

Summer Reading Mission Statement

The intent of the Valley Regional High School summer reading program is to challenge students to become life-long readers and learners by encouraging them to read during non-instructional time. Through this reading program, the school promotes intellectual stimulation, social awareness, diversity of viewpoints, and critical thinking.

Successful (passing standard) Summer Reading completion all four years is a graduation requirement.

VRHS Academic Expectations:

Students will comprehend written language.

Students will speak effectively

Books are available at VRHS, local libraries and bookstores or from online sellers. Some are available in paperback, audio or e-book format, sometimes on Kindle unlimited for free

2022 Faculty and Student Committee

Mia Bibbiani

Anne Brenneman

Ella Brenneman

Emma Brown

Teresa L. Cobb

Lyla Colomb

Wendy Colomb

Vickie Corbett

Denise Dalton

Julia Donahue

Danielle Etes

Cynthia Maiolo

Dayana Morales

Mykenzie Parker

Amy Peterson

Linette Spaner

Cayden Willetts-Johnson

The faculty would like to thank students on the summer reading committee for their time, insight, and reviews. We appreciate your commitment to the VRHS's summer reading program.

Dear Parent or Guardian:

From suggestions of over 75 books from teachers and students, the committee selects those encompassing multiple points of view, different cultures, time periods, and a myriad of experiences from a wide range of appeal.

This booklet explains in detail the summer reading process. Summer reading will take place on the second and third days of the first week of school in CORE. Students are required to choose one book from the required book list. The required book list is intended to challenge your student to go beyond their preferred genre, favorite authors, and preferred subject matter to discover something new.

The project choices for the one required book are explained in detail in this booklet and will be completed on the second day of school in CORE.

Students who do not complete the requirements on the second and third day of school will be assigned to a flex location with their CORE teacher for completion the first full week of school. After progress reports, if a student has still not completed the work, the student will be assigned 3 hour detentions until completed. Students who transfer into Valley within two weeks of the start of school are typically exempt from that year's requirements.

Books are available for previewing in the VRHS library and at local libraries.

Please call the school if you have any questions. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Michael Barile
Principal

Denise Dalton
Library Media Specialist
Coordinator, Summer Reading Committee

Summer Reading Instructions for Required Book and CORE Day 1

1. Preview your book at the VRHS library or your local public library. Read the online summer reading booklet, including the reviews of each book, before making your decision. Check out a book before school ends for the summer.
2. Choose one book for your level from the Required Book List. Your level is the English class you will be in for the 2022-2023 school year. If you will be in a level 2 English class, you should choose a level 2 book or one labeled both. If you would like to read up and choose a level one book you may do so. If, however, you will be in a level 1 English class, you may NOT read a level 2 book but you may read one labeled both. Read the book.
3. Review the Written Response and Oral Discussion rubrics to understand how you will be assessed.
4. Over the summer review the list of required TED Talk project choices and prompts. Choose one of the TED talks to watch before you return to school. Watch the talk close to the start of school, take notes related to the prompt you choose, and possibly watch the talk more than once so it is fresh in your mind. **(If the talk does not have a prompt that will work for your book, you should choose another talk to view.)**
5. You may prepare notes or an outline to bring on the second day of school to use for your written response which will take place in CORE. You may not write the response before CORE on the second day of school.
6. During your first summer reading CORE day, you will respond in writing, **double spaced Times New Roman font size 12 (MLA style)**, in one to two pages for one prompt specific to the talk you watched, of your choice. **(If a prompt does not work for your book, choose a different TED Talk to view.) Bring headphones.**
7. Your response must include details from both your book and the Ted Talk as evidence of your reading and viewing. **Although there is no formal Noodletools MLA works cited required, your response should refer to the sources, the book content and author or Ted Talk. For example: "According to Janet Edwards, the author of *Earth Girl...*" or "As Burnett states in his TED Talk, "...".**
8. You will turn your response into your CORE teacher at the end of the first summer reading CORE block. (Only students with specific IEP or 504 accommodations for extra time will be given extra time if needed.)

