



2018

SUMMER READERS

2018 Catalog





“We can hardly wait to start the books for our next school year, but thankfully, we have Sonlight’s Summer Readers to enjoy while we wait!”

—*Jennifer W, Richardson, TX*



Welcome!

I am so happy to share with you some quality books to enjoy through the summer.

With the Sonlight Summer Readers, we look for high quality, enjoyable books in a range of genres, that will entertain and delight your family. Because these are Summer Readers, they're meant to be fun. Books that make you happy, that make you want to sit up late in the long summer evenings, enjoying a good book. Books to take to the lake or on a road trip.

You'll find age-appropriate collections for elementary, middle, and high school students, for both boys and girls.

I am a firm advocate for reading that doesn't stop when school does, and I am thrilled to present these books that my daughter Jonelle and I have selected as the most enjoyable titles, out of the thousands we've reviewed over the last year.

Purchase a Summer Reader collection to enjoy yourself now, or save for your children to grow into later.



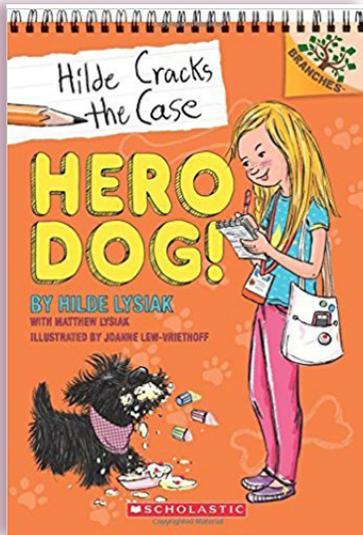
Sarita Holzmann
Sonlight President



ELEMENTARY GIRLS

Ages: 5-9

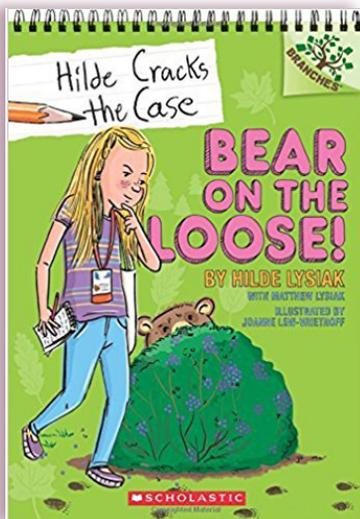
Two mysteries, a friendship story, a family misadventure, and an adventure—this is a charming collection of stories for elementary girls.



Hilde Cracks the Case: Hero Dog!

Lysiak. When all three of the top dessert-makers in the community suffer vandalism right before a bake-off, young reporter Hilde investigates. Will she be able to determine a motive and apprehend the perpetrator? Enjoyable. #SRE14

\$4.99



Hilde Cracks the Case: Bear on the Loose

Lysiak. Homeschooling Hilde writes her own online newspaper for the locals. When she hears reports of a bear on the loose, she and her older sister investigate to determine what happened and report on it fairly. Charming. #SRE12

\$4.99



Craftily Ever After: The Un-Friendship Bracelet

Maker. Best friends Emily and Maddie love to create. When new student Bella joins their class, Maddie discovers that she, too, is really crafty. But Emily is feeling left out. Then Emily discovers that her classmate Sam also loves to create. But will these four talented young people ever work together? Or is the Emily and Maddie friendship doomed? With easy-to-read language and illustrations on almost every page, this is a great story for emerging readers. #SRE13

