

## 2021 Rising 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List

All SPSG students taking English 9 should choose 2 texts from the list below to read in preparation for the 2021-2022 school year. One text should be fiction and the other should be nonfiction or autobiography/memoir.

All SPSG students taking English 9 Honors should read *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier and 1 text from the list below.

When we return to school, you will be assessed on your reading through an in-class writing assignment, so please be sure to read actively and annotate your text. Active annotation means more than just highlighting; you should also include notes in the margins that will help you remember both the content of the book and your reactions to it. Reminders about what good, active reading and annotating looks like:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/subject\\_specific\\_writing/writing\\_in\\_literature/writing\\_about\\_fiction/index.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/subject_specific_writing/writing_in_literature/writing_about_fiction/index.html)

We look forward to seeing you in the fall!

### **FICTION**

#### ***Does My Head Look Big in This?* by Randa Abdel-Fattah**

At 16, Amal decides to start wearing a hijab, the headdress of her Muslim faith, full time. With this decision comes hatred and prejudice. Amal is not trying to stand out and would prefer to be noticed for other things beyond her hijab.

#### ***With A Fire on High* by Elizabeth Acevedo**

This book follows Emoni Santiago, an Afro-Latinx teen mom in Philadelphia. Emoni dreams of being a chef, but she struggles to balance teen responsibilities of school with her single mom parenting duties. Acevedo includes recipes created by the protagonist and inspired by her Puerto Rican heritage.

#### ***The Iron River* by Daniel Acosta**

A river runs through young Manny Maldonado Jr.'s life, heart and imagination. Sometimes at night it even shoots through his brain like a bullet. But this river isn't water, it's iron—the tracks and trains of the Southern Pacific railroad that pass along his tight-knit neighborhood in the San Gabriel valley just ten miles east of L.A. The iron river is everything to Man-on-Fire, Man for short to his friends, Little Man to his uncles and cousins. He watches it, he waits for it, he plays near its tracks, he listens for the weight of its currents (strong currents flowing east pulling two hundred boxcars, light current going west with less than fifty cars), he whiles away long summer days throwing rocks and bricks at it with his friends Danny, Marco and Little. They line up cans and bottles in mock battles to try to throw it off track. But nothing derails the iron river, and nothing stops the stinking cop Turk from trying to pin a hobo's murder on the four young boys.

***Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi**

Zélie Adebola remembers when the soil of Orīsha hummed with magic. Burners ignited flames, Tiders beckoned waves, and Zélie’s Reaper mother summoned forth souls.

But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, maji were killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope. Now Zélie has one chance to bring back magic and strike against the monarchy. With the help of a rogue princess, Zélie must outwit and outrun the crown prince, who is hell-bent on eradicating magic for good.

***Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* by Becky Albertalli**

Sixteen-year-old and not-so-openly gay Simon Spier prefers to save his drama for the school musical. But when an email falls into the wrong hands, his secret is at risk of being thrust into the spotlight. Now Simon is actually being blackmailed: if he doesn’t play wingman for class clown Martin, his sexual identity will become everyone’s business. Worse, the privacy of Blue, the pen name of the boy he’s been emailing, will be compromised. With some messy dynamics emerging in his once tight-knit group of friends, and his email correspondence with Blue growing more flirtatious every day, Simon’s junior year has suddenly gotten all kinds of complicated.

***The Absolutely True Story of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie**

In Sherman Alexie’s National Book Award winner, Arnold Spirit Jr. is a teenager growing up on the Spokane Reservation. The school he attends is poor—when Junior opens his geometry book, he finds his mother’s name among the previous owners. A budding cartoonist, Junior eventually transfers to a wealthy high school 20 miles from home where the only other Indian is the mascot.

***Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya**

A classic of Latino literature, Rudolfo Anaya’s coming-of-age tale is an exploration of faith—Antonio, the young protagonist, makes his First Communion in the Catholic Church but also finds a spiritual guide in Ultima, an elderly *curandera*, or healer, who helps him explore indigenous traditions of New Mexico.

***Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson**

Melinda got invited to “the” high school party of the summer but the party got out of hand and she called the cops to break up the party. Now, she’s starting ninth grade as a social pariah. No one knows why Melinda calls the cops, but readers figure out pretty quickly that something traumatic happened at the party. The rest of the novel is about Melinda finding her voice to speak up about what happened.

