

# WHS SUMMER READING

## Fiction 7 - 9

2023

Abtahi, Olivia. **Azar on Fire**. Self-conscious Azar loves writing song lyrics and drumming, but nodules on her vocal cords and frequent throat infections affect the sound of her voice, resulting in the already reserved ninth grader's avoiding not only singing, but talking. When she accidentally damages costly supplies in the janitor's closet, her principal suggests she represent their school at an upcoming battle of the bands. The winner gets \$10,000—so she can show her contrition, possibly cover the expenses, and at least add one extracurricular to her record. Her adoring but overworked mom struggles to make ends meet, so Azar obliges, surprising even herself by asking popular White athlete Eben to be the lead singer. Bassist Nadim, a new student from Beirut, plus Argentinian American Matty on guitar fill out the rest of the band, forcing headstrong Azar to learn the art of compromise as she works with other talented musicians.

Alsaid, Adi. **Before Takeoff**. James and Michelle find themselves in the Atlanta airport on a layover ... seemingly interminable delays draw them both to a mysterious flashing green light--and each other. Where James is passive, Michelle is anything but. And she quickly discovers that the flashing green light is actually ... a button. Which she presses ... *Before* they can figure up from down, strange, impossible things start happening: snowstorms form inside the B terminal; jungles sprout up in the C terminal; and earthquakes split the ground apart.

Aster, Alex. **Lightlark**. In order to break a curse on her kingdom, Isla Crown, the young ruler of Wilding, must compete in the Centennial, a deadly game that only the rulers of six realms are invited to play, and to survive she must lie, cheat, and betray--even as love threatens to undo everything.

Blum, Isaac. **The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen**. The trouble starts when 15-year-old Hoodie's Orthodox Jewish family moves to a new town along with other families from their tight-knit community. Sadly, they are not made welcome, for the new town, led by the mayor, Monica Diaz-O'Leary, is rife with antisemitism. So isn't it ironic that Anne-Marie, the beautiful girl Hoodie encounters, should turn out to be the mayor's daughter? No matter that he has transgressed against his religion by (a) looking at her and (b) speaking with her, Hoodie is infatuated. Unfortunately, the rebbe and his father are both furious. Things come to a head when three of his friends are attacked while Hoodie is with Anne-Marie. When this is discovered, he is made a pariah.

Budhos, Marina. **We Are All We Have**. On the precipice of her high-school graduation, Raina is excited to begin the next phase of her life, including starting college and getting her first job at a bookstore. One thing she doesn't expect is the nighttime ICE raid that leads to her mother being detained. Raina is now thrust into a world she doesn't know or understand—she must fight for her mother's freedom and the asylum that they all believe they were promised. Raina must now also become her younger brother's surrogate mother and do whatever she needs to do to make sure they survive. When Raina and her little brother escape from a state home with their new ally, Carlos, they come up with plan after plan to escape the horror of being placed in another group home or of possibly being deported.

Carvalho, Rebecca. **Salt and Sugar**. Lari Ramires comes from a long line of bakers and aspires to join their ranks at Salt, her family's bakery in Olinda, Brazil. Across the street is rival bakery Sugar, which is owned by the Molinas, who have been the Ramires' enemies for generations. Hostilities rise when an aggressive supermarket chain starts forcing neighborhood businesses to close their doors. After an incident places Lari in an after-school cooking club headed by classmate Pedro Molina, Lari begins to formulate a plan: if the two of them team up—after all, he is cute—they could bring their families together and stand up to big business.

Chee, Traci. **We Are Not Free**. 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

Courage, Nick. **Snow Struck**. Ashley can't wait to show her cousins how magical Manhattan is at Christmastime. But instead of a week of fun, what they get is an arctic blast that knocks out the power and plunges the skyscrapers into darkness. It is unreal: the blizzard covers the Statue of Liberty in ice and topples the famous Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center.

Cuevas, Mayra. **Does My Body Offend You?** Neither Malena nor Ruby expected to be the leaders of the school's dress code rebellion. But the girls will have to face their own insecurities, biases, and privileges, and the ups and downs in their newfound friendship, if they want to stand up for their ideals and, ultimately, for themselves.

De Leon, Jennifer. **Don't Ask Me Where I'm From**. When half-Guatemalan, half-Salvadoran Liliana, discovers that she's been accepted into a very "white," academic program she never applied to, she must decide whether or not to let this new school determine who she is and who she wants to be. Adding to her angst is the mystery of her dad's absence, about which no one in her family seems to have answers.

