

H AISLN RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2023
Grade 11 and Grade 12

All book summaries are provided by the publisher or written by committee members.

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Acevedo, Elizabeth. ***With the Fire on High***. HarperTeen, 2019. Teen mother Emoni Santiago struggles with the challenges of finishing high school and her dream of working as a chef. *Realistic fiction*
- Allen, Sarah Addison. ***Other Birds***. St. Martin's Press, 2022. When Zoey comes to claim her deceased mother's apartment on Mallow Island, she meets her quirky and secretive neighbors, including a girl on the run, two estranged middle-aged sisters, a lonely chef, a legendary writer, and three ghosts. *Realistic fiction*
- Anderson, Natalie G. ***City of Saints & Thieves***. Putnam's, 2017. An exciting thriller that takes place in Kenya and follows Tina, a Congolese refugee, as she takes care of her little sister and plots revenge on the man who killed her mother. *Mystery*
- Arden, Katherine. ***The Bear and the Nightingale***. Del Rey, 2017. After Vasilisa's new stepmother forbids her family from honoring the household spirits at the edge of the wilderness in medieval Russia, misfortune stalks the village and evil creatures of the forest creep nearer. *Fantasy, series*
- Backman, Fredrik, translated by Neil Smith. ***Beartown***. Atria Books, 2016. Beartown gets smaller each year, but the townspeople believe that winning the hockey national semi-finals will breathe life back into the dying town. When faced with a violent scandal committed by one of their own, courage and honor will be tested, and the town's response will determine the fate of Beartown. *Realistic fiction, series*
- Bardugo, Leigh. ***Six of Crows***. Holt, 2015. Six outcasts sign up for a dangerous heist that will not only fill their pockets but also save the world from its current path towards darkness and destruction. Each of these characters has a story to tell, but can they unite long enough to complete the mission? *Fantasy, series*
- Bauermeister, Erica. ***The Scent Keeper***. St. Martin's Press, 2020. Growing up on a small island that only she and her father inhabit, Emmeline longs to understand the mysterious scents her father has stored in the little drawers lining the cabin walls. After her father's sudden death, Emmeline must learn to live in the real world and face secrets from her father's past. *Realistic fiction*
- Bennett, Brit. ***The Vanishing Half***. Riverhead Books, 2020. The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different, it's everything. Ten years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, their fates remain intertwined. *Historical fiction*

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- Boulley, Angeline. ***Firekeeper's Daughter***. Holt, 2021. Daunis, who is part Ojibwe, puts her college dreams on hold at the University of Michigan to care for her mother and reluctantly becomes involved in the investigation of a series of drug-related deaths. *American Indian Youth Award 2022, Printz Award 2022, William C Morris Award 2022, Mystery*
- Brown, Dan. ***Origin***. Doubleday, 2017. Professor Robert Langdon teams up with the director of the Guggenheim Bilbao and together they race across Spain, eluding mysterious men trying to kill them, in search of Langdon's former friend and futurist Edmond Kirsch's answers to mankind's most perplexing questions. *Mystery, series*
- Carey, M. R. ***The Girl with All the Gifts***. Orbit, 2015. Not every gift is a blessing. Every morning, Melanie waits in her cell to be collected for class. When they come for her, Sergeant Parks keeps his gun pointed at her while two of his people strap her into the wheelchair. She thinks they don't like her. She jokes that she won't bite. But they don't laugh. Melanie is a very special girl. *Horror, series*
- Choo, Yangsze. ***The Night Tiger***. Flatiron, 2019. In 1930s Malaysia, a plucky dance-hall girl longing for adventure and a young houseboy seeking to fulfill his dead master's dying wish cross paths over the discovery of a severed finger that is shrouded in Chinese superstition and that may be connected to a series of grisly "tiger" attacks. *Historical fiction*
- Coates, Ta-Nehisi. ***The Water Dancer***. Random House, 2019. Hiram Walker lost his mother and all memory of her when he was a child, but he is gifted with a mysterious power. Hiram almost drowns but is saved from the depths by a force, a blue light that lifts him up and lands him a mile away. So begins an unexpected journey into the covert war on slavery that takes Hiram from the corrupt grandeur of Virginia's plantations to desperate guerrilla cells in the wilderness, from the coffin of the deep South to dangerously idealistic movements in the North. *Historical fiction*
- Contreras, Ingrid Rojas. ***Fruit of the Drunken Tree***. Doubleday, 2018. Two girls, one rich and one the maid of the rich girl's family, become friends despite their backgrounds and the violence that surrounds them in Colombia during the 1990s. *Historical fiction*
- Crane, Rebekah. ***The Upside of Falling Down***. Skyscape, 2018. Struggling with amnesia after surviving a plane crash, Clementine Haas escapes from the hospital where her father sits in the waiting room. She decides to abandon her old identity and hide out in the sleepy town of Waterville, Ireland, as she searches for herself in the company of Kieran O'Connell. *Realistic fiction*
- Deonn, Tracy. ***Legendborn***. McElderry Books, 2020. To discover the truth behind her mother's mysterious death, a teen girl infiltrates a magical secret society that claims, the Legendborn, to be the descendants of King Arthur and his knights. *Coretta Scott King-John Steptoe Award for New Talent 2021, Ignyte Award-Young*

