DEPARTMENT OF
TEACHING & LEARNING
NEWPORT NEWS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST

1984, George Orwell	*Pashmina,* Nidhi Chanani
A Soldier's Play, Charles Fuller	*Popular*, Maya Van Wagenen
All American Boys, Jason Reynolds	*Royal Pain,* Raelyn Drake
All Summer Long, Hope Larson	*Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie,* David Lubar
Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe, Benjamin Alire Sáenz	*Speak,* Laurie Halse Anderson
Autobiography of a Face, Lucy Grealy	*Stamped,* Ibram X. Kendi
Beauty Queens, Libba Bray	*The Berlin Boxing Club,* Robert Sharenow
Between Shades of Gray, Rutas Sepetys	*The Book Thief,* Marcus Zusak
Bleachers, John Grisham	*The Curious Incident of a Dog in the Night-Time,* Mark Haddon
Brazen: Rebel Ladies Who Rocked the World, Penelope Bagieu	*The Field Trip (Attack on Earth),* R. T. Martin
Breakthrough! How Three People Saved 'Blue Babies' and Changed Medicine Forever, Jim Murphy	*The Glass Castle,* Jeannette Walls
Breakthrough: How One Teen Innovator Is Changing the World, Jack Andraka	

City of Thieves, David Benioff	*The Joy Luck Club,* Amy Tan
Copper Sun, Sharon Draper	*The Last Lecture,* Randy Pausch
David Tung Can't Have a Girlfriend Until He Gets Into An Ivy League College, Ed Lin	*The Last of the Mohicans,* James Fenimore Cooper
Dear Martin, Nic Stone	*The Lovely Bones,* Alice Sebold
Elena Vanishing, Elena Dunkle	*The New David Espinoza,* Fred Aceves
Fake ID, Lamar Giles	*The Poet X,* Elizabeth Acevedo
Feed, M.T. Anderson	*The Prince and the Dressmaker,* Jen Wang
Fences, August Wilson	*The Road,* Cormac McCarthy
Girls on the Line, Jennie Liu	*The Sacred Lies of Minnow Bly,* Stephanie Oakes
Hey, Kiddo, Jarrett Krosocka	*The Salt Eaters,* Toni Cade Bambara
How It Went Down, Kekla Magoon	*The Unwanted: Stories of the Syrian Refugees,* Don Brown
I Am Nujoo, Ali Nujood	*These Violent Delights,* Chloe Gong
I'll Give You the Sun, Jandy Nelson	*Thicker Than Water,* Natasha Deen
Into the Wild, Jon Krakauer	*Tomboy,* Liz Prince
Kindred: The Graphic Novel Adaptation, Octavia Butler	*Tuesdays with Morrie,* Mitch Albom
Life of Pi, Yann Martel	*Turtles All the Way Down,* John Green
Long Way Down, Jason Reynolds	*Unwind,* John Shusterman
Maus I and II, Art Spieglman	*Way Past Cool,* Jess Mowry
Mudbound, Hillary Jordan	*We Are the Ants,* Shaun David Hutchinson
Nothing Happened, Molly Booth	*We Were Liars,* E. Lockhart
On a Sunbeam, Tillie Walden	*Welcome to 4B,* Brynn Kelly
One of Us Is Lying, Karen M. McManus	*When I Was the Greatest,* Jason Reynolds
	Wires & Nerve, Vol.1, Marissa Meyer

Students can access Summer Reading books in a variety of ways:

1. **SORA app**: https://soraapp.com/library/nnpsva

2. **Newport News Libraries**:
   - Students enrolled in Newport News Public Schools automatically have a Newport News Public Library Student Membership with access to NNPL resources.
   - NNPS students can check out 5 books using their student IDs at any NNPL branch!
   - Current students can use their school ID number to check out books from our branch libraries (up to 5 juvenile or young adult titles), utilize digital resources, or log onto the public computers at our locations.
   - Most of NNPL's e-resources are accessible with NNPS Student Memberships, including digital books, audio books, magazines, streaming video and downloadable music, along with most of our digital research & educational resources.
   - Find out more about these free student accounts on our website: https://library.nnva.gov/294/Student-Membership

Below are summaries for the **NNPS High School Summer Reading** titles listed above.

