



WACHUSETT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

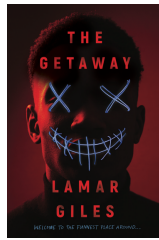
SUMMER READING 2023



Fiction

***The Getaway*, by Lamar Giles**

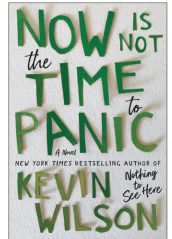
Jay is living his best life at Karloff Country, one of the world's most famous resorts. He's got his family, his crew, and an incredible after-school job at the property's theme park. Life isn't so great for the rest of the world, but when people come here to vacation, it's to get away from all that. As things outside worsen, trouble starts seeping into Karloff. First, Jay's friend Connie and her family disappear and no one will talk about it. Then the richest and most powerful families start arriving, only... they aren't leaving. Unknown to the employees, the resort has been selling shares in an end-of-the-world oasis. In order to deliver the top-notch customer service the wealthy clientele paid for, the employees will be at their total beck and call. Whether they like it or not. Yet Karloff Country didn't count on Jay and his crew—and just how far they'll go to find out the truth and save themselves. But what's more dangerous: the monster you know in your home or the unknown nightmare outside the walls? [Contemporary/Speculative Fiction/Horror.]



almost-but-not-really his own. The changes start small, but they quickly spiral out of control as Ash slides into universes where he has everything he's ever wanted, universes where society is stuck in the past...universes where he finds himself looking at life through entirely different eyes. And if he isn't careful, the world he's learning to see more clearly could blink out of existence. [Contemporary Fiction/Sci-Fi]

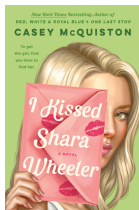
***Now is Not the Time to Panic*, by Kevin Wilson**

Sixteen-year-old Frankie Budge— aspiring writer, offbeat loner—is determined to make it through yet another summer in Coalfield, TN when she meets Zeke, a talented artist who has just moved into his grandmother's house and who is as awkward as Frankie. When the two jointly make an unsigned poster, it becomes unforgettable to anyone who sees it: *The edge is a shantytown filled with gold seekers. We are fugitives, and the law is skinny with hunger for us.* When the posters begin appearing everywhere, people wonder who is behind them and start to panic. The rumors won't stop, and soon the mystery has dangerous repercussions that spread far beyond their small town. Twenty years later, Frankie gets a call that threatens to upend her carefully built life: a journalist is writing a story about the Coalfield Panic of 1996. Might Frances know something about that? A bold coming-of-age story, *Now Is Not the Time to Panic* is a nuanced exploration of young love, identity, and the power of art. It's also about the secrets that haunt us—and, ultimately, what the truth will set free. [Contemporary Fiction/Coming of Age]



***I Kissed Shara Wheeler*, by Casey McQuiston**

Chloe Green is so close to winning. After her moms moved her from SoCal to Alabama for high school, she's spent the past four years dodging the puritanical students and administration at Willowgrove Christian Academy. The thing that's kept her going: winning valedictorian. Her only rival: prom queen Shara Wheeler, the principal's perfect daughter. But a month before graduation, Shara kisses Chloe, then vanishes. On a furious hunt for answers, Chloe discovers she's not the only one Shara kissed: there's also Smith, Shara's longtime quarterback sweetheart, and Rory, Shara's bad boy neighbor with a crush. The three have nothing in common except Shara and the annoyingly cryptic notes she left behind, but together they must untangle Shara's trail of clues and find her. Thrown into an unlikely alliance, chasing a ghost through parties, break-ins, puzzles, and secrets revealed on monogrammed stationery, Chloe starts to suspect there might be more to this small town than she thought. And maybe—probably not, but maybe—more to Shara, too. [Contemporary Fiction/Romance/Mystery]