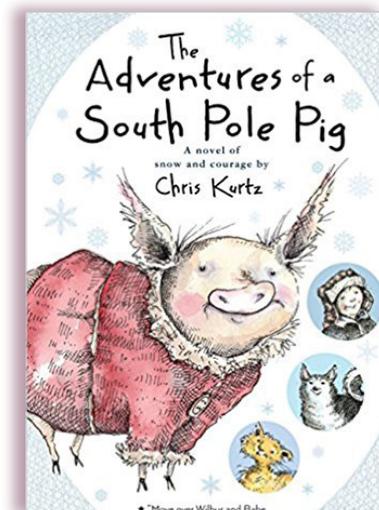
\$5.99



Just the Tates: Switcharound

Lowry. Two siblings reluctantly head to their dad's house for the summer. There, they realize that Caroline is expected to babysit her twin siblings (that she didn't know existed) and J.P. is supposed to coach the 6-year-old's baseball team. Both feel completely out of their element, but after a time, they realize they can work in their unique gifts and help the family. Cheery story with good character growth. #SRE11

\$7.99



The Adventures of a South Pole Pig

Kurtz. Flora the pig longs for adventure, and after seeing sled dogs in training, determines to join a sled team. When her ship wrecks off Antarctica, Flora becomes a sled pig, as she and her unlikely companions race to save the desperate crew. A poignant tale of a purposeful pig, charming and tender. #SRE15

\$7.99

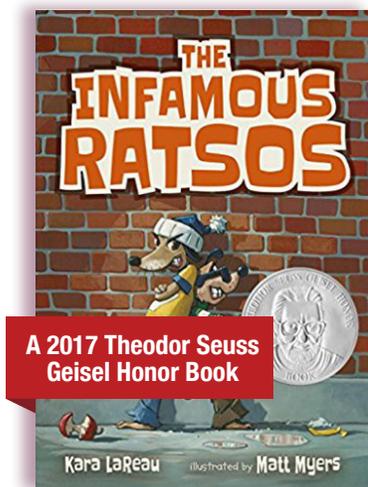
Elementary Girls Summer
Reading Package 2018 #EG18

\$31.95

ELEMENTARY BOYS

Ages: 5-9

From rascally rats to missing mice, from the school bus to summer vacation, enjoy these mysteries and adventures and friendships and life lessons.



The Infamous Ratsos

LaReau. Two brothers, missing their mother, decide to be tough like their dad. But as rotten as they try to be, they keep accidentally helping instead of harming, until a sweet resolution at the end. Laugh out loud funny, with a solid message. #SRE18

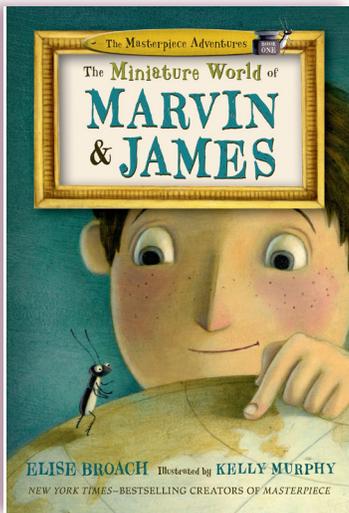
\$4.99



Martin Bridge: Ready for Takeoff

Kerrin. Three sweet stories of an elementary school boy. In the first, the grumpy bus driver turns kind, due to a misunderstanding. In the second, Martin questions his parents' honesty—a surprisingly sophisticated topic, very beautifully portrayed. In the third, there's another misunderstanding, and good lessons on how revenge doesn't work and friendship is more important than holding grudges. #SRE16

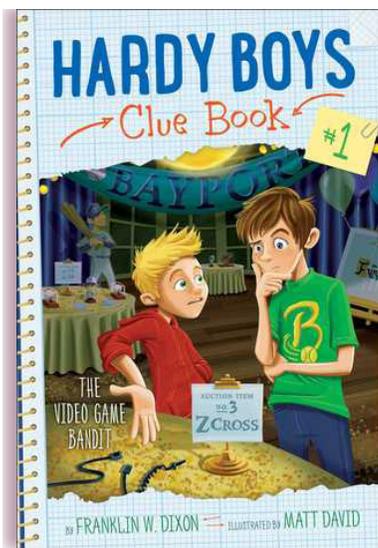
\$6.95



The Miniature World of Marvin and James

Broach. When James goes to the beach, his beetle friend Marvin stays home. Marvin survives a harrowing ordeal (who knew pencil sharpeners could be so terrifying?!) and wonders if his friend misses him, and they reaffirm their friendship in the end. Charming adventure, with delightful illustrations. #SRE19

