

Maryville Junior High School

Summer Reading Suggestions for 9th Graders



Welcome, MJHS Freshmen! Whether you're headed to the beach, the ball field, or your own backyard, we encourage you to carve out time to read. The act of **reading has tremendous benefits**:

- It **relieves stress**, taking you out of the present and into another place and time.

- It **builds stamina** to prepare for college or the workforce. Reading for an hour or two in one sitting is a basic expectation in college.
- It **prepares you for the world of work**. Author and literacy expert Kelly Gallagher makes this point powerfully in his infographic ["Why Read?" Ten Reasons](#).
- It **builds empathy**. Neil Gaiman, Newbery-award winning author of *The Graveyard Book*, writes: *"When you watch TV or see a film, you are looking at things happening to other people. Prose fiction is something you build up from 26 letters & a handful of punctuation marks and you, and you alone, using your imagination, create a world and people it and look out through other eyes. You get to feel things, visit places and worlds you would never otherwise know. You learn that everyone else out there is a 'me,' as well. You're being someone else, and when you return to your own worlds you're going to be slightly changed."*

Equally important for **summer** reading: it enables you to escape into your imagination, to "travel without moving your feet" (Jhumpa Lahiri). On our list, you'll meet samurais, astronauts, geeks, prom queens, wrestlers, and a zombie or two. You'll travel from the fields of rural China to a packed high school cafeteria, from rodeos to Wonderland, from an Italy plagued by the Black Death to a big-box superstore plagued by terrorism. Choose a title that speaks to YOU. Happy travels!

Suggestions:

- Our list is organized by genre (mysteries, historical fiction, sports books, etc.).
- Most plot summaries come from the websites *Amazon.com*, *Guys Read*, or *Common Sense Media*.
- We included a snapshot of the book cover too -- because for a summer read, it's okay to judge a book by its cover!

- You'll find plenty of **graphic novels** on the list -- in almost every genre category. If you love comics, try a graphic novel. If you've never read one, try a graphic novel. 😊
- Click the teen reading lists linked to throughout the list. If you're a reader, bookmark these for reading ideas throughout the year.
- Ask your parents, relatives, and family friends for book suggestions. What do they remember reading -- and liking -- as high school freshmen?
- Challenge yourself to read for 20-30 minutes each day.
- When we see you in August, let us know if you discover a book to add to the ***MJHS English I Suggested Reading List***.

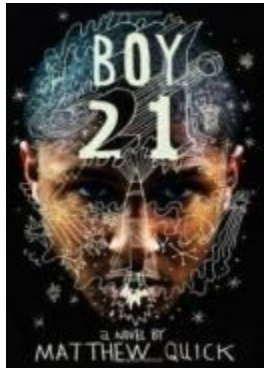
Note to Parents and Guardians: Our *2018 Summer Reading Suggestions* includes some titles containing mature themes and content. Thus, we encourage parents and guardians to take an active role in helping individual teens choose those books that are the best for them. Several websites, including [Common Sense Media](#) and Amazon.com, offer reviews to help parents and students make the best selection for them. We relied on these websites to provide brief narratives for the books on this list.

REMINDER: The only REQUIRED summer reading for MJHS students is that assigned to those in English I Honors: Steve Sheinkin's *BOMB: The Race to Build -- and Steal -- the World's Most Powerful Weapon*. Students obtained a copy of *Bomb* from the MJHS Library in May.

Students who enroll in English I Honors over the summer at MJHS will be given the summer reading assignment (and access to a copy of *Bomb*) when they register. For more information, see the *MJHS Summer Reading* web link on the school website.

Although students enrolled in English I CP/cp haven't been assigned a specific summer reading text, we encourage ALL students -- no matter what level of English I they've enrolled in for 2018-19 -- to read for pleasure this summer. We hope this list helps your student find just the right book.

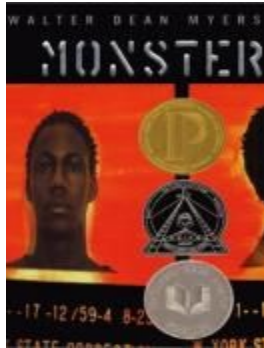
#1 - High-Interest Books



***BOY 21*, Matthew Quick** -- Having grown up with an absent mother, an embittered father, and a disabled grandfather, Finley has held on to basketball and his devoted girlfriend as his lifelines through high school. When his coach asks him for a special favor -- to look after and befriend a formidable young basketball player who seems to have suffered a mental breakdown -- Finley reluctantly agrees. The new student calls himself "Boy21" and claims to be from another planet, and Finley works hard to protect him at their tough, racially divided school. But what will happen to Finley's basketball dreams if Boy21 takes his place on the team?



***THE SUN IS ALSO A STAR*, Nicola Yoon** is the story of how two teens meet and spend 12 fateful hours together in New York City: Jamaican-American Natasha Kingsley has 24 hours until her family of four is deported to their native Jamaica, and Korean-American Daniel Bae wants to be a poet but feels forced to make his parents happy and attends a college interview with a Yale alum. But as Natasha attempts a last-ditch way to keep her family legally in the United States, she bumps into Daniel again and again, and he's immediately drawn to her. She's super logical and science-oriented, while he's a romantic at heart. He persuades her to try to see whether they can fall in love scientifically by answering a series of questions that promote intimacy. Meanwhile, they have to decide whether they can successfully take care of their immediate obligations.



Monster, Walter Dean Myers

Steve is in jail -- on trial for murder. He's young, he's terrified, and he's black. He's sure no one will believe him. Does Steve even believe in himself? You decide when you read this fast-moving book written like a movie script. The courtroom mystery hits home with enough drama and realism to attract even reluctant readers.

#16 on *Time Magazine's* "100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time"



Just Listen, Sarah Dessen

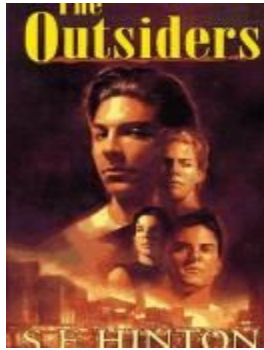
To find the truth you've got to be willing to hear it.

When she's modeling, Annabel is the picture of perfection.

But her real life is far from perfect.

Fortunately, she's got Owen. He's intense, music-obsessed, and dedicated to always telling the truth.

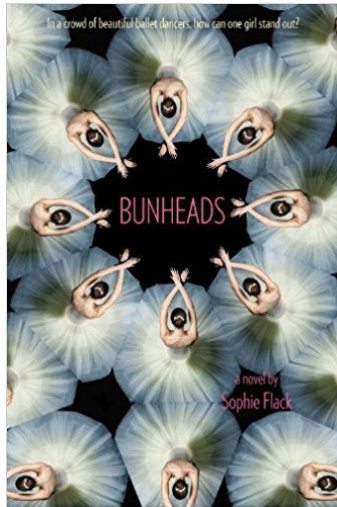
And most of all, he's determined to make Annabel happy.



The Outsiders, by **S.E. Hinton**, has been one of the most popular YA novels ever since its 1967 publication. This story of peer pressure, rebellion, and identity centers on two rival groups of teens, the lower-class "outsider" Greasers and the wealthier, popular Socs (short for Socials). Ponyboy and his Greaser buddies try to make a place for themselves in the world. The juvenile delinquent characters are fully and humanely developed in this realistic look at life, death, and growing up, told from a teen's point of view. If you haven't read *The Outsiders* yet (or if you've only seen the 1983 movie), find a copy of the novel. Even if you're not a reading fan, you'll like this book.



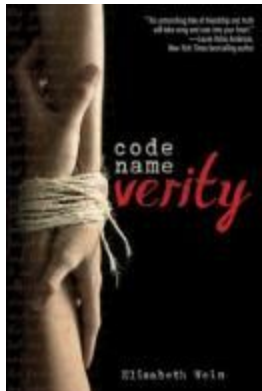
If you enjoyed S.E. Hinton's much-loved *The Outsiders*, you might want to read the rest of her books -- and ***Rumble Fish*** stands as one of her best efforts. This spare portrait tells the story of 14-year-old Rusty-James, who reigns as the toughest kid in his rough, depressed neighborhood. He worships his older brother, who was the leader of a gang. But his brother drifts aimlessly, and Rusty-James lives only for the excitement of fighting.



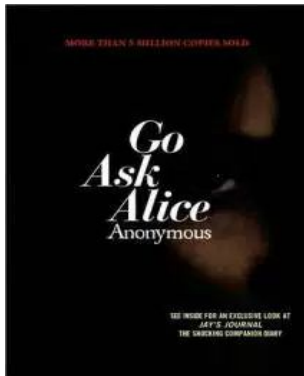
***Bunheads*, Sophie Flack**

As a dancer with the ultra-prestigious Manhattan Ballet company, nineteen-year-old Hannah Ward juggles intense rehearsals, dazzling performances, and complicated backstage relationships. But when she meets a spontaneous and irresistibly cute musician named Jacob, her universe begins to change.

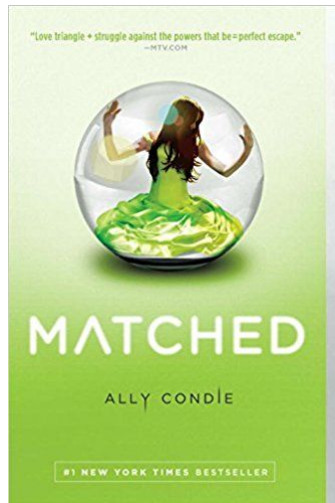
Until now, Hannah has happily followed the company's unofficial mantra, "Don't think, just dance." But as Jacob opens her eyes to the world beyond the theater, Hannah must decide whether to compete against the other "bunheads" for a star soloist spot or to strike out on her own.



***Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein** -- a heart-wrenching, unforgettable WWII story. On October 11, 1943, a British spy plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France. Its pilot and passenger are best friends. One of the girls has a chance at survival. The other has lost the game before it's barely begun. When "Verity" is arrested by the Gestapo, she's sure she doesn't stand a chance. As a secret agent captured in enemy territory, she's living a spy's worst nightmare. Her Nazi interrogators give her a simple choice: reveal her mission or face a grisly execution.

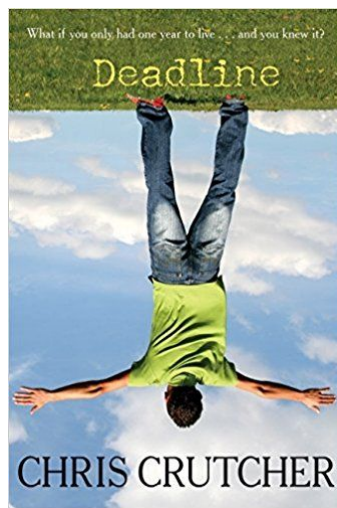


Go Ask Alice by **Anonymous**--first published in 1971 and still has an impact on students today. This is a dark story how Alice's drug addiction destroys her and affects her family. While many adults question if it is true, students don't care. If anything, it gets readers talking about the peer pressures they face today.



***Matched*, Ally Condy**

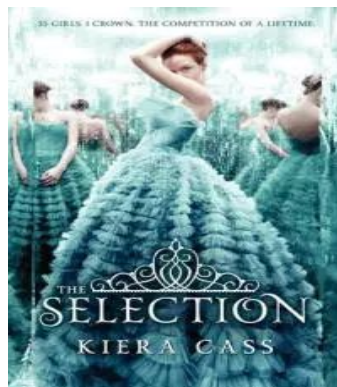
Cassia has always trusted the Society to make the right choices for her: what to read, what to watch, what to believe. So when Xander's face appears on-screen at her Matching ceremony, Cassia knows he is her ideal mate . . . until she sees Ky Markham's face flash for an instant before the screen fades to black. The Society tells her it's a glitch, a rare malfunction, and that she should focus on the happy life she's destined to lead with Xander. But Cassia can't stop thinking about Ky, and as they slowly fall in love, Cassia begins to doubt the Society's infallibility and is faced with an impossible choice: between Xander and Ky, between the only life she's known and a path that no one else has dared to follow.



Deadline, Chris Crutcher -- How can a pint-sized, smart-aleck

eighteen-year-old make his mark on the world from Nowheresville, Idaho—especially when he only has one year left to do it? When Ben Wolf learns his senior year of high school will be his last year, period, he is determined to go out in a blaze of glory. That means not letting anyone know about his diagnosis. It means trying out for the football team. It means giving his close-minded civics teacher a daily migraine. It means going for the amazingly perfect, fascinating Dallas Suzuki.

But living with a secret isn't easy . . . What will Ben do when he realizes he isn't the only person who's keeping one?



The Selection Series, Kiera Cass -- Even though this is considered dystopian lit, this story reminds many students of *The Bachelor*. Thirty-five girls are chosen to be part of the selection process where they live in a palace and compete for the heart of Prince Maxon. America is chosen as one of the 35 girls and refuses to pretend to be someone else to win over the prince. Girls loves this series because of the romance factor but with a war going on in the background the book digs deeper than just finding a princess.

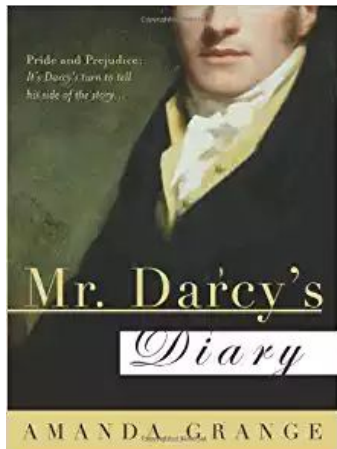


The Geek's Guide to Unrequited Love, Sarvenaz Tash

Graham met his best friend, Roxana, when he moved into her neighborhood eight years ago, and she asked him which Hogwarts house he'd be sorted into. Graham has been in love with her ever since. But now they're sixteen, still neighbors, still best friends. And Graham and Roxy share more than ever—moving on from their Harry Potter obsession to a serious love of comic books.

When Graham learns that the creator of their favorite comic, The Chronicles of Althena, is making a rare appearance at this year's New York Comic Con, he knows he must score tickets. And the event inspires Graham to come up with the perfect plan to tell Roxy how he really feels about her. He's got three days to woo his best friend at the coolest, kookiest con full of superheroes and supervillains. But no one at a comic book convention is who they appear to be...even Roxy. And Graham is starting to realize fictional love stories are way less complicated than real-life ones.

2017 YALSA Top Ten Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers



***Mr. Darcy's Diary*, Amanda Grange --** *Mr. Darcy's Diary* presents the story

of the unlikely courtship of Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy -- from Darcy's point of view. This graceful imagining and sequel to *Pride and Prejudice* explains Darcy's moodiness and the difficulties of his reluctant relationship as he struggles to avoid falling in love with Miss Bennet. Though seemingly stiff and stubborn at times, Darcy's words prove him also to be quite devoted and endearing - qualities that eventually win over Miss Bennet's heart. This continuation of a classic romantic novel is charming and elegant, much like Darcy himself.

Pride and Prejudice has inspired a number of modern sequels, the most successful of which focus on the rich, proud Mr. Darcy.

For more high interest suggestions, check these links:

[9th Grade Books -- High Interest](#) -- This list of suggestions was compiled recently by Kelly Gallagher, a high school English teacher in Anaheim, CA -- and also an author/consultant who works with educators around the world. He is considered one of the leading voices in literacy education.

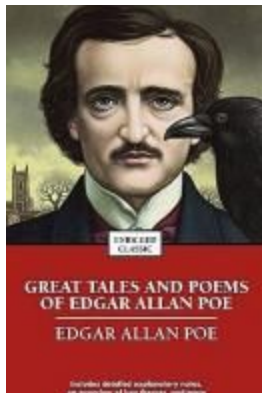
[THE ULTIMATE TEEN BOOKSHELF](#) -- chosen by members of YALSA (the Young Adult Library Services Association).

[2017 Top Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers](#)

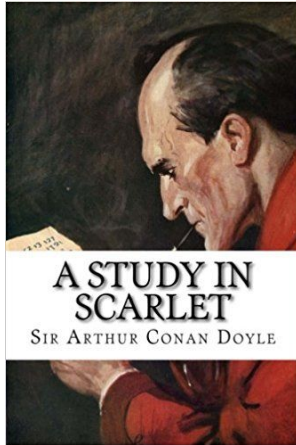
[READING LIST BY SOME GUYS & For Other Guys](#) -- from the website [Guys Read](#) ("the place to come if you're looking for something to get a guy reading). Go to the website to see book lists organized by category & rated by readers. EXCELLENT RESOURCE!

#2 - Classics

While beach reads can be a fun escape, sometimes they're more style than substance. The books below are frequently featured on freshmen teachers' summer reading lists. These must-read books are classics for a reason: compelling stories and unforgettable characters.

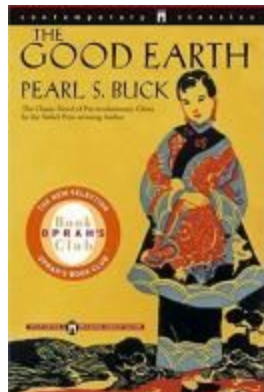


Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe. Poe's short stories can be grim, gory, and terrifying, but wonderfully so. His brilliance lies not only in his fertile imagination, but also in his insight into the ways people think and feel; he had a remarkable talent for going inside a character's descent into madness, or his most desperate loneliness. *Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe* offers a fine representation of Poe's horror stories -- as well as some of his best-loved poetry. You can read his work in almost any anthology of American short stories or poetry. Have fun!

