

2025 HS Summer Reading

Fiction

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Rebellion, 1776.* 224p.

An historical fiction middle grade adventure about a girl struggling to survive amid a smallpox epidemic, the public's fear of inoculation, and the seething Revolutionary War.

Barnes, Jennifer Lynn. *The Inheritance Games.* 376 p. (the entire series!) Sora

When a Connecticut teenager inherits vast wealth and an eccentric estate from the richest man in Texas, she must also live with his surviving family and solve a series of puzzles to discover how she earned her inheritance.

Cho, Ian X. *Aisle Nine.* 260 p. Sora

Even though the world is filled with portals to hell and bloodthirsty demons pop out of them on the reg, Jasper spends his days and nights working as a check-out clerk at the Here For You discount mart. Sure, there's even a hell portal in aisle nine, which means he could be maimed, dismembered, or even eaten whole during every shift, but at least at the mart he can be near his crush, Kyle Kuan. That she doesn't seem to even notice that he exists seems about right to Jasper, because Jasper can't remember anything that happened to him before his accident five months ago, either.

Ciccarelli, Kristen. *Heartless Hunter.* 406 p. Sora

In a world where witches face persecution, Rune leads a double life, masquerading as a socialite during the day and transforming into the vigilante known as the Crimson Moth by night, and forms a complicated alliance with the witch hunter Gideon Sharpe, blurring the lines between love and danger.

Deuker, Carl. *Shadowed.* 343 p.

Nate plays soccer, but he doesn't love it. He plays because it's what his family expects. Then Lucas Cawley moves in across the street. Lucas isn't like any of Nate's sports friends--he's poor, his parents are mostly absent, and he's devoted to his sister, Megan, who has a learning disability. Lucas may be an outcast at school, but he and Nate find common ground in their fierce games of one-on-one basketball. It's not long before Nate realizes that basketball is his sport. But Nate has an ax to grind with star players Colin and Bo, who have disrespected him for years. Nate believes that outplaying those two is the most important thing . . . until he learns that life is about more than getting ready for the next game.

Eddings, Mazey. *Tilly in Technicolor*. 309 p. Sora

When eighteen-year-old Tilly goes to London to intern for her sister's company, she begins to unmask her ADHD and connects with Oliver, another neurodivergent intern.

Everett, Percival. *James*. 302 p. Retelling

A brilliant, action-packed reimagining of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, both harrowing and furiously funny, told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.

Hayden, Chaz. *Diet Soda Club*. 309 p.

Since their dad died and mom is usually working, Reed spends his free time caring for his disabled sister, Bea. When their mom takes off, Reed turns to making fake IDs to support them. He soon finds that he can't manage on his own and finds help where he least expects it.

Hahn, Erin. *Even if it Breaks Your Heart*. 313 p.

As he attempts to fulfil a list left behind by his deceased best friend, nineteen-year-old Case meets eighteen-year-old Winnie, a hardworking ranch hand with aspirations of her own, and together they embark on an unexpected journey as they chase down their rodeo dreams.

Hannah, Kristin. *The Women*. 471 p.

Women can be heroes. When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances 'Frankie' McGrath hears these unexpected words, it is a revelation. Raised on idyllic Coronado Island and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing, being a good girl. But in 1965 the world is changing, and she suddenly imagines a different choice for her life. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she impulsively joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path. As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is overwhelmed by the chaos and destruction of war, as well as the unexpected trauma of coming home to a changed and politically divided America.

Lawhon, Ariel. *Frozen River*. 432 p.

A historical mystery based on the real-life diary entries of Martha Ballard, an 18th-century midwife who found herself at the center of a murder trial.

Moore, Liz. *God of the Woods*. 478 p.

When a teenager vanishes from her Adirondack summer camp, two worlds collide in a story of inheritance and second chances, the tensions between a family and a community, and a history that will not let any of them go.

Sepetys, Ruta and Sheinken, Steve. *The Bletchley Riddle*. 392p. Sora

This historical adventure follows two siblings at Bletchley Park, the home of WWII codebreakers, as they try to unravel a mystery surrounding their mother's death.

Sonnenblick, Jordan. *Stepping Off*. 325 p.

