

WHS RECOMMENDED SUMMER READING LIST

Grades 10-12 Fiction

2022

Abike, Faride. **Ace of Spades**. When two Niveus Private Academy students, Devon and Chiamaka, are selected to be part of the elite school's senior class prefects, it looks like their year is off to an amazing start. After all, not only does it look great on college applications, but it officially puts each of them in the running for valedictorian, too. Shortly after the announcement is made, though, someone who goes by Aces begins using anonymous text messages to reveal secrets about the two of them that turn their lives upside down and threaten every aspect of their carefully planned futures. As Aces shows no sign of stopping, what seemed like a sick prank quickly turns into a dangerous game, with all the cards stacked against them. Can Devon and Chiamaka stop Aces before things become incredibly deadly?

Albertalli, Becky. **Here's To Us**. Arthur is back in New York City for the first time in two years, ready to take the theater world by a storm as the world's best...intern to the assistant of an off-off-Broadway director. Of course, it sucks to be spending the summer apart from his sweet, reliable boyfriend, Mikey, but he knows their relationship is strong enough to weather the distance. Which is why it's no big deal when his ex-boyfriend Ben stumbles back into the picture. And it's definitely fine that Ben's blissfully happy with some mystery boy. First loves are special, but it's way too late for what-ifs. Right? Even as the boys try to shake off the past, they keep running into each other in the present. Is this the universe trying to tell them there's a do-over in their future?

Bashardoust, Melissa. **Girl, Serpent, Thorn**. A princess who is poisonous to the touch struggles with the choice between good and evil. For two centuries, the ancestors of the shah of Atashar have ruled under the protection of the legendary magical bird, the simorgh. But the simorgh has long been missing, the nobility is losing faith in the young shah, and attacks by monstrous divs are becoming ever more organized. Soraya, the shah's 18-year-old twin sister, carries poison in her veins and lives, shrinking, in the shadows of the palace garden "so that her family would not live in hers." She longs for companionship but feels a growing urge to hurt and kill and has nightmares of transforming into a div. When a handsome young soldier captures a parik, a female demon who attacks the shah, Soraya finds herself increasingly attracted to both man and monster.

Bergin, Virginia. **H2O**. Only 27% of the population has survived the killer rain. Ruby has survived against all odds but the drinkable water is running out. Ruby is left with 2 options - persevere on her own or embark on a treacherous journey across the country to find her father - if he is even alive.

Boteju, Tanya. **Bruised**. After surviving an accident that her parents did not, Daya starts developing some self-destructive habits and doesn't allow anyone to help her cope or grow. Mostly, she's fixated on collecting as many bruises as possible, so the physical pain can distract her from her emotional agony. When a pal introduces her to the world of roller derby, she seizes the opportunity to dole out as well as receive pain, without knowing the full extent of what she is getting into.

Colbert, Brandy. **The Voting Booth**. An African American teen activist is drawn to a young man she meets accidentally. When Marva Sheridan witnesses Duke Crenshaw, being turned away on Election Day, she springs into action. The two spend the day together as Duke attempts to work out his registration issues and get to his drumming gig. As they get to know each other, bits of their stories are shared: Marva's tensions with Alec, her white boyfriend who has decided not to vote, and Duke's family, who is still trying to cope following the death of his older brother. Duke's white mother and black father have divorced, and both parents are extremely protective of him and his younger sister.

Crossan, Sarah. **Breathe**. In a barren land, a shimmering glass dome houses the survivors of the Switch, the period when oxygen levels plunged and the green world withered. A state lottery meant a lucky few won safety, while the rest suffocated in the thin air. And now Alina, Quinn, and Bea--an unlikely trio, each with their own agendas, their own longings and fears--walk straight into the heart of danger. With two days' worth of oxygen in their tanks, they leave the dome. What will happen on the third day

Dass, Sarah. **Where the Rhythm Takes You**. Seventeen-year-old Reyna has spent most of her life at the Plumeria, her family's gorgeous seaside resort in Tobago. But what once seemed like paradise is starting to feel more like purgatory. It's been two years since Reyna's mother passed away, two years since Aiden--her childhood best friend, first kiss, first love, first everything--left the island to pursue his music dreams. Reyna's friends are all planning their futures and heading abroad. And that's when Aiden comes roaring back into her life--as a VIP guest at the resort. Aiden is now one-third of DJ Bacchanal--the latest, hottest music group on the scene.