TED Talk Choices (choose one that works with your book choice)

"Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance" by Angela Lee Duckworth

https://www.ted.com/talks/angela_lee_duckworth_grit_the_power_of_passion_and_perseverance

Prompt Choices (Choose one)

1. How does your main character show grit? Give a few specific examples.
2. How does showing grit help your character to grow or overcome a challenge?

"Are you a Giver or a Taker" by Adam Grant

https://www.ted.com/talks/adam_grant_are_you_a_giver_or_a_taker

Prompt

Think of one main person or character in your book? Are they a giver or a taker? How does that affect their interactions?

"My Year Reading a Book From Every Country in the World" by Ann Morgan

https://www.ted.com/talks/ann_morgan_my_year_reading_a_book_from_every_country_in_the_world

Prompt Choices (Choose one)

1. Morgan describes how books "take you out of yourself." How did your summer reading book "take you out of yourself?"
2. Morgan realizes she has cultural "blind spots." As a reader, what cultural "blind spots" did you discover about yourself through your book?

"The Inspiring Truth in Fiction" by Tomas Elemans

https://www.ted.com/talks/tomas_elemans_the_inspiring_truth_in_fiction

Prompt Choices (Choose one)

1. In what ways has your summer reading book "enriched your life?"
2. Tomas Elemans talks about social media and our echo chambers. How does your book contrast with your echo chamber?
3. Elemans explains how storytelling allows readers to "mirror how we would feel in a situation the main character is in, we also simulate their mental state and imagine being them." Explain one time where you experienced this in your summer reading book.

Summer Reading Written Response Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Does Not Meet Passing Standard
Elaboration of Evidence	Response provides thorough and convincing evidence that supports the writer's claims/conclusions from both the required book and TED Talk	Response provides adequate evidence that supports the writer's claims/conclusions from both the required book and TED Talk	Response provides sparse evidence that supports the writer's claims/conclusions from both the required book and TED Talk	Response does not provide evidence from either the required book or TED Talk
Response Quality and Organization	Response is accurate, clearly stated, focused and well-developed; has a clear and effective organizational structure	Response is accurate, generally focused and developed; has an obvious organizational structure	Response is generally accurate, but may have issues with clarity or organization	Response is inaccurate, unclear, unfocused and inadequately developed; unorganized; lacks structure
Conventions: Grammar including punctuation and capital letter conventions; appropriate vocabulary and spelling; MLA format (Times New Roman, size 12, double spaced paragraphs)	Response correctly uses: Complete sentences Capitalization Punctuation Spelling Grade-level vocabulary; appropriate for the audience and purpose; virtually error free; (formal Works Cited not required but refers in writing to book and TED Talk)	Response has minor mistakes in the following conventions: Complete sentences Capitalization Punctuation Spelling Grade-level vocabulary; appropriate for the audience and purpose; (formal Works Cited not required but refers in writing to book and TED Talk)	Response has several mistakes in the following conventions: Complete sentences Capitalization Punctuation Spelling Grade-level vocabulary; appropriate for the audience and purpose; (formal Works Cited not required but refers in writing to book and TED Talk)	Response has multiple mistakes in the following conventions: Complete sentences Capitalization Punctuation Spelling Grade-level vocabulary; inappropriate for the audience and purpose; does not refer in writing to book and TED Talk
<p><i>To pass written response, students must meet Satisfactory or above criteria for Elaboration of Evidence and one other criteria category.</i></p> <p>Students must pass both the Summer Reading Written assignment and the Oral Discussion components to receive graduation credit.</p>				

Instructions for Discussion in CORE on Day 2

1. Be ready to respond to the following prompt orally in group discussion on Summer Reading CORE Day 2:

Prompt: Using evidence from the required book, the choice TED talk, and the ideas you wrote during the written response in CORE, discuss.

2. Review the Summer Reading Oral Discussion Rubric to see how you will be evaluated. ***This is an interactive discussion, not a singular report so expect to respond to what other students say, interact verbally with other students, and ask questions or make comments not just based on what you pre-prepare.***
3. All students will attend discussion in CORE on Day 2. ***Desks/chairs will be put into a circle so all students can make eye contact with other students and the CORE teacher.*** Students with 504 or IEP accommodations indicating so may discuss in flex with their CORE teacher or case manager before the 7th day of school ends but will attend the whole group CORE discussion unless the IEP, 504 plan or case manager direct otherwise.