Jesse Dienstag's favorite sweatshirt says, "The real world isn't real." That's the slogan of the vacation-home community in Pennsylvania where his family has always spent every vacation and weekend for as long as he can remember. In the summer of 2019, as Jesse is about to enter his junior year of high school in New York City, he desperately wants to believe the slogan is true. For one thing, the two girls he loves -- equally and desperately -- are in Pennsylvania, and all the stresses and pressures of his daily life and school are in New York. But when his parents stop talking to each other, it gets harder and harder for Jesse to maintain his dream life in Pennsylvania. And when Covid shuts New York City down in March 2020 just days after Jesse's mother leaves his father, Jesse's worlds collide.

Stone, Nic. *Dear Manny*. 199 p.

Companion novel to: *Dear Martin*. "While running for junior class president at his university, Jared falls for his opponent who has a similar platform based on equity and inclusion, and processes his feelings by writing letters to his deceased friend Manny.

Treuer, Anton. *Where Wolves Don't Die*. 320 p.

Ezra Cloud hates living in Northeast Minneapolis. His father is a professor of their language, Ojibwe, at a local college, so they have to be there. But Ezra hates the dirty, polluted snow around them. He hates being away from the rez at Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation. And he hates the local bully in his neighborhood, Matt Schroeder, who terrorizes Ezra and his friend Nora George.

Fiction Authors We Recommend Always:

Alexander, Kwame	Levithan, David	Wein, Elizabeth
Anderson, Laurie Halse	Reynolds, Jason	Zusak, Markus
Bruchac, Joseph	Sepetys, Ruta	
Crutcher, Chris	Stone, Nic	
Dessen, Sarah	Strasser, Todd	
Green, John	Thomas, Angie	
King, A. S.	Trueman, Terry	

Non - Fiction

Cooper, Candy J. *Shackled: A tale of wronged kids, rogue judges, and a town that looked away*. 163 p. Sora

Here is the explosive story of the Kids for Cash scandal in Pennsylvania, a judicial justice miscarriage that sent more than 2,500 children and teens to a for-profit detention center while two judges lined their pockets with cash, as told by Candy J. Cooper, an award-winning journalist and Pulitzer Prize finalist.

Fleming, Candace. *The Enigma Girls: How Ten Teenagers Broke Ciphers, Kept Secrets, and Helped Win World War II.* 371 p. Sora

From award-winning author Candace Fleming, comes the powerful and fascinating story of the brave and dedicated young women who helped turn the tides of World War II for the Allies, with their hardwork and determination at Bletchley Park.

Green, John. *Everything is Tuberculosis: The History and Persistence of Our Deadliest Infection.* 208 p.

In 2019, author John Green met Henry Reider, a young tuberculosis patient at Lakka Government Hospital in Sierra Leone. John became fast friends with Henry, a boy with spindly legs and a big, goofy smile. In the years since that first visit to Lakka, Green has become a vocal advocate for increased access to treatment and wider awareness of the healthcare inequities that allow this curable, preventable infectious disease to also be the deadliest, killing over a million people every year. In *Everything Is Tuberculosis*, John tells Henry's story, woven through with the scientific and social histories of how tuberculosis has shaped our world—and how our choices will shape the future of tuberculosis.

Ogle, Rex. *Road Home.* 264 p. Sora

This final, essential chapter in Rex Ogle's memoir trilogy recounts being forced from his home and living on the streets after his father discovered he was gay. When Rex was outed the summer after he graduated high school, his father gave him a choice: he could stay at home, find a girlfriend, and attend church twice a week, or he could be gay--and leave. Rex left, driving toward the only other gay man he knew and a toxic relationship that would ultimately leave him homeless and desperate on the streets of New Orleans. Here, Rex tells the story of his coming out and his father's rejection of his identity, navigating abuse and survival on the streets.

Rusch, Elizabeth. *A Greater Goal: The Epic Battle for Equal Pay in Women's Soccer--and Beyond.* 316 p. Sora

A history of the more than 250 women who have played for the U.S. National Soccer Team and their battle for equal pay.

Watson, Renée and Ekua Holmes. *Black Girl You Are Atlas.* 81 p. Sora

Through a series of expressive, semi-autobiographical poems, Watson portrays junctures of her life growing up in Portland, Oregon, that are accompanied by stunning collage artwork by Holmes. A captivating and resonating collection.

Yoo, Paula. *Rising from the Ashes: Los Angeles, 1992. Edward Jae Song Lee, Latasha Harlins, Rodney King, and a City on Fire.* 358 p. Sora

Based on 100+ personal interviews as seen through the eyes and experiences of those who were there, this compelling, nuanced account of Los Angeles' 1992 uprising, which erupted in violence, discusses its impact on Korean and Black American communities.