Credit for summaries to Amazon, Shmoop, Cliffs Notes, Spark Notes, and Good Reads

1984, George Orwell
It is a dystopian novel that tells the story of Winston Smith and warns of the dangers of a totalitarian government that rules through fear, surveillance, propaganda, and brainwashing.

A Soldier's Play, Charles Fuller
The play uses a murder mystery to explore the complicated feelings of anger and resentment that some African Americans have toward one another, and the ways in which many black Americans have absorbed white racist attitudes.

All American Boys, Jason Reynolds
Two teens--one black, one white--grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension. Written in tandem by two award-winning authors, this tour de force shares the alternating perspectives of Rashad and Quinn as the complications from that single violent moment, the type taken from the headlines, unfold and reverberate to highlight an unwelcome truth.

All Summer Long, Hope Larson
This graphic novel about summer and friendships tells the story of thirteen-year-old Bina. She has a long summer ahead of her. She and her best friend, Austin, usually do everything together, but he's off to soccer camp for a month, and he's been acting kind of weird lately anyway. So it's up to Bina to see how much fun she can have on her own. At first it's a lot of guitar playing, boredom, and bad TV, but things look up when she finds an unlikely companion in Austin's older sister, who enjoys music just as much as Bina. But then Austin comes home from camp, and he's acting even weirder than when he left. How Bina and Austin rise above their growing pains and reestablish their friendship and respect for their differences makes for a touching and funny coming-of-age story.

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe, Benjamin Alire Sáenz
Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common.

But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship—the kind that changes lives and lasts a lifetime. And it is through this friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves and the kind of people they want to be.

Autobiography of a Face, Lucy Grealy
At age nine, Lucy Grealy was diagnosed with a potentially terminal cancer. When she returned to school with a third of her jaw removed, she faced the cruel taunts of classmates. In this strikingly candid memoir, Grealy tells her story of great suffering and remarkable strength without sentimentality and with considerable wit.

Beauty Queens, Libba Bray
Survival. Of the fittest.The fifty contestants in the Miss Teen Dream Pageant thought this was going to be a fun trip to the beach, where they could parade in their state-appropriate costumes and compete in front of the cameras. But sadly, their airplane had another idea, crashing on a desert island and leaving the survivors stranded with little food, little water, and practically no eyeliner. What's a beauty queen to do? Continue to practice for the talent portion of the program--or wrestle snakes to the ground? Get a perfect tan--or learn to run wild? And what should happen when the sexy pirates show up? Welcome to the heart of non-exfoliated darkness. Your tour guide? None other than Libba Bray, the hilarious, sensational, Printz Award-winning author of A Great and Terrible Beauty and Going Bovine. The result is a novel that will make you laugh, make you think, and make you never see beauty the same way again.

Between Shades of Gray, Ruta Sepetys
This is the story of Lina, a fifteen-year-old Lithuanian girl in 1941. One night Soviet officers barge into her home, tearing her family from the comfortable life they've known. Lina, her mother, and her young brother slowly make their way north, crossing the Arctic Circle, to a work camp in the coldest reaches of Siberia. It is a long and harrowing journey, spanning years and covering 6,500 miles, but it is through incredible strength, love, and hope that Lina ultimately survives.

Bleachers, John Grisham
Neely Crenshaw returns to his home town awaiting the death of his critically ill high school football coach in a town where football is everything. Former players gather on the bleachers to reflect on past games and the coach they all loved and hated.

Brazen: Rebel Ladies Who Rocked the World, Penelope Begieu
Throughout history and across the globe, one characteristic connects the daring women of Brazen: their indomitable spirit. Against overwhelming adversity, these remarkable women raised their voices and changed history. With her one- of-a-kind wit and dazzling drawings, celebrated graphic novelist Penelope Bagieu profiles the lives of these feisty female role models, some world-famous, some little known. From Nellie Bly to Mae Jemison or Josephine Baker to Naziq al-Abid, the stories in this comic biography are sure to inspire the next generation of rebel ladies.

