Berkley High School 9th Grade Summer Reading 2019… What Makes a Hero?

Honors English…see separate list

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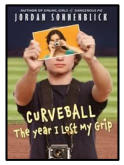
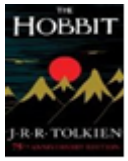
	The Bully	Schraff & Langan	Darrell Mercer, a new student at Bluford High, decides it is time to take a stand after he tires of being harassed and threatened by bully Tyray Hobbs. A tale of 9th grade survival and triumph. RL 4.0 190p.
	**Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip**	Sonnenblick	When a freakish injury ends his pitching career, Peter has some major things to figure out: like, is there life after sports? He discovers high school, photography, and girls (not necessarily in that order!) High school story with humor and wisdom. RL 5.1 304p.
	Ghosts of War	Smithson	Ryan Smithson recounts the experiences he had serving his first tour of duty as an Army engineer in Iraq when he was only 19. RL 5.2 320p
	**The Hobbit**	Tolkien	Bilbo Baggins, a Hobbit who just wanted to be left alone, embarks upon a dangerous journey with thirteen dwarfs and the wizard Gandalf to combat the dragon Smaug. Classic fantasy; a preamble to Tolkien's Lord of the Rings trilogy. RL 7.5 306p.
	Into Thin Air	Krakauer	The author relates his experience of climbing Mount Everest during its deadliest season and examines what it is that makes people willingly subject themselves to such risk, hardship, and expense. True life action and adventure. RL 8.9 293p.
	The Last Book in the Universe	Philbrick	After an earthquake has destroyed much of the planet, an epileptic teenager nicknamed Spaz begins the heroic fight to bring human intelligence back to the Earth of a distant future. A classic quest and fight for good. RL 5.5 223p.

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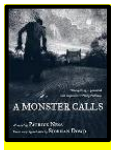
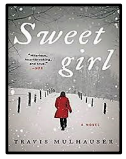
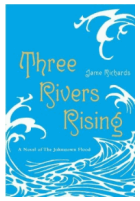
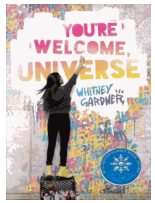
	Make Lemonade	Wolff	LaVaughn, trying to earn the money for college, takes a job caring for the two children of Jolly, a single teenage mom. She must find the courage to make the right decision for all of them after Jolly is fired. Warm, urban tale of survival. RL 5.0 200p.
	**A Monster Calls**	Ness	Conor awakens one night to find a monster outside his bedroom window--an ancient, wild creature that wants him to face truth and loss. A horror story with some deep lessons. RL 4.8 108p.
	**Sweetgirl**	Mulhauser	In searching for her mother --a meth addict-- Percy encounters an abandoned baby. In a split-second decision, she grabs the baby and runs. She is chased by bad reward-seekers …and facing a winter storm. Set in northern Michigan. Mature. RL 5.9 240p.
	**Three Rivers Rising**	Richards	16 yr old Celestia is a wealthy member of the local country club, where she meets and falls in love with Peter, a hired hand who lives in the valley below. By the time of the heavy rains that lead to the terrible Johnstown flood of 1889, she has been disowned by her family and is staying with him in Johnstown. Verse form. Romance. Historical fiction, RL 4.9 293p
	**You're Welcome, Universe**	Gardner	Julia is a graffiti artist --and deaf. She is forced to leave her School for the Deaf (a mixup) and lands in a "mainstream" school where she's the only deaf student. She continues to 'tag' anywhere she can but soon sees someone is adding to her art. Who is this other vandal and what do they want? RL 4.2 297p

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