

Summer Reading Class of 2023

Fiction

Alexander, Kwame. The Crossover. Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health. 237p. Request AR BL: 4.3 Pts: 2.0

Anderson, Laurie Halse. Wintergirls. Eighteen-year-old Lia comes to terms with her best friend's death from anorexia as she struggles with the same disorder. –278p. Request AR BL:4.1 Pts:9.0

Barnes, Jennifer. The Fixer. When sixteen-year-old Tess Kendrick is sent to stay with her older sister, she has no idea that the famed Ivy Kendrick is the capital's number one "fixer." For powerful people looking to make a scandal disappear, Tess's sister is there to help . . . for a price. And no sooner does Tess enroll the prestigious Hardwicke School than she unwittingly finds herself following in Ivy's footsteps. Tess never thought she and Ivy had much in common, but when her new friends at school need help, she discovers that her talents quickly make her Hardwicke's go-to high-school fixer. Secrets pile up as each sister lives a double life--until their worlds come crashing together in a conspiracy that reaches from the halls of Hardwicke to Capitol Hill. Suddenly, there is much more on the line than good grades, money, or politics. The odds are stacked against Tess, and the price for this fix might be more than she can pay. Perfect for fans of Ally Carter and Harlan Coben, readers will be clamoring for more in this exciting new series. 372 p. Amazon AR BL: 4.7 Pts: 12.0

Carter, Ally. All Fall Down. Grace Blakely is absolutely certain of three things:

1. She is not crazy.
2. Her mother was murdered.
3. Someday she is going to find the killer and make him pay.

As certain as Grace is about these facts, nobody else believes her -- so there's no one she can completely trust. Not her grandfather, a powerful ambassador. Not her new friends, who all live on Embassy Row. Not Alexei, the Russian boy next door, who is keeping his eye on Grace for reasons she neither likes nor understands.

Everybody wants Grace to put on a pretty dress and a pretty smile, blocking out all her un-pretty thoughts. But they can't control Grace -- no more than Grace can control what she knows or what she needs to do. Her past has come back to hunt her . . . and if she doesn't stop it, Grace isn't the only one who will get hurt. Because on Embassy Row, the countries of the world stand like dominoes, and one wrong move can make them all fall down. 310p. Amazon AR BL 4.3 Pts:10.0

Coy, John. Box Out. John Coy turns to the high-stakes world of high school basketball in this fast-paced YA novel. Liam has just been bumped up to starter on the varsity basketball team, and the pressure's on. With the girls' team heading to State, the boys' team is under even greater scrutiny than usual in Liam's small Midwestern town. When the team's coach starts counting on the power of prayer--and enforcing team wide participation---Liam finds himself in a spotlight that's more nerve-racking than any trip to the free-throw line. In trying to stand up for what's right, Liam is forced to stand up for himself---against his teammates, his fellow students, and even his parents. 276p. Amazon AR BL: 3.5 Pts: 6.0

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

In pursuit of justice and revenge, Faith hunts through her father's possessions and discovers a strange tree. The tree bears fruit only when she whispers a lie to it, and when that fruit is eaten, it delivers a hidden truth. But while the tree might hold the key to her father's murder, it could also lure his murderer directly to Faith. 377 p. Amazon AR BL: 6.4 Pts: 17.0

King, Stephen. The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon. A portable radio helps a girl survive after she is lost in the woods of New England. During her nine-day ordeal, Trisha McFarland fights thirst, wasps and the terrors of the night, all the while keeping up her spirits by listening to music and baseball games. 224p. Request. AR BL:6.4 Pts:10.0

Lake, Niki. There Will Be Lies. In four hours, Shelby Jane Cooper will be struck by a car. Shortly after, she and her mother will leave the hospital and set out on a winding journey toward the Grand Canyon. All Shelby knows is that they're running from dangers only her mother understands. And the further they travel, the more Shelby questions everything about her past--and her current reality. Forced to take advantage of the kindness of unsuspecting travelers, Shelby grapples with what's real, what isn't, and who she can trust . . . if anybody. Award-winning author Nick Lake proves his skills as a master storyteller in this heart-pounding new novel. This emotionally charged thrill ride leads to a shocking ending that will have readers flipping back to the beginning. 454 p. Amazon AR BL: 4.8 Pts: 15.0

Lupica, Mike. QB1. Jake Cullen, fourteen, lives in the shadows of his father and older brother until he becomes the starting quarterback for the high school football team and finally has his chance to shine. 224p. Request AR BL:5.4 Pts:10.0

Lu, Marie. The Young Elites. Adelina Amouteru survived the blood fever, a deadly illness that killed many, but left others with strange markings and supernatural powers. Cast out by her family, Adelina joins the secret society of the Young Elites and discovers her own dangerous abilities"-- 355p. Provided by publisher AR BL:5.3 Pts:14.0

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Lynch, Chris. Vietnam Series: Choose One

I Pledge Allegiance. (No.1) Best friends Morris, Rudi, Ivan, and Beck, having been either drafted or enlisted in the military during the Vietnam War, pledge they will come home together, and Morris, a sailor on the USS "Boston," relies on that promise to stay strong while his courage and resolve are tested under attack. 183p. Kirkus Review AR BL:5.3 Pts:6.0

Sharpshooter. (No. 2) Some things are worth fighting for. Of all his friends, Ivan is the only one looking forward to war. That's because Ivan has never backed down from a fight--especially when it comes to fighting for what's right. He has protected his friends from bullies for years. And now, as war erupts in Vietnam, Ivan wants nothing more than to fight for his country, just as his father did in World War II. Enlisting in the United States Army, Ivan is trained to be a sniper. And he's good at it. Very good. But Vietnam is not the war he was expecting. Somehow the glory and heroism of his father's war stories do not come so easily in the jungle. Now, for the first time, Ivan is forced to question what he's really fighting for and whether it's a fight he can hope to win 187p. Provided by the publisher AR BL:5.3 Pts:6.0

