

June 7, 2023

Dear Willow Hill High School Student,

Thank you for making last year's summer reading raffle such a success! We had such great responses that we will continue the summer reading raffle again this summer. As with last year, students who choose to complete the assignment will be entered into a raffle for a gift card.

The requirements are simple. We will provide you lists of recommended reading books to choose from. You choose a book from the list and read it. When you are finished reading the book, you will write a personal response. After you turn in your response, your name will be entered into a raffle to win a free gift card!

### **Requirements for personal response**

Write a **one-page minimum personal response**. **Your response should be typed, Times New Roman, 12 point font, double spaced.** The response must include:

- 1) Your name
- 2) Title and author of the book
- 3) **Summary** - summarize the plot of your book in no more than 5-7 sentences. Give basic plot points.
- 4) **Context** - what is the context of your book?
  - a. Describe where and when it takes place
  - b. Describe the world or society in which it takes place
- 5) **Review**
  - a. Did you like the book? Why or why not?
  - b. What, specifically, did you like or dislike about it? (characters, plot etc.)
  - c. Would you recommend the book? Why or why not?
  - d. If you would recommend it, who would enjoy it or who should read it?

When your response is complete, it should be submitted to Jen McEnany:  
[jmcenany@willowhillschool.org](mailto:jmcenany@willowhillschool.org)

Feel free to email if you have any questions, but check the **Frequently Asked Questions** section on the backside first.

Have a great summer and we can't wait to see you in the Fall!

Andrew Petzold-Eley  
ELA Department Chair  
[apetzold-eley@willowhillschool.org](mailto:apetzold-eley@willowhillschool.org)

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **Q: Can I read a book that I have read before?**

A: Expand into new books that you have not read before. If you did enjoy a particular book, look for other titles by the same author, or other books in a similar series or genre. You can also try something completely new!

### **Q: I don't know what book to read. Where should I start?**

A: Think about topics you're interested in. Is there a topic you'd like to learn more about? Consider different genres and styles: Would you like to read a realistic novel about someone like you? Would you like to try a nonfiction book about someone from a different country or time period?

### **Q: Can I listen to the audio book instead of reading?**

A: Listening is not the same as reading. It uses a different part of your brain and uses different skills than reading does. You may pair a "read-aloud" by listening to the audio book while you read along in the text, but you may not only listen to the book.

### **Q: I love reading! If I read fifteen books this summer, can I enter fifteen different times?**

A: Great question, love your enthusiasm. Read and write as many responses as you like, and your name will be entered **up to three times**. This will give you an advantage to win, but also gives others a chance to win, too.

### **Q: What should I write about in my response?**

A: Another great question. See "Requirements" above.

### **Q: Do I have to read it on my own? Can I read it with my mom or dad?**

A: You are welcome to read along with someone at home. Take the opportunity at the end of each section or chapter to talk with them about what you're reading. Try to summarize what happened or make a prediction about what you think will happen next.

### **Q: If my library is still closed, how can I get one of these books?**

A: Excellent question! This is a good time to problem-solve. You can purchase books online through sellers such as Amazon or Barnes & Noble, or safely purchase from a brick-and-mortar store. However, even during quarantine, there are lots of great digital options as well. Check your local library website to see what digital options might be available for you.

# High School Summer Reading List

## **All the Days Past, All the Days to Come by Mildred D. Taylor**

Grades 9 and up

***School Library Journal* (December 1, 2019)**

Cassie Logan comes from the resilient, proud, and dignified Logan family of the Great Faith community in Mississippi. Throughout her life she witnesses the Great Migration and World War II, and experiences Jim Crow in public and private. She realizes teaching is not on her path and eventually pursues law in Boston. She is wooed by Central American construction man Flynn De Baca and has a tumultuous courtship and marriage with him until his drowning death, then alienates herself from her family due to her clandestine relationship with Guy Hallis, a white law firm colleague. Eventually, Cassie returns to Mississippi to participate in voter registration. Her family's lives are tested when Papa's health deteriorates. Taylor (*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*) has captivated legions of readers with award-winning masterful tales of the Logan family for over 40 years. Readers may find it hard to keep track of the numerous characters, though the presence of African American professionals and businesses is refreshing, and the family's tight-knit dynamic is captivating. Taylor brilliantly weaves the fictional Logans and their communities with real historical figures and organizations. She makes it easy for those new to the series by recapping notable moments.