Breakthrough!: How Three People Saved "Blue Babies" and Changed Medicine Forever, Jim Murphy
In 1944, a groundbreaking operation repaired the congenital heart defect known as blue baby syndrome. The operation's success brought the surgeon Alfred Blalock international fame and paved the way for open-heart surgery. But the technique had been painstakingly developed by Vivien Thomas, Blalock's African American lab assistant, who stood behind Blalock in the operating room to give him step-by-step instructions. The stories of this medical and social breakthrough and the lives of Thomas, Blalock, and their colleague Dr. Helen Taussig are intertwined in this compelling nonfiction narrative.

Breakthrough: How One Teen Innovator Is Changing the World, Jack Andraka
For the first time, teen innovator and scientist Jack Andraka tells the story behind his revolutionary discovery. When a dear family friend passed away from pancreatic cancer, Jack was inspired to create a better method of early detection. At the age of fifteen, he garnered international attention for his breakthrough: a four-cent strip of paper capable of detecting pancreatic, ovarian, and lung cancers four hundred times more effectively than the previous standard. It is a story of overcoming depression and homophobic bullying and finding the resilience to persevere and come out. Do-it-yourself science experiments are included in each chapter.

City of Thieves, David Benioff
During the Nazis' brutal siege of Leningrad, Lev Beniov is arrested for looting and thrown into the same cell as a handsome deserter named Kolya. Instead of being executed, Lev and Kolya are given a shot at saving their own lives by complying with an outrageous directive. In a city cut off from all supplies and suffering unbelievable deprivation, Lev and Kolya embark on a hunt through the dire lawlessness of Leningrad and behind enemy lines to find the impossible. City of Thieves is a captivating novel about war, courage, survival - and a remarkable friendship that ripples across a lifetime.

Copper Sun, Sharon Draper
Amari's life was once perfect. But when slave traders invade her village and brutally murder her entire family, Amari finds herself dragged away to a slave ship headed to the Carolinas, where she is bought by a plantation owner and given to his son as a birthday present. Survival seems all that Amari can hope for. But then an act of unimaginable cruelty provides her with an opportunity to escape, and with an indentured servant named Polly she flees to Fort Mose, Florida, in search of sanctuary at the Spanish colony. This is the story of Amari and Polly on their arduous journey, fraught with hardship and danger, as they pursue the elusive dream of freedom.

David Tung Can't Have a Girlfriend Until He Gets Into An Ivy League College, Ed Lin
David Tung, our nerd-hero, is a Chinese American high-school student who works in his family's restaurant, competes for top grades at his regular high school located in an upscale, Asian-majority New Jersey suburb, and attends weekend Chinese school in NYC's working-class Chinatown. While David faces parental pressures to get As and conform to cultural norms and expectations, he's caught up in the complicated world of high school love triangles—and amid these external pressures is the fear he will die alone, whether he gets into Harvard or not!

Dear Martin, Nic Stone
Justyce McAllister is top of his class and set for the Ivy League—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. And despite leaving his rough neighborhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates. Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a journal to Dr. King to find out.

Elena Vanishing, Elena Dunkle
Seventeen-year-old Elena is vanishing. Every day means renewed determination, so every day means fewer calories. This is the story of a girl whose armor against anxiety becomes artillery against herself as she battles on both sides of a lose-lose war in a struggle with anorexia. Told entirely from Elena's perspective over a five-year period and co-written with her mother, Elena's memoir is a fascinating and intimate look at a deadly disease.

Fake ID, Lamar Giles
Lamar Giles takes readers on a wild and dark ride in this contemporary Witness Protection thriller. Nick Pearson is hiding in plain sight. In fact, his name isn't really Nick Pearson. He shouldn't tell you his real name, his real hometown, or why his family just moved to Stepton, Virginia. He definitely shouldn't tell you about his friend Eli Cruz and the major conspiracy Eli was uncovering when he died. Nick is faced with choosing between solving Eli's murder and "staying low- key" like the Program said to do.

Feed, M.T. Anderson
The book is a dark satire about corporate power, consumerism, information technology, and data mining in society. The characters in this novel are attached to computers and television when they are babies, and their lives are reflections of the impact of base consumerism and mind control. The Feed not only provides society with information on demand but also manipulates the individual's decision-making.

Fences, August Wilson
Troy is a fifty-something head of household who struggles with providing for his family and with his obsession of cheating death. Troy was a great baseball player in his youth, but this was before the color barrier was broken in MLB. Thus, he was unable to make good money then or to save money for the future. He now lives a menial life along with his wife, Rose, plus two sons named Lyons (from a previous marriage who does not live in his house) and Cory (who still lives in the house at the play's opening).

