

2022 GHS Summer Reading

Fiction

Acevedo, Elizabeth. *With Fire On High.* 389 p. Verse

Teen mother Emoni Santiago struggles with the challenges of finishing high school and her dream of working as a chef.

Alexander, Kwame. *Booked.* 329 p. **Check out the graphic novel version as well!**

Nick loves soccer and hates books, but soon learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams.

Anderson, Cory. *What Beauty There Is.* 362 p.

Living in harsh poverty during a brutal Idaho winter, Jack searches for the drug money that sent his father to prison in order to keep his brother out of foster care, while Ava, under the control of her merciless father, makes a wrenching choice to help the brothers survive.

Boulley, Angeline. *Fire Keeper's Daughter.* 494 p.

Daunis, who is part Ojibwe, defers attending the University of Michigan to care for her mother and reluctantly becomes involved in the investigation of a series of drug-related deaths.

Gong, Chloe. *These Violent Delights.* 449 p.

Perfect for fans of *The Last Magician* and *Serpent & Dove*, this heart-stopping debut is an imaginative Romeo and Juliet retelling set in 1920s Shanghai, with rival gangs and a monster in the depths of the Huangpu River.

Hannah, Kristen. *The Four Winds.* 454 p.

Texas, 1934. Millions are out of work and a drought has broken the Great Plains. Farmers are fighting to keep their land and their livelihoods as the crops are failing, the water is drying up, and dust threatens to bury them all. One of the darkest periods of the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl era, has arrived with a vengeance. In this uncertain and dangerous time, Elsa Martinelli--like so many of her neighbors--must make an agonizing choice: fight for the land she loves or go west, to California, in search of a better life.

He, Joan. *The Ones We're Meant to Find.* 375 p.

In a near future when life is harsh outside of Earth's last unpolluted place, Cee tries to leave an abandoned island while her sister, STEM prodigy Kasey, seeks escape from the science and home she once trusted.

Higuera, Donna Barba. *The Last Cuentista.* 320 p.

There lived a girl named Petra Pena, who wanted nothing more than to be a storyteller, like her abuelita. But Petra's world is ending. Earth has been destroyed by a comet, and only a few hundred scientists and their children - among them Petra and her family - have been chosen to journey to a new planet. They are the ones who must carry on the human race. Hundreds of years later, Petra wakes to this new planet - and the discovery that she is the only person who remembers Earth. A sinister Collective has taken over the ship during its journey, bent on erasing the sins of humanity's past. They have systematically purged the memories of all aboard - or purged them altogether. Petra alone now carries the stories of our past, and with them, any hope for our future. Can she make them live again?

Jean, Emiko. *Tokyo Ever After.* 322 p.

After learning that her father is the Crown Prince of Japan, Izumi travels to Tokyo, where she discovers that Japanese imperial life--complete with designer clothes, court intrigue, paparazzi scandals, and a forbidden romance with her handsome but stoic bodyguard--is a tough fit for the outspoken and irreverent eighteen-year-old from northern California.

McCauley, Kyrie. *If These Wings Could Fly.* 385 p.

In Auburn, Pennsylvania, a farming community overrun with crows, high school senior Leighton struggles to keep herself and her sisters safe from their abusive father even as she starts a relationship.

Mendoza, Paola. *Sanctuary.* 304 p.

In 2032, when sixteen-year-old Vali's mother is detained by the Deportation Forces, Vali must flee Vermont with her little brother, Ernie, hoping to reach their Tia Luna in the sanctuary state of California.

Oliver, Ben. *Loop.* 354 p.

Luka Kane has spent 736 days wrongfully imprisoned inside the Loop awaiting his execution. Each day is the same. Each day is torturous. But things are starting to change. Whispers of war are circulating. Strange things are happening to the prisoners. And the warden delivers a message: Luka, you have to get out... Now Luka must decide whether breaking out of the Loop is his only way to survive, especially if there's any chance of saving the ones he loves. But the population on the outside may be far more terrifying than anything he could have imaged. And in order to save his family, he'll have to discover who is responsible for the chaos that has been inflicted upon the world.

