Las Virgenes Reads, a summer reading campaign, is for all students from preschool through high school. The program’s main goal is to create confident, capable readers. There are no reading logs, no quizzes, no tests, and no worksheets. All students do, is "Just Read!"

Barbara Andrews, Literacy Specialist, and Tina Johnson, District Library Media Specialist, have put together suggested titles of newer books that will keep students engaged with reading over the summer. More information and suggested titles are available on the district website. Check out the video to join in with the fun and "Just Read!"

If you’re planning to buy these books online, please use THE Foundation's Amazon Smile account so a percentage of sales can be shared with our LVUSD Library Media Centers. Enjoy!
Beginning Readers

This category, which includes picture books, is for children who are non-readers or just beginning to read.

Mother Bruce
by Ryan T Higgins
Enjoying a life of solitude and delicious hard-boiled eggs, Bruce the bear is surprised when his goose eggs hatch live goslings who believe he is their mother.

Last Stop on Market Street
by Matt de la Pena
A young boy rides the bus across town with his grandmother and learns to appreciate the beauty in everyday things.

Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music
by Margarita Engle
Follows a girl in the 1920s as she strives to become a drummer, despite being continually reminded that only boys play the drums, and that there has never been a female drummer in Cuba.

Ida, Always
by Caron Levis
When his best friend and fellow polar bear, Ida, becomes terminally ill, a sad Gus spends their final days together whispering, sniffing, cuddling and laughing with Ida in their home at the Central Park Zoo.

123 Versus ABC
by Mike Boldt
A rivalry between numbers and letters finds 1 alligator, 2 bears, 3 cars and other zany characters debating about their superiority and whether counting and measuring is as important as spelling and reading.

Count the Monkeys
by Mac Barnett
Children are invited to practice their counting skills while giggling at the antics of a group of monkeys who are frightened away by a whimsical series of animals.

Super Hair-O and the Barber of Doom
by John Rocco
Believing that his superpowers are derived from his shock of red hair, intrepid young hero Rocco refuses to have his hair cut and fights crime with a posse of wild-haired super friends until the day when an evil villain drags him off and cuts his hair.

Violet and Victor Write the Most Fabulous Fairy Tale
by Alice Kuipers
Twins Violet and Victor write a fairy tale together, with Violet contributing a castle, a princess, and unicorns and Victor adding a fairy tale-hating witch and a bevy of Australian animals.

Cockatoo, Too
by Bethanie Deeney Murguia
Funny wordplay and lush, vibrant illustrations introduce two cockatoos who meet two more cockatoos in tutus and two tutued toucans, who then all join together for a dance and ask the reader, “Can you can-can too?”

I Want My Hat Back
by J. Klassen
A bear almost gives up his search for his missing hat until he remembers something important. A cumulative tale with a mischievous twist.

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Beginning Readers
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**Dylan the Villain**
by K. G. Campbell
Knowing himself to be the cleverest and most formidable supervillain in the world, Dylan embarks on his adventure in kindergarten, where he meets his match in the bone-chilling Addison Van Malice, competing against him in the Diabolical Robot Building Contest.

**Snappsy the Alligator**
by Julie Falatko
When a meddling narrator makes slanderous claims in the hope of creating a more exciting story, Snappsy the alligator, who just wanted to go about a very ordinary day, balks at the accusations made about his appetite for cute fuzzy critters and refuses to invite narrator to his party.

**The Bear Ate Your Sandwich**
by Julia Sarcone-Roach
A guilty dog relates how a bear wandered out of the forest, became lost in the city and consumed an unattended sandwich before returning home. A whimsical tall tale by the award-winning author of Subway Story.

**The Problem with Chickens**
by Bruce McMillan
When women in an Icelandic village buy chickens to lay eggs for them to use, the chickens follow them, adopting human ways and forgetting their barnyard roots, until the ladies hatch a clever plan.

**Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear**
by Lindsay Mattick
A picture book adaptation of the story of the real bear who inspired Winnie-the-Pooh describes how the author’s great-grandfather, rescued a bear cub and took her with him to an English army base during World War I.

**Lenny & Lucy**
by Philip Christian Stead
Moving to a new house beyond the dark unfriendly woods, Peter becomes homesick despite the companionship of his faithful dog and sews two giant stuffed pillow friends to stand as guardians against scary things.

**Emmanuel's Dream**
by Laurie Ann Thompson
The inspiring story of a West African youth who pursued an education, helped support his family and became a record-setting cyclist in spite of a disability.

**I Yam a Donkey**
by Cece Bell
In a humorous story that ends with a dark and outrageously funny twist, confusion abounds when a poorly spoken donkey says to a yam who happens to be a grammarian, "I Yam a Donkey!"

**Too Many Carrots**
by Katy Hudson
Rabbit has lots of carrots and he attempts take them with him when he moves in with friends—until he realizes that the best thing to do is share his carrots with them.

**Brave Charlotte**
by Anu Stohner
Charlotte, different from all of the other sheep due to her inquisitive nature, saves the day when danger strikes. An adorable picture book that celebrates individuality.

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Poppleton and Friends (Series) by Cynthia Rylant
Poppleton the pig goes to the beach, solves a lint mystery, and learns that friends are the secret to a long life, in a delightfully funny and beautifully illustrated storybook that contains three tales about Poppleton and his friends.

Henry and Mudge (Series) by Cynthia Rylant
Scurrying home in the middle of a fierce thunderstorm, Henry is consoled by his parents and a cup of hot cocoa, but nothing will comfort Mudge except the passage of the storm.

Fly Guy and Spy Guy (Series) by Alexis Strathmann
Heroes Fly Guy and Spy Guy try to stop bad guy Byron Fry, in a reader that teaches the "y pronounced as long i" sound.

Mr. Putter & Tabby (Series) by Cynthia Rylant
Loving to read favorite books over and over again, Mr. Putter and his cat, Tabby, sign up for a read-aloud event at the local library and worry about what will happen when Mrs. Teaberry and her mischievous dog, Zeke, also volunteer.

Eerie Elementary (Series) by Jack Chabert
When their friend Lucy disappears into her locker, Sam and Antonio follow a trail of clues that lead them through the locker, deep inside their living school.

Kung Pow Chicken (Series) by Cyndi Marko
Transforming into an avian superhero who fights crime in the city of Fowladelphia, Gordon Blue hops into his Beakmobile and is led by his super birdy senses to a festival where all the chickens have lost their feathers.

Dragon Masters (Series) by Tracey West
Snatched up by a royal soldier and carried away to the castle, 8-year-old Drake trains along with three other children to become Dragon Masters who discover their dragons' special powers.

Monkey Me (Series) by Timothy Roland
Eating a banana that was zapped by lasers during a class field trip to the science museum, Clyde, an energetic student who cannot sit still, transforms into a monkey and relies on his twin sister, Claudia, to stay out of trouble.

Step into Reading (Series) by Martin Kratt
A skill-reinforcing reader based on the popular PBS animated show uses basic vocabulary and short sentences while the Kratt brothers activate their Creature Power Suits and swim with wild sea life.