Summer Reading Oral Discussion Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Does Not Meet Passing Standard
Reference to Texts (required book and TED Talk)	Repeatedly cites texts to support, expand or refute points of discussion; demonstrates deep and comprehensive understanding of both book and TED Talk	Cites texts a few times to support, expand or refute points; demonstrates comprehensive understanding of both book and TED Talk	Paraphrases texts or only parrots what others have said; demonstrates limited understanding of both book and TED Talk	Does not refer to texts or make connections between them; does not demonstrate knowledge of either book or TED Talk
Participation Level (students with an IEP or 504 plan may have accommodations but should still be present for CORE discussion)	Active participant who clarifies, asks questions, provides explanations, makes connections to what other students say; exhibits self-awareness and does not dominate	Active participant who clarifies, asks questions, provides explanations, makes some connections to what other students say; may dominate	Minimally contributes; responds only to direct questions; doesn't initiate or respond to others; doesn't make connections to what other students say	Fails to contribute
Body Language and Eye Contact	Facial expression and body language convey strong enthusiasm and interest; eye contact with other students virtually all the time	Facial expression/body language sometimes convey strong enthusiasm and interest; eye contact with other students less than 75% of the time	Facial expression and body language seem contrived; eye contact with other students less than 50% of the time	Apparent disinterest; little or no eye contact with other students (looks away or down at desk or only at teacher)
Use of Language	Language appropriate to audience and academic task with rare vocalized pauses (um, uh, er, like, etc.)	Language appropriate to audience and academic task with a few vocalized pauses (um, uh, er, like, etc.)	Language appropriate to audience and academic task with many vocalized pauses (um, uh, er, like)	Language inappropriate for the audience and task; plentiful pauses (um, uh, er, like, etc.) create confusion and lack of coherence
Pacing and Clarity	Speaks neither too quickly nor too slowly; speaks clearly and distinctly all the time; no mispronounced words; volume is appropriate	Speaks either slightly too quickly or too slowly; speaks clearly and distinctly nearly all the time; no more than one mispronounced word; volume is mostly appropriate	Speaks either too quickly or too slowly; speaks clearly and distinctly most of the time; no more than one mispronounced word; speaks too quietly or loudly	Tempo of speech is inappropriate; often mumbles or cannot be understood; more than one mispronounced word; speaks too quietly or loudly

To pass oral discussion, students must meet Satisfactory or above criteria for Reference to Texts and Participation and two other criteria categories.

Students must pass both the Summer Reading Written assignment and the Oral Discussion components to receive graduation credit.

VRHS Required Book for TED Talk Project

Title	Author	Genre	Level
<i>An Absolutely Remarkable Thing</i>	Hank Green	F	both
<i>Boy 21</i>	Matthew Quick	F	2
<i>Butterfly Yellow</i>	Thanhha Lai	F	1
<i>Cemetery Boys</i>	Aiden Thomas	F	both
<i>Code Talker: A Novel about the Navajo Marines of WWII</i>	Joseph Bruchac	NF	2
<i>Darius the Great is Not Okay</i>	Adib Khorram	F	both
<i>Everything You Wanted to Know about Indians But were Afraid to Ask (Young Readers Edition)</i>	Anton Truer	NF	both
<i>Freedom Swimmer</i>	Wai Chim	NF	both
<i>Last Night at the Telegraph Club</i>	Malinda Lo	F	1
<i>Luminous</i>	Samantha Wilcoxson	F	both
<i>Marcello in the Real World</i>	Francisco X Stork	F	both
<i>March</i>	Lewis, Aydin, Powell	NF	both
<i>Medusa</i>	Jessie Burton	F	2
<i>Natural Born Heroes</i>	Christopher McDougall	NF	both
<i>Orbiting Jupiter</i>	Gary D Schmidt	F	2
<i>Outrun the Moon</i>	Stacey Lee	F	both
<i>Picture Us in the Light</i>	Kim Loy Gilbert	F	both
<i>Renegades</i>	Marissa Meyer	F	both
<i>Roxy</i>	Neal and Jarrod Schusterman	F	1
<i>Shackleton's Endurance: An Antarctic Survival Story</i>	Joanna Grochowicz	NF	both
<i>Solo</i>	Kwame Alexander with Mary Rand Hess	F	both
<i>Spearhead (Adapted for Young Adults)</i>	Adam Makos	NF	both