Patterson, James and Kwame Alexander. *Becoming Muhammed Ali: a novel.* 310 p.

A biographical novel tells the story of Cassius Clay, the determined boy who would one day become Muhammad Ali, one of the greatest boxers of all time.

Philippe, Ben. *Charming as a Verb.* 327 p.

"Henri 'Halti' Haltiwanger can charm just about anyone. He is a star debater and popular student at the prestigious FATE academy, the dutiful first-generation Haitian son, and the trusted dog walker for his wealthy New York City neighbors. But his easy smiles mask a burning ambition to attend his dream college, Columbia University. There is only one person who seems immune to Henri's charms: his 'intense' classmate and neighbor Corinne Troy. When she uncovers Henri's less-than-honest dog-walking scheme, she blackmails him into helping her change her image at school. Henri agrees, seeing a potential upside for himself. Soon what started as a mutual hustle turns into something more surprising than either of them ever bargained for . .

Schwartz, Dana. *Anatomy: A Love Story.* 338 p.

Hazel Sinnett is a medical student in 19th century Scotland who, after being kicked out because of her gender, works with new attractive acquaintance Jack Curren to procure dead bodies to study, but they soon discover secrets buried in the heart of Edinburgh society.

Weir, Andy. *Project Hail Mary.* 476 p.

Ryland Grace has been asleep for a very, very long time. He's just been awakened to find himself millions of miles from home, with nothing but two corpses for company. He can't remember his own name, let alone the nature of his assignment or how to complete it. Alone on this tiny ship that's been cobbled together by every government and space agency on the planet and hurled into the depths of space, it's up to him to conquer an extinction-level threat to our species. And thanks to an unexpected ally, he just might have a chance.

Wiles, Deborah. *Kent State.* 132p.

Told from different points of view--protesters, students, National Guardsmen, and "townies"--recounts the story of what happened at Kent State in May 1970, when four college students were killed by National Guardsmen, and a student protest was turned into a bloody battlefield.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Before the Ever After.* 161p.

ZJ's friends Ollie, Darry and Daniel help him cope when his father, a beloved professional football player, suffers severe headaches and memory loss that spell the end of his career.

Young, Adrienne. *Fable*. 357 p.

Seventeen-year-old Fable joins the young, motley crew of the Marigold to escape the island where her father abandoned her, but she quickly realizes life off the island is more dangerous than she imagined.

Authors We Recommend Always:

Alexander, Kwame

Anderson, Laurie Halse

Bruchac, Joseph

Crutcher, Chris

Dessen, Sarah

Green, John

King, A. S.

Levithan, David

Reynolds, Jason

Sepetys, Ruta

Stone, Nic

Strasser, Todd

Thomas, Angie

Trueman, Terry

Zusak, Marcus

Non-Fiction

About Anxiety Relief for Teens

Getting good grades, keeping up with social media, maintaining friendships... you have a lot on your plate and it's more difficult when you add anxiety to the mix. You may even be avoiding situations, events, or people that could trigger your anxiety. So, how do you stop yourself from missing out on life? With *Anxiety Relief for Teens*, Dr. Regine Galanti teaches you how CBT-based skills and mindfulness techniques can help you manage your anxiety and reverse negative patterns.

Alexievich, Svetlana. *Last Witnesses: Young Reader's Edition*.

Nobel Prize-winning writer Svetlana Alexievich delves into the traumatic memories of children who were separated from their parents during World War II—most of them never to be reunited—in this young adult adaptation of her acclaimed nonfiction masterpiece (*The Guardian*), *Last Witnesses: An Oral History of the Children of WWII*.

Colbert, Brandy. *Black Birds in the Sky*.

In the early morning of June 1, 1921, a white mob marched across the train tracks in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and into its predominantly Black Greenwood District—a thriving, affluent neighborhood known as America's Black Wall Street. They brought with them firearms, gasoline, and explosives. In a few short hours, they'd razed thirty-five square blocks to the ground, leaving hundreds dead. The Tulsa Race Massacre is one of the most devastating acts of racial violence in US history. But how did it come to pass? What exactly happened? And why are the events unknown to so many of us today?