Doleski, Shannon. **Gabe in the After**. When fourteen-year-old Gabe checks for survivors after a global pandemic he finds Relle, a strange hopeful girl for whom Gabe eventually develops a crush, but after they return to the mainland tragedy strikes, forcing Gabe to set out on a dangerous journey to find other survivors where the world might be normal--like Before.

Firestone, Carrie. **The First Rule of Climate Club**. Mary Kate Murphy is 1 of 10 incoming eighth-graders at Fisher Middle School chosen to participate in a climate-change pilot project. Warned that this will be a "non-traditional" commitment, the group begins investigating ways within their community to help save the planet. Initially, the students struggle to find their niches but eventually realize they can be more effective when they work cooperatively. Unfortunately, the group encounters an obstacle in the form of the town's mayor, who is resistant to its ideas. Meanwhile, Mary Kate's BFF is suffering from an undiagnosed illness. Applying her abundant pluck and drive, Mary Kate spearheads efforts to help her friend regain her health.

Forna, Namina. **The Gilded Ones**. Sixteen-year-old Dekka lives in fear and anticipation of the blood ceremony that will determine whether she will become a member of her village. Already different from everyone else because of her unnatural intuition, Dekka prays for red blood so she can finally feel like she belongs. But on the day of the ceremony, her blood runs gold, the color of impurity--and Dekka knows she will face a consequence worse than death. Then a mysterious woman comes to her with a choice: stay in the village and submit to her fate, or leave to fight for the emperor in an army of girls just like her. They are called alaki--near-immortals with rare gifts. And they are the only ones who can stop the empire's greatest threat. Knowing the dangers that lie ahead yet yearning for acceptance, Dekka decides to leave the only life she's ever known. But as she journeys to the capital to train for the biggest battle of her life, she will discover that the great walled city holds many surprises. Nothing and no one are quite what they seem to be--not even Dekka herself.

Gephart, Donna. **Abby, Tried and True**. Abby Braverman strives to navigate seventh grade without her best friend, keep up her older brother's spirits while he undergoes cancer treatment, and figure out her surprising new feelings for the boy next door.

Going, K.L. **The Next Great Jane**. Jane, a budding writer and Jane Austen fan, discovers the true secret to writing when a famous author and her cute, but annoying, son come to her small coastal town and play seemingly unwitting roles in affecting the custody battle between Jane's Hollywood mother and marine biologist father.

Gonzalez, Christina Diaz. **The Bluest Sky**. There are two versions of Héctor: the public and the private. It's the only way to survive in communist Cuba--especially when your father was exiled to the U.S. and labeled an enemy of the people. Héctor must always be seen as a fierce supporter of the regime, even if that means loudly rejecting the father he still loves. But in the summer of 1980, those two versions are hard to keep separate. No longer able to suppress a public uprising, the Cuban government says it will open the port of Mariel to all who wish to leave the country--if they can find a boat. But choosing to leave comes with a price. Those who want to flee are denounced as traitors by family and friends. There are violent acts of repudiation, and no one knows if they will truly be allowed to leave the country or not. So when Héctor's mother announces that she wants the family to risk everything to go to the United States, he is torn. He misses his father, but Cuba is the only home he has ever known. All his dreams and plans require him to stay. Can he leave everything behind for an unknown future? In a summer of heat and upheaval, danger and deadly consequences, Héctor's two worlds are on a collision course. Will the impact destroy him and everything he loves?

Gratz, Alan. **Refugee**. Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together.

Greci, Paul. **Follow the River**. When Billy and his dad are injured in a boating accident, Tom summons the courage to get back on the water. This time, he must travel in a rickety old homemade canoe through the Alaska wilderness to get help. But it's not just the canoe and the terrain he has to worry about--he's surrounded by dangerous adversaries. Are his skills enough to fight them off or will his journey be cut short and Billy and his father left stranded?