\$5.99

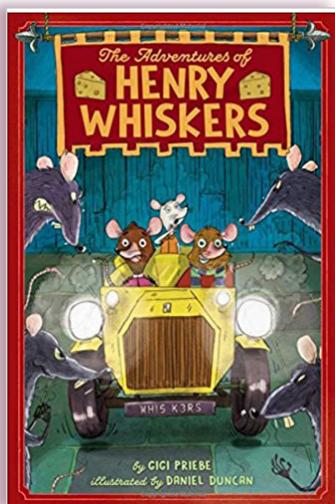


The Video Game Bandit

Hardy Boys Clue Book #1

Dixon. When a desirable gaming system is stolen during a charity auction, brothers Frank and Joe must track down the thief. The first in a new series of Hardy Boys mysteries for young readers, your mystery-lover will enjoy trying to solve the case along with the young detectives. Fun summer read. #SRE17

\$5.99



The Adventures of Henry Whiskers

Priebe. Henry Whiskers is the 25th generation of mouse to live in Queen Mary's historical dollhouse at Windsor Castle. But when the dollhouse needs repairs, Henry's sister Isabel goes missing. Henry and his cousin Jeremy go to Rat Alley to stage a rescue. A fast-paced and humorous adventure, plus a mouse coming-of-age story. Delightful. #SRE20

\$5.99

Elementary Boys Summer
Reading Package 2018 #EB18

\$29.91

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS

Ages: 9-14

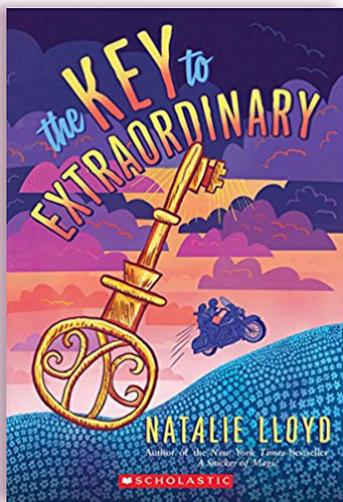
Middle grade books are some of my favorites, because the plots become more intricate, and the situations more interesting. These four books draw you in and keep you reading.



If the Magic Fits

Schmid. Darling works in the cellar of the palace, until she is unexpectedly promoted. She finds some magic—the 100 dresses in the closet transform her to look like someone different—and makes friends and enemies as she thwarts a palace takeover. Fun, fairy-tale-like romp. #SRM12

\$7.99



The Key to Extraordinary

Lloyd. Emma faces an impossible task: finding a legendary treasure in the town's cemetery. A story of magic and whimsy, with a touch of a ghost story that isn't scary, a bit of a treasure hunt and a bit of mystery. Colorful and humorous characters, facing real life problems and challenges. Enjoyable, hopeful story of a brave and adventurous girl. #SRM13

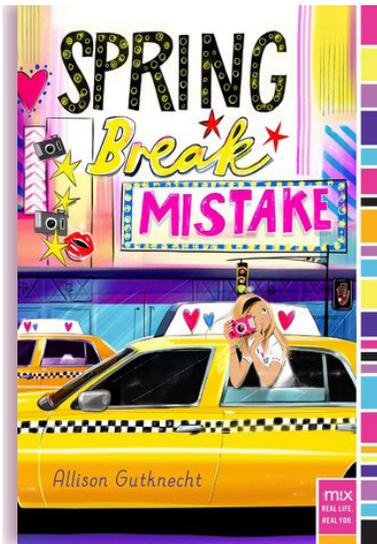
\$6.99



The First Last Day

Cirrone. Haleigh paints her favorite day—the last day of summer at the New Jersey shore—and wishes she could stay forever. The next day, she finds that her wish has come true. But she soon realizes that staying in one place and time comes with a price. A clever, easy-to-read mystery, with echoes of Groundhog Day. A realistic sense of loss, a heartfelt tribute to friendship, and a good message that even potentially scary change is better than staying still forever. #SRM9

