**Leviosa presentation script**

**About Us slide**: Hello everyone, thank you so much for attending our session today, Hermione’s Summer Reading List. As you can see, there were supposed to be two of us presenting, but my friend and colleague, Barb unfortunately had an emergency and had to bow out. She is very sorry to miss the fun today, but she still supplied her half of the books. All of the books that she read and summarized are marked with this little B stamp. I did a tiny bit of digging into them to get acquainted with them, but unfortunately if you have any questions about her books I really won’t be able to do much beyond point you to Google for more info… To give you a little more background about us, Barb and I both work at a mid-sized public university in Minnesota where Barb works extensively with Media and Interlibrary Loan and I am the coordinator of our Reference Desk where we assist students with their research. We both also work with our Juvenile and Young Adult collection, which is one of the largest collections in our part of the state. We both have a passion for young adult books, but no real opportunity to read them for work. So, this presentation was a pretty great excuse to read a ton of fun books (and a few not so great ones).

**Potion Slide:** Let me tell you a bit about our very loose parameters for our book selection. They all had young protagonists and we have quite a few series, but they are not all series. Many of Barb’s choices featured young women and/or dealt with libraries or books. Mine were all over the place. We tried to keep our picks within the last 10 years, but we weren’t strict on this, and we tried to steer clear of the books we knew you would probably have already heard of (Hunger Games, Percy Jackson, Divergent, The Maze Runner, etc.) . Nearly all of the books are young adult or juvenile with elements of adventure, romance, paranormal, friendship, mystery, and/or a school setting. Our very scientific method to find our books was to check read alike lists on the internet and to walk through the shelves of our library pulling books from the shelves that seemed to fit. I’m not going to lie, this was one of the most fun projects I’ve had the opportunity to research in a long time. Also, either (or both) of us have read every single book on this list in its entirety.

**Let me tell you a little bit about how this presentation is organized… The slides on this list are divided into completely arbitrary divisions made up by us based on Hogwart’s classes. Sometimes our associations are stretched a little and sometimes books could fall under multiple categories, but just go with us.**

**I have 40 titles and short descriptions to speed through in the next 50 minutes or so, so excuse me if I speak quickly.**

First off **Muggle Studies** where we will read about non-magical adventures of people who are much more enjoyable than the Dursley family.

**Greenglass House**

**By: Kate Milford**

This is a highly enjoyable novel that follows a young adopted boy and his friend as they try to solve a mystery amongst the oddball guest at a smuggler’s inn. I highly recommend this title and look forward to the rumored sequel in 2017.

**The War that Saved my Life**

**By: Kimberly Brubaker Bradley**

This is a stand alone novel about a young girl named Ada with a club foot during World War II. Ada’s mother is so ashamed of her deformity that Ada has never set foot outside of their one-room apartment. Thanks to the threat of The Blitz on London, Ada and scores of other children are sent from their homes to temporary homes (and guardians) in the countryside. This allows Ada more freedom than she has ever had before as she discovers life skills and has a few adventures.

**Curiosity House: The Shrunken Head**

**By: Lauren Oliver and HC Chester**

Description from the publisher: Blessed with extraordinary abilities, orphans Philippa, Sam, and Thomas have grown up happily in Dumfrey’s Dime Museum of Freaks, Oddities, and Wonders. But when a fourth child, Max, a knife-thrower, joins the group, it sets off an unforgettable chain of events.

**The Mysterious Benedict Society**

**By: Trenton Lee Stewart**

This adventure begins with an odd advertisement seeking children to take a series of mysterious tests. Only 4 extraordinary children pass these tests and as a result find themselves on a secret undercover mission at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened. This is a series of 3 plus a prequel. The audiobook version was great, too.

**Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library**

**By: Chris Grabenstein**

This is a 2 book series thus far. In this non-magical adventure, Mr. Lemoncello is a famous board game creator who invites children to solve clues to win games that lead to a big prize. Geeky fun like Charlie & the Chocolate Factory

**The Rook**

**By: Daniel O'Malley**

As a member Her Majesty's Supernatural Secret Service, the main character wakes with no memory; guided by a series of letters from herself, she must navigate office politics and purple slime. Fans of Torchwood or Men in Black will enjoy this one. Book 2 -Stiletto- was released last month.