Free-Fire Zone. (No. 3) Rudi is a newly drafted United States Marine in Vietnam, and he likes being part of a squad--but the way some of his fellow soldiers behave toward their officers, the Vietnamese, and the war itself, is starting to trouble him. 183p. Request AR BL:5.3 Pts:6.0

Casualties of War. (No.4) One of four friends who have volunteered to fight in the Vietnam War, the intellectual Beck is in the Air Force, where he is part of a crew spraying Agent Orange, but the destruction of the jungle and his isolation from the fighting going on below is starting to affect him. 182p. Provided by the publisher AR BL: 5.3 Pts:6.0

Walking Wounded. (No. 5) Morris, Rudi, Ivan, and Beck were best friends at home and in Vietnam, but now Rudi has been killed in action, and the remaining three are the only ones who know the truth about their friend's death--and the knowledge threatens to tear them apart. 196p. Provided by the publisher AR BL:5.7 Pts:6.0

Maas, Sarah. Throne of Glass. After she has served a year of hard labor in the salt mines of Endovier for her crimes, Crown Prince Dorian offers assassin Celaena Sardothien her freedom on the condition that she act as his champion in a competition to find a new royal assassin. 406p. Provided by the publisher AR BL:5.7 Pts:18.0

Nelson, Jandy. I'll Give You the Sun. A story of first love and family loss follows the estrangement between daredevil Jude and her loner twin brother, Noah, as a result of a mysterious event that is brought to light by a beautiful, broken boy and a new mentor. 371p. Provided by the publisher AR BL: 4.9 Pts:16.0

Wasserman, Robin. Hacking Harvard. When three brilliant nerds--Max Kim, Eric Roth, and Isaac "The Professor" Schwarzbaum--bet \$20,000 that they can get anyone into Harvard, they take on the Ivy League in their quest for popularity, money, and the love of a beauty queen valedictorian. 320p. Provided by the publisher AR BL: 5.3 Pts: 11.0

Nonfiction

Frey, Darcy. The Last Shot: City Streets, Basketball Dreams. It ought to be just a game, but basketball on the playgrounds of Coney Island is much more than that — for many young men it represents their only hope of escape from a life of crime, poverty, and despair. In *The Last Shot*, Darcy Frey chronicles the aspirations of four of the neighborhood's most promising players. What they have going for them is athletic talent, grace, and years of dedication. But working against them are woefully

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inadequate schooling, family circumstances that are often desperate, and the slick, brutal world of college athletic recruitment. Incisively and compassionately written, *The Last Shot* introduces us to unforgettable characters and takes us into their world with an intimacy seldom seen in contemporary journalism. The result is a startling and poignant expose of inner-city life and the big business of college basketball. 233 p. Amazon

Jennings, Rashad. The IF in Life: How to Get Off Life's Sidelines and Become Your Best Self. In his debut book, *The IF in Life: How to Get Off Life's Sidelines and Become Your Best Self*, former NFL running back and *Dancing with the Stars* champion Rashad Jennings shares his inspiring story and experiences that will encourage readers to follow their dreams.

As a kid, Rashad was overweight, had poor vision, asthma, and a 0.6 GPA yet he still hoped to one day play in the NFL. The odds were stacked against him, but through hard work and determination, Rashad became a record-setting running back who has played with the Jacksonville Jaguars, the Oakland Raiders, and the New York Giants.

In *The IF in Life*, Rashad writes about the decisions that shaped his life. From overcoming injuries and setbacks to reaching goals and everything in between, Rashad's transparency about his journey will encourage readers to hold on to faith in the midst of uncertainty and win big in life.

Perfect for anyone looking for an inspiring story, this book also features photos from Rashad's childhood, college years, and professional career. 208 p. Amazon

Kreidler, Mark. Six Good Innings: How One Small Town Became a Little League Giant. Summertime in Toms River, New Jersey, means two things: Tourists and Little League champions. The Toms River dynasty began in the 1990s, when its team made it to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, three times in five years, finally bringing home a historic world championship victory in 1998. But with each passing summer in Toms River comes renewed pressure, as the latest collection of twelve-year-old All-Stars strives to leave its mark on the town's imposing baseball legacy.

In *Six Good Innings*, acclaimed sportswriter Mark Kreidler deftly illuminates the sometimes tense relationship between the town and the team that carries its hopes and dreams. With empathy, incisive reporting, and intimate access, Kreidler follows the most recent juggernaut through one tumultuous All-Star season, weaving the stories of the coaches, the parents, the fans, and the true "boys of summer" into an unforgettable tableau. 256 p. Amazon

Myers, Walter Dean. Bad Boy. *New York Times* bestselling author Walter Dean Myers traveled back to his roots in this memoir that is gripping, funny, and ultimately unforgettable. Don't miss this memoir by a former National Ambassador of Books for Young People!

As a boy, Myers was quick-tempered and physically strong, always ready for a fight. He also read voraciously—he would check out books from the library and carry them home, hidden in brown paper bags in order to avoid other boys' teasing. He aspired to be a writer (and he eventually succeeded).

But as his hope for a successful future diminished, the values he had been taught at home, in school, and in his community seemed worthless, and he turned to the streets and to his books for comfort.

Here, in his own words, is the story of one of the most important voices of our time. 214 p. Amazon AR
BL:6.5 Pts:8.0

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