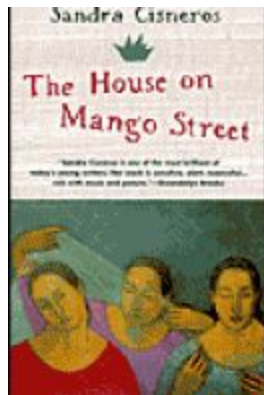


***A Study in Scarlet*, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Sherlock Holmes)**

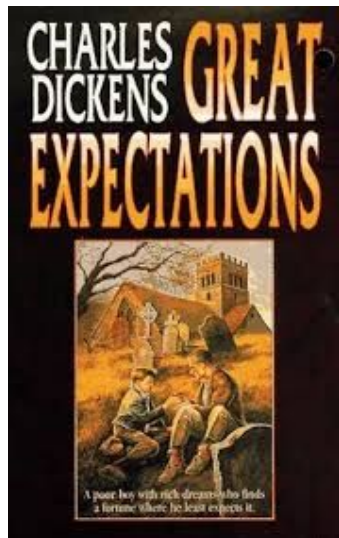
A Study in Scarlet is a detective mystery novel written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, introducing his new characters, "consulting detective" Sherlock Holmes and his friend and chronicler, Dr. John Watson, who later became two of the most famous characters in literature. Conan Doyle wrote the story in 1886, and it was published the following year. The book's title derives from a speech given by Holmes to Doctor Watson on the nature of his work, in which he describes the story's murder investigation as his "study in scarlet": "There's the scarlet thread of murder running through the colourless skein of life, and our duty is to unravel it, and isolate it, and expose every inch of it."



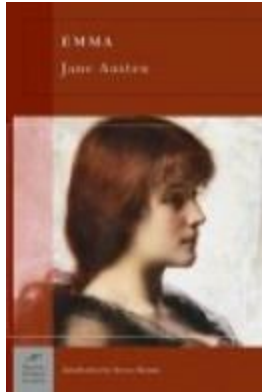
Pearl S. Buck sets her classic novel ***The Good Earth***, in turn-of-the-century China, Wang Lung, a poor young farmer, is sold a slave, O-lan, who becomes his wife. Although they steadily become prosperous and enjoy the birth of a son, they soon fall prey to famine and economic instability. The novel follows the couple from young marrieds to old age, and parallels the growth of China itself from an ancient dynasty to a nation of very modern crises.



Sandra Cisneros' novel *The House on Mango Street* was an MHS English I summer reading selection for several years. In it, the smart, gifted narrator is determined to say goodbye to her poor, Latino neighborhood. She tells her story in short vignettes, describing her friends, her family, her neighbors, and her dream to have a "house all my own... Only a house quiet as snow, a space for myself to go, clean as paper before the poem."

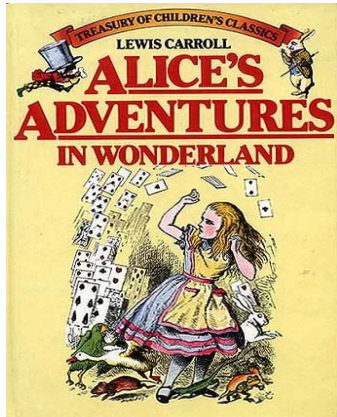


GREAT EXPECTATIONS, Charles Dickens' fast-paced, moving classic of reversed fortune., takes place during the mid-19th century, and tells the story of Pip, a young orphan in England's marsh country who is thrust onto the class ladder by a series of complex and coincidental circumstances that improve his economic and social status. Along his journey of self-discovery from youth to maturity, he learns the value of friendship, the power of romantic and familial love, and the ultimate meaning of wealth and material gain.



Emma, Jane Austen

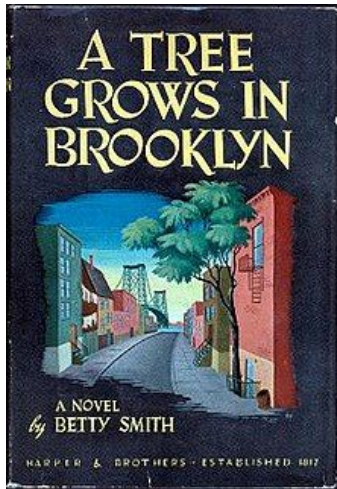
This classic novel begins with the marriage of the title character's former governess, Miss Taylor, to Mr. Weston. Readers learn that Emma's mother passed away long ago and her only sibling, a sister, is married and living in London. Emma and her nervous father are sad to lose Miss Taylor's constant presence in their household, but Emma congratulates herself on her own matchmaking skill, as she apparently encouraged the Westons' pairing. In need of a new project, Emma befriends Harriet Smith, a young woman of unknown parentage supported by Emma's friends and neighbors. Determined to match her with an upper-class husband, Emma begins to manipulate relations between Harriet and the local vicar, Mr. Elton. Meanwhile, two newcomers arrive in town: the beautiful and frustratingly private Jane Fairfax, and Mr. Weston's high-spirited son, Frank Churchill, who seems to be interested in Emma. Though her trusted friend John Knightley warns her that she overestimates her talents as a matchmaker, Emma forges ahead. The comic and unfortunate misunderstandings that result help to reveal, however clumsily, characters' true feelings for one another.



Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll

Alice wanders through a fantasy world of talking rabbits, royal playing cards and smoking caterpillars.

#33 on *Time Magazine's* "100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time"

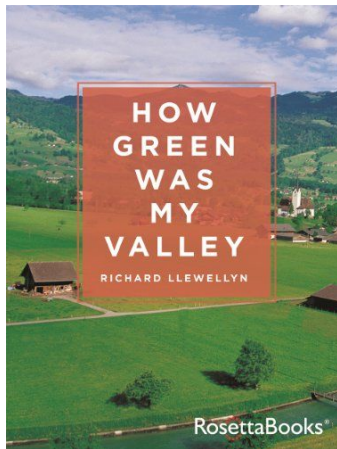


***A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, Betty Smith**

The American classic about a young girl's coming of age at the turn of the century.

"A profoundly moving novel, and an honest and true one. It cuts right to the heart of life...If you miss *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* you will deny yourself a rich experience...It is a poignant and deeply understanding story of childhood and family relationships. The Nolans lived in the Williamsburg slums of Brooklyn from 1902 until 1919...Their daughter Francie and their son Neely knew more than their fair share of the privations and sufferings that are the lot of a great city's poor. Primarily this is Francie's book. She is a superb feat of characterization, an imaginative, alert, resourceful child. And Francie's growing up and beginnings of wisdom are the substance of *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*." --*New York Times*

"One of the books of the century." --New York Public Library

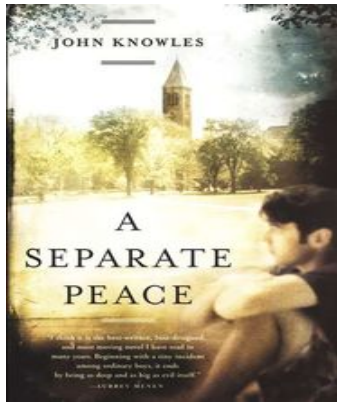


***How Green Was My Valley*, Richard Llewellyn**

Winner of the National Book Award in 1940 and the basis for the Academy Award Best Picture film of the same name, *How Green Was My Valley* is full of memorable characters, richly crafted language, and surprising humor.

Huw Morgan remembers the days when his home valley was prosperous, verdant, and beautiful—before the mines came to town. The youngest son of a respectable mining family in South Wales, he is now the only one left in the valley, and his reminiscences tell the story of a family and a town both defined and ruined by the mines.

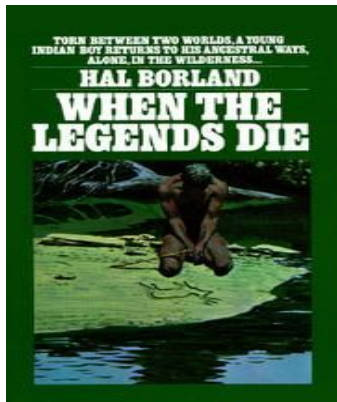
Huw's story is both joyful and heartrending—a portrait of a place and a people existing now only in memory.



A Separate Peace, John Knowles

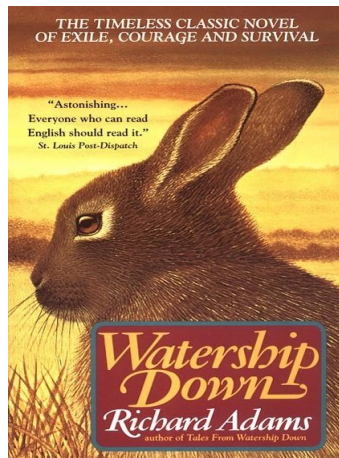
Competition between two friends at an elite prep school reaches a climax when one of them impulsively shakes a tree branch the other is standing on and knocks him off, changing both of their lives forever.

#36 on *Time Magazine's* "100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time"



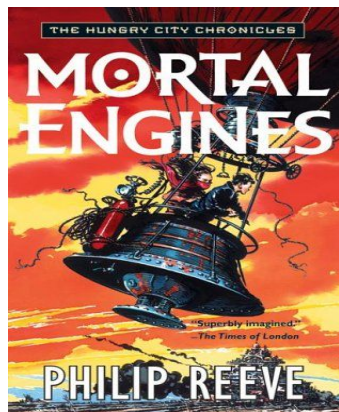
When the Legends Die, Hal Borland

The novel, about the life of a young Ute man, was written in 1963; it soon became a young adult classic. The novel is roughly divided into four parts: Tom Black Bull's youth with his parents who lived "off the reservation" in the wilderness of southern Colorado; Tom's experience as an orphan sent to the reservation school against his will; Tom's "abandonment" of the Indian lifestyle and his success on the rodeo circuit in Colorado, New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma; and finally Tom's return to his roots — reconciling himself with his heritage and his solitary relationship with the land and the wilderness.

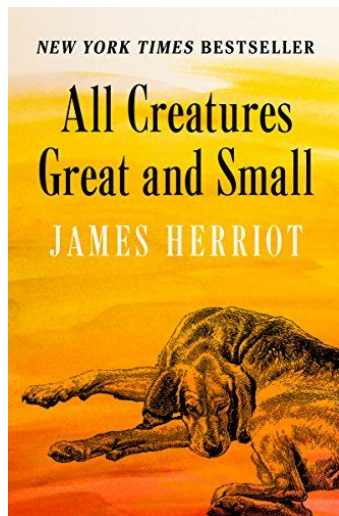


***Watership Down*, Richard Adams** -- A band of young males, relegated to the fringes of society, set out to find a place where they can live free and proud. Never mind that the characters in this long and complex but thrilling epic are rabbits--Beatrix Potter, this isn't. Charismatic characters, nail-biting action, and an engrossing plot combine to produce a classic. When Hazel's clairvoyant brother, Fiver, predicts a catastrophe, Hazel gathers other young rabbits willing to flee to establish a new warren of their own. But few of them have been far from home, and their journey is perilous: They're attacked by rats in a barn, must cross a creek, and are lulled into a false sense of security in a warren whose rabbits turn out to be fed--and harvested--by a farmer.

With every incident, however, the value of each individual becomes clear to the others, and they coalesce into a unified band. When they at last reach their objective, a desolate hill called Watership Down, they feel they have found, and earned, a home.



***Mortal Engines*, Philip Reeve**
What would happen if human civilization blew up most of the world, and whole cities moved around on giant tracks and wheels devouring each other in order to survive? *The Hungry City Chronicles* will tell you. Crazy action, adventure, and twisted global history.



***All Creatures Great and Small*, James Herriot**

James Herriot (1916–1995) was the pen name of James Alfred “Alf” Wight, an English veterinarian whose tales of veterinary practice and country life have delighted generations. Many of Herriot’s works—including *All Creatures Great and Small*, *All Things Bright and Beautiful*, *All Things Wise and Wonderful*, *The Lord God Made Them All*, and *Every Living Thing*—became international bestsellers and have been adapted for film and television.

Herriot’s stories rely on numerous autobiographical elements taken from his life in northern England’s Yorkshire County, and they depict a simple, rustic world deeply in touch with the cycles of nature." These are all warm, funny, moving, fascinating books -- especially for animal lovers.

#3. Thrillers/Mysteries

Highlighted below are novels that fall into the mystery or adventure genres. For more mystery suggestions, check this link: [EDGAR Award Winners for Young Adult Fiction](#). The **Edgar Allan Poe Awards** (popularly called the **Edgars**), named after Edgar Allan Poe, are presented every year by the **Mystery Writers of America**. They remain the most prestigious awards in the entire mystery genre. The award for **Best Young Adult Mystery** was established in 1989 and recognizes works written for ages twelve to eighteen, and grades eight through twelve.



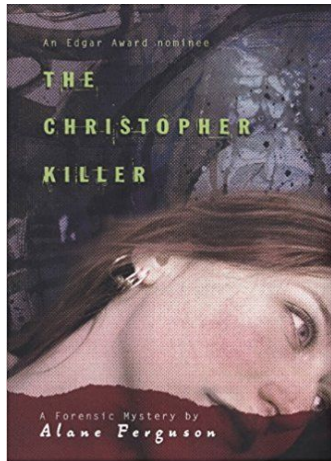
***The Apprenticeship of Victor Frankenstein*, Kenneth Oppel** -- It's just another leisurely summer at the Frankenstein family country home for 15-year-old Victor, his twin Konrad, and their cousin Elizabeth. They put on plays by their friend Henry Clerval, are home-schooled by the twins' father, and enjoy well-bred sports like sailing and fencing. Running through the house one day they uncover a secret passage leading to an even more secretive library filled to the brim with forbidden alchemy texts. At first it's just curious fun, but when Konrad falls ill and the inept medical doctors start coming and going, Victor digs deeper in the library, determined to find something that will cure him. He also starts frequenting the home of the underground alchemist Polidori for help uncovering the secret ingredients of the Elixir of Life. He finds there's good news -- only three things to find -- and bad news -- acquiring all three puts him and those he loves in grave danger.



***Need*, Joelle Charbonneau**

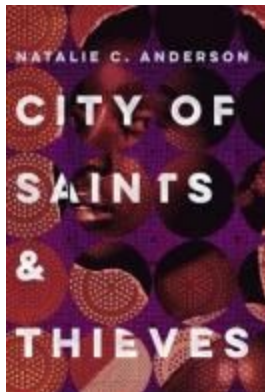
Teenagers at Wisconsin's Nottawa High School are drawn deeper into a social networking site that promises to grant their every need . . . regardless of the consequences. Soon the site turns sinister, with simple pranks escalating to malicious crimes. The body count rises. In this chilling YA thriller, the

author of the best-selling Testing trilogy examines not only the dark side of social media, but the dark side of human nature.



***The Christopher Killer*, Alane Ferguson**

As the daughter of a Colorado County coroner, seventeen-year old Cameryn Mahoney is no stranger to death. In fact, she's always been fascinated by the science of it, so she's thrilled to finally get some hands-on experience in forensics working as her father's assistant. But Cammie is in for more than she bargained for when the second case that she attends turns out to be someone she knows—the latest victim of a serial killer known as the Christopher Killer. And if dealing with that isn't hard enough, Cammie soon realizes that if she's not careful, she might wind up as the killer's next victim. . . .



***The City of Saints and Thieves*, Natalie C. Anderson**

This action-packed, tightly plotted murder mystery stands out from the pack of run-of-the-mill thrillers as it depicts a young woman's quest for revenge in contemporary Africa. The book's author, Natalie C. Anderson, has worked for a decade with the United Nations and nongovernmental organizations on refugee relief and development, and her expertise and depth of knowledge give the twisty plot added impact.

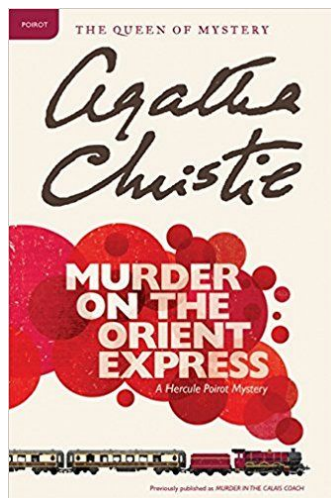


***Monument 14*, Emmy Laybourne** -- is a cleverly constructed suspense novel of survival that's entirely set in a big-box superstore in the wake of a catastrophe:

“Your mother hollers that you’re going to miss the bus She can see it coming down the street You don’t stop and hug her and tell her you love her You don’t thank her for being a good kind patient mother Of course not-you launch yourself down the stairs and make a run for the corner Only if its the last time you’ll ever see your mother you sort of start to wish you’d stopped and did those things Maybe even missed the bus But the bus was barreling down our street so I ran Fourteen kids One superstore A million things that go wrong In Emmy Laybourne’s action-packed debut novel Monument 14 six high school kids some popular some not two eighth graders one a tech genius and six little kids trapped together in a chain superstore build a refuge for themselves inside While outside a series of escalating disasters beginning with a monster hailstorm and ending with a chemical weapons spill seems to be tearing the world-as they know it-apart.” -- Amazon



***And Then There Were None*, Agatha Christie** -- a grim but riveting mystery. Characters are first introduced just so that readers can distinguish them, but as the book progresses and readers get further inside their minds and their fears, the suspense builds. One of the darkest aspects of the novel is the fact there's no "good guy" here -- all of the characters appear equally guilty in more ways than one. This is an exciting book -- however grisly -- that is to be enjoyed for its page-turning plot and Christie's masterful construction around the spooky nursery rhyme.