***Far From the Tree* by Robin Benway**

Grace, who is an adopted child, winds up pregnant in high school and gives her own baby up for adoption. This makes her curious about her own biological family, and she soon finds out that she has two other biological siblings. The three teens meet, each dealing with their own demons, and together they discover the meaning of family.

***Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* by Dusti Bowling**

Narrated by Aven, a 13-year-old girl who was born without arms, *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* follows its young protagonist as she settles into a new school, making friends with Connor and Zion, two shy boys with disabilities of their own, who help her solve a mystery at her parents’ amusement park.

***The Boy in Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne**

Bruno is the nine-year-old son of a man who runs a concentration camp. Bruno is never, ever to go near the fence surrounding the camp, but Bruno ignores these instructions because he plans to grow up to be an explorer. One day, he does approach the fence and soon begins developing a friendship with a young Jewish boy inside.

***Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury**

Ray Bradbury describes a futuristic world where books are banned and burned. Guy Montag, one fireman tasked with extinguishing the books, begins to question the practice. When Bradbury wrote the classic in the 1950s, television sets were becoming ubiquitous in American households. The theme of the book was a warning about how mass media could interfere with people's ability or desire to think critically, a theme that many think resonates with the social media-obsessed world of today.

***The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky**

This book teaches the principles of social justice through the authentic lens of experience. By following the life events of the main character, this bildungsroman will give the reader empathy for contemporary issues that face young people, and an appreciation for social justice.

***Stormwake* by Lucy Christopher**

This retelling of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* features Moss, who lives on an uninhabited island with her possibly magical father and their dog. A storm brings in a boy who fascinates Moss and they become fast friends. But as Moss longs to leave the island, her father clings to it more tightly, and Moss begins to wonder what secrets he has.

***The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros**

Mexican American teen Esperanza Cordero longs to escape from a rundown section of Chicago. The short vignettes that make up Sandra Cisneros's book cover a year of Esperanza's life as she moves from childhood into her teen years—a key moment, full of promise but also a little scary, comes when a neighbor gives Esperanza and her friends some high-heeled shoes, marking a rite of passage into womanhood.

***Atlantia* by Ally Condie**

For as long as she can remember, Rio has dreamed of the sand and sky Above—of life beyond her underwater city of Atlantia. But in a single moment, all Rio's hopes for the future are shattered when her twin sister, Bay, makes an unexpected choice, stranding Rio Below. Alone, ripped away from the last person who knew Rio's true self—and the powerful siren voice she has long silenced—she has nothing left to lose.

***The Truth of Right Now* by Kara Lee Corthron**

When Lily begins a new year at her elite high school after a disastrous end to the previous year, she's not surprised it's the hellscape she imagined it to be. But when she meets Dari—an artsy, brilliant new transfer student—things are suddenly looking up. It's instant chemistry between the two. Lily wants to avoid social activities and Dari wants to avoid his controlling father. Everything seems to be going great, until the fact that Lily is white and Dari is black becomes a hurdle to their relationship in ways they never anticipated after a terrible tragedy.

***All-American Muslim Girl* by Nadine Jolie Courtney**

Allie Abraham has it all going for her—she’s a straight-A student, with good friends and a close-knit family, and she’s dating popular, sweet Wells Henderson. One problem: Wells’s father is Jack Henderson, America’s most famous conservative shock jock, and Allie hasn’t told Wells that her family is Muslim. It’s not like Allie’s religion is a secret. It’s just that her parents don’t practice and raised her to keep it to herself. But as Allie witnesses Islamophobia in her small town and across the nation, she decides to embrace her faith—study, practice it, and even face misunderstanding for it. Who is Allie, if she sheds the façade of the “perfect” all-American girl?

***What Is the What* by Dave Eggers**

*What Is the What* is the epic novel based on the life of Valentino Achak Deng who, along with thousands of other children—the so-called Lost Boys—was forced to leave his village in Sudan at the age of seven and trek hundreds of miles by foot, pursued by militias, government bombers, and wild animals, crossing the deserts of three countries to find freedom. When he finally is resettled in the United States, he finds a life full of promise, but also heartache and myriad new challenges. Moving, suspenseful, and unexpectedly funny, *What Is the What* is an astonishing novel that illuminates the lives of millions through one extraordinary man.

***Plague of Doves* by Louise Erdrich**

Five decades after he and his friends were wrongly lynched for the murder of a North Dakota family, Mooshum tells tribal stories to his mixed-race granddaughter, Evelina, who is reconciling with her white and Ojibwe heritages. But that murder mystery remains unsolved, and its aftershocks continue to rock the tiny town of Pluto, ND, even half a century later.