Hardinge, Frances. **Unraveller**. In a land where curses are real and binding, a young weaver discovers that teasing them apart is wrapped in unexpected consequences. Two teenagers are caught in a web of deadly magic and conspiracy in Raddith, where curse eggs are illegal but readily available to be cast by anyone out of spite or hatred. The journey takes rude, ill-tempered Kellen, whose unique talent for unravelling affects not only curses, but any woven garment or item in his vicinity, and his constant (in every sense) companion Nettle, seemingly "meek and inoffensive if you didn't know her," from the populous capital of Mizzleport to swampy wilds haunted by terrifying creatures to eldritch Moonlit Market (where everything, including memories and daydreams, is vulnerable).

Hibbert, Talia. **Highly Suspicious and Unfairly Cute**. This is a story about two students who used to be friends until high school life got in the way. Bradley and Celine were inseparable in middle school, but in high school Bradley become Mr. Popular and suddenly Celine wasn't cool enough to hang out with anymore. The two are thrown together again when they both sign up for a survival course in the woods. Will they be able to overcome their past to work together on the adventure or has too much time passed?

Hobbs, Will. **City of Gold**. After Owen's father passes away and Owen moves from Kansas to Colorado with his mother and brother, Owen knows that selling crops is the only way his family will survive. When he spots a thief stealing the family's beloved mules, Owen sets out in pursuit, a journey on foot through rough terrain and weather that ultimately brings him to the mining town of Telluride. With help from kind miners and a young girl, Owen tracks down the mules and learns more about this City of Gold and the difficulties faced by its people, and along the way, he rubs shoulders with some of the most famous outlaws.

King, Wesley. **A World Below**. When Mr. Baker shares with his eighth grade AP class that they will visit Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico instead of the two-night stay in Albuquerque that last year's class experienced, his students are not pleased. They reluctantly show up the day of the trip with snacks in tow and sensible shoes for all the walking they will be doing. What they did not prepare for is the earthquake that strikes suddenly and swallows the class deep into the earth. After their teacher disappears through a crack, the teens are forced to fight for their lives.

Korman, Gordon. **Linked**. Link, Michael, and Dana live in a quiet town. But it's woken up very quickly when someone sneaks into school and vandalizes it with a swastika. Nobody can believe it. How could such a symbol of hate end up in the middle of their school? Who would do such a thing? Because Michael was the first person to see it, he's the first suspect. Because Link is one of the most popular guys in school, everyone's looking to him to figure it out. And because Dana's the only Jewish girl in the whole town, everyone's treating her more like an outsider than ever. The mystery deepens as more swastikas begin to appear. Some students decide to fight back and start a project to bring people together instead of dividing them further. The closer Link, Michael, and Dana get to the truth, the more there is to face--not just the crimes of the present, but the crimes of the past.

Krone, Bridget. **The Cedarville Shop and Wheelbarrow Swap**. A lot of things can feel just out of reach in 12-year-old Boipelo Seku's small, impoverished village of Cedarville, South Africa. The idea of one day living in a house that's big enough for his family is just a faraway dream. But when Boi stumbles on a story about a Canadian man who traded his way from a paperclip to a house, Boi hatches his own trading plan starting with a tiny clay cow he molded from river mud. Trade by trade, Boi and his best friend Potso discover that even though Cedarville lacks so many of the things that made the paperclip trade possible, it is fuller than either of them ever imagined. In a chain of events that turns Boi's tiny spark into a warming fire, Boi learns the power of friendship and community, and finds that something's value isn't in what you can trade for it, but in the good it brings to the people you love.

Kuhn, Sarah. **I Love You So Mochi**. Kimi is obsessed with transforming everyday items into Kimi Originals: bold outfits that make her and her friends feel like the Ultimate versions of themselves. But her mother disapproves, and when they get into an explosive fight, Kimi's entire future seems on the verge of falling apart. So when a surprise letter comes in the mail from Kimi's estranged grandparents, inviting her to Kyoto for spring break, she seizes the opportunity to get away from the disaster of her life. When she arrives in Japan, she's met with a culture both familiar and completely foreign to her. She loses herself in the city's outdoor markets, art installations, and cherry blossom festival — and meets Akira, a cute aspiring med student who moonlights as a costumed mochi mascot. And what begins as a trip to escape her problems quickly becomes a way for Kimi to learn more about the mother she left behind, and to figure out where her own heart lies.

Lainoff, Lillie. **One for All**. In 1655 sixteen-year-old Tania is the daughter of a retired musketeer, but she is afflicted with extreme vertigo and subject to frequent falls; when her father is murdered she finds that he has arranged for her to attend Madame de Treville's newly formed Académie des Mariées in Paris, which, it turns out, is less a school for would-be wives, than a fencing academy for girls--and so Tania begins her training to be a new kind of musketeer, and to get revenge for her father.