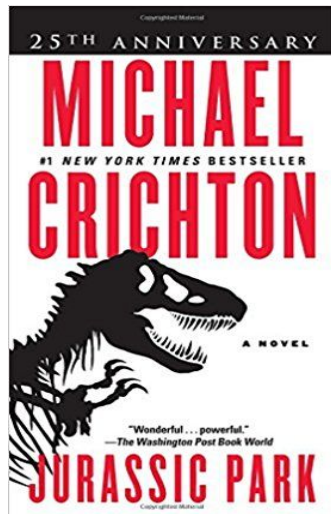


***Murder on the Orient Express*, Agatha Christie**

“The murderer is with us—on the train now . . .”

Just after midnight, the famous Orient Express is stopped in its tracks by a snowdrift. By morning, the millionaire Samuel Edward Ratchett lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. Without a shred of doubt, one of his fellow passengers is the murderer.

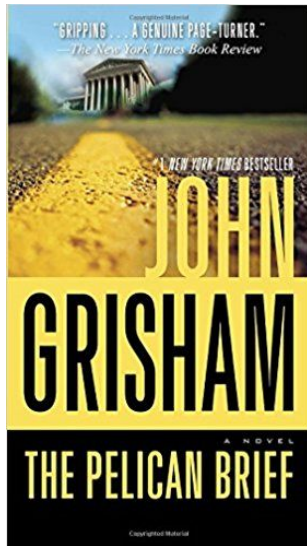
Isolated by the storm, detective Hercule Poirot must find the killer among a dozen of the dead man’s enemies, before the murderer decides to strike again.



***Jurassic Park* - Michael Crichton**

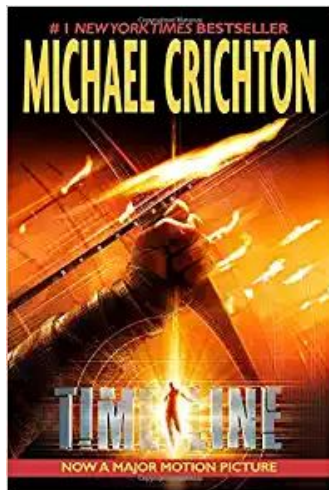
An astonishing technique for recovering and cloning dinosaur DNA has been discovered. Now humankind’s most thrilling fantasies have come true. Creatures extinct for eons roam Jurassic Park with their awesome presence and profound mystery, and all the world can visit them—for a price. Until something goes wrong. . . .

In *Jurassic Park*, Michael Crichton taps all his mesmerizing talent and scientific brilliance to create his most electrifying technothriller.



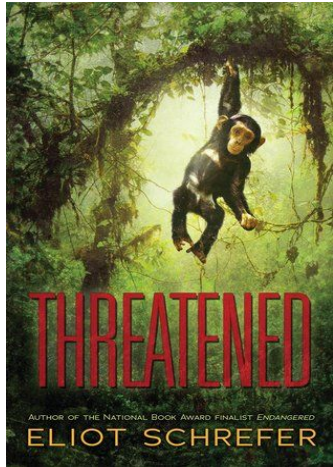
***The Pelican Brief*, John Grisham** -- In suburban Georgetown, a killer's Reeboks whisper on the floor of a posh home. In a seedy D.C. porno house, a patron is swiftly garroted to death. The next day America learns that two of its Supreme Court justices have been assassinated. And in New Orleans, a young law student prepares a legal brief.

To Darby Shaw it was no more than a legal shot in the dark, a brilliant guess. To the Washington establishment it's political dynamite. Suddenly Darby is witness to a murder—a murder intended for her. Going underground, she finds that there is only one person—an ambitious reporter after a newsbreak hotter than Watergate—she can trust to help her piece together the deadly puzzle. Somewhere between the bayous of Louisiana and the White House's inner sanctums, a violent cover-up is being engineered. For someone has read Darby's brief—someone who will stop at nothing to destroy the evidence of an unthinkable crime.

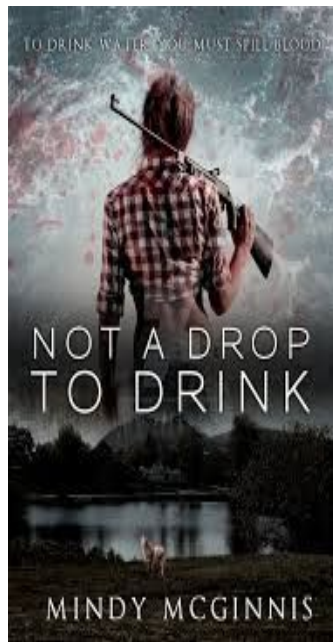


***Timeline*, Michael Crichton**

In an Arizona desert a man wanders in a daze, speaking words that make no sense. Within twenty-four hours he is dead, his body swiftly cremated by his only known associates. Halfway around the world archaeologists make a shocking discovery at a medieval site. Suddenly they are swept off to the headquarters of a secretive multinational corporation that has developed an astounding technology. Now this group is about to get a chance not to study the past but to enter it. And with history opened to the present, the dead awakened to the living, these men and women will soon find themselves fighting for their very survival—six hundred years ago. . . .

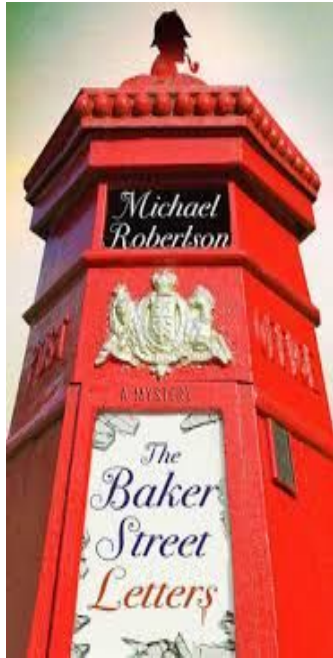


Threatened, Eliot Schrefer -- As he did in his National Book Award finalist, *Endangered*, in *Threatened* Eliot Schrefer transports you straight into the jungle and one intense adventure, this time with Luc, who while fighting for his own survival not only faces his fear of the “mock men”—the chimpanzees (which can be FOUR TIMES stronger than humans. WHOA.), but finds himself befriendng them. How awesome is that? This book is full of exciting information, and is as much of an eye-opener and conversation-starter as it is a pulse-pounder!



***Not a Drop to Drink*, Mindy McGinnis**-- Fans of classic frontier survival stories, as well as readers of dystopian literature, will enjoy this futuristic story where water is worth more than gold. *New York Times* bestselling author Michael Grant says *Not a Drop to Drink* is a debut "not to be missed." With evocative, spare language and incredible drama, danger, and romance, Mindy McGinnis depicts one girl's journey in a frontierlike world not so different from our own.

Teenage Lynn has been taught to defend her pond against every threat: drought, a snowless winter, coyotes, and most important, people looking for a drink. She makes sure anyone who comes near the pond leaves thirsty—or doesn't leave at all. Confident in her own abilities, Lynn has no use for the world beyond the nearby fields and forest. But when strangers appear, the mysterious footprints by the pond, nighttime threats, and gunshots make it all too clear Lynn has exactly what they want, and they won't stop until they get it. . . . For more in this gritty world, join Lynn on an epic journey to find home in the companion novel, *In a Handful of Dust*.



The Baker Street Letters, Michael Robertson

First in a spectacular new series about two brother lawyers who lease offices on London's Baker Street--and begin receiving mail addressed to Sherlock Holmes

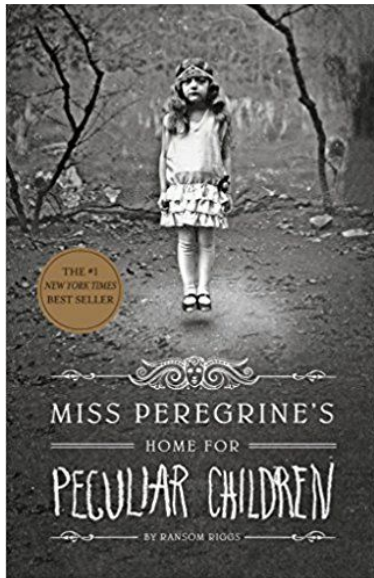
In Los Angeles, a geological surveyor maps out a proposed subway route--and then goes missing. His eight-year-old daughter, in her desperation, turns to the one person she thinks might help--she writes a letter to Sherlock Holmes.

That letter creates an uproar at 221b Baker Street, which now houses the law offices of attorney and man about town Reggie Heath and his hapless brother, Nigel. Instead of filing the letter like he's supposed to, Nigel decides to investigate. Soon he's flying off to Los Angeles, inconsiderately leaving a very dead body on the floor in his office. Big brother Reggie follows Nigel to California, as does Reggie's sometime lover, Laura---a quick-witted stage actress who's captured the hearts of both brothers.

When Nigel is arrested, Reggie must use all his wits to solve a case that Sherlock Holmes would have savored and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle fans will adore.

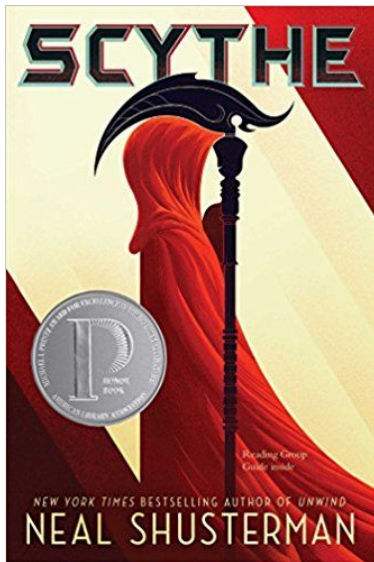
#4. Fantasy and Science Fiction

Fantasy and science fiction & other speculative fiction encourages us to consider worlds comprised of “what ifs?”



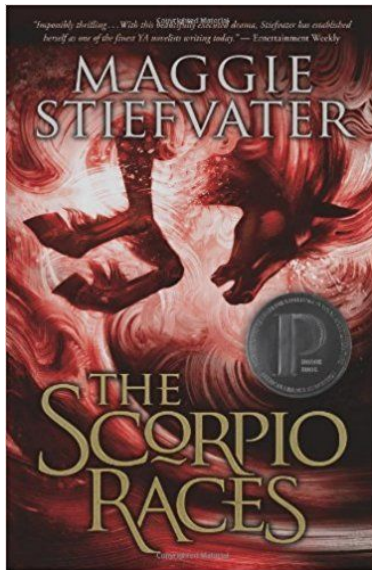
Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children, Ransom Riggs

A horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales. Here he discovers the ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children, where (possibly dangerous) children may be, impossibly, still alive. A spine-tingling fantasy illustrated with vintage photographs.



Scythe, Neal Shusterman

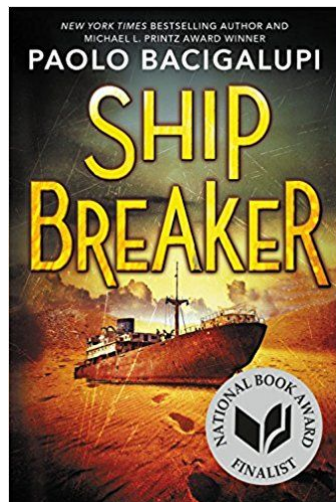
The 2017 [Michael J. Printz Honor Book](#) *Scythe* is a science fiction novel set in a future where most of the human population is immortal but where a few are chosen to die at the hands of mysterious officials known as "scythes." As *Scythe* opens, Rowan and Citra have no intention of becoming scythes, favored officials who rule on matters of life and death in a future where disease has been vanquished and death can be easily thwarted. But when they both become students of Scythe Farraday, they begin to question the meaning of life and death. And when they're pitted against each other, they will have to face the possibility of personal extermination, even as they struggle against the machinations of a corrupt band of renegade scythes.



In **Maggie Stiefvater**'s novel ***The Scorpio Races***, bloodthirsty horses star in thrilling coming-of-age tale. As November nears, the fierce water horses surge out of the sea onto the beach at Thisby. Tourists flock to the island as the locals try to capture and train the dangerous *capaill uisce* (water horses) for the Scorpio Races. Four-time champion Sean Kendrick lives to ride his stallion and knows well how deadly the races are, but this year he has even more than his life at stake. Puck Connolly lost her parents to the *capaill uisce* a year earlier. Afraid of losing her older brother to the mainland and her family home to the lender, she signs up to race on her own mare. As the first woman ever to enter, she's met with hostility -- until she forges an unlikely friendship with her rival, Sean.

Michael L. Printz Honor Book (excellence in literature for young adults)

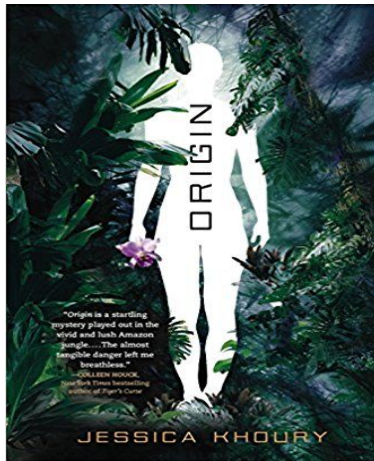
"Teen's Top Ten Award" (where teens nominate and choose their favorite books of the previous year)



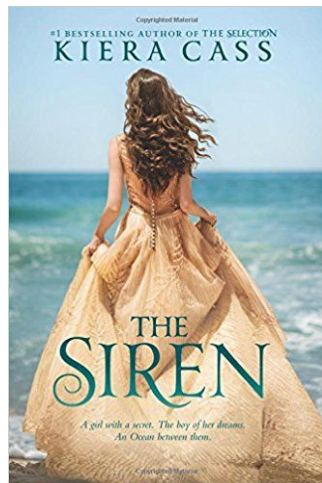
Ship Breaker, Paolo Bacigalupi

In America's flooded Gulf Coast region, oil is scarce, but loyalty is scarcer. Grounded oil tankers are being broken down for parts by crews of young people. Nailer, a teenage boy, works the light crew, scavenging for copper wiring just to make quota--and hopefully live to see another day. But when, by luck or by chance, he discovers an exquisite clipper ship beached during a recent hurricane, Nailer faces the most important decision of his life: Strip the ship for all it's worth or rescue its lone survivor, a beautiful and wealthy girl who could lead him to a better life....

A 2010 National Book Award Finalist, Young People's Literature

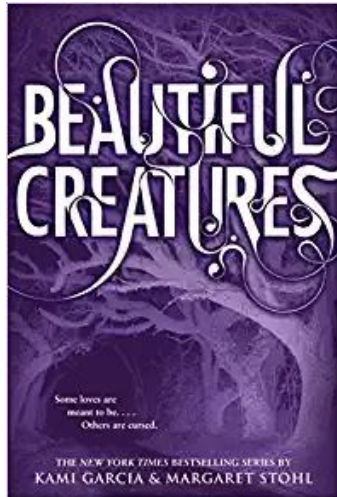


***Origin*, Jessica Choury** -- This fast-paced science fiction thriller explores some of the possible consequences of genetic engineering. Pia, the young protagonist, gradually learns the history of lies and treachery at the research facility that's been her only home.



***The Siren* - Kiera Cass**

Kahlen is a Siren, bound to serve the Ocean by luring humans to watery graves with her voice, which is deadly to any human who hears it. Akinli is human—a kind, handsome boy who's everything Kahlen ever dreamed of. Falling in love puts them both in danger . . . but Kahlen can't bear to stay away. Will she risk everything to follow her heart?

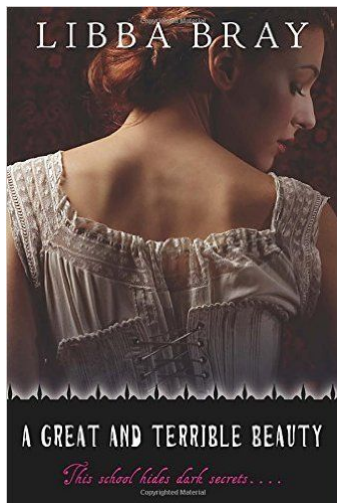


***Beautiful Creatures (series)* --** by Kami Garcia & Margaret Stohl

Lena Duchannes is unlike anyone the small Southern town of Gatlin has ever seen, and she's struggling to conceal her power, and a curse that has haunted her family for generations. But even within the overgrown gardens, murky swamps and crumbling graveyards of the forgotten South, a secret cannot stay hidden forever.