\$7.99



Spring Break Mistake

Gutknecht. Avalon wins a place on the PhotoReady app's spring break getaway contest. Once in NYC, she and her roommates have to track down a missing contestant using clues they find in photos. #SRM11

\$7.99

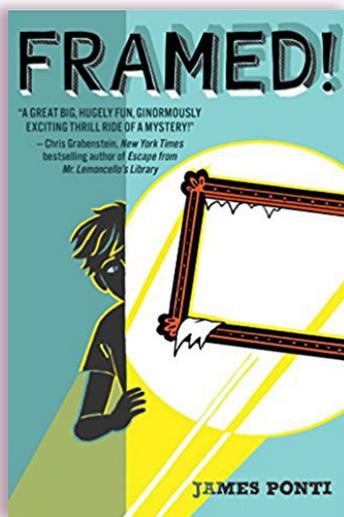
Middle School Girls Summer
Reading Package 2018 #MGS18

\$30.96

MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS

Ages: 9-14

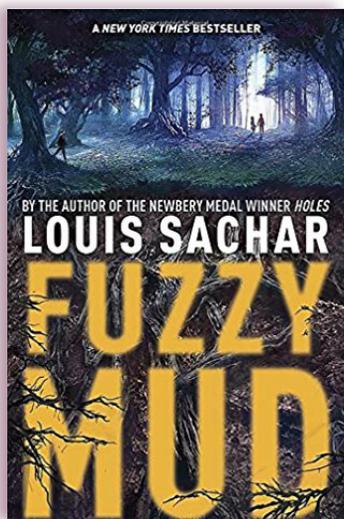
Four wildly different genres: mystery, sci-fi thriller, adventure, and superhero spoof. Laugh-out-loud funny in places, thoroughly engrossing . . . get these books!



Framed!

Ponti. In the crowded genre of “middle-school FBI agents,” this book stands out for its cleverness. When several Impressionist paintings go missing at the National Gallery, Florian gets to put into practice his “Theory of All Small Things,” where he does his best to notice details—a young Sherlock Holmes. A caper with two resourceful young people, a delightful friendship, adults who are not complete dolts, great dialogue, and good pacing. #SRM14

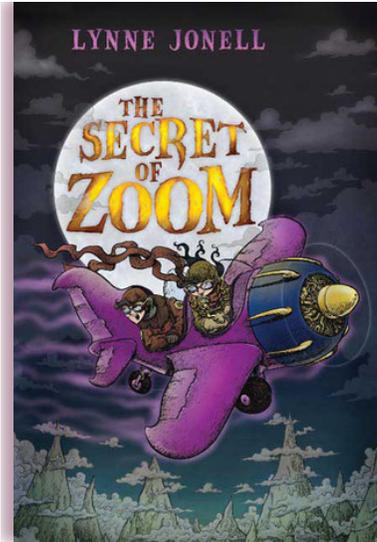
\$8.99



Fuzzy Mud

Sachar. In this sci-fi thriller, biofuel multiplies, then mutates. When this mutation accidentally ends up in a forest, it multiplies unseen until two young people touch it, with dire consequences. Suspenseful and compelling, this story touches on questions of capitalism, science, morality, and more. #SRM16