***If I Ever Get Out of Here* by Eric Gansworth**

Lewis Shoe Blake is used to the joys and difficulties of life on the Tuscarora Indian reservation in 1975: the joking, the Fireball games, the snow blowing through his roof. What he’s not used to is white people being nice to him — people like George Haddonfield, whose family recently moved to town with the Air Force. As the boys connect through their mutual passion for music, especially the Beatles, Lewis has to lie more and more to hide the reality of his family’s poverty from George. He also has to deal with the vicious Evan Reininger, who makes Lewis the special target of his wrath. But when everyone else is on Evan’s side, how can he be defeated? And if George finds out the truth about Lewis’s home — will he still be his friend?

***Lord of the Flies* by William Golding**

*Lord of the Flies* tells the alarming story of a group of young boys who survive a plane crash, only to descend into tribalism on the island where they landed. Two of the boys—Ralph and Jack—clash in their pursuit of leadership. The novel, which has been challenged in schools, shows how struggles for power based on fear and division can result in a collapse of social order, themes that might seem relevant today.

***Since You Asked...* by Maurene Goo**

No, no one asked, but Holly Kim will tell you what she thinks anyway. Fifteen-year-old Holly Kim is the copyeditor for her high school’s newspaper. When she accidentally submits an article that rips everyone to shreds, she gets her own column and rants her way through the school year. Can she survive homecoming, mean-girl cliques, jocks, secret admirers, Valentine’s Day, and

other high school embarrassments, all while struggling to balance her family's traditional Korean values?

***We Contain Multitudes* by Sarah Henstra**

Jonathan Hopkirk and Adam "Kurl" Kurlansky are assigned to write letters to each other for an English class pen pal project. Their letter-writing turns into a secret love, which homophobia threatens to destroy.

***The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton**

S.E. Hinton introduced readers to 14-year-old Ponyboy Curtis in *The Outsiders*, a novel she wrote when she was 15. The plot centers around two rival gangs: the lower-class Greasers and the well-off Socials. It touches on themes of teen angst, including the frustrations young people have when they can't rely on adults to change things, while also not knowing how to fix things themselves. Hinton's publishers encouraged her to publish under her initials because they didn't think the public would respect a book about teenage boys that was written by a female.

***A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini**

Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women brought jarringly together by war, by loss and by fate. As they endure the ever escalating dangers around them—in their home as well as in the streets of Kabul—they come to form a bond that makes them both sisters and mother-daughter to each other, and that will ultimately alter the course not just of their own lives but of the next generation. With heart-wrenching power and suspense, Hosseini shows how a woman's love for her family can move her to shocking and heroic acts of self-sacrifice, and that in the end it is love, or even the memory of love, that is often the key to survival.

***Dread Nation* by Justina Ireland**

Jane McKeene was born two days before the dead began to walk the battlefields of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania—derailing the War Between the States and changing the nation forever...Almost finished with her education at Miss Preston's School of Combat in Baltimore, Jane is set on returning to her Kentucky home and doesn't pay much mind to the politics of the eastern cities, with their talk of returning America to the glory of its days before the dead rose. But when families around Baltimore County begin to go missing, Jane is caught in the middle of a conspiracy, one that finds her in a desperate fight for her life against some powerful enemies. And the restless dead, it would seem, are the least of her problems.

***Monday's Not Coming* by Tiffany D. Jackson**

Monday Charles is missing, and only Claudia seems to notice. Claudia and Monday have always been inseparable—more sisters than friends. So when Monday doesn't turn up for the first day of school, Claudia's worried. When she doesn't show for the second day, or second week, Claudia knows that something is wrong. Monday wouldn't just leave her to endure tests and bullies alone. Not after last year's rumors and not with her grades on the line. Now Claudia needs her best—and only—friend more than ever. But Monday's mother refuses to give Claudia a straight

answer, and Monday's sister April is even less help. As Claudia digs deeper into her friend's disappearance, she discovers that no one seems to remember the last time they saw Monday. How can a teenage girl just vanish without anyone noticing that she's gone?

***The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver**

Taylor Greer's main goal in life is to get out of Kentucky without getting pregnant. As soon as high school is over, she heads west and along the way acquires a Cherokee child who she might just end up mothering. At its heart, this is a novel about realizing that your plans don't mean an awful lot in the face of the universe.