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Adult-Best Novel 2021, NCETA Ragan-Rubin Award for Literary Achievement 2021, Fantasy

- Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee. ***Before We Visit the Goddess***. Simon & Schuster, 2016. Life choices around love are powerful ones that have the potential to alter lives dramatically. Three generations of Indian mothers and daughters share their interconnected stories, even if they are themselves separated by thousands of miles. *Historical fiction*
- Doerr, Anthony. ***All the Light We Cannot See***. Scribner, 2014. The paths of a blind French girl and a young Nazi soldier collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. *Alex Award 2015, National Book Award for Fiction 2014, Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2015, Historical fiction*
- Duckworth, Angela. ***Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance***. Scribner, 2016. Part of success and achievement is finding and keeping the determination and resilience to move forward and meet goals in all aspects of life. The author offers examples, interviews, and guidance for students, teachers, and other professionals. *Nonfiction*
- Durand, Élodie. ***Parenthesis***. Top Shelf Productions, 2021. A triumphant graphic memoir, *Parenthesis* narrates the author's experience with tumor-related epilepsy—losing herself, and finding herself again. *Graphic novel*
- Eberhardt, Jennifer L. ***Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do***. Viking, 2019. A scientific, investigative, and personal look at bias in different aspects of our lives and what we can do about it. *Nonfiction*
- Finlay, Adrienne. ***Your One and Only***. Houghton Mifflin, 2018. In a perfect world where only clones exist after humanity and human imperfections have died off, Jack, the only genuine human in existence, longs for acceptance. *Science fiction*
- Fink, Joseph, and Jeffrey Cranor. ***It Devours!: A Welcome to Night Vale Novel***. HarperCollins, 2017. Set in the peculiar town of Night Vale, scientist Nilanjana Sikdar is forced to put logic on the backburner when she investigates a mysterious rumbling in the desert. *Fantasy, series*
- Garmus, Bonnie. ***Lessons in Chemistry***. Doubleday, 2022. Elizabeth Zott is not the average woman of the 1960's, she's a chemist who ends up hosting her own cooking show, where her unusual approach to cooking and her independent streak teaches women to shake up a lot more in their life than just their recipes. *Historical Fiction, Humor*
- Grann, David. ***Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI***. Doubleday, 2016. Presents a true account of the early twentieth-century murders of dozens of wealthy Osage and law-enforcement officials, citing the contributions and missteps of a fledgling FBI that eventually uncovered one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history. *Nonfiction*

