

Summer Reading Mission Statement

The intent of the Valley Regional High School summer reading program is to challenge students to become life-long readers and learners by encouraging them to read during non-instructional time. Through this reading program, the school promotes intellectual stimulation, social awareness, diversity of viewpoints, and independent thinking.

**Successful (passing standard) Summer Reading completion
all four years is a graduation requirement.**

VRHS Academic Expectations:

Students will comprehend written language
Students will speak effectively

Books are available at VRHS, local libraries and bookstores or from online sellers.
Most are available in paperback or in audio or e-book form.

2016 Faculty and Student Committee

Chance Barclay
Kim Berardis
Ian Bott
Izzy Bowden
Addie Byars
Teresa Cobb
Carolyn Crehan
Cindy Downie
Diego Echeverria

Jill Esernia
Maddy Evans
Troy Holland
Julia Jenkins
Nate Johnson
Jake Katelely
Juliette Linares
Cindy Maiolo
Sarah McKinney

Maeve O'Brien
Jessica Paholski
Graham Rider
Allie Ruel
Kristie Schmidt
Willow Tidsale
Gia Villafana
Ashley Vogt

The faculty would like to thank students on the summer reading committee for their time, insight, and reviews. We appreciate your commitment to VRHS's summer reading program.

**Valley Regional High School
Chester—Deep River--Essex**

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We start with suggestions of over 75 books generated by teachers and students. The committee attempts to select books encompassing multiple points of view, different cultures, time periods, and a myriad of experiences with a wide range of appeal. After many enthusiastic and engaging conversations, a well-rounded list emerges.

This booklet reviews the required list books and explains in detail the summer reading process. Summer reading is a graduation requirement and as such *must be passed all four years*. Encourage your student to choose an engaging required book, one that may present a new idea or different perspective. Books are available for previewing in the VRHS library and at local libraries for borrowing after the close of school for the summer. Summer reading projects will be presented the second and third days of the first week of school in your student's CORE group.

We are pleased that the Chester and Essex Public libraries will be offering book discussions for VRHS credit. **Students attending still must complete a visual aid project for this book to turn into their CORE teacher in September.**

The second book, also a required part of summer reading, may be of your student's choice. This "free read" should challenge your student and provide insight for meaningful conversation when we return to school in the fall.

This year the committee is also recommending a parent read, *Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania* by Frank Bruni, a bestselling author and a columnist for the *New York Times*. Through statistics, surveys, and stories of successful people who didn't attend the most exclusive schools, he demonstrates that many kinds of colleges-large public universities, tiny hideaways in the hinterlands-serve as ideal springboards. And he illuminates how to make the most of them. What matters in the end are a student's efforts in and out of the classroom, not the gleam of his or her diploma.

Please call the school if you have any questions. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Michael Barile
Principal

Kristie Schmidt
Library Media Specialist
Coordinator, Summer Reading Committee 2016

Summer Reading Instructions for First Book

Required first book- Choose from the approved list - Oral presentation with visual aid

1. Preview your book selection. Review the summer reading booklet, including reading the reviews of each book, before making your decision.
2. Choose one book for your level from the Summer Reading list. Your level is the English class you will be in for the 2016-2017 school year. For example, if you will be in a level 2/3 English class, you should choose a level 2/3 book or one labeled all. If you would like to read up and choose a level 1 book, you may do so. If, however, you will be in a level 1 English class, you may NOT read a level 2/3 book for your required first book but you may read one labeled all.
3. Read the School-wide Oral Presentation Rubric to understand how you will be assessed.
4. Review the list of ideas for projects and select one lending itself to your particular book.
5. Keep in mind you must explain why you chose each image or event to present. Your choices should reflect the following:
 - Plot
 - Characters
 - Setting
 - Theme (What message is the author trying to convey?)
 - Significance (How does this connect to your own life and personal experiences?)