The Notebook of Doom (Series) by Troy Cummings
Discovering an old notebook after moving to a new hometown, Alexander reads top-secret information about monsters while tackling a wacky band of arm-waving, balloon-wielding brutes.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boris on the Move (Series)</td>
<td>Andrew Joyner</td>
<td>Living with his parents in a van parked in Hogg Bay that has traveled throughout the world, Boris, a young warthog, is excited by a new adventure that unexpectedly brings him to a wildlife refuge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looniverse (Series)</td>
<td>David Lubar</td>
<td>Ed and his friends accidentally sign up for a playwriting contest, and what they write is pretty strange, but when it comes to actually performing the play, Ed’s magic coin lends new meaning to the words “stage fright.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stella and the Night Sprites (Series)</td>
<td>Sam Hay</td>
<td>Stella hopes to use her magic glasses to see the Tooth Fairy, but instead she sees Piper, the Tooth Bandit, a type of night sprite that steals the coins left for children and uses them to decorate their scooters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Pony Ranch (Series)</td>
<td>D. L. Green</td>
<td>Looking forward to spending the summer on her Gran’s pony ranch but dreading the prospect of having to share a room with her pink-clad, puppy-loving little sister, Tori falls in love with a pony that her Gran says is too rowdy to ride safely.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive &amp; Beatrix (Series)</td>
<td>Amy Marie Stadelmann</td>
<td>Beatrix is a witch, but her twin sister Olive is not, and when Beatrix plays one trick too many on Olive and their classmate Eddie, the three children have to work together to save their town.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haggis and Tank Unleashed (Series)</td>
<td>Jessica Young</td>
<td>When their imaginations take them on a search for real live dinosaurs, canine buddies Haggis and Tank build a nest for dino eggs and play baseball with a triceratops only to wonder if a groundquake is being caused by an approaching T-rex.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie Woo (Series)</td>
<td>Fran Manushkin</td>
<td>When Pedro keeps “losing” his eyeglasses, Katie shows him why it is alright--and necessary--to wear them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nate the Great (Series)</td>
<td>Marjorie Weinman Sharmat</td>
<td>Nate the Great and his dog, Sludge, would like to take a break from detective work, but new cases—cases they do not want—keep coming.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivy + Bean (Series)</td>
<td>Annie Barrows</td>
<td>After watching a movie about a detective on the television, Bean decides to set up shop as a private investigator--and she and Ivy start looking for mysteries to solve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gossie &amp; Gertie (Series)</td>
<td>Olivier Dunrea</td>
<td>Gossie and Gertie are best friends and everywhere Gossie goes, Gertie goes too—except when she doesn’t, and sometimes that's even better.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Developing Readers
These selections are for growing readers who are building reading stamina as they become more capable readers.

Flora & Ulysses
by Kate DiCamillo
Rescuing a squirrel after an accident involving a vacuum cleaner, comic-reading cynic Flora Belle Buckman is astonished when the squirrel, Ulysses, demonstrates astonishing powers of strength and flight after being revived.

The Year of Billy Miller
by Kevin Henkes
Seven-year-old Billy Miller starts second grade with a bump on his head and a lot of worries, but by the end of the year he has developed good relationships with his teacher, his little sister, and his parents.

Maybe a Fox
by Kathi Appelt
The Newbery Honoree and National Book Award finalist author of The Underneath teams up with the Pulitzer Prize-nominee author of Someday to present the story of a grieving sister whose desire to make a final wish for her lost sibling causes the human and shadow worlds to collide.

Roller Girl
by Victoria Jamieson
A graphic novel adventure about a girl who discovers roller derby right as she and her best friend are growing apart.

Brothers at Bat: The True Story of an Amazing All-Brother Baseball Team
by Audrey Vernick
Documents the story of the Baseball Hall of Fame honorees, tracing how the Acerra family formed their own semi-pro baseball team in the 1930s and became the longest-running all-brother team in history.

Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin
by Liesl Shurtliff
When his mother dies without revealing his full name, Rump endures teasing for his half-name until he discovers his ability to spin gold, a talent that entangles him in a dire curse and prompts a fantastical quest to discover his true identity.

True (-- Sort Of)
by Katherine Hannigan
For most of her eleven years, Delly has been in trouble without knowing why, until her little brother, RB, and a strange, silent new friend, Ferris, help her find a way to be good--and happy--again.

The Drowned Cities
by Paolo Bacigalupi
In a dark future America that has devolved into unending civil war, orphans Mahlia and Mouse barely escape the war-torn lands of the Drowned Cities, but their fragile safety is soon threatened and Mahlia will have to risk everything if she is to save Mouse, as he once saved her.

