

2020 Summer Reading Suggestions

from

Nyack High School Librarian, Ms. Birro



Title: *With the Fire on High*

Author: Acevedo, Elizabeth

Genre: Contemporary/Latinx

With her daughter to care for and her abuela to help support, high school senior Emoni Santiago has to make the tough decisions, and do what must be done. The one place she can let her responsibilities go is in the kitchen, where she adds a little something magical to everything she cooks, turning her food into straight-up goodness. Still, she knows she doesn't have enough time for her school's new culinary arts class, doesn't have the money for the class's trip to Spain—and shouldn't still be dreaming of someday working in a real kitchen. But even with all the rules she has for her life—and all the rules everyone expects her to play by—once Emoni starts cooking, her only real choice is to let her talent break free.

Title: *The New David Espinoza*

Author: Aceves, Fred

Genre: Realistic/Sports/Mental Health

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 of his time and money at Iron Life, a nearby gym that's full of bodybuilders. Frustrated with his slow progress, David falls into the dark side of the bodybuilding world, pursuing his ideal body at all costs.

Title: *Children of Blood and Bone*

Author: Adeyemi, Tomi

Genre: Fantasy/Legends/Mythology

Zélie Adebola remembers when the soil of Orïsha hummed with magic. Burners ignited flames, Tiders beckoned waves, and Zélie's Reaper mother summoned forth souls. But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, maji were killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope. Now Zélie has one chance to bring back magic and strike against the monarchy. With the help of a rogue princess, Zélie must outwit and outrun the crown prince, who is hell-bent on eradicating magic for good. Danger lurks in Orïsha, where snow leoponaires prowl and vengeful spirits wait in the waters. Yet the greatest danger may be Zélie herself as she struggles to control her powers and her growing feelings for an enemy.

Title: *Feed*

Author: Anderson, M. T.

Genre: Science Fiction/Dystopian

For Titus and his friends, it started out like any ordinary trip to the moon - a chance to party during spring break and play with some stupid low-grav at the Ricochet Lounge. But that was before the crazy hacker caused all their feeds to malfunction, sending them to the hospital to lie around with nothing inside their heads for days. And it was before Titus met Violet, a beautiful, brainy teenage girl who has decided to fight the feed and its omnipresent ability to categorize human thoughts and desires.

Title: *Beartown*

Author: Backman, Fredrik

Genre: Contemporary/Realistic/Sports

People say Beartown is finished. A tiny community nestled deep in the forest, it is slowly losing ground to the ever encroaching trees. But down by the lake stands an old ice rink, built generations ago by the working men who founded this town. And in that ice rink is the reason people in Beartown believe tomorrow will be better than today. Their junior ice hockey team is about to compete in the national semi-finals, and they actually have a shot at winning. All the hopes and dreams of this place now rest on the shoulders of a handful of teenage boys. Being responsible for the hopes of an entire town is a heavy burden, and the semi-final match is the catalyst for a violent act that will leave a young girl traumatized and a town in turmoil. Accusations are made and, like ripples on a pond, they travel through all of Beartown, leaving no resident unaffected.

Title: *The Mamba Mentality: How I Play*

Author: Bryant, Kobe

Genre: Autobiography/Memoir/Sports

In his own words, Bryant reveals his famously detailed approach and the steps he took to prepare mentally and physically to not just succeed at the game, but to excel. Readers will learn how Bryant studied an opponent, how he channeled his passion for the game, how he played through injuries. They'll also get fascinating granular detail as he breaks down specific plays and match-ups from throughout his career. The story is paired with stunning photographs by the Hall of Fame photographer Andrew D. Bernstein, who captured Bryant's very first NBA photo in 1996 and his last in 2016—and hundreds of thousands in between.

Title: *The Girl Who Fell from the Sky*

Author: Durrow, Heidi

Genre: Historical Fiction/Realistic Fiction/Coming-of-Age

Rachel, the daughter of a Danish mother and a black G.I., becomes the sole survivor of a family tragedy after a fateful morning on their Chicago rooftop. Forced to move to a new city, with her strict African American grandmother as her guardian, Rachel is thrust for the first time into a mostly black community, where her light brown skin, blue eyes, and beauty bring a constant stream of attention her way. It's there, as she grows up and tries to swallow her grief, that she comes to understand how the mystery and tragedy of her mother might be connected to her own uncertain identity.

Title: *The Magicians*

Author: Grossman, Lev

Genre: Fantasy/Magic/Coming-of-Age/Urban

Quentin Coldwater is brilliant but miserable. A senior in high school, he's still secretly preoccupied with a series of fantasy novels he read as a child, set in a magical land called Fillory. Imagine his surprise when he finds himself unexpectedly admitted to a very secret, very exclusive college of magic in upstate New York, where he receives a thorough and rigorous education in the craft of modern sorcery.