Girls on the Line, Jennie Liu
A teen pregnancy puts two orphan girls in contemporary China on a collision course with factory bosses, family planning regulators, and a bride trafficker.

Hey, Kiddo, Jarrett Krosocka
Hey, Kiddo is the graphic memoir of author-illustrator Jarrett J. Krosoczka. Raised by his colorful grandparents, who adopted him because his mother was an incarcerated heroin addict, Krosoczka didn't know his father's name until he saw his birth certificate when registering for a school ski trip. Hey, Kiddo traces Krosoczka's search for his father, his difficult interactions with his mother, his day-to-day life with his grandparents, and his path to becoming an artist.

How It Went Down, Kekla Magoon
How It Went Down is the timely story of sixteen-year-old Tariq Johnson. When Tariq dies from two gunshot wounds, his community is thrown into an uproar. Tariq was black. The shooter, Jack Franklin, is white. In the aftermath of Tariq's death, everyone has something to say, but no two accounts of the events line up. Day by day, new twists further obscure the truth.

I Am Nujood, Ali Nujood
Nujood Ali's childhood came to an abrupt end in 2008 when her father arranged for her to be married to a man three times her age. With harrowing directness, Nujood tells of abuse at her husband's hands and of her daring escape. With the help of local advocates and the press, Nujood obtained her freedom-an extraordinary achievement in Yemen, where almost half of all girls are married under the legal age. Nujood's courageous defiance of both Yemeni customs and her own family has inspired other young girls in the Middle East to challenge their marriages.

I'll Give You the Sun, Jandy Nelson
At first, Jude and her twin brother are NoahandJude; inseparable. Noah draws constantly and is falling in love with the charismatic boy next door, while daredevil Jude wears red-red lipstick, cliff-dives, and does all the talking for both of them. Years later, they are barely speaking. Something has happened to change the twins in different yet equally devastating ways . . . but then Jude meets an intriguing, irresistible boy and a mysterious new mentor.

Into the Wild, Jon Krakauer
Chris McCandless grew up in suburban Annandale, Virginia. After graduating in 1990 with high grades from Emory University, McCandless ceased communicating with his family, gave away his college fund of $24,000 and began traveling, later abandoning his car. In April 1992, McCandless hitchhiked to the Stampede Trail in Alaska. This memoir details Chris' experience in "The Wild."

Kindred: The Graphic Novel Adaptation, Octavia Butler
Butler's most celebrated, critically acclaimed work tells the story of Dana, a young black woman who is suddenly and inexplicably transported from her home in 1970s California to the pre-Civil War South. As she time-travels between worlds, one in which she is a free woman and one where she is part of her own complicated familial history on a southern plantation, she becomes frighteningly entangled in the lives of Rufus, a conflicted white slaveholder and one of Dana's own ancestors, and the many people who are enslaved by him.

Life of Pi, Yann Martel
Life of Pi is a fantasy adventure novel by Yann Martel published in 2001. The protagonist, Piscine Molitor "Pi" Patel, a Tamil boy from Pondicherry, explores issues of spirituality and practicality from an early age. He survives 227 days after a shipwreck while stranded on a boat in the Pacific Ocean with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker.

Long Way Down, Jason Reynolds
In this haunting, cautionary tale delivered in verse, fifteen-year-old Will is forced to consider the potential consequences of his actions as he, armed with a gun and seeking revenge, waits for the elevator in his building to reach the ground floor.

March I, II, III, John Lewis
Discover the inside story of the Civil Rights Movement through the eyes of one of its most iconic figures, Congressman John Lewis. March is the award-winning, #1 bestselling graphic novel trilogy recounting his life in the movement.

Maus I and II, Art Spiegelman
A brutally moving work of art-widely hailed as the greatest graphic novel ever written-Maus recounts the chilling experiences of the author's father during the Holocaust, with Jews drawn as wide-eyed mice and Nazis as menacing cats. This haunting tale within a tale weaves the author's account of his tortured relationship with his aging father into an astonishing retelling of one of history's most unspeakable tragedies. It is an unforgettable story of survival and a disarming look at the legacy of trauma.