Summer Reading Instructions for Second Book (book of choice)

Required Second Book- Any appropriate high school level book- Book Talk

Direct any questions about appropriate choices to a summer reading committee member

1. Please review the summer reading **second book** section of the rubric. You will be assessed using the summer reading rubric and **MUST** meet the requirement in order to pass.
2. Be prepared to participate in a "Book Talk". For the book talk, verbally provide the author and title of the book as well as a **brief summary** of the plot, characters, setting, theme and significance. State your opinion of the book, whether or not you would recommend it to someone else, and reasons why or why not.

Summer Reading Oral Presentation Visual Aid Project Options

Soundtrack/Playlist- Think about the main character(s) in your book, the situations they have been through, and the changes that occur in their lives. What songs do you think would be on their iPods/playlist? You should choose five songs and print out the lyrics. In a full paragraph for EACH song, explain how the song directly relates to the main character(s). You must show you fully understand the main character, plot, theme, and significance.

Letter to an Unknown Reader- Write a letter that explains why people should read the book you chose. In your letter, you should explain why this book is valuable, what readers can learn from it, why it is a page-turner, etc. Your letter should be at least one full page, single-spaced, 12-pt font, with 1" margins. Your letter must portray the characters, plot, setting, theme, and significance of your book.

Children's Book- For the creative at heart, turn your book into a children's picture book. Create a children's story of your book that shows the characters, plot, setting, theme and significance of your book. You should draw the pictures (not print them from your computer), and you should write the story as if a young child were going to read it. Your children's book should be at least ten pages and it should clearly represent your book. Anyone (especially a child) should be able to pick up your creation and be able to understand it.

Addition to the Book – Choose one of the following to add to your book: an introduction, a chapter in the middle of the book, or a chapter at the end of the book. You might feel the book you read needs an introduction, or maybe something is missing in the middle, or maybe you think the ending needs to be extended. In the voice of the author, write one of the pieces (intro, middle or end) you feel is needed to make the book stronger. Your addition should be at least two pages, double-spaced, 12-pt font. At the end of your addition, give a one-paragraph explanation of why you made the change. Be sure to reference the characters, theme and significance of the book.

Summer Reading Oral Presentation Visual Aid Projects Options

(continued)

Resume and Business Cards- Research the proper format of a resume; in this case, a chronological resume will probably work best. Then choose two characters for whom you will prepare typed one-page resumes. For unknown information or for younger characters, you should create plausible entries based on your reading and be creative. You will also create five business cards for supporting characters. Through these pieces, you must show knowledge of plot, character, setting, theme, and significance. Business cards typically show name, job title, address and phone, email, fax, etc.

Guide to (insert name of book here) for the Uninformed- Create a guide to your book intended for those who have not read it. You must have the following five entries as a minimum: **Here's What Happened** (plot), **Here's Where It Happened** (setting, setting map), **Here's Who It Happened To** (character profiles), **Here's What It's All About** (theme), and lastly **Here's What I Think** (advice and/or personal connection). Design the booklet to look like a real guide, with illustrations, color, font, and text designed to grab the reader's interest and highlight information clearly.

Diary- Present a diary as if you were one of the characters in your book. In addition to other information, select a minimum of five quotes to explain in writing and/or act out the events you witness and experience. Diary presentations should also relate to five specific events minimum, taken from the beginning, middle, and end of the book. Language used should reflect the culture and age of the character.

T. V. Guide- Turn your book into a five or six-part miniseries. Prepare the TV guide entry for each night's episode. Episode entries must cover events from your entire book, beginning to end. Each synopsis must contain at least five exciting sentences designed to entice viewers without giving away spoilers. You must design a cover for your T.V. Guide. This should depict the characters, plot, setting, theme and significance of the book and should look like a real T.V. Guide cover.