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.

Deonn, Tracy. **Legendborn**. Sixteen-year-old Black whiz kid Bree Matthews battles grief and demonic forces on her college campus. After her mother dies in an accident, Bree begins a residential program for enterprising teens at her mother's alma mater and, soon after her arrival, witnesses a magical attack that triggers hidden memories about the evening her mother was killed. Haunted by the fact that their final conversation was an argument, Bree begins a redemptive quest to uncover the connection between her mother's death and the university's secret society, the Order of the Round Table,

Dhillon, Navdeep Singh. **Sunny G's Series of Rash Decisions**. Sunny G's brother left him one thing when he died: His notebook, which Sunny is determined to fill up with a series of rash decisions. Decision number one was a big one: He stopped wearing his turban, cut off his hair, and shaved his beard. He doesn't look like a Sikh anymore. He doesn't look like himself anymore. Enter Mindii Vang, a girl with a penchant for making rash decisions of her own, starting with stealing Sunny's notebook. When Sunny chases after her, it turns into an all-night adventure--a night full of rash, wonderful, romantic, stupid, life-changing decisions.

Fadugba, Femi. **The Upper World**. Today. During arguably the worst week of Esso's life, an accident knocks him into an incredible world--a place beyond space or time, where he can see glimpses of the past and future. But if what he sees there is true, he might not have much longer to live, unless he can use his new gift to change the course of history. Tomorrow. Rhia's past is filled with questions, none of which she expects a new physics tutor to answer. But Dr. Esso's not here to help Rhia. He's here because he needs her help--to unravel a tragedy that happened fifteen years ago. One that holds the key not only to Rhia's past, but to a future worth fighting for.

Fantauzzo, Laurel Flores, **My Heart Underwater**. After the dual shock of her father's coma following a work accident and her mother catching her kissing Ms. Holden, her history teacher, Corazon finds herself in Manila, capital of the Philippines. Ostensibly, she's there to visit her older half brother, Jun, but Corazon knows her mother's true intention--to give Corazon time to "think about her life decisions." What it does in reality is uncover the dysfunctional family dynamics her parents have shielded her from and how her mother's choices have echoed through the years and the challenges Corazon grapples with today.

Fitzsimons, Isaac. **The Passing Playbook**. Fifteen-year-old Spencer Harris is a proud nerd, an awesome big brother, and a David Beckham in training. He's also transgender. After transitioning at his old school leads to a year of isolation and bullying, Spencer gets a fresh start at Oakley, the most liberal private school in Ohio. At Oakley, Spencer seems to have it all: more accepting classmates, a decent shot at a starting position on the boys' soccer team, great new friends, and maybe even something more than friendship with one of his teammates. The problem is, no one at Oakley knows Spencer is trans--he's passing.

Gong, Chloe. **Our Violent Ends**. Though secrets and lies keep Juliette and Roma apart, a monster still prowls the city of Shanghai, and the two are going to have to put aside their differences to end this threat once and for all. Book 2 of the series.

Haydu, Corey Ann. **Lawless Spaces**. While a highly publicized sexual assault case threatens to destroy her and her mother, sixteen-year-old Mimi Dovewick tries to understand their tense relationship by reaching out to the women of her maternal line through the journals they all kept.