Leviathan, David. **Take Me With You When You Go**. Fifteen-year-old Ezra wakes up to find his 18-year-old sister, Bea, gone. She's left no clues to where she has gone except for an email address, hidden someplace only Ezra would find. As Ezra reaches out to Bea via email, the two attempt to piece together their fractured family.

Lowry, Lois. **The Windeby Puzzle**. There are two sides to this book: In one, it shares the true story of an ancient body dug up from a north German peat bog in 1952. In the other, Lowry asks what might be the true tale of the bog discovery, and she imagines two fictional lives in the pondering of that story. In this unusual approach, she outlines the process of both wondering and writing, fleshing out possibilities for what befell the discovered Iron Age teen. Was the person in the bog male or female? Were they murdered or simply an accidental victim? Slowly, a picture emerges of the tough lives of these pre-Christian people, of how growing up within tight cultural confines could position some as outsiders. In the fictional portion, Estrild is a feisty girl who would prefer to be a warrior than do domestic chores. Her friend Varick is a disabled orphan scraping by in a community that ostracizes him. Which of these two unlikely friends was ultimately forgotten in the German swamp? Interspersing their stories with historical facts and info about the real bog discovery, now called Windeby I, and with news of anthropological advances, Lowry creates a mystery appealing to history lovers.

Lucas, Chad. **Thanks a Lot, Universe**. Brian has always been anxious, whether at home, or in class, or on the basketball court. His dad tries to get him to stand up for himself and his mom helps as much as she can, but after he and his brother are placed in foster care, Brian starts having panic attacks. And he doesn't know if things will ever be 'normal' again... Ezra's always been popular. He's friends with most of the kids on his basketball team--even Brian, who usually keeps to himself. But now, some of his friends have been acting differently, and Brian seems to be pulling away. Ezra wants to help, but he worries if he's too nice to Brian, his friends will realize that he has a crush on him... But when Brian and his brother run away, Ezra has no choice but to take the leap and reach out. Both boys have to decide if they're willing to risk sharing parts of themselves they'd rather hide. But if they can be brave, they might just find the best in themselves--and each other.

Manzano, Sonia. **Coming Up Cuban**. Four young people deal with the harsh realities of Castro's Cuba. In overlapping short stories, readers hear from Ana, Miguel, Zulema, and Juan about how Castro's revolution affected their lives. They come from different backgrounds, reflect Cuba's racial diversity, and suffer varied consequences in the aftermath of Castro's rise to power. Ana's father is home from fighting in the mountains with Fidel; her family, like many Cubans, wanted to build a better country only to realize too late that Fidel had fooled them. Miguel, on the other hand, is one of thousands of Pedro Pan children, sent to the U.S. alone to protect them; he arrives in Miami and goes to live in an orphanage. Zulema and her rural community learn to read thanks to young brigadistas—but they're only allowed access to state-sanctioned propaganda. In Havana, Juan loses his best friend, who eagerly participates in the militaristic pioneros; being on opposing sides wreaks havoc in their lives.

Marsh, Katherine. **The Lost Year**. A 13-year-old boy uncovers a dark family secret leading back to the Holodomor, the early 1930s Ukrainian famine caused by Stalin's policies. Matthew starts helping his great grandmother sort her boxes of keepsakes, gradually piecing together a story that's also told from the points of view of Mila, the privileged daughter of a Communist Party member, and Helen, the daughter of Ukrainian immigrants living in Brooklyn. When Helen's cousins write to say they are starving, she secretly mails them her father's cherished gold cross. Meanwhile, in Kyiv, Mila encounters a starving girl who claims to be her cousin Nadiya. Mila is a strong supporter of Papa Stalin, but her efforts to help Nadiya ultimately open her eyes to the truth about his regime—as well as endangering her own life.

