

The High School Book Explorers Advisory Group* Also Recommends:

FICTION:

Atwood, Margaret. *Hagseed*

Atwood's retelling of Shakespeare's *Tempest* offers multiple pleasures as she changes, updates, and parallels the play's magic, grief, vengeance, and showmanship.

Brunt, Carole Rifka. *Tell the Wolves I'm Home*

It is the 1980's, and the AIDS epidemic is raging. Before her Uncle Finn dies of the illness people don't want to talk about, 14-year-old June Elbus thinks she is the center of his world. A famous and reclusive painter, Finn makes her feel uniquely understood. When he dies, she discovers he had a bigger secret: his longtime partner Toby, the only other person who misses him as much as she does.

De la Cruz, Melissa. *Alex and Eliza: A Love Story*

Fans of *Hamilton* the musical will enjoy this fictionalized account of the courtship of Alexander Hamilton and Elizabeth Schuyler.

Diffenbaugh, Vanessa. *The Language of Flowers*

Eighteen and emancipated from the foster-care system with nowhere to go, Victoria realizes she has a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them. But an unexpected encounter with a mysterious stranger has her questioning what's been missing in her life.

Gratz, Alan. *Refugee*

Gratz presents three interrelated stories about children and their families who are driven from their homes by war, violence, and unrest. These memorable and tightly plotted stories of escape from Nazi Germany, Cuba, and Syria contextualize and give voice to the current refugee crises, underscoring that these journeys are born out of a desperate need for security and safety.

Johnston, E.K. *Exit, Pursued By a Bear*

In every class, there's a star cheerleader and a pariah pregnant girl. They're never supposed to be the same person. Senior Hermione Winters tries to regain control of her life after a sexual assault. She refuses to let it define her.

Lockhart, E. *Genuine Fraud*

Written by the author of *We Were Liars*, this is another book with a twist. It tells the story of Jule and Imogen, two friends whose lives intertwine in unexpected ways. Recommended if you are looking for a twisty mystery or a book with a strong, not necessarily likeable, teenage heroine.

Lu, Marie. *Warcross*

A computer glitch puts bounty hunter Emika in the middle of Warcross, an immersive video game, leading to an offer from its elusive creator to help solve a virtual mystery with real repercussions.

McManus, Karen. *One of Us Is Lying*

Five high school students walk into detention, but only four make it out alive. A clever mystery with *A Breakfast Club* vibe.

Miller, Madeline. *Circe*

Circe, best known as the woman who turns Odysseus' men into pigs, is given her voice, and a compelling story of her own, in this reimagining of the myth. Recommended for fans of Greek mythology.

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

At thirteen, Jude and her twin brother, Noah, are incredibly close. But three years later, Jude and Noah are barely speaking. The early years are Noah's story to tell. The later years are Jude's. What the twins don't realize is that they each have only half the story, and if they could just find their way back to one another, they'd have a chance to remake their world.

Ness, Patrick. *The Rest of Us Just Live Here*

What if you aren't the Chosen One? The one who's supposed to fight the zombies, or the soul-eating ghosts, or whatever the heck this new thing is, with the blue lights and the death? What if you're like Mikey, who just wants to graduate and go to prom and maybe finally work up the courage to ask Henna out before someone goes and blows up the high school. Again. A warm, funny, tale of high school friends who discover that sometimes real heroism lies in just living their daily lives, despite the supernatural chaos all around them.

Pullman, Philip. *His Dark Materials*

This trilogy tells the story of Lyra and Will—two ordinary children on a perilous journey through shimmering haunted otherworlds. They will meet witches and armored bears, fallen angels and soul-eating specters. And in the end, the fate of both the living—and the dead—will rely on them.

Revis, Beth. *A World Without You*

After the unexpected loss of his girlfriend, a boy suffering from delusions believes he can travel through time to save her. "Revis's account of grief, loss, first love, and anguish, presented through a lens of mental illness, is a must-read." (VOYA)

Reynolds, Jason. *Long Way Down*

Fifteen-year-old Will's brother has been shot and killed. According to the rules that Will has been taught, it is now his job to kill the person responsible. He easily finds his brother's gun and gets

on the elevator to head down from his eighth-floor apartment. But it's a long way down to the ground floor, and a lot can happen.

Scott, Michael. *The Alchemyst Series*

The truth: Nicholas Flamel was born in Paris on September 28, 1330.

The legend: Nicholas Flamel discovered the secret of eternal life.

This series is a fun read for fans of Percy Jackson and Harry Potter.