<i>Summer of Salt</i>	Katrina Leno	F	2
<i>Superman Smashes the Klan</i>	Gene Luen Yang	F	both
<i>The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia</i>	Candace Fleming	NF	both
<i>The Field Guide to the North American Teenager</i>	Ben Philippe	F	2
<i>The Nowhere Girls</i>	Amy Reed	F	1
<i>The Unchangeable Spots of Leopards</i>	Kristopher Jansma	F	both
<i>We Were Liars</i>	E. Lockhart	F	both
<i>Women in Space</i>	Karen Bush Gibson	NF	both
<i>Yes She Can: 10 Stories of Hope and Change From Young Female Staffers of the Obama White House</i>	Compiled by Molly Dillon	NF	both

2022 VRHS Summer Reading List Reviews

***An Absolutely Remarkable Thing* by Hank Green**

Roaming through New York City at three AM, twenty-three-year-old April May stumbles across a giant sculpture. Delighted by its appearance and craftsmanship—like a ten-foot-tall Transformer wearing a suit of samurai armor—April and her best friend, Andy, make a video with it, which Andy uploads to YouTube. The next day, April wakes up to a viral video and a new life. News quickly spreads that there are Carls in dozens of cities around the world—from Beijing to Buenos Aires—and April, as their first documentarian, finds herself at the center of an intense international media spotlight. Seizing the opportunity to make her mark on the world, April now has to deal with the consequences her new particular brand of fame has on her relationships, her safety, and her own identity. And all eyes are on April to figure out not just what the sculptures are, but what they want from us.

***Boy 21* by Matthew Quick**

Basketball has always been an escape for Finley. He lives in broken-down Belmont, a town ruled by the Irish mob, drugs, violence, and racially charged rivalries. At home, his dad works nights, and Finley is left to take care of his disabled grandfather alone. He's always dreamed of getting out someday, but until he can, putting on that number 21 jersey makes everything seem okay. Then teen basketball star Russ moves to the neighborhood because his life has been turned upside down by tragedy. Cut off from everyone he knows, he won't pick up a basketball, but answers only to the name Boy21--taken from his former jersey number. As their final year of high school brings these two boys together, a unique friendship may turn out to be the answer they both need

***Butterfly Yellow* by Thanh Hà Lại**

Butterfly Yellow tells the story of the final days of the Vietnam War, when Hằng takes her little brother, Linh, to the airport, determined to find a way to safety in America. In a split second, baby Linh is ripped from her arms—and Hằng is left behind in the war-torn country. Six years later, Hằng has made the brutal journey from Vietnam and is now in Texas as a refugee. She doesn't know how she will find the little brother who was taken from her until she meets LeeRoy, a city boy with big rodeo dreams, who decides to help her. Hằng is overjoyed when she reunites with Linh. But when she realizes he doesn't remember her, their family, or Vietnam, her heart is crushed. Though the distance between them feels greater than ever, Hằng has come so far that she will do anything to bridge the gap.

***Cemetery Boys* by Aiden Thomas**

When his traditional Latino family has problems accepting his gender, Yadriel becomes determined to prove himself a real brujo. With the help of his cousin and best friend Maritza, he performs the ritual himself and then sets out to find the ghost of his murdered cousin and set it free. However, the ghost he summons is actually Julian Diaz, the school's resident bad boy, and Julian is not about to go quietly into death. He's determined to find out what happened and tie up some loose ends before he leaves. Left with no choice, Yadriel agrees to help Julian, so that they can both get what they want. But the longer Yadriel spends with Julian, the less he wants to set him free.