## **Apple, Skin to the Core: A Memoir in Words and Pictures by Eric L. Gansworth**

Grades 10-12

***Booklist* starred (August 2020 (Vol. 116, No. 22))**

Gansworth (*If I Ever Get Out of Here*), a tribally-enrolled Onodaga living among the Tuscarora, offers a memoir in verse and lyric prose. Playing off the derogatory term apple (red on the outside; white on the inside), often used in Native communities, he explores the realities of growing up on the rez, being subjected to racism and poverty, and learning to navigate the white world. In ambitious thematic sections recalling Beatles albums (e.g., *The White Album* here becomes "The Red Album," *Abbey Road* morphs into "Dog Street"), poems recount his grandparents' experiences in residential schools; his lifelong love of the Beatles and superhero comics; family influences, including his largely absent father; and his strong sense of Indigenous identity that survives despite leaving the rez. Several poems parallel Beatles' lyrics ("Come Together" and "Here Comes the Sun"); some push back against stereotypes ("If you excel, you will be 'remarkable for being an Indian'"); and still others point to the dangers of "browsing with too much melanin." Gansworth's art, a mix of gouache paintings, photographs, and collages (reproduced in black and white), is interspersed throughout, adding interest and detail. With language rich in metaphor, this is a timely and important work that begs for multiple readings.

## **The Awakening of Malcolm X by Llyasah Shabazz**

Grades 7 and up

***School Library Journal* starred (April 1, 2021)**

How did Malcolm Little, the son of a Lansing, MI, Baptist minister, become the renowned Malcolm X? When Malcolm is 20, he is caught up in the robbery of an empty house. He relies on the testimony of his friend Sophia, a white woman, to minimize the amount of trouble he will

be in, however, she lies and he is sentenced to eight-to-10 years in prison. The conditions in the prison are beyond wretched. He stewes in anger during the first part of his incarceration while his family begins to follow the principles of the Nation of Islam. "Wake up, Malcolm" is a phrase repeated throughout the novel and helps readers identify the pivotal situations forming who becomes known as Malcolm X. During his incarceration, Malcolm reads, learns, and discovers his gift for public speaking and debate. The central momentum of this novel is how Malcolm X was motivated to learn and use his knowledge to influence others. The book concludes with valuable sections of additional information about the Nation of Islam and the prisons mentioned in the novel, a timeline from Malcolm's birth until his release, and a list of the books he read while incarcerated.

### **Butterfly Yellow by Thanhha Lai**

**Grades 9 and up**

***School Library Journal* (July 1, 2019)**

After the fall of Saigon during the Vietnam War, hundreds of children were airlifted from Vietnam to the United States. Hang saw to it that her three-year-old brother Linh was one of these children, though at the airport she's shocked to discover she's too old to accompany him. Six years later, 18-year-old Hang arrives in Texas, where her uncle and his family live, carrying an address, the only connection she has to her brother. Although her uncle promises that he will take her to the address in Amarillo, she cannot wait. She catches a bus and eventually a ride with LeeRoy, who is headed to Amarillo to meet his rodeo hero. When they arrive, Linh does not remember her and wants nothing to do with her. LeeRoy and Hang get jobs at a neighboring ranch where she tries to connect with her brother and LeeRoy tries to learn how to be a cowboy. Hang and LeeRoy, as well as the other main characters, have complex personalities that often clash. Hang's English dialogue, written in Vietnamese syllables, has to be sounded out by readers and can be difficult to interpret, though it becomes clearer when LeeRoy repeats what she says. The plot has a nice blend of external and internal action although some knowledge of the Vietnam War would make for better understanding of Hang's trauma