He, Joan. **Ones We're Meant to Find**. Cee has been stranded on an island for three years with only one goal: find her sister. Meanwhile, Kasey is a young woman who wants to change the world. The narrative alternates between the perspectives of the two girls, luring readers into the mystery of Cee and her sister while exploring a civilization that is suffering from the effects of climate change. Cee's island home is shrouded in mystery and often feels claustrophobic. Kasey, on the other hand, lives in a futuristic society where hologram parties and built-in AI are a part of everyday life.

Huerta, Lizz. **The Lost Dreamer**. Indir is a dreamer, descended from a long line of seers; able to see beyond reality, she carries the rare gift of dreaming the truth. But when beloved King Anz dies, his son and heir has no respect for this time-honored tradition and wants to bring it to an end. As violent change shakes Indir's world to its core, she is forced to make an impossible choice: fight for her home or fight to survive.

Hur, June. **Forest of Stolen Girls**. In fifteenth-century Joseon (Korea), Hwani returns to her hometown on the island of Jeju, where we learn the horrific details of her past there: an ever-growing list of missing or murdered girls, convicts on the loose, and, most agonizing, the disappearance of her father, a famed detective, into the forest there. Armed with his battered journal and disguised as a male scholar, Hwani, along with her estranged sister, enters the forbidden forest she promised to avoid for the rest of her life, investigating their father's whereabouts, reliving their childhood trauma, and unraveling dangerous truths that may threaten their relationship with him, the local villagers, and each other. As the two sisters seek healing and closure, they must rush to solve the case before becoming ghosts themselves.

Hur, June. **The Red Palace**. It's 1758, and four palace nurses have been massacred in the Korean kingdom Joseon. Hyeon, a hardworking 18-year-old palace nurse, begins a dangerous solo investigation. She is determined to clear her wrongfully accused mentor, Nurse Jeongsu, and to earn her estranged father's acceptance. Along the way, she teams up with the newest police inspector, Eojin, a prodigy who is also 18. As Hyeon and Eojin get deeper into their investigation, they must also figure out what is really happening with the crown prince: Is he a suspect or another victim? Amid their fast-paced mission, a gentle romance subtly blooms between Hyeon and Eojin.

Jackson, Tiffany D. **White Smoke**. Marigold is running from ghosts. The phantoms of her old life keep haunting her, but a move to the Midwestern city of Cedarville might be the fresh start she needs. Her mom has accepted a new job that comes with a free house, one that Mari now has to share with her bratty ten-year-old stepsister, Piper. The renovated picture-perfect home, sitting between dilapidated houses, surrounded by wary neighbors has its...secrets. That's only half the problem: household items vanish, doors open on their own, lights turn off, shadows walk past rooms, voices can be heard in the walls, and there's a foul smell seeping through the vents only Mari seems to notice. As the house closes in, Mari learns that the danger isn't limited to Maple Street. Cedarville has its secrets, too. And secrets always find their way through the cracks.

Jean, Emiko. **Tokyo Ever After**. After learning that her father is the Crown Prince of Japan, Izumi travels to Tokyo, where she discovers that Japanese imperial life--complete with designer clothes, court intrigue, paparazzi scandals, and a forbidden romance with her handsome but stoic bodyguard--is a tough fit for the outspoken and irreverent eighteen-year-old from northern California.

Johnson, Maureen. **The Box in the Woods**. Amateur detective Stevie Bell is back. After solving one of the greatest murder mysteries of the 20th century, Stevie is invited to Camp Wonder Falls--the site of the gruesome (and unsolved) Box in the Woods murders back in the '70. The owner wants her to work on the case for his upcoming documentary and podcast, Stevie immediately says yes. It's especially appealing since she gets to invite her closest friends. When a new murder takes place just as Stevie starts asking questions around town, the gang find themselves in danger once more.

