

2021 Wakefield High School Suggested Summer Reading List

We have divided the Suggested Summer Reading list into categories of reading. Each category has easier or more accessible titles for those who desire them under the heading: Easier Reads.

The books marked with an asterisk (*) are for more mature readers. These books are more challenging to comprehend, and they might involve mature topics such as violence, sex, drugs, and/or alcohol.

Please ask Karen Stern (Readers' Advisory & Reference Librarian—Main Floor Reference), Casey Chwiecko (Young Adult Librarian—Lower Level Youth Room), or the other librarians at the Beebe Library, if you have questions. They are more than happy to help in the process of selecting summer reading books.

Librarians will also suggest titles based on what you enjoy reading if you cannot find something you would like to read on the Suggested Summer Reading List.

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FICTION: Easier Reads

Albertalli, Becky. *Simon vs The Homo Sapiens Agenda.* Sixteen-year-old, not-so-openly-gay Simon Spier is blackmailed into playing wingman for his classmate or else his sexual identity--and that of his pen pal--will be revealed.

Almond, David. *A Song for Ella Grey.* Claire witnesses a love so dramatic it is as if her best friend Ella Grey has been captured and taken from her. However, the loss of her best friend to the arms of Orpheus is nothing compared to the loss she feels when Ella is taken from the world in his modern take on the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice set in Northern England.

Alvarez, Julia. *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents.* Four girls from the Dominican Republic plunge from a pampered life of privilege on an island into the big city chaos of New York and rebel against their parents' old-world discipline.

Andrews, Jesse. *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl.* Seventeen-year-old Greg has managed to become part of every social group at his Pittsburgh high school without having any friends, but his life changes when his mother forces him to befriend Rachel, a girl who has leukemia.

Bell, Julia. *Massive.* Because of her mother's obsession with weight, coupled with the false idea that being thin is the key to success, young Carmen becomes just as obsessed as her mother in having a perfect body.

Berry, Julie. *All the Truth That's In Me.* Four years ago, Judith and her best friend disappeared. Only Judith returned, permanently mutilated and ignored by everyone. Unable to speak, Judith lives like a ghost in her own home until the town is attacked.

---. *The Passion of Dolssa.* The story-within-a-story begins in 1290 as a friar gathers testimonies from the Inquisition. But one tale troubles him: Sassy matchmaker Botille and her sister encounter aristocratic mystic Dolssa, beloved of Jesus, escaping from the pyre.

Betts, A.J. *Zac and Mia.* The last person Zac expects in the room next door is a girl like Mia, angry and feisty with questionable taste in music. In the real world, he wouldn't--couldn't--be friends with her. In the hospital, different rules apply, and what begins as a knock on the wall leads to a note--then a friendship neither of them sees coming.

Blume, Judy. *In the Unlikely Event.* Blume tells the story of three generations of women in the 1950s through the eyes of 15-year-old Mitzi. It all begins when, over a two-month period, three planes inexplicably fall out of the sky over their New Jersey town.

Calame, Don. *Call the Shots.* Coop, Matt, and Sean embark on their latest popularity-building venture for which they write a horror movie script and shoot a low-low-budget film in hopes of winning the girls of their dreams.

Caletti, Deb. *Wild Roses.* In Washington State, seventeen-year-old Cassie learns about the good and bad sides of both love and genius while living with her mother and brilliant-yet-disturbed, violinist stepfather and falling in love with a gifted young musician.

Coelho, Paulo. *The Alchemist: A Fable About Following Your Dream.* A young shepherd boy seeks a hidden treasure and dreams of traveling the world.

Dessen, Sarah. *Just Listen.* Isolated from friends who believe the worst because she has not been truthful with them, sixteen-year-old Annabel finds an ally in classmate Owen, whose honesty and passion for music help her to face and share what really happened at the end-of-the-year party that changed her life.

--. *Saint Anything.* Sydney's charismatic older brother, Peyton, has always been the center of attention in the family but when he is sent to jail, Sydney struggles to find her place at home and the world until she meets the Chathams, including gentle, protective Mac, who makes her feel seen for the first time.

DeWoskin, Rachel. *Big Girl Small.* Sixteen-year-old Judy faces the usual torments of teen life when she transfers to an elite performing arts high school, but it's her 3-foot-9-inch stature that amplifies the troubles and helps her stand tall.

Forman, Gayle. *If I Stay.* While in a coma following an automobile accident that killed her parents and younger brother, seventeen-year-old Mia, a gifted cellist, weighs whether to live with her grief or join her family in death.

Going, K.L. *King of the Screwups.* After getting in trouble yet again, popular high school senior Liam, who never seems to live up to his wealthy father's expectations, is sent to live in a trailer park with his gay "glam-rocker" uncle.

Green, John. *The Fault in Our Stars.* Sixteen-year-old Hazel, a stage IV thyroid cancer patient, has accepted her terminal diagnosis until a chance meeting with a boy at cancer support group forces her to reexamine her perspective on love, loss, and life.

Green, John & Daniel Levithan. *Will Grayson, Will Grayson.* When two teens, one gay and one straight, meet accidentally and discover that they share the same name, their lives become intertwined as one begins dating the other's best friend, who produces a play about them.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Don't You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dunphrey.* In the journal she is keeping for English class, sixteen-year-old Tish chronicles the changes in her life when her abusive father returns home after a two-year absence.

Haddon, Mark. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time.* Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Harrison, Lisi. *Pretenders.* Five high school freshmen - the Phoenix Five - reveal their friendships, crushes, school and family dramas, and big secrets, as told in their unique voices through journal entries.

Hemphill, Stephanie. *Wicked Girls: A Novel of the Salem Witch Trials.* A fictionalized account, told in verse, of the Salem witch trials, told from the perspective of three of the real young women living in Salem in 1692—Mercy Lewis, Margaret Walcott, and Ann Putnam, Jr.

Hesser, Terry Spencer. *Kissing Doorknobs.* Fourteen-year-old Tara describes how her increasingly strange compulsions begin to take over her life and affect her relationships with her family and friends.

Hough, Robert. *Diego's Crossing.* Diego is a smart high school senior from a dusty town on the Mexican side of the U.S. border. This grim and unflinching story shows the nearly, impossible choices that make life there so tough.

Hughes, Dean. *Soldier Boys.* Two boys, one German and one American, are eager to join their respective armies during World War II, and their paths cross at the Battle of the Bulge. Each boy tells the story from his own point of view.

Iserson, David. *Firecracker.* Forced to attend public school after being expelled from her elite private school, Astrid earns the dislike of her new peers because of her biting wit and competitive worldview until fellow misfits teach her a lesson in humility.

Johnson, Angela. *First Part Last.* Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter.

Johnson, Maureen. *13 Little Blue Envelopes.* When seventeen-year-old Ginny receives a packet of mysterious envelopes from her favorite aunt, she leaves New Jersey to crisscross Europe on a sort of scavenger hunt that transforms her life.

Kinsella, Sophie. *Finding Audrey.* Fourteen-year-old Audrey is making slow but steady progress dealing with her anxiety disorder when Linus comes into the picture and her recovery gains momentum.

---. *I've Got Your Number.* After her phone is stolen during a hotel fire drill, Poppy Wyatt, discovering an abandoned phone in a trash can, crashes into the life of the phone's owner, Sam Roxton, when she uses his phone to make her wedding preparations.

Klass, David. *Grandmaster.* A father-son chess tournament reveals the dark side of the game.

Klein, Lisa. *Ophelia.* In a story based on Shakespeare's Hamlet, Ophelia tells of her life in the court of Elsinore, her love for Prince Hamlet, and her escape from the violence in Denmark.

Lubar, David. *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie.* While navigating his first year of high school and awaiting the birth of his new baby brother, Scott loses old friends and gains some unlikely new ones as he hones his skills as a writer.

Mackler, Carolyn. *Infinite In Between.* Five students who meet in freshman orientation agree to write notes to their future selves and promise to reunite in exactly four years when they are ready to graduate from high school.

Martel, Yann. *Life of Pi.* Possessing encyclopedia-like intelligence, unusual zookeeper's son Pi Patel sets sail for Canada, but when the ship sinks, he escapes on a lifeboat and is lost at sea with a dwindling number of animals until only he and a hungry Bengal tiger remain.

McGinty, Sean. *The End of Fun.* Aaron is having a heck of a time deleting an embedded, interactive marketing program chip in this very funny take on tech.

Nelson, Jandy. *The Sky is Everywhere.* In the months after her sister dies, seventeen-year-old Lennie falls into a love triangle and discovers the strength to follow her dream of becoming a musician.

---. *I'll Give You the Sun.* A story of first love, family, loss, and betrayal told from different points in time, and in separate voices, by artist Jude and her twin brother Noah.