### **Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo**

**Grades 9 and up**

***School Library Journal Xpress* (May 1, 2020)**

A deadly plane crash brings secrets to light and families together in this novel told in verse. Camino lives in the Dominican Republic where she spends her days swimming and serving as an apprentice to her aunt, a healer, as she makes house calls. Yahaira is a chess champ and lives in New York with her parents and next door to her girlfriend. Alternating between Camino and Yahaira's perspectives, the story explores the grief of losing a loved one while discovering sisterhood. As details of the plane crash are revealed and arrangements are made for a funeral, Camino and Yahaira realize they are grieving for the same beloved father. Lush imagery and masterful characterization give readers a look at the lives of two 16-year-old girls whose worlds couldn't be further apart, but who long for connection in the face of life-altering tragedy. When the girls come face to face on Camino's home turf their bonds of sisterhood are developed and tested; in an intense standoff with a shady character, Yahaira may be the only person who can help Camino escape with her life.

### **Don't Read the Comments by Eric Smith**

Grades 9 and up

***School Library Journal* (December 1, 2019)**

Divya's whole life is online. Known as D1V, she has built a reputation and following on the massive multiplayer online game *Reclaim the Sun*. As she helps cover the bills with promotional items she receives, her mantra is this: don't read the comments. But when troll group Vox Populi goes beyond leaving nasty comments and starts harassing her in real life, Divya finds herself at a crossroads – does she shut it all down for her and her loved ones' safety? Or does she power through and show the Vox Populi they can't silence her? Then there's Aaron. When the two meet through the game, Divya stands by her usual policies of sharing minimal personal information for her protection -but as the Vox Populi gets closer, she'll need someone in her corner. This novel brings important points to the conversation around women and people of color in gaming. Readers will nod with recognition, particularly those entrenched in the gaming community and who have witnessed the events surrounding Gamergate. With much of the action taking place in-game, the plot drags with abstract stakes until the end, but is saved by the sarcastic Divya and thoughtful, if naïve, Aaron. The prose is sometimes set back by its self-conscious style, especially around discussion of the book's feminist and social justice center. Despite this, many readers will enjoy the finish.

### **The Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley**

Grades 9 and up

***School Library Journal* (March 1, 2021)**

This #OwnVoices novel is a character-driven crime thriller packed with Ojibwe culture and high-stakes tension with themes of identity, trust, and resilience. The journey of 18-year-old Daunis Fontaine is told in four parts overlaid by the four directions of Ojibwe medicine wheel teachings. Daunis should be focused on a fresh start at college after her uncle's untimely death. She is sucked back into the world of ice hockey and starts slowly falling for Jamie, one of her brother's new teammates. Soon she finds herself living two disparate lives: one as a loving daughter, niece, and granddaughter in her family and tribal community, and one as a confidential informant to the FBI as they investigate a deadly new drug. She dangerously furthers the investigation on her own after witnessing a murder, and ultimately must choose between protecting the people she loves or protecting her tribal community. Native cultural aspects, such as the central role of Elders in tribal life, the special relationship between aunts and nieces, and decentering of the individual in favor of the tribe are included, as are some darker aspects of life including drugs, violence, and sexual assault. Daunis, Jamie, and other characters are fleshed out, relatable, and believable, and Daunis's journey to become a strong Ojibwe woman is compelling.

### **Graceling: The Graphic Novel by Gareth Hinds**

Grades 9 and up

***School Library Journal* starred (October 1, 2021)**

Throughout the Seven Kingdoms, individuals with two different colored eyes are Graced with unique talents. Blue- and green-eyed Katsa, King Randa's niece, is Graced with fighting abilities, so the king uses her as a thug, but Katsa has started a Secret Council where she and others work for justice. When Prince Po, a silver- and gold-eyed Graceling from Lienid, comes to Randa's court to find his kidnapped grandfather, he inspires Katsa to leave Randa's service and discover the reason for the kidnapping-and the truth behind King Leck of Monsea's reputation for

kindness. Hinds's graphic novel retelling is faithful to Cashore's original story, honoring her world-building, characters, plot, dialogue, and description; his art brings the highly visual tale to life, from dramatic fight sequences and beautiful landscapes to details like a blush on Katsa's cheeks and ice on her eyelashes. The Gracelings' heterochromia is visually striking. Katsa and most Middluns people are white; Po and the Lienids have brown skin. As the characters change locations, Randa's castle's secret passageways and maps of the seven kingdoms are woven naturally into the story, helping readers follow the action

