



# WRHS Summer Reading 2017-18

## Fiction

### ***Six of Crows*, by Leigh Bardugo**

Criminal prodigy Kaz Brekker has been offered wealth beyond his wildest dreams. To claim it, he'll have to pull off the impossible heist: break into the notorious Ice Court (a military stronghold that has never been breached), retrieve a hostage (who could unleash magical havoc on the world), and survive to collect his reward. Kaz needs a crew desperate enough to take on this suicide mission and dangerous enough to get the job done: six of the deadliest outcasts the city has to offer. Together, they just might be unstoppable—if they don't kill each other first.



### ***Ready Player One*, by Ernest Cline**

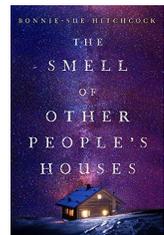
✦ WRHS Staff Book Club pick



In the year 2044, the only time Wade Watts feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as "The Oasis." Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines—puzzles that are based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and that promise power and fortune to whoever can unlock them. But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. If Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win - and confront the real world he's been so desperate to escape.

### ***The Smell of Other People's Houses*, by Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock**

In Alaska, 1970, being a teenager here isn't like being a teenager anywhere else. Ruth has a secret that she can't hide forever. Dora wonders if she can ever truly escape where she comes from, even when good luck strikes. Alyce is trying to reconcile her desire to dance, with the life she's always known on her family's fishing boat. Hank and his brothers decide it's safer to run away than to stay home—until one of them ends up in terrible danger. Four very different lives are about to become entangled.



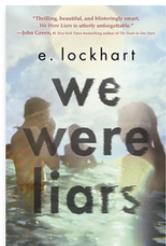
### ***The Boomerang Effect*, by Gordon Jack**



After causing a ruckus at a school assembly, Lawrence Barry avoids expulsion by cutting a deal to mentor Spencer, a Norwegian freshman transfer student with Spock-like intelligence and no social skills. Up to this point, Lawrence's life's aim had been...well, aimless. Now he has to change his habits, and become "a man with a purpose." That's easier said than done, especially when the whole school thinks he's out to sabotage homecoming, and his on-again-off-again ex wants to take him to the dance in a dog collar. Along the way, Lawrence discovers not only who his true friends are but also that being "normal" might be highly overrated. (*School Library Journal*).

## Fiction

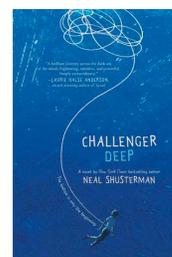
### ***We Were Liars*, by E. Lockhart**



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 National Book Award finalist and Printz Award honoree E. Lockhart. Beautiful, heartbreaking, and more than it seems. Read it, and if anyone asks you how it ends, just *LIE* (Goodreads).

### ***Challenger Deep*, by Neal Shusterman**

Caden Bosch is on a galleon that's headed for the deepest point on Earth: Challenger Deep, the southern part of the Marianas Trench. Bosch is a brilliant high school student whose friends are starting to notice his odd behavior. He is designated the ship's artist in residence to document the journey with images. He is split between his allegiance to the captain and the allure of mutiny. Caden is dealing with schizophrenia...and as fantasy and paranoia begin to take over, his parents have only one choice left. *Challenger Deep*, a formidable and poetic voyage into the mind of a teen with a misunderstood mental illness, won the 2015 National Book Award for Young People's Literature.



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

✪ WRHS Staff Book Club pick

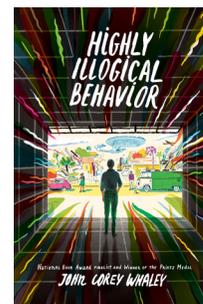


Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Everyone wants to know: 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.

### ***Highly Illogical Behavior*, by John Corey Whaley**

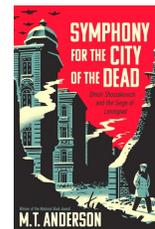
Sixteen-year-old Solomon is agoraphobic—he hasn't left the house in three years. Ambitious Lisa desperately wants to get into the second-best psychology program for college (she's being realistic). But is ambition alone enough to get her in? Determined to "fix" Sol, Lisa steps into his world, along with her charming boyfriend, Clark, and soon the three form an unexpected bond. But, as Lisa learns more about Sol and he and Clark grow closer and closer, the walls they've built around themselves start to collapse and their friendships threaten to do the same.