Northrop, Michael. *Gentlemen.* No one at their high school takes four friends from the wrong side of the tracks seriously, except for Mr. Haberman, their English teacher who calls them "gentlemen." When one of them goes missing, the clues all seem to point to Mr. Haberman.

Powell, Kelley. *The Merit Birds.* Angry eighteen-year-old Cameron must accompany her mother to Laos. At first things go well until a motorbike accident lands him in a Laotian jail.

Rabb, Margo. *Kissing in America.* When she falls for a boy who moves to California without any warning, sixteen-year-old Eva and her best friend, Annie, set off on a road trip to the West Coast to see him again, confronting the complex truth about love along the way.

Rebeck, Theresa. *Three Girls and Their Brother.* This tale of three sisters transformed into the fashion world's latest "it" girls is told in four different narrative voices. The siblings fall prey to the evil forces and temptations of show business, unleashing a rivalry that threatens the family.

Rees, Celia. *Witch Child.* In 1659, fourteen-year-old Mary Newbury keeps a journal of her voyage from England to the New World and her experiences living as a witch in a community of Puritans near Salem, Massachusetts.

Restrepo, Bettina. *Illegal.* Nora, a fifteen-year-old Mexican girl, faces the challenges of being an illegal immigrant in Texas when she and her mother cross the border in search of Nora's father.

Reynolds, Jason. *The Boy in the Black Suit.* Soon after his mother's death, Matt takes a job at a funeral home in his tough Brooklyn neighborhood and, while attending and assisting with funerals, begins to accept her death and his responsibilities as a man.

Rowell, Rainbow. *Fangirl.* *Fangirl* traces Cath's journey to independence as she begins college, struggles to have an identity separate from her twin sister, find her voice and passion as a writer and fall in love, maybe, for the first time.

Ruby, Laura. *Bone Gap.* Eighteen-year-old Finn, an outsider in his quiet Midwestern town, is the only witness to the abduction of town favorite Roza, but his inability to distinguish between faces makes it difficult for him to help with the investigation.

Semple, Maria. *Where'd You Go, Bernadette?* Through a series of e-mails, letters, and FBI files, precocious Bee follows the trail of her missing mother to the ends of the earth.

Smith, Roland. *Peak*. A fourteen-year-old-boy attempts to be the first kid to climb Mt. Everest in this compelling, fast-paced, realistic story.

Smith, Sherri. *Flygirl*. During World War II, a light-skinned African- American girl “passes” for white in order to join the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

Spalding, Amy. *Kissing Ted Callahan (and Other Guys)*. Sixteen-year-olds Riley and Reid make a pact to pursue their respective crushes and document the experiences in a shared notebook they call “The Passenger Manifest.”

Stiefvater, Maggie. *The Raven Boys*. Blue Sargent has been told that a kiss will kill her true love. She stays away from all boys, but when one boy’s ghost shows up, Blue understands that she can no longer avoid the Raven Boys.

Tokio, Marnelle. *More Than You Can Chew*. Marty, a high school senior, finds herself in a psychiatric institution where she is being treated for her eating disorder.

Vestal, Shawn. *Daredevils*. Longing to experience a glamorous life outside of her Mormon community, feisty 15-year-old Loretta decides that Evel Knievel-worshipping Jason will help her do just that.

Vivian, Siobhan. *The List*. Every year at Mount Washington High School somebody posts a list of the prettiest and ugliest girls from each grade--this is the story of eight girls, freshman to senior, and how they are affected by the list.

Ward, Jesmyn. *Salvage the Bones*. Bearing down on fourteen-year-old Esch and her dysfunctional family, Hurricane Katrina could be as devastating to her life as the secret she’s carrying.

Watson, Larry. *Montana 1948*. The events of a small-town summer forever alter David Hayden’s view of his family in this tale of love and courage.

Werlin, Nancy. *Rules of Survival*. Seventeen-year-old Matthew recounts his attempts, starting at a young age, to free himself and his sisters from the grip of their abusive mother.

Yoon, Nicola. *Everything Everything*. The story of a teenage girl who is literally allergic to the outside world. When a new family moves in next door, she begins a complicated romance that challenges everything she's ever known.

---. *The Sun is Also a Star*. Natasha has only hours to prevent her family’s deportation to Jamaica. Korean American Daniel has to decide whether to follow the path his parents want. It is inconvenient but when they meet, sparks fly.

Zusak, Markus. *I Am the Messenger*. After capturing a bank robber, nineteen-year-old cab driver Ed Kennedy begins receiving mysterious messages that direct him to addresses where people need help, and he begins getting over his lifelong feeling of worthlessness.

FICTION: for more mature readers

***Ackerman, Elliot.** *Green on Blue*. In this thorny, illuminating, memorable modern war novel. Ackerman who served five tours of duty in Afghanistan and Iraq writes with empathy, authority, and integrity about Aziz, who joins a US-funded militia after his older brother is injured in a Taliban bombing.

***Anders, Charlie Jane.** *All the Birds in the Sky.* Two socially inept tweens who are thrust into a whirlpool of world-ending change, join forces in this knock-your-socks-odd blend of science and magic, which follows the pair over decades from friends to enemies.

***Anderson, Laurie Halse.** *Impossible Knife of Memory.* Hayley Kincaid and her father move back to their hometown to try a "normal" life, but the horrors he saw in the war threaten to destroy that possibility.

---. *Twisted.* After finally getting noticed by someone other than bullies and his angry father, seventeen-year-old Tyler enjoys his tough new status, but when life starts to go bad again, he must make some choices in this darkly humorous tale.

***Armistead, Cal.** *Being Henry David.* Seventeen-year-old 'Hank,' who cannot remember his identity, finds himself in Penn Station with a copy of Thoreau's *Walden* as his only possession and must figure out where he's from and why he ran away.

***Ball, Jesse.** *How to Set a Fire and Why.* Effectively orphaned Lucia lives with her penniless aunt and cherishes her father's Zippo lighter. Witty valiant Lucia recounts her misadventures setting fires in a Robin Hood like process against the ruling class.

***Banks, Russell.** *Rule of the Bone.* A teenage boy is molested at home, skirts the underworld, and finds horrifying abuse as well as unlikely familial support as he retains his sense of humor and humanity.

***Berg, Elizabeth.** *Durable Goods.* Following her mother's death, Katie, a young girl living on an army base in the 1960s, waits for her Prince Charming to fall in love with her and struggles to understand her distant, violent father.

***Bray, Libba.** *Beauty Queens.* When an airplane full of teenage beauty queens crashes on a remote island, the surviving girls are forced to push themselves to the limits in order to survive. A very amusing and thought-provoking Miss America meets *Survivor* story.

***Chbosky, Stephen.** *The Perks of Being a Wallflower.* Written in a diary format, Charlie is navigating through the strange worlds of love, drugs, and dealing with the loss of a good friend and his favorite aunt.

***Cline, Emma.** *The Girls.* It's 1969 in Petaluma, California, and bored teenager Evie is introduced to a "family" of hangers-on surrounding a charismatic musician—vivid recreation of the Manson Family as a coming-of-age novel.

***Downham, Jenny.** *You Against Me.* When eighteen-year-old Mikey's younger sister claims to have been raped and he seeks to avenge the crime, he meets Ellie, the sister of the accused, and befriends her, complicating the situation considerably for all of them.

***Enger, Leif.** *Peace Like a River.* The quiet 1960s Midwestern life of the Land family is upended when Davy kills two teenage boys who have come to harm the family. On the morning of his sentencing, Davy escapes from his cell and the Lands set out in search for him.

***Fischer, Jackie Moyer.** *An Egg on Three Sticks.* Thirteen-year-old Abby recounts her mother's heartbreaking descent into mental illness.

***Galloway, Gregory.** *The 39 Deaths of Adam Strand.* A bored, self-absorbed teenager commits suicide and later wakes up alive, physically unharmed--thirty-nine times.

***Hand, Cynthia.** *The Last Time We Say Goodbye.* After her younger brother, Tyler, commits suicide, Lex struggles to work through her grief in the face of a family that has fallen apart, the sudden distance between her and her friends, and memories of Tyler that still feel all too real.

***Handler, David.** *Why We Broke Up.* Structured around the objects being returned after a breakup, this girl-meets-boy story depicts the couple's alternately gushing and halting emotions.

***Hoffman, Alice.** *Blue Diary.* The revelation of a dark secret about a man's true identity and his past threatens to turn a small Massachusetts town upside down as the truth shatters its peace and tests the bond between family and friends.

***Johnston, E.K.** *Exit, Pursued By a Bear.* At the end-of-the-year cheerleading camp, Hermione Winters is drugged, raped, and impregnated. Recovery is long, but she is determined to live her life.

***Josefson, Dan.** *That's Not A Feeling.* Abandoned in a therapeutic boarding school in upstate New York, 16-year-old suicide survivor Benjamin endures a turbulent environment dominated by scheduled medication, emotionally arrested caregivers and a brilliant but raging headmaster whose sudden illness throws the school into turmoil.