Kester, Eric. **Gut Check**. Wyatt has wanted nothing more than to play football on Grayport's championship-winning team. But not for the fame, glory, or girls. It's his last chance to build a relationship with his older brother Brett, the star quarterback, before he leaves for college. Now that their team has gained national attention, a big win could be just what the small town needs in order to rebound from a fishing season that has been devastated by Red Tide. But when Brett suffers a terrible concussion, Wyatt must decide if keeping his brother's secret is worth risking his scholarship future.

Kuhn, Sarah. **From Little Tokyo With Love**. Rika is an orphan who lives with her aunt's family. But everything changes the instant she locks eyes with Grace Kimura, America's reigning rom-com sweetheart, during the Nikkei Week Festival. From there, Rika embarks on a madcap adventure of hope and happiness--searching for clues that Grace is her long-lost mother, exploring Little Tokyo's hidden treasures with cute actor Hank Chen, and maybe...finally finding a sense of belonging. But fairy tales are fiction and the real world isn't so kind. Rika knows she's setting herself up for disappointment, because happy endings don't happen to girls like her. Should she walk away before she gets in even deeper, or let herself be swept away.

Lee, Lori M. **Broken Web**. The Soulless is free from his centuries-long imprisonment. Now, he lurks in the Dead Wood recovering his strength, while Sirscha and her allies journey east to the shaman empire of Nuvalyn. Everyone believes she is a soulguide--a savior--but Sirscha knows the truth. She's a monster, a soulrender like the Soulless, and if anyone discovers the truth, she'll be executed. But there's nothing Sirscha won't risk to stop the shaman responsible for the rot that's killing her best friend. While the Soulless is formidable, like all shamans, his magic must be channeled through a familiar. If Sirscha can discover what--or who--that is, she might be able to cut him off from his power.

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.

Levy, Dana Alison. **Above All Else**. Eighteen-year-olds Rose and Tate are best friends and climbing buddies, and now they are embarking on the greatest climb of all--Mount Everest; but as the climbers encounter physical and emotional challenges the higher they go, the expedition starts to slide toward disaster, testing the teens' courage, determination, and their feelings for each other.

Lim, Elizabeth. **Six Crimson Cranes**. The exiled Princess Shiori must unravel the curse that turned her six brothers into cranes, and she is assisted by her spurned betrothed, a capricious dragon, and a paper bird brought to life by her own magic.

Lippincott, Rachel. **She Gets the Girl**. Alex Blackwood is really good at getting the girl she wants, but coming from a broken home with an alcoholic mother she finds commitment difficult, even when she thinks she is in love; impossibly awkward Molly Parker has a crush on the cool Cora Myers, but she does not know how to even start a conversation, much less make a connection; now they are all at college in Pittsburgh Alex decides to "help" Molly get the girl, while proving to her own flame that she is not just totally selfish--but things do not work out as the two have planned.

Lukens, F.T. **In Deeper Waters**. Sixteen-year-old Prince Taliesin is fourth in line for the crown, and he also has a closely guarded secret: Like his denounced great-grandfather, he has the rare magical ability to conjure fire. While he and his siblings are on his traditional coming-of-age tour, they come across a burning ship, a mysterious trunk of golden coins, and Athlen, a handsome young man in fetters. Tal is drawn to the enigmatic lad's company and is swept up in a machination involving his great-grandfather's legacy, royal marriages and alliances, an assassination plot, and the reality of merfolk.

Maldonado, Crystal. **No Filter and Other Lies**. Seventeen-year-old Kat Sanchez uses photos of a friend to create a fake Instagram account, but when one of her posts goes viral and exposes Kat's duplicity, her entire world--both real and pretend--comes crashing down around her.

Masood, Syed M. **Sway With Me**. Arsalan Nizami has learned all he knows from his 100-year-old great-grandfather, but when Beenish Siraj asks him to be her partner in a dance she's been forbidden to perform at her sister's wedding, Arsalan's world opens up in more ways than he could have imagined.

