One Last Word: Wisdom from the Harlem Renaissance*

"This striking, passionate anthology reminds young readers and adult fans of poetry alike that while black life remains 'no crystal stair,' there remains reason to hope and a reserve of courage from which to draw." Poetry. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Nijkamp, Marieke, ed.**

*Unbroken: 13 Stories Starring Disabled Teens*

"Thirteen realistic, fantasy, and science-fiction stories starring disabled teenagers. ... For intersectional representations of disabled kids leading complex lives—sometimes painful, sometimes funny, never sentimentally inspirational—a vital collection." Anthology. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Pinkney, Andrea Davis; illus. by Brian Pinkney.** *Martin Rising: Requiem for a King*

"The multiaward-winning Pinkneys' requiem lovingly explains in a set of 'docu-poems' the events surrounding Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, particularly the Memphis sanitation workers' strikes that brought him to the city where he eventually died." Poetry. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Vardell, Sylvia and Janet Wong.**

*Here We Go: A Poetry Friday Power Book*

"A story in poems and a writing journal designed to help kids think about social change." Poetry. (Publisher)

## Biography and Memoir

 **Abirached, Zeina.**

*I Remember Beirut*

"Abirached, who grew up in Beirut during the Lebanese civil war, shares childhood memories in this unconventional graphic memoir." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Anderson, Laurie Halse.**

*Shout*

"'This is the story of a girl who lost her voice and wrote herself a new one.' The award-winning author, who is also a rape survivor, opens up in this powerful free-verse memoir, holding nothing back." Verse memoir. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Recommended for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.**

**Engle, Margarita.**

*Soaring Earth*

"Young People's Poet Laureate Engle (*A Dog Named Haku*, 2018, etc.) explores her tumultuous teenage and early adult years during the equally turbulent late 1960s and early 1970s." Poetry/memoir. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**G Findakly, Brigitte and Lewis Trondheim;** *Poppies of Iraq*  
**transl. from French by Helge Dascher.**

"From the daughter of a French mother and Iraqi father comes a touching memoir of childhood in Iraq." Graphic memoir. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**G Gill, Joel Christian.**

*Bessie Stringfield*

"An incredible true story that has as much power as Bessie and the motorcycles she rode. ... Being the first woman to ride a motorcycle across the United States did not satisfy Bessie Stringfield; she did it eight times!" Graphic biography. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**G Hartland, Jessie.**

*Steve Jobs: Insanely Great*

Presents the story of the ultimate American entrepreneur, responsible for Apple Computer, Pixar, Macs, iPods, iPhones and more. Graphic biography.

**Kamkwamba, William and Bryan Mealer.** *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*

"The author and his collaborator have condensed the original memoir of the same name, a story of an innovative and compassionate boy coming of age during an era of extreme hardship in Malawi." Memoir. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**G Lewis, John and Andrew Aydin;** *March: Book Three* (series)  
**illus. by Nate Powell.**

"A living icon of the civil rights movement brings his frank and stirring account of the movement's most tumultuous years (so far) to a climax." Graphic memoir. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Lowery, Lynda Blackmon, Elspeth Leacock, and Susan Buckley.** *Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the Selma Voting Rights March*

"In 1965, Lynda Blackmon Lowery turned 15 during the three-day voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery. ... Vivid details and the immediacy of Lowery's voice make this a valuable primary document as well as a pleasure to read." Memoir. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Macy, Sue.**

*Sally Ride: Life on a Mission: The Real-Life Story*

"Macy's comprehensive, admiring biography offers detail and perspective about Ride's groundbreaking career and contributions." Biography. (*School Library Journal*)

**Manzano, Sonia.**

*Becoming Maria: Love and Chaos in the South Bronx*

"Actress Manzano, best known as Maria from *Sesame Street*, provides a lyrical and unflinching account of her tough Nuyorican upbringing in the South Bronx." Memoir. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Nelson, S.D.**

*Red Cloud: A Lakota Story of War and Surrender*

"An impressive amount of information movingly and handsomely conveyed." Biography. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**G Samanci, Özge.**