Notable Non-Fiction Authors:

Bryson, Bill

Gladwell, Malcolm

Gladwell, Malcolm

Harari, Yuval Noah

Kolbert, Elizabeth

Krakauer, Jon

Mukherjee, Siddhartha

Ogle, Rex

Sheinkin, Steve

Walls, Jeanette

Wright, Lawrence

Graphic Fiction

Bogart, Matthew, and Jesse Holden. *Incredible Doom* series.

Set in the early 1990s, this series follows teenagers Allison, Samir, Richard, and Tina as they navigate the early world of the internet, forming connections amidst personal turmoil. The narrative captures the era's technological landscape and the timeless challenges of adolescence, offering a moving yet incredibly enjoyable story.

Cotugno, S.H. *The Glass Scientists*.

In Victorian London, Dr. Henry Jekyll leads the Society for Arcane Science, aiming to legitimize the work of rogue scientists. However, his own experiments have unleashed a chaotic alter ego, Mr. Hyde, threatening the society's mission. This graphic novel intertwines classic literary figures in a fresh narrative, praised for its charming storytelling and immersive art.

Gooch, Chris. *In Utero*.

Twelve years after a disastrous explosion, young Hailey is dropped off by her mum at a holiday camp in a dilapidated shopping mall. Alienated from the other kids, she connects with an eerie older teen named Jen... but soon dark horrors awaken, and the two new friends are caught up in a cataclysmic battle between two terrifying creatures who have been lying dormant all this time.

Ogle, Rex. *Pizza Face*. 213 p. Sora

On the first day of seventh grade, Rex encounters a bump in the road—a big angry pimple right in the center of his forehead. And this is only the beginning of his problems. What follows is a frustrating battle with stubborn acne, body odor, and other embarrassments of puberty. Still struggling with a home life edging on the poverty line, Rex can't afford to buy the acne medication or deodorant he needs, and bullies are noticing Rex's awkward transformation.

Tokuda-Hall, Maggie, and Faith Schaffer. *The Worst Ronin*. 333 p. Sora

Sixteen-year-old Chihiro Ito, daughter of a renowned samurai, seizes the chance to prove herself by partnering with her idol, Tatsuo Nakano—the first woman accepted into the prestigious Kesi Academy. Tasked with eliminating a yamauba demon terrorizing a village, Chihiro discovers that Tatsuo is far from the hero she imagined. This edgy, unexpectedly hilarious graphic novel blends traditional samurai lore with modern elements, delivering a genre-defying adventure.

Graphic Non-fiction

Brown, Don. *83 Days in Mariupol: A War Diary*. 127 p. Sora

A city ruined. In once-quiet residential streets, two armies battle, driving people into cellars and basements with little food or water. No lights or heat. Dwindling medical supplies. Shells and bullets deliver cruel, random death to the young and old, men, women, and children. This is Mariupol, a Ukrainian city and early target of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Bordering Russian-occupied territory, the coastal city seemed doomed to a defeat that would come within days, if not hours. Could Mariupol, and Ukraine, survive?

Garrud, Edith. *The Bodyguard Unit: Edith Garrud, Women's Suffrage, and Jujitsu*. 136 p.

In the early twentieth century, women in England demanded the right to vote—and faced violent retaliation. Rather than back down, the suffragist group Women's Social and Political Union formed its own security unit. Edith Garrud, a pioneering self-defense instructor, trained them to fight back against abuse and arrest while pursuing long-overdue rights.

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

Robin, born in South Korea and raised by a single mother, faces challenges when they immigrate to Huntsville, Alabama. Struggling with language barriers and cultural differences, Robin reconnects with her passion for comics, leading to new friendships and self-discovery.

Jones, Dan C. *Stealing Little Moon : the legacy of the American Indian boarding schools*. 284 p. Sora

Dan SaSuWeh Jones chronicles his family's time at Chilocco--starting with his grandmother Little Moon's arrival when the school first opened and ending with him working on the maintenance crew when the school shut down nearly one hundred years later. Together with the voices of students from other schools, both those who died and those who survived, Dan brings to light the lasting legacy of the boarding school era.

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

This graphic primer offers an essential understanding of the fight for women's rights, highlighting contributions from women of color in various movements, including suffrage, labor, civil rights, and LGBTQ rights.

Parish, Theo. *Homebody*. 211 p. Sora

In this graphic novel memoir, the author shares their journey to find a home within themselves, taking readers through the experiences and everyday moments that all led up to them finding the term "nonbinary," which finally struck a chord.