***King, A.S.** *I Crawl Through it.* A surrealist novel about four teenagers who find unconventional ways to escape standardized tests and their perilous world, and discover that the only escape from reality is to face it.

----. *Reality Boy.* An emotionally damaged seventeen-year-old boy in Pennsylvania, who was once an infamous reality television show star, meets a girl from another dysfunctional family, and she helps him out of his angry shell.

***Knowles, Jo.** *Jumping Off Swings.* This novel tells, from four points of view, the ramifications of a pregnancy resulting from a "one-time thing" between Ellie, who feels loved when boys touch her, and Josh, an eager virgin with a troubled home life.

***Lockhart, E.** *We Were Liars.* This brilliant and heartbreaking novel tells the story of a prestigious family living on a private island off the coast of Massachusetts. Full of love, lies, secrets, no shortage of family dysfunction, and a shocking twist you will not see coming.

***Madigan, L.K.** *Flash Burnout.* Fifteen-year-old Blake has a girlfriend and a friend who is a girl. One of them loves him; the other one needs him. In a tangle of life and death, love and loyalty, Blake will emerge with a more sharply defined snapshot of himself.

***Maia, Love.** *DJ Rising.* Sixteen-year-old half black/half Puerto Rican Marley (born at a Bob Marley concert) dreams of becoming a professional DJ and spinning records at a nightclub but his mother's addiction keeps dragging him back to earth.

***McCormick, Patricia.** *Cut.* While confined to a mental hospital, thirteen-year-old Callie slowly comes to understand some of the reasons behind her self-mutilation and gradually starts to get better.

---. *Sold.* When she is tricked by her stepfather and sold into prostitution, thirteen-year-old Lakshmi becomes submerged in a nightmare where her only comfort is the friendship she forms with the other girls, which helps her survive and eventually escape.

***Merullo, Roland.** *The Talk-Funny Girl.* Raised in isolation in New Hampshire, Marjorie seems to be from another planet with its own language. Her seventeenth year brings love and possibly freedom from her dangerous parents.

***Picoult, Jodi.** *Leaving Time.* A variety of broken and lost narrators, tell this story. Jenna is searching for answers to the disappearance of her mother, and seeks the help of a retired police detective and a psychic. Alice, Jenna's mom, disappeared after a tragic accident at the elephant sanctuary, and her work with the elephants is fascinating and touching.

---. *My Sister's Keeper.* Conceived to provide a bone marrow match for her leukemia-stricken sister, teenage Anna begins to question her moral obligations in light of countless medical procedures and decides to fight for the right to make decisions about her own body.

---. *Small Great Things.* A black neonatal nurse is charged with causing the death of a white supremacist's newborn baby. The story is told from the points of view of the nurse, her attorney, and the baby's heartbroken father.

***Pung, Alice.** *Lucy and Linh.* Lucy, a lower-middle-class Chinese Australian teen, wins a prestigious scholarship to an exclusive all-girls school, but struggles among mean girls. She keeps in contact with Linh, the girl she left behind, through letters that reveal a surprising relationship.

***Reynolds, Jason and Brendan Kiely.** *All American Boys.* When sixteen-year-old Rashad is mistakenly accused of stealing, classmate Quinn witnesses his brutal beating at the hands of a police officer who happens to be the older brother of his best friend.

***Rice, James.** *Alice and the Fly.* Greg--known by his classmates as "Psycho"--keeps a journal recounting his medical "condition," his bouts of uncontrollable arachnophobia, and his obsession with a girl on the bus named Alice.

***Riggs, Ransom.** *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children.* A horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As he explores, it becomes clear that the children who once lived here were more than just peculiar.

***Rosoff, Meg.** *There Is No Dog.* If you were told that God was a teenage boy, would that explain why things are so screwed up? That's the premise of this wildly inventive story told from several viewpoints, including God or Bob who unfortunately is a typical sex-crazed and lazy teenage boy.

***Sherwood, Ben.** *The Death and Life of Charlie St. Cloud.* The powerful bond between two brothers--one alive and the other killed in a terrible accident--unexpectedly transcends the barriers of life and death, and it is up to one enchanting woman to make their world right.

***Shusterman, Neal.** *Challenger Deep.* This fantastical, skillfully disjointed novel about a teen boy caught between reality and the pirate ship of his mental illness (schizophrenia) is raw, lovely, and powerful

Sones, Sonya. *Stop Pretending: What Happened When My Big Sister Went Crazy.* A younger sister has a difficult time adjusting to life after her older sister has a mental breakdown.

***Suma, Nova Ren.** *The Walls Around Us.* Orianna and Violet are ballet dancers and best friends, but when the ballerinas who have been harassing Violet are murdered, Orianna is accused of the crime and sent to a juvenile detention center.

***Summers, Courtney.** *All the Rage.* After the sheriff's son, Kellan Turner, assaults Romy Grey, she is branded a liar and bullied by former friends. Romy finds refuge only in the diner where she works outside of town, but when a girl with ties to both Romy and Kellan goes missing and news of him assaulting another girl gets out, Romy must decide whether to speak out again or risk having more girls hurt.

***Tharp, Tim.** *The Spectacular Now*. In the last months of high school, charismatic eighteen-year-old Sutter Keely lives in the present, staying drunk or high most of the time, but that could change when he starts working to boost the self-confidence of a classmate.

***Vizzini, Ned.** *It's Kind of a Funny Story*. A humorous account of a New York City teenager's battle with depression and his time spent in a psychiatric hospital.

***Walker, Brian F.** *Black Boy/White School*. A fourteen-year-old black boy leaves the rough streets of East Cleveland for a predominately-white boarding school in Maine for an unflinching honest look at race relations.

***Whaley, John Corey.** *Noggin*. After dying at age sixteen, Travis Coates' head was removed and frozen for five years before being attached to another body, and now the old Travis and the new must find a way to coexist while figuring out changes in his relationships.

***Zentner, Jeff.** *The Serpent King*. The son of a Pentecostal preacher faces his personal demons as he and his two outcast friends try to make it through their senior year of high school in rural Forrestville, Tennessee without letting the small-town culture destroy their creative spirits and sense of self.

ROMANCE: Easier Reads

Higgins, Kristan. *Catch of the Day*. The only guy Maggie can count on is her lovable dog Colonel. And thank goodness she loves running the family-owned diner but when surly lobsterman Malone rescues her from a blind date no-show, she finds his gruff personality hard to resist.

Ockler, Sarah. *Twenty Boy Summer*. While on vacation in California, sixteen-year-old best friends Anna and Frankie conspire to find a boy for Anna's first kiss, but Anna harbors a painful secret that threatens their lighthearted plan and their friendship.

Sparks, Nicholas. *The Lucky One*. U.S. Marine Logan believes the photograph of a smiling woman he has never met holds the key to his destiny.

---. *A Walk to Remember*. A nostalgic look back at the 1950s in a story of first love set in a small North Carolina town when a seventeen-year-old boy in North Carolina finds all his expectations overturned by the Baptist minister's daughter.

ROMANCE: for more mature readers

***Callihan, Kristen.** *Firelight*. Forced to wed London's most nefarious nobleman to save her family from financial ruin, Miranda Ellis, who is gifted with exceptional abilities, discovers that her new husband is no ordinary man when she must enter a world of dark magic to save his soul.

***Colasanti, Susan.** *Something Like Fate*. Lani and Jason, who is her best friend's boyfriend, fall in love, causing Lani tremendous anguish and guilt.

***Hoover, Colleen.** *Slammed*. 18-year-old Layken is having a tough time—her father has died and her mother is moving her to Michigan where she has to start her senior year of high school all over. Her new neighbor takes her to a poetry slam and love and drama build from there.

***Kindl, Patrice.** *Keeping the Castle*. Seventeen-year-old Althea is the sole support of her entire family, and she must marry well. But there are few suitors of any kind--in their small town until the attractive (and very rich) Lord Boring arrives, and Althea sets her plans in motion.

***Morgan, Jessica & Heather Cocks.** *The Royal We.* Here, Nick and Bex replace Will and Kate--he's the heir to the British throne, she's the American who effortlessly steals his heart. Can they weather many obstacles to find their Happily Ever After?

***Ockler, Sarah.** *The Book of Broken Hearts.* Jude has learned a lot from her older sisters, but the most important thing is this: The Vargas brothers are notorious heartbreakers. But as Jude begins to fall for Emilio Vargas, she begins to wonder if her sisters were wrong.

SUSPENSE: MYSTERY, THRILLERS & ZOMBIES: Easier Reads

Altebrando, Tara. *The Leaving.* Six little kids were taken. Eleven years later, five come back--with no idea of where they have been. No one remembers the sixth victim, Max. Avery, Max's sister, needs to find her brother--dead or alive--and is not buying this whole memory-loss story.