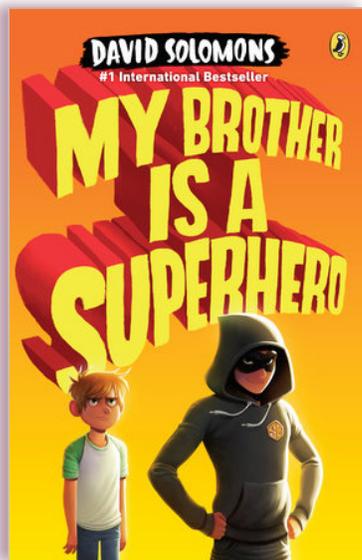
\$7.99



The Secret of Zoom

Jonell. Christina's mother was blown to bits in a mysterious lab explosion many years ago. Her father keeps her safe in an isolated stone mansion, and forbids her talking to the orphans down the road. But when orphan Taft talks to her, she helps him search for a secret tunnel, as they uncover sinister doings. A well-crafted tale, with fantasy and humor. You won't want to put it down! #SRM15

\$10.99



My Brother is a Superhero

Solomons. Superhero-loving Luke had just stepped away when an alien turned his brother Zack into a superhero. How unfair! Zack (now Super Guy) knows nothing about being a superhero! A tribute to comic book heroes: the capes, the masks, the super villains, and the great responsibility. Pitch-perfect and action-packed. #SRM17

\$7.99

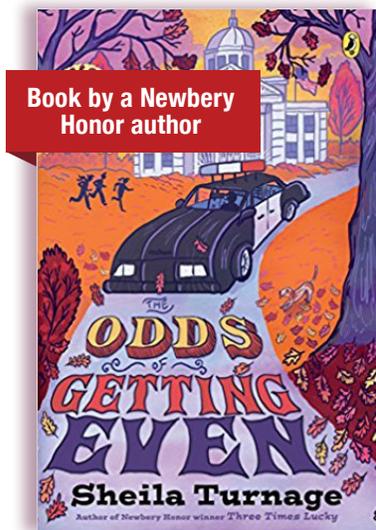
Middle School Boys Summer
Reading Package 2018 #MB18

\$35.96

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS

Ages: 14-Adult

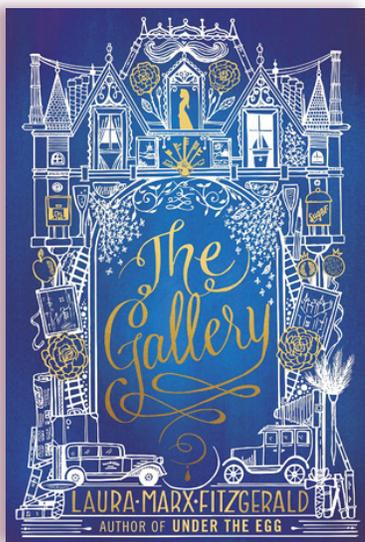
A magnificent collection of books. Historical fiction, the power of art and creativity, redemption, and restitution.



The Odds of Getting Even

Turnage. Desperado Detective Mo is ready to testify so kidnapper Macon Johnson goes to jail for a long time. But when this abusive dad escapes from jail right before his trial, so much quickly goes wrong. Humor, mystery, memorable characters, and a surprising amount of heart . . . don't miss it. #SRH9

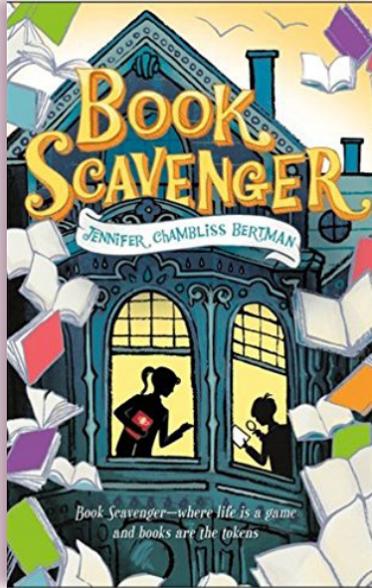
\$8.99



The Gallery

Fitzgerald. An art mystery and one seriously awesome book. With bookending action in 2016, the bulk of the story takes place in 1928-1929. When Martha is expelled from school for questioning what was so bad about Eve eating the apple, her head-of-staff mom hires her as a dishwasher for the Sewells. And so commences a mystery of pomegranates and Jane Eyre, of vaudeville and anarchists. Gorgeously written and entirely clean, with deliciously satisfying ending. Wholly captivating. #SRH10

