



WACHUSETT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

SUMMER READING 2020



Fiction

***The Poet X*, by Elizabeth Acevedo**

Xiomara Batista feels unheard in her Harlem neighborhood. She has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking. Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion into writing, reciting the words to herself like prayers—especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman, who her family can never know about. When she is invited to join her school's slam poetry club, she doesn't know how she could ever attend without her mami finding out. But she still can't stop thinking about performing her poems. Because in the face of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent. [Realistic Fiction/Verse]



***Children of Blood & Bone*, by Tomi Adeyemi**

They killed my mother. They took our magic. They tried to bury us. Now we rise. Zélie remembers when the soil of Orisha hummed with magic. When Zélie's Reaper mother would summon souls. Everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, anyone with powers was targeted and killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope. Now she has a chance to bring back magic to her people and strike against the monarchy. With the help of a rogue princess, Zélie must learn to harness her powers and outrun the crown prince, who is hell-bent on eradicating magic for good. Tomi Adeyemi conjures a stunning world of dark magic and danger in her West African-inspired fantasy debut. [Fantasy]



***Spin*, by Lamar Giles**

Sixteen-year-old Paris Secord's (aka DJ ParSec) career—and life has come to an untimely end. No one feels the pain more than her shunned pre-fame best friend, Kya, and Paris's chief groupie, Fuse. Each suspects the other of Paris's murder, and soon they're locked in a high-stakes game of public accusations and sabotage—until Kya and Fuse discover a secret: Paris was on the verge of major deal that would've catapulted her to superstar status on a national level, leaving her old life (and old friends) behind. With the new info comes new motives. New suspects. And a fandom that shows its deadly side. As Kya and Fuse come closer to the twisted truth, the killer is no longer amused. But murdering DJ ParSec was simple enough, so getting rid of her nobody-friends shouldn't be an issue... [Realistic Fiction/Mystery]



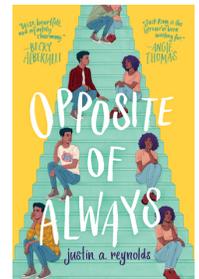
***The Summer Prince*, by Alaya Dawn Johnson**

A heart-stopping story of love, death, technology, and art set amid the tropics of a futuristic Brazil. The lush city of Palmares Tres shimmers with tech and tradition, with screaming gossip casters and practiced politicians. June Costa creates art that's sure to make her legendary. But her dreams of fame become something more when she meets Enki, the bold new Summer King. The whole city falls in love with him, but June sees more to Enki than amber eyes and a lethal samba. She sees a fellow artist. Together, June and Enki will stage explosive, dramatic projects that Palmares Tres will never forget. They will add fuel to a growing rebellion against the government's strict limits on new tech. And June will fall deeply—and unfortunately—in love with Enki. Because like all Summer Kings before him, Enki is destined to die. [Speculative/Dystopian Fiction/SciFi]



***Opposite of Always*, by Justin A. Reynolds**

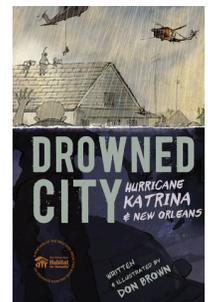
When Jack and Kate meet at a party, Jack knows he's falling—hard. Soon she's meeting his best friends, Jillian and Franny, and Kate wins them over as easily as she did Jack. ...But then Kate dies. And their story should end there. Yet Kate's death sends Jack back to the beginning, the moment they first meet, and Kate's there again—happy, and charming as ever. Jack isn't sure if he's losing his mind. Still, if he has a chance to prevent Kate's death, he'll take it—even if that means believing in time travel. Jack will learn that his actions are not without consequences. When one choice turns deadly for someone else close to him, he has to figure out what he's willing to do to save the people he loves. *For fans of Nicola Yoon & John Green.* [Realistic/Speculative Fiction]



Graphic Novel

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

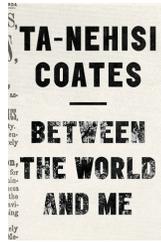
On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's monstrous winds and surging water overwhelmed the protective levees around low-lying New Orleans, Louisiana. Eighty percent of the city flooded, in some places under twenty feet of water. Property damages across the Gulf Coast topped \$100 billion. 1,833 people 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.



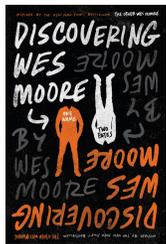
Nonfiction & Memoir

☞ *Between the World and Me*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates

"In a series of essays, written as a letter to his son, Coates confronts the notion of race in America and how it has shaped American history. Thoughtfully exploring personal and historical events, the author poignantly asks and attempts to answer difficult questions. From his passionate and deliberate breakdown of the concept of race itself to the importance of the Black Lives Matter movement, Coates powerfully sums up the terrible history of the subjugation of black people in the United States. This stunning, National Book Award-winning memoir should be required reading for high school students and adults alike." (Summary and review from *School Library Journal*) ☞ **WRHS Staff Book Club pick**



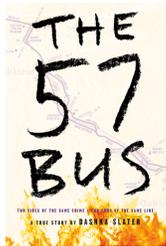
Discovering Wes Moore, by Wes Moore



Two men. One overcame adversity. The other suffered the indignities of poverty. The story of "the other Wes Moore" is one that the author couldn't get out of his mind, not since he learned that another boy with his name—just two years his senior—grew up in the same Baltimore neighborhood. He wrote that

boy—now a man—a letter, not expecting to receive a reply. But a reply came, and a friendship grew, as letters turned into visits and the two men got to know each other. Eventually, that friendship became the inspiration for this book, a moving and cautionary tale examining the factors that contribute to success and failure—and the choices that make all the difference.

The 57 Bus, by Dashka Slater



One teenager in a skirt. One teenager with a lighter. One moment that changes both of their lives forever. If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class

foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment. The case garnered international attention, thrusting both teenagers into the spotlight.



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.



Seen On Screen

Check out the excellent books that inspired the films!

Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda,

by Becky Albertalli [Filmed as *Love, Simon*]

Ready Player One, by Ernest Cline

To All the Boys I've Loved Before,

by Jenny Han

Just Mercy, by Bryan Stevenson

The Hate U Give, by Angie Thomas

The Sun is Also a Star, by Nicola Yoon

Learn more about WRHS's
Summer Reading List at

<https://wrhs.wrsd.net/>

A. Stern for Wachusett Regional High School
Holden, MA
wrhslibrary.weebly.com/summer-reading

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