Marsh, Katherine. **Nowhere Boy**. Fourteen-year-old Ahmed is stuck in a city that wants nothing to do with him. Newly arrived in Brussels, Belgium, Ahmed fled a life of uncertainty and suffering in Syria, only to lose his father on the perilous journey to the shores of Europe. Now Ahmed's struggling to get by on his own, but with no one left to trust and nowhere to go, he's starting to lose hope

Mullin, Mike. **Ashfall**. Alex, 15, is alone at home in Cedar Falls, Iowa, when his house collapses, as thick black ash falls from the sky. A supervolcano in Yellowstone National Park has erupted 900 miles away, all power is out, and the horrendous noise of the aftermath does not stop. Alex takes off through the never-ending darkness, stench, corpses, and tumult to try to find his family.

Narsimhan, Mahtab. **Careful What You Wish For**. Eshana is a bit of a social misfit. She feels more comfortable talking to people online than in person. One day she discovers a website that claims to be a safe space where young people can support each other in making their dreams come true. She starts talking with someone called Wise One. They hit it off immediately. Eshana admits to the Wise One how hard it is for her to make friends. The next day she goes to school and suddenly everyone wants to talk to her. Eshana is thrilled. But then, after telling Wise One about a girl who has been bullying her, she hears that the girl has been injured in a car accident. Are Eshana's wishes really coming true? If so, is having the life she's always wanted worth the costs?

Ochieng, Patrick. **Playing a Dangerous Game**. In the 1970s, 10-year-old Lumush lives with his family in Railway Estates in Kenya. A recent transfer to the snobbish English-language-only Hill School, Lumush much prefers spending time with his old friends from the local school. When the boys venture into a nearby "haunted house" on a dare, they overhear known locals talking about murder and a coffee-smuggling operation. The next time the boys return, they find more danger than they bargained for.

Oppel, Kenneth. **Bloom**. The invasion begins—but not as you'd expect. It begins with rain. Rain that carries seeds. Seeds that sprout—overnight, everywhere. These new plants take over crop fields, twine up houses, and burrow below streets. They bloom—and release toxic pollen. They bloom—and form Venus flytrap-like pods that swallow animals and people. They bloom—everywhere, unstoppable.

Park, Linda Sue. **A Long Walk to Water**. Salva Dut is 11 years old when war raging in the Sudan separates him from his family. To avoid the conflict, he walks for years with other refugees, seeking sanctuary and scarce food and water. Park simply yet convincingly depicts the chaos of war and an unforgiving landscape as they expose Salva to cruelties both natural and man-made. The lessons Salva remembers from his family keep him from despair during harsh times in refugee camps and enable him, as a young man, to begin a new life in America.

Preller, James. **Upstander**. Mary O'Malley is tired of keeping secrets. Secrets like her older brother, Jonny's drug use. Starting seventh grade is tough enough without the upheaval her brother is bringing to their family. It seems the only person who might understand is Griffen Connolly, whose older sister runs with Jonny in the wrong crowd. Mary thought Griff was too cool, too popular for her. But now he wants to hang out with her, and listen. When two girls Mary thought were her friends decide to slam another girl online, Mary tries to look the other way. Then the girls turn on Mary, and suddenly, she doesn't have a safety zone. Her brother is out of control, her family's energies are all spent on him. There is only one person she can turn to. But can she trust Griff? Or is he one of the bullies?

Preston, Natasha. **The Island**. A visit to a private amusement park is the trip of a lifetime for a group of teen influencers, until they learn that getting off the island alive is not part of the plan.

Preston, Natasha. **The Lake**. Esme and Kayla were 8-year-old campers at Camp Pine Lake when something terrible happened, and they both swore never to tell anyone about it ever. Nine years later, they're back at Camp Pine Lake as counselors-in-training ... and the secret they've kept for all these years is coming back to haunt them

Roberts, Barbara Carroll. **Nikki On The Line**. Nikki, thirteen, dreams of being a great basketball player but struggles on her new, elite team while also juggling school stress, her non-traditional family, and revelations about her biological father.

Sepetys, Rita. **I Must Betray You**. Seventeen-year-old Cristian Florescu wants to become a writer, but in Romania in 1989, his chances of becoming one are slim. Because of the tyrannical dictatorship of his country's leader, Nicolae Ceaușescu, Romanians are not free to follow their dreams. Blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer, Cristian is left with only two choices: betray his loved ones and his country, or use his position to creatively undermine the dictator who's destroying everything he believes in.

Stamper, Vesper. **Berliners**. It's 1961, and 16-year-old twins Peter and Rudi live in Berlin with their dysfunctional parents. Peter dreams of acting and leaving the German Democratic Republic; party loyalist Rudi wants a future in photography and ridding the world of fascism. When their parents split, their dad defects to West Berlin, taking Rudi along, although the disgruntled teen continues to visit the east thanks to papers provided by his mysteriously well-connected uncle Martin.