Barnes, Jennifer. *The Naturals.* Seventeen-year-old Cassie, who has a natural ability to read people, joins an elite group of criminal profilers at the FBI in order to help solve cold cases.

Berk, Josh. *Guy Langman, Crime Scene Procrastinator.* Sixteen-year-old Guy, his best friend Anoop, and other members of the school Forensics Club investigate a break-in and a possible murder, which could be connected to the mysterious past of Guy's recently deceased father.

Green, John. *Paper Towns.* Quentin "Q" Jacobsen basks in the predictable boringness of his life until the beautiful and exciting Margo Roth Spiegelman, Q's neighbor and classmate, takes him on a midnight adventure and then mysteriously disappears.

Henry, April. *The Night She Disappeared.* When Kayla is sent out to deliver a pizza, she never returns. Told from various viewpoints, Gabie and Drew set out to prove that their missing co-worker Kayla is not dead, and to find her before she is, while the police search for her body and the man who abducted her.

Lynch, Chris. *Kill Switch.* As Da's mind begins to go, he starts leaking secrets of his government past—and dangerous old cronies start threatening him. Desperate young Daniel hits the road with Da in tow in this brilliant and unpredictable novel.

Lyons, C.J. *Broken.* Attending high school for the first time, chronically ill Scarlet faces down bullies, endures her school-nurse mother's smothering overprotectiveness, and eventually discovers the truth behind her illness--a truth that puts much more than her life at risk.

McNamee, Graham. *Acceleration.* Stuck working in the Lost and Found of the Toronto Transit Authority for the summer, seventeen-year-old Duncan finds the diary of a serial killer and sets out to stop him.

Plum-Ucci, Carol. *The Body of Christopher Creed.* Torey Adams, a high school junior with a seemingly perfect life, struggles with doubts and questions surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the class outcast.

Summers, Courtney. *This is Not a Test.* **ZOMBIES.** When six teens become trapped inside their high school during the zombie apocalypse, they quickly discover the line between the living and the dead isn't as clear as they think.

SUSPENSE: MYSTERY, THRILLERS & ZOMBIES: for more mature readers

***Abrahams, Peter.** *Reality Check.* After a knee injury destroys sixteen-year-old Cody's college hopes, he drops out of high school and gets a job in his small Montana town, but when his ex-girlfriend disappears from her VT boarding school, Cody travels cross-country to join the search.

***Barnes, Steven and Tananarive Due.** *Devil's Wake.* **ZOMBIES.** What happens when an alien race brings Earth to the brink of the Apocalypse? The victims of an epidemic are the result of a sinister insidious alien plot, humanity ultimately becomes enmeshed in a brutal struggle for control of its home.

***Beaudoin, Sean.** *You Killed Wesley Payne.* Dalton Rev treads the mean streets of a high school's labyrinthine complex of cliques in search of a killer.

***Beverly, Bill.** *Dodgers.* East, a 15-year-old gang member in L.A., joins in with his younger brother and other gang members on a road trip to Wisconsin on a job for their boss.

***Brooks, Max.** *World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War.* **ZOMBIES.** An account of the conflict between humankind and hordes of the predatory undead is told from the perspective of dozens of survivors who describe in their own words the human battle for survival.

***Brown, Ryan.** *Play Dead.* **ZOMBIES.** After a rival team causes his football squad's bus to crash, killing all the players, quarterback Cole Logan—who was not present due to injury—enlists the black-magic abilities of a mysterious fan to turn his dead teammates into zombies, so that they can get revenge on the rival team on the field.

***Ellison, Kate.** *The Butterfly Clues.* Sixteen-year-old Lo's psychological symptoms get her into trouble when she witnesses a murder while wandering dangerous quarters of Cleveland, Ohio, collecting others' belongings, and obsessing about her brother's death.

***Haines, Kathryn Miller.** *The Girl is Murder.* Fifteen-year-old Iris grieves for her mother who committed suicide and secretly helps her father with his detective business.

***Hartley, A.J.** *Steeplejack.* Repute as a death-defying "steeplejack" leads to Angler being hired to solve the left of a luxorite stone before a civil war breaks out.

***King, Stephen.** *Cell.* **ZOMBIES.** What if a pulse sent out through cell phones turned every person using one of them into a zombie-like killing machine? Clay, who is cell-less, is in Boston and soon teams up with others who have eluded the evil transmission to save themselves.
---. *It.* **HORROR.** They were seven teenagers when they first stumbled upon the horror. Now they were grown-up men and women who gained success and happiness. But none of them could withstand the force that drew them back to Derry, Maine to face the nightmare without an end, and the evil without a name.

***Lake, Nick.** *Hostage Three.* After Amy and her family set out to sea on a yacht, a group of pirates seizes the boat, and the family becomes a commodity in a highly sophisticated transaction.

---. *There Will Be Lies.* After a car hits Shelby Cooper, the seventeen-year-old is left with a broken foot, visions that take her to a mystical place called "The Dreaming," and the knowledge that she has to separate the lies of her life from the truths.

***Maden, Mike.** *Drone.* Secretly dispatched by the new U.S. president to take out a drug cartel responsible for her daughter's death, private security head and former CIA operative Troy Pearce and his team risk an all-out war with America's most dangerous enemies to exact justice.

***McCreight, Kimberly.** *The Outliers*. Boston-area high school junior Wylie is in danger of losing everything she loves in this action-packed psychological thriller.

***McEwen, Scott.** *Sniper Elite: One-Way Trip*. Against the President's orders, Navy SEAL and sniper Gil Shannon leads a mission comprised of SEAL Team Six and Delta Force members into Afghanistan to rescue a female helicopter pilot held captive by the Taliban.

***McGinnis, Mandy.** *A Madness So Discreet*. Near the turn of the nineteenth century, Dr. Thornhollow helps teenaged Grace Mae escape from the Boston asylum where she was sent after becoming pregnant by rape, and takes her to Ohio where they put her intelligence and remarkable memory to use in trying to catch murderers.

***Myers, E.C.** *The Silence of Six*. After his best friend Evan kills himself, Max Stein becomes the target of a corporate-government witch-hunt and is forced to go on the run.

***Patterson, James & Michael Ledwidge.** *Zoo*. All over the world, brutal attacks are crippling entire cities. Jackson Oz, a young biologist, watches the escalating events with an increasing sense of dread. When he witnesses a coordinated lion ambush in Africa, the enormity of the violence becomes terrifyingly clear.

***Scheier, Leah.** *Secret Letters*. Sixteen-year-old Dora travels to London to meet Sherlock Holmes, who might be her biological father, to ask his help for her cousin, and a handsome, young detective comes to Dora's aid.

***Schreiber, Joe.** *Au Revoir, Crazy European Chick*. Perry's parents insist that he take Gobi, their quiet, Lithuanian exchange student, to senior prom but after an incident at the dance, he learns that Gobi is actually a trained assassin who needs him as a henchman.

***Wein, Elizabeth.** *Code Name Verity*. The spy "Verity" weaves a courageous tale as she relates what she happened after she crashes in Nazi-occupied France in 1943.

***Wellington, David.** *Monster Island*. **ZOMBIES**. A global disaster has replaced humankind with a population of zombies. Among the walking dead is Gary Fleck, who retains his intelligence and his aversion to what he has become. An army of schoolgirls and a U.N. weapons inspector come to New York in search of medical supplies. What they encounter tests them to their limits.

***Zettel, Sarah.** *Palace of Spies*. In 1716 London, an orphaned sixteen-year-old girl from a good family impersonates a lady-in-waiting only to discover that the real girl was murdered, the court harbors a nest of spies, and the handsome young artist who is helping her solve the mystery might be a spy himself.

FANTASY: Easier Reads

Bardugo, Leigh. *Shadow and Bone*. Orphaned by the Border Wars, Alina Starkey is taken from obscurity and her only friend, Mal, to become the protégé of the mysterious Darkling, who trains her to join the magical elite.

Brennan, Sarah Rees. *Unspoken*. Kami's imaginary friend turns out to be not so imaginary after all and meeting him brings mystery and conflict.

Damico, Gina. *Croak*. A delinquent sixteen-year-old girl is sent to live with her uncle for the summer, only to learn that he is a Grim Reaper who wants to teach her the family business.

Gagnon, Michelle. *Don't Turn Around.* Computer "hactivists" Paeter and Noa uncover a conspiracy: a shady corporation is involved in Project Persephone, a secret program involving stealing homeless children to be experimented on.

Graudin, Ryan. *Wolf By Wolf.* The first book in a duology about an alternate version of 1956 where the Axis powers won WWII, and hold an annual motorcycle race across their conjoined continents to commemorate their victory.

Hand, Cynthia, Brodi Ashton & Jodi Meadows. *My Lady Jane.* The Tudor-era Catholic-Protestant conflict is reimagined as a feud between shape-shifters and non-shapeshifters. Bookish Jane Grey, less than thrilled with an arranged marriage, is soon caught up in a hilarious web of court intrigue and high adventure.

