



2019 Best Fiction for Young Adults Grades 9-12 Suggested Summer Reading List

Dear Parents, Guardians, and students,

This year, the HHS English Department invites you to choose a reading from our list below. It was compiled with the help of our Johnson Public Library, our own Librarian, and includes some teacher picks. There is no assignment, nothing due, no papers to submit for grading. We just want you to find a title you like and read. This article from [Atlanticteen](#) offers 5 reasons why you should spend some time reading this summer and every summer! Also, if you would like to keep a log of your reading and share it with your teacher for an extra credit, please complete the [Cornell Notes Template for each chapter of your Book](#).

Acevedo, Elizabeth. **The Poet X**. Xiomara Batista struggles with, well, most things in her life- her mother, her twin, and her place in the Catholic church. In the past, she's used her fists to solve problems, as well as secretly writing poetry, but now it may be time to use those poems to fight back.

Adeyemi, Tomi. **Children of Blood and Bone** Eleven years ago, magic was lost and Maji, Diviners blessed by the gods, were killed by the King, including Zelig's mother a once great Reaper. Now Zelig, with the help of her brother Tzain and the rogue princess Amari, must restore magic to Orisha before it is lost forever.

Albertalli, Becky & Silvera, Adam. **What if It's Us**. After the universe brings Arthur and Ben together outside the post office, neither make a move and both leave wondering if they missed a chance at love. What if they were meant to be?

Barker, Michelle. **The House of One Thousand Eyes**. When Lena's subversive uncle disappears without a trace in Communist East Berlin, she risks everything to find out what happened to him in this immersive historical mystery. Rife with well-crafted suspense and chilling period detail, this thrilling story will appeal to fans of dystopias and historical fiction alike.

Barter, Catherine. **Troublemakers**. Amid an ongoing bomb threat in East London, Alena starts asking questions about her mother, who died when she was a baby. When her questions are met with frustrating silence and dead-ends everywhere she looks, she becomes determined to uncover the truth behind her mother's activist past.

Black, Holly. **The Cruel Prince** Violently taken from her human home, Jude has struggled to navigate the dark world of the Fae. Jaded from years of being viewed as inferior for being human, she publicly challenges the wicked Prince Cardan and his friends, unleashing the prince's wrath upon her and her sisters.

Blake, Ashley Herring. **Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World**. After Ivy's home is destroyed in a tornado, not only does she have to rebuild her home with her family, but also grapple with romantic feelings for a girl and the missing notebook with drawings depicting those feelings.

Blake, Ashley Herring. **Girl Made of Stars** After her twin brother is accused of rape by one of her best friends, high school junior Mara must grapple with her feelings about the who to believe, while reliving a similar incident of her own.

Bliss, Bryan. **We'll Fly Away**. As kids Luke and Toby dreamed of escaping their lives of poverty and abuse in a rusty crop-dusting plane they discovered and spent a summer mending. Now Luke writes hopeless letters to Toby from death row where he awaits a fate from which there is no escape.

Caletti, Deb. **A Heart in a Body in the World** After a traumatic incident, Annabelle manages to finish her senior year with the support of her friends and family and the comfort of routine: school, work, cross-country. One night, she reaches her breaking point and she begins to run - across the US. Along the way she becomes a reluctant activist.

Clayton, Dhonielle. **The Belles**. In the opulent world of Orleans, Belles possess the power to restore beauty to its cursed citizens. Camille covets the honor of being named the Queen's favorite Belle, but she soon discovers that a darkness lurks beneath Orleans' veneer of beauty, and that her position comes at a steep price.

Daud, Somaiya. **Mirage**. Under a brutal regime, Amani reads poems and dreams of a normal life. Until she is kidnapped and chosen as a body double for the ruling class's princess.

Fleming, Candace (et al). **Fatal Throne: The Wives of Henry VIII Tell All**. Six women would forever be changed by Henry the VIII's ruthless ambition. Each of them must navigate Henry's unpredictable nature, the political machinations of his court, and their own feelings concerning motherhood. Seven authors tell the story of each wife, interjecting Henry's own interpretation of the events.