Sendker, Jan-Philipp. *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats*

When a successful New York lawyer suddenly disappears without a trace, neither his wife nor his daughter Julia has any idea where he might be...until they find a love letter he wrote many years ago, to a Burmese woman they have never heard of. Intent on solving the mystery and coming to terms with her father's past, Julia decides to travel to the village where the woman lived. There she uncovers a tale of unimaginable hardship, resilience, and passion.

Ward, Jesmyn. *Sing, Unburied, Sing*

Beautifully written, but not happy, coming of age story featuring a teen male narrator. Winner of the National Book Award for Fiction.

NON-FICTION

Asbrink, Elisabeth. *1947: Where Now Begins*

"Among innumerable turning points in history, 1947, just two years after World War II ended, is a year worth review. Åsbrink's book, translated from the Swedish, makes some of that year's neglected history and high drama tangible and meaningful. The author records events from across the world (Paris, Palestine, New York, Los Angeles, Budapest, Berlin, Delhi, etc.), using the present tense to create a sense of immediacy. A skillful and illuminating way of presenting, to wonderful effect, the cultural, political, and personal history of a year that changed the world." (Kirkus Reviews)

Ganda, Martin and Caitlin Alifirenka. *I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives*

The true story of an American girl and a boy from Zimbabwe and the letter that changed both of their lives forever. It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place. There were only ten letters, and fifty kids in Martin's class. But he was the top student, so he got the first one. In this compelling dual memoir, Caitlin and Martin recount how they became lifelong friends through their long-term, long-distance correspondence. .

Kick, Peter W. *Desperate Steps: Life, Death, and Choices Made in the Mountains of the Northeast*

In this all-new collection, author Peter W. Kick recounts twenty true tales of backcountry misadventure and misfortune, including incidents along the famed Appalachian Trail, and seeks

the lessons learned in each. From close-calls to unsolved mysteries, these stories illuminate the realities faced by outdoors people across the Northeast. Weather is unpredictable. The best laid plans go awry. And in the worst of times, even the best decision may not be enough to turn the tides.

Kuklin, Susan. *Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out*

Kuklin's book profiles six transgender teens in both their own words and the author's excellent photographs. The result is a strikingly in-depth examination of the sometimes clinical complexities of being transgender, even as Kuklin's empathy-inducing pictures put a human face on the experience. The profiles are evenly divided between FTM (female to male) and MTF (male to female) teens. This book brings welcome clarity to a subject that has often been obscure and gives faces—literally and metaphorically—to a segment of the teen population that has too long been invisible.

Lewis, John. *March (Books 1, 2, and 3)*

The award-winning, #1 bestselling graphic novel trilogy recounting Congressman John Lewis' life in the Civil Rights movement. Despite more than 40 arrests, physical attacks, and serious injuries, he remained a devoted advocate of the philosophy of nonviolence. Co-written with Andrew Aydin and drawn by Nate Powell.

Noyes, Deborah. *Ten Days a Madwoman: The Daring Life and Turbulent Times of the Original "Girl" Reporter, Nellie Bly*

At the end of the 19th century, journalist Nellie Bly pulled a major journalistic stunt that skyrocketed her to fame: feigning insanity, being committed to the notorious asylum on Blackwell's Island, and writing a shocking exposé of the clinic's horrific treatment of its patients. Nellie Bly became a household name and raised awareness of political corruption, poverty, and abuses of human rights.

Slater, Dashka. *The 57 Bus*

One afternoon a single reckless act changes the lives of two local teenagers, leaving Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment. "Slater does a masterful job debunking the myths of the hate-crime monster and the African-American thug, probing the line between adolescent stupidity and irredeemable depravity. An outstanding book that links the diversity of creed and the impact of impulsive actions to themes of tolerance and forgiveness." (Kirkus Reviews) Winner of the Stonewall Book Award.

Wohllenben, Peter. *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate—Discoveries from a Secret World*

Forester and author Peter Wohlleben draws on groundbreaking scientific discoveries to describe how trees are like human families: tree parents live together with their children, communicate with them, support them as they grow, share nutrients with those who are sick or struggling, and even warn each other of impending dangers.

* The High School Book Explorers Advisory Group is made up of teachers and librarians who read widely and care deeply about encouraging students to love reading. We meet monthly to discuss books and compile suggestions for the supplemental summer reading list. This year's members are:

Kristen Bellinzoni, Nancy Brown, JoAnne diMase, Elizabeth Kucera, Kellie Oxx, Eleanor Schuster,
Andrea Yahia