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- Green, John. ***Turtles All the Way Down***. Dutton, 2017. Aza deals with anxiety and invasive thoughts that make living a normal life a struggle. She must learn to control her thoughts if she is going to help solve the mysterious disappearance of billionaire Russell Pickett. *Realistic fiction*
- Haig, Matt. ***Midnight Library***. Viking, 2020. Nora Seed finds herself faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one, following a different career, undoing old breakups, realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist; she must search within herself as she travels through the Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place. *Fantasy*
- Hannah, Kristin. ***The Great Alone***. St. Martin's Press, 2018. In Alaska during the 1970s, teenager Leni observes her parents cope with her father's PTSD and its effect on their relationship. As the family struggles to survive the brutal cold and dark landscape, Leni falls in love, discovers a supportive community, and copes with her difficult family dynamics. *Historical fiction*
- Harmel, Kristin. ***The Book of Lost Names***. Gallery Books, 2020. A historical novel about a young woman with a talent for forgery who helps hundreds of Jewish children flee the Nazis. Inspired by a true story from World War II. *Historical fiction*
- Heller, Peter. ***The River***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2019. An idyllic summer canoe trip down a Canadian river turns into a race for survival after a wildfire is spotted, the two young men overhear a violent argument in the woods, and the woman they overhear arguing goes missing. *Adventure fiction*
- Hoffman, Alice. ***The Marriage of Opposites***. Simon & Schuster, 2015. Fleeing from the Spanish Inquisition, Rachel's family finds a small Jewish community on the tropical island of St. Thomas to call home. This magical story is based on the extraordinary life of Rachel Pissarro who gave birth to Camille Pissarro, famous painter and father of Impressionism. *Historical fiction*
- Ishiguro, Kazuo. ***Klara and the Sun***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2021. Here is the story of Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, who, from her place in the store, watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her. *Klara and the Sun* offers a look at our changing world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator, and one that explores the fundamental question: what does it mean to love? *Science fiction, realistic fiction*
- Jiles, Paulette. ***News of the World***. William Morrow, 2016. After the Civil War, an older man who makes his living travelling around North Texas reading newspapers aloud, agrees to take a young white girl who was kidnapped and raised by Indians on a 400-mile journey from Wichita Falls back to her family in San Antonio. *Historical fiction*
- Kelly, Martha Hall. ***Lilac Girls***. Ballantine Books, 2016. Three women - a New York socialite charity worker, a Nazi doctor, and a "Ravensbruck Rabbit" survivor of

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medical experiments in the concentration camp - search for justice, peace, or a new life after World War II. *Historical fiction*

Kelly, Scott. ***Endurance: A Year in Space, a Lifetime of Discovery***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2017. Astronaut Scott Kelly describes how he overcame early obstacles through hard work and perseverance to find himself living and working on board the International Space Station during an amazing year of science and self-reflection. *Nonfiction*

King, A. S. ***Still Life with Tornado***. Dutton, 2016. Sarah's life changes the day her art teacher says that there are no more original ideas. She begins roaming the streets of Philadelphia and stops seeing the point of things like going to school or brushing her hair. As the traumatic events that led to Sarah's existential crisis are revealed, she begins to heal. *Realistic fiction*

Krueger, William Kent. ***This Tender Land***. Atria Books, 2019. Four orphans flee from heartless, ruthless caretakers and travel down the Gilead River in a canoe during the Great Depression in search of self and home. *Historical fiction*

Larbalestier, Justine. ***My Sister Rosa***. Soho Teen, 2016. When his father's business takes the family to New York City, a seventeen-year-old Australian boy must balance his desire to protect his ten-year-old sister, a diagnosable psychopath, from the world with the desperate need to protect the world from her. *Horror*

Larson, Erik. ***Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania***. Crown, 2015. With a false sense of security, the luxury ocean liner sailed on May 1, 1915, during World War I. The author tells the story of the many individuals who lost their lives or played a part in this famous maritime disaster involving an enemy torpedo. The story also offers a glimpse of the Progressive Era in the United States. *Nonfiction*

Lee, Mackenzi. ***The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue***. HarperCollins, 2017. Henry "Monty" Montague takes off on a wild and memorable trip across Europe with his closest friend and crush, Percy. *Historical fiction, series*

Lehmann, Kat. ***Small Stones from the River: Meditations and Micropoems***. 29 Trees, 2017. Includes 180 original micropoems, haikus, tanka, and short prose entries that reflect on the beauty and wondrous nature of life. *Poetry*

Liggett, Kim. ***The Grace Year***. Wednesday Books, 2019. Tierney James dreams of a better life—but as her own grace year draws near, she quickly realizes that there's more to fear about the grace year than the brutal elements and the poachers in the woods. *Science fiction, dystopian*