**Fangirl**

**By: Rainbow Rowell**

In this coming of age story, a young woman writes slash fan fic for a Harry Potter-esque universe. Book 2, Carry On is the fan fiction the young woman wrote. From the same author as the acclaimed Eleanor & Park (which is also fabulous), this one is highly recommended.

**Legend**

**By: Marie Lu**

This is the very last book that I read for this presentation and I am JUST about done with it. It’s the 1st book in a 3 book dystopian series. It has two main protagonists, Day, a 15 year-old street criminal wanted by the Republic for a string of crimes and June, a 15 year-old military prodigy tasked with tracking down Day after he allegedly murders her older brother. June discovers that Day will do anything to procure medicine for his plague-ridden little brother and also that he is far more than a thug. The chapter points-of-view switch back and forth between June and Day. There is a graphic novel adaptation and a film script has been completed.

Moving on to **Charms** class where we’ll delve into to the area of romance.

**My Faire Lady**

**By: Laura Wettersten**

In this non-magical YA romance a teenager with dreams of becoming an artist spends the summer painting faces at the local Renaissance Festival while recovering from a broken heart. With a large cast of unique characters, if this were made into a movie it would probably go straight to the Hallmark Channel and I would totally watch it. It was light, fluffy, and pretty formulaic, but I straight up enjoyed it anyway.

**The Queen of the Tearling**

**By: Erika Johansen**

In this trilogy, a fantasy world is settled by people who fled a dying Earth 500 years earlier. A young woman raised in exile returns to claim her crown in a court that is both unfamiliar and dangerous and where enemies and intrigue are around every corner. A film series is also confirmed as in development, with Emma Watson set to produce and star, however I could find no updates about this project lately, so it has perhaps stalled.

**Poison Study**

**By: Maria V Snyder**

This is from the Chronicles of Ixia series. In this romance, Yelena is forced to serve as food taster for the Commander rather than be executed for murder. She develops magic powers in a country where magic is forbidden.

**Royal We**

**By: Heather Cocks and Jessica Morgan**

This novel is a send off of the Prince William and Kate Middleton story except re-imagined with an American as the woman the crown prince falls for. Set amidst the fun of university at Oxford, it has a great supporting cast, including a rascally red headed younger brother. Written by the fashion bloggers, The Fug Girls, this is good fun. Also, if have any interest in celebrities or fashion and you haven’t checked out their blog, you’re missing out. A film version has been announced with Lauren Graham (Gilmore Girls) and Mae Whitman (Parenthood) at the helm.

Moving on to **Defense Against the Dark Arts** where our reading list will include books with horror elements or ghosts.

**The Screaming Staircase**

**By: Jonathan Stroud**

This is part of the Lockwood and Co. Series. In this case, I want to read the beginning of a review by Elizabeth Bird from School Library Journal… She says, “I’m sick of historical fiction. I’m sick of contemporary fiction. I’m sick of realism and science fiction. Fantasy I watch with a wary eye. I don’t always feel this way but when I’ve read seven depressing meaningful middle grade books for kids in a row the old noggin screams for something enjoyable for once. And to place into this mental desert a book like *The Screaming Staircase* … well, it’s the best possible cure for what ails ye. A pleasure from tip to tail, this is the book you hand the advanced readers that claim they’d rather read [*Paradise Lost*](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/15997.Paradise_Lost) than [*Harry Potter*](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/3.Harry_Potter). Smart as a whip, funny, witty, and honestly frightening at times, Stroud lets loose and gives readers exactly what they want. Ghosts, kids on their own without adult supervision, and loads of delicious cookies.” The entire review is great, as is this book. This book had me genuinely frightened, but then again I’m a self-proclaimed scaredy cat.

**Midnight Riot**

**By: Ben Aaronovitch**

For Dresden Files fans, this is a 6 book series. A British police officer learns that magic exists and that he is capable of wielding it. Consequently, he is assigned to an X-Files type police unit.

**Sabriel**

**By: Garth Nix**

This is the first book in the Old Kingdom series, which was originally published in 1997, but the next book is due in November 2016. Sabriel must go in search of her missing father, a necromancer who sends restless Dead to permanent rest, while expanding her skills to do the same. This is a richly imagined world that is not tedious in the world building.