Summer Reading Oral Presentation Visual Aid Projects Options

(continued)

Movie Trailer or filmed Key Scene- You must turn in a script to accompany your movie trailer or filmed key scene, and you may choose a few of your friends to assist you in filming this project but each is responsible for his/her own Summer Reading project. Your movie should follow your script exactly. Be sure you portray the characters, plot, setting, theme, and significance of your book. Add a soundtrack if necessary plus credits. Your trailer or key scene must be longer than three minutes and shorter than seven. Save on a DVD or laptop file. Mac users will need a converter to show their film on the classroom LCD.

SUMMER READING Projects are presented in CORE during the first week of school.

***All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr** will be the Chester Public Library discussion book **on August 11 from 5:30 - 7 pm.** Pre-registration is required. This discussion *will* count towards your summer reading requirement but you must also complete a visual aid project to turn into your CORE teacher on the second day of school.

***This is Your Brain on Sports* by Jon Wertheim** will be the Essex Public Library summer discussion book on **Monday July 18 from 4 - 5 p.m.** Pre-registration is required. This discussion *will* count towards your summer reading requirement but you must also complete a visual aid project to turn into your CORE teacher on the second day of school.

***An Ember in the Ashes* by Sabaa Tahir** will be the Essex Public Library summer discussion book on **Tuesday, August 16th from 6-7 p.m.** Pre-registration is required. This discussion *will* count towards your summer reading requirement but you must also complete a visual aid project to turn into your CORE teacher on the second day of school.

Summer VRHS Reading Selections 2016

Author	Title	Genre	Level
Braun, Adam	The Promise of a Pencil: How an Ordinary Person can Create Extraordinary Change	NF	All
Berry, Julie	The Scandalous Sisterhood of Prickwillow Place	F	2,3
Bruni, Frank	Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be	NF	1,2
Calcaterra, Regina	Etched in Sand	NF	2
Carroll, Lewis	Alice in Wonderland	F	1
Charbonneau, Joelle	Need	F	2,3
Croke, Vicki	Elephant Company: The Unlikely Hero and the Animals Who Helped Him Save Lives	NF	2,3
Crutcher, Chris	Period 8	F	2,3
Dahl, Roald	Going Solo	NF	1,2
Devine, Eric	Dare Me	F	3
Diamont, Anita	The Boston Girl	F	1,2
Doerr, Anthony	All the Light We Cannot See	F	1
Evans, Richard Paul	Michael Vey: Prisoner of Cell 25	F	2,3
Ganda, Martin	I Will Always Write Back	NF	2,3
Griffin, Paul	Adrift	F	2,3
Kuderick, Madeleine	Kiss of Broken Glass	F	all
Levithan, David	Invisibility	F	2
Latta, Sara	Scared Stiff: Everything You Need to Know About 50 Famous Phobias	NF	all
Melnick M.D., Judy	Working Stiff	NF	1
Ng, Celeste	Everything I Never Told You	F	1,2
Perkins, Stephanie	Anna and the French Kiss	F	2,3
Oliver, Lauren	Panic	F	2
Reid, Piers Paul OR Parrado, Nando	Alive OR Miracle in the Andes	NF	2,3
Stein, Garth	The Art of Racing in the Rain	F	1,2
Sundquist, Josh	We Should Hang Out Sometime	NF	1,2
Tahir, Sabaa	An Ember in the Ashes	F	2,3
Wells, Dan	Partials	F	2,3
Wertheim, L. Jon	This is Your Brain on Sports	NF	all
Wunder, Wendy	The Museum of Intangible Things	F	2
Wunder, Wendy	The Probability of Miracles	F	2
Young, Suzanne	The Program	F	2,3

2016 VRHS Summer Reading List Faculty, Student, and Amazon Reviews

***The Promise of a Pencil* by Adam Braun**

Imagine this: Someone walks up to you and asks you what you would ask for if you could have anything in the world. What do you say? A car. Money. Maybe a full scholarship to the university of your dreams. When Adam Braun asked the same question to a young boy living in India, the boy answered “A pencil.” That small request led Adam to travel across the world to build over 300 schools and educate over thirty three thousand students.