Limón, Ada. ***Bright Dead Things***. Milkweed Editions, 2015. *Bright Dead Things* examines the chaos that is life, the dangerous thrill of living in a world you know you have to leave one day, and the search to find something that is disorderly, and marvelous. *Poetry*

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- Liu, Cixin, translated by Ken Liu. ***The Three-Body Problem***. Tor Books, 2014. At the height of the Chinese Cultural Revolution, a young scientist sends a signal to an alien world knowing it will lead an invasion force to Earth and end the human race. Forty years later, humanity's first chance to avert destruction emerges. *Science fiction Hugo Award 2015, series*
- Lockhart, E. ***Genuine Fraud***. Delacorte, 2017. Jule is on the run and hiding out in a resort in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Her story is told in reverse with unpredictable twists that will keep readers guessing until the very end. *Mystery*
- Luceno, James. ***Star Wars, Catalyst: A Rogue One Novel***. Del Rey, 2016. If completed, the secret Death Star project promises to change the balance of power in the galaxy, and Director Orson Krennic knows that the key to finishing the deadly superweapon lies with the brilliant scientist Galen Erso. Weaving a web of deception around Galen and his family, Krennic is determined to ensnare the scientist to ensure the completion of the Death Star and to make his own political fortune, no matter the cost to the galaxy itself. *Science fiction, series*
- Marrs, John. ***The Passengers***. Berkley, 2019. Just as self-driving cars become the trusted, safer norm, eight people find themselves in a terrifying situation. Suddenly the doors lock, the cars have been completely taken over, and a mysterious voice informs them they are being driven to their death. Their panic is being broadcast to millions around the world while the mysterious voice calls on the public to decide which person to save. *Mystery*
- Mastai, Elan. ***All Our Wrong Todays***. Dutton, 2017. In a twist of fate, Tom Barren travels from a utopian society to a dystopian wasteland. Will he go back to the idealistic world he came from or stay in the alternate reality that finally feels like home? *Science fiction*
- Mathieu, Jennifer. ***Moxie***. Roaring Brook, 2017. In a small Texas town where high school football reigns supreme, sixteen-year-old Viv starts a feminist revolution using anonymously written zines. *Realistic fiction*
- McBride, Laura. ***We Are Called to Rise: A Novel***. Simon & Schuster, 2014. This debut novel is set in Las Vegas and told from four alternating perspectives that come together suddenly and explosively. At its heart, it's a story about the power of human resilience and how even in the darkest and most hopeless moments, people can rise, help each other, redeem themselves, and ultimately heal. *Realistic fiction*
- McClellan, Brian. ***Promise of Blood***. Orbit, 2014. The Age of Kings has ended in a bloody coup. Field Marshal Tamas' determination to end rule by corrupt aristocrats may have brought relief to the oppressed citizens of Ardo, but threats quickly arise from inside and outside the nation. More worryingly, whispers have begun to circulate about gods walking the earth amid omens of death and destruction, and Tamas has only his own estranged son, Taniel, and Adamant, a retired police inspector, on whom to rely. *Fantasy, series*