***A Separate Peace* by John Knowles**

In *A Separate Peace*, John Knowles explores the friendship of two young men—the quiet, intellectual Gene Forrester and his extroverted, athletic friend Finny. Gene lives vicariously through Finny, but his jealousy ultimately ends in tragedy after he commits a subtle act of violence. The book touches on themes of envy and the need to achieve.

***Every Day* by David Levithan**

Every day a different body. Every day a different life. Every day in love with the same girl. There's never any warning about where it will be or who it will be. A has made peace with that, even established guidelines by which to live: Never get too attached. Avoid being noticed. Do not interfere. It's all fine until the morning that A wakes up in the body of Justin and meets Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon. From that moment, the rules by which A has been living no longer apply. Because finally A has found someone he wants to be with—day in, day out, day after day.

***The Girl with the Red Balloon* by Katherine Locke**

When sixteen-year-old Ellie Baum accidentally time-travels via red balloon to 1988 East Berlin, she's caught up in a conspiracy of history and magic. She meets members of an underground guild in East Berlin who use balloons and magic to help people escape over the Wall—but even to the balloon makers, Ellie's time travel is a mystery. When it becomes clear that someone is using dark magic to change history, Ellie must risk everything—including her only way home—to stop the process.

***The Giver* by Lois Lowry**

This 1993 young adult dystopian novel tells of a society that values similarity and not individuality. People are discouraged from being different and are given jobs that will best serve the community. Those who don't like their role are released," which means they are forced to leave society. One person is assigned the role of the Giver and tasked with holding onto memories. Young Jonas becomes the new Giver. With his new memories, his awareness grows, and he begins to question life.

***Legend* by Marie Lu**

What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, fifteen-year-old June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military

circles. Born into the slums, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. But his motives may not be as malicious as they seem. From very different worlds, June and Day have no reason to cross paths - until the day June's brother, Metias, is murdered and Day becomes the prime suspect. Caught in the ultimate game of cat and mouse, Day is in a race for his family's survival, while June seeks to avenge Metias's death. But in a shocking turn of events, the two uncover the truth of what has really brought them together, and the sinister lengths their country will go to keep its secrets.

### ***Life of Pi* by Yann Martel**

Yann Martel's allegorical novel comments heavily on the roles of spirituality and nature in shaping one's identity and encouraging personal growth. After a storm sinks the ship on which his family was traveling, Pi Patel finds himself adrift in a small lifeboat with only a large Bengal tiger to keep him company. Despite his circumstances, Pi is determined to survive, relying on his spiritual beliefs to keep his morale high.

### ***Monster* by Walter Dean Myers**

Steve Harmon is sixteen and he's on trial for murder. Police believe he played lookout for a crime that took place at a local drugstore, wherein the owner was killed. Now waiting his trial, Steve is forced to think about his life as it is, and what it might look like with a prison sentence. Told through Steve's transcription of his trial like a movie would be, Myers's novel digs into tough questions about justice and about himself in a way where there are no easy answers. Readers who love the challenge of Thomas's novel will love this aspect, as much as they'll love having the lines of right and wrong explored in ways which aren't clear-cut.

### ***1984* by George Orwell**

George Orwell describes a dystopian future rife with war and one where the government—led by Big Brother—controls the truth and snuffs out individual thought. The protagonist, Winston Smith, becomes disillusioned with the Party," and he rebels against it. Although it was published in 1949, the novel had a resurgence in 2017.

### ***Anger Is a Gift* by Mark Oshiro**

Moss Jacobs feels trapped in his mind, where he suffers panic attacks after his dad was killed by police. He feels trapped inside the walls of his high school, which feels more like a detention center than a school. When Moss decides to push back against school administration, tragedy strikes. This novel delves deeply into police brutality and systemic racism in a raw and brutal fashion.

### ***When the Emperor Was Divine* by Julie Otsuka**

On a sunny day in Berkeley, California, in 1942, a woman sees a sign in a post office window, returns to her home, and matter-of-factly begins to pack her family's possessions. Like thousands of other Japanese Americans they have been reclassified, virtually overnight, as enemy aliens and are about to be uprooted from their home and sent to a dusty internment camp in the Utah desert.

