

# 2017 High School Summer Reading Suggestions

This list of recently released titles includes a wide variety of books to appeal to the interests and reading levels of many students. Parents are encouraged to review book selections with their children in order to help them make appropriate choices. Students may read books from this list over the summer or find a comparable book on their own they are interested in! Many of the authors listed offer other great titles. You will find many of these books at local public libraries, Amazon, or other bookstores. Also, be sure to check out Overdrive for eBooks and audiobooks.

**(YA) – For mature readers; may contain mature themes.**

Brown, Don – *Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina & New Orleans*

\*\*2016 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award Honor Book\*\*

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's monstrous winds and surging water overwhelmed the protective levees around low-lying New Orleans, Louisiana. Eighty percent of the city flooded, in some places under twenty feet of water. Property damages across the Gulf Coast topped \$100 billion. One thousand eight hundred and thirty-three people lost their lives. The riveting tale of this historic storm and the drowning of an American city is one of selflessness, heroism, and courage—and of incompetence, racism, and criminality. Don Brown's kinetic art and as-it-happens narrative capture both the tragedy and triumph of one of the worst natural disasters in American history. (YA) [Graphic Novel]

Cass, Kiera – *The Selection*

Sixteen-year-old America Singer is living in the caste-divided nation of Illea, which formed after the war that destroyed the United States. America is chosen to compete in the Selection--a contest to see which girl can win the heart of Illea's prince--but all she really wants is a chance for a future with her secret love, Aspen, who is a caste below her. (YA) [Dystopian; Read the entire series!]

Condie, Allyson – *Summerlost*

Sometimes it takes a new friend to bring you home. It's the first real summer since the accident that killed Cedar's father and younger brother, Ben. Cedar and what's left of her family are returning to the town of Iron Creek for the summer. They're just settling into their new house when a boy named Leo, dressed in costume, rides by on his bike. Intrigued, Cedar follows him to the renowned Summerlost theatre festival. Soon, she not only has a new friend in Leo and a job working concessions at the festival, she finds herself surrounded by mystery. The mystery of the tragic, too-short life of the Hollywood actress who haunts the halls of Summerlost. And the mystery of the strange gifts that keep appearing for Cedar. [Realistic Fiction]

Gray, Claudia – *Lost Stars: Star Wars*

The reign of the Galactic Empire has reached the Outer Rim planet of Jelucan, where aristocratic Thane Kyrell and rural villager Ciena Ree bond over their love of flying. Enrolling at the Imperial Academy together to become fighter pilots for the glorious Empire is nothing less than a dream come true for the both of them. But, Thane sours on the dream when he sees firsthand the horrific tactics the Empire uses to maintain its ironclad rule. Bitter and disillusioned, Thane joins the fledgling Rebellion -- putting Ciena in an unbearable position to choose between her loyalty to the Empire and her love for the man she's known since childhood. (YA) [Science Fiction; Read more Star Wars titles!]

Hardinge, Francis – *The Lie Tree*

Faith Sunderly leads a double life. To most people, she is reliable, dull, trustworthy--a proper young lady who knows her place as inferior to men. But inside, Faith is full of questions and curiosity, and she cannot resist mysteries: an unattended envelope, an unlocked door. She knows secrets no one suspects her of knowing. She knows that her family moved to the close-knit island of Vane because her famous scientist father was fleeing a reputation-destroying scandal. And she knows, when her father is discovered dead

## 2017 High School Summer Reading Suggestions

shortly thereafter, that he was murdered. In pursuit of justice and revenge, Faith hunts through her father's possessions and discovers a strange tree. The tree bears fruit only when she whispers a lie to it. The fruit of the tree, when eaten, delivers a hidden truth. The tree might hold the key to her father's murder--or it may lure the murderer directly to Faith herself. (YA) [Fantasy]

Hoose, Phillip M. – ***The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club***

\*\*2016 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award Honor Book\*\*

At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation's leaders, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis if the adults would not. Naming their secret club after the fiery British leader, the young patriots in the Churchill Club committed countless acts of sabotage, infuriating the Germans, who eventually had the boys tracked down and arrested. But their efforts were not in vain: the boys' exploits and eventual imprisonment helped spark a full-blown Danish resistance. Interweaving his own narrative with the recollections of Knud himself, here is Phillip Hoose's inspiring story of these young war heroes. (YA) [Nonfiction]

Korman, Gordon – ***Masterminds***.