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- McCrina, Amanda. **Traitor**. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2020. In the bloody ethnic fighting between Poles and Ukrainians during World War II that has claimed the lives of almost all of Tolya's loved ones, it's almost impossible for him to know who to believe in and even harder for him to know who to trust. *Historical fiction*
- McCullough, David. **The Wright Brothers**. Simon & Schuster, 2015. An award-winning historian helps us understand the lives of these two modest men as they journey from bike shop to aviation history. *Nonfiction*
- McGee, Katharine. **The Thousandth Floor**. HarperCollins, 2016. From the top of a towering skyscraper in New York City a hundred years in the future, someone falls to their death. The flashback follows five teens through the events that led to that fateful event in this first book of a page-turning trilogy. *Science fiction, series*
- McLain, Paula. **Circling the Sun**. Ballantine Books, 2015. This novel is based on the life of Beryl Markham, who grew up training horses on her father's ranch in Nairobi, Africa, in the 1920s. She led a full and sometimes difficult life, befriending Karen Blixen and Denys Finch Hatton from *Out of Africa* fame. Being a strong woman for her times, Beryl's relationships were complicated, but her passion for flying was ignited by the friendships she made. *Historical fiction*
- McManus, Karen M. **One of Us is Lying**. Delacorte, 2017. A modern-day Breakfast Club in which four students become murder suspects when the ruthless high school gossip blogger dies mysteriously in detention; they were the only ones in the room and everyone wants to know...who killed Simon Kelleher? *Mystery, series*
- Miller, Madeline. **Circe**. Little, Brown, 2018. This is the intimate story of Circe, daughter of the sun god Helios, who could transform her enemies into wild beasts and was banished by Zeus to a deserted island, as she crosses paths with several famous mythological figures such as Odysseus, Daedalus, Icarus, Athena, and the Minotaur. *Fantasy*
- Miranda, Lin-Manuel, and Jeremy McCarter. **Hamilton: The Revolution**. Grand Central, 2016. Includes the complete libretto of the Broadway musical with a true account of its creation and concise remarks on hip-hop, the power of stories, and the new America. *Musical*
- Miranda, Megan. **The Last Guest House**. Simon & Schuster, 2019. A suspenseful novel about an idyllic town in Maine dealing with the suspicious death of one of their own--and her best "summer" friend, who is trying to uncover the truth...before fingers point her way. *Mystery*
- Moreno-Garcia, Silvia. **Mexican Gothic**. Del Ray, 2020. A darkly enchanting reimagining of Gothic fantasy in which a spirited young woman discovers the haunting secrets of a beautiful old mansion in 1950s Mexico. *Horror*
- Munroe, Randall. **What If?: Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions**. Houghton Mifflin, 2014. Have you ever wondered how high a human

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can throw something or what would happen if lightning struck a bullet in midair? Using stick-figure drawings, Munroe answers these and other bizarre questions submitted by readers of his web comic. *Nonfiction*

Nelson, Jandy. ***I'll Give You the Sun***. Dial Books, 2014. A story of first love, family secrets, loss, and betrayal told from different points in time and in separate voices, by artists Jude and her gay twin brother, Noah. *Printz Award 2015, realistic fiction*

Nezhukumatathil, Aimee. ***World of Wonders: In Praise of Whale Sharks, Fireflies, and Other Astonishments***. Milkweed Editions, 2020. A collection of essays by an award-winning poet on the natural world and how it can teach and inspire us all. *Nonfiction*

Niven, Jennifer. ***All the Bright Places***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2015. When Theodore Finch and Violet Markey meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school, both teetering on the edge, it's the beginning of an unlikely relationship, a journey to discover the "natural wonders" of the state of Indiana, and two teens' desperate desire to heal and save one another. *Realistic fiction*

Noah, Trevor. ***Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood***. Spiegel & Grau, 2015. Born the son of a Swiss white father and a black Xhosa mother during South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor Noah's existence is forbidden and punishable by law. Noah's remarkable story is told with an honesty that is refreshing, moving, and laugh out loud funny. *Nonfiction*

O'Farrell, Maggie. ***The Marriage Portrait: A Novel***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2022. A novel set in Renaissance Italy, and centering on the captivating young duchess Lucrezia de' Medici. *Historical Fiction*

Owens, Delia. ***Where the Crawdads Sing***. Putnam's, 2018. Abandoned at the age of ten, Kya, known as "the marsh girl," learns to take care of herself as she carefully studies the beloved wildlife that surrounds her. Two young men are attracted to her wild beauty when she is older, and when one of them is found dead, the locals automatically suspect Kya in this beautifully written coming-of-age story entwined with mystery. *Historical fiction*

Padua, Sydney. ***The Thrilling Adventures of Lovelace and Babbage: The (Mostly) True Story of the First Computer***. Pantheon, 2015. A delightful and fascinating story about friendship, the first computer, and how different the world would be if the mathematician duo responsible for creating the first computer would have created the Difference Engine instead. *Graphic novel*

Perkins, Stephanie, ed. ***Summer Days and Summer Nights: Twelve Love Stories***. St. Martin's Griffin, 2016. A diverse short story collection that has a little something for everyone. Don't let the cover fool you, these stories take a more realistic look at love. *Short story collection*