### **Havenfall (Book 1) by Sarah Holland**

Grades 9 and up

#### ***School Library Journal* (January 1, 2020)**

Maddie Morrow is a pariah at home—the girl whose mother killed her brother. Havenfall, the family inn, is the only place she feels like herself. There, magical realms are connected via tunnels, and every summer solstice the inn hosts a trade and negotiation summit between them. Maddie hopes to take over the inn from her Uncle Marcus one day. When a sealed tunnel to a realm of magical monsters is opened and her uncle is attacked, Maddie must keep the summit going, track down a monster, and learn about the power plays by realm dignitaries. Aided by a mysterious new employee named Taya and her friend Brekken from the Fiordenkill realm, Maddie fights to save the inn and the balance between the realms. As mysteries about her past are revealed, Maddie is torn between her attraction to Brekken, who she fears betrayed her, and Taya, who is searching for her brother and can understand the pain of losing a sibling. The realms are described briefly in a second-hand manner, as very few humans survive visiting them. The story is a combination of issues and mystery, with a touch of fantasy on the side. The narrative captures all the apprehension and anxiety of suddenly taking on an adult role in life.

### **Hood by Jenny Elder Moke**

Grades 7-10

#### ***School Library Journal* (May 1, 2020)**

The action-packed, plot-driven, reworked legend Moke's fans have come to expect, starring the daughter of Robin and Marien, Isabelle of Kirklees. Isabelle has known a quiet life inside the priory walls where she resides with her mother, the Prioress, until she is arrested by King John's royal soldiers for defending innocent villagers against his cruel laws. After Isabelle is rescued from confinement she is thrust into the world of ruthless mercenaries, sneaky thieves, and handsome wanted outlaws, where she becomes the target of Sir Rodger of Doncaster, aka the Wolf, hired by King John. While in hiding, Isabelle joins the Merry Men of Sherwood on a mission through the English countryside in search of her father, Robin Hood, former Earl of Huntingdon. With her mother's life hanging in the balance, she is forced to either betray her family, or stand up to the Wolf's treachery. Isabelle is a strong heroine, in the company of secondary characters—Adam of Locksley, Sir Rodger, Little John, and Helena—who enhance the emotional impact of her journey. Overall, the text is accessible, laden with adventure, heartfelt moments, and high humor. Robin Hood is a model hero with wit, cunning, and bravery. The ending leaves readers wanting more, and there is room for a sequel.

### **Just Breathe by Cammie McGovern**

Grades 9-12

***Booklist* starred (December 1, 2019 (Vol. 116, No. 7))**

Jamie is 15, reserved, and suffering from severe depression, and David is senior-class president, extremely popular, and manages to keep his cystic fibrosis under the radar. Their paths cross when David is hospitalized and Jamie visits him as part of her volunteer work. The two develop a friendship over origami, and David opens up about his condition. Jamie also has secrets she is reluctant to reveal. They begin to correspond via email and text, and Jamie, to her alarm, begins to develop stronger feelings for David, which he seems to be reciprocating. Things take a downward turn with a medical emergency, and both Jamie and David must reevaluate their friendship. They narrate their story in alternating first-person passages, and the shifting perspectives add nice depth to both characters. McGovern skillfully imbues her characters with realistic voices; her teenagers sound like real teenagers and less like how some authors want teenagers to sound. Even her secondary characters—from David's attention-seeking younger sister, Eileen, to Jamie's stressed-out single mother, who wants to spare Jamie from heartbreak—have rich, dynamic voices. With a plot that moves swiftly, ratcheting up the tension until the crisis, this brilliant, nuanced, and hopeful title will have wide appeal, particularly from fans of authors such as John Green or Sarah Dessen.