Matson, Morgan. **Take Me Home Tonight**. Kat and Stevie are best friends. So when Stevie's dad bails on her birthday dinner in Manhattan, Kat seizes her chance, whisking the two of them away for a not-parent-approved jaunt into the city. But the adventure quickly becomes a comedy of errors as they find themselves phoneless, short on cash, stuck with a Pomeranian named Brad, and ultimately separated. A hilariously outrageous B plot helps keep Kat and Stevie's adventures in perspective as they crisscross Manhattan, testing old bonds and forging new ones.

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

Naz Rishi, Farah. **I Hope You Get This Message**. When news hits that Earth has been receiving messages from a planet claiming to be its creator, no one knows what to think. If you ask the folks at NASA, this mysterious planet—Alma—is taking eight days to decide whether or not to hit the kill switch on their “colony,” Earth. True or not, for teenagers Jesse Hewitt, Cate Collins, and Adeem Khan, the prospect of this ticking time bomb will change their lives forever. There are pasts to reconcile, estranged family members to track down, and, ultimately, love and forgiveness to give and accept. With only seven days to face their truths and right their wrongs, Jesse, Cate, and Adeem’s paths collide as their worlds are pulled apart

Owen, Margaret. **Little Thieves**. Vanja knows that nothing is free, not even a mother's love--and she's on the hook a lot of a debt. Vanja, the adopted goddaughter of Death and Fortune, was Princess Gisele's dutiful servant up until a year ago. That was when Vanja's otherworldly mothers demanded a terrible price for their care, and Vanja decided to steal her future back . . . by stealing Gisele's life for herself. The real Gisele is left a penniless nobody while Vanja uses an enchanted string of pearls to take her place. Now, Vanja leads a lonely but lucrative double life as princess and jewel thief, charming nobility while emptying their coffers to fund her great escape.

Reck, Jared. **Donuts and Other Proclamations of Love**. Oscar learns that life is a lot more complicated than frying donuts thanks to an unlikely romance, confronting the past, and dealing with heartache. Desperate to be done with school in Pennsylvania, Oscar is a determined senior with plans to one day operate the family's Swedish food truck business and maybe even open his own cafe. When presented with an unusual opportunity to use his culinary skills to help prevent cafeteria food waste, he forms an unlikely friendship with academic all-star Lou. Though he resists at first, she becomes an integral part of Oscar's life both in school and on the truck.

Richmond, Carol Tung. **The Great Destroyers**. Jo Linden lives in a world where there are no atomic weapons, and the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union is played out in the Pax Games, fought with powerful robotic mecha war machines operated by young pilots; Jo needs the prize money to save her father's mecha repair shop, and keep what is left of her family together, but when competing pilots start dying from poisoning, Jo finds herself caught up in Cold War politics and political conspiracy and she discovers that it is not only her family's survival at stake--she may have to prevent World War III.

Safi, Amina Mae. **Travelers Along the Way**. In this reimagination of the legend of Robin Hood, Rahma al-Hud and her older sister Zeena travel to Jerusalem for a final mission, and on their way they assemble a ragtag band of misfits and get swept up in Holy Land politics.

Smart, Ciannon. **Witches Steeped in Gold**. A Jamaican-inspired fantasy about a matriarchy maintained by magic and marred by manipulation. Jazmyne Cariot is a 17-year-old witch of the Alumbrar order and next in line to rule as doyenne of her island of Aiyca, though she has yet to inherit her magical powers. Iraya Adair is an 18-year-old Obeah witch and the rightful heir to the Aiycan throne, newly free after 10 years of imprisonment. Historical tensions position these two witches as enemies, both possessing plans to remove the current doyenne. Despite their differing motivations and instant antagonism upon meeting, their end goal is the same; in order to achieve it, they decide to form an alliance.