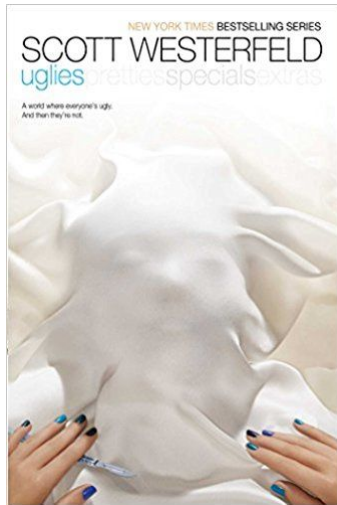
Ethan Wate, who has been counting the months until he can escape from Gatlin, is haunted by dreams of a beautiful girl he has never met. When Lena moves into the town's oldest and most infamous plantation, Ethan is inexplicably drawn to her and determined to uncover the connection between them.

In a town with no surprises, one secret could change everything.



***A Great and Terrible Beauty* --** Libba Bray

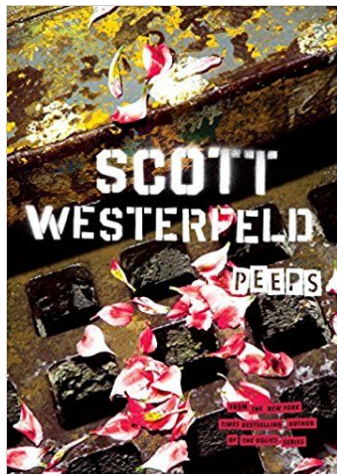
It's 1895, and after the suicide of her mother, 16-year-old Gemma Doyle is shipped off from the life she knows in India to Spence, a proper boarding school in England. Lonely, guilt-ridden, and prone to visions of the future that have an uncomfortable habit of coming true, Gemma's reception there is a chilly one. To make things worse, she's been followed by a mysterious young Indian man, a man sent to watch her. But why? What is her destiny? And what will her entanglement with Spence's most powerful girls—and their foray into the spiritual world—lead to?



Uglies -- Scott Westerfeld

Tally is about to turn sixteen, and she can't wait. In just a few weeks she'll have the operation that will turn her from a repellent ugly into a stunning pretty. And as a pretty, she'll be catapulted into a high-tech paradise where her only job is to have fun.

But Tally's new friend Shay isn't sure she wants to become a pretty. When Shay runs away, Tally learns about a whole new side of the pretty world -- and it isn't very pretty. The authorities offer Tally a choice: find her friend and turn her in, or never turn pretty at all. Tally's choice will change her world forever....

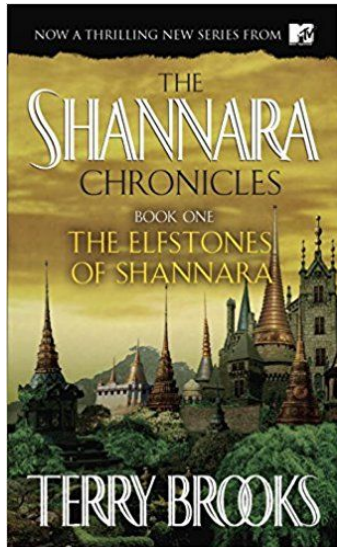


Peeps -- Scott Westerfeld

A year ago, Cal Thompson was a college freshman more interested in meeting girls and partying than in attending biology class. Now, after a fateful encounter with a mysterious woman named Morgan, biology has become, literally, Cal's life.

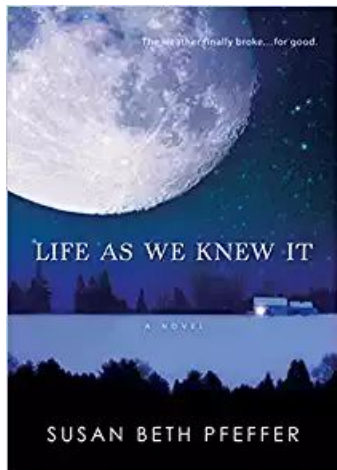
Cal was infected by a parasite that has a truly horrifying effect on its host. Cal himself is a carrier, unchanged by the parasite, but he's infected the girlfriends he's had since Morgan. All three have turned into the ravening ghouls Cal calls Peeps. The rest of us know them as vampires. It's Cal's job to hunt them down before they can create more of their kind. . . .

Bursting with the sharp intelligence and sly humor that are fast becoming his trademark, Scott Westerfeld's novel is an utterly original take on an archetype of horror.



***The Elfstones of Shannara* - Terry Brooks**

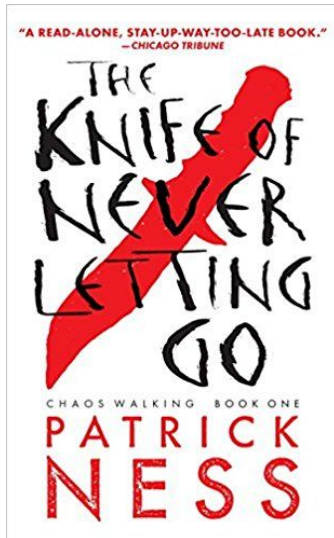
Thousands of years after the destruction of the age of man and science, new races and magic now rule the world, but an imminent danger threatens. A horde of evil Demons is beginning to escape and bring death upon the land. Only Wil Ohmsford, the last of the Shannara bloodline, has the power to guard the Elven Princess Amberle on a perilous quest to save the world, while the leader of the Demon force aims to stop their mission at any cost.



***Life as We Know It* - Susan Beth Pfeffer**

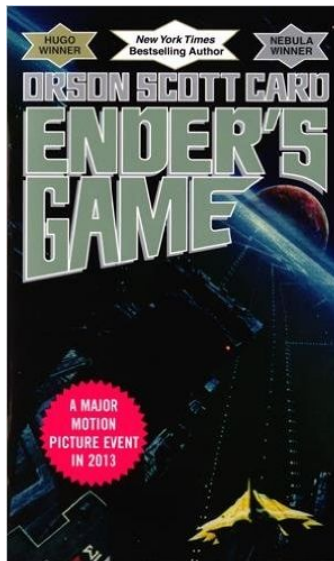
High school sophomore Miranda's disbelief turns to fear in a split second when an asteroid knocks the moon closer to Earth, like "one marble hits another." The result is catastrophic. How can her family prepare for the future when worldwide tsunamis are wiping out the coasts, earthquakes are rocking the continents, and volcanic ash is blocking out the sun? As August turns dark and wintery in northeastern Pennsylvania, Miranda, her two brothers, and their mother retreat to the unexpected safe haven of their sunroom, where they subsist on stockpiled food and limited water in the warmth of a wood-burning stove.

Told in a year's worth of journal entries, this heart-pounding story chronicles Miranda's struggle to hold on to the most important resource of all—hope—in an increasingly desperate and unfamiliar world. An extraordinary series debut.



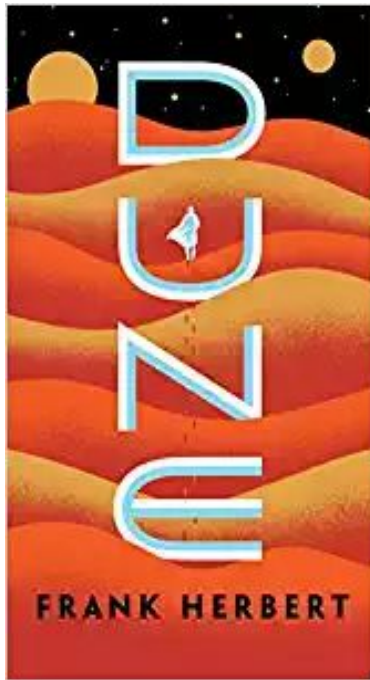
The Knife of Never Letting Go -- Patrick Ness

Todd Hewitt is the only boy in a town of men. Ever since the settlers were infected with the Noise germ, Todd can hear everything the men think, and they hear everything he thinks. Todd is just a month away from becoming a man, but in the midst of the cacophony, he knows that the town is hiding something from him -- something so awful Todd is forced to flee with only his dog, whose simple, loyal voice he hears too. With hostile men from the town in pursuit, the two stumble upon a strange and eerily silent creature: a girl. Who is she? Why wasn't she killed by the germ like all the females on New World? Propelled by Todd's gritty narration, readers are in for a white-knuckle journey in which a boy on the cusp of manhood must unlearn everything he knows in order to figure out who he truly is



Ender's Game -- Orson Scott Card

Intense is the word for Ender's Game. Aliens have attacked Earth twice and almost destroyed the human species. To make sure humans win the next encounter, the world government has taken to breeding military geniuses -- and then training them in the arts of war... The early training, not surprisingly, takes the form of 'games'... Ender Wiggin is a genius among geniuses; he wins all the games... He is smart enough to know that time is running out. But is he smart enough to save the planet?

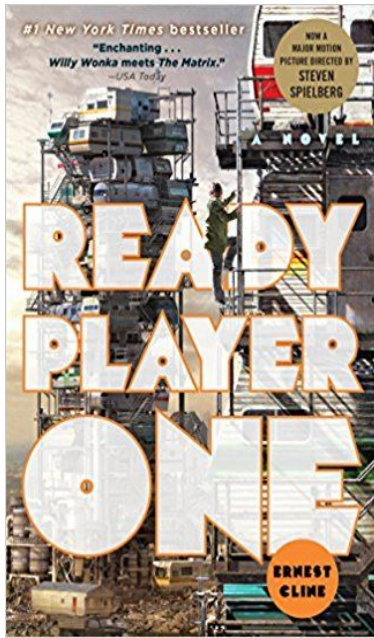


***Dune*, Frank Herbert** --Frank Herbert's classic masterpiece—if you are a science fiction fan, read this first book in the *Dune* series. If you like the first book in this series, you'll have six more novels to keep you busy this summer. *Amazon.com* reviewers call *Dune* “a triumph of the imagination and one of the bestselling science fiction novels of all time—nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's *The Great American Read*.”

Set on the desert planet Arrakis, *Dune* is the story of the boy Paul Atreides—who would become known as Muad'Dib—and of a great family's ambition to bring to fruition humankind's most ancient and unattainable dream.

A stunning blend of adventure and mysticism, environmentalism and politics, *Dune* won the first Nebula Award, shared the Hugo Award, and formed the basis of what is undoubtedly the grandest epic in science fiction.

Book One of a seven-part series.

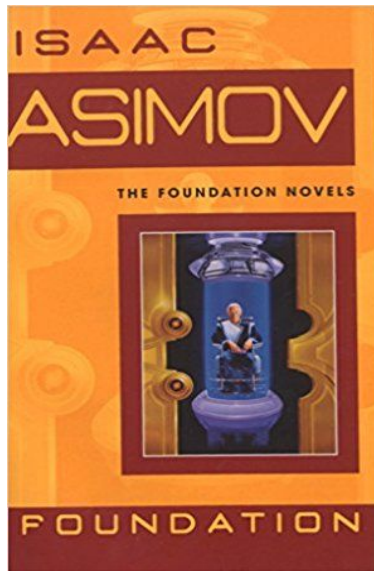


***Ready Player One*, Ernest Cline**

In the year 2045, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines—puzzles that are based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and that promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them.

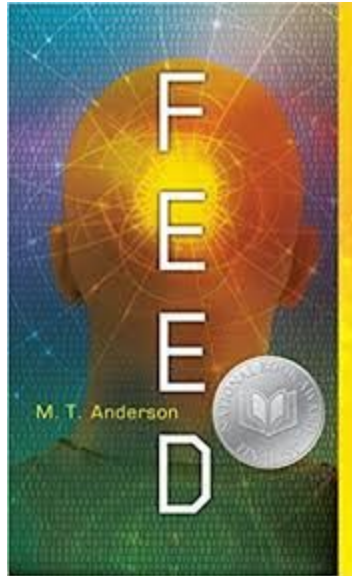
But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win—and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape.

Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's *The Great American Read*



Foundation, Isaac Asimov

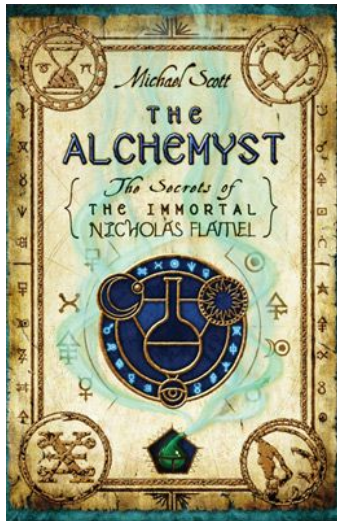
Foundation marks the first of a series of tales set so far in the future that Earth is all but forgotten by humans who live throughout the galaxy. Yet all is not well with the Galactic Empire. Its vast size is crippling to it. In particular, the administrative planet, honeycombed and tunneled with offices and staff, is vulnerable to attack or breakdown. The only person willing to confront this imminent catastrophe is Hari Seldon, a psychohistorian and mathematician. Seldon can scientifically predict the future, and it doesn't look pretty: a new Dark Age is scheduled to send humanity into barbarism in 500 years. He concocts a scheme to save the knowledge of the race in an Encyclopedia Galactica. But this project will take generations to complete, and who will take up the torch after him? The first Foundation trilogy (*Foundation*, [*Foundation and Empire*](#), [*Second Foundation*](#)) won a Hugo Award in 1965 for "Best All-Time Series." It's science fiction on the grand scale; one of the classics of the field. --**Brooks Peck, Amazon.com**



***Feed*, M.T. Anderson**

A dystopian critique of consumerism and reliance on technology.

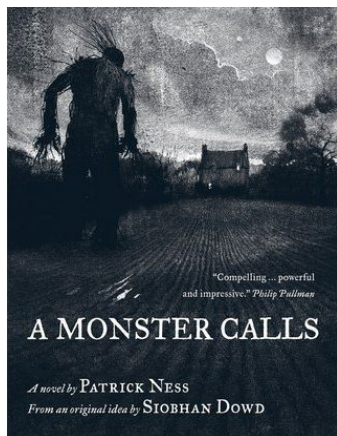
#43 on *Time Magazine's* "100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time"



***The Alchemist: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel*, Michael Scott**

The most famous alchemist in the world, Nicholas Flamel, supposedly died in 1418 -- but his tomb is empty. Could he have discovered the elixir of life?

#44 on *Time Magazine's* "100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time"

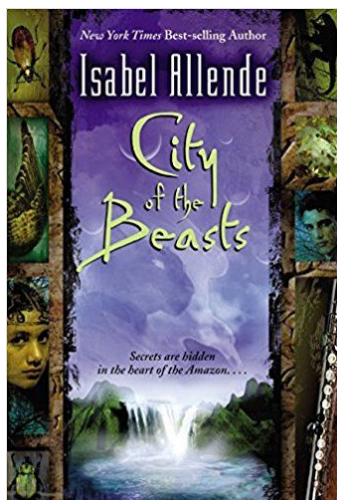


A Monster Calls, Patrick Ness

An unflinching, darkly funny, and deeply moving story of a boy, his seriously ill mother, and an unexpected monstrous visitor, featuring stunning artwork by Jim Kay.

At seven minutes past midnight, thirteen-year-old Conor wakes to find a monster outside his bedroom window. But it isn't the monster Conor's been expecting-- he's been expecting the one from his nightmare, the nightmare he's had nearly every night since his mother started her treatments. The monster in his backyard is different. It's ancient. And wild. And it wants something from Conor. Something terrible and dangerous. It wants the truth. From the final idea of award-winning author Siobhan Dowd-- whose premature death from cancer prevented her from writing it herself-- Patrick Ness has spun a haunting and darkly funny novel of mischief, loss, and monsters both real and imagined.

#59 on *Time Magazine's* "100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time"

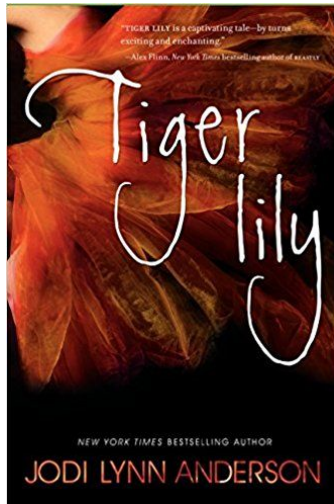


City of the Beasts, Isabel Allende

When Alexander Cold's mother falls ill, the fifteen-year-old is sent to stay with his eccentric grandmother in New York. A tough and prickly magazine reporter, Kate Cold takes Alex along with her on an expedition to the Amazon to verify the existence of the fierce, gigantic, legendary creature known as the Beast. Joining them on their adventure are a celebrated anthropologist; a local guide and his daughter, Nadia; a doctor; and a local entrepreneur. But not everyone's intentions are pure—and dangerous discoveries await Alex and Nadia as they embark, with the aid of a jungle shaman, on an epic journey into the realm of the mythical Beasts of the Amazon.

City of the Beasts is the first book in an extraordinary trilogy by Isabel Allende, one of the world's most acclaimed authors.