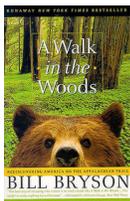
## Nonfiction & Memoir

### ***Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad*, by M.T. Anderson**

Dmitri Shostakovich composed *Leningrad* after Nazi forces surrounded the city. The symphony rallied his fellow citizens when it was performed in 1942—during one of the longest and harshest sieges in history. This is the true story of a city under siege: the triumph of bravery and defiance in the face of terrifying odds. It is also a look at the power—and layered meaning—of music in beleaguered lives.

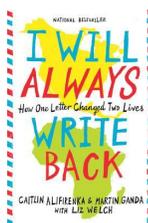


### ***A Walk in the Woods*, by Bill Bryson**



In order to rediscover his country, the unprepared and out-of-shape author sets out to walk the length of the Appalachian Trail. He is armed with nothing but Snickers Bars and Ramen Noodles, and accompanied by a college roommate he has not seen in years. His account of that adventure is at once hilarious, inspiring, and thought-provoking.

### ***I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives*, by Martin Ganda, Caitlin Alifirenka, and Liz Welch**



It started as an assignment: In 1997, Caitlin, an American, and Martin, a Zimbabwean, became pen pals through school. Six years later, they finally met. In this compelling dual memoir, Caitlin and Martin recount how they became best friends—and better people—through their long-distance exchange. This story will inspire readers to look beyond their own lives to wonder about the world at large and their place in it.

### ***In the Country We Love*, by Diane Guerrero**

Diane Guerrero was 14-years-old on the day her parents and brother were arrested and deported while she was at school. Born in the U.S., Guerrero remained in the country to continue her education, depending on the kindness of family friends who took her in and helped her build a life and a successful acting career. *In the Country We Love* is a moving, heartbreaking memoir of personal triumph that also casts a much-needed light on the fears that haunt the daily existence of families like the author's and on a system that fails them over and over.



### ***All the Gallant Men: An American Sailor's Firsthand Account of Pearl Harbor*, by Donald Stratton**

At 8:06 a.m. on December 7, 1941, a million pounds of explosives had detonated beneath 19-year-old Seaman First Class Donald Stratton's battle station aboard the USS Arizona, barely fifteen minutes into Japan's surprise attack on American forces at Pearl Harbor. In this extraordinary, never-before-told eyewitness account of the Pearl Harbor attack—the only memoir ever written by a survivor of the USS Arizona—94-year-old Donald Stratton shares his unforgettable personal tale of bravery and survival, his harrowing recovery, and his inspiring determination to return to the fight.



## Nonfiction & Memoir

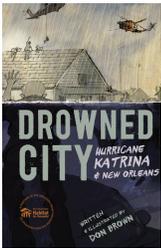
### ***Brown Girl Dreaming*, by Jacqueline Woodson**

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a young person's soul as she searches for her place in the world (Goodreads). This book won the National Book Award for Young People's Literature, a Newbery Honor, and the Coretta Scott King Award for the author (among other prestigious recognitions). Don't let that scare you! *Brown Girl Dreaming* is tremendously readable and beautifully written.



## Graphic Novel

### ***Drowned City*, by Don Brown**



On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's monstrous winds and surging water overwhelmed the protective levees around low-lying New Orleans, Louisiana. Eighty percent of the city flooded, in some places under twenty feet of water. Property damages across the Gulf Coast topped \$100 billion. 1,833 people lost their lives. The tale of this historic storm and the drowning of an American city is one of selflessness, heroism, and courage—and also of incompetence, racism, and criminality.

## Seen On Screen:

*13 Reasons Why*, Jay Asher

*The Handmaid's Tale*, Margaret Atwood

*Ender's Game*, Orson Scott Card

*Wonder*, R.J. Palacio

*The Glass Castle*, Jeanette Walls

*Everything, Everything*, Nicola Yoon

Learn more about WRHS's  
Summer Reading List at

<http://www.wrsd.net/wrhs>

A. Stern for Wachusett Regional High School • Holden, MA  
• Summer 2017•