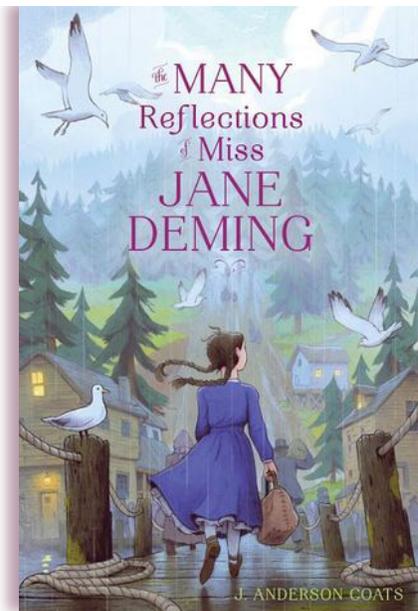
\$7.99



Book Scavenger

Bertman. *Book Scavenger*: a game invented by Garrison Griswold, where you hide a book and post a clue for other people to find its location. For puzzle-loving Emily, regularly uprooted with family moves, this game is a constant. When she arrives in San Francisco, she and her neighbor James find a book, and race to discover who was behind the shooting of Griswold, and what is behind his new game. For book enthusiasts and adventure lovers: a cheery, energetic celebration of great books and good friends. #SRH11

\$7.99



The Many Reflections of Miss Jane Deming

Coats. Bring Civil War widows West—the bachelors in the Washington frontier could use a mate. Find a happy ending! Or at least, so the brochure promises. Jane's young (widowed) stepmother signs up, along with Jane and her young stepbrother. Seattle isn't exactly the paradise that was promised, so Jane's stubbornness and good humor must carry her from skinning an otter to building a canoe, along with dealing with everyone from giggly young ladies to the neighboring Native Americans. And will she manage to break away from her selfish stepmother? Well-researched historical fiction, vivid setting, finely-drawn characters, and a fun, enlightening read. #SRH8

\$7.99

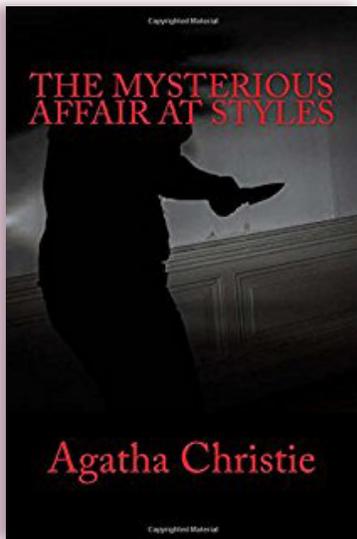
High School Girls Summer
Reading Package 2018 #HG18

\$32.96

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS

Ages: 14-Adult

Four fantastic reads. Meet Hercule Poirot, Agatha Christie's enduring sleuth. Read riveting true stories from the Civil War—including at least some you've never heard before. A steampunk scavenger hunt. And a striking, gorgeous journey narrative.