Mudbound, Hillary Jordan
In Jordan's prize-winning debut, prejudice takes many forms, both subtle and brutal. In the midst of the family's struggles, two young men return from the war to work the land. It is the unlikely friendship of these brothers-in-arms that drives this powerful novel to its inexorable conclusion. The men and women of each family relate their versions of events.

Nothing Happened, Molly Booth
This modern-day retelling of Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing takes place at the idyllic Camp Dogberry, where sisters Bee and Hana Leonato have lived their whole lives. Their parents own the place, and every summer they look forward to leading little campers in crafts, swimming in the lake, playing capture the flag and Sproutball, and of course, throwing legendary counselor parties.

This year, the camp drama isn't just on the improv stage. Bee and longtime counselor Ben have a will-they-or-won't-they romance that's complicated by events that happened -- or didn't happen -- last summer. Meanwhile, Hana is falling hard for the kind but insecure Claudia, putting them both in the crosshairs of resident troublemaker John, who spreads a vicious rumor that could tear them apart.

As the counselors juggle their camp responsibilities with simmering drama that comes to a head at the Fourth of July sparkler party, they'll have to swallow their pride and find the courage to untangle the truth, whether it leads to heartbreak or happily ever after.

On a Sunbeam, Tillie Walden
Throughout the deepest reaches of space, a crew rebuilds beautiful and broken-down structures, painstakingly putting the past together. As Mia, the newest member, gets to know her team, the story flashes back to her pivotal year in boarding school, where she met and fell deeply in love with a mysterious female new student, only to learn the pain of loss. When Mia grows close to her new friends, she reveals her true purpose for joining their ship-to track down her long-lost love. An inventive world, a breathtaking love story, and stunning art come together in this new work by award-winning artist Tillie Walden.

One of Us Is Lying, Karen M. McManus
Pay close attention and you might solve this. On Monday afternoon, five students at Bayview High walk into detention. Bronwyn, the brain, is Yale-bound and never breaks a rule. Addy, the beauty, is the picture-perfect homecoming princess. Nate, the criminal, is already on probation for dealing. Cooper, the athlete, is the all-star baseball pitcher. And Simon, the outcast, is the creator of Bayview High's notorious gossip app. Simon never makes it out of that classroom. Before the end of detention, Simon's dead. And according to investigators, his death wasn't an accident. On Monday, he died. But on Tuesday, he'd planned to post juicy reveals about all four of his high-profile classmates, which makes all four of them suspects in his murder.

Pashmina, Nidhi Chanani
Priyanka Das has so many unanswered questions: Why did her mother abandon her home in India years ago? What was it like there? And most importantly, who is her father, and why did her mom leave him behind? But Pri's mom avoids these questions--the topic of India is permanently closed. For Pri, her mother's homeland can only exist in her imagination. That is, until she finds a mysterious pashmina tucked away in a forgotten suitcase. When she wraps herself in it, she is transported to a place more vivid and colorful than any guidebook or Bollywood film. But is this the real India? And what is that shadow lurking in the background? To learn the truth, Pri must travel farther than she's ever dared and find the family she never knew.

Popular, Maya Van Wagenen
Maya has never been popular. But before starting eighth grade, she decides to begin a unique social experiment: spend the school year following a 1950s popularity guide, written by former teen model Betty Cornell. The real-life results are hilarious, painful, and filled with unexpected surprises. Told with humor and grace, Maya's journey offers readers of all ages a thoroughly contemporary example of kindness and self-confidence, along with a better understanding of what it means to be popular.

Royal Pain, Raelyn Drake
When Noah's grandfather dies, he finds out that there is much more to this mysterious side of his family than he's ever known--Noah belongs to the royal family of the European country of Evonia. He must decide whether he wants to take on royal responsibilities or keep living a normal life--but if Noah's grandmother has anything to say about it, he'll stick around for true love. This coming-of-age story is laced with romance, mystery, and escapist fun.

Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie, David Lubar
Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie is a 2005 young adult novel by David Lubar. It is a story about the high school experiences of a fourteen-year-old boy named Scott Hudson. The narration is peppered with lists, journal entries and Scott's creative writing attempts. While generally light-hearted in tone, the novel explores heavier subjects such as bullying, peer pressure and teenage suicide.