In this autobiography, Braun intends to prepare himself for Wall Street, then he turns twenty five dollars into educational facilities across Latin America, Africa, and Asia. This remarkable story gives describes how his childhood and adolescence experiences molded him into the founder of Pencils of Promise, an organization dedicated to “Work tirelessly to break down the restraints of today to enable the possibilities of tomorrow.”

United States Senator Cory Booker stated “A compelling and singular story filled with universal truths everyone needs to hear.” *Publisher’s Weekly* wrote, “An exuberant testimony to the power of idealism... Braun’s story forcefully presents the advantages of silencing the head and listening to the heart.”

***The Scandalous Sisterhood of Prickwillow Place* by Julie Berry**

There's a murderer on the loose--but that doesn't stop the girls of St. Etheldreda's in this funny murder mystery. The students of St. Etheldreda's School for Girls face a dilemma. Their headmistress, Mrs. Plackett, and her surly brother, Mr. Godding, have been most inconveniently poisoned at Sunday dinner. Now the school will almost certainly be closed and the girls sent home--unless these seven very proper young ladies can hide the murders and convince their neighbors that nothing is wrong. A smart, hilarious Victorian romp, full of outrageous plot twists, mistaken identities, and mysterious happenings. (Amazon)

***Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania* By Frank Bruni**

The college application and admissions process is often fraught with words such as “stress”, “anxiety”, and “competition” from students and parents alike. Without discounting the benefits of attending prestigious schools, *The New York Times* columnist, Frank Bruni, reminds his readers that when the hard data comes in, those who succeed come from a variety of educational backgrounds and experiences.

Delving into the educational histories of prominent CEOs and politicians, Bruni points out that more often than not, those who reach high levels of success are often those who attended state or smaller, lesser known schools. Bruni describes what those individuals achieved and how they made themselves stand out during their collegiate careers which contributed to their successes later in life.

For students and parents overwhelmed and anxious about the college admissions process, Bruni offers an insightful view into the “mania” that surrounds the college admissions world. You're reminded to take a deep breath, put your best foot forward, and understand that student success can happen in a wide range of collegiate environments—not just the Ivies. No college acceptance (or denial) gets to define the ultimate outcome of a student’s individual academic promise.

***Etched in Sand* by Regina Calcaterra**

“In my commitment to this belief, I rejoined the board of You Gotta Believe to ensure that more foster children will also one day have their own happy home. If there’s one thing I want every foster child to know, it’s that. We all have to believe.”

This is no fairy tale. It isn’t a nightmare, either. It is the harsh, cold, and raw reality of Calcaterra’s childhood. Calcaterra spent her entire childhood in multiple foster homes, even homeless for a long stretch of her life and yet she never lost hope. Regina rose above and beyond her past and continued to fight, not just for herself but for her brother and three sisters as well. From endless broken friendships, moving all over Long Island, NY, and calls to Child Protection Services (CPS), her bond with her siblings never falls apart.

***Alice in Wonderland* by C.S. Lewis**

In 1862 Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, a shy Oxford mathematician, created a story about a little girl tumbling down a rabbit hole. Thus began the immortal adventures of Alice, perhaps the most popular heroine in English literature. Countless scholars have tried to define the charm of the *Alice* books with wonderfully eccentric characters like the Queen of Hearts, Tweedledum and Tweedledee, the Cheshire Cat, Mock Turtle, and the Mad Hatter. A satire on language, a political allegory, a parody of Victorian children’s literature, even a reflection of contemporary ecclesiastical history? Perhaps, as Dodgson might have said, *Alice* is no more than a dream, a fairy tale about the trials and tribulations of growing up—or down, or all turned round—as seen through the expert eyes of a child. (Amazon)

***Need* by Julie Charbonneau**

“No one gets something for nothing. We all should know better.” Teenagers at Wisconsin’s Nottawa High School are drawn deeper into a social networking site that promises to grant their every need . . . regardless of the consequences. Soon the site turns sinister, with simple pranks escalating to malicious crimes. The body count rises. In this chilling YA thriller, the author of the best-selling *Testing* trilogy examines not only the dark side of social media, but the dark side of human nature. (Amazon)

***Elephant Company* by Vicki Crowe**

A story about retired British WWI veteran James Howard “Billy” Williams and his unique connection to elephants. Those who have read *Elephant Run* will enjoy this book.