***The Astonishing Color of After* by Emily X.R. Pan**

Leigh Chen Sanders is absolutely certain about one thing: When her mother died by suicide, she turned into a bird. Leigh, who is half Asian and half white, travels to Taiwan to meet her maternal grandparents for the first time. There, she is determined to find her mother, the bird. In her search, she winds up chasing after ghosts, uncovering family secrets, and forging a new relationship with her grandparents. And as she grieves, she must try to reconcile the fact that on the same day she kissed her best friend and longtime secret crush, Axel, her mother was taking her own life.

***The Field Guide to the North American Teenager* by Ben Philippe**

Norris Kaplan is clever, cynical, and quite possibly too smart for his own good. A Black French Canadian, he knows from watching American sitcoms that those three things don't bode well when you are moving to Austin, Texas... Yet against all odds, those labels soon become actual people to Norris... like loner Liam, who makes it his mission to befriend Norris, or Madison the beta cheerleader, who is so nice that it has to be a trap. Not to mention Aarti the Manic Pixie Dream Girl, who might, in fact, be a real love interest in the making. But the night of the prom, Norris screws everything up royally. As he tries to pick up the pieces, he realizes it might be time to stop hiding behind his snarky opinions and start living his life—along with the people who have found their way into his heart.

***All-American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely**

Teenaged Rashad stops by the convenience store for a bag of chips. Here, a police officer mistakes him for a shoplifter and uses brutal force to subdue Rashad. Rashad's classmate, Quinn, who has been raised by the officer, witnesses the attack. Soon, the local high school is taking sides and Quinn is forced to reckon with what he saw. Two award-winning authors write share the storytelling.

***Miles Morales: Spider-Man* by Jason Reynolds**

...But lately, Miles's spidey-sense has been on the fritz. When a misunderstanding leads to his suspension from school, Miles begins to question his abilities. After all, his dad and uncle were Brooklyn jack-boys with criminal records. Maybe kids like Miles aren't meant to be superheroes. Maybe Miles should take his dad's advice and focus on saving himself. As Miles tries to get his school life back on track, he can't shake the vivid nightmares that continue to haunt him. Nor can he avoid the relentless buzz of his spidey-sense every day in history class, amidst his teacher's lectures on the historical benefits of slavery and the modern-day prison system. But after his scholarship is threatened, Miles uncovers a chilling plot, one that puts his friends, his neighborhood, and himself at risk.

***Juliet Takes a Breath* by Gabby Rivera**

Things are looking up for Juliet Milagros Palante. She's just secured an internship with her favorite feminist writer, Harlowe Brisbane, and she's eager to escape her life in the Bronx, where her family can't accept the fact that she's not straight. But life with Harlowe in Portland, Ore. isn't quite what Juliet hoped it would be, and now she's forced to navigate the minefield that comes with meeting your heroes.

***Eleanor and Park* by Rainbow Rowell**

Eleanor's home is full of abuse and fear but when she meets Park she finds hope and learns to deal with the difficult situations she faces. Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits-smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try. When Eleanor meets Park, you'll remember your own first love-and just how hard it pulled you under.

***Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan**

Esperanza thought she'd always live a privileged life on her family's ranch in Mexico. She'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home filled with servants, and Mama, Papa, and Abuelita to care for her. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard work, financial struggles brought on by the Great Depression, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When Mama gets sick and a strike for better working conditions threatens to uproot their new life, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances-because Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.

***The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger**

The narrator of *The Catcher in the Rye* is an ancient child of sixteen, a native New Yorker named Holden Caulfield. Through circumstances that tend to preclude adult, secondhand description, he leaves his prep school in Pennsylvania and goes underground in New York City for three days. The boy himself is at once too simple and too complex for us to make any final comment about him or his story. Perhaps the safest thing we can say about Holden is that he was born in the world not just strongly attracted to beauty but, almost, hopelessly impaled on it.

***I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika L. Sanchez**

Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college. And they do not move out of their parents' house after high school graduation. Perfect Mexican daughters never *abandon* their family. But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role. Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves When Julia's sister Olga dies in an accident, Julia is left with her sister's perfect shoes to fill. Julia can't possibly live up to her sister's reputation, a fact her mother reminds her of at every possible moment. Julia decides to investigate whether Olga was really as perfect as she seemed.

***Unwind (1)* by Neal Shusterman**

This National Book Award winner tackles themes of free will, consciousness, and trust throughout its gripping story. After the Second Civil War, which had been fought over reproductive rights, three teenagers try to escape being "unwound"—having their organs harvested and distributed to others against their will. Although each comes from a different background, the teenagers band together for survival, learning the true meaning of life on their journey to freedom.