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- Philippe, Ben. ***The Field Guide to the North American Teenager***. Balzer + Bray, 2019. When Norris, a Black French Canadian, starts his junior year at an Austin, Texas, high school, he views his fellow students as clichés from "a bad 90s teen movie." *Morris Award, realistic fiction*
- Quinn, Kate. ***The Rose Code***. William Morrow, 2021. Joining the elite Bletchley Park code breaking team during World War II, three women from very different walks of life uncover a spy's dangerous agenda years later against the backdrop of the royal wedding of Elizabeth and Philip. *Alex Award List 2022, Historical fiction*
- Richardson, Kim Michele. ***The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek***. Sourcebooks, 2019. Cussy's story is set in the Appalachian Mountains in the 1930s and is inspired by the true lives of the blue-skinned people of Kentucky. With courage and determination, she sets out on her pack mule to deliver books and hope to families who desperately need both. *Historical fiction*
- Roe, Robin. ***A List of Cages***. Hyperion, 2017. Adam, a high school senior, rescues Julian, a freshman who happens to be his former foster brother, from an abusive situation. *Realistic fiction*
- Ruby, Laura. ***Bone Gap***. Balzer + Bray, 2015. Eighteen-year-old Finn, an outsider in his quiet Midwestern town, is the only witness to the abduction of town favorite Roza. 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. *Printz Award 2016, realistic fiction, magical realism*
- Schneider, Robyn. ***The Beginning of Everything***. Katherine Tegen, 2013. Star athlete and prom king Ezra Faulkner's life is irreparably transformed by a tragic accident and the arrival of eccentric new girl Cassidy Thorpe. *Realistic fiction*
- Schwab, V. E. ***Invisible Life of Addie LaRue***. Tor Books, 2020. Making a Faustian bargain to live forever but never be remembered, a woman from early eighteenth-century France endures unacknowledged. 300 years later she meets a man in a hidden bookstore who remembers her name. *Fantasy*
- See, Lisa. ***The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane***. Scribner, 2017. Three generations of women living in rural China adapt to life in the 20th century. Li-yan leaves a part of herself there as she embarks on a career as a businesswoman and tea expert but finds more of "home" in the USA than she ever expected. *Historical fiction*
- Shetterly, Margot Lee. ***Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race***. William Morrow, 2016. The phenomenal true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA at the leading edge of the feminist and civil rights movements whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space. *Nonfiction*
- Shusterman, Neal and Jared Shusterman. ***Dry***. Simon & Schuster, 2018. A lengthy California drought escalates to catastrophic proportions, turning Alyssa's quiet

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suburban street into a war zone, and she is forced to make impossible choices if she and her brother are to survive. *Science fiction, dystopian, survival, adventure*

Stamper, Vesper. ***A Cloud of Outrageous Blue***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2020. When Edyth loses everything in an instant, she is sent to live in the priory where she bumps into a boy from her past and learns to navigate her new life while falling in love during the Great Plague of 1348. *Magical realism, historical fiction*

Stanley, Shalanda. ***Drowning is Inevitable***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2015. After seventeen-year-old Olivia and her friend Jamie accidentally kill Jamie's abusive father, two other friends, Max and Maggie, join them in running away from St. Francisville, Louisiana, to hide out in New Orleans while they try to figure out what to do next. *Realistic fiction*

Stanton, Doug. ***12 Strong: The Declassified True Story of the Horse Soldiers***. Scribner, 2017. Immediately after 9/11, a small unit of the elite Special Forces is sent to Afghanistan to defeat the Taliban—using horses rather than tanks. *Nonfiction*

Thomas, Angie. ***The Hate U Give***. Balzer + Bray, 2017. African-American, sixteen-year-old Starr sees her unarmed childhood friend Khalil gunned down by a police officer. As protesters take to the streets defending Khalil and condemning police brutality, Starr is torn between her poor urban neighborhood and her affluent suburban private school worlds. Starr must decide if she speaks to what she saw or if she stays silent; neither choice is easy. *Morris Award 2018, realistic fiction*