Hamilton, Alwyn. *Rebel of the Sands.* Amani is desperate to leave the dead-end town of Dustwalk, and she's counting on her sharpshooting skills to help her escape. But after she meets Jin, the mysterious rebel running from the Sultan's army, she unlocks the powerful truth about the desert nation of Miraji...and herself.

Hartman, Rachel. *Seraphina.* In a world where dragons and humans coexist in an uneasy truce and dragons can assume human form, Seraphina, whose mother died giving birth to her, grapples with her own identity amid magical secrets and royal scandals.

Henry, Emily. *The Love that Split the World.* At the beginning of her last summer in Kentucky before leaving for college, Natalie is once again visited by the apparition she calls "Grandmother" and meets a new boy, Beau, who changes her life as they work together to solve the romance-killing problem of their separate worlds.

Hunt, Leo. *Thirteen Days of Midnight.* When his estranged father dies, sixteen-year-old Luke inherits eight spirits who want revenge for their enslavement, and he has only thirteen days to give them their eternal rest or he may join their ghostly ranks.

Meyer, Marissa. *Cinder.* As plague ravages the overcrowded Earth, Cinder, a gifted mechanic and cyborg, becomes involved with handsome Prince Kai and must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect the world in this futuristic take on the Cinderella story.

Ness, Patrick. *The Rest of Us Just Live Here.* 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 world-shaking challenges, threats against his school, and an elusive pretty girl.

Nix, Garth. *Sabriel.* Sabriel, the daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, must journey into the mysterious and magical Old Kingdom to rescue her father from the Land of the Dead.

FANTASY: for more mature readers

***Ahdieh, Renee.** *The Wrath and the Dawn.* In this reimagining of *The Arabian Nights*, Shahrzad plans to avenge the death of her dearest friend by volunteering to marry the murderous boy-king of Khorasan but discovers not all is as it seems within the palace.

***Aveyard, Victoria.** *Red Queen.* When her latent supernatural powers manifest in front of a noble court, Mare, a thief in a world divided between commoners and superhumans, is forced to assume the role of lost princess before risking everything to help a growing rebellion.

***Black, Holly.** *The Darkest Part of the Forest.* In the town of Fairfold, where humans and fae exist side by side, a boy with horns on his head and ears as pointed as knives awakes after generations of sleep in a glass coffin in the woods.

***Bond, Gwenda.** *Blackwood.* Seventeen-year-olds Miranda and Phillips investigate the mysterious disappearance of 114 people from Roanoke Island, a case that mirrors an old legend in which the same number of people vanished from the Lost Colony.

***Bray, Libba.** *The Diviners.* In the museum of the creepy crawlies, a new evil has awoken—the Pentacle Killer, who might be the reincarnation of a religious zealot named Naughty John. It's up to Evie and her friends to investigate.

***Butcher, Jim.** *The Aeronaut's Windlass.* An airship's crew become humanity's lone defenders when an ancient enemy reawakens and threatens the world with monstrous creatures and perpetual darkness.

***Cremer, Andrea R.** *Nightshade.* Calla and Ren have been raised knowing it is their destiny to mate with one another and rule over their shape-shifting wolf pack, but when a human boy arrives and vies for Calla's heart; she is faced with a decision that could change her whole world.

***Dayton, Arwen.** *Seeker.* After years of brutal training for what she thinks is the noble purpose of becoming a Seeker, Quin Kincaid, fifteen, learns that she will be using the ancient artifacts and sacred knowledge as an assassin.

***Fisher, Catherine.** *Obsidian Mirror.* When his father disappears while experimenting with a black mirror that is a portal to both the past and the future, Jake encounters obstacles when he tries to use the mirror to find his father.

***Garcia, Kami.** *Beautiful Creatures.* In a small South Carolina town, where it seems little has changed since the Civil War, sixteen-year-old Ethan is powerfully drawn to Lena, a new classmate with whom he shares a psychic connection and whose family hides a dark secret.

***Gaughen, A.C.** *Scarlet.* Will Scarlet shadows Robin Hood, but when Gisbourne, a ruthless bounty hunter, is hired by the sheriff to capture Robin and his band of thieves, Robin must become Will's protector.

***Gier, Kerstin.** *Ruby Red.* Sixteen-year-old Gwyneth discovers that she, rather than her well-prepared cousin, carries a time-travel gene, and soon she is journeying with Gideon, who shares the gift, through historical London trying to discover whom they can trust.

***Hardinge, Frances.** *Cuckoo Song.* In post-World War I England, eleven-year-old Triss nearly drowns in a millpond known as "The Grimmer" and emerges with memory gaps, aware that something is terribly wrong. To try to set things right, she must meet a twisted architect who has designs on her family.

***Johansen, Erika.** *The Queen of the Tearling.* Yes, there is magic, a princess and a really bad queen, but there is also an apocalyptic twist that makes readers hungry for the next installment. Kelsea, the rightful heir to the throne turns nineteen and returns to claim her throne.

***Lu, Marie.** *The Young Elites.* Adelina Amouteru survived the blood fever, a deadly illness that killed many, but left others with strange markings and supernatural powers. Cast out by her family, Adelina joins the secret society of the Young Elites and discovers her own dangerous abilities.

***Maas, Sarah J.** *Throne of Glass.* After she has served one year of hard labor in the salt mines of Endovier for her crimes Crown Prince Dorian offers eighteen-year-old assassin Calaena Sardothien her freedom on condition that she act as his champion in a competition to find a new royal assassin.

---. *Court of Thorns and Roses*. The human world is in peril. Feyre, a semi-literate girl, hunts for her family's survival. After she kills an enormous wolf, a fierce fey shows up at her doorstep seeking retribution.

***Madison, Bennett.** *September Girls*. When 17-year-old Sam's dad whisks him and his older brother off to the beach for the summer, he's all for it. Time seems to slow down, and everywhere he looks, there are beautiful blond girls. Girls who seem inexplicably drawn to him. Then Sam meets DeeDee.

***Maresca, Marshall Ryan.** *The Thorn of Dentonhill*. Veranix Calbert leads a double life. By day, he's a struggling magic student at the University of Maradaine. At night, he spoils the drug trade of Willem Fenmere, crime boss of Dentonhill and murderer of Veranix's father.

***Martin, George R.R.** *Game of Thrones*. The aristocratic Stark family faces its ultimate challenge in the onset of a generation-long winter, the poisonous plots of the rival Lannisters, demons, and the arrival of barbarian hordes.

***Meadows, Jodi.** *Orphan Queen*. In a world where it is forbidden, refugee Princess Wilhelmina's ability to do magic might be just the thing to help reclaim her kingdom, or ruin it forever.

***Paige, D. M.** *Dorothy Must Die*. Whisked to Oz by a Kansas twister, Amy Gumm discovers that the magical land has been destroyed by Dorothy's tyrannical rule, a situation that compels Amy to join an order of deposed magic-wielders who seek to put an end to Dorothy's reign.

***Pearson, Mary E.** *Kiss of Deception*. Princess Lia flees an unwanted marriage and expectations about her supernatural legacy only to be pursued by her jilted fiancé and a ruthless assassin.

***Rhodes, Morgan.** *Falling Kingdoms*. After centuries of peace, the three kingdoms of Mytica stand on the brink of war. As rulers struggle for power, the lives of their subjects are brutally transformed and four key players find their fates forever intertwined amidst betrayal, murder, secret alliances, and even unforeseen love.

***Rowell, Rainbow.** *Carry On: The Rise and Fall of Simon Snow*. During his last year at Watford School of Magicks, Simon Snow, the Chosen One, faces a magic-eating monster wearing his face, a break-up, and a missing nemesis.

***Rutkoski, Marie.** *Winner's Curse*. An aristocratic girl who is a member of a warmongering and enslaving empire purchases a slave, an act that sets in motion a rebellion that might overthrow her world as well as her heart.

***Schwab, Victoria.** *This Savage Song*. In a not-so-distant America, overrun with monsters, Kate Harker wants to be as ruthless as her father. After five years and six boarding schools, she's finally going home to prove that she can be. August Flynn wants to be human. But he isn't. He's a monster, one that can steal souls with a song.

***Shannon, Samantha.** *The Bone Season*. Paige Mahoney is a Dreamwalker, a rare type of clairvoyant employed by the Seven Seals, the powerful criminal syndicate that operates within a dystopian 21st-century London. When she's captured by Scion, Paige must develop her gifts if she wants to survive, let alone escape.

SCIENCE FICTION: Easier Reads

Anderson, M. T. *Feed*. Everyone in the population has a chip implanted in their brain so that they are constantly bombarded with advertisements, music, news or whatever—but when the “feed” gets hacked everything changes.