Tiny Serenity, New Mexico, is idyllic as it gets—everyone has a job and a home, the kids are well behaved, and the genial community spirit is intoxicating. Sure, it's boring, and it's suspicious that a town of 185 people has its own helicopter-equipped security force, but 13-year-old Eli is content. That is, until his misbehaving friend Randy gets sent away. Eli's sure there's something screwy going on, and his suspicions are confirmed when he and his friends investigate the town's factory. Using their critical thinking and problem-solving skills, they discover that it's not traffic cones they manufacture there, but the truth. [Science Fiction; Read the entire series!]

Lewis, John – ***March Series***

Book Three - \*\*2017 Coretta Scott King Book Awards Author Winner; 2017 Michael L. Printz Book Award Winner; 2017 Robert F. Sibert Information Book Award Winner; 2017 YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction Winner, and many more.\*\*

Lewis, one of the original Freedom Riders and currently in his 13th term as a U.S. Representative, recalls his early years in volume one--from raising (and preaching to) chickens on an Alabama farm to meeting Martin Luther King Jr. and joining lunch-counter sit-ins in Nashville in 1960. The second volume follows Lewis as he takes on leadership positions in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. The work begins with sit-ins and other protests in Nashville in 1961, but the focus soon shifts to the Freedom Riders. The actual March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in August 1963 ends the second volume. The third volume includes the expected and necessary set pieces from the civil rights movement, including the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham and the murder of four young girls, Freedom Summer in Mississippi, the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, and the 1964 Democratic Convention. It also includes the iconic march from Selma to Montgomery that roused the nation from its complacency, and, finally, the Voting Rights Act of 1965. (YA) [Graphic Novel; Read the entire series!]

Marrin, Albert – ***Uprooted: The Japanese American Experience During World War II***

\*\*2017 Robert F. Sibert Information Book Award Honor Book\*\*

Just seventy-five years ago, the American government did something that most would consider unthinkable today: it rounded up over 100,000 of its own citizens based on nothing more than their ancestry and, suspicious of their loyalty, kept them in concentration camps for the better part of four years. How could this have happened? Uprooted takes a close look at the history of racism in America and

## 2017 High School Summer Reading Suggestions

carefully follows the treacherous path that led one of our nation's most beloved presidents to make this decision. Meanwhile, it also illuminates the history of Japan and its own struggles with racism and xenophobia, which led to the bombing of Pearl Harbor, ultimately tying the two countries together. (YA) [Nonfiction]

Mead, Richelle – *The Glittering Court*

For a select group of girls, the Glittering Court offers a shot at a life they've only ever dreamed of, one of luxury, glamour, and leisure. To high-born Adelaide, whose wealthy family is forcing her into a loveless marriage, the Glittering Court represents something else: the chance to chart her own destiny, and adventure in an unspoiled, prosperous new land across the sea. After a chance meeting with the dazzling Cedric Thorn, Adelaide poses as a servant to join the crop of impoverished girls he promises to transform into proper ladies. But her familiarity with upper-class life comes with a price: she must hide her identity from her new friends, mysterious refugee Mira and fiery former laundress Tamsin, and most importantly, from Cedric himself—even though she's falling in love with him. (YA) [Fantasy]

Meyer, Marissa – *Heartless*

Long before she was the terror of Wonderland, she was just a girl who wanted to fall in love. Catherine may be one of the most desired girls in Wonderland, and a favorite of the unmarried King of Hearts, but her interests lie elsewhere. A talented baker, all she wants is to open a shop with her best friend. But according to her mother, such a goal is unthinkable for the young woman who could be the next queen. Then Cath meets Jest, the handsome and mysterious court joker. For the first time, she feels the pull of true attraction. At the risk of offending the king and infuriating her parents, she and Jest enter into an intense, secret courtship. Cath is determined to define her own destiny and fall in love on her terms. But in a land thriving with magic, madness, and monsters, fate has other plans. (YA) [Fantasy]