***Code Talker: A Novel about the Navajo Marines of WWII* by Joseph Bruchac**

Throughout World War II, in the conflict fought against Japan, Navajo code talkers were a crucial part of the U.S. effort, sending messages back and forth in an unbreakable code that used their native language. They braved some of the heaviest fighting of the war, and with their code, they saved countless American lives. Yet their story remained classified for more than twenty years. The author delivers a riveting fictionalized account about the life of one code talker based on detailed historical research. Six-year-old Ned Begay leaves his Navajo home for boarding school, where he learns the English language and American ways. At 16, he enlists in the U.S. Marines during World War II and is trained as a code talker, using his native language to radio battlefield information and commands. Ned is rooted in his Navajo consciousness and traditions even in dealing with fear, loneliness, and the horrors of the battlefield.

***Darius the Great is Not Okay* by Adib Khorram**

Darius Kellner suffers from depression, bullying by high school jocks, and a father who seems to always be disappointed in him. When Darius' grandfather becomes terminally ill, Darius, along with his parents and younger sister, travels to Iran for the first time in his life. Iranian on his mother's side and white American on his father's side, Darius never quite fits in. He's mocked for his name and nerdy interests at Chapel Hill High School in Portland, Oregon, and doesn't speak enough Farsi to communicate with his Iranian relatives either. When he arrives in Iran, learning to play the Persian card game Rook, socializing, and celebrating Nowruz with a family he had never properly met before is all overwhelming and leaves Darius wondering if he'll ever truly belong anywhere. But all that changes when Darius meets Sohrab, a Bahá'í boy, in Yazd. Sohrab teaches Darius what friendship is really about: loyalty, honesty, and someone

who has your back in a football (soccer) match. For the first time in a long time, Darius learns to love himself no matter what external forces attempt to squash his confidence.

***Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask (Young Reader's Edition)* by Anton Truer**

In the young reader's edition of this book, you will find answers to all of the questions you have wanted to ask about Native American Indians. Answers to these questions are complete and provide historical context where appropriate. The book is organized into sections including terminology, history, tribal languages, economics, and perspectives. This book provides an introduction to Native American studies.

***Freedom Swimmer* by Wai Chim**

Based on true events, Wai Chim's *Freedom Swimmer* is a powerful story of repression and the redeeming power of friendship and survival. Orphaned during China's Great Leap Forward, Ming is an outcast in his village because of the legacy of his father - who died attempting to escape the oppression and poverty by swimming to Hong Kong. As former Red Guards from the city are sent to Ming's village during the Cultural Revolution, he forms a special bond with Li, who he teaches to swim in the evenings after their grueling days in the field. The harsh life and the contradictions have both boys examining the teachings of Mao from different perspectives but reaching similar conclusions. They dare to think about Ming's father's plan, for freedom and a different life.

***Fuzz* by Mary Roach**

What's to be done about a jaywalking moose? A bear caught breaking and entering? A murderous tree? Three hundred years ago, animals that broke the law would be assigned legal representation and put on trial. The answers are best found not in jurisprudence but in science: the curious science of human-wildlife conflict, a discipline at the crossroads of human behavior and wildlife biology. The author tags along with animal-attack forensics investigators, human-elephant conflict specialists, bear managers, and "danger tree" faller blasters. Intrepid as ever, she travels from leopard-terrorized hamlets in the Indian Himalaya to St. Peter's Square in the early hours before the pope arrives for Easter Mass, when vandal gulls swoop in to destroy the elaborate floral display. She taste-tests rat bait, learns how to install a vulture effigy, and gets mugged by a macaque. Combining little-known forensic science and conservation genetics with a motley cast of laser scarecrows, langur impersonators, and trespassing squirrels, the author reveals as much about humanity as about nature's lawbreakers. When it comes to "problem" wildlife, she finds, humans are more often the problem—and the solution. Fascinating, witty, and humane, *Fuzz* offers hope for compassionate coexistence in our ever-expanding human habitat.

***Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo**

A coming of age story set in 1950s San Francisco. Lily Hu, the teenage daughter of Chinese immigrants is confronted with racism and struggles to find her identity in a time and place that doesn't accept her for who she is and who is she is becoming. With deportation looming over her father—despite his hard-won citizenship—Lily risks everything to accept the person she knows she is.