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library
by Chris Grabenstein
Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to escape.

The Real Boy
by Anne Ursu
A shy boy named Oscar who works as the hand to a powerful magic worker becomes the only person who can save his village from an evil monster.
Developing Readers
These selections are for growing readers who are building reading stamina as they become more capable readers.

**The Thing About Jellyfish**
by Ali Benjamin
A teen determinedly investigates the drowning death of her best friend to prove that the tragedy occurred because of a rare jellyfish sting.

**The Most Important Thing: Stories About Sons, Fathers & Grandfathers**
by Avi
A collection of short stories including the tale of a boy who seeks to understand the wishes of his father’s ghost, a boy who makes surprising discoveries while camping with the eccentric grandfather he just met and a boy who asks provocative questions when interviewing a prospective stepdad.

**Hour of the Bees**
by Lindsay Eagar
Spending a summer in New Mexico helping her family move her aging grandfather to an assisted living home, 12-year-old Carol avoids her prickly grandfather before she is captivated by his astonishing magical stories.

**Fish in a Tree**
by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
Hiding the truth about her inability to read from a highly motivated new teacher, Ally eventually discovers that her dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of and gains new confidence as she learns to read.

**The Fourteenth Goldfish**
by Jennifer L Holm
Hating change and missing both her best friend and her dead goldfish, 11-year-old Ellie encounters a boy who strongly resembles her immortality-obsessed grandfather, in a story that introduces the work of famous historical scientists.

**Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer**
by Kelly Jones
Feeling like a fish out of water when her family moves from Los Angeles to a recently inherited chicken farm, 12-year-old Sophie encounters a telekinetic chicken and her equally unusual flockmates.

**The Dumbest Idea Ever!**
by Jimmy Gownley
A renowned comics creator recounts his adventures as he grows from an eager-to-please boy into a teenage comic book artist, sharing the real-life story of how the DUMBEST idea ever became the BEST thing that ever happened to him.

**Eleven**
by Tom Rogers
A story about bullies and heros and an unexpected lesson of kindness. It’s a story of a boy turning 11 on 9/11.

**Raymie Nightingale**
by Kate DiCamillo
Hoping that if she wins a local beauty pageant her father will come home, Raymie practices twirling a baton and performing good deeds while outmaneuvering a drama queen and a saboteur who become her friends.

**Circus Mirandus**
by Cassie Beasley
Learning from his dying grandfather that a magical circus at the heart of his favorite bedtime stories is real, young Micah and his friend Jenny embark on a journey to claim a miracle from the circus’s wondrous magician.
Independent Readers

These selections are for stronger readers who can easily tackle a 150+ page book and successfully digest the content.

El Deafo
by Cece Bell
The author recounts in graphic novel format her experiences with hearing loss at a young age, including using a bulky hearing aid, learning how to lip read, and determining her “superpower.”

Brown Girl Dreaming
by Jacqueline Woodson
In vivid poems that reflect the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, an award-winning author shares what it was like to grow up in the 1960s and 1970s in both the North and the South.

The War That Saved My Life
by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

Keeper of the Lost Cities
by Shannon Messenger
At age twelve, Sophie learns that the remarkable abilities that have always caused her to stand out identify her as an elf, and after being brought to Eterna to hone her skills, discovers that she has secrets buried in her memory for which some would kill.

Wonderstruck
by Brian Selznick
An awe-inspiring journey that tells the story of 12-year-old Ben, who leaves his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he never knew in New York City. There he meets Rose, who is also longing for something that is missing from her life.

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Rain Reign
by Ann M. Martin
Struggling with the challenges of OCD and Asperger’s syndrome, Rose, a shares an inseparable bond with a beloved dog, but when the dog goes missing during a storm, Rose is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels.