Oliver, Lauren – *Replica*

Two girls from very different backgrounds find autonomy, strength, and identity as they fight against corporate greed and medical corruption. Gemma was born to rich and powerful parents. Lyra was made in a lab. Both girls have spent their lives protected behind walls: Gemma, under her parents' watchful eyes, and Lyra, under the care of nurses at the Haven Institute. The latter has always known she's a replica, a clone created by doctors from human stem cells. The heavily guarded Haven Institute's activities are shrouded in mystery and speculation, and when an explosion destroys the facility, both girls' carefully formed worlds topple in the aftermath. Events unfold quickly as Gemma and Lyra learn they're not who they thought they were, that the truth goes much deeper than either ever thought. The dual narrative is presented as two books in one; it's up to readers to decide how to proceed: read each girl's story separately or in alternating chapters. (YA) [Science Fiction]

Oppel, Kenneth – *The Nest*

For some kids summer is a sun-soaked season of fun. But for Steve, it's just another season of worries. Worries about his sick newborn baby brother who is fighting to survive, worries about his parents who are struggling to cope, even worries about the wasp's nest looming ominously from the eaves. So, when a mysterious wasp queen invades his dreams, offering to "fix" the baby, Steve thinks his prayers have been answered. [Fantasy]

Sands, Kevin – *The Blackthorn Key*

Following a series of murders, an apothecary's apprentice must solve puzzles and decipher codes in pursuit of a secret that could destroy the world in this suspenseful debut novel. Christopher Rowe, apprentice to Master Apothecary Benedict Blackthorn, is learning all his master's secrets—like how to decipher complex codes and puzzles, and how to transform simple ingredients into powerful medicines,

## 2017 High School Summer Reading Suggestions

potions, and weapons. Christopher's beloved master guides him with a firm, steady hand—a confidence even more vital as Christopher learns of a mysterious cult preying on London's apothecaries. The murders grow closer and closer to Blackthorn's shop...until Christopher is torn from his home with only a cryptic message and a warning from his master: "Tell no one what I've given you." Aided by his best friend, Tom, Christopher must race to decipher his master's message—and follow a trail of deceit toward an unearthly secret with the power to tear the world apart. [Mystery; Read the entire series!]

Sepetys, Ruta – ***Salt to the Sea***.

World War II is drawing to a close in East Prussia and thousands of refugees are on a desperate trek toward freedom, many with something to hide. Among them are Joana, Emilia, and Florian, whose paths converge en route to the ship that promises salvation, the Wilhelm Gustloff. Forced by circumstance to unite, the three find their strength, courage, and trust in each other tested with each step closer to safety. Just when it seems freedom is within their grasp, tragedy strikes. Not country, nor culture, nor status matter as all ten thousand people aboard must fight for the same thing: survival. (YA) [Historical Fiction]

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

\*\*2016 YALSA Award for Excellence in Non-Fiction Winner\*\*

On June 13, 1971, the front page of the New York Times announced the existence of a 7,000-page collection of documents containing a secret history of the Vietnam War. Known as The Pentagon Papers, these files had been commissioned by Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. Chronicling every action the government had taken in the Vietnam War, they revealed a pattern of deception spanning over twenty years and four presidencies, and forever changed the relationship between American citizens and the politicians claiming to represent their interests. The investigation that resulted--as well as the attempted government coverups and vilification of the whistleblower--has timely relevance to Edward Snowden's more recent conspiracy leaks. (YA) [Nonfiction]

Shusterman, Neal – ***Challenger Deep***.

Caden Bosch thinks there is somebody at his high school who wants to kill him. But that's not all. There are things happening outside of the typical space and time constraints that he can't understand. He feels at once all-powerful and frighteningly powerless. Caden slowly drifts away from friends and family and deeper into his mind, until his parents admit him to a mental hospital for further evaluation and treatment. (YA) [Realistic Fiction]

Shusterman, Neal – ***Scythe***.

