This time of year is often one when families like to share the joy of reading. We’d like to help share that joy by offering up a list of notable recent books written for young people. The list includes a variety of genres, topics, and cultures. So whether you know a history fan, a lover of graphic novels, a sports fanatic, or a person who embraces magic and fantasy, we hope you’ll find something on the list worthy of sharing.

Lynn & Greg
Catlin Gabel MS Library

Amazing Fantastic Incredible: A Marvelous Memoir by Stan Lee and others.
    Stan Lee is an icon in American comic book lore. Together with a host of artists he created such well-known and durable heroes as Spiderman, the Hulk, Iron Man, the Fantastic Four, among others. Now you can learn more about his life and the evolution of comics in this memoir. And what better way than via a comic book-style graphical work?

Booked by Kwame Alexander
    This National Book Award finalist title is a follow-up to The Crossover by acclaimed Newbery Winner author and poet Kwame Alexander. It is a fast paced, electric and heartfelt novel-in-verse about soccer, family, love, and friendship. Soccer obsessed middle schooler Nick is smart but reading averse. His beloved and rapping librarian shares important life lessons through inspiring books for him to read.

Demigods & Magicians by Rick Riordan
    Have a fan of Rick Riordan’s Percy Jackson or Kane Chronicles books in your family? Are they looking for more stories to keep them entertained for a while? Consider this story collection that brings together Percy and his friends with the Kane siblings. But beware! Four stories may only create a greater thirst for more...

Ghost by Jason Reynolds
    Another National Book Award finalist is the first in a new middle school track series by award winning author Jason Reynolds. Ghost has been running really fast for the last three years, ever since his dad got drunk and fired a gun at him and his mom. He now wants to be the fastest sprinter on an elite track team, but even though he has amazing natural talent, he has had no formal training. Can he stay out of trouble long enough and reach his goal with just raw talent?

Ghosts by Raina Telgemeier
    This delightfully written and illustrated graphic novel is about Catarina’s family move from southern California. The move is prompted by her younger sister Maya’s health – she has cystic fibrosis, and she breathes easier in the environment of Bahía de la Luna on the northern coast. Despite her health, Maya is adventurous, and discovers their new town is haunted by ghosts. Maya loves the idea, but big sister Cat is terrified and wants nothing more than to make sure she and Maya are safe. Telgemeier’s bright graphics and insightful story deal in a tender, approachable way with illness, death, and the meaning of both Halloween and Day of the Dead to her bi-racial family.
**Hour of the Bees** by Lindsay Eagar
Latin American magic blurs with reality in this debut title by Lindsay Eagar. In a stunning novel of renewal and wonder, twelve-year-old Carol and her family go to live with a grandfather suffering from dementia on his ranch in the desert of New Mexico.

**In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse** by Joseph Marshall
This is an outstanding blend of past and present in the American Midwest. Jimmy, a young Lakota boy who gets teased by classmates because of his fair skin, goes on a journey with his maternal grandfather to learn more about his heritage. The road trip covers places of importance to Crazy Horse, and as his history unfolds, so does young Jimmy’s understanding, empathy, and pride in his background. The book includes a glossary and historical note.

**Lily & Dunkin** by Donna Gephart
This is an enchanting story of two eighth graders who chance to meet during summer, and quickly become friends. As the school year starts that friendship is challenged by social pressures and the secrets each carries. Lily Jo McGrother was born Timothy McGrother. She is fighting family and peers over her conviction that she was born into the wrong body. Norbert Dorfman, nicknamed Dunkin, is bipolar and has just moved from the only home he knew into Lily’s town. That change would be hard enough, but he also has a painful secret that tears at him. This is an illuminating, sometimes painful novel that deals with some serious topics. Yet it does so with humor, honesty, and compassion. It is a poignant, accessible look at what being a teen in today’s world can be like.

**Nimona** by Noelle Stevenson
This award winning debut graphic novel is based on Stevenson’s critically acclaimed Web comic. It follows a nefarious plot by Nimona, an impulsive young shapeshifter, and Ballister Blackheart, a vengeful villain. They want to defame their kingdom’s Institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics and its champion, Sir Ambrosius Goldenloin. Stevenson delightfully plays with classic sword-and-sorcery themes, deftly adds some mad science, and creates characters you won’t soon forget. Her depiction of the impish Nimona in particular brings the story to life.

**Secret Keepers** by Trenton Lee Stewart
Reuben Pedley’s day started with his usual routine. He and his mom ate breakfast before she left for work; she assumed he would spend the day at home alone. But, as usual, Reuben actually slipped out of the apartment unseen to explore the neighborhood. When one of his newly discovered hiding places also revealed an antique watch, nothing else was usual at all. He soon found himself on a mysterious adventure filled with danger and strange characters, like the devious and villainous Smoke and his Directions. And the watch? Nothing usual about it either. In fact, it seems to be magic, adding to the mystery. Will Reuben be able to solve it before time runs out?
Soar by Joan Bauer
Jeremiah is a twelve-year-old die-hard baseball fan. He and his dad just moved to a small town in Ohio, where baseball is as big a thing as you can find. But when a scandal rocks the local school teams and threatens to wipe the sport out of the town’s life, Jeremiah wants to save it. The only problem? Jeremiah is a heart transplant recipient whose doctors won’t allow him to play the game. How can he save the sport he loves when he can’t play and get others to join him?

Tetris by Box Brown
Tetris is among the most popular video games ever made. Now you and your favorite gamer or graphic novel fan have a chance to learn much more about its history. This graphical history traces the game’s creation (did you know it was Russian in origin?), how it jumped across oceans, grew in popularity, and went from one new technology to another. A fun and informative read about a programmer’s side project that changed the world of gaming.

Ten Days a Madwoman: The Daring Life and Turbulent Times of the Original "Girl" Reporter, Nellie Bly by Deborah Noyes
Nellie Bly was a reporter in the late nineteenth century – a time when women in such positions were relegated to writing about cleaning or fashion. But Nellie was determined to write about topics of more substance. One way she did that was to pretend to be insane and have herself committed to a mental asylum. The resulting stories she published revealed corruption, poverty, and abuses of human rights. But Nellie was only getting started. This excellent biography reveals many of one historical woman’s amazing adventures.

We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement That Defied Adolf Hitler by Russell Freedman
If you have a teen who loves history, this is an inspiring tale to share. Austrians Hans and Sophie Scholl were Hitler Youth members when they were young. As they grew, they came to question the Nazi regime. At the University in Munich, Hans and Sophie, along with some friends, formed the White Rose – a group dedicated to creating and distributing anti-Nazi fliers. They did this despite risking their own lives in the process. A wonderful insight into the courage it can take to stand up for what one believes is right, even in the face of dangerous, overwhelming, and potentially deadly circumstances.