***Luminous* by Samantha Wilcoxson**

A young girl's life is set on an unexpected course when she accepts a job at Radium Dial. She soon finds out, however, that the excellent pay is no recompense for the dark secret that lurks in the paint that magically made her glow in the dark. This is the story of brave Catherine Donohoe who takes on the might of a big corporation and becomes an early pioneer of social justice in the era between two world wars. Emotive and inspiring - this book will touch you like no other.

***Marcello in the Real World* by Francisco X Stork**

Marcelo hears music no one else can hear--part of the autism-like impairment no doctor has been able to identify--and he's always attended a special school where his differences have been protected. But the summer after his junior year, his father demands that Marcelo work in his law firm's mailroom in order to experience "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.

***March* by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell**

March is a first hand account of John Lewis' lifelong journey toward civil and human rights. Rooted in Lewis' personal story, the work also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement. This is the first book in a trilogy. Book one covers John Lewis' youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., the birth of the Nashville Student Movement, and their battle to tear down segregation through nonviolent lunch counter sit-ins.

***Medusa* by Jessie Burton**

Exiled to a far-flung island by the whims of the gods, Medusa has little company except the snakes that adorn her head instead of hair. But when a charmed, beautiful boy called Perseus arrives on the island, her lonely existence is disrupted with the force of a supernova, unleashing desire, love, betrayal, and destiny itself. This astonishing retelling of Greek myth is perfect for readers of *Circe* and *The Silence of the Girls*. Illuminating the girl behind the legend, it brings alive Medusa for a new generation.

***Natural Born Heroes* by Christopher McDougall**

The best-selling author of *Born to Run* now travels to the Mediterranean, where he discovers that the secrets of ancient Greek heroes are still alive and well on the island of Crete, and ready to be unleashed in the muscles and minds of casual athletes and aspiring heroes everywhere. After running an ultramarathon through the Copper Canyons of Mexico, Christopher McDougall finds his next great adventure on the razor-sharp mountains of Crete, where a band of Resistance fighters in World War II plotted the daring abduction of a German general from the heart of the Nazi occupation. How did a penniless artist, a young shepherd, and a playboy poet believe they could carry out such a remarkable feat of strength and endurance, smuggling the general past thousands of Nazi pursuers, with little more than their own wits and courage to guide them? McDougall makes his way to the island to find the answer and retrace their steps, experiencing firsthand the extreme physical challenges the Resistance

fighters and their local allies faced. On Crete, the birthplace of the classical Greek heroism that spawned the likes of Herakles and Odysseus, McDougall discovers the tools of the hero—natural movement, extraordinary endurance, and efficient nutrition. All of these skills, McDougall learns, are still practiced in far-flung pockets throughout the world today.

More than a mystery of remarkable people and cunning schemes, *Natural Born Heroes* is a fascinating investigation into the lost art of the hero, taking us from the streets of London at midnight to the beaches of Brazil at dawn, from the mountains of Colorado to McDougall's own backyard in Pennsylvania, all places where modern-day athletes are honing ancient skills so they're ready for anything. Just as *Born to Run* inspired readers to get off the treadmill, out of their shoes, and into the natural world, *Natural Born Heroes* will inspire them to leave the gym and take their fitness routine to nature—to climb, swim, skip, throw, and jump their way to their own heroic feats.

***Orbiting Jupiter* by Gary D. Schmidt**

The two-time Newbery Honor winner Gary D. Schmidt delivers the shattering story of Joseph, a father at thirteen, who has never seen his daughter, Jupiter. After spending time in a juvenile facility, he's placed with a foster family on a farm in rural Maine. Here Joseph, damaged and withdrawn, meets twelve-year-old Jack, who narrates the account of the troubled, passionate teen who wants to find his baby at any cost. In this riveting novel, two boys discover the true meaning of family and the sacrifices it requires.

***Outrun the Moon* by Stacey Lee**

In 1906 San Francisco, Mercy Wong, a fifteen year old girl from Chinatown uses her cunning skills to get accepted into St. Clare's School for Girls, a school for rich white girls. When an earthquake strikes the city on April 28th, Mercy's school and town is destroyed. She must look for her family and help others survive.