After retiring from the British military, Billy took a job as a forest man for a teak company in Burma. As time went on, he came to love and adore the elephants he worked with, especially Bandoola. However, when the Japanese invaded Burma in WW2, he became part of an elite British unit, known as Force 136, which operated behind enemy lines. Williams used elephants to build bridges and transport the wounded and supplies. Finally, the Japanese decided enough was enough and decided to hunt Williams down. Read about his daring escape attempt across the rugged border to India.

Elephant Company is a tale of courage and heroism, a book anyone with a liking for adventure and history should read.

***Period 8* by Chris Crutcher**

The truth is something you always want to tell to someone that you trust, that you know. At least, you think you know them. But is there another side to them?

A complicated relationship between Paulie and Hanna and the teacher in the school who “runs” Period 8 takes a completely unpredictable turn. When Hannah makes an interesting discovery while driving down a back road one night she is stunned. The book is high intensity, one of those books you can’t put down until you finish.

***Going Solo* by Roald Dahl**

Do you remember the books *Charlie and the Charlie Chocolate Factory*, *James and the Giant Peach*, and *Matilda*? All of these humorous, creative, and quirky novels share one main thing in common, the brilliant author behind them, Roald Dahl.

Going Solo is an irresistible novel filled with the action-packed adventures of the real Roald Dahl. Filled with bizarre scenarios, Dahl's incomparable sense of humor, and unbelievable experiences, this autobiography lets you travel further into the life of the world's number one storyteller. The book delves into Dahl's near-fatal encounters in Africa and his life as a fighter pilot during WWII. Along the way, he meets all types of interesting people with charming stories and many surprises. Not only is the novel bursting with remarkable tales, but it is full of suspense which leaves you eagerly turning at every page.

Going Solo is a remarkable novel that is a must read for anyone who grew up with Dahl's classic books as part of their childhood and wants to experience a bit more of his life in a distinguishable way that only Roald Dahl can tell a story.

***Dare Me* by Eric Devlin**

Three senior boys and 10 life threatening dares.

Ben and his friends want to finish the year and be remembered when they graduate, that is *if* they survive to graduate. As their videos of their death defying dares on YouTube get thousands of views, the money starts rolling in when he mysterious "OP" sponsors them to keep it going. As greed motivates them, the level of intensity elevates. And as the whole town tries to unmask these daredevils, Ben's relationships with his family and friends change drastically.

A high intensity book for both genders sure to be a page turner. Rated 4.2/5 on Voya.

***The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamont**

A *New York Times* bestseller coming of age tale of a young Jewish girl living in Boston at the turn of the century. The novel addresses religion, independence, love, and what it is like to be a woman in a big city. Follow main character Addie Baum and explore the wonder of her life as she lives through war, an epidemic, and abuse while maintaining close friendships and learning how to be successful in society.

The Boston Girl is an emotionally gripping tale and captures youth in a way that other novels fail to do. If you like historical fiction, memoirs, or coming of age novels this book will be a perfect fit for you.

***All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr**

Any reader who enjoys historical fiction will love *All the Light We Cannot See*. In this thrilling novel, Doerr paints a beautifully detailed picture of the world during WWII. He exposes the lives of two citizens as they grow from young children to teens caught in the midst of war. Marie-Laure is a blind girl from France who navigates by touch based on scale models of her location made by her father, a keeper of keys at the local museum in Paris. Werner is a German orphan exceptionally gifted in working with radios. This earns him a spot in a prestigious school for the Hitler Youth. As the war rocks both of their lives, the paths of these two individuals meet in Saint Malo, France. Will they make it out alive?

