

TEEN SUMMER READING PICKS

2021

Grades 9-12

Top Ten Picks



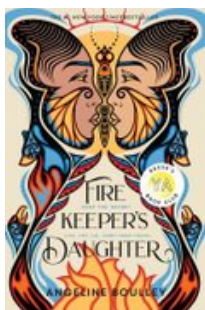
Cinderella is Dead by Kalynn Bayron

Two hundred years after Cinderella found her prince, the fairy tale is over. Teen girls are now required to appear at the Annual Ball, where the men of the kingdom select wives based on a girl's display of finery. If a suitable match is not found, the girls not chosen are never heard from again. Sophia, together with Constance, the last known descendant of Cinderella and her step sisters, Sophia vows to bring down the king once and for all.



Breathless by Jennifer Niven

Claude's mom whisks them both away to a remote, mosquito-infested island off the coast of Georgia, a place where the two of them can start the painful process of mending their broken hearts after Claude's father asks for a divorce. It's the last place Claude can imagine finding her footing, but then Jeremiah Crew happens. Miah is a local trail guide who seems to see Claude for who she wants to be.



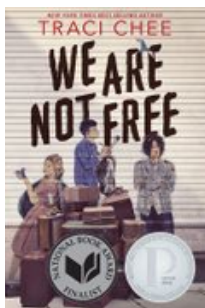
Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley

Daunis, who is part Ojibwe, defers attending the University of Michigan to care for her mother and reluctantly becomes involved in the investigation of a series of drug-related deaths.



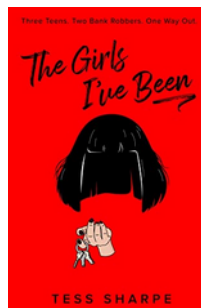
Among the Beasts and Briars by Ashley Poston

As the Kingdom of Aloriya prospered for hundred of years, the woods grew dark and cursed. Cerys knows this all too well after narrowly escaping as the woods killed her mother. As a new queen is crowned things long hidden in the woods descend on the kingdom itself. Cerys is forced on the run to find the legendary Lady of the Wilds and beg for a way to save her home.



We Are Not Free by Traci Chee

For fourteen-year-old budding artist Minoru Ito, her two brothers, her friends, and the other members of the Japanese-American community in southern California, the three months since Pearl Harbor was attacked have become a waking nightmare: attacked, spat on, and abused with no way to retaliate--and now things are about to get worse, their lives forever changed by the mass incarcerations in the relocation camps.



The Girls I've Been by Tess Sharpe

When seventeen-year-old Nora O'Malley, the daughter of a con artist, is taken hostage in a bank heist, every secret she is keeping close begins to unravel.



She's Too Pretty to Burn by Wendy Heard

When seventeen-year-old Veronica's photograph of her introverted girlfriend goes viral, they are sent into a spiral of fame and lethal danger as they navigate the turbulent waters of their relationship, secrets, acclaim, and the underground San Diego art scene.



Smash It! by Francina Simone

Challenging herself to overcome long-held insecurities at the beginning of her junior year, Liv lands an unexpected role in her high school's hip-hopera production of Othello that helps launch her journey of self-empowerment.



When You Look Like Us by Pamela N. Harris

Everyone thinks you're trouble when you look like us. No one even blinks twice over a missing black girl because she must've brought whatever happened to her upon herself. Jay Murphy can admit, for a minute, he thought his sister Nicole just got caught up with her drug dealer boyfriend and his friends. But she's been gone too long. It's time to step up, to do what the Newport News police department won't. Bring her home.



Punching the Air by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam

Amal Shahid has always been an artist and a poet. But even in a diverse art school, he's seen as disruptive and unmotivated by a biased system. Then one fateful night, an altercation in a gentrifying neighborhood escalates into tragedy. Suddenly Amal's future is upended: he is convicted of a crime he didn't commit and sent to prison. Despair and rage almost sink him until he turns to the refuge of his words, his art.

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REALISTIC FICTION



The Life and (Medieval) Times of Kit and Sweetly by Jamie Paction



Hurricane Summer by Asha Bromfield



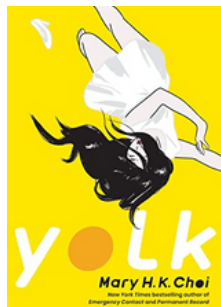
Between Perfect and Real by Ray Stoeve



Grown by Tiffany D. Jackson



Somewhere Between Bitter and Sweet by Laekan Zea Kemp



Yolk by Mary H.K. Choi

ACTION AND SUSPENSE



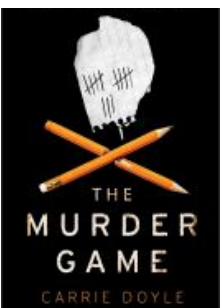
The Cost of Knowing by Brittney Morris



The Infinity Courts by Akemi Dawn Bowman



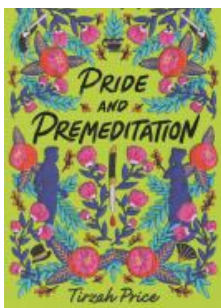
Version Zero by David Yoon



The Murder Game by Carrie Doyle



Aetherbound by E.K. Johnston



Pride and Premeditation by Tirzah Price

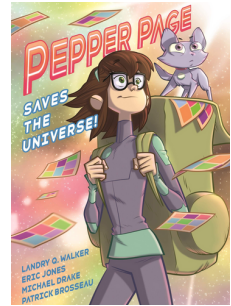
GRAPHIC NOVELS



Flamer by Mike Curato



The Magic Fish by Trung Le Nguyen



Pepper Page Saves the Universe! by Landry Walker

FANTASY



All These Monsters by Amy Tintera

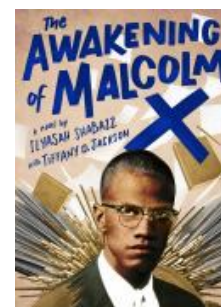


Legendborn by Tracy Deonn

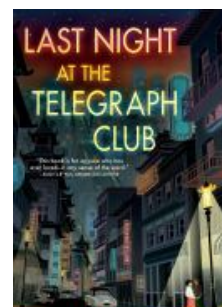


Blade of Secrets by Tricia Levenseller

HISTORICAL FICTION



The Awakening of Malcolm X by Ilyasah Shabazz



Last Night at the Telegraph Club by Malinda Lo



Angel of Greenwood by Randi Pink