*Dare to Disappoint: Growing Up in Turkey*

"This memoir shows how Özge dared to overcome both her family and her country's expectations to find happiness by being an artist." Graphic memoir. (Publisher)

**Turner, Pamela S.; illus. by Gareth Hinds.**

*Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune*

"The life of 12th-century samurai Minamoto Yoshitsune unfolds in this compelling and often shocking nonfiction account. The opening warning doesn't lie: very few people die of natural causes." Biography. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**G Walden, Tillie.**

*Spinning*

"Graphic novelist Walden recounts her years coming-of-age as a competitive ice skater. ... A quiet powerhouse of a memoir." Graphic memoir. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Wilson, Jamia; illus. by Andrea Pippins.**

*Young, Gifted and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes from Past and Present*

"A beautifully crafted volume that can serve either as an introduction to these figures or as a supplementary text." Collective biography. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Woodson, Jacqueline.**

*Brown Girl Dreaming*

The author tells the story of her childhood in vivid poems. Her focus is on what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement, and her joy at finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Memoir. Told in narrative verse.

## Other Nonfiction

**Aronson, Marc.**

*Rising Water: The Story of the Thai Cave Rescue*

"Aronson sheds light on the intricate rescue of 12 soccer players and their coach who were stranded in the Tham Luang Nang Non cave in Thailand in June 2018." Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Ballard, Chris.**

*One Shot at Forever: A Small Town, an Unlikely Coach, and a Magical Baseball Season*

"A nonfiction gem about an underdog team that made good. This is the kind of baseball book that has long arms." Nonfiction. (*Library Journal*)

**Bartoletti, Susan Campbell.**

*Terrible Typhoid Mary: A True Story of the Deadliest Cook in America*

"This well-researched biography of Mary Mallon, also known as Typhoid Mary, begins in 1906, when Mallon was hired as a cook for a wealthy family vacationing in Oyster Bay, Long Island. The outbreak of typhoid that swept through the household a few weeks later turned out to be a pivotal event that forever changed her life." Nonfiction. (*School Library Journal*)

**Bausam, Ann.**

*Stonewall: Breaking Out in the Fight for Gay Rights*

"A dramatic retelling of the Stonewall riots of 1969, introducing teen readers to the decades-long struggle for gay rights." Nonfiction. (Publisher)

**Charleyboy, Lisa and  
Mary Beth Leatherdale, eds.**

*Dreaming in Indian: Contemporary Native American Voices*

"Anthology of art and writings from some of the most groundbreaking Native artists working in North America today." Anthology. (Publisher)

- Coburn, Broughton.** *Triumph on Everest: A Photobiography of Sir Edmund Hillary*  
 "This slender, well-documented photobiography is a record of the lifetime accomplishments of one of the first men to reach the summit of Mt. Everest." Photobiography. (*School Library Journal*)
- Doeden, Matt.** *The World Cup: Soccer's Global Championship*  
 "The story of the World Cup, crown jewel of international soccer. ... Mesmerizing." Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Fleming, Candace.** *The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia*  
 "Fleming examines the family at the center of two of the early 20th century's defining events. ... A remarkable human story, told with clarity and confidence." Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Freedman, Russell.** *Vietnam: A History of the War*  
 "Solid history that doesn't shy away from difficult truths and important moral and political lessons." Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Freedman, Russell.** *We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement That Defied Adolf Hitler*  
 "In the heart of Germany, a student resistance movement called the White Rose took a courageous stand to denounce the Nazis." Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Hoose, Phillip.** *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club*  
 "A handful of Danish teens takes on the occupying Nazis in this inspiring true story of courageous resistance." Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Hopkinson, Deborah.** *Dive! World War II Stories of Sailors & Submarines*  
 "Hopkinson's writing plumbs the depths in relating the undersea exploits of American submariners during World War II." Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Jarrow, Gail.** *Bubonic Panic: When Plague Invaded America*  
 "Jarrow looks at plague throughout history and medical research into its causes, before zeroing in on its resurgence in the late nineteenth century, when it arose in Asia and reached Honolulu. ... The intertwined themes of prejudice against Asian Americans, public health officials hampered by politicians, and mistrust of scientific research ... make the story complex, revealing a good deal about human nature as well as the period and the disease itself." Nonfiction. (*Booklist*)
- Levinson, Cynthia & Sanford Levinson.** *Fault Lines in the Constitution: The Framers, Their Fights, and the Flaws That Affect Us Today*  
 "A fascinating, thoughtful, and provocative look at what in the Constitution keeps the United States from being 'a more perfect union.'" Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Miller, Sarah.** *The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden and the Trial of the Century*  
 "This true-crime narrative examines the question that mesmerized the nation in 1892: did Lizzie Borden kill her father and stepmother?" Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Montgomery, Sy; photographed by Nic Bishop.** *Chasing Cheetahs: The Race to Save Africa's Fastest Cats*  
 (Scientists in the Field series)  
 "Montgomery and Bishop draw readers into the setting from the very beginning with a map, description and photographs of the Namibian savanna where Laurie Marker founded the Cheetah Conservation Fund 20 years ago." Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)