Demetrios, Heather. *Code Name Badass: The true story of Virginia Hall.*

When James Bond was still in diapers, Virginia Hall was behind enemy lines, playing a dangerous game of cat and mouse with Hitler's henchmen. Did this hero have second thoughts after a terrible accident left her needing a wooden leg? Please. Virginia Hall was the baddest broad in any room she walked into. When the State Department proved to be a sexist boys' club that wouldn't allow her in, she gave the finger to society's expectations of women and became a spy for the British. This boss lady helped arm and train the French Resistance and organized sabotage missions. There was just one problem: The Butcher of Lyon, a notorious Gestapo commander, was after her. But, hey—Virginia's classmates didn't call her the Fighting Blade for nothing.

Fleischer, Jeff. *A Hot Mess.*

We already know what climate change is and many of us understand the human causes. But what will climate change do to our world? Who will be affected (spoiler: all of us!) and how will our lives change in the future? Topics include sea levels, extreme weather, drought, animal and plant extinction, and human and animal migration. Drawing on real-life situations and stories, journalist Jeff Fleischer takes an informed, approachable look at how our world will likely change as a result of our actions, including suggestions on what we can still do to slow down these unprecedented effects.

Henley, Ariel. *A face for Picasso : coming of age with Crouzon syndrome.* 378 p.

At only eight months old, identical twin sisters Ariel and Zan were diagnosed with Crouzon syndrome—a rare condition where the bones in the head fuse prematurely. They were the first twins known to survive it. Growing up, Ariel and her sister endured numerous appearance-altering procedures. Surgeons would break the bones in their heads and faces to make room for their growing organs. While the physical aspect of their condition was painful, it was nothing compared to the emotional toll of navigating life with a facial disfigurement. Ariel explores beauty and identity in her young-adult memoir about resilience, sisterhood, and the strength it takes to put your life, and yourself, back together time and time again.

Miller, Sarh. *Violet and Daisy: The Story of Vaudevilles Famous Conjoined Twins.*

Violet and Daisy. They were as sweet and pretty as their names would suggest, the pair of them as alike as two flower buds on a single stem. They were also joined, back-to-back, at the base of their spine. *Freaks, monsters*—that's what conjoined twins were called in 1908. And so their mother abandoned Violet and Daisy to the care of her midwife, who immediately put the babies on exhibition in the back room of her pub, embarking on a course of blatant exploitation that would range from the Brighton seashore to Australian amusement parks, American sideshows, and eventually to the most phenomenal success in vaudeville's history.

Ogle, Rex. *Punching Bag*.

Punching Bag is the compelling true story of a high school career defined by poverty and punctuated by outbreaks of domestic abuse. Rex Ogle, who brilliantly mapped his experience of hunger in *Free Lunch*, here describes his struggle to survive; reflects on his complex, often paradoxical relationship with his passionate, fierce mother; and charts the trajectory of his stepdad's anger. Hovering over Rex's story is the talismanic presence of his unborn baby sister.

Soontornvat, Christina. *All Thirteen: the incredible cave rescue of the Thai boys' soccer team*. 280 p.

Looks at the cave rescue of the twelve young players of the Wild Boars soccer team and their coach in northern Thailand.

Synnott, Mark and Hamptop Synnott. *The Impossible Climb: Alex Honnold, El Capitan and a Climber's Life*.

On June 3, 2017, as seen in the Oscar-winning documentary *Free Solo*, Alex Honnold achieved what most had written off as unattainable: a 3,000-foot vertical climb of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park, without a rope or harness. At the time, only a few knew what he was attempting to do, but after topping out at 9:28 a.m., having spent just under four hours on this historic feat, author Mark Synnott broke the story for National Geographic and the world watched in awe.

