

## **High School Summer Reading List**

- “The Boy in the Black Suit” by Jason Reynolds  
Matt is trying to cope with his mom’s death from cancer and his dad’s drinking. A job at a local funeral home gives him comfort and then he meets a girl, who helps him share his feelings. This is a story of growing from loss.
- “Full Cicada Moon” by Marilyn Hilton  
All Mimi wants is to be an astronaut, but being a female with Japanese and African American parents in 1969 Vermont comes with its own challenges. As she makes new friends and overcomes the barriers around her, she realizes what is really important.
- “Goodbye Stranger” by Rebecca Stead  
Three girls, who promised never to fight, have found their friendship tested. Will their friendship survive the trials of middle school and growing up?
- “I am Princess X” by Cherie Priest  
When they were young May and Libby created a princess together. When Libby died the princess died with her. Years later May starts seeing images of the princess around town. Could Libby still be alive?
- “I Kill the Mockingbird” by Paul Acampora  
In honor of their recently deceased teacher a group of friends hatch a plot to popularize the classic “To Kill a Mockingbird,” by creating a controversy surrounding the novel. Their efforts increase demand, but have consequences they don’t expect.
- “The Last Boy at St. Edith’s” by Lee Gjertsen Malone  
There used to be 27 boys at St. Edith’s Academy, but over time all but one left leaving Jeremy the only boy out of 475 students! In desperation, Jeremy pulls a series of pranks in hopes of getting expelled so he can go to school with his friends.
- “The Novice” by Taran Matharu  
When Fletcher accidentally summons a Familiar, he is forced to leave his home to attend The Academy where he is taught how to use his powers
- “Orbiting Jupiter” by Gary Schmidt  
Trying to escape his past, Joseph is trying to find his future. Can Jack and his family help Joseph find a home on their family farm? Will Joseph find the one thing from his past that he is looking for?
- “The Seventh Most Important Thing” by Shelley Pearsall  
After his father’s death, Arthur throws a brick at the local “Junk Man” when he sees him wearing his father’s favorite hat. He is sentenced to community service working with the Junk Man to complete his mysterious project.

- “Thirteen Chairs” by Dave Shelton

Thirteen souls at a table, each with a tale to tell. Are you brave enough to pull up a chair?
- “Dumplin” by Julie Murphy

Willowdean Dickson is not your typical beauty queen. Living in Clover City, a town that is home to one of the oldest beauty pageants in Texas, and with a former beauty queen for a mother, Willowdean navigates being a “fat girl” in this world with humor, confidence, and a lot of sass.
- “Girl in the Blue Coat” by Monica Hesse

Finding and delivering hard to come by goods for friends and neighbors in 1943 German-occupied Amsterdam is the business that Hanneke is good at. Finding a missing Jewish girl becomes Hanneke’s passion, putting her in the crosshairs of the Nazis.
- “More Happy Than Not” by Adam Silvera

If you could erase your memories would you? What if you could change who you are. Aaron wants to change his life to become someone new, and a new medical procedure is available to allow him to do just that. But can he really escape who and what he is?
- “Red Rising” by Pierce Brown

Darrow, a sixteen-year-old in humanity’s Red caste, willingly spends his days in the mines of Mars, certain that his work is necessary to terraform the planet’s surface. After being caught in a forbidden area, however, his life is torn apart, and he discovers the truth about the caste system he was forced into.
- “The Rest of Us Just Live Here” by Patrick Ness

Mikey, Jared, Mel, and Henna just want to get through high school. They suffer through the usual teen experiences – jealousy, unrequited love, term papers – but they have also fought zombies and fallen in love with vampires (not your usual high school experience). Now, they have to face another challenge: one of them is “the chosen one.”
- “Simon vs. the Homo Sapien Agenda” by Becky Albertalli

Simon is a sixteen-year-old boy who is gay, but not quite ready to tell the whole world. When an email falls into the wrong hands he worries his secret may not remain a secret for long. Now Simon has to find a way to step out of his comfort zone and tell the truth before he alienates himself from friends or loses his shot with his mysterious crush.
- “Traffick” by Ellen Hopkins

Traffick shows the reader the world of human trafficking, prostitution, and drug addiction as experienced by five teenagers. Is there a way out?

