

2016 HS Summer Reading List

Escape to another (dystopian/fantasy/sci-fi) world:

Ahiers, Sarah. [Assassin's Heart](#), 2016.

Working as an official assassin in her kingdom's highest-ranking clan, 17-year-old Lea pursues a forbidden relationship with a boy from a rival clan that she believes is responsible for her parents' murder. Fans of Robin LeFevers' *His Fair Assassin* series will love this debut novel filled with romance, adventure, and political intrigue.

Barbery, Muriel. [The Life of Elves](#), 2016.

Two girls from France and Italy who possess uncanny abilities to communicate with nature and perform music at a preternatural level come into contact with magical and malevolent forces and creatures that believe their coming together can bridge human art with nature's magic.

Cronin, Justin. [City of Mirrors](#), 2016.

The third and final installment in the *Passage* trilogy. With *The Twelve* destroyed, many wonder if the threat to humankind has also vanished. When a terrifying threat shudders the gates of the colony, Amy, Peter, Alicia, and Michael must at last confront their destinies in an attempt to save the world. This highly anticipated epic races to its breathtaking conclusion.

Hardinge, Frances. [The Lie Tree](#), 2016.

On an island off the south coast of Victorian England, fourteen-year-old Faith investigates the mysterious death of her father, who was involved in a scandal. There she discovers a tree that feeds upon lies and gives those who eat its fruit visions of truth.

Heilig, Heidi. [The Girl from Everywhere](#), 2016.

Sixteen-year-old Nix has sailed across the globe and through centuries aboard her father's time-traveling ship. When he finally discovers the map that will lead him back to Nix's mother - before she died - Nix realizes that this time trip may erase her own past.

Kaufman, Amie. [Illuminae](#), 2015.

High-school students Kady and Ezra have just broken up with each other when Kerenza IV, their mining outpost planetary home, is suddenly attacked by a rival company using both traditional and biological weapons. In the scramble to get off the planet, they are separated, ending up with a waning number of Kerenza survivors on two different space vessels that are trying to outrun the enemy.

Pears, Iain. [Arcadia](#), 2016.

In 1960s Oxford, Professor Henry Lytten is attempting to write a fantasy novel that forgoes the magic of his predecessors, J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis. He finds an unlikely confidante in his quick-witted, inquisitive young neighbor Rosie. One day, while chasing Lytten's cat, Rosie

encounters a doorway in his cellar. She steps through and finds herself in an idyllic, pastoral land where storytellers are revered above all others. There she meets a young man who is about to embark on a quest of his own--and may be the one chance Rosie has of returning home.

Travel back in time:

Fleming, Candace. [The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion & the Fall of Imperial Russia](#), 2014. History comes to vivid life in Fleming's non-fiction sweeping story of the dramatic decline and fall of the House of Romanov. Her account provides not only intimate portraits of Tsar Nicholas; his wife, Alexandra; and the five Romanov children, but it also offers a beautifully realized examination of the context of their lives: Russia in a state of increasing social unrest and turmoil.

Hannah, Kristin. [The Nightingale](#), 2015.

Viann and Isabelle have always been close despite their differences. Younger, bolder sister Isabelle lives in Paris while Viann lives a quiet and content life in the French countryside with her husband Antoine and their daughter. When World War II strikes and Antoine is sent off to fight, Isabelle's father sends her to help her older sister cope. As the war progresses, it's not only the sisters' relationship that is tested, but also their strength and their individual senses of right and wrong.

Wein, Elizabeth. [Black Dove, White Raven](#), 2015.

Having moved to Ethiopia to avoid the prejudices of 1930s America, Emilia Menotti, her black adopted brother Teo, and their mother Rhoda, a stunt pilot, are devoted to their new country even after war with Italy looms, drawing the teens into the conflict.

Classics to consider:

Cooper, James Fenimore. [The Last of the Mohicans](#), 1826.

Set in upstate New York, Hawkeye, a scout, and his Mohican companions, Chigachgook and Uncas, lead a small band of Americans fleeing from the British and their Indian allies during the French and Indian War.

Dumas, Alexandre. [The Count of Monte Cristo](#), 1845.

Edmund Dantes, unjustly convicted of aiding the exiled Napoleon, escapes after fourteen years of imprisonment on an island and seeks revenge in Paris.