Speak (novel and graphic novel), Laurie Halse Anderson
Speak chronicles the struggles of thirteen-year-old Melinda Sordino after she is a raped by at a party the summer before her freshman year of high school by another student. Melinda tells her story in first person narrative. She describes events within the framework of the four marking periods of the school year.

Stamped, Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds
Through a gripping, fast-paced, and energizing narrative written by beloved award-winner Jason Reynolds, this book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas–and on ways readers can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives.

The Berlin Boxing Club, Robert Sharenow
This novel is loosely inspired by the true story of boxer Max Schmeling's experiences following Kristallnacht. Max Schmeling, champion boxer and German hero, makes a deal to give Karl boxing lessons. A skilled cartoonist, Karl has never had an interest in boxing, but now it seems like the perfect chance to reinvent himself. But when Nazi violence against Jews escalates, Karl must take on a new role: family protector. And as Max's fame forces him to associate with Nazi elites, Karl begins to wonder where his hero's sympathies truly lie.

The Book Thief, Marcus Zusak
Set in Nazi Germany, this novel describes a young girl's relationship with her foster parents, Hans and Rosa, the other residents of their neighborhood, and a Jewish fist-fighter who hides in her home during the escalation of World War II.

The Curious Incident of a Dog in the Night-Time, Mark Haddon
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time takes place in the year 1998 in and around the town of Swindon, England. The fifteen-year-old narrator of the story, Christopher John Francis Boone, discovers the slain body of his neighbor's poodle, Wellington, on the neighbor's front lawn one evening and sets out to uncover the murderer. His investigation is at times aided, and at other times hampered, by the mild form of autism he lives with.

The Field Trip (Attack on Earth), R.T. Martin
On a flight back home from her school choir trip, Kayla's airplane makes a sudden landing in a small airport. Only then does everyone find out this mysterious landing was because of the alien lights appearing in the sky. When the aliens attack Earth, Kayla and her friends are stuck in the airport with no electricity and no way to reach their families. They'll have to decide whether to wait around for help or risk trying to get home on their own.

The Glass Castle, Jeannette Walls
The Glass Castle is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered.

The Joy Luck Club, Amy Tan
The Joy Luck Club focuses on four Chinese American immigrant families in San Francisco, California who start a club known as "the Joy Luck Club," playing the Chinese game of mahjong for money while feasting on a variety of foods. The book is structured somewhat like a mahjong game, with four parts divided into four sections to create sixteen chapters. The three mothers and four daughters share stories about their lives in the form of vignettes. Each part is preceded by a parable relating to the game.

The Last Lecture, Randy Pausch
When Randy Pausch, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon, was asked to give a lecture, he didn't have to imagine it as his last, since he had recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer. But the lecture he gave-"Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams"-wasn't about dying. It was about the importance of overcoming obstacles, of enabling the dreams of others, of seizing every moment.

The Last of the Mohicans, James Fenimore Cooper
The Last of the Mohicans is set in the British province of New York during the French and Indian War. It concerns the rescue and transport to safety of two sisters, Alice and Cora, who are kidnapped following a Huron massacre of Anglo- American soldiers. They are escorted by frontiersman Natty Bumppo, Major Duncan Heyward, and the Indians Chingachgook and Uncas, the titular sole surviving member of the Mohican tribe.

The Lovely Bones, Alice Sebold
This is the story of a teenage girl who, after being raped and murdered, watches from Heaven as her family and friends struggle to move on with their lives while she comes to terms with her own death.

The New David Espinoza, Fred Aceves
David Espinoza is tired of being messed with. When a video of him getting knocked down by a bully's slap goes viral at the end of junior year, David vows to use the summer to bulk up— do what it takes to become a man—and wow everyone when school starts again in the fall. Soon David is spending all his time and money at Iron Life, a nearby gym that's full of bodybuilders. Frustrated with his slow progress, his life eventually becomes all about his muscle gains. As it says on the Iron Life wall, What does not kill me makes me stronger. As David falls into the dark side of the bodybuilding world, pursuing his ideal body at all costs, he'll have to grapple with the fact that it could actually cost him everything.