***They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera**

In this novel by Adam Silvera—one of Book Riot’s Best Queer Books of 2017—a company called Death-Cast calls two New York City teens just after midnight with the bad news: This is the day they’re going to die. After meeting through the app Last Friend, Rufus, a bisexual Cuban American, and Mateo, who is of Puerto Rican heritage, spend their End Day together, making their way through the city and becoming friends—and then something more.

***Rain is Not My Indian Name* by Cynthia Leitich Smith**

It’s been six months since her best friend died, and up until now Rain has succeeded in shutting herself off from the world. But when controversy arises around her aunt Georgia’s Indian Camp in their mostly white midwestern community, Rain decides to face the outside world again—at least through the lens of her camera. Hired by her town newspaper to photograph the campers, Rain soon finds that she has to decide how involved she wants to become in Indian Camp. Does she want to keep a professional distance from the intertribal community she belongs to? And just how willing is she to connect with the campers after her great loss?

***Don’t Read the Comments* by Eric Smith**

While Divya trades her rising-star status for sponsorships to help her struggling single mom pay rent, Aaron plays as a way to fuel his own dreams of becoming a game developer – and as a way to disappear when his mom starts talking about medical school. After a chance online meeting, the pair decides to team up – but soon find themselves the targets of a group of internet trolls who begin launching a real-world doxxing campaign, threatening Aaron’s dream and Divya’s actual life. They think they can drive her out of the game, but Divya’s whole world is on the line...And she isn’t going down without a fight.

***Dear Martin* by Nic Stone**

Justyce McAllister is a top-notch student and on his way to the Ivy League. But when a cop arrests him without due cause, none of those accolades matter. It makes him the center of his classmates’ attention yet again, something he so desperately wants to leave behind. Things only get worse when, while out with his friend Manny driving around, an off-duty police officer finds their music offensive. Both words and bullets fly. Through it all, Justyce turns again and again to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to find an answer about how to be the best person he can be and survive his life as it is.

***Marcelo In The Real World* by Francisco X. Stork**

Marcelo Sandoval hears music that nobody else can hear — part of an autism-like condition that no doctor has been able to identify. But his father has never fully believed in the music or Marcelo's differences, and he challenges Marcelo to work in the mailroom of his law firm for the summer . . . to join "the real world." There Marcelo meets Jasmine, his beautiful and surprising coworker, and Wendell, the son of another partner in the firm. He learns about competition and jealousy, anger and desire. But it's a picture he finds in a file, a picture of a girl with half a face, that truly connects him with the real world: its suffering, its injustice, and what he can do to fight.

***Love and First Sight* by Josh Sundquist**

Will is blind, and at 16, this means his life looks a bit different than other teenagers. When he is given the chance to undergo an experimental surgery to give him sight, he takes the chance but soon discovers the sighted world is more complicated than he expected.

***The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas**

Angie Thomas's debut novel was a sensation when it was published in 2017, remaining on *The New York Times* best-seller list for 50 weeks. It centers on the killing of an unarmed black teen by a white police officer, a shooting witnessed by 16-year-old Starr, whose days are split between her black neighborhood and mostly white suburban school. The killing of her friend Khalil drives those two worlds farther apart than ever.

***Piecing Me Together* by Renee Watson**

Jade knows that her ticket to success is getting out of her poor Portland, Oregon, town, and she's been encouraged by her mother to take every opportunity she can get. One of those opportunities comes in the way of a scholarship to attend a private school that is primarily white, and on her first day, she quickly befriends a white girl on the bus. Though she's grateful for the educational opportunity, Jade knows that something is off. She's been invited to take part in a mentorship program that others haven't—it's for "at risk" students—and she's not been invited to take part in a volunteer opportunity abroad that others have and she desperately wants to be part of. Frustrated, Jade wants to ignore the mentor. Even though her mentor is black, no way can she understand Jade's world, her experiences, or understand her deep passion for art. But perhaps that mentorship really is what Jade needs to better see who she is and what she has to offer the world.

***Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein**

Oct. 11th, 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.

***The Sun is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon**

Daniel falls for Natasha on the eve of Natasha's deportation. Daniel, a scientist at heart, sets out to use science to get Natasha to love him back. While the love story is the backbone of the book, there is a real discussion about immigration that takes place here and delves into some real-world issues facing teens today.