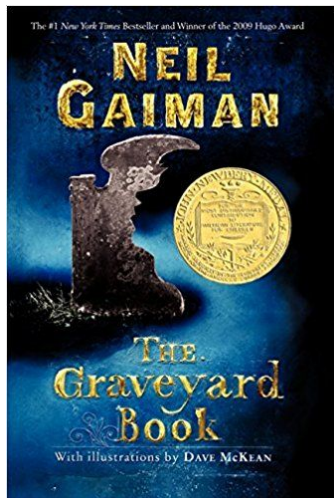
#73 on *Time Magazine's* "100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time"



***Tiger Lily*, Jodi Lynn Anderson**

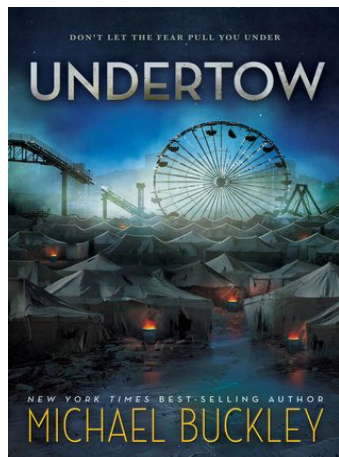
Revisit Neverland in this new adaptation of Peter Pan. Told from the point of view of Tinkerbell, listeners live the story of Tiger Lily and her role as wild girl in Neverland. When her arranged marriage to Giant looms closer, Tiger Lily defies her elders and discovers the burrow where Peter Pan and the Lost Boys live. As Tiger Lily spends more time with Peter than with her tribe, she begins to lose sight of a major dilemma facing her village: Englishman Philip forcing his beliefs on the “savages.” While the main focus of the story is the budding romance between the wild girl and the boy who never grew up, all the familiar characters from Neverland are given a new twist: Smee is more feared than Hook, Tinkerbell is not attached to Peter, and the boys are more like teenagers. Expertly narrated by Cassandra Morris, Tink's voice is captured effortlessly as she follows Tiger Lily around Neverland.

#93 on *Time Magazine*'s “100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time”



***The Graveyard Book*, Neil Gaiman**

The sole survivor of the attack--an 18-month-old baby--escapes his crib and his house, and toddles to a nearby graveyard. Quickly recognizing that the baby is orphaned, the graveyard's ghostly residents adopt him, name him Nobody ("Bod"), and allow him to live in their tomb. They ensure that Bod receives food, books, and anything else he might need from the human world, and that he acquires the skills he needs to survive within the confines of the graveyard and in wider world beyond. "The Graveyard Book is everything everyone loves about Neil Gaiman, only multiplied many times over, a novel that showcases his effortless feel for narrative, his flawless instincts for suspense, and above all, his dark, almost silky sense of humor." (*winner of the Newbery Award in 2009*)

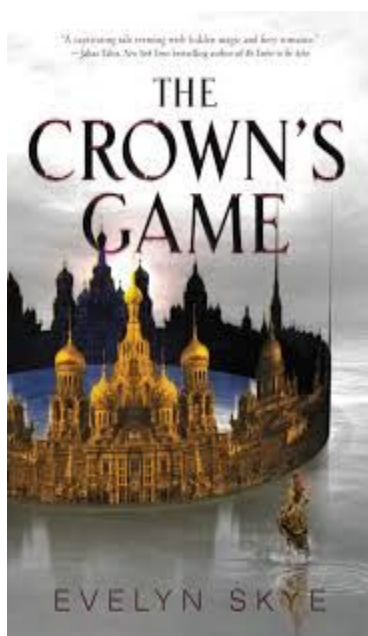


Undertow Trilogy, Michael Buckley

First, we feared them. Then we fought them. Now they might be our only hope.

Sixteen-year-old Lyric Walker's life is forever changed when she witnesses the arrival of 30,000 Alpha, a five-nation race of ocean-dwelling warriors, on her beach in Coney Island. The world's initial wonder and awe over the Alpha quickly turns ugly and paranoid and violent, and Lyric's small town transforms into a military zone with humans on one side and Alpha on the other. When Lyric is recruited to help the crown prince, a boy named Fathom, assimilate, she begins to fall for him. But their love is a dangerous one, and there are forces on both sides working to keep them apart. Only, what if the Alpha are not actually the enemy? What if they are in fact humanity's best chance for survival? Because the real enemy is coming. And it's more terrifying than anything the world has ever seen. Action, suspense, and romance whirlpool dangerously in this cinematic saga!

A recent Book of the Month on the website *Guys Read*



The Crown's Game (Book 1) -- Evelyn Skye

From School Library Journal: *In an alternate 19th-century Russia, the tsar can call upon the abilities of an enchanter. Normally, only one exists at a time. In the rare case that two are born, they must compete, because Russia's inherent magic will allow only one to remain alive. Vika is an expert at controlling the elements and has been training her whole life to serve her country, unaware that another enchanter exists. Nikolai, best friend to the tsar's son, Pasha, who does not know of Nikolai's ability, has been training with his mentor explicitly for the Crown's Game. When the game begins, Vika and Nikolai take turns showing off their magical prowess for the tsar, creating wonders that get more powerful with each turn. Friendships, budding romances, and betrayal among Nikolai, Vika, and Pasha make the stakes even higher in a Game that will cost Nikolai or Vika their life. The forefront of this speculative fiction title, the action-packed, magical duel, is set against the backdrop of a richly detailed world. It is not surprising that Pasha and Nikolai fall for Vika, though Vika's pragmatism stops anything from developing. The book ends with one winner remaining, but the final sentence hints that the loser has not disappeared forever."*

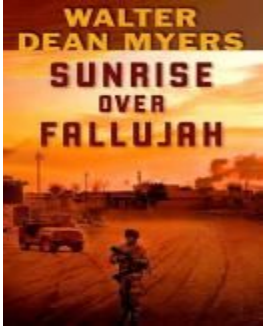
	<i>Note:</i> The sequel to this is called <i>The Crown's Fate</i> .
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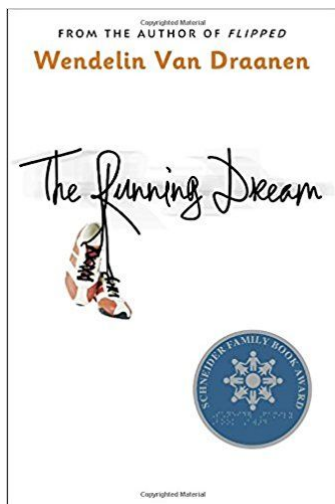
#5. Contemporary Fiction



The Hate U Give, Angie Thomas

From *Common Sense Media*: “Wrenching, soul stirring, funny, endearing, painful, and frustratingly familiar, this novel offers a powerful look at a few weeks in a fairly typical teen girl's life -- with one horrific exception. Sure she worries about school, issues with friends, and her secret boyfriend, but she's also the sole witness to the fatal shooting of her best friend by a police officer. In *The Hate U Give*, author Angie Thomas manages to bring humanity -- deep, emotionally binding, full-bodied humanity -- to the victims of police brutality and the families and friends they leave behind. The scenarios that revolve around the shooting are achingly routine -- unarmed African-American, the media's push to blame the victim, a lax investigation, and a lack of charges or convictions. However, set against the backdrop of typical teen life, of community and family life, the consequences of the officer's actions and the actions others take after the tragedy take on a life and power beyond what any think piece or talking points on the subject could achieve.

	<p>The characters in the book are rich, complex, and fully developed. They feel like family, friends, and neighbors, and they give those unfamiliar with life in urban centers an understanding that the setting may be specific but the human condition is the universal. The tragedy and triumph of Thomas' stellar work is that it's very real and heartbreakingly familiar. Teens will enjoy the book for its unfiltered look at life, death, grief, and social and political commentary, while parents and teachers will enjoy the book's well-written and thorough approach to a complex social issue.”</p> <p>In the <i>Christian Science Monitor</i>, Katie Ward Beim-Esche wrote, "Believe the hype: The Hate U Give, Angie Thomas’ extraordinary and fearless debut, really is that good.</p> <p>2018 winner of the William C. Morris Award, which honors a book written for young adults by a previously unpublished author, as well as the Michael L. Printz and Coretta Scott King Awards.</p>
	<p><i>Sunrise Over Fallujah</i>, Walter Dean Myers</p> <p>Realistic, nonpolitical view of the war in Iraq. This powerful and timely novel about the heroics and horror of war tells the story of Robin "Birdy" Perry, a new army recruit from Harlem, isn't quite sure why he joined the army, but he's sure where he's headed: Iraq. Birdy and the others in the Civilian Affairs Battalion are supposed to help secure and stabilize the country and successfully interact with the Iraqi people. Officially, the code name for their maneuvers is Operation Iraqi Freedom. But the young men and women in the CA unit have a simpler name for it: WAR</p>



The Running Dream, Wendelin Van Draanen

Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run?

As she struggles to cope, Jessica feels that she's both in the spotlight and invisible. People who don't know what to say act like she's not there. Jessica's embarrassed to realize that she's done the same to a girl with CP named Rosa. A girl who is going to tutor her through all the math she's missed. A girl who sees right into the heart of her.

With the support of family, friends, a coach, and her track teammates, Jessica may actually be able to run again. But that's not enough for her now. She doesn't just want to cross finish lines herself—she wants to take Rosa with her.

Awarded a *Schneider Family Book Award* -- Teen Book category (honors a book that embodies an artistic expression of the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences)



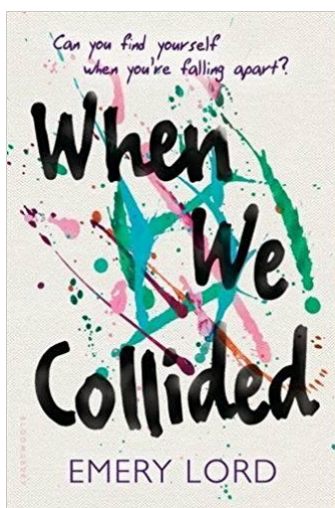
***Fat Cat*, Robin Brande**

Catherine Locke is smart, ambitious, and--okay, not the slimmest girl around. But she's always cared more about her brain than her body. So far that's gotten her where she wanted: into the most advanced, competitive science class at her high school, where she'll once again face her fiercest rival, Matt McKinney.

The guy who once broke her heart.

If Cat's plan works, she'll win it all: a huge improvement in her body and her lifestyle, first prize at the science fair, admission to the college of her choice, and best of all, revenge on Matt McKinney.

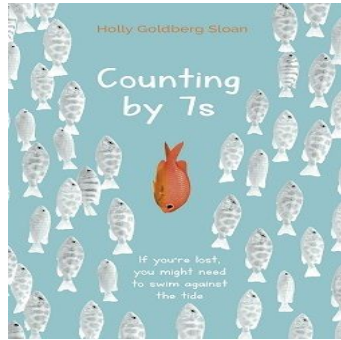
But as every scientist knows, even the best experiments can go wildly out of control..



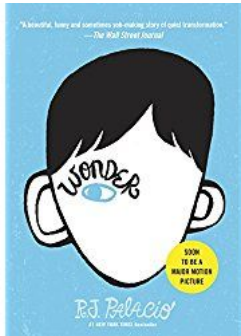
***When We Collided*, Emery Lord** -- Seventeen year-old Jonah Daniels has lived in Verona Cove, California, his whole life, and only one thing has ever changed: his father used to be alive, and now he is not. With a mother lost in a deep bout of depression, Jonah and his five siblings struggle to keep up their home and the restaurant their dad left behind. But at the start of summer, a second change rolls in: Vivi Alexander, the new girl in town.

Vivi is in love with life. Charming and unfiltered, she refuses to be held down by the medicine she's told should make her feel better. After meeting Jonah, she slides into the Daniels' household seamlessly, winning over each sibling with her imagination and gameness. But it's not long before Vivi's zest for life begins to falter. Soon her adventurousness becomes all-out danger-seeking. Through each high and low, Vivi and Jonah's love is put to the test . . . but what happens when love simply isn't enough? *The School Library Journal's* verdict: "An absolute tearjerker romance with a powerful message about weightier

topics of grief and mental illness.”



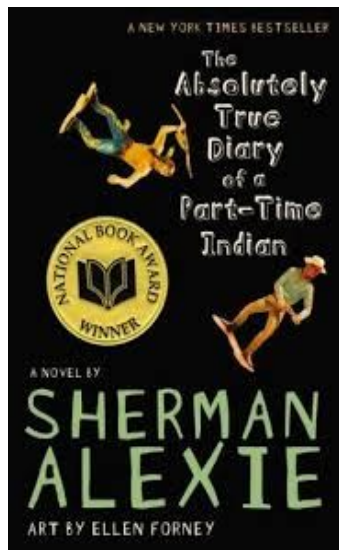
Counting By 7s, Holly Goldberg Sloan -- A novel about being an outsider, coping with loss, and discovering the true meaning of family. Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now.



Wonder, R.J. Palacio

August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. **WONDER**, now a #1 *New York Times* bestseller and included on the Texas Bluebonnet Award master list, begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance. Soon to be a major motion picture with Julia Roberts and Owen Wilson.

#24 on *Time Magazine's* "100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time"

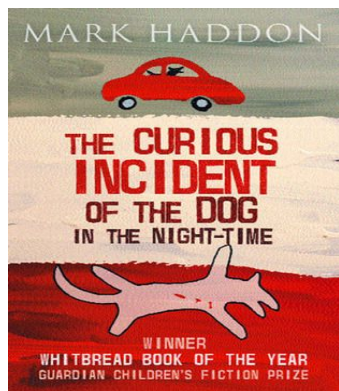


The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, **Sherman Alexie**

Bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, which is based on the author's own experiences, coupled with poignant drawings by Ellen Forney that reflect the character's art, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live.

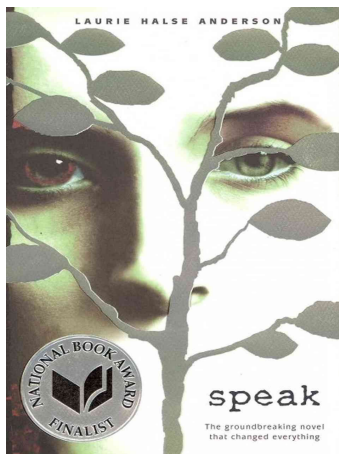
#1 on *Time Magazine's* "100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time."



The Curious Incident of the Dog in the ***Night-Time,*** Mark Haddon

A young boy with autism investigates the murder of a neighbor's dog and in so doing explores the travails and contradictions of everyday life from an outsider's perspective.

#20 on *Time Magazine's* "100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time."



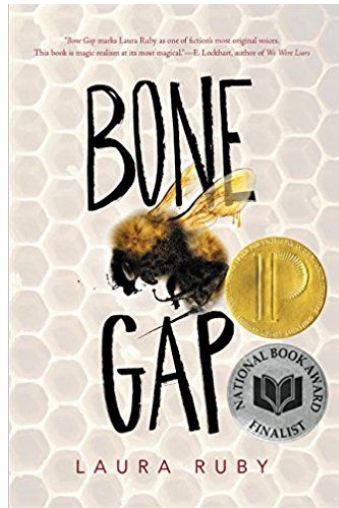
Speak, Laurie Halse Anderson

Melinda, an in-coming high school freshmen, is shunned by her friends at the beginning of the school year. She is friendless, outcast, because she busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, so now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. As time passes, she becomes increasingly isolated and practically stops talking altogether. Only her art class offers any solace, and it is through her work on an art project that she is finally able to face what really happened at that terrible party. Her healing process has just begun when she has another violent encounter with him. But this time Melinda fights back, refuses to be silent, and thereby achieves a measure of vindication. In Laurie Halse Anderson's powerful novel, an utterly believable heroine with a bitterly ironic voice delivers a blow to the hypocritical world of high school. She speaks for many a disenfranchised teenager while demonstrating the importance of speaking up for oneself.

#51 on *Time Magazine's* "100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time."

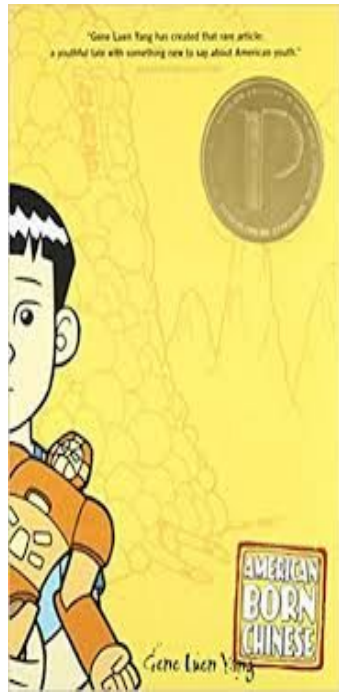


Eleanor and Park, author **Rainbow Rowell** explores the overwhelming nature of first love -- the kind of love that feels as if it can last a lifetime, that can help heal wounds and open doors. Eleanor and Park are both misfits in their Omaha high school, but they see the best and the beautiful in each other. Their passionate conversations and debates -- about everything from the role of women in comic books (Eleanor says they're too passive, Park disagrees) to the opening measures of "Love Will Tear Us Apart" or the short-sightedness of [Romeo and Juliet](#) -- lays the foundation for a believable and poignant love story.