***Picture Us in the Light* by Kim Loy Gilbert**

Danny has been an artist for as long as he can remember and it seems his path is set, with a scholarship to RISD and his family's blessing to pursue the career he's always dreamed of. Still, contemplating a future without his best friend, Harry Wong, by his side makes Danny feel a panic he can barely put into words. Harry and Danny's lives are deeply intertwined and as they approach the one-year anniversary of a tragedy that shook their friend group to its core, Danny can't stop asking himself if Harry is truly in love with his girlfriend, Regina Chan. When Danny digs deeper into his parents' past, he uncovers a secret that disturbs the foundations of his family history and the carefully constructed facade his parents have maintained begins to crumble. With everything he loves in danger of being stripped away, Danny must face the ghosts of the past in order to build a future that belongs to him.

***Renegades* by Marissa Meyer**

The Renegades are a group of prodigies—humans with extraordinary abilities—who emerged from the ruins of a crumbled society and established peace and order where chaos reigned. As champions of justice, they remain a symbol of hope and courage to everyone...except the villains they once overthrew.

Nova has a reason to hate the Renegades, and she is on a mission for vengeance. As she gets closer to her target, she meets Adrian, a Renegade boy who believes in justice—and Nova. But Nova's allegiance is to a villain who has the power to end them both. If you like dystopian fiction or superhero fiction, this may be a great fit for you. If you liked *Legend* by Marie Lu, you may like this due to the dual narrators.

***Roxy* by Neal and Jarrod Schusterman**

Trigger warning: drug use, abuse, overdose, death

In this gripping story of drugs personified, Addy (Adderall) and Roxy (OxyContin) alternately describe a deadly game to get Issac and Ivy addicted. We also hear the first-hand accounts of these two high schoolers; Issac the star soccer player who sustains an ankle injury and his sister Ivy who struggles with ADHD. Once they are addicted, Addy and Roxy push each to be the first to overdose to win their cruel game. *Roxy* is an allegorical tale of love and addiction, not for every reader but rewarding for those who want to be challenged.

***Shackleton's Endurance: An Antarctic Survival Story* by Joanna Grochowicz**

In August 1914, Ernest Shackleton and his men set sail for Antarctica, where he planned to cross the last uncharted continent on foot. In January 1915, his ship, the *Endurance*, became locked in pack ice and later sank without a trace. To survive, Shackleton and his crew of 27 men must undertake a trial even more extreme than their planned crossing of the frozen continent. Their aim is to make it home against unbeatable odds, with only a life boat to cross the heavy seas of the South Atlantic—and the life-saving power of Shackleton's extraordinary leadership skills. Learn how *all* the men aboard (and one cat!) survived the two year ordeal. *This amazing story made headlines in March when *The Endurance* was found perfectly preserved 10,000 feet under the Antarctica's Weddell Sea, 100 years after it sank.

***Solo* by Kwame Alexander with Mary Rand Hess**

Blade never asked for the life of the rich and famous. In fact, he'd give anything not to be the son of Rutherford Morrison, a washed-up rock star and drug addict with delusions of a comeback. Or to no longer be a part of a family known most for lost potential, failure, and tragedy. The one true light is his girlfriend, Chapel, but her parents have forbidden their relationship, assuming—like many—that Blade will become just like his father. However, the only thing Blade has in common with Rutherford is the music that lives inside them. But not even the songs that flow through Blade's soul are enough when he's faced with two unimaginable realities: the threat of losing Chapel forever, and the revelation of a long-held family secret, one that leaves him questioning everything he thought was true. All that remains is a letter and a ticket to Ghana—both of which could bring Blade the freedom and love he's been searching for, or leave him feeling more adrift.

***Spearhead: Adapted for Young Adults* by Adam Makos**

Told in the first person perspective, Carence is a twenty-one year old tank gunner during World War II. Follow his riveting and true account of his time during the war becoming family with other American soldiers he lived with in his tank. This is a true account of the struggles of war as well as the prospect of forgiveness.