***American Street* by Ibi Zoboi**

Fabiola is ready to begin her new life in America with her family and experience everything that she's been led to believe is good. But once they leave their home of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Fabiola's mother is detained by US Immigration and she's left alone to navigate the entire experience alone. She'll have to figure out how to live with her cousins, how to make her way through the tough and gritty streets of Detroit, and more, be away from her mother. But an

interesting opportunity presents itself — and one which might allow her to be with her mother again — and Fabiola must decide what to do

## **MEMOIR/AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

### ***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou***

Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local community. At eight years old and back at her mother's side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns that love for herself, the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors (“I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare”) will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned.

### ***When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir by Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele***

After Trayvon Martin's killer was not convicted, Patrisse Khan-Cullors, Alicia Garza, and Opal Tometi co-founded the Black Lives Matter movement. This book is a call to action to demand accountability in the criminal justice system.

### ***Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High by Melba Pattillo Beals***

In this essential autobiographical account by one of the Civil Rights Movement's most powerful figures, Melba Pattillo Beals of the Little Rock Nine explores not only the oppressive force of racism, but the ability of young people to change ideas of race and identity.

### ***I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives by Martin Ganda and Caitlin Alifirenka***

It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place. Martin was lucky to even receive a pen-pal letter. There were only ten letters, and fifty kids in his class. But he was the top student, so he got the first one. That letter was the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and changed two lives. In this compelling dual memoir, Caitlin and Martin recount how they became best friends -- and better people -- through their long-distance exchange. Their story will inspire you to look beyond your own life and wonder about the world at large and your place in it.

### ***The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore***

Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? Wes Moore, the author of this fascinating book, sets out to answer this profound question. In alternating narratives that take readers from heart-wrenching losses to moments of surprising redemption, *The Other Wes Moore* tells the story of a generation of boys trying to find their way in a hostile world.

***Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood by 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.

***Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card by Sara Saedi***

In this true account, Sara Saedi has lived in the United States since she was two years old, but it is only at age 13 that she discovers her family's undocumented status. Now she has one more fear to add to her list of adolescent worries – being deported! This story grapples with big political issues like immigration and teen issues like acne and unibrows.

***Night by Elie Wiesel***

*Night* is Elie Wiesel's masterpiece, a candid, horrific, and deeply poignant autobiographical account of his survival as a teenager in the Nazi death camps. This new translation by Marion Wiesel, Elie's wife and frequent translator, presents this seminal memoir in the language and spirit truest to the author's original intent. And in a substantive new preface, Elie reflects on the enduring importance of *Night* and his lifelong, passionate dedication to ensuring that the world never forgets man's capacity for inhumanity to man. *Night* offers much more than a litany of the daily terrors, everyday perversions, and rampant sadism at Auschwitz and Buchenwald; it also eloquently addresses many of the philosophical as well as personal questions implicit in any serious consideration of what the Holocaust was, what it meant, and what its legacy is and will be.

***The Autobiography of Malcolm X***

In the searing pages of this classic autobiography, originally published in 1964, Malcolm X, the Muslim leader, firebrand, and anti-integrationist, tells the extraordinary story of his life and the growth of the Black Muslim movement. His fascinating perspective on the lies and limitations of the American Dream, and the inherent racism in a society that denies its nonwhite citizens the opportunity to dream, gives extraordinary insight into the most urgent issues of our own time. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* stands as the definitive statement of a movement and a man whose work was never completed but whose message is timeless. It is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand America.

***I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up For Education and Changed By Malala Yousafzai & Patricia McCormick***

Malala Yousafzai was only ten years old when the Taliban took control of her region. They said music was a crime. They said women weren't allowed to go to the market. They said girls couldn't go to school. Raised in a once-peaceful area of Pakistan transformed by terrorism,

Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes. So she fought for her right to be educated. And on October 9, 2012, she nearly lost her life for the cause: She was shot point-blank while riding the bus on her way home from school. No one expected her to survive. Now Malala is an international symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize winner. In this Young Readers Edition of her bestselling memoir, which has been reimagined specifically for a younger audience and includes exclusive photos and material, we hear firsthand the remarkable story of a girl who knew from a young age that she wanted to change the world -- and did.