Title: *The Outsiders*

Author: Hinton, S.E.

Genre: Classic/Coming-of-Age

Rivalry between rich and poor gangs in 1960s Oklahoma leads to the deaths of three teenagers and intense soul-searching for one of the kids involved, a sensitive fourteen-year-old writer named Ponyboy.

Title: *The Kite Runner: the Graphic Novel*

Author: Hosseini, Khaled

Genre: Contemporary/Historical Fiction/Graphic Novel Adaptation

The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, *The Kite Runner* is a beautifully crafted novel set in a country that is in the process of being destroyed. It is about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies.

Title: *Diary of a Tokyo Teen*

Author: Inzer, Christine Mari

Genre: Travel/Autobiography/Memoir/Graphic Novel

Born in Tokyo to a Japanese mother and an American father in 1997, Christine Mari Inzer spent her early years in Japan and relocated to the United States in 2003. The summer before she turned sixteen, she returned to Tokyo, making a solo journey to get reacquainted with her birthplace. Through illustrations, photos, and musings, Inzer documented her journey.

Title: *The Giver*

Author: Lowry, Lois

Genre: Classic/Dystopian

Jonas himself is soon to be a Twelve, an important age because each year at the annual Ceremony all the 12-years-olds in the community receive their life assignments from the Elders. Jonas is named to the most prestigious and unusual job in the community--the Receiver of Memory. There is only one Receiver, and when he grows old, he trains his successor. Jonas is both puzzled and frightened by his job, which requires him to receive all the memories of their world and the land that lies beyond their community, Elsewhere.

Title: *People Like Us*

Author: Mele, Dana

Genre: Contemporary/Mystery/Thriller

Kay Donovan may have skeletons in her closet, but the past is past, and she's reinvented herself entirely. Now she's a star soccer player whose group of gorgeous friends run their private school with effortless popularity and acerbic wit. But when a girl's body is found in the lake, Kay's carefully constructed life begins to topple. The dead girl has left Kay a computer-coded scavenger hunt, which, as it unravels, begins to implicate suspect after suspect, until Kay herself is in the crosshairs of a murder investigation. But if Kay's finally backed into a corner, she'll do what it takes to survive.

Title: *Two Can Keep a Secret*

Author: McManus, Karen

Genre: Mystery/Thriller/Realistic Fiction/Contemporary

Echo Ridge is small-town America. Ellery's never been there, but she's heard all about it. Her aunt went missing there at age seventeen. And only five years ago, a homecoming queen put the town on the map when she was killed. Now Ellery and her twin brother have to move there to live with a grandmother they barely know. The town is picture-perfect, but it's hiding secrets. And before school even begins, someone's declared open season on homecoming, promising to make it as dangerous as it was five years ago. Then, almost as if to prove it, another girl goes missing.

Title: *Proud: My Fight for an Unlikely American Dream*

Author: Muhammad, Ibtihaj

Genre: Autobiography/Memoir/Sports

Growing up in New Jersey as the only African American Muslim at school, Ibtihaj Muhammad always had to find her own way. When she discovered fencing, a sport traditionally reserved for the wealthy, she had to defy expectations and make a place for herself in a sport she grew to love. From winning state championships to three-time All-America selections at Duke University, Ibtihaj was poised for success, but the fencing community wasn't ready to welcome her with open arms just yet. As the only woman of color and the only religious minority on Team USA's saber fencing squad, Ibtihaj had to chart her own path to success and Olympic glory.

Title: *Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks*

Author: Reynolds, Jason

Genre: Contemporary/Realistic/Short Stories

10 short stories that revolve around one school community that slightly intertwine with one another. A great glimpse into the lives of young teens going through a variety of things even though they're from the same neighborhood.

Title: *Ghost Boys*

Author: Rhodes, Jewell Parker

Genre: Magical Realism/Historical Fiction/Social Justice

Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing. Soon Jerome meets another ghost: Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances. Emmett helps Jerome process what has happened, on a journey towards recognizing how historical racism may have led to the events that ended his life. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father's actions.

Title: *Crying Laughing*

Author: Rubin, Lance

Genre: Contemporary/Humor/Realistic/Illness

Winnie Friedman has been waiting for the world to catch on to what she already knows: she's hilarious. It might be a long wait, though. After bombing a stand-up set at her own bat mitzvah, Winnie has kept her jokes to herself. Well, to herself and her dad, a former comedian and her inspiration. Then, on the second day of tenth grade, the funniest guy in school actually laughs at a comment she makes in the lunch line and asks her to join the improv troupe. Just when Winnie's ready to say yes to comedy again, her father reveals that he's been diagnosed with ALS. That is not funny. Her dad's still making jokes, though, which feels like a good thing. And Winnie's prepared to be his straight man if that's what he wants. But is it what he needs?