Flores-Scott, Patrick. **American Road Trip**. Teodoro's family is sinking fast: his father lost his job, his brother returned from Iraq with PTSD, and his parents are struggling to cope. T's sister spirits her siblings away on a road trip, taking them to reconnect with family, to heal and to find a way forward.

Gilbert, Kelly Loy. **Picture Us in the Light** Danny knows his future holds a scholarship and a career as an artist. However, he doesn't know how his best friend will fit into that future, or why his father lost his job. When he starts digging into his parents' past, Danny discovers secrets that threaten his family and future.

Grimes, Nikki. **Between the Lines**. Aspiring journalist Darrian Lopez signs up to participate in a poetry slam at his school. Using their poetry, students piece together their stories and Darrian learns that though they may be different, they are all just trying to do their best with the life they have been given.

Hand, Cynthia, Brodi Ashton, and Jodi Meadows. **My Plain Jane**. Jane Eyre sees ghosts which attracts the attention and a job offer from a supernatural investigator. However, Jane accepts a governess position with the mysterious Mr. Rochester which leads her best friend and aspiring author, Charlotte Bronte, to join in a mission to solve a mystery and save Jane.

Hesse, Monica. **The War Outside**. Held prisoners of war by the country they both love, two teenage girls, one Japanese-American and the other German-American, forge an unlikely and dangerous friendship. While World War II wages a world away, Haruko and Margot fight their own battles for survival inside a Texas family internment camp.

Ireland, Justina. **Dread Nation**. In post-Civil War America where the dead have refused to stay buried, Jane has spent her entire life training in a special combat school for African American children, preparing to save the lives of the wealthy. When entire families go missing, she learns her combat skills are incredibly useful-against both the dead and the living.

Jackson, Tiffany D. **Monday's Not Coming.** When Claudia's best friend Monday suddenly disappears without a trace, Claudia knows something is up and will not stop until she uncovers the possible horrifying truth.

Kaplan, Ariel. **We Regret to Inform You** Rejected by every college she applied to, top student Mischa Abramavicius and her best friend Nate join forces with an eccentric trio of hacker girls to uncover what went wrong. This is a smart, entertaining, and hilarious romp through the politics of the college admissions process at an elite school.

Khorram, Adib. **Darius the Great is Not Okay.** Darius is not okay with his impossible-to-please father, his mother and sister's shared Farsi sisterhood, and his "Fractional Persian" heritage. A family trip to his mother's homeland means learning more about his family, himself, and the many forms love can take.

Killeen, Matt. **Orphan Monster Spy.** 2018. Viking. \$18.99 (9780451478733). After her mother's death, Jewish teen Sarah avoids capture by the SS thanks to a British spy named Captain Floyd. Jeremy obtains a false identity for Sarah and convinces her to help him infiltrate the home of one of Hitler's nuclear scientists, Hans Schafer, by befriending Schäfer's daughter.

Kisner, Adrienne. **Dear Rachel Maddow** After starting out as a class assignment, but turning into an unsent journal, Brynn Harper begins emailing Rachel Maddow as she works through her feelings while dealing with the death of her brother and a heated school election.

Kristoff, Jay. **Lifelike3.** After a public display of her robot-destroying abilities, Evie flees for her life. On the run, she stumbles upon a "Lifelike" android that holds the secrets to her past. When the fight of human versus machine ensues, she fights to survive, and to find the truth.

Lee, Mackenzi. **The Lady's Guide to Petticoats and Piracy** Felicity Montague wants nothing more than to enroll in medical school, but is limited by her gender. Therefore, she must obviously traverse the European continent, trust a mysterious young lady and a former best friend, and command a pirate ship, all in the name of following her dreams.

Legrand, Claire. **Sawkill Girls.** Local legend warns evil lurks on Sawkill Rock where girls vanish without a trace. As the disappearances escalate, three girls stumble into an ancient crusade. Loss of a loved one joins newcomer Marion and outsider Zoey in a search for answers which lead them to beautiful Val and her secrets.

Mather, Janice Lynn. **Learning to Breathe.** Indy is sent away from home to live with relatives in the city so that she doesn't fall into the same lifestyle as her mother, but trouble finds Indy. She learns to carve out a future without letting her past and the choices of others dictate who she will be.