\*\*2017 Michael L. Printz Award Honor Book\*\*

In a world in which humanity has conquered death (no aging, no disease, no poverty, no war), ruled by the Thunderhead, an omniscient evolution of today's cloud, Scythes are the only ones who are allowed to take a human life. They are considered to be the best humanity has to offer, and they roam the world "gleaning" people in order to keep the population in check. Scythes are treated like royalty and feared. The last thing Citra Terranova and Rowan Damisch want is to become Scythes, but when they are chosen by Scythe Faraday to become his apprentices, they are thrown into a life in which they need to master the art of death. They prove to be apt pupils, but when Scythe Faraday mysteriously gleans himself and Citra and Rowan are apprenticed to two other fearsome Scythes, they will have to put their skills to the test against each other. (YA) [Science Fiction]

Stevenson, Noelle – ***Nimona***.

Nimona, a plucky, punk-tressed girl, is determined to be the sidekick of the nefarious (in name only) Ballister Blackheart, the sworn enemy of the Institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics and their sporransporting champion, Sir Ambrosius Goldenloin. Blackheart, intrigued by Nimona's moxie and

# 2017 High School Summer Reading Suggestions

ability to shape-shift, takes her on, and the two decide they're going to take down the Institution. Nimona and Blackheart learn that the supposedly benevolent Institution has been hoarding a great quantity of a poisonous plant, jaderoot. As they delve deeper into its inner workings, they soon find that the lines that separate good and evil aren't simply black and white. (YA) [Graphic Novel]

Turner, Pamela – *Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune*

**\*\*2017 YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction Finalist\*\***

Minamoto no Yoshitsune, the 12th-century Heian hero who defeated the rival Taira clan only to be undone by another member of the Minamoto group, is a samurai legend. His rise from obscurity, reckless brilliance in battle, and gruesome end (which helped establish seppuku as part of the warrior code) are irresistible features of a life that ended at age 30. (YA) [Nonfiction]

Westerfield, Scott – *Zeroes*.

Don't call them heroes. But these six Californian teens have powers that set them apart. Take Ethan, a.k.a. Scam. He's got a voice inside him that'll say whatever you want to hear, whether it's true or not. Which is handy, except when it isn't—like when the voice starts gabbing in the middle of a bank robbery. The only people who can help are the other Zeroes, who aren't exactly best friends these days. Enter Nate, a.k.a. Bellwether, the group's "glorious leader." After Scam's SOS, he pulls the scattered Zeroes back together. But when the rescue blows up in their faces, the Zeroes find themselves propelled into whirlwind encounters with ever more dangerous criminals. At the heart of the chaos they find Kelsie, who can take a crowd in the palm of her hand and tame it or let it loose as she pleases. (YA) [Science Fiction; Read the entire series!]

Yoon, Nicola – *The Sun is Also a Star*

**\*\*2017 Michael L. Printz Award Honor Book; 2017 John Steptoe Award for New Talent\*\***

On a summer morning in New York City, Daniel and Natasha wake up as strangers. This is a day that could catapult their lives into entirely new directions that neither of them wants to take. Natasha has only hours left to prevent her family's deportation to Jamaica, after a minor legal infraction jeopardizes their stay in the U.S. Daniel dreads sealing his fate with an alumni interview that will pave his way to a career in medicine, as his Korean family expects. Despite a day packed with Natasha's desperate race against time and a tangled system, and Daniel's difficult tug-of-war between familial pressures and autonomy, love finds a way in, takes hold, and changes them both forever. (YA) [Realistic Fiction]

## **More Great Authors!**

Laurie Halse Anderson	Cassandra Clare	Andrea Cremer	James Dashner	Sarah Dessen
John Green	Tim Green	Melissa Grey	Mike Lupica	Sarah Maas
Jennifer Nielsen	James Patterson	Rainbow Rowell	J.K. Rowling	Rick Yancey