Crenshaw
by Katherine Applegate
Fearing his family will have to move into their minivan when they suffer another financial setback, Jackson finds support and comfort through his friendship with a giant imaginary cat.

The Seventh Most Important Thing
by Shelley Pearsall
In 1963, 13-year-old Arthur is sentenced to community service helping the neighborhood Junk Man after he throws a brick at the old man’s head in a moment of rage, but the junk he collects might be very important.

Upside Down in the Middle of Nowhere
by Julie T. Lamana
At the end of August 2005, ten-year-old Armani is looking forward to her birthday party in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, where she and her extended family live, but Hurricane Katrina is on the way, bringing destruction and tragedy in its wake.

Kid Presidents: True Tales of Childhood from America’s Presidents
by David Stabler
Presents twenty stories featuring the United States presidents when they were children, including William Taft’s dance lessons, Lyndon Johnson’s classroom pranks, and Gerald Ford’s struggles with dyslexia.

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Independent Readers
These selections are for stronger readers who can easily tackle a 150+ page book and successfully digest the content.

**Night Vision**
by Ella West
Viola was born with a genetic condition that makes sunlight deadly. She’s used to seeing hidden things with her night vision goggles, but one night she sees something that could get her in a lot of trouble. A heart-thumping thriller.

**Saving Wonder**
by Mary Knight
Living with his grandfather in the Appalachian Mountains of Wonder Gap, Kentucky, Curley, who lost most of his family to coal-mining accidents, faces a difficult choice when a new coal boss takes over and threatens the mountains Curley loves.

**The Honest Truth**
by Dan Gemeinhart
Struggling to lead a normal life filled with friendships and hobbies despite a serious illness, young Mark runs away with his camera and his dog to pursue his dream of climbing to the top of Mount Rainier.

**The Charmed Children of Rookskill Castle**
by Janet Fox
Believing that there is a logical explanation for everything despite strange occurrences at drafty Rookskill Castle where children have been sent to escape the London Blitz, 12-year-old Katherine discovers, in the wake of numerous disappearances, that the castle’s overseer has been harboring a Nazi spy.

**Just My Luck**
by Cammie McGovern
This book is about a little boy who has to cope with a string of bad luck, but his caring heart helps him find the strength to cope with tragedy and realize how much he truly has to offer family and friends.

**Another Kind of Hurricane**
by Tamara Ellis Smith
Two boys from very different worlds—a black boy who loses his home during Hurricane Katrina and a white boy from Vermont who loses his best friend in a tragic accident—find healing through their unlikely friendship.

**Villain Keeper**
by Laurie McKay
Transported from the Winterlands of Razzon to a non-magical town in North Carolina, Prince Caden wonders how he will pursue his dreams of glory in a world where there are no dragons to slay.

**Death by Toilet Paper**
by Donna Gephart
Aspiring to win a cash prize that will help his family avoid eviction after his father passes away, seventh-grader Benjamin Epstein uses his flair for clever slogans to participate in a contest being run by a bathroom tissue company.

**The Red Pencil**
by Andrea Davis Pinkney
Combines lyrical verses and evocative illustrations by two Coretta Scott King Award-winning contributors in the story of young Amira, whose dreams of attending school are shattered by a Janjaweed attack on her Sudanese village and a forced flight to safety.

**The Scavengers**
by Michael Perry
Enduring a scavenger’s existence in a world outside of the protective Bubble Cities that were established after the world began falling apart, 12-year-old Maggie taps her inner resources to survive and save her abducted family members.
Young Adults

This category of books is for experienced high school readers who possess the maturity to tackle young adult and politically sensitive issues. Parents are encouraged to review these titles. Consideration should be given to difficulty, subject matter and content.

Orbiting Jupiter
by Gary D Schmidt
Twelve-year-old Jack narrates the story of foster teen Joseph, who after serving time in a juvenile facility has been placed with a family on a rural Maine farm and who resolves to track down the daughter he has never met.