McCullough, Joy. **Blood Water Paint.** Artemisia Gentileschi at 17 is already a brilliant painter. She wants to become better and escape her father's control. A man who she hopes will save her, instead is her worst nightmare. Artemisia must decide either to remain silent or to speak the truth, just as her heroines did.

McLemore, Anna-Marie. **Blanca and Roja.** Two sisters fight to escape the magic of a family curse dooming one of them while two boys embrace the enchantment saving them from lives they can't bear. Steeped in Latino folklore, their heartbreaking stories entwine in this contemporary retelling of "Snow-White and Rose-Red" and "Swan Lake."

Miller, Samuel. **A Lite Too Bright.** Arthur Louis Pullman the Third, the troubled grandson of a famously reclusive Beat-generation writer, sets out on a cross-country train journey to discover truth behind the last week of his grandfather's life. Puzzles and poetry lead to self-discovery in this dynamic incarnation of the great American road trip novel.

Mitchell, Sandra. **All Out: The No-Longer Secret Stores of Queer Teens Throughout the Ages.** Seventeen short stories written by different authors illustrate the experiences of queer teens throughout history.

Moore, David Barclay. **The Stars Beneath Our Feet.** Reeling from the shooting death of his older brother, 12-year-old Lolly finds solace in building fantastical, epic cityscapes out of Lego blocks. His Lego building attracts the attention of the kids in his Harlem after-school program and beyond, while the violence of the streets threatens to pull him in another direction.

Nwaubani, Adaobi Tricia. **Buried Beneath the Baobab Tree.** A Nigerian teen looks forward to the day when she will leave her village to pursue a university degree, but her life changes drastically when she and her schoolmates are kidnapped by Boko Haram.

Oh, Ellen and Chapman, Elsie (editors). **A Thousand Beginnings and Endings.** Fifteen young adult authors of Asian descent weave magical stories inspired by their favorite childhood Asian myths and legends. Ranging from traditional stories to contemporary to science fiction and populated with everything from goddesses to androids and vampires, there is something for everyone.

Shusterman, Neal and Jarrod. **Dry.** When the water in the tap runs dry, Southern California is forced into a state of emergency. Neighbors turn on one another, and suburbia is a hot zone for “water-zombies.” When Alyssa’s parents go missing, she must do whatever it takes in order to survive the Tap-Out.

Smith, Heather. **The Agony of Bun O’Keefe.** Fourteen-year-old Bun O’Keefe leaves home one day after her negligent hoarder mother tells her to get out. She hitchhikes to the nearest city, where she’s taken in by a ragtag group of loveable housemates living in “temporary accommodations,” who teach her the real value of the family you make for yourself.

Steiger, A.J. **When My Heart Joins the Thousand.** Seventeen-year-old Alvie lives by herself, works a full-time job at the zoo, and is waiting to turn eighteen so she can be legally emancipated. Living with Asperger’s, Alvie prefers to spend time with animals until she meets Stanley, with whom she starts to fall in love.

Stone, Nic. **Odd One Out.** Courtney has been in love with his best friend Jupiter for years. When new girl Rae comes along, both friends find themselves interested in her, and confused about their feelings for each other.

Thomas, Leah. **When Light Left Us.** Something infected the Vasquez kids that night in the canyon forming a bond between them, filling the void their father’s abandonment left, and leaving their mother an outsider. However, when It suddenly leaves taking the best pieces of them, can they ever become whole and a family again?

White, Kiersten. **The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein** Elizabeth has spent her life changing herself to please others to survive. When she is offered as a gift the boy Victor Frankenstein, she believes her life will change for the better. But when a monster appears that begins to kill, Elizabeth's world begins to fall apart.

Woodson, Jacqueline. **Harbor Me.** Six kids in a special school are sent to a room to talk to one another weekly. As the year goes on, they all open up their deepest fears, hopes, and dreams.

Zoboi, Ibi. **Pride.** In this classic retelling, Zuri Benitez meets the handsome Darius Darcy, the rich boy who moved in across the street in her Bushwick neighborhood. Despite their good looks, Zuri sees the Darcys as a threat to her way of life and her beloved Bushwick.