Doerr manages to put everything readers love into this piece: suspense, the historical element, adventure, even a bit of fantasy as well. Beautifully written, *All the Light We Cannot See* is a page-turner that will keep the reader engaged until it is finished.

***Michael Vey: Prisoner of Cell 25* by Richard Paul Evans**

To everyone at Meridian High School, fourteen-year-old Michael Vey is nothing special, just the kid who has Tourette's syndrome. But in truth, Michael is extremely special—he has electric powers. Michael thinks he is unique until he discovers that a cheerleader named Taylor has the same mysterious powers. With the help of Michael's friend, Ostin, the three of them set out to discover how Michael and Taylor ended up with their abilities, and their investigation soon brings them to the attention of a powerful group who wants to control the electric teens—and through them, the world. (Amazon)

***I Will Always Write Back* by Martin Gand**

A wonderful story about a teenager named Caitlin who becomes pen pals with a boy who lives in Zimbabwe. When Caitlin realizes that life for Martin in Zimbabwe isn't what life is like in the U.S., Caitlin makes a life changing decision to help Martin. Through everything that happens Caitlin and Martin "will always write back."

A touching and inspiring story of how a twelve year old girl helps a suffering boy with a kind gesture that goes a long way.

***Adrift* by Paul Griffin**

Matt and John are best friends working out in Montauk for the summer. When Driana, JoJo and Stef invite the boys to their Hamptons mansion, Matt and John find themselves in a sticky situation where temptation rivals sensibility. The friends head out into the Atlantic after midnight in a stolen boat but, none of them come back whole, and not all of them come back. (Amazon)

***Kiss of Broken Glass* by Madeleine Kuderick**

"My name is Kenna. No one ever told me the truth about cutting--how scars multiply like freaking rabbits." Kenna is a teenage girl under the pressure of fitting in. She was caught cutting in the high school bathroom, rushed to the hospital and forced into becoming an overnight patient. The experiences and people she meets change her life forever. If you're someone who wants to understand the truth behind cutting this book would be perfect for you. The author captures the real struggles, pain and triggers a cutter experiences.

***Invisibility* by David Leviathan**

Elizabeth sometimes wishes for invisibility. When you're invisible, no one can hurt you. So when her mother decides to move the family to New York City, Elizabeth is thrilled. It's easy to blend in there. Then Stephen and Elizabeth meet. To Stephen's amazement, she can see him. And to Elizabeth's amazement, she wants him to be able to see her—all of her. But as the two become closer, an invisible world gets in their way—a world of grudges and misfortunes, spells and curses. And once they're thrust into this world, Elizabeth and Stephen must decide how deep they're going to go—because the answer could mean the difference between love and death. (Amazon)

***Scared Stiff: Everything You Need to Know About 50 Famous Phobias* by Sarah Latta**

If your perfectly reasonable fear of snakes has metastasized to the point that you run screaming from every uncoiled hose, then (news flash!), you've got yourself a phobia. Human phobias are strange, diverse, and actually have the power to teach us a lot about who we are and where we came from.

Author Sarah Latta blends biology, psychology, history, and pop culture to provide a comprehensive account of 50 essential fears, from arachnophobia to zoophobia. She includes an explanation of the history behind each phobia, and a discussion of notable people who have

suffered from the fear, sidebars that highlight famous phobic moments from history and pop culture television and movies, and updates on how successful various phobia treatments have been. Fun and entertaining.

***Working Stiff* by Judy Melnick, M.D.**

“Fun...and full of smart science. Fans of CSI—the real kind—will want to read it” – states *The Washington Post* in their review of *Working Stiff*. Judy Melnek doesn’t survive her original plan to become a surgeon, and she realizes she has a passion for dead bodies. Although her profession as a forensic pathologist is somewhat disgusting, it is also intriguing to see what she goes through on a daily basis as she examines the causes of death in multiple situations. This book reveals a hidden world most people don’t stop to think about. It also shows readers that understanding death is critical to the many families Judy works with as they come to grips with the death of their loved one, and to the many court cases where Judy must testify. A page-turning and unforgettable read.

***Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng**

The Lee family is just like any other family living in the 1970s. They live in a nice house in a small town and have three children that all attend school. They grow up learning that school is the main focus in life and studying always comes first. They seem to be the perfect family until Lydia is found dead.

Everything I Never Told You tells Lydia’s story up to her death. *The New York Times* review says, “A literary thriller that begins with some stock elements: a missing girl, a lake, a local bad boy who was one of the last to see her and won’t say what he knows. The year is 1977, the setting, a quiet all-American town in Ohio, where everyone knows one another and nothing like this has ever happened before.” Ng puts a spin on a story that many people know. Read to find out what happens when expectations and pressure get the better of one girl.

***Anna and the French Kiss* by Stephanie Perkins**

Do you like romances, and Paris? Ever wonder what it would be like to go to school in a different country? If so then this is the book for you.

Anna and the French Kiss is a story about a senior in high school named Anna who is forced to go to a boarding school in Paris. Anna does not want to go to Paris because she does not speak or understand the French language. She meets the perfect boy at her new school, but he has girlfriend. Throughout the story you will learn about Paris and how Anna comes to love it and makes new relationships.

***Panic* by Lauren Oliver**

How far would you go to escape the only place you've ever known? In the small town of Carp, the only exciting thing that ever happens is Panic, the legendary game for graduating high school seniors. Big money is at stake and the journey to the gold is no easy task. Reckless dares are assigned and skeptical alliances are made. However, in a town like Carp, the thought of a better future makes anyone willing to risk it all.

Heather never dreamed she would be competing in the dangerous game but something in her changed. She found the thing worth fighting for and throughout the games discovers how far she is willing to create a better life. Heather and her fellow players test their true limits. However, when someone is found dead, the games reach extremes only the bravest can face.

Lauren Oliver weaves a brilliant and thrilling novel that will keep you on the edge of your seat. The characters are focused on as the game itself and well developed. This book will help you understand how it feels to face your fears and how rewarding it can be when you succeed.

***Alive* by Piers Paul Reid OR *Miracle in the Andes* by Nando Parrado**

On October 12, 1972, a plane carrying a team of young rugby players crashed into the remote, snow-peaked Andes. Out of the forty-five original passengers and crew, only sixteen made it off the mountain alive. For ten weeks they suffered beyond imagination, confronting nature head-on at its most furious and inhospitable. To survive, they were forced to do the unthinkable ...Both books are the story of one of the most astonishing true adventures of the twentieth century. (Amazon)

***The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein**

From when he was a young puppy, to his last days with his owner and companion, Denny, a race car driver, by his side, Enzo is Denny's number one fan. Throughout the ups and downs, laughs and tears, Enzo and Denny help each other through life's toughest challenges.

This book is intriguing and sad and amazing. Life through a dog's eyes may not be what it seems and Enzo will change the way you think about life all together, especially about those you love. You will never forget *The Art of Racing in the Rain*.

***We Should Hang Out Sometime* by Josh Sundquist**

Josh, now in his twenties, had a hard time finding a girlfriend since he was a little awkward and inexperienced. What made it even harder was that he only had one leg since his other was amputated due to cancer. This funny, romantic, and cute memoir explains the exciting life of Sundquist. Each chapter includes a "love story", and then Josh's analysis (A.K.A. what went wrong) of it. A relatable collection of stories that are quick and fun to read.

***An Ember in the Ashes* by Sabaa Tahir**

Welcome to the brutal Martial Empire influenced by ancient Roman law where both defiance and loyalty are met with death. This world intertwines the story of a soldier and a slave longing for freedom, and the consequences of their actions. Meet Elias, a skilled soldier in the prestigious military academy, fierce in his longing to abandon the only life he has known . And Laia, who lives with her grandparents under terrifying laws but agrees to become a slave in the academy to help rebels free her brother facing execution. Elias and Laia become united in their desire to leave the harsh Empire , but family loyalties and friendships hinder their actions. Who will escape? If you are a fan of *The Hunger Games*, you have to read *An Ember in the Ashes*.