- “The Way I Used to Be” by Amber Smith  
Eden is a quiet fourteen year old band nerd who just entered into her freshman year of high school. But everything changes the night a family friend rapes her and threatens to kill her if she tells anyone. Eden keeps it a secret and finds herself acting out to avoid dealing with the pain.
- “We Are the Ants” by Shaun David Hutchinson  
The aliens have given Henry 144 days to decide whether life on earth is worth keeping around. Given the state his own life is in, he's not so sure. The love of his life has committed suicide, his clueless older brother is going to be a teen father, his grandmother is sinking deeper and deeper into a fog of Alzheimer's. But on the other hand, there's Diego...
- “X: A Novel” by Ilyasah Shabazz and Kekla Magoon  
X is a novelized telling of the growing up years of Malcom Little/Malcom X. His father murdered and his mother put into a mental institution, young Malcom (an A student) goes to live with his sister Boston. There he takes to the world of drinking, drugs, and hustling, and eventually to prison.
- “Bone Gap” by Laura Ruby  
Eighteen-year-old Finn, an outsider in his quiet Midwestern town, is the only witness to the abduction of town favorite Roza, but his inability to distinguish between faces makes it difficult for him to help with the investigation, and subjects him to even more ridicule and bullying.
- “The Ghosts of Heaven” by Marcus Sedgwick  
Four linked stories of discovery and survival begin with a Paleolithic-era girl who makes the first written signs, continue with Anna, who people call a witch, then a mad twentieth-century poet who watches the ocean knowing the horrors it hides, and concluding with an astronaut on the first spaceship from Earth sent to colonize another world.
- “Out of Darkness” by Ashley Hope Perez  
Loosely based on a school explosion that took place in New London, Texas, in 1937, this is the story of two teenagers: Naomi, who is Mexican, and Wash, who is black, and their dealings with race, segregation, love, and the forces that destroy people.
- “I'll Give You the Sun” by Jandy Nelson  
A story of first love, family, loss, and betrayal told from different points in time, and in separate voices, by artists Jude and her twin brother Noah.

- “And We Stay” by Jenny Hubbard

Sent to an Amherst, Massachusetts, boarding school after her ex-boyfriend shoots himself, seventeen-year-old Emily expresses herself through poetry as she relives their relationship, copes with her guilt, and begins to heal.

- “The Carnival at Bray” by Jessie Ann Foley

Uprooted from Chicago to rural Ireland, Maggie searches for her place in the country she now calls home before enduring a tragedy that sends her on a pilgrimage to fulfill her uncle's request.

- “Grasshopper Jungle” by Andrew Smith

Austin Szerba narrates the end of humanity as he and his best friend Robby accidentally unleash an army of giant, unstoppable bugs and uncover the secrets of a decades-old experiment gone terribly wrong.

- “The Queen of Blood” by Sarah Beth Durst

Daleina is determined to keep her family safe from vengeance-seeking spirits, placing her in the crossfire of an insecure queen and powerful spirits.

- “The Regional Office is Under Attack!” by Manuel Gonzales

Fraught with explosive action, female assassins, teenage crushes, and even a cyborg, this fast-paced, dynamic story of revenge explores what happens to a group of woman hell-bent on defending the world from evil forces.

- “In the Country We Love: My Family Divided” by Diane Guerrero

After Diane Guerrero returned home from school one day to find her family deported, the 14-year-old went on to combat self-injury and suicidal thoughts, finish her education, and to become a successful actress and citizenship activist.

- “Buffering: Unshared Tales of a Life Fully Loaded” by Hannah Hart

Candid and thoughtful, Hart’s memoir details her difficult childhood and rise to internet fame.

- “Arena” by Holly Jennings

Virtual gaming: Kali's team is competing to win, not to die.

- “Every Heart a Doorway” by Seanan McGuire

Sometimes kids disappear. Sometimes they come back. And when they come back, they need a place to go. At the Home for Wayward Children, everybody has a story, and some stories have better ending than others.

- “Die Young with Me: A Memoir” by Rob Rufus  
A story of punk rock, first love, cancer and the incredible power of music to get us through the hardest times in our lives. Rufus details his brave fight for his life in this tender and contemplative memoir.
- “The Wasp that Brainwashed the Caterpillar” by Matt Simon  
Simon explores the benefits of evolution, in these odd yet compelling stories that range from creatures adapting to find food to having sex.
- “The Invisible Life of Ivan Isaenko” by Scott Stambach  
He has no arms or legs. She has blood that is betraying her. They are the smartest people in the children’s hospital and the only ones who understand, and they take “star-crossed lovers” to a whole new level.