On to **History of Magic**, where unsurprisingly, Professor Binns has assigned the largest reading list, which looks at Alternate universe or alternate earth, classic fantasy worlds, witches, historical fantasy, and Alt history.

**The Hero’s Guide to Saving Your Kingdom**

**By: Christopher Healy and Todd Harris**

In this 3 book series, we follow the Princes Charming from Cinderella, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, and Rapunzel, all of whom feel that they were short shrifted in stories told by the bards in their respective kingdoms. The (somewhat hapless) princes are all having troubles with their princesses and end up in league to fight evil magic. The books are quite large, but they have a steady pace and are pretty funny.

**The School for Good and Evil**

**By: Soman Chainani**

According to Mike Fleming Jr from Deadline Hollywood, the film rights for this trilogy were purchased by Universal in 2013. To quote Fleming, “The trilogy tells the story of ordinary boys and girls who are kidnapped from their homes and sent to [The School for Good and Evil](http://deadline.com/tag/the-school-for-good-and-evil/), where they are trained to be fairy tale heroes and villains, princesses and witches. The protagonist is Sophie, a beauty who is dumped into the School for Evil while her homely best friend Agatha is taken to the School for Good. Both girls find their fortunes reversed and are forced to confront the truth about their unexpected destinies.”

**Mimus**

**By: Lilli Thal**

Set in a fantasy, non-magical, medieval world at war, the teen protagonist is a prince forced to become a court jester by his father’s enemy. He is trained by Mimus, the current Fool who is odd, unpredictable, and cranky. This book is somehow grim, humorous, and beautiful all at once.

**Magyk**

**By: Angie Sage**

The 7 book series begins with Magyk, the story of Jenna Heap, an endangered princess raised by ordinary villagers and Boy 412, an orphaned young soldier found near death’s door. The series has a huge cast of characters including the large Heap family, magicians, assassins, and creatures galore. The entire series was optioned as a movie by Warner over 5 years ago, but has apparently stalled.

**Ink & Bone**

**By: Rachel Caine**

This is the 1st novel in The Great Library Series in which print books are forbidden and everyone has an e-reader controlled by the Great Library of Alexandria. Librarians in training find that the Library is not entirely benevolent.

**The Girl of Fire and Thorns**

**By: Rae Barson**

Princess Elisa, the plain sister to her beautiful and smart older sister becomes the Chosen One in this coming of age tale. If you liked Queen of the Tearling, you'll also enjoy The Girl of Fire and Thorns, but Barb says, “just don't read them back-to-back like I did.”

**Circle of Magic: Sandry’s Book**

**By: Tamora Pierce**

One of many excellent series from Tamora Pierce. It focuses on 4 students learning how to wield their differing magical skills. Written for tweens. Also check out the full-cast audio books.

**An Ember in the Ashes**

**By: Sabaa (SUHBUH) Tahir**

This novel is set in a fantasy world with Roman roots where the Scholar class are slaves and the Militant class are warriors. Elias is a soldier who wants to escape, but is drawn into a Goblet of Fire type challenge while Laia is trying to save brother. Elias and Laia’s paths cross at the academy. Paramount has acquired film rights.

**Wizard’s Hall**

**By: Jane Yolen**

Henry is sent to wizard school in spite of having no obvious talent for magic. The setting is very similar to Hogwarts. This standalone title was originally published in 1991 and is newly re-released as an e-book.

**Every Heart a Doorway**

**By: Seanan (SHAWN-in) McGuire**

This is a novella about children who have tumbled down a rabbit hole-type portal into chaotic worlds. When they return they do not all adjust to being back in the real world well.

**The Eyre Affair**

**By: Jasper Fforde (FORD)**

This fun novel is set in a zany alternative universe where Jurisfiction officers police the happenings in novels, such as keeping the bad guy from kidnapping characters to change a book’s plot.

**Peter and the Starcatchers**

**By: Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson**

This is a five book series that gives you the Peter Pan backstory. Peter, an orphan boy and his friend Molly battle thieves and pirates as they attempt to keep a magical secret called “starstuff” from falling into the wrong hands. They travel in a ship called the Neverland to Mollusk Island with James, Thomas, Prentiss, and Tubby Ted, who become The Lost Boys. The entire series has also been rewritten as chapter books for younger readers. In 2012, Disney announced that a film version would be made, but as of 2015 production has stalled.