***Partials* by Dan Wells**

Kira Walker is a sixteen-year-old medic. She lives in a world in which there are only a few thousand humans left following a revolution in which a genetically-altered race of people left many humans dead and a plague killed millions more. In Kira's world, human babies are not able to survive more than a few hours. Kira believes she can figure out a cure however, she comes to realize no one is doing anything that will actually bring them closer to a cure. When she is denied official permission to travel into the Partials' territory in search of the data she needs, Kira sets out with a group of friends. Will they find the cure?

***This Is Your Brain On Sports* by L. Jon Wertheim and Sam Sommers**

Have you ever wondered why we root for underdogs in sporting events? Why we need rivals in sports? Why athletes like Floyd Mayweather Jr. are perfectly fine with being portrayed as a villain? Then *This Is Your Brain On Sports* is the perfect book for you! This book is great for anyone interested in sports or psychology. It not only talks about interesting sports topics, but goes into detail about why we (or professional athletes and teams) believe because of our human nature. No matter what sport you play, or even if you do not play a sport at all, *This Is Your*

Brain On Sports is an incredibly fascinating book and a must read for anyone who considers themselves a sports fan.

***The Museum of Intangible Things* by Wendy Wunder**

Hannah and Zoe don't have much going for them in their down-and-out New Jersey town. When Hannah's family issues and Zoe's manic depression worsen, they decide to hop in Hannah's Le Mans and head anywhere that's not New Jersey. Hannah, the quiet one, agrees to this idea in hopes that Zoe's manic depressive episode will subside. Zoe, the wild one, wants to feel the thrill of adventure and new experiences. As they travel around the country, sneaking into closed Ikeas, stealing horses and chasing storms, Zoe's behavior continually becomes more erratic. While Hannah is concerned, she is learning from Zoe how to live without carefully calculating every move she makes. Hannah is torn. She is unsure of what she wants to do: return to a place that has nothing to offer, or continue an exhilarating adventure with her mentally unstable best friend. The only thing Hannah is sure about, is that this decision will be a life altering choice.

***The Probability of Miracles* by Wendy Wunder**

Dry, sarcastic, and witty seventeen year old Campbell Cooper has been battling cancer in and out of hospitals for the last five years. This civil war spiraling in her body has sent her mother, Alicia, searching for every possible cure. After being told "Cam, there is nothing we can do... What you need is a miracle." Alicia went searching for one.

Promise, Maine: 1,500 miles away is where miracles come true. Where sunsets last forever, flamingoes end up in the frigid cold, fields of striking purple dandelions bloom, and an attractive boy named Asher is there every time Cam needs help. In the beginning of the summer, Cam finds a "flamingo" list, much like a bucket list. Later on, she receives another list of things she must do before she dies. As she checks each item off the list, she finds herself one step closer to believing in miracles. But will she be able to reach the very last item? After all, she only had "one summer to live a lifetime."

***The Program* by Suzanne Young**

Sloane knows better than to cry in front of anyone. With suicide now an international epidemic, one outburst could land her in The Program, the only proven course of treatment. Sloane's parents have already lost one child; Sloane knows they'll do anything to keep her alive. She also knows that everyone who's been through The Program returns as a blank slate. Their depression is gone—but so are their memories.

Under constant surveillance at home and at school, Sloane puts on a brave face and keeps her feelings buried as deep as she can. The only person Sloane can be herself with is James. He's promised to keep them both safe and out of treatment, and Sloane knows their love is strong enough to withstand anything. But despite the promises they made to each other, it's getting harder to hide the truth. They are both growing weaker. Depression is setting in. And The Program is coming for them. (Amazon)