

2018 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.

Alexander, Kwame – *Solo*

Blade Morrison is on shaky ground. The death of his mother years ago still haunts him, and he's continually disappointed by his father Rutherford, a rock legend who has long grappled with drug and alcohol addiction. Rutherford's humiliating behavior at Blade's high school graduation, Blade's older sister Storm's revelation of a devastating family secret, and his girlfriend Chapel's betrayal send the teenager reeling. Looking for answers, he heads to Ghana, where he begins to heal. (YA)

Anthony, Lawrence – *The Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd in the African Wild*

This posthumous memoir propels readers straight into uncharted territory: the Thula Thula game reserve in South Africa. In the late nineties, conservationist Anthony, who owned Thula Thula, was asked to take in a herd of elephants that had been labeled “troubled”—if Anthony did not take them, or if he could not contain them, they would be shot. What began as a rocky relationship blossomed into a truly spectacular bond. The goal was not to tame the herd—they were, and remain, wild elephants—but they had to learn to tolerate humans, and the connection they forged with Anthony in the process was singular.

Black, Holly – *The Cruel Prince*

Jude was seven years old when her parents were murdered and she and her two sisters were stolen away to live in the treacherous High Court of Faerie. Ten years later, Jude wants nothing more than to belong there, despite her mortality. But many of the fey despise humans. Especially Prince Cardan, the youngest and wickedest son of the High King. To win a place at the Court, she must defy him--and face the consequences. In doing so, she becomes embroiled in palace intrigues and deceptions, discovering her own capacity for bloodshed. But as civil war threatens to drown the Courts of Faerie in violence, Jude will need to risk her life in a dangerous alliance to save her sisters, and Faerie itself. (YA)

Bolden, Tonya – *Crossing Ebenezer Creek*

In rural Georgia, recently emancipated Mariah hides in the root cellar when Sherman's troops sweep into town. Joining the march, she meets Caleb, a young black man whose manner of dress and comfort with the white Union soldiers raises an eyebrow among Mariah and other formerly enslaved people. As they march toward Ebenezer Creek, Caleb develops feelings for Mariah, while she struggles to believe in her newfound freedom and plan for a future for herself and her younger brother, Zeke. Caleb and Mariah both harbor secrets and pasts that shape their worldviews, but they're starting to warm to each other when the unthinkable happens. (YA)

De La Cruz, Melissa – *Alex and Eliza*

1777. Albany, New York. As battle cries of the American Revolution echo in the distance, servants flutter about preparing for one of New York society's biggest events: the Schuylers' grand ball. Descended from two of the oldest and most distinguished bloodlines in New York, the Schuylers are proud to be one of their fledgling country's founding families, and even prouder still of their three daughters--Angelica, with her razor-sharp wit; Peggy, with her dazzling looks; and Eliza, whose beauty and charm rival those of

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both her sisters, though she'd rather be aiding the colonists' cause than dressing up for some silly ball. Still, Eliza can barely contain her excitement when she hears of the arrival of one Alexander Hamilton, a mysterious, rakish young colonel and General George Washington's right-hand man. Though Alex has arrived as the bearer of bad news for the Schuylers, he can't believe his luck--as an orphan, and a bastard one at that--to be in such esteemed company. And when Alex and Eliza meet that fateful night, so begins an epic love story that would forever change the course of American history. (YA)

Dennard, Susan – ***Truthwitch***

On a continent ruled by three empires, some are born with a "witchery," a magical skill that set them apart from others--In the Witchlands, there are almost as many types of magic as there are ways to get in trouble--as two desperate young women know all too well. Safiya and Iseult just want to be free to live their own lives, but war is coming to the Witchlands. With the help of the cunning Prince Merik (a Windwitch and privateer) and the hindrance of a Bloodwitch bent on revenge, the friends must fight emperors, princes, and mercenaries alike, who will stop at nothing to get their hands on a Truthwitch. (Read the entire series) (YA)

Gray, Claudia - ***Defy the Stars***

She's a soldier--Noemi Vidal is willing to risk anything to protect her planet, Genesis, including her own life. To their enemies on Earth, she's a rebel. He's a machine--Abandoned in space for years, utterly alone, Abel's advanced programming has begun to evolve. He wants only to protect his creator, and to be free. To the people of Genesis, he's an abomination. Noemi and Abel are enemies in an interstellar war, forced by chance to work together as they embark on a daring journey through the stars. Their efforts would end the fighting for good, but they're not without sacrifice. The stakes are even higher than either of them first realized, and the more time they spend together, the more they're forced to question everything they'd been taught was true.