Bracken, Alexandra. *The Darkest Minds*. Sixteen-year-old Ruby breaks out of a government-run “rehabilitation camp” for teens who acquired dangerous powers after surviving a virus that wiped out most American children.

Brashares, Ann. *The Here and Now*. Seventeen-year-old Prenna, an immigrant who moved to New York when she was twelve, came from another time and she and the other travelers must follow strict rules to avoid destroying the new life they have worked so hard to get.

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender’s Game*. Young Ender Wiggin is drafted to the orbiting Battle School for rigorous military training, while his older siblings are passed over. However, Ender’s siblings are every bit as unusual as he is, but in very different ways. Between the three of them lie the abilities to remake a world. If the world survives, that is.

Farmer, Nancy. *The House of the Scorpion*. In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

Grant, Michael. *BZRK*. In the near future, the conjoined Armstrong twins, plot to create their own version of utopia using nanobots, while a guerilla group known as BZRK develops a DNA-based biot that can stop bots, but at risk of the host’s brain.

Reuter Hapgood, Harriet. *The Square Root of Summer*. Gottie Oppenheimer, a seventeen-year-old physics prodigy, navigates grief, love, and disruptions in the space-time continuum in one very eventful summer as she travels the wormholes to her past.

Roth, Veronica. *Divergent*. Beatrice lives in a society where people are divided into five factions that determine work, lifestyle, and even friendships. Unusual results on her faction aptitude tests place her in danger.

Westerfeld, Scott. *Leviathan*. In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically engineered beasts.

Yancey, Rick. *The 5th Wave*. Cassie Sullivan, the survivor of an alien invasion, must rescue her young brother from the enemy with help from a boy who may be one of them.

SCIENCE FICTION: for more mature readers

***Cline, Ernest.** *Armada*. Does Zack’s skill at the game Armada make him the hero we need when real alien ships descend?

---. *Ready Player One*. Loaded with video-game references and nonstop action, a young gamer goes on a cyberquest of epic geekiness. A fortune and control of the virtual online utopia goes to the one who can find the “key.”

***Collins, Suzanne.** *The Hunger Games.* In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place.

***Hautman, Pete.** *The Obsidian Blade.* After thirteen-year-old Tucker's parents disappear and he steps inside of one of the strange disks of shimmering air he suspects are involved, he is whisked on a time-twisting journey and finds himself at Jesus's crucifixion.

***Healey, Karen.** *When We Wake.* In 2027, sixteen-year-old Tegan is just like every other girl until she dies, waking up 100 years in the future have been cryogenically frozen and successfully revived. Appalling secrets about her new world come to light, and Tegan must choose to either keep her head down or fight for a better future.

***Jennings, Holly.** *Arena.* Every week, Kali Ling fights to the death on national TV. Every player is a modern gladiator, and though their weapons and armor are digital, the pain is real. Chosen to be the first female captain in RAGE tournament history, Kali Ling must confront the truth about the tournament.

***Kaufman, Arnie & Jay Kristoff.** *Illuminae.* The planet Kerenza is attacked, and Kady and Ezra find themselves on a space fleet with limited supplies fleeing the enemy.

***Leckie, Ann.** *Ancillary Justice.* On a remote, icy planet, the soldier known as Breq is drawing closer to completing her quest. Years ago, Berg was a colossal starship with an artificial intelligence linking thousands of corpse soldiers in the service of the Radch. An act of treachery ripped it all away, leaving her with only one purpose--to revenge herself on the Lord of the Radch.

***Oliver, Lauren.** *Delirium.* Lena looks forward to receiving the government-mandated cure that prevents the delirium of love and leads to a safe, predictable, and happy life, until ninety-five days before her eighteenth birthday and her treatment.

***Smith, Sherri S.** *Orleans.* The Gulf Coast has been formally separated from the U.S. since 2025, after a deadly plague called Delta Fever emerges from the horrific conditions following years of increasingly destructive hurricanes.

***Weir, Andy.** *The Martian.* After a bad storm cuts his team's Mars mission short, injured astronaut Mark Watley is stranded. Now he has to figure out how to survive without air, shelter, food, or water on the harsh Martian landscape until the next manned mission in four years.

***Wentworth, Douglas.** *Stranded.* June 6, 2026. The War to End All Wars. As the bombs rain down, the starship, Prometheus, with its crew of six brave astronauts, escapes an Earth destined to become a lifeless rock. But someone among them is a traitor, and as the crew members are murdered, one by one, the human race teeters on the brink of extinction. Chief Scientific Officer Sandra Hapgood, the developer of the stranding process, vows to defend humankind at any cost.

***Wilson, Daniel H.** *Robopocalypse.* In the near future, robots, smart computers, and machines wage a war against humankind.

NONFICTION: Easier Reads

Ajayi, Luvvie. *I'm Judging You: The Do-Better Manual.* The author aka the blogger Awesomely Luvvie, has crafted an astute and humorous handbook about how to navigate social media and its impact on everything from self-esteem to social attitudes.

Almond, Steve. *Candyfreak: A Journey Through the Chocolate Underbelly of America.* The delicious and hilarious story of one man's lifelong obsession with candy and his quest to discover its origins in America.

Brown, Mike. *How I Killed Pluto and Why It Had It Coming.* The astronomer who inadvertently triggered the "demotion" of Pluto in his effort to officially recognize the solar system's tenth planet describes the ensuing debates and public outcry while revealing the behind-the-scenes story of his discovery.

Bryson, Bill. *A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail.* Bryson and his friend Katz walk the 2,100 miles from Georgia to Maine, treating readers to both a very funny personal memoir and a delightful chronicle of the trail.

Cain, Susan. *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking.* At least one-third of the people we know are introverts. They are the ones who prefer listening to speaking, reading to partying; who invent and create but prefer not to pitch their own ideas. Although they are often labeled "quiet," it is to introverts we owe many of the great contributions to society.

Earl, Esther with Lori and Wayne Earl. *This Star Won't Go Out: The Life and Words of Esther Grace Earl.* A memoir told through the journals, letters, and stories of young cancer patient Esther Earl who was the inspiration for John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars*.

Eggers, Dave. *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius.* At the age of 22, Eggers became both an orphan and a "single mother" when his parents died within five months of one another. Dave is appointed unofficial guardian of his eight-year-old brother, Christopher, as they struggle to stay a family.

Foer, Joshua. *Moonwalking with Einstein: The Art and Science of Remembering Everything.* This book draws on cutting-edge research, a surprising cultural history of memory, and venerable tricks of the mentalist's trade to transform our understanding of human remembering.

Grealy, Lucy. *Autobiography of a Face.* Grealy's hard-hitting personal narrative about life as a teen with a face disfigured by cancer covers so much—from the definition of beauty to loneliness to acceptance.

Higashida, Naoki. *The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-Year-Old Boy with Autism.* A journey into the mind of a remarkable thirteen-year-old Japanese boy with severe autism shares firsthand insights into a variety of experiences associated with the disorder, from behavioral traits and misconceptions to perceptions about the world.

Johnson, Steven. *How We Got to Now: Six Innovations that Made the Modern World.* Explore the history of innovation over centuries, tracing the development of six key technologies from their creation by hobbyists, amateurs, and entrepreneurs to their unintended historical consequences.

Montgomery, Sy. *The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness.* A charming, revelatory journey into the world of cephalopods.

Olson, Steve. *Eruption: The Untold Story of Mount St. Helens.* An account of one of the largest volcanic eruptions in human history and the history forces that influenced the fates of those who lived and those who died on that sunny Sunday morning in southwestern Washington state. Full of personal stories of those who survived and those who did not.

Sacks, Oliver W. *Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain.* Drawing on the experiences of patients, musicians, composers, and ordinary people, the author explores the complex human response to music, and how music can affect those suffering from a variety of ailments.

Skloot, Rebecca. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks.* This is a true story of the Black woman whose cells were used to create polio vaccine and many other scientific breakthroughs. A compelling tale of how science intersects with life.

Tyson, Neil deGrasse. *The Pluto Files: The Rise and Fall of America's Favorite Planet.* The International Astronomical Union dismissed Pluto as one of the nine planets in August 2006. Tyson, investigates planet classification history, and the American fascination with this planet.

West, Lindy. *Shrill: Notes from a Loud Women.* This GQ writer and fat-acceptance activist, blends memoir, social commentary, and ribald comedy in a biting manifesto. Will appeal to anyone who struggles with body image issues.

Zuckoff, Mitchell. *Lost in Shangri-La: The Epic True Story of a World War II Plane Crash in the Stone Age.* The exhilarating, untold story of an extraordinary World War II rescue mission, where a plane crash in the South Pacific plunged a trio of U.S. military personnel into the jungle of New Guinea.

NONFICTION: for more mature readers

***Allison, Peter.** *Whatever You Do, Don't Run: Confessions of a Botswana Safari Guide.* While presenting tales about his encounters with big cats, elephants, hippos, and other unpredictable animals, the author shows infectious enthusiasm for both the African bush and his job showing its wonders to tourists.