The Crossover
by Kwame Alexander
A middle-grade novel in verse follows the experiences of twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan, who struggle with challenges on and off the court while their father ignores his declining health.

The Boys in the Boat
by Daniel Brown
Traces the story of an American rowing team from the University of Washington that defeated elite rivals at Hitler’s 1936 Berlin Olympics, sharing the experiences of such contributors as their enigmatic coach, a visionary boat builder and a homeless teen rower.

The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B
by Teresa Toten
Struggling with his parents’ divorce, his step-sibling and the challenges of OCD, teen Adam Spencer Ross despairs of ever falling in love before being unexpectedly drawn to a girl who makes him question his capacity for a normal relationship.

Bone Gap
by Laura Ruby
Knowing that his sister has been kidnapped by a dangerous assailant and that she did not abandon the family like their mother did years earlier, Finn confronts town secrets.

The False Prince
by Jennifer A. Nielsen
In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition to be selected to impersonate the king’s long-missing son in an effort to avoid a civil war.

The Porcupine of Truth
by Bill Konigsberg
Spending his summer in Billings, Montana, to help care for the dying alcoholic father he never knew, Carson Smith meets a beautiful runaway and a pastor who holds a secret about Carson’s long-missing grandfather.

The Hired Girl
by Laura Amy Schlitz
Fourteen-year-old Joan Skraggs chronicles her life in a journal when she leaves her family’s farm in Pennsylvania to work as a hired girl in Baltimore in the summer of 1911.

A Study in Charlotte: A Charlotte Holmes Novel
by Brittany Cavallaro
Rival teens Charlotte and Jamie, descendants of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson, investigate the mystery of why they are being framed for murder at their American boarding school.

A Thousand Pieces of You
by Claudia Gray
When eighteen-year-old Marguerite Caine’s father is killed, she must leap into different dimensions and versions of herself to catch her father’s killer.
Young Adults

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Up to This Pointe by Jennifer Longo
Devoting her life to becoming a professional ballerina alongside her best friend, Harper uses her ties to South Pole explorer Robert Falcon Scott to gain entry into icy McMurdo Station when her life takes an unexpected turn.

Hello, Goodbye, and Everything in Between by Jennifer E. Smith
High school sweethearts Clare and Aidan spend the night before they leave for college reminiscing about their relationship and deciding whether they should stay together or break up.

Six of Crows: Six Dangerous Outcasts. One Impossible Heist by Leigh Bardugo
Six dangerous outcasts must learn to work together after they are offered an impossible heist that can save the world from destruction.

Anna and the Swallow Man by Gavriel Savit
Left alone when her father is arrested by the Germans during World War II, Anna, a child growing up in occupied Kraków, Poland, finds shelter with a talented illusionist who hides a sinister nature.

We Are all Made of Molecules by Susin Nielsen-Fernlund
Trying to make the best of things when their parents move in together, a socially clueless genius and a less-than-bright but popular girl tackle a mean-spirited bully.

Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell
Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits--smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try.

Dumplin' by Julie Murphy
Questioning her plus-sized body for the first time when an athletic boy appears to return her affections, Willowdean enters her city's beauty pageant and uses her sassy styles and talents to compete against thinner contestants.

Challenger Deep by Andrew Cosby
Caden Bosch lives in two worlds. One is his real life with his family, his friends, and high school. There he is paranoid for no reason, and demonstrates obsessive compulsive behaviors. In his other world, he's part of the crew for a pirate captain on a voyage to the ocean.

Nimona by Noelle Stevenson
Lord Blackheart, a villain with a vendetta, and his sidekick, Nimona, an impulsive young shapeshifter, must prove to the kingdom that Sir Goldenloin and the Institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics aren't the heroes everyone thinks they are.

The Rest of Us Just Live Here by Patrick Ness
The best friend of a kid with superhuman qualities endeavors to have a life of his own that is both normal and extraordinary in the face of constant challenges, threats against his school and an elusive girl.

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