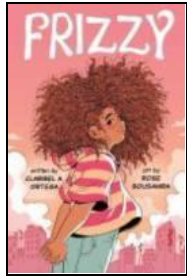


# CSMS Summer Reading List 2024



## Frizzy (F&P N)

Claribel A. Ortega

Every Sunday, Marlene

must go to the salon, and she hates it. It's a lengthy process to get her hair to look "good." Her mother says that she needs to keep her curls under control and looking presentable, but hearing

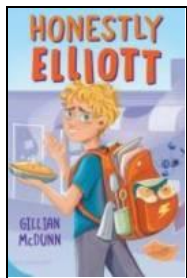
her mother constantly say that straight hair is "good" hair has started taking its toll on Marlene. If Marlene is continually being told that straight hair is beautiful, then what does that mean for Marlene and her curly hair? With the help of her aunt Ruby, who has curly hair like Marlene, she learns that her hair can be beautiful, too.



## Loteria (F&P V)

Karla Arenas Valenti

Life and Death have met up for their yearly game of Loteria and the silver strands of fate have chosen Clara this year, a seemingly ungifted dark-haired girl born into a family of gifted people in Oaxaca, Mexico. She does not know that she is being watched, but her prescient cousin Estaban foresees something bad happening. And bad things do happen and keep happening. When Clara's aunt dies suddenly, Estaban is blinded by grief for his mother and walks into the dangerous kingdom of Las Pozas where the Man in Red kidnaps him. Clara must follow to save her young cousin before he is trapped there forever by the king. She must learn the rules of this kingdom and begin to trust her talents. All the while, Life and Death play their game to determine her next obstacle and finally, which one will claim her in the end.

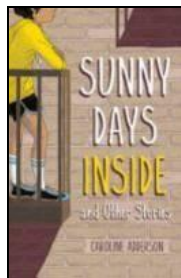


## Honestly Elliott (F&P R)

Gillian McDunn

Elliott, who has ADHD, loves cooking, and he's really good at it. When he's creating special dishes, Elliott has no trouble focusing on the tasks at hand, but when it comes to schoolwork and chores, he's easily distracted. In fact, he nearly failed the first semester of sixth grade.

His one good friend left town a year ago. His parents are divorced, and his father has remarried. Now that his stepmother is pregnant, Elliott fears that Dad may be shifting away from him and toward his new family. Paired with smart, popular Maribel for a group project, Elliott befriends her. He's surprised to discover that even she has trouble dealing with a condition (celiac disease) that even her friends don't really try to understand.



## Sunny Days Inside (F&P W)

Caroline Adderson

When the "grounup virus" hits, kids who live in the same apartment building must cope with strange new rules and extended time at home with parents and siblings. And they survive brilliantly, each in their own way. Twin boys throw themselves into an independent research assignment on prehistoric people and embrace their own devolution. A budding track star is encouraged to run laps on his balcony by a neighbor who has a secret crush on him. A classroom troublemaker reaches out to a teacher when his own father begins to exhibit signs of mental illness. A young entrepreneur saves himself and his hairdresser mother from financial collapse by renting out the family dog. And a girl finds a way to communicate with her hearing-impaired neighbor so that they can spy on the rest of the building.



## The Last Cuentista (F&P U)

Donna Barba Higuera

In the year 2061, a solar flare has altered the course of Halley's Comet, putting Earth and its inhabitants right in its trajectory. Twelve-year-old Petra Peña, a resourceful Mexican American preteen who longs to follow in her cuentista grandmother's footsteps and tell stories

for a living, successfully boards one of the last ships off-world--as do members of a dangerous, cultlike group called The Collective. When Petra awakens centuries later at the ship's destination, she quickly realizes that The Collective has wiped the memories--or lives--of her fellow passengers, and she must use her wits and Mexican folklore to protect the remaining humans and avoid the same fate.



## Iceberg (F&P U)

Jennifer Nielsen

Hazel Rothbury, sent to the US to work in a factory after her father's death, dreams of being a journalist. To fund her family without enduring the factory, she plans to write about the Titanic's voyage. Discovering she lacks a ticket, she decides to stow away. Assisted by porter Charlie and first-class passenger Sylvia, Hazel uncovers a mysterious danger aboard the ship. As calamity strikes, readers join Hazel in a suspenseful fight to save her friends and herself.