Towles, Amor. ***A Gentleman in Moscow***. Viking, 2016. Count Rostov is placed on house arrest in 1922 by the Bolsheviks in the Hotel Metropol in Moscow. The hotel provides the setting for the count to encounter an array of characters propelling a mystery, a love story, and a father-daughter tale. *Historical fiction*

Turton, Stuart. ***The 7½ Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle***. Sourcebooks, 2018. Every day Aiden wakes up in a different body on the day of a large party where Evelyn Hardcastle will die at the end of the night. Every day is a new chance to save her, but each host has unique ways of preventing him from solving the mystery. *Costa Book Award, mystery*

Weir, Andy. ***Project Hail Mary: A Novel***. Ballantine Books, 2021. In the near future, while the earth's sun is dimming at an alarming rate, high school science teacher Ryland Grace wakes up alone on a spacecraft millions of miles away from home and tries to save humankind with the help of an unexpected ally in this exhilarating thrill ride of a novel. *Science fiction*

Westover, Tara. ***Educated: A Memoir***. Random House, 2018. Growing up in Idaho in a Mormon survivalist family who values hard work over public education, the author shares stories about her non-traditional family life. With a desire to attend college, Ms. Westover prepares herself independently for entrance exams in order to enroll in Brigham Young and eventually Cambridge for a PhD. *Alex Award 2019, nonfiction*

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- Womack, Gwendolyn. ***The Memory Painter***. Picador, 2015. When Linz Jacobs stumbles across a painting that depicts her reoccurring nightmare, she tracks down artist Bryan Pierce and finds that his creations are inspired by vivid dreams; their meeting sparks Bryan’s most important dream yet. *Fantasy, science fiction, historical fiction*
- Wynne-Jones, Tim. ***The Emperor of Any Place***. Candlewick, 2015. When Evan's father dies suddenly, Evan finds a hand-bound yellow book on his desk—a book his dad had been reading when he passed away. The book is the diary of a Japanese soldier stranded on a small Pacific Island in WWII. Why was his father reading it? What is in this account that Evan's grandfather, whom Evan has never met, fears so much that he will do anything to prevent its being seen? And what could this possibly mean for Evan? *Historical fiction*
- Yang, Gene Luen. ***Boxers***. First Second, 2013. Volume one of ***Boxers & Saints*** tells the first side of a parallel story. Little Bao harnesses the powers of ancient Chinese gods to fight against the foreign Christian missionaries that bully and rob the Chinese peasants. *LA Times Book Prize, graphic novel*
- Yang, Gene Luen. ***Saints***. First Second, 2013. Volume two of ***Boxers & Saints*** tells the other side of a parallel story. Vibiana is an unwanted fourth daughter who finds friendship and a home with the Christian missionaries just as the Boxer Rebellion rises. *LA Times Book Prize, graphic novel*
- Yoon, Daniel. ***Frankly in Love***. Putnam, 2019. When high school senior Frank Li creates a fool-proof plan to “fake date” a fellow Korean American in order to actually date a girl his parents won’t accept, all does not go smoothly as he comes to question everything he knows about love, his family, and himself. *Realistic fiction*
- Zentner, Jeff. ***Goodbye Days***. Crown, 2017. “Where are you guys? Text me back.” Carver did not know his text would be the last text his three best friends would see. He blames himself for the accident. As Carver deals with his own grief, his friend’s grandmother requests that he spend a “goodbye day” with her to share memories and say a proper farewell to her grandson. Carver questions if he is mentally ready for a “goodbye day” as other families begin asking for one too. *Realistic fiction*
- Zusak, Markus. ***Bridge of Clay***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2018. Full of imagery, symbolism and descriptive language, Zusak crafts a story about five Australian brothers, various pets, their parents, and a bridge. The many themes of the novel revolve around loss, grief, family, journey, and redemption. *Realistic fiction*

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Erica DiBella, *St. John's School*

Elizabeth Dronet, *St. John XXIII College Preparatory*

Kate Hall, *Episcopal High School*

Pam Hill (Chair), *The John Cooper School*

Daisy Ngo, *The Kinkaid School*

Josephine Stringer, *Houston Christian School*

Suzanne Webb, *St. John's School*

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