- Montgomery, Sy; photographed by Keith Ellenbogen.** *The Great White Shark Scientist* (Scientists in the Field series)  
 "This appreciative introduction to a much-maligned species will thrill readers while it encourages them to see great white sharks in a new way." Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Montgomery, Sy; photographed by Keith Ellenbogen.** *The Octopus Scientists: Exploring the Mind of a Mollusk* (Scientists in the Field series)  
 "An international team of scientists with varied focuses work together on a remote South Pacific island to study octopus behaviors." Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Murphy, Jim.** *Breakthrough: How Three People Saved "Blue Babies" and Changed Medicine Forever*  
 "In 1944, Dr. Alfred Blalock joined pediatrician Dr. Helen Taussig and research assistant Vivien Thomas to develop the first surgical procedure to treat a severe heart defect called tetralogy of Fallot, or more commonly 'blue baby syndrome.'" Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- O'Connor, George.** *Apollo: The Brilliant One*  
 This is the latest volume in the Olympians series, the graphic retellings of the Greek myths. Graphic mythology.
- Osborne, Linda Barrett.** *This Land Is Our Land: A History of American Immigration*  
 "Fascinating reading for both browsers and those seeking a more thorough understanding of immigration." Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Partridge, Elizabeth.** *Boots on the Ground: America's War in Vietnam*  
 "A personal, moving foray into the Vietnam War and its impact on the country and individuals whose lives it forever changed." Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Sheinkin, Steve.** *Bomb: The Race to Build--and Steal—the World's Most Dangerous Weapon*  
 "In late December 1938, German chemist Otto Hahn discovered that uranium atoms could be split, and just a few months later the race to build an atomic bomb was on. The story unfolds in three parts, covering American attempts to build the bomb, how the Soviets tried to steal American designs and how the Americans tried to keep the Germans from building a bomb. ... a true spy thriller." Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Sheinkin, Steve.** *Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War*  
 "Following his award-winning World War II-era volumes *Bomb* (2012) and *The Port Chicago 50* (2014), Sheinkin tells the sweeping saga of the Vietnam War and the man who blew the whistle on the government's 'secret war.' Easily the best study of the Vietnam War available for teen readers." Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Sheinkin, Steve.** *The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights*  
 "On July 17, 1944, at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine 30 miles northeast of San Francisco, an explosion—the largest man-made explosion in history to that point—killed more than 300 men, leading to the largest mass trial in United States history." Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Slater, Dashka.** *The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives*  
 "In the fall of 2013, on a bus ride home, a young man sets another student on fire. ... An outstanding book that links the diversity of creed and the impact of impulsive actions to themes of tolerance and forgiveness." Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*) **Recommended for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.**

**Thornhill, Jan.**

*The Tragic Tale of the Great Auk*

"A sobering, beautifully presented extinction story." Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)