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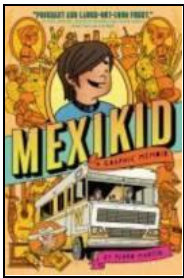


## Dead Flip (F&P Z)

Sara Farizan

Maz, Cori, and Sam, all 12, used to do everything together, until Sam disappeared on Halloween night in 1987. Now it's 1993, and Maz and Cori haven't spoken since Sam's funeral, where the two had a falling-out; Cori believes Sam is dead, but Maz is convinced he was sucked into their beloved pinball machine. A serendipitous run-in at the mall puts Cori and Maz back on each other's radar. Closeted lesbian Cori is now a homecoming queen nominee, while track team captain Maz struggles with an alcohol dependency. Maz is elated when he visits the neighborhood the trio grew up in and finds Sam, still 12, standing in front of his old house, but Cori is suspicious of Sam's sudden reappearance. Maz and

Cori attempt to hide him from prying eyes, but when people and animals turn up petrified throughout the community, the duo realizes that his still-12-year-old body is the least of their concerns.

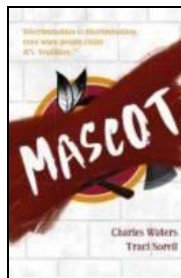


## Mexikid (F&P W)

Pedro Martin

Pedro Martin has grown up hearing stories about his abuelito-his legendary crime-fighting grandfather who was once a part of the Mexican Revolution! But that doesn't mean Pedro is excited at the news that Abuelito is coming to live with their family. After all,

Pedro has 8 brothers and sisters and the house is crowded enough! Still, Pedro piles into the Winnebago with his family for a road trip to Mexico to bring Abuelito home, and what follows is the trip of a lifetime, one filled with laughs and heartache. Along the way, Pedro finally connects with his abuelito and learns what it means to grow up and find his grito.

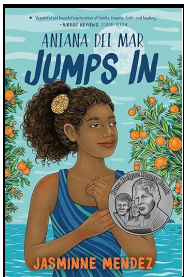


## Mascot (F&P Z)

Charles Waters

Mrs. Williams tasks her eighth-grade honors English students with a persuasive writing and oral presentation assignment arguing the pros and cons of using Indigenous peoples as mascots. Throughout the course of a school year the story unfolds in a series of poems that detail the perspectives of six students: Callie (Cherokee African American), Franklin (African American), Priya (Indian American), Luis (Salvadoran American), Tessa (white

and previously homeschooled), and Sean (white and living in generational poverty). Predictably, Callie, Priya, and Tessa (who sees herself as a committed antiracist) oppose Indigenous mascots, while the boys, who enjoy war paint and tomahawk chops at Rye Braves games, claim the mascot depicts pride in the team and their school. While the discord around the mascot is a long-standing one in the Virginia community, the assignment empowers the students to take the issue to the school board. After further research, one student switches sides, losing a friend in the process.



## Aniana Del Mar Jumps In (F&P V)

Jasminne Mendez

Aniana del Mar belongs in the water like a dolphin belongs to the sea. But she and Papi keep her swim practices and meets hidden from Mami, who has never recovered from losing someone she loves to the water years ago. That is, until the day Ani's stiffness and swollen joints mean she can no longer get out of bed, and Ani is forced to reveal just how important swimming is to her. Mami forbids her from returning to the water but Ani and her doctor believe that swimming along with medication will help Ani manage her disease. What follows is the journey of a girl who must grieve who she once was in order to rise like the tide and become the young woman she is meant to be. *Aniana Del Mar Jumps In* is a poignant story about chronic illness and disability, the secrets between mothers and daughters, the harm we do to the ones we love the most—and all the triumphs, big and small, that keep us afloat.



## The Mona Lisa Vanishes (F&P Y)

Nicholas Day

It's perhaps unthinkable that for much of its life, the Mona Lisa was simply another painting in the Louvre, nothing particularly special and interesting only to artists and avid art lovers. It was only after its theft

on August 21, 1911, that it became notorious, the subject of "the greatest heist in art history" and an obsession of the general public. Everyone had a theory: was it a besotted admirer? An inside job? A brilliant mastermind? The truth would turn out to be rather banal, but the investigation itself was the embodiment of a world on the cusp of change, as forensic science, media speculation, and a changing art world met old guard prejudice, rising nationalism, and misplaced suspicion.

