Seasons Readings: If you are looking for a family read over break or holiday gift ideas for your middle school student we have a few to recommend that have been published this year. Many of these titles have already been honored with awards and starred reviews, while others are contenders for the upcoming Printz, Newbery, and Coretta Scott King Awards. Happy Reading—Lynn and Jenny.

*The Thing About Jellyfish* by Ali Benjamin shares twelve-year-old Suzy Swanson’s experience as she wades through intense grief over the loss of her best friend by going on a heartfelt journey that investigates the rare jellyfish that she believes is responsible for the death.

*Say It Ain’t So* by Josh Berk brings back middle school students, Lenny, Mike, and Other Mike, to solve another exciting mystery. This time the boys stumble upon a stealing signals scandal on their baseball team that could go further up than anyone imagines.

*The Boys in the Boat: the True Story of an American Team’s Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics* by Daniel James Brown comes the heroic tale of nine working-class boys from the American West who showed the world what true grit really meant at the 1936 Olympics. The story led to an epic win against elite East Coast teams, and the boys shock the world again by challenging the German boat rowing for Adolf Hitler.

*The Last Ever After* by Soman Chainani is the epic conclusion to bestselling series, The School for Good and Evil. Former best friends, Sophie and Agatha, have gone their separate ways and now the forces of evil want to take over and make Sophie their queen. Will Tedros and Agatha be able to stop this from happening?

*Stella By Starlight* by Sharon Draper is a Depression-era novel where the Ku Klux Klan's unwelcome reappearance rattles Stella's segregated southern town, and bravery battles prejudice.

*Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: a Memoir* by Margarita Engle, the first Latina woman to receive a Newberry Honor, shares her poetic memoir of growing up as a child of two cultures, Cuba and Los Angeles, during the cold war.

*Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt is an uplifting novel that will speak to anyone who doesn’t feel like they fit in. Ally’s greatest fear is that everyone will find out that she doesn’t know how to read. With the help of a new teacher, Ally finds the confidence to be herself and not be ashamed.

*Roller Girl* by Victoria Jamieson is a graphic novel debut by Portland author and real-life derby girl. Victoria Jamieson has created an inspiring coming-of-age story about friendship, perseverance, and girl power!

*Fast Break* by Mike Lupica shares the uplifting story of Jayson who has put his focus in life on basketball and surviving after his mother’s death. He’s eventually found out and placed with an affluent family of a different race, and must accept many changes, which includes facing his former teammates in a championship game.
*Auggie & Me: Three Wonder Stories* by R. J. Palacio are the companion novelles to *Wonder* and add to the story of Auggie Pullman, an ordinary boy with an extraordinary face.

*The sword of summer* by Rick Riordan is the first book in the new fantasy adventure series: Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard.

*Echo* by Pam Munoz Ryan is an amazing narrative that examines the power of music to inspire beauty in a world overrun with fear and intolerance.

*The Marvels* by Brian Selznick is a beautiful novel told primarily in pencil drawn pictures.

*Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War* by Steve Sheinkin is a National Book Award Finalist and a tense, narrative nonfiction account of the Vietnam War.

*Nimona* by Noelle Stevenson is a graphic novel of Lord Ballister Blackheart who seeks to bring down the Institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics with the aid of his new shape-shifting sidekick Nimona.