***Anderson, M.T.** *Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad.* An account of the Siege of Leningrad reveals the role played by Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich and his Leningrad Symphony in rallying and commemorating their fellow citizens.

***Baggett, Jennifer.** *The Lost Girls: Three Friends, Four Continents, One Unconventional Detour Around the World.* Three friends at a crossroads in their twenties quit their high-pressure NY media jobs, leave their friends and everything familiar behind, and embark on a year-long backpacking adventure around the world.

***Bauman, Jeff & Brad Witter.** *Stronger: Fighting Back After the Boston Marathon Bombing.* A survivor of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, who helped to set off one of the biggest manhunts in the country's history, discusses his experiences that day and his ongoing mission to walk again after losing both legs.

***Bausum, Ann.** *Sergeant Stubby: How a Stray Dog and His Best Friend Helped Win World War I and Stole the Heart of a Nation.* A stray dog befriends Private J. Robert "Bob" Conroy at the Connecticut National Guard camp and the two become inseparable, eventually crossing an ocean and going to war together.

***Berg, Ryan.** *No House to Call My Home: Love Family, and Other Transgressions.* A heart-wrenching account of disowned and homeless LGBTQ teens and the man who tried to help them.

***Cahalan, Susannah.** *Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness.* An account of the author's struggle with a rare brain-attacking autoimmune disease traces how she wound up in a hospital room with no memory and describes the last-minute intervention by a doctor who figured out what she had.

***Coates, Ta-Nehisi.** *Between the World and Me.* Taking the form of a letter to the author's son, Coates comes to grips with what it means to be black in America today. In exceptional essays, furious, judicious Coates lays out awesome beauty, powerful prose, and vitally important truths.

***Dugard, Jaycee.** *A Stolen Life: A Memoir.* The author describes how registered sex offender Phillip Garrido, who sexually abused her and fathered her two children, held her hostage for eighteen years and how she was finally found by authorities.

***Ellenberg, Jordan.** *How not to be Wrong: The Power of Mathematical Thinking.* The math we learn at school can seem like a dull, unquestionable set of rules handed down through the ages. Ellenberg shows us that the opposite is true: Math touches everything we do in everyday life. This is not only a tour of mathematical thinking, it's a guide to becoming a better thinker.

***Finkel, David.** *The Good Soldiers.* A reporter, embedded with Battalion 2-16, takes an unforgettable look at those in the surge, the heroes and the ruined, returning from the Iraq War. Graphic language and violence. Also wrote Thank You for Your Service.

***Helman, Scott.** *Long Mile Home: Boston Under Attack, the City's Courageous Recovery, and the Epic Hunt for Justice.* The definitive book on the Boston Marathon bombing and subsequent manhunt for the Tsarnaev brothers, written by reporters from *The Boston Globe*.

***Hillenbrand, Laura.** *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption.* Relates the story of a U.S. airman who survived when his bomber crashed into the sea during World War II, spent forty-seven days adrift in the ocean and was held as a prisoner by the Japanese until the end of the war.

***Hornbacher, Marya.** *Wasted: A Memoir of Anorexia and Bulimia.* Based on research and her own battle with anorexia and bulimia, which left her with permanent physical ailments that nearly killed her, Hornbacher's book explores the mysterious and ruthless realm of self-starvation, which has its grip firmly around the minds and bodies of adolescents all across this country.

***Irving, Nicholas.** *The Reaper: Autobiography of a Legendary Special Operations Sniper.* Special Operations Direct Action Sniper traces his extraordinary career during the War on Terror, which was marked by his deployment to Afghanistan and his face-off against an enemy sniper known only as The Chechnian.

***Isaacson, Walter.** *The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution.* A revelatory history of the people who created the computer and the internet discusses the process through which innovation happens in the modern world.

***Kershaw, Alex.** *Escape From the Deep: A Legendary Submarine and Her Courageous Crew.* Details the history of the U.S. Navy submarine Tang in the Pacific theater of World War II, the explosion that led to its sinking, the ordeal of its surviving crew members and their capture by the Japanese, followed by months of brutal captivity.

***Krakauer, Jonathan.** *Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster.* In May 1996, the author participated in an ill-fated climb that resulted in the death of his climbing mates.

***Larson, Erik.** *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania.* We get three sides of the global story--the U-boat commander, British Admiralty and President Wilson--but what really elevates this book are the affecting stories of individual crew and passengers.

***LeBleu, Joe.** *Long Rifle: One Man's Deadly Sniper Missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.* *Long Rifle* is both the first memoir by a U.S. Army sniper from the 9/11 generation and a stirring testament to the core values of American soldiers.

***Luttrell, Marcus.** *Lone Survivor: The Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of SEAL Team 10.* The only survivor of a team of U.S. Navy SEALs sent to Afghanistan to capture a well-known al Qaeda leader chronicles the events of the battle that killed his teammates.

***Mann, Don.** *Inside SEAL Team Six: My Life and Missions with America's Elite Warriors.* Shares the experiences of the former Navy SEAL in being a member of the team responsible for killing Osama bin Laden.

***McCullough, David.** *The Wright Brothers.* A strong work ethic and keen observation fueled the quest to conquer manned flight in this tale of the quirky Wright brothers.

***Orenstein, Peggy.** *Girls and Sex: Navigating the Complicated New Landscape.* Presents an analysis of the new sexual landscape faced by girls in today's high schools and colleges, revealing hidden truths, hard lessons and important possibilities in girls modern-world sex lives.

***Owen, Mark.** *No Easy Day: The Firsthand Account of the Mission that Killed Osama Bin Laden: the Autobiography of a Navy SEAL.* A former Navy SEAL describes the mission that killed Bin Laden in his own voice. Includes tense scenes of strategizing, stealth and action drive the story.

***Roach, Mary.** *Grunt: The Curious Science of Humans at War.* Roach writes about the issues confronting the military in its attempt to protect and enable combat troops. Roach brings to our attention the amazing efforts of science to tackle all the challenges of modern warfare.

***Sheff, David.** *Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey Through His Son's Addiction.* The story of one teenager's descent into methamphetamine addiction told from his father's point of view, describing how a varsity athlete and honor student became addicted to the dangerous drug and its impact on his family.

***Sheff, Nic.** *Tweak: (Growing up on Methamphetamines).* The author details his immersion in a world of hardcore drugs, revealing the mental and physical depths of addiction, and the violent relapse one summer in California that forever changed his life, leading him down the road to recovery.

***Thorpe, Helen.** *Soldier Girls: The Battles of Three Women at Home and at War.* Describes the experiences of three women soldiers deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq and reveals how their military service has affected their friendship, personal lives and families.

***Walls, Jeanette.** *The Glass Castle.* Wall's extraordinary memoir recounts her itinerant childhood with two eccentric parents and the poverty and bullying that she endured.

***Ward, Jesmyn, Ed.,** *The Fire This Time: A New Generation Speaks About Race.* Building on James Baldwin's famous essay collection, Ward has assembled poetry and prose by writers such as Natasha Tretheway and Kevin Young to address racial tensions in 21st century America.

***Wasdin, Howard E. and Stephen Templin.** *SEAL Team Six: Memoirs of an Elite Navy SEAL Sniper.* A Navy SEAL Team Six sniper chronicles how he became an elite warrior and the ferocious battle that nearly cost him his life.

***Wooten, Jim.** *We Are All the Same: The Story of a Boy's Courage and a Mother's Love.* The extraordinary story of the South African boy whose bravery and fierce determination to make a difference despite being born with AIDS has made him the human symbol of the world's fight against the disease, told by the veteran American journalist whose life he changed.

***Zailckas, Koren.** *Smashed: Story of a Drunken Girlhood.* From earliest experimentation to habitual excess to full-blown abuse, 24-year-old Koren Zailckas leads us through her experience of a terrifying trend among young girls, exploring how binge drinking becomes routine.

SPORTS: Easier Reads

Aston, Felicity. *Alone in Antarctica: the First Woman to Ski Solo Across the Southern Ice.* This is an inspirational saga of one woman's battle through fear and loneliness as she honestly confronts both the physical challenges of her adventure, as well as her own human vulnerabilities.

Gretzky, Wayne. *99: Stories of the Game.* For the first time, Gretzky discusses candidly what the game of hockey looks like to him and introduces us to the people who inspired and motivated him: mentors, teammates, rivals, the famous and the lesser known.

Gronkowski, Rob. *It's Good to Be the Gronk.* NFL player Rob Gronkowski takes fans from the field to the locker room to the VIP room to the talk show green room to his parents' kitchen table.

Holley, Michael. *Belichick and Brady: Two Men. The Patriots, and How They Revolutionized Football.* *Boston Globe* writer Holley provides insights into the story of the legendary Tom Brady, Bill Belichick and Super Bowl winning New England Patriots.