## **NONFICTION**

### ***Yes She Can: 10 Stories of Hope & Change from Young Female Staffers of the Obama White House* compiled by Molly Dillon**

*Yes She Can* is an intimate look at Obama's presidency through the eyes of some of the most successful, and completely relatable, young women who were there. Full of wisdom they wish they could impart to their younger selves and a message about the need for more girls in government, these recollections are about stepping out into the spotlight and up to the challenge--something every girl can do. With contributions from Jenna Brayton, Eleanor Celeste, Nita Contreras, Kalisha Dessources Figures, Molly Dillon, Andrea R. Flores, Vivian P. Graubard, Noemie C. Levy, Taylor Lustig, and Jaimie Woo.

### ***Hidden Messages in Water* by Masaru Emoto (trans. David A. Thayne)**

In this *New York Times* bestseller, internationally renowned Japanese scientist Masaru Emoto shows how the influence of our thoughts, words and feelings on molecules of water can positively impact the earth and our personal health.

### ***A Hope More Powerful Than the Sea* by Melissa Fleming**

*A Hope More Powerful Than the Sea* chronicles the life of Doaa, a Syrian girl whose life was upended in 2011 by the onset of her country's brutal civil war. Doaa and her fiance, Bassem, decide to flee to Europe to seek safety and an education, but four days after setting sail on a smuggler's dilapidated fishing vessel along with five hundred other refugees, their boat is struck and begins to sink. This is the moment when Doaa's struggle for survival really begins.

### ***The Truths We Hold: An American Journey* by Vice President, Kamala Harris**

By reckoning with the big challenges we face together, drawing on the hard-won wisdom and insight from her own career and the work of those who have most inspired her, Kamala Harris offers in *The Truths We Hold* a master class in problem solving, in crisis management, and leadership in challenging times. Through the arc of her own life, on into the great work of our day, she communicates a vision of shared struggle, shared purpose, and shared values. In a book rich in many home truths, not least is that a relatively small number of people work very hard to convince a great many of us that we have less in common than we actually do, but it falls to us to look past them and get on with the good work of living our common truth. When we do, our shared effort will continue to sustain us and this great nation, now and in the years to come.

***Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning* by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds**

Adapted from the groundbreaking bestseller *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*, this book takes readers on a journey from present to past and back again. Kids will discover where racist ideas came from, identify how they impact America today, and meet those who have fought racism with antiracism. Along the way, they'll learn how to identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their own lives. Ibram X. Kendi's research, Jason Reynolds's and Sonja Cherry-Paul's writing, and Rachelle Baker's art come together in this vital read, enhanced with a glossary, timeline, and more.

***The Far Away Brothers: Two Young Migrants and the Making of an American* by Lauren Markham**

Growing up in rural El Salvador in the wake of the civil war, the United States was a distant fantasy to identical twins Ernesto and Raul Flores—until, at age seventeen, a deadly threat from the region's brutal gangs forces them to flee the only home they've ever known. In this urgent chronicle of contemporary immigration, journalist Lauren Markham follows the Flores twins as they make their way across the Rio Grande and the Texas desert, into the hands of immigration authorities, and from there to their estranged older brother in Oakland, CA. Soon these unaccompanied minors are navigating school in a new language, working to pay down their mounting coyote debt, and facing their day in immigration court, while also encountering the triumphs and pitfalls of teenage life with only each other for support. With intimate access and breathtaking range, Markham offers an unforgettable testament to the migrant experience.

***A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park**

*A Long Walk to Water* begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way. Includes an afterword by author Linda Sue Park and the real-life Salva Dut, on whom the novel is based, and who went on to found Water for South Sudan.

***Hidden Figures Young Readers Edition* by Margot Lee Shetterly**

Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden were NASA's human computers tasked with performing the difficult mathematical calculations needed to launch rockets into space. In spite of this intensely important work, the black women rarely received the respect they deserved. The civil rights movement and the gender equity movement are both highlighted in this remarkable nonfiction work.

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot**

Henrietta Lacks, a Black, poor tobacco farmer, has her cells taken from her during a routine medical procedure without her knowledge. These cells, due to their ability to reproduce forever,

become a major medical breakthrough, launching a multi-million dollar industry, yet Henrietta's family has seen no profits from these cells.

***Just Mercy: A True Story of the Fight for Justice (Adapted for Young Adults)* by Bryan Stevenson**

Stevenson's story is one of working to protect basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society--the poor, the wrongly convicted, and those whose lives have been marked by discrimination and marginalization. Through this adaptation, young people of today will find themselves called to action and compassion in the pursuit of justice. A portion of the proceeds of this book will go to charity to help in Stevenson's important work to benefit the voiceless and the vulnerable as they attempt to navigate the broken U.S. justice system.