Taylor, Emily J. **Hotel Magnifique**. Seventeen-year-old Jani and her little sister Zosa secure jobs at a glamorous magical hotel, but when Jani realizes that their staff contracts are unbreakable, she embarks on a mission to unravel the mystery of the magic at the heart of the hotel and free Zosa--and the other staff--from the cruelty of the ruthless maître d'hôtel.

Turley, Beth. **The Flyers**. Seventh grader Elena Martinez and her best friend, Summer, love Spread Your Wings magazine. They both apply to be Flyers—the four readers selected annually to spend a summer week contributing to the September back-to-school issue. When only Elena, an aspiring therapist and songwriter, is chosen, she worries the experience will fracture her lifelong friendship with Summer, who has begun spending more time with a cross-country teammate and seems to resent being Elena's only friend. Considering that socially anxious Elena can barely speak aloud in class, she's especially intimidated about meeting Cailin Carter, a Flyer who is an elite Texas cheerleader, reality television star, and social media presence. After arriving in New York City, Elena supports fashion-loving Flyer Whitney Richards as she's having a panic attack at the train station. The final Flyer, Harlow Yoshida, is a budding investigative journalist eager to sink her teeth into a good story.

Utomi, Moses Ose. **Daughters of Oduma**. Girls battle for their families in this West African–inspired world. Sixteen-year-old Sis Dirt used to compete in the girls' martial art of Bowing. Their training builds up to the God Bow tournament, from which come new recruits who become sisters in a Fam. As an elder and the Second sister of the Mud Fam, which only has the bare minimum of five members, Dirt is tasked with coaching younger Bowers in hopes of boosting their Fam's status and replenishing their ranks. The family's hopes fall on Dirt, who is next in line but out of practice, out of shape, and lacking the confidence that she can save them.

Volponi, Paul. **The Final Four**. A much-anticipated Final Four basketball game is played by the underdog Troy University Trojans and the Michigan State Spartans. As the nerve-racking game unfolds, flashbacks, newspaper articles, interviews, and journal entries introduce readers to four players and their previous struggles and successes. This is a well-structured story that conveys each player's passion for the game and desire to win.

Wein, Elizabeth. **The Enigma Game**. Jamaican-born Londoner Louisa wants to contribute to the 1940 British cause, and she'd be a flyer if she could. Instead, after the war-related deaths of both her parents, she is caretaker for an aging opera singer in a small Scottish town next to an air base. When a German enigma machine comes into her possession, she finally gets her chance to pitch in with the war effort, as long as she can elude the attention of the German-and British-authorities.

Welch, Jenna Evans. **Spells for Lost Things**. Willow has felt alone and distant from her workaholic mother ever since they moved to L.A. after the divorce. Mason desperately searches for his own mother, an addict who disappeared years earlier. He moves to Salem, Massachusetts, for a new foster family placement with his mother's childhood best friend. Simultaneously, Willow's mother is summoned to Salem following the death of her twin, Sage. They are welcomed by an effusive trio of great-aunts, witches who lost Willow's mother when she fled the family curse as a teen. Willow and Mason meet by coincidence and are immediately drawn to each other. They grow closer while following a trail of family secrets left behind by Sage in the family mansion, until Mason takes a terrible risk that threatens their budding relationship.

Withers, Pam. **Mountain Runaways**. First a Canadian Rockies avalanche kills their parents. Then Children's Services threatens to separate them. That's when the three Gunnarsson kids decide to run away into the mountains and fend for themselves until the oldest turns eighteen and becomes their legal guardian. Not many would dare. But Jon, Korka, and Aron's parents ran a survival school. Turns out their plan is full of holes. When food and equipment go missing and illness and injury strike, things get scary. They're even less prepared for encounters with dangerous animals and a sketchy woods dweller. On top of that, grief, cold, hunger, and sibling infighting threaten to tear them apart, while the search parties are closing in on them. Do Jon, Korka, and Aron really have what it takes to survive?

Woodson, Jacqueline. **Harbor Me**. When six students are chosen to participate in a weekly talk with no adults allowed, they discover that when they're together, it's safe to share the hopes and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world.