The Poet X, Elizabeth Acevedo
This debut novel tells the story of a young girl in Harlem who discovers slam poetry as a way to understand her mother's religion and her own relationship to the world. Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. But Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers-especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman, who her family can never know about. With Mami's determination to force her daughter to obey the laws of the church, Xiomara understands that her thoughts are best kept to herself. So when she is invited to join her school's slam poetry club, she doesn't know how she could ever attend without her Mami finding out, much less speak her words out loud. But still, she can't stop thinking about performing her poems.Because in the face of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent.

The Prince and the Dressmaker, Jen Wang
Prince Sebastian is looking for a bride-or rather, his parents are looking for one for him. Sebastian is too busy hiding his secret life from everyone. At night he puts on daring dresses and takes Paris by storm as the fabulous Lady Crystallia-the hottest fashion icon in the world capital of fashion! Sebastian's secret weapon (and best friend} is the brilliant dressmaker Frances-one of only two people who know the truth: sometimes this boy wears dresses. But Frances dreams of greatness, and being someone's secret weapon means being a secret. Forever. How long can Frances defer her dreams to protect a friend? Jen Wang weaves an exuberantly romantic tale of identity, young love,art,and family.

The Road, Cormac McCarthy
The Road follows an unnamed father and son journeying together across a grim post-apocalyptic landscape, some years after a great, unexplained cataclysm has destroyed most civilization and most life on Earth. Realizing that they will not survive another winter in their unspecified original location, the father leads the boy south, through a desolate American landscape along a vacant highway, towards the sea, sustained only by the vague hope of finding warmth and more "good guys" like them, and carrying with them only what is on their backs and what will fit into a damaged supermarket cart.

The Sacred Lies of Minnow Bly, Stephanie Oakes
The Kevinian cult has taken everything from seventeen-year-old Minnow: twelve years of her life, her family, her ability to trust. And when she rebelled, they took away her hands, too. Now their Prophet has been murdered and their camp set aflame, and it's clear that Minnow knows something-but she's not talking. As she languishes in juvenile detention, she struggles to unlearn everything she has been taught to believe. But when an FBI detective approaches her about making a deal, Minnow sees she can have the freedom she always dreamed of-if she's willing to part with the terrible secrets of her past.

The Salt Eaters, Toni Cade Bambara
Set in a town somewhere in the South, here is the story of a community of black people searching for the healing properties of salt who witness an event that will change their lives forever. From the men who live off welfare women to the mud mothers who carry their children in their hides, the novel brilliantly explores the narcissistic aspect of despair and the tremendous responsibility that comes with physical, spiritual, and mental well-being.

The Unwanted: Stories of the Syrian Refugees, Don Brown
The Unwanted is an important, timely, and eye-opening exploration of the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis, exposing the harsh realities of living in, and trying to escape, a war zone. Starting in 2011, refugees flood out of war-torn Syria in Exodus-like proportions. The surprising flood of victims overwhelms neighboring countries, and chaos follows. Resentment in host nations heightens as disruption and the cost of aid grows. By 2017, many want to turn their backs on the victims. The refugees are the unwanted. Don Brown depicts moments of both heartbreaking horror and hope in the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis. Shining a light on the stories of the survivors, The Unwanted is a testament to the courage and resilience of the refugees and a call to action for all those who read.

These Violent Delights, Chloe Gong
The year is 1926, and Shanghai hums to the tune of debauchery. A blood feud between two gangs runs the streets red, leaving the city helpless in the grip of chaos. At the heart of it all is eighteen-year-old Juliette Cai, a former flapper who has returned to assume her role as the proud heir of the Scarlet Gang —a network of criminals far above the law. Their only rivals in power are the White Flowers, who have fought the Scarlets for generations. And behind every move is their heir, Roma Montagov, Juliette's first love…and first betrayal. But when gangsters on both sides show signs of instability culminating in clawing their own throats out, the people start to whisper. Of a contagion, a madness. Of a monster in the shadows. As the deaths stack up, Juliette and Roma must set their guns—and grudges—aside and work together, for if they can't stop this mayhem, then there will be no city left for either to rule.

Thicker than Water, Natasha Deen
Zack Bernard has a thing for crime shows, especially the forensic-investigation kind. So when his friend Ella goes missing, Zack can't help piecing together what he thinks is concrete evidence that could lead to her whereabouts. The problem is, it's all pointing toward his dad. He knows his dad is lying about not having seen Ella because Zack saw them together at the mall the day she disappeared. What he doesn't know is why. With the help of his friend Ayo, Zack tries to solve the mystery himself to avoid having to make the terrible choice between losing someone close to him and betraying his family.