Hesse, Hermann. [Siddhartha](#), 1922.

Young Siddhartha leaves his family for a contemplative life, then, restless, discards it for one of the flesh. He conceives a son, but bored and sickened by lust and greed, moves on again. Near despair, Siddhartha comes to a river where he hears a unique sound. This sound signals the true beginning of his life -- the beginning of suffering, rejection, peace, and, finally, wisdom.

Smith, Dodie. I Capture the Castle, 1948.

The 1934 journal of seventeen-year-old Cassandra Mortmain reveals her perspective on six stormy months in the eccentric and poverty-stricken life of her family in a ruined Suffolk castle, ending with the revelation that Cassandra is deeply in love.

Riff on Classics:

Oyeyemi, Helen. Boy, Snow, Bird, 2014.

In the winter of 1953, Boy Novak arrives by chance in a small town in Massachusetts, looking, she believes, for beauty—the opposite of the life she’s left behind in New York. She marries a local widower and becomes stepmother to his winsome daughter, Snow Whitman. A wicked stepmother is a creature Boy never imagined she’d become, but elements of the familiar tale of aesthetic obsession begin to play themselves out when the birth of Boy’s daughter, Bird, who is dark-skinned, exposes the Whitmans as light-skinned African Americans passing for white. A reimagining of the Snow White story that grapples with identity and loyalty.

Park, Patricia. Re Jane, 2015.

Jane Re—a half-Korean, half-American orphan—takes a position as an au pair for two Brooklyn academics and their daughter, but a brief sojourn in Seoul, where she reconnects with family, causes her to wonder if the man she loves is really the man for her. In this retelling of Jane Eyre, modern-day Jane tries to find balance between two cultures.

Sittenfeld, Curtis. Eligible, 2016.

In this modern retelling of Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice, New York magazine editor Lizzy Bennett returns to her Ohio hometown to help her ailing father. She confronts challenges in the form of her younger sister Jane’s football fangirl antics, a creepy cousin’s unwanted attentions, and the infuriating standoffish manners of a handsome neurosurgeon.

Not quite Classics, but definitely Old School:

Dunn, Katherine. Geek Love, 1989.

Olympia, an albino hunchback dwarf, tells of a carnival family who breeds and trains their children for their freak show.

Irving, John. A Prayer for Owen Meany, 1989.

While playing baseball in the summer of 1953, Owen Meany hits a foul ball that kills his best friend’s mother, and he becomes convinced that he is an instrument of God.

Everyone’s talking about:

Clare, Cassandra. Lady Midnight, 2016.

Emma is training to be a Shadowhunter -- a demon killer -- and is determined to discover the truth behind her parents’ grisly murder five years ago. At her side is lifelong best friend Julian, who is also her parabatai, a bonded-for-life platonic warrior partner. As a new rash of murders

occurs throughout L.A., Emma gets closer to discovering the truth about her parents, even as she and Julian begin to navigate their changing feelings for each other.

Cline, Emma. [The Girls](#), 2016.

At the start of summer in northern California during the violent end of the 1960s, a lonely and thoughtful teenager, Evie Boyd, sees a group of girls in the park, and is immediately caught by their freedom, their careless dress, their dangerous aura of abandon. Soon, she is drawn into the circle of a soon-to-be infamous cult and the man who is its charismatic leader. Based on the cult of women surrounding Charles Manson, 20-something Cline has written one of the most anticipated books of the season.

Gyasi, Yaa. [Homegoing](#), 2016.

This ambitious debut novel opens in 18th-century Ghana and follows seven generations of a family that descend from two half sisters who never knew each other: Effia, who marries an English colonial officer and lives in a coastal palace; and Esi, who is captured and sold into slavery. The novel spans more than 250 years and several continents as the sisters and their descendants wrestle with the physical and psychic scars of slavery and colonialism.

Stiefvater, Maggie. [The Raven King](#), 2016.

All her life, Blue has been warned that she will cause her true love's death. She doesn't believe in true love and never thought this would be a problem, but as her life becomes caught up in the strange and sinister world of the Raven Boys, she's not so sure anymore. Stiefvater brings it all together in this last book of the *Raven Cycle*.