The Mysterious Affair at Styles

Christie. Meet Hercule Poirot, the Belgian refugee and retired detective in this, the first mystery story by the best-selling novelist of all time. When a woman dies of poison in a locked bedroom, Poirot must determine whodunit: the fortune-hunting new spouse, the aimless stepsons, her private doctor, her hired companion? When first published a century ago, one review said this was written as “the result of a bet about the possibility of writing a detective story in which the reader would not be able to spot the criminal. Every reader must admit that the bet was won.” Addictive and fun. #SRH15

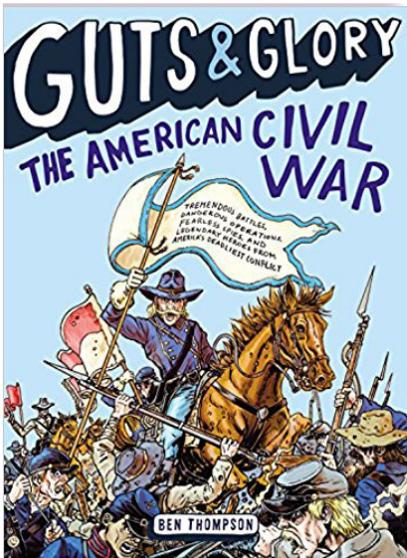
\$8.99



Navigating Early

Vanderpool. Set in the years after WWII, after Jake's mother dies, he is uprooted from his Kansas home and sent to boarding school in Maine. Out-of-place, he and Early Auden (today probably called “autistic”) go on a canoe quest. Unusual story, filled with gorgeous writing, surprise twists, and interwoven connections that tie together the best books. Lovely odyssey. #SRH13

\$7.99



Guts and Glory: The American Civil War

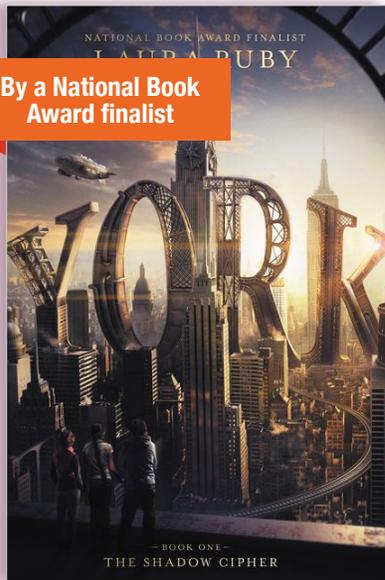
Thompson. Amazing, entertaining stories from the Civil War. The author tells astonishing stories from both sides, and gives rousing explanations of both individual triumphs and battles, and includes occasional zingers like the single sentence describing Ambrose Burnside, whose fiancée burst into tears at the altar and fled. Memorable, enjoyable, entertaining, and excellent! #SRH14

\$7.99

“ Did you ever hear about the Second Sabine Pass battle during the Civil War? When 42 men in a mud fort with six cannons stopped 22 Federal warships, 6000 soldiers, and 30 artillery pieces from advancing into Texas? Seriously, this is one crazy battle.

“In an hour and a half, Lieutenant Richard Dowling and the forty-one men of the Davis Guards fired 130 rounds from five cannons, working their guns so hard that the cannons couldn't be fired for a day and a half after the battle. They had grounded two Federal gunboats, damaged two more, inflicted one hundred casualties, captured the Federal commander, salvaged sixteen cannons from wrecked warships, and thwarted an invasion of Texas by six thousand men. And they'd done it without losing a single soldier. Combing the shores after the battle, Dowling and his men also captured 350 Federal soldiers, which was no small feat of bluffing and ingenuity when you consider that the Davis Guards had only forty-two guys.”

— From *Guts and Glory*.



York: The Shadow Cipher

Ruby. In this alternate history, the Morningstarr twins arrive in NYC in 1798 and set about creating their vision of skyscrapers, dazzling machines, and winding train lines. When they disappeared 57 years later, they left a puzzle for the people to solve. It remained unsolved. In contemporary Manhattan, the Bidermann siblings live in one of the last Morningstarr towers, about to be torn down for a real estate developer. The New York Times Book Review said it well: “The pleasures of this novel go far beyond the crackling, breathless plot and the satisfaction of watching the puzzle fall into place. The book is shot through with humor, both laugh-out-loud and subtle.” Don't miss this visionary epic. #SRH12

\$7.99

High School Boys Summer
Reading Package 2018 #HB18

\$32.96