***Bone Gap*, Laura Ruby**

On the surface, the town of Bone Gap, Illinois, in Laura Ruby's novel *Bone Gap*, doesn't seem to be all that different from other Midwestern towns, with its crops, livestock, and assortment of oddball citizens. But there are mysterious happenings and gateways in Bone Gap, some of which citizens might know about and some they can merely sense. One day, a beautiful girl with a mysterious past shows up injured and shaken in the barn of the O'Sullivan boys, Sean and Finn. They let the girl, Roza, stay in the in-law apartment in their house. Over the course of a year, she becomes a beloved member of their household and the community. One day Roza disappears, and Finn believes he saw her get kidnapped. No one in town will believe him. The town's reaction speaks volumes about their past losses and disappointments. Finn and Sean, for instance, were abandoned by their mother and left to fend for themselves. What if Roza is just another person they trusted who walked out on them? Even so, Finn refuses to believe she left on her own. His journey to solve her disappearance includes romance with a beekeeper, suffering at the hands of bullies, fights with his brother, and a gorgeous, seemingly magical horse that shows up in his barn one night

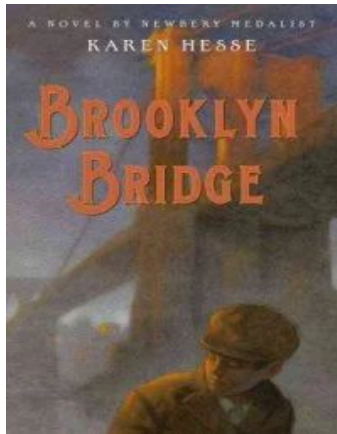


Gene Luen Yang's *American Born Chinese* is the first graphic novel to be nominated for a National Book Award and the first to win the ALA's Michael L. Printz Award. It's easy to see why: The art, clever story lines, and thoughtful messages about tolerance and acceptance mark it as a winner.

Three parallel stories interlock in this graphic novel. In the first, the American-born Chinese boy of the title, Jin, moves with his family from San Francisco's Chinatown to a mostly white suburb. There he's exposed to racism (from children and adults), bullying, and taunts and is isolated until a Taiwanese boy, Wei-Chen Sun, moves in and they become friends. But Jin develops a crush on a white girl and longs to fit in. The second story is a retelling of the story of the Monkey King, a fabled Chinese character who develops extraordinary powers in his quest to be accepted as a god. The third concerns Danny, a popular Anglo boy who's visited by his cousin, Chin-Kee, a walking, talking example of the worst Asian stereotypes.

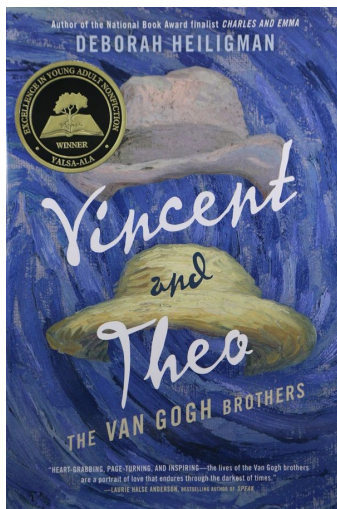
#74 on *Time Magazine's* "100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time"

#6. Historical Fiction



***Brooklyn Bridge*, Karen Hesse**

This historical tale is based on the Russian immigrant family who invented the teddy bear. Hesse weaves together the adventures and struggles of fourteen-year-old Joseph Michtom, and hauntingly poetic accounts of the street children living under the Brooklyn Bridge, with excerpts from vintage newspapers. As the book progresses, readers will see the Brooklyn Bridge as a symbol both pain and rising perseverance.



***Vincent and Theo: The Van Gogh Brothers*, Deborah Heiligman**

Inspired by the more than 700 letters the Van Gogh brothers wrote to each other, Heiligman uncovers fresh insights into Vincent's development as an artist and his relationship with the brother who supported him emotionally and financially throughout his life. From YALSA: "The bond between brothers was never stronger. Drawing on their lifelong correspondence, Heiligman plumbs their journey from an ascetic upbringing in a Protestant parsonage to the auction houses of Europe as Theo develops business acumen, all the while supporting volatile Vincent's groundbreaking artistic endeavors both materially and emotionally. Their devotion to each other was so profound that there could have been no Vincent van Gogh without Theo."

2018 Winner -- Best Nonfiction for Young Adult Readers (awarded by YALSA); 2018 Honor Book (one of four finalists for the *Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature*)

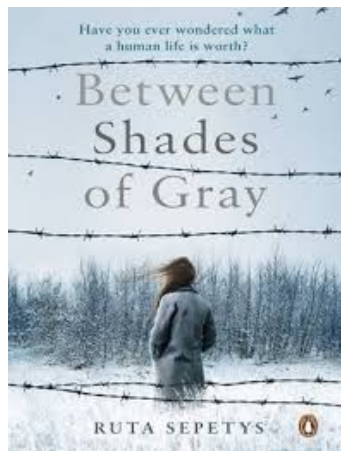


March: A Graphic Novel in Three Books, by writing about his life, **John Lewis**, with the scripting assistance of **Andrew Aydin**, makes the tale personal, while offering glimpses of larger-than-life figures such as Martin Luther King, Jr. Comics can bring social issues to life in ways that sometimes surpass other media, and this remarkable trilogy demonstrates exactly how. The trilogy has been called “a marvel of nonfiction visual storytelling.”

March, Book 1 -- this first of this trilogy emphasizes the power of nonviolent protest and shows how people can band together to effect social change.

March, Book 2 -- Having achieved success with the Nashville sit-in campaign, John Lewis and his fellow freedom riders up the stakes by traveling by bus and taking their message of nonviolent protest to the American Deep South. They are met with police brutality, beatings, attacks by dogs, and even murder. Their struggle attracts the attention of the influential and powerful, from Martin Luther King Jr. to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, and their path leads to the landmark 1963 March on Washington.

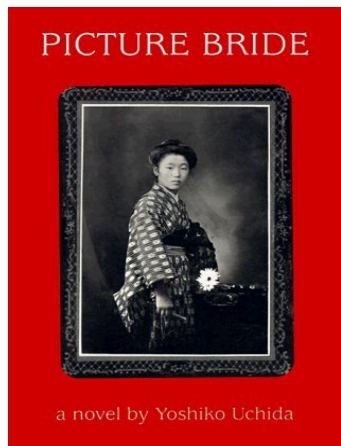
March, Book 3 -- picks up the story with the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, follows the the marches across the Edmund Pettus Bridge into Selma, and culminates with the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Along the way, John Lewis and his fellow protestors face many threats, from beatings to lynchings, but they never abandon hope. The book dramatizes what went on behind the scenes during some of the most dramatic protests in American history. Volume 3 won both the 2017 Coretta Scott King Award and the 2017 Michael J. Printz Award.



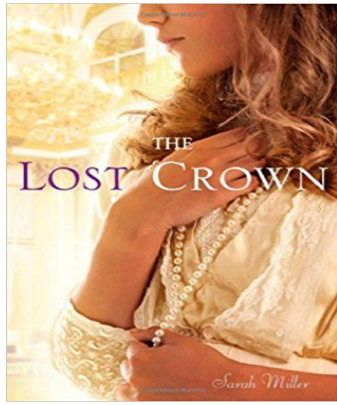
***Between Shades of Gray*, Ruth Sepetys**

Fifteen-year-old Lina is a Lithuanian girl living an ordinary life--until Soviet officers invade her home and tear her family apart. Separated from her father and forced onto a crowded train, Lina, her mother, and her young brother make their way to a Siberian work camp, where they are forced to fight for their lives. Lina finds solace in her art, documenting these events by drawing. Risking everything, she imbeds clues in her drawings of their location and secretly passes them along, hoping her drawings will make their way to her father's prison camp. But will strength, love, and hope be enough for Lina and her family to survive?

A New York Times Notable Book; a Carnegie Medal Nominee

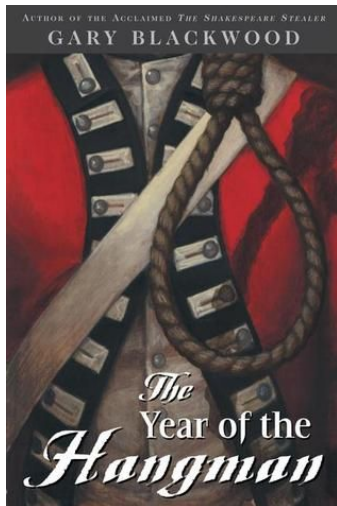


In **Yoshiko Uchida's** novel ***Picture Bride***, Hana Omiya journeys from Japan to the US to escape a more restricted life in Japan. She finds that life in America has its own barriers to happiness and freedom.



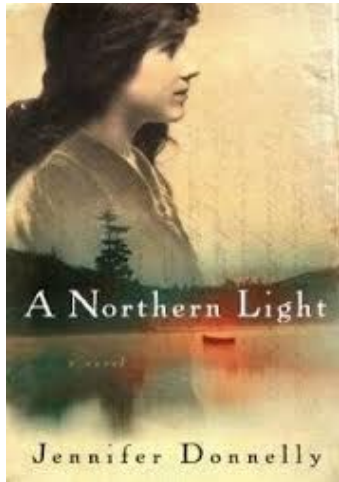
The Lost Crown, Sarah Miller

Miller's historical novel follows the last few years of Russia's final Imperial family, the Romanovs, from the perspective of Tsar Nicholas II and his wife Alexandra's four daughters. Each chapter shifts the point of view between the four grand duchesses: smart Olga, doting Tatiana, sweet Maria, and mischievous Anastasia. Starting from the preamble to World War I in 1914 and continuing until the family's execution in 1918, the diary-style entries detail how the sisters handled everything from tending to wounded soldiers to their father's abdication and the subsequent years of house arrest, frightening transfers, and their final days before being executed along with their parents and four loyal staffers.



The Year of the Hangman, Gary Blackwood

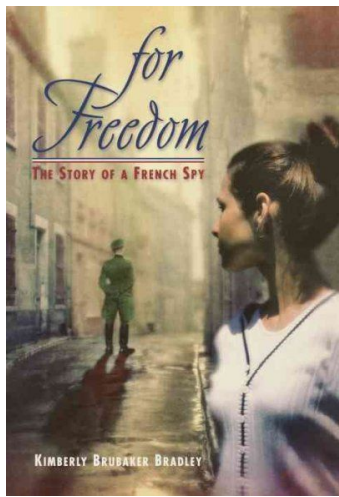
You're guided through a **might-have-been America** in this suspenseful alternative history set during the Revolutionary War. In Blackwood's imagined 1776, the rebellion of the American colonies against British rule was crushed. Now, in 1777- the year of the hangman-George Washington is awaiting execution, Benjamin Franklin's banned rebel newspaper, *Liberty Tree*, has gone underground, and young ne'er-do-well Creighton Brown, a fifteen-year-old Brit, has just arrived in the colonies. Having been shipped off against his will, with nothing but a distance for English authorities, Creighton befriends Franklin, and lands a job with his print shop. But the English general expects the spoiled yet loyal Creighton to spy on Franklin. As battles unfold and falsehoods are exposed, Creighton must decide where his loyalties lie...a choice that could determine the fate of a nation.



A Northern Light, Jennifer Donnelly

Against the backdrop of the real 1906 murder of Grace Brown in upstate New York, fictional Maddie Gokey struggles to decide between staying in her impoverished farm community or escaping to college in New York City.

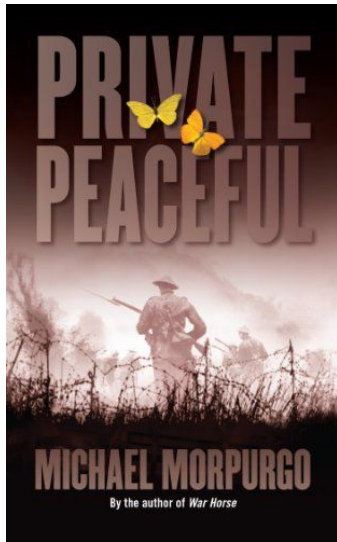
#54 on *Time Magazine's* "100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time"



For Freedom: The Story of a French Spy, Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

A teenage aspiring opera singer in occupied France becomes a spy for the resistance during WWII.

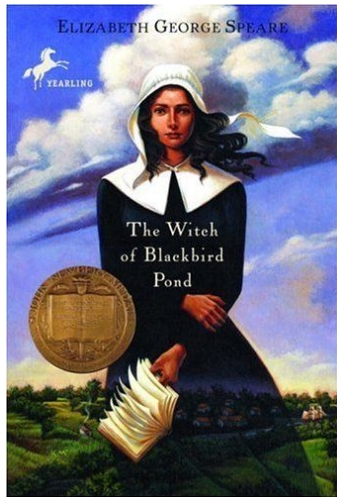
#57 on *Time Magazine's* "100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time"



Private Peaceful, Michael Morpurgo

At 15, Thomas Peaceful, like many other English soldiers in World War I, is too young to fight, but he lies about his age. Now at the front in France with his older brother Charlie he stands a lonely nighttime vigil for reasons that are not explained until the book's end, watching the minutes tick by and reflecting on his past. Using first-person narration, Morpurgo draws readers into this young man's life, relating memories that are idyllic, sobering, and poignant. Tommo thinks upon the role he played in his father's accidental death, the adventures that he shared with Charlie, his relationship with his childhood friend Molly, and the experiences that he has had since entering the war. Finally, he describes how Charlie disobeyed a direct order to stay with him after he was wounded in action, fully aware of this decision's dire consequences. While this story is not based on any one individual, Morpurgo has personalized the British tactic of executing their own soldiers "for cowardice or desertion," memorializing these men without passing judgment. While readers see the events through Tommo's eyes, the author does not lose sight of the war's effects on the teen's friends and family. Reminders come in the form of letters from home, relationships with other soldiers, and observations of battles. This thoughtful novel touches on themes of humanity and duty, and features brilliant characters whose personal decisions have earned them their very own badges of honor.

#67 on *Time Magazine's* "100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time"



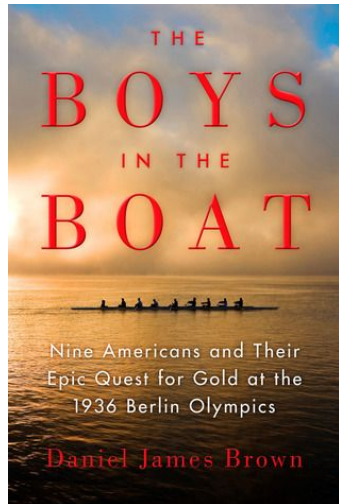
The Witch of Blackbird Pond, Elizabeth George Speare

Sixteen-year-old Kit Tyler is marked by suspicion and disapproval from the moment she arrives on the unfamiliar shores of colonial Connecticut in 1687. Alone and desperate, she has been forced to leave her beloved home on the island of Barbados and join a family she has never met. Torn between her quest for belonging and her desire to be true to herself, Kit struggles to survive in a hostile place. Just when it seems she must give up, she finds a kindred spirit. But Kit's friendship with Hannah Tupper, believed by the colonists to be a witch, proves more taboo than she could have imagined and ultimately forces Kit to choose between her heart and her duty.

Elizabeth George Speare won the 1959 Newbery Medal for this portrayal of a heroine whom readers will admire for her unwavering sense of truth as well as her infinite capacity to love.

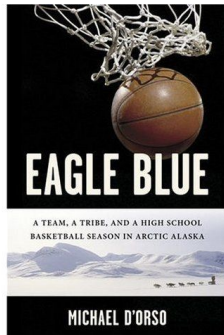
#68 on *Time Magazine's* "100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time"

#7. Sports



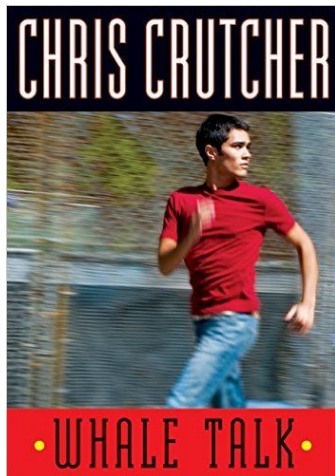
The Boys in the Boat, Daniel James Brown

The #1 *New York Times*–bestselling story about American Olympic triumph in Nazi Germany. Set during the depths of the Depression, Brown tells the story of how nine working-class boys from the American West showed the world at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin what true grit really meant. It was an unlikely quest from the start. With a team composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington’s eight-oar crew team was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler. The emotional heart of the tale lies with Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not only to regain his shattered self-regard but also to find a real place for himself in the world. Drawing on the boys’ own journals and vivid memories of a once-in-a-lifetime shared dream, Brown tells not just of the team’s achievement, but of one extraordinary young man’s personal quest.



***Eagle Blue: A Team, a Tribe, and a High School Basketball Season in Arctic Alaska*, Michael D'Orso**

This true story explores the tiny village of Fort Yukon, Alaska, its vanishing cultural heritage, and its relationship with mainstream American culture through its high school basketball team.