Hear the true voices of non-fiction:

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. [We Should All Be Feminists](#), 2014.

In this personal, eloquently-argued essay -- adapted from her much-admired TEDx talk of the same name -- Adichie, award-winning author of [Americanah](#), offers readers a unique definition of feminism for the twenty-first century, one rooted in inclusion and awareness.

Apatow, Judd. [Sick in the Head: Conversations About Life and Comedy](#), 2015.

A collection of 30 years worth of conversations from Judd Apatow's career, featuring interviews with luminaries like Mel Brooks and Chris Rock and modern icons like Louis CK and Amy Schumer. This is a book for fans of comedy, from the nerdiest fan of all.

Jahren, Hope. [Lab Girl](#), 2016.

A debut memoir by an award-winning paleobiologist traces her Minnesota childhood in her father's laboratory, her longtime relationship with a brilliant but wounded colleague and the remarkable discoveries they have made both in the lab and during extensive field research. Their sometimes rogue adventures in science take them over the Atlantic to the ever-light skies of the North Pole and to tropical Hawaii, where she and her lab currently make their home.

Mann, Sally. Hold Still: a Memoir with Photographs, 2015.

After sorting through a box of old papers that revealed scandals, alcohol and domestic abuse, affairs, family land ownership, large amounts of money earned and lost and racial complications, renowned American photographer Mann tells her family's history in photos and words.

Miller, Kelsey. Big Girl: How I Gave Up Dieting & Got a Life, 2016.

A memoir chronicling the author's journey with food, including a way out of the crash dieting she had subscribed to since childhood.

Nye, Bill. Unstoppable: Harnessing Science to Change the World, 2015.

Bill Nye "the Science Guy" applies his message of technological optimism to one of the most serious challenges facing our species: climate change. With a scientist's rigorous understanding of how things are and an engineer's vision of how things could be, he completely reframes the issue of today's environmental crisis, viewing it not as the end of progress but as an opportunity for a tremendous new beginning.

Short stories for a short season:

Buckell, Tobias S. and Joe Monti, eds. Diverse Energies, 2012.

In this collection of original and rediscovered stories of tragedy and hope, the diverse stars are students, street kids, "good girls," kidnappers, and child laborers pitted against their environments, their governments, and sometimes one another as they seek answers in their dystopian worlds.

*Carroll, Emily. Through the Woods, 2014.

Journey through the woods in this sinister, compellingly spooky collection of hauntingly beautiful graphic stories that feature four brand-new stories and one phenomenally popular online webcomic sensation "His Face All Red," in print for the first time. These are fairy tales gone seriously wrong.

Perkins, Stephanie, ed. Summer Days and Summer Nights: Twelve Love Stories, 2016.

Maybe it's the long, lazy days, or maybe it's the heat making everyone a little bit crazy. Whatever the reason, summer is the perfect time for love to bloom. This collection, written by twelve bestselling young adult writers will have you dreaming of sunset strolls by the lake. So set out your beach chair and grab your sunglasses. You have twelve reasons this summer to soak up the sun and fall in love.

Spotswood, Jessica, ed. A Tyranny of Petticoats: 15 Stories of Belles, Bank Robbers & Other Badass Girls, 2016.

This suspenseful anthology of historical fiction and fantasy by young adult writers features a diverse array of daring heroines.

Simply a great story:

Albertalli, Becky. Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda, 2015.

Sixteen-year-old, not-so-openly-gay Simon Spier is blackmailed into playing wingman for his classmate or else his sexual identity--and that of his pen pal--will be revealed.

Andrews, Jesse. The Haters, 2016.

Music, love, friendship, and freedom abound in this road trip adventure about a trio of jazz-camp escapees who, against every realistic expectation, follow a quest to escape the law long enough to play the amazing show they hope (but also doubt) they have in them.

De Kerangal, Maylis. The Heart, 2016.

This novel translated from the French takes place over the twenty-four hours surrounding a fatal accident and a resulting heart transplant as life is taken from a young man and given to a woman close to death.

*Girard, Pascal. Reunion, 2011

An invitation to his ten-year high school reunion from the girl on whom he once had a crush, along with the suggestion that they attend together, sends Pascal into a newfound routine of manic exercise and Facebook stalking, which could potentially destroy his current relationship.*

Rudetsky, Seth. The Rise and Fall of a Theater Geek, 2015.