Green, John – ***Turtles All the Way Down***

High-school junior Aza has an obsessive fear of being infected with the bacteria *Clostridium difficile* ("C. diff"), which can be fatal. Her fear has become obsession, plaguing her with "intrusives," thoughts that take over her mind, making her feel that she is not the author of her own life. She does, however, have a life: her father is dead; her mother is a teacher; her best friends are Mychal, a gifted artist, and Daisy, a well-known Star Wars fan-fiction author. To their trio Davis is added, whom Aza had known when they were 11. Davis' billionaire father has decamped, pursued by the police, leaving Davis and his younger brother parentless (their mother is dead) and very much on their own. How will the friends cope with all this? And how will Aza cope with her own problems? (YA)

Han, Jenny – ***To All the Boys I've Loved Before***

Lara Jean writes plenty of love letters, but she never sends them. It's just her way of moving on from a crush. When her secret box of letters goes missing and she discovers they've been mailed—including one to her sister's ex-boyfriend—Lara Jean has to come face-to-face with her past and in the process learn more about her future. (YA)

Iturbe, Antonio – ***Librarian of Auschwitz***

A teenage girl imprisoned in Auschwitz keeps the secret library of a forbidden school. Dita Adlerova, 14, is confined in the notorious extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Compared to her fellow inmates, Dita's relatively lucky. The several thousand residents of camp BIIb are inexplicably allowed to keep their own clothing, their hair, and, most importantly, their children. A young man named Fredy Hirsch maintains a school in BIIb, right under the noses of the Nazis. In Fredy's classroom, Dita discovers

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something wonderful: a dangerous collection of eight smuggled books. The tale, based on the real life of Dita Polach Kraus and the events of 1944 and 1945, intertwines the stories of several real people: Dita, Fredy, several little-known war heroes, even a grim cameo from Anne and Margot Frank. (YA)

Kelly, Erin Entrada – ***Hello, Universe***

****2018 John Newberry Medal Winner****

The universe comes together unexpectedly when a unique set of circumstances cause four tweens to cross paths. Central to the story is Virgil, an 11-year-old Filipino American whose grandmother, Lola, helps him to come out of his shell and face the world. When Virgil and his pet guinea pig, Gulliver, end up trapped in a well in the woods at the hands of a bully, Chet, it is up to the stars to align before it's too late. Coming together like spokes on a wheel, everyone converges in the woods-Valencia, a Deaf girl on whom Virgil has a crush; Kaori, an adolescent fortune-teller and free spirit; Kaori's sister, Gen, her jump-roping apprentice; a feral dog Valencia has befriended; and a snake, which is the only thing Chet fears. Unlikely friendships are formed and heroism abounds as the group of young people try to find their way in the world.

Meyer, Marissa – ***Renegades***

After the chaos of the Age of Anarchy, when some humans discovered their superhuman abilities and used them to wreak havoc on the world, a group of superheroes came to power. Calling themselves the Renegades, these heroes have established order in a disorderly world. However, some resist the rule of the Renegades, among them Nova, a teen with powers of her own who resents that the Renegades were unable to save her family. Bent on revenge, Nova plans to join the Renegades and destroy them from within. (YA)

O'Reilly, Bill – ***Killing Lincoln: The Shocking Assassination that Changed America Forever***

In the spring of 1865, the bloody saga of America's Civil War finally comes to an end after a series of increasingly harrowing battles. President Abraham Lincoln's generous terms for Robert E. Lee's surrender are devised to fulfill Lincoln's dream of healing a divided nation, with the former Confederates allowed to reintegrate into American society. But one man and his band of murderous accomplices, perhaps reaching into the highest ranks of the U.S. government, are not appeased. In the midst of the patriotic celebrations in Washington D.C., John Wilkes Booth - charismatic ladies' man and impenitent racist - murders Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theatre. A furious manhunt ensues and Booth immediately becomes the country's most wanted fugitive. Lafayette C. Baker, a smart but shifty New York detective and former Union spy, unravels the string of clues leading to Booth, while federal forces track his accomplices. The thrilling chase ends in a fiery shootout and a series of court-ordered executions - including that of the first woman ever executed by the U.S. government, Mary Surratt. (YA)

Phelan, Matt – ***Snow White***

The scene: New York City. The dazzling lights cast shadows that grow ever darker as the glitzy prosperity of the Roaring Twenties screeches to a halt. Enter a cast of familiar characters: a young girl, Samantha White, returning after being sent away by her cruel stepmother, the Queen of the Follies, years earlier; her father, the King of Wall Street, who survives the stock market crash only to suffer a strange and sudden death; seven street urchins, brave protectors for a girl as pure as snow; and a mysterious stock ticker that holds the stepmother in its thrall, churning out ticker tape imprinted with the wicked words "Another . . . More Beautiful . . . KILL.