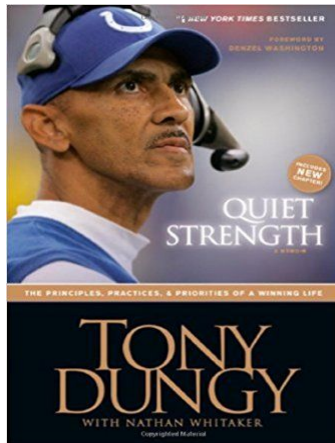


***Whale Talk*, Chris Crutcher**

A varsity letter jacket: it's exclusive, nearly unattainable, revered . . . and everything that's screwed up about Cutter High, as far as T. J. Jones is concerned. That's why T. J. is determined to have the Cutter All Night Mermen—the unlikeliest swim team a high school has ever seen—earn letter jackets of their own.

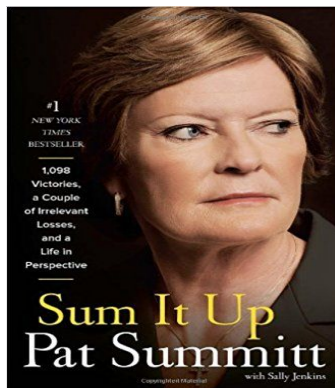
It won't be easy. For one thing, they don't even have a pool. They will fight for their dignity, they will fight with each other, and sometimes they will just fight. And then they will realize that a single moment can bring lifelong heartache or lifelong friendship. For T. J. and his crew of misfits, the quest may be far more valuable than the reward.

#97 on *Time Magazine's* "100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time"



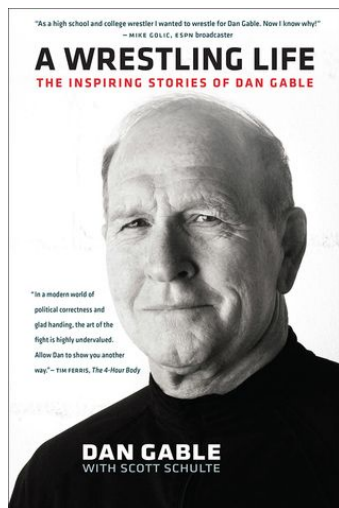
***Quiet Strength: The Principles, Practices, and Priorities of a Winning Life*, Tony Dungy.**

He led his team to #1 in the world—and showed the world a better way to live, lead, and succeed. When Tony Dungy led the Indianapolis Colts to victory in Super Bowl XLI—and made history as the first African American coach to win the big game—millions of people, amazed by the success of his quiet, authoritative leadership style, wondered: how does he get it done? In the pages of this fascinating memoir, Tony Dungy reveals the secrets to his success—principles, practices, and priorities that have kept him on track despite overwhelming personal and professional obstacles, including firings, stereotypes, and the tragic loss of a child. In the face of so much adversity, Tony has not only survived but risen to the very top of his profession in a way that’s won the respect of fans, players, and even his competitors. His thoughts on leading, succeeding, and attaining true significance will inspire you to take a long, hard look at the things that *really* matter in your own life.



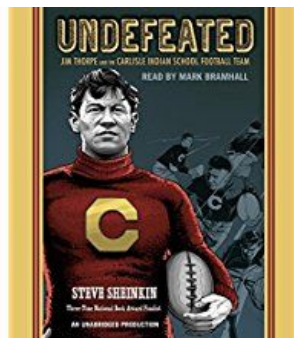
***Sum It Up: A Thousand and Ninety-Eight Victories, a Couple of Irrelevant Losses, and a Life in Perspective*, Pat Summitt with Sally Jenkins**

Pat Summitt, the all-time winningest coach in NCAA basketball history and bestselling author of *Reach for the Summitt* and *Raise The Roof*, tells for the first time her remarkable story of victory and resilience as well as facing down her greatest challenge: early-onset Alzheimer's disease.



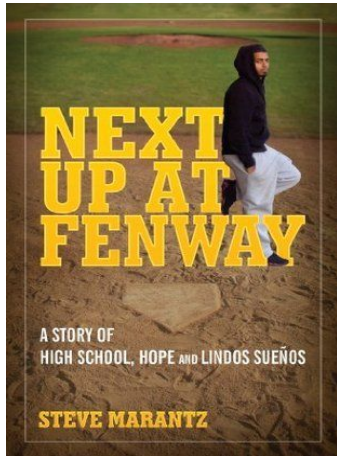
A Wrestling Life: The Inspiring Stories of Dan Gable

From a review on *Guys Read*: "This is a really interesting read about a guy who basically defines the word 'determination.' Dan Gable is a legend in the sport of wrestling and the state of Iowa, but until I read this book I really didn't understand why. He's overcome the horrible murder of his sister when he was just a kid and went on to become an Olympic gold medalist and then continued on in his career to be one of the best coaches in the twentieth century. This is not just about his success though, it's a look into the person behind this legend, told in his own words for the first time. He's a fascinating guy and someone that just about anyone would want to meet after reading this book."



Undeclared: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team, Steve Sheinkin --

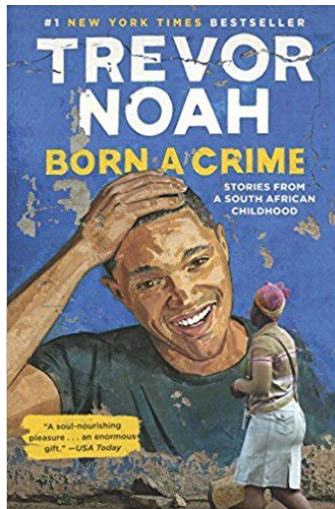
Published just a few months ago, Sheinkin's latest work of nonfiction, *Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team*, has been praised as "an astonishing underdog sports story—and more. It's an unflinching look at the U.S. government's violent persecution of Native Americans and the school that was designed to erase Indian cultures. Expertly told by three-time National Book Award finalist Steve Sheinkin, it's the story of a group of young men who came together at that school, the overwhelming obstacles they faced both on and off the field, and their absolute refusal to accept defeat."



Next Up at Fenway: A Story of High School, Hope, and Lindos Sueños by Steve Marantz

From a review on *Guys Read*: "This inspiring book is by an ESPN Producer. It's the true story of Marcos Baez, whose public high school, Fenway High--next to Fenway Park--was his best hope of a college education and a better life. Inspired by his daily view of the ballpark and mentored by the Red Sox Foundation, Baez turned his passion for baseball into a love of learning in his quest for a path to college. As a child, Marcos' first exposure to baseball came through a neighborhood team, sponsored by the Foundation's RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities) program. As a Fenway High School junior, Marcos was chosen for the Foundation's Lindos Sueños program, which paired up American and Dominican teens for baseball and community service in the Dominican Republic. From Lindos Sueños, Marcos found his voice for the essay he would use to apply to college. Author and journalist Steve Marantz spent a year in the classrooms and hallways of Fenway High, alongside Marcos Baez, his classmates, and teachers. With unlimited access, Marantz has chronicled the soul and intellect of one of America's most amazing and unusual schools. A story of culture and empowerment, Next Up at Fenway explores what one youth can accomplish against all odds to become an inspiration to his community and Latino youth everywhere."

#8. Memoirs & Biographies

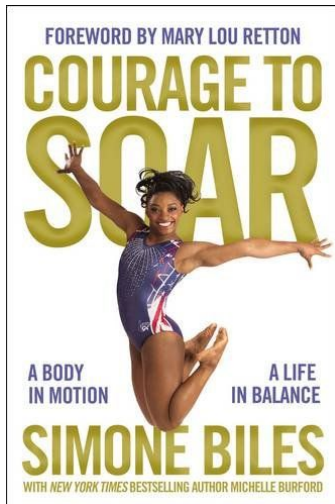


Born a Crime: Stories From a South African Childhood, Trevor Noah

Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of The Daily Show began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle.

Born a Crime is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.

*Named a **Best Book of the Year** by the New York Times, NPR, and Booklist.*



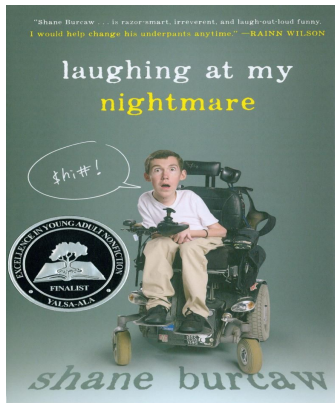
Courage to Soar: A Body in Motion, A Life in Balance, Simone Biles

Before *Courage to Soar* came out, Simone Biles seemed like an overnight success who exploded on the scene with acrobatics that stunned the world and earned her gold medals at the Olympics. But as we learn, the story of her rise to fame and glory started with her as a scared little girl being taken away, along with her brothers and sisters, from her drug-addicted mother's home; adjusting to a new family life; and traversing the complex, high-pressure world of competitive gymnastics. Her experiences and trials, along with her Catholic faith and supportive family and friends, helped her push for gold.



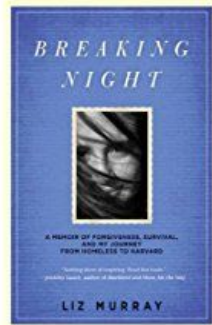
***Spare Parts: Four Undocumented Teenagers, One Ugly Robot, and the Battle for the American Dream*, Joshua Davis**

Spare Parts (an Amazon Best Book of the Month, December 2014) is the story of four Mexican-American teenagers struggling to find their place. An unlikely robotics competition becomes the focus of the narrative, but the story covers a lot of ground. By describing how these teens came together, author Joshua Davis gives us a succinct history of immigration and a micro-lesson in Arizona politics. It all leads to the a scene in a pool in Santa Barbara, CA—with each team member realizing how they fit on the team, and in their adopted homeland,” writes Amy Huff at Amazon. "... an unforgettable tale of hope and human ingenuity. Against a backdrop of urban desert decay, a faltering school system, and our country’s cutthroat immigration policies, Joshua Davis offers a moving testament to how teamwork, perseverance, and a few good teachers can lift up and empower even the humblest among us."



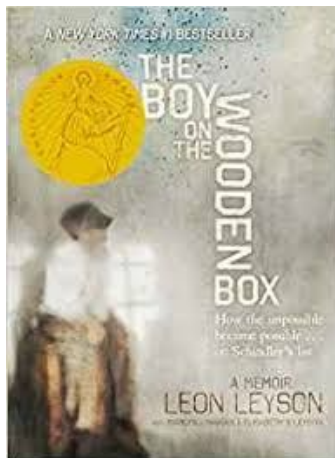
***Laughing at My Nightmare*, Shane Burcaw**

In this focused, intelligent, and most of all hilarious memoir, Shane Burcaw recalls both the normal and deeply unique experiences he has endured living with spinal muscular atrophy. With a sharp wit, Burcaw is self-deprecating but never defeatist, even in the face of his terminal condition. His anecdotal essays are thought-provoking, and his whip-smart style puts him in a league with some of today’s best humorists. In his eminently readable and relatable memoir, Burcaw’s positive attitude is inspirational without being the least bit cloying.



Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard, Liz Murray

This is a memoir of a young woman who at age fifteen was living on the streets, and who eventually made it into Harvard. Liz Murray was born to loving but drug-addicted parents in the Bronx. In school she was taunted for her dirty clothing and lice-infested hair, eventually skipping so many classes that she was put into a girls' home. At age fifteen, Liz found herself on the streets when her family finally unraveled. She learned to scrape by, foraging for food and riding subways all night to have a warm place to sleep. When Liz's mother died of AIDS, she decided to take control of her own destiny and go back to high school, often completing her assignments in the hallways and subway stations where she slept. Liz squeezed four years of high school into two, while homeless; won a *New York Times* scholarship; and made it into the Ivy League. *Breaking Night* is an unforgettable and beautifully written story of one young woman's indomitable spirit to survive and prevail, against all odds.

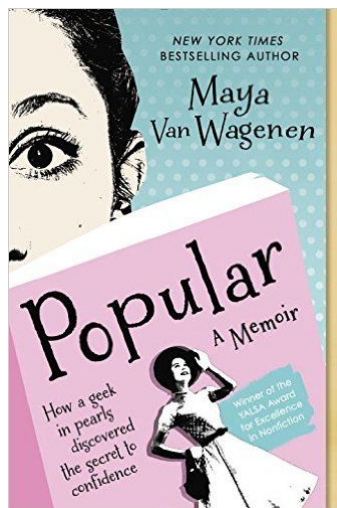


The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible on Schindler's List, Leon Leyson

This, the only memoir published by a former Schindler's list child, perfectly captures the innocence of a small boy who goes through the unthinkable. Leon Leyson (born Leib Lezjon) was only ten years old when the Nazis invaded Poland and his family was forced to relocate to the Krakow ghetto. With incredible luck, perseverance, and grit, Leyson was able to survive the sadism of the Nazis, including that of the demonic Amon Goeth, commandant of Plaszow, the concentration camp outside Krakow.

Ultimately, it was the generosity and cunning of one man, Oskar Schindler, who saved Leon Leyson's life, and the lives of his mother, his father, and two of his four siblings, by adding their names to his list of workers in his factory—a list that became world renowned: Schindler's list.

Told with an abundance of dignity and a remarkable lack of rancor and venom, *The Boy on the Wooden Box* is a legacy of hope, a memoir unlike anything you've ever read.

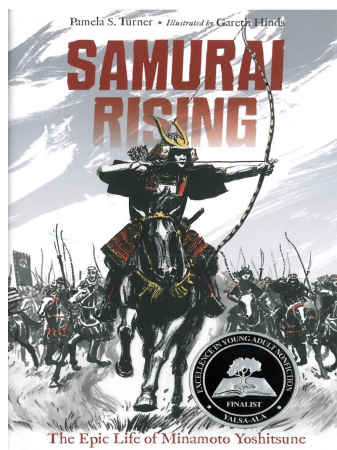


Popular: How a Geek in Pearls Discovered the Secret to Confidence, Maya Van Wagenen

Stuck near the bottom of the social ladder at “pretty much the lowest level of people at school who aren’t paid to be here,” Maya has never been popular. But before starting eighth grade, she decides to begin a unique social experiment: spend the school year following a 1950s popularity guide, written by former teen model Betty Cornell.

The real-life results are hilarious, painful, and filled with unexpected surprises. Told with humor and grace, Maya’s journey offers readers of all ages a thoroughly contemporary example of kindness and self-confidence, along with a better understanding of what it means to be popular.

Maya Van Wagenen is a *Time* magazine “Top 16 Most Influential Teens of 2013” and a *Huffington Post* “Most Fearless Teen of 2013.” In addition, *Popular* won the 2015 YALSA Nonfiction Award.



Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune, Pamela S. Turner

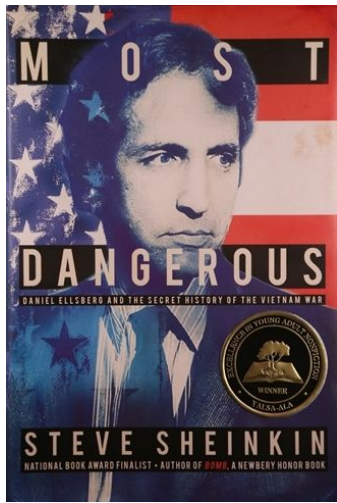
Minamoto Yoshitsune should not have been a samurai. But his story is legend in this real-life saga.

This epic warrior tale reads like a novel, but this is the true story of the greatest samurai in Japanese history.

When Yoshitsune was just a baby, his father went to war with a rival samurai family—and lost. His father was killed, his mother captured, and his surviving half-brother banished. Yoshitsune was sent away to live in a monastery. Skinny, small, and unskilled in the warrior arts, he nevertheless escaped and learned the ways of the samurai. When the time came for the Minamoto clan to rise up against their

enemies, Yoshitsune answered the call. His daring feats and impossible bravery earned him immortality.

2017 Finalist, YALSA Nonfiction Award

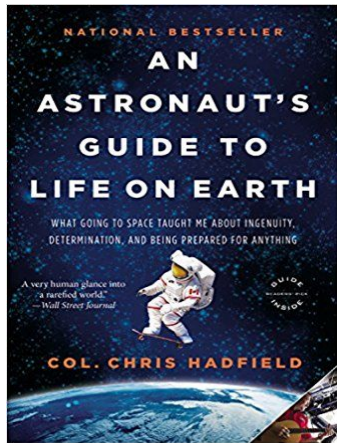


***Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War*, Steve Sheinkin**

Sheinkin (author of *Bomb*) won the 2016 YALSA Nonfiction Award for *Most Dangerous*. As he does in *Bomb*, Sheinkin provides a thrilling journalistic account of government insider Daniel Ellsberg, who leaked the Pentagon Papers and exposed the questionable decisions that led to the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War. This cinematic work simultaneously recounts a history of the Vietnam War, details the complete reversal of one man's loyalties, chronicles the downfall of a presidential administration, examines First Amendment rights, and explores honor and morality. A timely exploration of American history that crackles with tension and excitement.