Sixteen-year-old Justin Goldblatt lands a dream internship with his favorite Broadway actor, but the Big Apple comes with big trouble when his friends stop speaking to him and someone starts sabotaging his hero.

Weir, Andy. The Martian, 2014.

Astronaut Mark Watney is stranded and completely alone on Mars, with no way to even signal Earth that he's alive, but Mark isn't ready to give up and drawing on his engineering skills and determination, he faces each obstacle with resourcefulness, but will it be enough for him to survive?

Whaley, John Corey. Highly Illogical Behavior, 2016.

Agoraphobic sixteen-year-old Solomon has not left his house in three years, but Lisa is determined to change that--and to write a scholarship-winning essay based on the results.

Whitehead, Colson. Sag Harbor, 2009.

Benji Cooper, the son of a doctor and a lawyer, is one of very few African-American students at an elite Manhattan prep school in 1985, which is why he so looks forward to summer when he and his brother Reggie, left alone for most of the week while their parents work, can relax within the comfortable confines of the community of professional African-Americans that spend the warm months at Sag Harbor.

Thrills and chills:

Caletti, Deb. Essential Maps for the Lost, 2016.

When Mads discovers a dead body while she's swimming in the lake, she begins to obsess over who the woman was and what led her to commit suicide by jumping off a bridge. But when she starts to fall for Billy, the woman's troubled son, Mads isn't sure how much longer she can keep her obsession a secret.

Lutz, Lisa. The Spellman Files, 2007.

While deciding if she should quit working for her family's private investigation firm, Izzy Spellman copes with meddling parents, an alcoholic uncle, the disappearance of her younger sister, and her own problems with men and drinking.

Slaughter, Karin. Pretty Girls, 2015.

Estranged for years after the disappearance of their sister, trophy wife Claire and struggling single mom Lydia are reunited by the murder of Claire's husband. Forming a wary truce, the surviving sisters look to the past to find the truth, unearthing the secrets that destroyed their family all those years ago and uncovering the possibility of redemption, and revenge, where they least expect it. A gritty and gruesome page-turner.

*Wilson, G. Willow. Ms. Marvel, Vol. 4: Last Days, 2015.

From the moment Kamala put on her costume, she's been challenged. But nothing has prepared her for this: the last days of the Marvel Universe. Lucky she's got the help of Carol 'Captain Marvel' Danvers! Between teaming up with her personal hero to rescue her brother and trying to keep her city from falling into an all-out frenzy, Kamala has barely had time to come to terms with the fact that the world is literally collapsing around her.

Bask in the sun and some verse:

Hacker, Marilyn. A Stranger's Mirror: New and Selected Poems 1994/2014. 2015.

Drawing on two decades worth of award-winning poetry, this collection includes work from four previous volumes along with twenty-five new poems, ranging in locale from a solitary bedroom to a refugee camp and span different forms to explore international dilemmas while engaging poets from different ages.

Hayes, Terrance. How to Be Drawn, 2015.

A collection of poems by American poet and National Book Award winner Terrance Hayes in which he explores how we see and are seen.

Summer lovin':

McKeon, Belinda. Tender, 2016.

When they meet in Dublin in the late nineties, Catherine is a sheltered college student; James an adventurous, charismatic young artist. In a city brimming with possibilities, he spurs her to take life on with gusto. But as Catherine opens herself to new experiences, James's life

becomes a prison. As changed as the new Ireland may be, it is still not a place in which he feels able to truly be himself. When crisis hits, Catherine finds herself at the mercy of feelings she cannot control, leading her to jeopardize all she holds dear.

Rae, Kristin. What You Always Wanted, 2016.

Maddie's dream guy has to live up to the grace and romance of classic Hollywood heartthrobs, especially the song-and-dance man Gene Kelly. So does Jesse Morales, her charming new neighbor and star pitcher of the high school baseball team, have a chance?.

Yoon, Nicola. Everything, Everything, 2015.

The story of a teenage girl who's literally allergic to the outside world. When a new family moves in next door, she begins a complicated romance that challenges everything she's ever known. The narrative unfolds via vignettes, diary entries, texts, charts, lists, illustrations, and more.

*Graphic Novel