***Iron Widow*, by Xiran Jay Zhao**

The boys of Huaxia pair-up with girls to pilot Chrysalises—giant transforming robots that can battle the mecha aliens that lurk beyond the Great Wall. It doesn't matter that the girls usually die from the mental strain. When Zetian offers herself up as a concubine-pilot, it's to assassinate the ace pilot responsible for her sister's death. But she gets her vengeance in a way nobody expected—and emerges from the cockpit as an Iron Widow, a much-feared female pilot who can sacrifice boys to power Chrysalises instead. To tame her unnerving yet invaluable mental strength, she is paired with Li Shimin, the strongest and most controversial male pilot in Huaxia. But now that Zetian has had a taste of power, she will not cower so easily. She will miss no opportunity to leverage their combined might and infamy to survive attempt after attempt on her life, until she can figure out exactly why the pilot system works in its misogynist way—and stop more girls from being sacrificed. [Science-Fiction/Historical themes]



***Game Changer*, by Neal Shusterman**

All it takes is one hit on the football field, and suddenly Ash's life doesn't look quite the way he remembers it. Impossible though it seems, he's been hit into another dimension—and keeps on bouncing through worlds that are



Graphic (Comic) Memoir

***Sunshine*, by Jarrett Krosoczka**

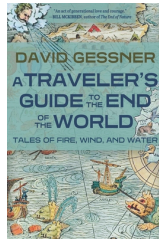
When Jarrett J. Krosoczka was in high school, he volunteered over the summer to be a counselor at a camp for seriously ill kids and their families. Going into, Jarrett was worried: Wouldn't it be depressing, to be around kids facing such a serious struggle? But instead of the shadow of death, Jarrett found something else at Camp Sunshine: the hope and determination that gets people through the most troubled of times. Not only was he subject to some of the usual rituals that come with being a camp counselor (wilderness challenges, spooky campfire stories, an extremely stinky mascot costume), but he also got a chance to meet extraordinary kids facing extraordinary circumstances. Follow-up to the National Book Award-Winning *Hey, Kiddo*. [Novelized Nonfiction/Graphic Memoir. Try the audiobook—it's award-winning!]



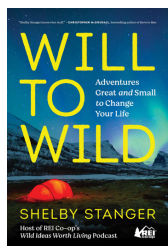
Nonfiction

***A Traveler's Guide to the End of the World*, by David Gessner**

The world is burning and the seas are rising. How do we navigate this new age of extremes? In *A Traveler's Guide to the End of the World*, David Gessner takes readers on an eye-opening tour of climate hotspots. He does so with his usual sense of humor, compassion, and a willingness to talk to anyone, providing an informative and sobering yet convivial guide for the age of fire, heat, wind, and water. If this sounds catastrophic, rest assured, it's not. While he doesn't shy away from truths, he also writes with humor and sensitivity, and plenty of anecdotes and discussions with people. It's a highly readable, thought-provoking book that's very relevant for right now.



Will to Wild: Adventures Great and Small to Change



***Your Life*, by Shelby Stanger**

Stanger has long seen the impact of nature on people as an outdoorswoman and surf teacher, and in this book she shares not only plenty of stories of how people changed their lives after being in nature more, but also how to change your life. If this sounds impractical, don't worry — these are things that even the least outdoorsy person can do to take the first step to make a change. Even if you're not inclined to get outside, these stories will inspire you to push your own limits, however that might look. [Review from bookriot.com]



Seen On Screen

Check out the books that inspired the series and films!

***Shadow and Bone* & *Six of Crows*,**

by Leigh Bardugo [high fantasy, adapted as the series *Shadow and Bone* on Netflix]

Lessons in Chemistry, by Bonnie Garmus

[realistic fiction 1950s, streaming series Fall 2023]

The Summer I Turned Pretty, by Jenny Han

[realistic contemporary fiction, streaming series]

Dune, by Frank Herbert [sci-fi space opera, movie]

One of Us is Lying, by Karen M. McManus

[high school mystery/suspense, streaming series]

Daisy Jones and the Six, by Taylor Jenkins

Reid [realistic fiction 1970s, streaming series]

American Born Chinese, by Gene Luen Yang

[high school contemporary fiction/mythological fantasy graphic novel adapted to streaming series]



Learn more about WRHS's
Summer Reading List at

wrhslibrary.weebly.com/summer-reading

A. Stern for Wachusett Regional High School
Holden, MA

• Summer 2023 •