

## 2018 SUMMER READING for HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH

### Requirements

Reading is essential to critical thinking and preparation for College, Careers, and Citizenship. All high school students in Newport News Public Schools are required to read **ONE BOOK** from the list below.

\*In September, teachers will provide students with an assessment for their Summer Reading.

\*Students enrolled in **AP or IB ENGLISH** will receive a separate summer reading list.

#### ***1984, George Orwell***

*1984* is a dystopian novel written by George Orwell, about a world of perpetual war, pervasive government surveillance, and incessant public mind control. The individual is always subordinated to the state, and it is in part this philosophy which allows the Party to manipulate and control humanity. Protagonist Winston Smith is a civil servant who begins to question the propaganda and distortion of the governmental leviathan known as Big Brother.

#### ***A Soldier's Play, Charles Fuller***

*A Soldier's Play* is a drama by 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.

#### ***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.

#### ***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.

#### ***Black Boy, Richard Wright***

*Black Boy* (1945) is an autobiography by Richard Wright. The author explores his childhood and race relations in the South. Wright eventually moves to Chicago, where he establishes his writing career and becomes involved with the Communist Party.

#### ***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.

#### ***Boy On the Wooden Box, Leon Leyson***

This is a remarkable memoir from Leon Leyson, one of the youngest children to survive the Holocaust on Schindler's list.

This, the only memoir published by a former Schindler's List child (one of the youngest to survive), perfectly captures the innocence of a small boy who goes through the unthinkable. Most notable is the lack of rancor, the lack of venom, and the abundance of dignity in Mr. Leyson's telling. *The Boy on the Wooden Box* is a legacy of hope.

***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, making *Breakthrough* perfect for STEM curriculum.

***Call of the Wild, Jack London***

*The Call of the Wild*, considered by many London's greatest novel, is a gripping tale of a heroic dog that, thrust into the brutal life of the Alaska Gold Rush, ultimately faces a choice between living in man's world and returning to nature. Adventure and dog-story enthusiasts, as well as students and devotees of American literature, will find this classic work a thrilling, memorable reading experience.

***Catch-22, Joseph Heller***

*Catch-22* is a satirical, historical novel by the American author Joseph Heller. The novel, set during the later stages of World War II from 1944 onwards, is frequently cited as one of the great literary works of the twentieth century. It has a distinctive non-chronological style where events are described from different characters' points of view and out of sequence so that the time line develops along with the plot. The novel follows Yossarian, a U.S. Army Air Forces B-25 bombardier, and a number of other characters.

***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

***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, and a must read for anyone who knows someone suffering from an eating disorder.

***Ender's Game, Orson Scott Card***

Set in Earth's future, the novel presents imperiled humankind who has barely survived two conflicts with the Formics (an insectoid alien race also known as the "Buggers"). In preparation for an anticipated third invasion, an international fleet maintains a school to find and train future fleet commanders. The world's most talented children, including the novel's protagonist, Ender Wiggin, are taken at a very young age to a training center known as the Battle School where they are trained in the arts of war through increasingly difficult games.

***Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury***

*Fahrenheit 451* takes place in an unspecified future time in a hedonistic anti-intellectual America that has completely abandoned self-control. This America is filled with lawlessness in the streets. Anyone caught reading or possessing illegal books is, at the minimum, confined to a mental hospital while the books are burned by the firemen. Illegal books mainly include famous works of literature, such as Walt Whitman and William Faulkner, as well as the Bible and all historical texts.

***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.

***Fallen Angels, Walter Dean Myers***

The story is one of courage, conflict, and deep numbing confusion about a soldier's role in the Vietnam War. Myers tells the story from Richie's point of view and spares the reader no detail of the young man's terror, the firefights and bombing, the killings, and the deaths of his companions, who are the fallen angels referred to in the book's title. Realistic language and settings play an important role in helping contemporary readers relate to the environment of brutal fighting in a Southeast Asian jungle.

***Feed, M.T. Anderson***

*Feed* (2002) is a dystopian novel of the cyberpunk genre. 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).

### ***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 '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. Hers is an unforgettable story of tragedy, triumph, and courage.