Next we travel to the North Tower for **Divination Studies** to check out the books Professor Trelawny assigned pertaining to the future or time travel.

**The Lunar Chronicles**

**By Marissa Meyer**

I made the mistake of making this one of the first books that I read during my sabbatical (where I was trying to read as many different novels as possible for this presentation) and I totally got sucked into this world, became slightly obsessed and read all 5 books in 6 days. 4 of the books are a retelling of a classic fairy tale (Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, and Snow White), the other book is the story of the evil queen. All of the tales are woven together by the story about an evil queen from the moon colony who threatens the futuristic earth with brain washing and terroristic genetically mutated beasts. It’s really much better than it sounds. Great characters with fun banter.

**Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children**

**By: Ransom Riggs**

Spooky book about orphans with odd attributes hidden within time loops. Soon to be Tim Burton movie. My side note: my niece read this one and the pictures throughout were SUPER CREEPY. She absolutely LOVED it.

**A Darker Shade of Magic**

**By: VE Schwab**

Kell is one of a few traveller-magicians who can go to all 4 alternate universe Londons. This description of all 4 Londons comes from the VE Schwab Wiki, “Grey London is dirty, boring, lacks magic, ruled by mad King George. Red London is where life and magic are revered, and the Maresh Dynasty presides over a flourishing empire. White London is ruled by whoever has murdered their way to the throne. People fight to control magic, and the magic fights back, draining the city to its very bones. Once there was Black London - but no one speaks of that now.”

**Into the Dim**

**By: Janet B Taylor**

After Hope's mother disappears, she goes to visit relatives where she learns that her mom's work included time travel. To rescue her mother, Hope has to travel back to 12th century Scotland to rescue her mother. There is a sequel likely. Diana Gabaldon, author of the Outlander series raved, “Instantly engaging, constantly suspenseful, ultimately poignant and satisfying. Loved it!”

**The Selection**

**By: Kiera Cass**

The country of Illea (roughly all of North and Central America) is ruled by a king and queen and is split into a caste system where each person is assigned a number with their rank and professions clearly defined by that number. Prince Maxon is seeking a princess and calls a “selection” of 35 women from the top 5 castes. This recently completed 5 book series is sort of like a Futuristic Bachelorette crossed with The Hunger Games (with backstabbing and manipulation instead of all of the killing).

Let’s head out to the Forbidden Forest to ask Hagrid about our booklist for **Care of Magical Creatures**, all featuring Dragons, Werewolves, Vampires, Chimera, Genies, Elves, you get the drift...

**Graceling**

**By: Kristin Cashore**

I won’t lie, I checked this out from the library 3 separate times… The first 2 times I couldn’t get past the cover and the description, it just didn’t hook me. But once I got into it, I LOVED it. The gist is there is a fantasy world where a small minority of people are “graced” with peculiar and unique skills. The protagonist, Katsa is an exceptionally skilled assassin. The book follows her exploits as the king’s assassin and her secret work with the Council to bring justice to the kingdom. The author creates some truly remarkable chemistry between Katsa and her fellow graceling, Po. Some crazy fantastical magical creatures show up mostly in the 3rd book which is a prequel set in a completely separate realm. This is one of the few series (along with The Lunar Chronicles) which I will reread over and over.

**The Amulet of Samarkand**

**By: Jonathan Stroud**

This is the 1st book of Bartimaeus trilogy. It features a cranky 5000 year old djinni (GENIE) and a teenage wizard in an alt-history London. There is murder and mayhem and the author uses footnotes for sarcasm, which is just fun.

**Artemis Fowl**

**By: Eoin (pronounced OWEN) Colfer**

In this 8 book series teenage criminal mastermind Artemis Fowl wants to help restore a bit of his family’s gold stash, so he cooks up an engenius plan to kidnap a fairy (who just happens to be a police officer) and use her to bribe the fairy community. There is also a tech wizard centaur and a flatulent dwarf. There is a graphic novel adaptation and a film adaptation in progress as of 2013 by Walt Disney after lingering in development hell for over 10 years. This one is super fun. I should read it again…

**Daughter of Smoke & Bone**

**By: Laini Tayler**

In this unique fantasy trilogy, blue-haired Karou lives in modern Poland and was raised by chimera creatures from an alternate universe. One day angels appear. They are not the good guys.