Smith, Lindsay. **The Shadow War**. World War II is raging, and five teens are looking to make a mark. Daniel and Rebeka seek revenge against the Nazis who slaughtered their family; Simone is determined to fight back against the oppressors who ruined her life and corrupted her girlfriend; Phillip aims to prove that he's better than his worst mistakes; and Liam is searching for a way to control the portal to the **shadow** world he's uncovered, and the monsters that live within it--before the Nazi regime can do the same. When the five meet, and begrudgingly team up, in the forests of Germany, none of them knows what their future might hold.

Stork, Francisco X. **On The Hook**. Hector has always minded his own business, working hard to make his way to a better life someday. He's the chess team champion, helps the family with his job at the grocery, and teaches his little sister to shoot hoops overhand. Until Joey singles him out. Joey, whose older brother, Chavo, is head of the Discípulos gang, tells Hector that he's going to kill him: maybe not today, or tomorrow, but someday. And Hector, frozen with fear, does nothing. From that day forward, Hector's death is hanging over his head every time he leaves the house. He tries to fade into the shadows--to drop off Joey's radar--to become no one. But when a fight between Chavo and Hector's brother Fili escalates, Hector is left with no choice but to take a stand.

Tan, June CL. **Jade Fire Gold**. Ahn is no one, with no past and no family. Altan is a lost heir, his future stolen away as a child. When they meet, Altan sees in Ahn a path to reclaiming the throne. Ahn sees a way to finally unlock her past and understand her lethal magical abilities. But they may have to pay a far deadlier price than either could have imagined.

Valdes, David. **Spin Me Right Round**. A gay teen contends with time travel-and homophobia through the decades. All Cuban American Luis wants is to be prom king with his boyfriend, but tiny upstate New York boarding school Antic Springs Academy, with its strict, Christian code of conduct, won't even let them hold hands in public. After a disastrous prom committee meeting at which his attempt to make the event welcoming of queer couples is rejected by the principal, Luis gets quite literally knocked into the past--specifically, ASA in the year 1985. There he meets Chaz, a Black student who attended the school at the same time as Luis' parents and who died under mysterious circumstances after being bullied for his sexuality. Luis now faces a choice between changing the past to help Chaz and preserving his own future existence.

Velez, Angela. **Lulu and Milagro's Search for Clarity**. Luz has straight As, perfect attendance, and a solid ten-year plan. First up: nail her interview for a dream internship at Stanford, the last stop on her school's cross-country college road trip. The only flaw in her plan is Clara, her oldest sister, who went off to college and sparked a massive fight with their overprotective Peruvian mom, who is now convinced that out-of-state-college will destroy their family. If Lulu can't fix whatever went wrong between them, the whole trip--and her future--will be a waste.

Whitehead, Colson. **The Underground Railroad**. Cora and Caesar escape slavery on what is literally an underground railroad with trains, tracks and tunnels. On each stage of their journey they encounter different worlds as they travel through space and time weaving the saga of America from the brutal importation of Africans to the unfilled promises of today.

Yoon, David. **Frankly in Love**. High school senior Frank Li is a Limbo—his term for Korean-American kids who find themselves caught between their parents' traditional expectations and their own Southern California upbringing. His parents have one rule when it comes to romance—"Date Korean"—which proves complicated when Frank falls for Brit Means, who is smart, beautiful—and white. Fellow Limbo Joy Song is in a similar predicament, and so they make a pact: they'll pretend to date each other in order to gain their freedom. Frank thinks it's the perfect plan, but in the end, Frank and Joy's fake-dating maneuver leaves him wondering if he ever really understood love—or himself—at all.

Zentner, Jeff. **The Serpent King**. In small-town Forrestville, Tennessee, broody musician Dill Early begins his senior year with a general feeling of dread because it means his best friend, Lydia, will be leaving for college once they graduate. As the son of a snake-handling Pentecostal preacher currently in prison, Dill is unable to escape his father's shadow. Lydia, on the other hand, is an outspoken blogger and fashionista, who can't wait to get out of Dodge. Completing their trio is Travis, a gentle giant who carries a staff and is obsessed with fantasy novels.