Notable Non-Fiction Authors:

Steve Shenkin

Bill Bryson

Lawrence Wright

Jon Krakauer

Malcolm Gladwell

Jeannette Walls

Yuval Noah Harari

Siddhartha Mukherjee

Elizabeth Kolbert

Graphic Fiction

Billet, Julia. *Catherine's War*. 154 p.

Based on a true World War II survival story, *Catherine's War* follows Rachel Cohen, an amateur photographer determined to capture her memories through the lens of her camera.

Brown, Lisa. *The Phantom Twin*. 202 p.

Conjoined twins Isabel and Jane, aka the Extraordinary Peabody Sisters, decide to undergo surgery to separate. However, the surgery doesn't go as planned, and Isabel finds herself unexpectedly alone and haunted by her sister's phantom. Can Isabel build a new life on her own?

Craft, Jerry. *Class Act*. 249 p.

This companion volume to Craft's award-winning *New Kid* spotlights Jordan's friend Drew as he navigates the challenges of 8th grade as one of the few students of color at Riverdale Academy Day School.

Donkin, Andrew. *Between Shades of Gray: Graphic Adaptation*

June, 1941. A knock comes at the door and the life of fifteen-year-old Lina Vilkas changes forever. She's arrested by the Soviet secret police and deported from Lithuania to Siberia with her mother and younger brother. The conditions are horrific and Lina must fight for her life and for the lives of those around her, including the boy that she loves. Risking everything, she secretly passes along clues in the form of drawings, hoping they will reach her father's prison camp. But will her messages, and her courage, be enough to reunite her family? Will they be enough to keep her alive?

Gulledge, Laura Lee. *The Dark Matter of Mona Starr*. 180 p.

When Mona's best friend Nash moves away, Mona is overcome with depression and anxiety which she calls her Matter. But with the help of therapy, art, writing, and new friendships, Mona is able to turn her Matter into genius.

Leong, Sloane. *A Map to the Sun*. 355p.

While shooting hoops beachside, Ren meets Luna, and a friendship quickly blossoms until Luna returns to Oahu. When Luna returns years later, Ren must decide whether their friendship is worth rebuilding.

Murray, Duane. *Better Place*. 159 p.

Dylan just moved to a new house, with no friends, and a mother who doesn't have time for him. Luckily, he has his grandad. Together, they are Red Rocket and Kid Cosmo, who save the universe every day with the power of imagination! But one day, Dylan learns that his grandad is suddenly gone... to a "better place." Now, Kid Cosmo will have to save the day, all by himself.

Nguyen, Trung Le. *The Magic Fish*. 229 p.

Tiến is a first-generation Vietnamese American who struggles with coming out of the closet to his parents. Will Tiến find a way to connect in the fairytales he shares with his mother?

Graphic Non-Fiction

Ha, Robin. *Almost American Girl*. 227 p.

Ha discusses the challenges of moving to America from her childhood home in South Korea, providing an honest and thoughtful perspective on being an outsider, finding your community, and how it feels to return to a home you've left behind.

Yang, Gene Luen. *Dragon Hoops*. 445p.

Life can be more riveting than fiction, and Gene Luen Yang proves that in *Dragon Hoops*—a stellar biographical look at the true story of the phenomenal men's varsity basketball team at Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland, CA, as they attempt to win it all in the California State Championship.

Gill, Joel Christian. *Fights: One Boy's Triumph Over Violence*.

Joel Christian Gill narrates what it was like for him to grow up in a single-parent household in the 1980s, from childhood to young adulthood—Black, broke, and surrounded by uncertainty.

Mohamed, Omar. *When Stars are Scattered*. 256 p.

Fleeing their war-torn home of Somalia, brothers Omar and Hassan live in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya. Omar has almost no memories of life before the camp or of his mother, who he still desperately searches for in the faces of new refugees.

Kendall, Mikki. *Amazons, Abolitionists, and Activists: A Graphic History of Women's Fight for Their Rights*. 195 p.

Amazons, Abolitionists, and Activists examines the long history of women and activism through an intersectional lens, highlighting the women integral to progressive movements like abolition, labor, and LGBTQ+ rights.