Time to take the flue network to **Diagon Alley**, where we can pick up some books at Flourish and Blotts about Urban Fantasy and fantasy novels set in current day.

**Charlie Bone and the Time Twister**

**By: Jenny Nimmo**

This is actually the 2nd book in an 8 book series, which I accidentally picked up instead of the first. I didn’t connect with some of the secondary characters as well as I might have because of the loss of backstory, but I still recommend the series. It set at Bloor’s Academy, where many students endowed with special abilities study. Charlie’s special gift is that he can hear voices within pictures, which he uses along with his friends’ talents to help solve the mystery of how to help his time traveling great-uncle. The school and town feature a vast cast of characters that remind me of the Harry Potter universe.

**Libriomancer**

**By: Jim C. Hines**

In this humorous urban fantasy, Libriomancers protect the world from supernatural threats with their ability to pull objects from books. Recommended to fans of Dresden Files and Thursday Next.

**The Story of Owen: Dragon Slayer of Trondheim**

**By: E. K. Johnston**

Set in an alternative universe Canada in which dragons, attracted from their breeding grounds by the smell of carbon, terrorize the populace. Owen must balance dragon slaying and homework. If you want to learn more about this title, the New York Times has a good review.

**The Raven Boys**

**By: Maggie Stiefvater (Steve otter)**

Set in a rural school in modern Virginia, Blue is a clairvoyant. He has a vision that one of the Raven Boys, which is the nickname for students at the boys' boarding school, will die in his quest to find the long-lost Welsh king.

**The Dresden Files**

**By: Jim Butcher**

This 15 book series tells the story of Harry Dresden, Chicago’s first (and only) wizard PI. In this alternate universe, magic is widely discredited, but definitely exists along with all sorts of paranormal beasties. A review from the Monroe, Louisiana News-Star reads, “Butcher’s tales meld the wonder and fun of the *Harry Potter* series, but with an adult tone and attitude.” There is a graphic novel adaptation and it was also a short lived TV series on the Sci-Fi channel.

**Rocks Fall Everyone Dies**

**By: Lindsay Ribar**

For this one, I’d like to quote a portion of the Kirkus Review on this title, “For generations, 17-year-old Aspen Quick’s family has conducted a secret ritual to keep the cliff hanging over their small town from falling: they use a special power to “reach” inside people, steal their memories, desires, fears, talents, and physical attributes, and feed them to the cliff. Smart, cocky, and confident, Aspen doesn’t think twice about also using this power to influence strangers and friends for his personal gain. But no amount of magic can bring Aspen’s Chinese-American mom back after his parents split up. And when Aspen’s friends Brandy and Theo join him at his grandmother’s house for the summer, the biracial teen learns that “reaching” isn’t the only secret his family has been keeping. Barb received an advanced copy of this one and really liked it. She described it as "Twin Peaks meets Stars Hollow" and said that it reminded her of Raven Boys.

All aboard the **Hogwart’s Express**! Let’s read some Steam Punk!

**Soulless and Etiquette & Espionage**

**Both by: Gail Carriger**

I believe that these are the only 2 books on this entire list that both Barb and I read, which is amazing… Soulless is part of the Parasol Protectorate series, which is aimed at adults and Finishing School: Etiquette & Espionage which is young adult. Both series are full of witty humor, steampunk paranormal fun, and crime fighting.

**All Men of Genius**

**By: Lev AC Rosen**

A girl disguises herself as a boy to attend school in Victorian England. There is blackmail, mysterious killer automata (Uh TAH mah tah), and young love in this stand alone novel.

**The Invisible Library**

**By: Genevieve Cogman**

In this 2016 trilogy, Irene is a Librarian at the Invisible Library, where you can access alternate realities. Irene is sent to retrieve a unique book from a steampunk paranormal world, when of course the Big Bad shows up.

**Ending: That’s all for our reading list today. I know that there are tons of other great books and I would love to hear other people’s suggestions or if you have any questions about our little list.**

**Thanks so much for attending! Have a great conference.**