Title: *Jerkbait*

Author: Siegert, Mia

Genre: LGBTQ+/Sports/Contemporary

Even though they're identical, Tristan isn't close to his twin Robbie at all—until Robbie tries to kill himself. Forced to share a room to prevent Robbie from hurting himself, the brothers begin to feel the weight of each other's lives on the ice, and off. Tristan starts seeing his twin not as a hockey star whose shadow Tristan can't escape, but a struggling gay teen terrified about coming out in the professional sports world. Robbie's future in the NHL is plagued by anxiety and the mounting pressure from their dad, coach, and scouts, while Tristan desperately fights to create his own future, not as a hockey player but a musical theatre performer.

Title: *Liars, Inc.*

Author: Stokes, Paula

Genre: Mystery/Suspense/Thriller/Realistic Fiction

Max Cantrell has never been a big fan of the truth, so when the opportunity arises to sell forged permission slips and cover stories to his classmates, it sounds like a good way to make a little money and liven up a boring senior year. With the help of his friends Preston and Parvati, Max starts Liars, Inc. Suddenly everybody needs something and the cash starts pouring in. When Preston wants his own cover story to go visit a girl he met online, Max doesn't think twice about hooking him up. Until Preston never comes home. Then the evidence starts to pile up—terrifying clues that lead the cops to Preston's body. Terrifying clues that point to Max as the murderer.

Title: *Dear Martin*

Author: Stone, Nic

Genre: Contemporary/Realistic Fiction/Social Justice

Justyce McAllister is a good kid, an honor student, and always there to help a friend—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. 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.

Title: *They Called Us Enemy*

Author: Takei, George

Genre: Historical/WWII/Graphic Novel/Memoir

Long before George Takei braved new frontiers in Star Trek, he woke up as a four-year-old boy to find his own birth country at war with his father's and their entire family forced from their home into an uncertain future. This is Takei's firsthand account of those years behind barbed wire, the joys and terrors of growing up under legalized racism, his mother's hard choices, his father's faith in democracy, and the way those experiences planted the seeds for his astonishing future.

Title: *On the Come Up*

Author: Thomas, Angie

Genre: Contemporary/Realistic Fiction/Music

Sixteen-year-old Bri wants to be one of the greatest rappers of all time. Or at least make it out of her neighborhood one day. As the daughter of an underground rap legend who died before he hit big, Bri's got big shoes to fill. But now that her mom has unexpectedly lost her job, food banks and shutoff notices are as much a part of Bri's life as beats and rhymes. With bills piling up and homelessness staring her family down, Bri no longer just wants to make it—she has to make it.

Title: *The Running Dream*

Author: Van Draanen, Wendelin

Genre: Contemporary/Realistic Fiction/Sports

Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run? As she struggles to cope with crutches and a first cyborg-like prosthetic, Jessica feels oddly both in the spotlight and invisible. People who don't know what to say, act like she's not there. Which she could handle better if she weren't now keenly aware that she'd done the same thing herself to a girl with CP named Rosa. A girl who is going to tutor her through all the math she's missed. A girl who sees right into the heart of her.

Title: *Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen*

Author: Vargas, Jose Antonio

Genre: Autobiography/Memoir/Immigration

Jose Antonio Vargas was born in the Philippines. At age twelve, his mother sent him to the United States to live with her parents. It wasn't until he was applying for a driver's permit that he found out his papers were fake. More than two decades later, he still lives in the United States, illegally, and with no clear path to American citizenship. This is not a book about the politics of immigration. It is about homelessness, not in a traditional sense, but about the unsettled, unmoored psychological state in which undocumented immigrants find themselves.

Title: *Watch Us Rise*

Author: Watson, Renee; Hagan, Ellen

Genre: Contemporary/Feminism/Social Justice

Best friends Jasmine and Chelsea are sick of the way women are treated at their progressive NYC high school, so they decide to start a Women's Rights Club. They post everything online—poems, essays, videos of Chelsea performing her poetry, and Jasmine's response to the racial microaggressions she experiences—and soon they go viral. But with such positive support, the club is also targeted by online trolls and peers that don't see eye-to-eye. Things escalate, but Jasmine and Chelsea are determined to have their voices (and other women's) heard.

Title: *White Rose*

Author: Wilson, Kip

Genre: Historical Fiction/WWII Fiction/Poetry

Disillusioned by the propaganda of Nazi Germany, Sophie Scholl, her brother, and his fellow soldiers formed the White Rose, a group that wrote and distributed anonymous letters criticizing the Nazi regime and calling for action from their fellow German citizens. The following year, Sophie and her brother were arrested for treason and interrogated for information about their collaborators. The novel is written in verse and alternates between the past and present.