***Summer of Salt* by Katrina Leno**

Georgina Fernweh waits with growing impatience for the tingle of magic in her fingers—magic that has been passed down through every woman in her family. Her twin sister, Mary, already shows an ability to defy gravity. But with their eighteenth birthday looming at the end of this summer, Georgina fears her gift will never come. No one on the island of By-the-Sea would ever call the Fernwehs what they really are, but if you need the odd bit of help—say, a sleeping aid concocted by moonlight—they are the ones to ask. When tragedy strikes, what made the Fernweh women special suddenly casts them in suspicion. Over the course of her last summer on the island—a summer of storms, of love, of salt—Georgina will learn the truth about magic, in all its many forms.

***Superman Smashes the Klan* by Gene Luen Yang**

From Gene Luen Yang, author of *American Born Chinese*, comes the story of the Lee family who moves from Chinatown to downtown Metropolis. While Dr. Lee is eager to begin his new job at the Metropolis Health Department, his children, Roberta and Tommy, are more excited about being closer to Superman, the famous superhero. Tommy joins the baseball team and quickly makes friends but Roberta struggles with feeling different. While the Lees try to adjust to their new lives, an evil is stirring in Metropolis: the Klan. The Klan targets the Lee family and Roberta is forced to step out of her comfort zone, with the help of Superman, in order to save her brother.

***The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia* by Candace Fleming**

The tumultuous, heartrending, true story of the Romanovs—at once an intimate portrait of Russia's last royal family and a gripping account of its undoing. Using captivating photos and compelling first person accounts, the deftly maneuvers between the imperial family's extravagant lives and the plight of Russia's poor masses, making this an utterly mesmerizing read.

***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. Plunked into a new high school and sweating a ridiculous amount from the oppressive Texas heat, Norris finds himself cataloging everyone he meets: the Cheerleaders, the Jocks, the Loners, and even the Manic Pixie Dream Girl. Making a ton of friends has never been a priority for him, and this way he can at least amuse himself until it's time to go back to Canada, where he belongs. Yet, against all odds, those labels soon become actual people to Norris. Be it 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. He even starts playing actual hockey with these Texans. 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.

***The Nowhere Girls* by Amy Reed**

Three misfits come together to avenge the rape of a fellow classmate and in the process trigger a change in the misogynist culture at their high school transforming the lives of everyone around them in this searing and timely story. Who are the Nowhere Girls? They're everygirl. But they start with just three:

Grace Salter is the new girl in town, whose family was run out of their former community after her southern Baptist preacher mom turned into a radical liberal after falling off a horse and bumping her head. Rosina Suarez is the queer punk girl in a conservative Mexican immigrant family, who dreams of a life playing music instead of babysitting her gaggle of cousins and waitressing at her uncle's restaurant. Erin Delillo is obsessed with two things: marine biology and *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, but they aren't enough to distract her from her suspicion that she may in fact be an android.

***The Unchangeable Spots of Leopards* by Kristopher Jansma**

From as early as he can remember the hopelessly unreliable, yet hopelessly earnest, narrator has wanted to become a writer. From the jazz clubs of Manhattan to the villages of Sri Lanka, Kristopher Jansma's irresistible narrator will be inspired and haunted by the success of his greatest friend and rival in writing, the eccentric and brilliantly talented Julian McGann, and endlessly enamored with Julian's enchanting friend, Evelyn, the green-eyed girl who got away. After the trio has a disastrous falling out, desperate to tell the truth in his writing and to figure out who he really is, Jansma's narrator finds himself caught in a never-ending web of lies.

***We Were Liars* by e. Lockhart**

A beautiful and distinguished family.

A private island.

A brilliant, damaged girl; a passionate, political boy.

A group of four friends; cousins—the Liars—whose friendship turns destructive.

A revolution. An accident. A secret.

Lies upon lies.

True love.

The truth.

***Women in Space* by Karen Bush Gibson**

Women in Space profiles twenty-three female space pioneers including Eileen Collins, the first woman to command the space shuttle; Peggy Whitson, who logged more than a year in orbit aboard the International Space Station; and Mae Jemison, the first African American woman in space; as well as astronauts from Japan, Canada, Italy, South Korea, France, and more.

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

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to work in the White House? This book compiles ten narratives by women who were staffers of the Obama White House. Though these women were young,

many right out of college, they played integral roles in the daily running of the White House. Follow their time in the White House as they explain their jobs, plan events, and interact with members of the White House and the public.