Tomboy, Liz Prince
Growing up, Liz Prince wasn't a girly girl, dressing in pink tutus or playing Pretty Pretty Princess like the other girls in her neighborhood. But she wasn't exactly one of the guys either, as she quickly learned when her Little League baseball coach exiled her to the outfield instead of letting her take the pitcher's mound. Liz was somewhere in the middle, and Tomboy is the story of her struggle to find the place where she belonged.

Tuesdays with Morrie, Mitch Albom
This novel tells the true story of retired sociology professor Morrie Schwartz and his relationship with his students. On his graduation, Mitch Albom, the narrator, tells his favorite professor, Morrie Schwartz, that he will keep in touch. However, Mitch hears nothing of his old professor until one night on T.V. when he sees Morrie being interviewed. Mitch begins to visit his professor and soon realizes that, though he has grown remarkably, he still has a lot to learn from Morrie.

Turtles All the Way Down, John Green
Sixteen-year-old Aza never intended to pursue the mystery of fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett, but there's a hundred- thousand-dollar reward at stake and her best and most fearless friend, Daisy, is eager to investigate. So together, they navigate the short distance and broad divides that separate them from Russell Pickett's son, Davis. This is a novel of love, resilience, and the power of lifelong friendship.

Unwind, John Shusterman
In a society where unwanted teens are salvaged for their body parts, three runaways fight the system that would "unwind" them. Brought together by chance, and kept together by desperation, this story chronicles the harrowing cross-country journey of three unlikely companions. If they can survive until their eighteenth birthday, they can't be harmed.

Way Past Cool, Jess Mowry
Way Past Cool may be the bluntest, most straightforward novel about inner-city teenage gangs-especially junior high school gangs-ever published, delving deeper and more harshly into the lives of inner city street life. The almost hopeless lives that Way Past Cool's youngsters endure and the way they accept brutality as an everyday part of their lives is very intense.

We are the Ants, Shaun David Hutchinson
This novel is about a teenage boy who must decide whether or not the world is worth saving. Henry Denton has spent years being periodically abducted by aliens. Then the aliens give him an ultimatum: The world will end in 144 days, and all Henry has to do to stop it is push a big red button. Only he isn't sure he wants to. Henry is still dealing with the grief of his boyfriend's suicide last year. Wiping the slate clean sounds like a pretty good choice to him. Weighing the pain and the joy that surrounds him, Henry is left with the ultimate choice: push the button and save the planet and everyone on it.or let the world-and his pain-be destroyed forever.

We Were Liars, E. Lockhart
A beautiful and distinguished family. A private island. A brilliant, damaged girl; a passionate, political boy. A group of four friends-the Liars-whose friendship turns destructive. A revolution. An accident. A secret. Lies upon lies. True love. The truth. We Were Liars is a modern, sophisticated suspense novel from New York Times bestselling author, National Book Award finalist, and Printz Award honoree E. Lockhart.

Welcome to 4B, Brynn Kelly
Mila is sent to 4B after a bad first week of school. So far, she already made her teacher cry, and it's only Wednesday. Classroom 4B is full of angry, tough kids who are nothing like her. Mila used to be a happy-go-lucky, popular cheerleader, but that was before she was taken away from her mom and placed with her aunt. That was before moving to a whole new town and whole new school. That was before not being able to talk to her mom while she's in treatment. Mila doesn't want anything to do with the kids in 4B, until she realizes that maybe they all have problems, just like her.

When I Was the Greatest, Jason Reynolds
In Bed Stuy, New York, a small misunderstanding can escalate into having a price on your head-even if you're totally clean. This gritty, triumphant debut that Publishers Weekly calls "a funny and rewarding read" captures the heart and the hardship of life for an urban teen.

Wires & Nerve, Volume 1, Marissa Meyer
When rogue packs of wolf-hybrid soldiers threaten the tenuous peace alliance between Earth and Luna, Iko takes it upon herself to hunt down the soldiers' leader. She is soon working with a handsome royal guard who forces her to question everything she knows about love, loyalty, and her own humanity.