### ***I'll Give You the Sun, Jandy Nelson***

At first, Jude and her twin brother are Noah and Jude; 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."

### ***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, co-written with Andrew Aydin and drawn by Nate Powell.

### ***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.

### ***Native Son*, Richard Wright**

*Native Son* is a novel by American author Richard Wright. The novel tells the story of 20-year-old Bigger Thomas, an African American living in utter poverty in Chicago's South Side ghetto in the 1930s. Bigger was always getting into trouble as a youth, but upon receiving a job at the home of the Daltons, a rich, white family, he experienced a realization of his identity. His world begins to collapse when he believes that he killed a white woman, accidentally.

### ***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.

Only, 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.

### ***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.

***Pride and Prejudice*, Jane Austen** The plot of the novel is driven by a particular situation of the Bennet family: The Longbourn estate where they reside is entailed to one of Mr. Bennet's collateral relatives—*male only* in this case—by the legal terms of fee tail. Mr. and Mrs. Bennet have no sons: this means that, if Mr. Bennet dies soon, his wife and five daughters will be left without home or income. Mrs Bennet worries about this predicament and wishes to find husbands for her five daughters quickly.

### ***Salt to the Sea*, Ruta Sepetys**

World War II is drawing to a close in East Prussia and thousands of refugees are on a desperate trek toward freedom, many with something to hide. Among them are Joana, Emilia, and Florian. Forced by circumstance to unite, the three find their strength, courage, and trust in each other tested with each step closer to safety. Just when it seems freedom is within their grasp, tragedy strikes. Told in alternating points of view, this masterful work of historical fiction is inspired by the real-life tragedy that was the sinking of the *Wilhelm Gustloff*—the greatest maritime disaster in history.

### ***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*, Laurie Halse Anderson**

This is a story about the causes and effects of silence. Late summer before her freshman year in high school, young Melinda makes a frantic call to 911. This not only ends a party, but also destroys her chance at popularity. Facing problems both at school and at home, Melinda struggles with her new identity as a pariah.

### ***The Berlin Boxing Club*, Robert**

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 Catcher in the Rye*, J. D. Salinger**

Holden Caulfield is in a mental institution where he is recovering from a recent mental breakdown. The entire novel is a flashback of the events that had led up to his emotional destruction. The flashback begins with Holden leaving the boarding school he had been sent to by his parents because of lackluster grades.

### ***The Color Purple*, Alice Walker**

Taking place mostly in rural Georgia, the story focuses on female black life during the 1930s in the Southern United States. Numerous issues, including their exceedingly low position in American social culture, are addressed.

### ***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 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 Glass Castle* is truly astonishing—a memoir permeated by the intense love of a peculiar but loyal family.

### ***The Hate U Give*, Angie Thomas**

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. What everyone wants to know is: what *really* went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

### ***The Invisible Man*, H.G. Wells**

*The Invisible Man* is a science fiction novella by H.G. Wells published in 1897. The Invisible Man of the title is Griffin, a scientist who theorizes that if a person's refractive index is changed to exactly that of air and his body does not absorb or reflect light, then he will be invisible. He successfully carries out this procedure, but the effects were not something that he counted on.

### ***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 (because "time is all you have...and you may find one day that you have less than you think"). It was a summation of everything Randy had come to believe. It was about *living*.

### ***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 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 un-learn 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 Secret Life of Bees*, Sue Monk Kidd**

Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of 14-year-old Lily Owens, who is in search of her mother's past. She lives in a house with a neglectful and abusive father, T-Ray. T-Ray and Lily have a black maid, Rosaleen, who acts as a surrogate mother for Lily.

### ***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.

### ***Up from Slavery*, Booker T. Washington**

*Up from Slavery* is the 1901 autobiography of Booker T. Washington detailing his slow and steady rise from a slave child during the Civil War, to the difficulties and obstacles he overcame to get an education at the new Hampton University. In this memoir, Washington describes his efforts to instill manners, breeding, health and a feeling of dignity to students.

### ***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 surround 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.

***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.

\*Credit for summaries to Amazon, Shmoop, Cliffs Notes, and Spark Notes\*