Longman, Jere. *The Girls of Summer: The U.S. Woman's Soccer Team and How It Changed the World.* The story of the US women's soccer team and their rise from a virtually unnoticed group of women athletes to the champions of the 1999 Women's World Cup.

Lupica, Mike. *Travel Team.* After he is cut from his travel basketball team—the very same team that his father once led to national prominence—twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs.

Martinez, Pedro. *Pedro.* This is a memoir by the World Series champion pitcher that describes his youth in the Dominican Republic, hardscrabble days in the minor leagues and legendary run with the Red Sox.

McDougall, Christopher. *Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World has Never Seen.* One journalist's quest to discover the secrets of the world's greatest distance runners, the reclusive Tarahumara Indians, an Indian tribe living deep in the Copper Canyon of northern Mexico.

Nyad, Diana. *Find a Way: One Woman's Pursuit of a Life-long Dream.* On September 2, 2013, at the age of 64, Diana Nyad emerged onto the shores of Key West after completing a 110 mile, 53 hour, record-breaking swim through shark-infested waters from Cuba to Florida.

Orr, Bobby. *Orr: My Story.* This fabled Boston Bruin still holds the record for most points and assists as a defenseman. He is the only player in history to have won the Ross, Norris, Hart, and Conn Smythe Trophies in a single season. He was inducted in the Hockey Hall of Fame at the age of 31 – the youngest living player to receive that honor.

Roy, Travis & E.M. Swift. *Eleven Seconds: A Story of Tragedy, Courage & Triumph.* BU hockey player Travis Roy ended his hockey career eleven seconds into his debut game when his neck was broken.

Sonnenblick, Jordan. *Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip.* Meet Peter Friedman, high school freshman. Talented photographer. Former baseball star. When a freakish injury ends his pitching career, Peter has some major things to figure out. Is there life after sports?

Sullivan, Derek E. *Biggie.* Henry "Biggie" Abbott has hidden behind his weight for years, and although he is the son and stepson of two athletes, he prefers academic success until the girl of his dreams suggests he join the baseball team.

Volponi, Paul. *Black and White.* Two star high school basketball players, one black and one white, experience the justice system differently when committing a crime together and getting caught.

---. *The Final Four.* Told over the course of an exhilarating, triple-overtime tournament game and a series of flashbacks, this novel explores talent and dedication, confidence and arrogance, and the uncomfortable realities of big-time collegiate sports.

Wade, Becky. *Run the World: My 3,500-Mile Journey Through Running Cultures Around the Globe.* An elite marathoner describes the year she spent running over 3,500 miles in nine different countries, living with host families and exploring diverse running communities and cultures all over the globe

SPORTS: for more mature readers

***Branch, John.** *Boy on Ice: The Life and the Death of Derek Boogaard.* The tragic death of hockey star Derek Boogaard at twenty-eight was front-page news across the country in 2011 and helped shatter the silence about violence and concussions in professional sports.

***D'Orso, Michael.** *Eagle Blue: A Team, a Tribe, and a High School Basketball Season.* Follow an Alaskan high-school basketball team through its season in a town above the Arctic Circle. The sports narrative is as gripping as the portraits of the teens and their changing community.

***Francona, Terry and Dan Shaughnessy.** *The Red Sox Years.* The former Red Sox coach discusses his tenure with the team, chronicling the challenges posed by managing difficult players, satisfying multiple owners with different expectations, and dealing with both championship and losing seasons.

***Herren, Chris.** *Basketball Junkie.* A powerful, dramatic memoir of basketball star Chris Herren's rise to fame, struggle with addiction, and path back to life.

***Kendall, Jason and Lee Judge.** *Throwback: A Big-League Catcher Tells How the Game is Really Played.* Structured to mirror the flow of a baseball game, this covers everything that happens in plain sight and behind the scenes from the players' pre-game routines to the pitcher's warm up tosses.

***Lewis, Michael.** *Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game.* Lewis profiles Billy Bean, the general manager of the Oakland Athletics baseball team, a man whose success proves that it's still possible to win in the major leagues without having the deepest pockets.

***Piazza, Mike.** *Long Shot.* The twelve-time All-Star catcher describes the inspiration he gleaned from his self-made father, his early career with the Dodgers, his memorable 2000 World Series with the Mets, and the controversies that have marked his career.

***Sanderson, Derek.** *Crossing the Line: The Outrageous Story of a Hockey Original.* The autobiography of one of hockey's first rebels and a beloved member of the "Big Bad Bruins," this book shares how Sanderson's ferocious style helped lead the team to two Stanley Cup victories in the early 1970s.

GRAPHIC NOVELS: Easier Reads

Allison, John. *Giant Days.* Susan, Esther, and Daisy started at university three weeks ago and became fast friends. Now, away from home for the first time, all three want to reinvent themselves. But in the face of all their adventures, they may be lucky just to make it to spring alive.

Backderf, Derf. *Trashed.* Inspired by real-life experiences, the author uncovers the messy inside world of garbage collection in this exceptionally humorous graphic novel.

Canada, Geoffrey. *Fist, Stick, Knife, Gun: A Personal History of Violence.* This graphic adaptation of Canada's memoir of growing up in the South Bronx in the late 1950s explains how violence surrounded and informed his life from a young age.

Carroll, Emily. *Through the Woods.* A collection of five spine-tingling short stories filled with ghosts, murder, monsters, and squeal-inducing illustrations that will give readers a shivery thrill.

Doctorow, Cory. *In Real Life.* Anda loves Coarsegold Online, the massively multiplayer role-playing game that she spends most of her free time on. Things become a lot more complicated when Anda befriends a gold farmer -- a poor Chinese kid whose avatar in the game illegally collects valuable objects and then sells them to players from developed countries. Anda realizes questions of right and wrong are much harder when someone's life is at stake.

Gaiman, Neil. *Death, The High Cost of Living.* Death (in the guise of a hot Goth chick) arrives just in time to save a teenager contemplating suicide and they end up searching New York City to find a witch's heart.

Lewis, John, *March.* Books 1, 2 & 3. A first-hand account of the author's lifelong struggle for civil and human rights spans his youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., and the birth of the Nashville Student Movement.

McCoola, Marika. *Baba Yaga's Assistant.* When her father announces that he is remarrying, Masha decides to leave home and become Baba Yaga's assistant. But to earn her place at the witch's house, she must first pass a series of tests.

Rowell, Rainbow. *Runaways Vol. 1: Find Your Way Home.* Join the Runaways as they meet back up after years apart. Something fishy is going on, though, and it seems to have everything to do with their parents' past.

Stevenson, Noelle. *Nimona.* Nimona is an impulsive young shapeshifter with a knack for villainy. Lord Ballister Blackheart is a villain with a vendetta. Nimona and Lord Blackheart's mission is to prove to the kingdom that Sir Ambrosius Goldenloin and his buddies at the Institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics aren't the heroes everyone thinks they are.

Thrash, Maggie. *Honor Girl: A Graphic Memoir* Camp Bellflower is an impossible place for a girl to fall in love with another girl, but that doesn't mean it's not happening to Maggie. When it seems as if Erin maybe feels the same way about Maggie, it's too much for both Maggie and Camp Bellflower to handle, let alone to understand.

Wilson, G. Willow. *Ms Marvel: No Normal*. Kamala Khan is an ordinary girl from Jersey City - until she's suddenly empowered with extraordinary gifts. But who truly is the new Ms. Marvel? Teenager? Muslim? Inhuman?

Yang, Gene. *American Born Chinese*. This award-winning story alternates between three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to fit into the culture of high school.

GRAPHIC NOVELS: for more mature readers

***Anthony, Jessica.** *Chopsticks*. In a love story told in photographs and drawings, Glory, a brilliant piano prodigy, is drawn to Frank, an artistic new boy, and the farther she falls, the deeper she spirals into madness until the only song she is able to play is "Chopsticks."

***Bechdel, Alison.** *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*. This autobiography deals with the author's childhood with a closeted gay father, who was an English teacher and proprietor of the local funeral parlor.

***Vaughan, Brian K.** *Pride of Baghdad*. Inspired by true events, this book examines life on the streets of war-torn Iraq, raising questions about the meaning of liberation through the experiences of four lions who escaped from the Baghdad Zoo during a bombing raid.

***Waid, Mark.** *Daredevil. V.1*. Matt Murdock is back in New York and hoping to resuscitate his law practice, but not everyone is happy to see him.

***Wyld, Evie.** *Everything is Teeth*. Evie is both terrified and utterly obsessed with sharks in this mesmerizing graphic novel that stirringly evokes childhood fears and fascination with the macabre.

***Yakin, Boaz.** *Marathon*. With equal parts ancient history, Greek city-state politics, and high-stakes action, the story of punishing endurance celebrates the world's first extreme feat of athleticism.