Pullman, Philip – ***The Book of Dust***

Eleven-year-old Malcolm Polstead is the inquisitive son of two hardworking and no-nonsense innkeepers. He spends his days working on his beloved canoe, La Belle Sauvage, helping his parents, and avoiding

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Alice, a teen dishwasher with an attitude. When a trio of mysterious gentlemen arrives asking about the nuns at the nearby priory and whether they've ever cared for a baby, Malcolm, along with his beloved daemon Asta, begins working as a spy for the underground resistance. Six-month-old Lyra, daughter of Lord Asriel and Mrs. Coulter, who stars in Pullman's "His Dark Materials" series, has been secreted away into the care of the Sisters, where Malcolm meets and immediately bonds with the orphaned infant. When the enigmatic Mr. Bonneville and his terrifying hyena daemon arrive in Oxford, it becomes clear that Bonneville wants the baby for his own nefarious purposes. As a historic flood ravages southern Brytain, with the Thames overflowing and destroying buildings and bridges in its wake, Malcolm and Alice find themselves thrown together as they save Lyra from Bonneville and the rising waters. But all is not well; both Bonneville and the Consistorial Court of Discipline, an arm of the brutal and dictatorial Church, are quick on the young people's heels as they race in *La Belle Sauvage* to London in the hopes of finding sanctuary and reuniting Lyra with her father. (YA)

Reynolds, Jason – ***Long Way Down***

**2018 Coretta Scott King Award Honor Book / 2018 John Newberry Medal Honor Book/Michael L. Printz Award Honor Book **

Fifteen-year-old Will's big brother has been shot and killed. According to the rules that Will has been taught, it is now his job to kill the person responsible. He easily finds his brother's gun and gets on the elevator to head down from his eighth-floor apartment. But it's a long way down to the ground floor. At each floor, a different person gets on to tell a story. Each of these people is already dead. As they relate their tales, readers learn about the cycle of violence in which Will is caught up. (YA)

Reynolds, Jason – ***Miles Morales: Spiderman***

Miles Morales is just your average teenager. Dinner every Sunday with his parents, chilling out playing old-school video games with his best friend, Ganke, crushing on brainy, beautiful poet Alicia. He's even got a scholarship spot at the prestigious Brooklyn Visions Academy. Oh yeah, and he's Spider Man. 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 importance of 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. It's time for Miles to suit up. (YA)

Shetterly, Margot Lee – ***Hidden Figures: The Untold True Story of Four African American Women Who Helped Launch Our Nation into Space***

Before John Glenn orbited the earth or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as "human computers" used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. This book brings to life the stories of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden, four African-American women who lived through the Civil Rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War, and the movement for gender equality, and whose work forever changed the face of NASA and the country.

Stiefvater, Maggie – ***All the Crooked Saints***

Any visitor to Bicho Raro, Colorado is likely to find a landscape of dark saints, forbidden love, scientific dreams, miracle-mad owls, estranged affections, one or two orphans, and a sky full of watchful desert

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stars. At the heart of this place you will find the Soria family, who all have the ability to perform unusual miracles. And at the heart of this family are three cousins longing to change its future: Beatriz, the girl without feelings, who wants only to be free to examine her thoughts; Daniel, the Saint of Bicho Raro, who performs miracles for everyone but himself; and Joaquin, who spends his nights running a renegade radio station under the name Diablo Diablo. They are all looking for a miracle. But the miracles of Bicho Raro are never quite what you expect. (YA)

West, Kasie – *P.S. I Like You*

What if the person you were falling for was a total mystery? While Lily is spacing out in Chemistry one day, she picks up her pencil and scribbles a line from one of her favorite songs on the desk. The next day, someone else has written back to her on the desk! Soon enough Lily and the mystery student are exchanging notes, lyrics, and even sharing secrets. When Lily finds out that her anonymous pen pal is a guy, she's flustered - and kind of feels like she's falling for him. She and her best friend set out to unravel the identity of the letter-writer - but when the truth is revealed, the guy is the LAST person Lily could have ever imagined it to be. Now that Lily knows the truth, can she untangle her feelings and gather the courage to listen to her heart?