2016 WINNER, YALSA Nonfiction Award

9. Nonfiction



An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth, Col. Chris Hadfield

Colonel Chris Hadfield has spent decades training as an astronaut and has logged nearly 4000 hours in space. During this time he has broken into a Space Station with a Swiss army knife, disposed of a live snake while piloting a plane, and been temporarily blinded while clinging to the exterior of an orbiting spacecraft. The secret to Col. Hadfield's success-and survival-is an unconventional philosophy he learned at NASA: prepare for the worst-*and enjoy every moment of it.*

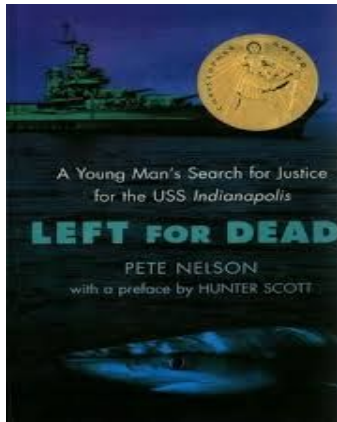
In *An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth*, Col. Hadfield takes readers deep into his years of training and space exploration to show how to make the impossible possible. Through eye-opening, entertaining stories filled with the adrenaline of launch, the mesmerizing wonder of spacewalks, and the measured, calm responses mandated by crises, he explains how conventional wisdom can get in the way of achievement-and happiness. His own extraordinary education in space has taught him some counterintuitive lessons: don't visualize success, do care what others think, and always sweat the small stuff.



Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers, Mary

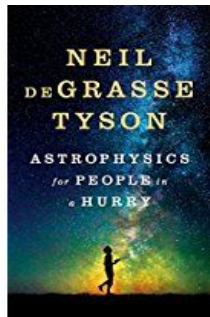
Roach -- Called by *Entertainment Weekly* "One of the funniest and most unusual books of the year

Gross, educational, and unexpectedly sidesplitting," *Stiff* is an oddly compelling, often hilarious exploration of the strange lives of our bodies postmortem. For two thousand years, cadavers—some willingly, some unwittingly—have been involved in science's boldest strides and weirdest undertakings. In this fascinating account, Mary Roach visits the good deeds of cadavers over the centuries and tells the engrossing story of our bodies when we are no longer with them.



***Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the U.S.S. Indianapolis*, Peter Nelson** -- For fans of *Unbroken*,

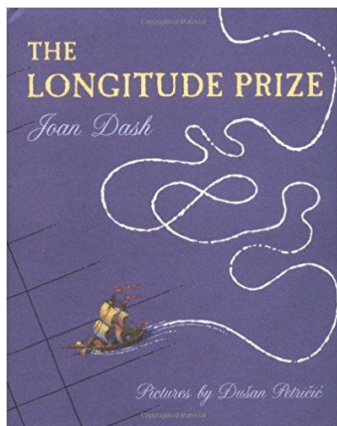
Left for Dead is the incredible story of a boy inspired by *Jaws* to help bring closure to the survivors and their families of the World War II sinking of the USS *Indianapolis*.



***Astrophysics for People in a Hurry*, Neil DeGrasse Tyson**

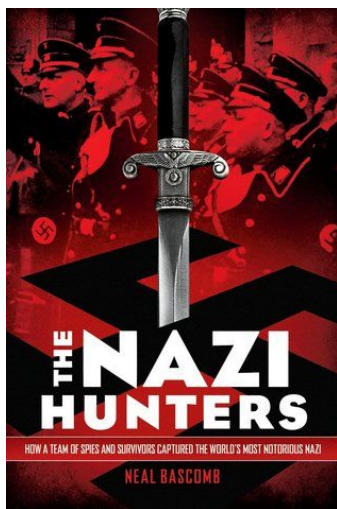
What is the nature of space and time? How do we fit within the universe? How does the universe fit within us? There's no better guide through these mind-expanding questions than acclaimed astrophysicist and best-selling author Neil deGrasse Tyson.

Tyson brings the universe down to Earth succinctly and clearly, with sparkling wit, in tasty chapters consumable anytime and anywhere in your busy day. *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry* reveals just what you need to be fluent and ready for the next cosmic headlines: from the Big Bang to black holes, from quarks to quantum mechanics, and from the search for planets to the search for life in the universe.



The Longitude Prize, Joan Dash -- By the start of the eighteenth century, many thousands of sailors had perished at sea because their captains had no way of knowing where they were. A ship's latitude, the north/south position, was easy enough, but once out of sight of land not even the most experienced navigator had a sure method of fixing longitude. So Britain's Parliament offered a substantial monetary prize of 20,000 pounds (roughly \$12 million today) to anyone who found a sure method of finding longitude at sea. The prize remained untouched for fifty years. Set in an exciting historical framework -- shipwrecks, politics, voyages of exploration -- this is the story of one man's creative vision, his persistence against great odds, and his lifelong struggle for recognition of a brilliant invention.

A Grade 9-10 Text Exemplar for the CCSS, ELA and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects

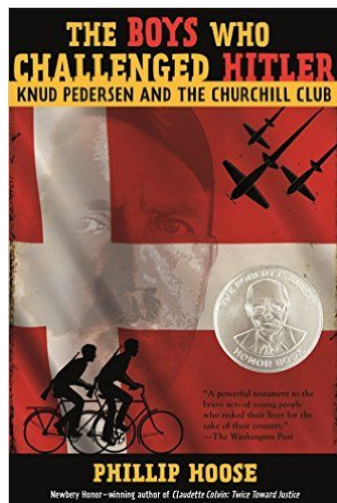


The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi, Neal Bascomb

In 1945, at the end of World War II, Adolf Eichmann, the head of operations for the Nazis' Final Solution, walked into the mountains of Germany and vanished from view. Sixteen years later, an elite team of spies captured him at a bus stop in Argentina and smuggled him to Israel, resulting in one of the century's most important trials -- one that cemented the Holocaust in the public imagination.

The Nazi Hunters is the thrilling and fascinating story of what happened between these two events. Survivor Simon Wiesenthal opened Eichmann's case; a blind Argentinean and his teenage daughter provided crucial information. Finally, the Israeli spies -- many of whom lost family in the Holocaust -- embarked on their daring mission, recounted here in full. Based on the adult bestseller *Hunting Eichmann*, which is now in development as a major film, and illustrated with powerful photos throughout, *The Nazi Hunters* is a can't-miss work of narrative nonfiction for middle-grade and YA readers.

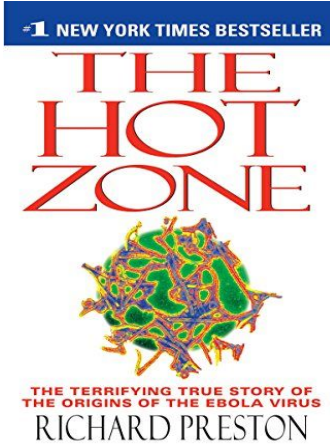
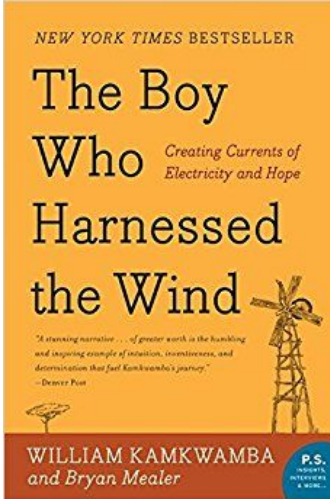
The 2014 winner of the YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults, the first national award that honors the best nonfiction books for teens.



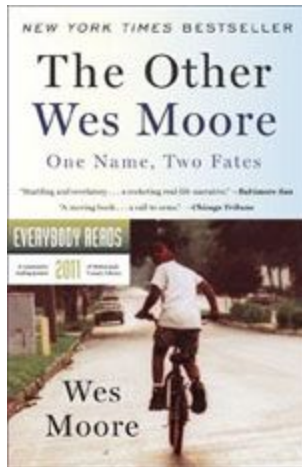
The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club, Phillip Hoose --

In April 1940, occupying German forces made Denmark a "protectorate" of the Third Reich. The Danish government accepted the occupation, but a small group of teen boys, angry at their nation's cowardice, formed the secret Churchill Club to resist the Germans and conducted a six-month spree of sabotage and destruction. Incorporating lengthy first-person reminiscences of one of the group's leaders, Knud Pedersen, Hoose describes how the club recruited members, exploited their youth and innocent looks to deceive their parents and the Germans, appropriated weapons, and carried out guerilla-style attacks from their bicycles. Although the boys were eventually arrested and imprisoned, their exploits made them national heroes, shamed many adults, and fueled Danish resistance. After the war, Winston Churchill honored their efforts. The book is well organized, effectively integrating Pedersen's vivid descriptions of his group's motives, determination, and sometimes foolhardy bravery within the larger narrative, which includes information about Denmark, the war, and the boys' families and lives. Sidebars, detailed maps, and period photos supplement the text. Often reading like a thriller, this title puts a human face on the often-overlooked Danish Resistance and complements titles such as Michael Burgan's *Refusing to Crumble: The Danish Resistance in World War II* (Compass Pt., 2010) and Ellen Levine's *Darkness over Denmark: The Danish Resistance and the Rescue of the Jews* (Holiday House, 2000). VERDICT A captivating work that will appeal to many readers." --*The School Library Journal*

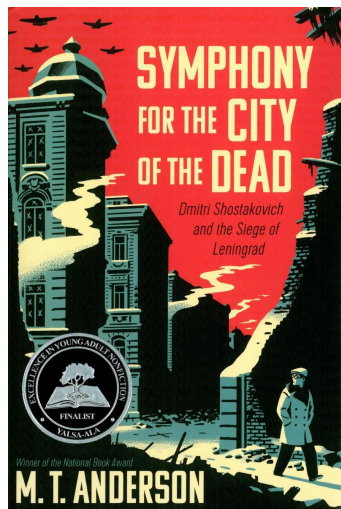
A Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor Winner • A Boston Globe-Horn Book Nonfiction Honor Winner • A Booklist Editors' Choice • A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year and Best Teen Book of the Year • A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year • A New York Public Library Notable • A Washington Post Best Children's Book of 2015

	<p><i>Hot Zone: The Terrifying True Story of the Origins of the Ebola Virus, Richard Preston</i> -- The bestselling landmark account of the first emergence of the Ebola virus. A highly infectious, deadly virus from the central African rain forest suddenly appears in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. There is no cure. In a few days 90 percent of its victims are dead. A secret military SWAT team of soldiers and scientists is mobilized to stop the outbreak of this exotic "hot" virus. The Hot Zone tells this dramatic story, giving a hair-raising account of the appearance of rare and lethal viruses and their "crashes" into the human race. Shocking, frightening, and impossible to ignore, The Hot Zone proves that truth really is scarier than fiction.</p> <p>A Grade 9-10 Text Exemplar for the <i>CCSS, ELA and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects</i></p>
	<p><i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope, William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer</i></p> <p>“American readers will have their imaginations challenged by 14-year-old Kamkwamba's description of life in Malawi, a famine-stricken, land-locked nation in southern Africa: math is taught in school with the aid of bottle tops ("three Coca-Cola plus ten Carlsberg equal thirteen"), people are slaughtered by enemy warriors "disguised... as green grass" and a ferocious black rhino; and everyday trading is "replaced by the business of survival" after famine hits the country. After starving for five months on his family's small farm, the corn harvest slowly brings Kamkwamba back to life. Witnessing his family's struggle, Kamkwamba's supercharged curiosity leads him to pursue the improbable dream of using "electric wind"(they have no word for windmills) to harness energy for the farm. Kamkwamba's efforts were of course derided; salvaging a motley collection of materials, from his father's broken bike</p>

to his mother's clothes line, he was often greeted to the tune of "Ah, look, the madman has come with his garbage." This exquisite tale strips life down to its barest essentials, and once there finds reason for hopes and dreams, and is especially resonant for Americans given the economy and increasingly heated debates over health care and energy policy.” -- *Publisher's Weekly*



The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates, Wes Moore -- Two kids with the same name were born blocks apart in Philadelphia within a year of each other. One grew up to be a Rhodes Scholar, army officer, White House Fellow, and business leader. The other is serving a life sentence in prison. Here is the story of two boys and the journey of a generation.



Symphony of the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad, M.T. Anderson

This account of the Siege of Leningrad and the role played by Russian composer Shostakovich and his Leningrad Symphony was a finalist for the 2016 YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults. From Amazon: "In September 1941, Adolf Hitler's Wehrmacht surrounded Leningrad in what was to become one of the longest and most destructive sieges in Western history—almost three years of bombardment and starvation that culminated in the harsh winter of 1943–1944. More than a million citizens perished. Survivors recall corpses littering the frozen streets, their relatives having neither the means nor the strength to bury them. Residents burned books, furniture, and floorboards to keep warm; they ate family pets and—eventually—one another to stay alive. Trapped between the Nazi invading force and the Soviet government itself was composer Dmitri Shostakovich, who would write a symphony that roused, rallied, eulogized, and commemorated his fellow citizens—the Leningrad Symphony, which came to occupy a surprising place of prominence in the eventual Allied victory.

This is the true story of a city under siege: the triumph of bravery and defiance in the face of terrifying odds. It is also a look at the power—and layered meaning—of music in beleaguered lives. *Symphony for the City of the Dead* is a masterwork thrillingly told and impeccably researched by National Book Award–winning author M. T. Anderson."

"...a sweeping work of narrative nonfiction for adolescent readers."—*The Wall Street Journal*



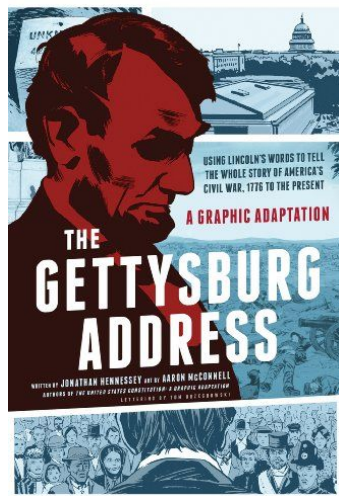
Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race, Margot Lee Shetterly

Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as “human computers” used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space.

Among these problem-solvers were a group of exceptionally talented African American women. Originally math teachers in the South’s segregated public schools, these gifted professionals answered Uncle Sam’s call during the labor shortages of WWII. With new jobs at the fascinating, high-energy world of the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Lab, they finally had a shot at jobs that would push their skills to the limits.

Even as Jim Crow laws required them to be segregated from their white counterparts, the women of Langley’s all-black “West Computing” group helped America achieve one of its most desired goals: a decisive victory over the Soviet Union in the Cold War, and the complete domination of the heavens.

Starting in WWII and moving through the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Space Race, *Hidden Figures* follows the interwoven accounts of four African American women who participated in some of NASA’s greatest successes.



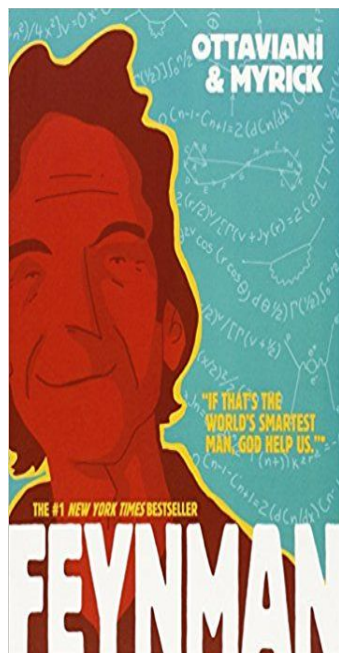
***The Gettysburg Address: A Graphic Adaptation* by Jonathan Hennessey and Aaron McConnell**

A fully illustrated graphic adaptation that offers a new look at the Gettysburg Address, the bloody battle that prompted it, and the Civil War. GREAT book.

From Amazon: “*The Gettysburg Address* offers a revolutionary way to experience Lincoln's masterwork. Striking at the underlying meaning of Lincoln's words, it uses the Address to tell the whole story of the Civil War. We see how bitter seeds sown by the Founding Fathers sprouted into a bloody war, and ultimately blossomed into the progress and justice of the Civil Rights era. The book depicts pivotal events that led to the upheaval of the secession crisis, the crucial Battle of Gettysburg, and the conflict's still-unfolding legacy with firsthand accounts from Americans from all walks of life: slaves, soldiers, citizens, and, of course, Abraham Lincoln himself—the most transformational president in U.S. history.

Writer Jonathan Hennessey and illustrator Aaron McConnell illuminate history with vibrant, detailed graphics and captions that will give you a fresh understanding of this vital speech, which defined America's most tragic war and marked a new path forward.”

You might also like this team’s graphic novel *The United States Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation*.



***Feynman: A Graphic Novel*, written by Jim Ottaviani & art by Leland Myrick**

Get to know perhaps the most famous personality of nuclear physics: the bongo-playing, safe-cracking, Nobel Prize winner Richard Feynman in this meticulously researched graphic biography. Learn about “*the larger-than-life exploits of Nobel-winning quantum physicist, adventurer, musician, world-class raconteur, and one of the greatest minds of the twentieth century: Richard Feynman. Feynman tells the story of the great man’s life from his childhood in Long Island to his work on the Manhattan Project and the Challenger disaster. Ottaviani tackles the bad with the good, leaving the reader delighted by Feynman’s exuberant life and staggered at the loss humanity suffered with his death.*

Anyone who ever wanted to know more about Richard P. Feynman, quantum electrodynamics, the fine art of the bongo drums, the outrageously obscure nation of Tuva, or the development and popularization of the field of physics in the United States need look no further than this rich and joyful work.” -- Amazon.com