### **Like Home by Louisa Onome**

Grades 6-10

***School Library Journal* starred (December 1, 2020)**

Ginger East is the only home Nigerian American 16-year-old Chinelo, or Nelo as her close friends call her, has ever known. It has a reputation for being unsafe, but Nelo knows it's just a misconception formed by tragic events that happened in the past. An act of vandalism at her best friend's neighborhood store combined with the news of a fancy corporate spice store coming to her neighborhood send her reeling and seeking a way to express herself. When a viral video pushes Nelo into the spotlight, she becomes the face of Ginger East. On top of her sudden fame, it seems as though her best friend Kate, who is Vietnamese American, now wants nothing to do with her, and Nelo seeks out forms of protest through a neighborhood community group that shares her feelings about the recent changes. Nelo has to confront that whether she likes it or not, things are changing around her and she has to fight for her home. This book brings readers into the world of Ginger East, a neighborhood that is no stranger to violence, gangs, and police brutality, but introduces these topics in a way that is palatable for a middle school audience. The diverse cast of characters were a tight-knit group of best friends as kids, most of whom moved away from their neighborhood and now have been reunited through their shared experiences in Ginger East.

### **Loop by Ben Oliver**

Grades 9-12

***From Follett:***

Luka Kane has spent 736 days wrongfully imprisoned inside the Loop awaiting his execution. Each day is the same. Each day is torturous. But things are starting to change. Whispers of war are circulating. Strange things are happening to the prisoners. And the warden delivers a message: *Luka, you have to get out...* Now Luka must decide whether breaking out of the Loop is

his only way to survive, especially if there's any chance of saving the ones he loves. But the population on the outside may be far more terrifying than anything he could have imaged. And in order to save his family, he'll have to discover who is responsible for the chaos that has been inflicted upon the world.

### **Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline**

Grades 7-12

***Library Journal* (April 1, 2013)**

Kline's latest novel (after *Bird in Hand*) weaves contemporary and historical fiction into a compelling story about loss, adaptability, and courage. Molly is a rebellious 17-year-old foster child sentenced to community service for stealing a copy of *Jane Eyre*. She finds a position cleaning out the attic of Vivian, an elderly woman in their coastal Maine town. As Molly sorts through old trunks and boxes, Vivian begins to share stories from her past. Born in County Galway, she immigrated to New York City in 1929. When her family perished in a tenement fire, she was packed off on one of the many orphan trains intended to bring children to Midwestern families who would care for them. Each orphan's lot was largely dependent on the luck of the draw. In this, Vivian's life parallels Molly's, and an unlikely friendship blossoms.

### **We Hunt The Flame (Sands of Arawiya, Book 1) by Hafsa Faizal**

Grades 9 and up

***School Library Journal* (May 1, 2019)**

Once Arawiya was ruled by the Six Sisters of Old, who filled the lands with magic and peace until they disappeared, taking magic with them. Today it is a divided land where misogyny reigns-headed by a Sultan determined to rule all of the lands himself. Zafira lives her life on the fringes as The Hunter of the Arz, a terrifying forest no one would dare to penetrate. She must hunt to feed her village, and if she is discovered as a woman, her life will be over. Nasir is an assassin, forced to kill for his father, the corrupt Sultan. When the Silver Witch presents Zafira with a quest to bring magic back to her people, she takes it. Nasir, the Prince of Death himself, is tasked to capture her and steal the artifact for his father even if his heart is conflicted. Lyrical and filled with adventure, a slow-burn romance, and an unforgettable cast of characters in a world based on ancient Arabia, this is a debut series not to be missed.

### **They Wish They Were Us by Jessica Goodman**

Grades 9-12

***Booklist* (May 1, 2020 (Vol. 116, No. 17))**

Jill Newman isn't just any senior at Gold Coast Prep. She's one of the Players, as the members of a secret society at her exclusive high school are known. It's a bittersweet time because her best friend, Shaila, who was killed during freshman year by a Player wannabe, won't be graduating with her. Then out of the blue, Jill receives a text stating the killer is innocent. As the senior Players test the freshman wannabes—including Jill's younger brother—she is haunted by Shaila and the possibility that her friend's killer is still on the loose. Watching her peers closely, Jill regards the Players with fresh eyes and, subsequently, makes two consequential decisions that alter her fate and that of those around her. This debut murder mystery is filled with twists and turns that will keep its pages turning. Jill's progression is predictable but not without a satisfactory payoff. Give this to mystery buffs and to readers who enjoy stories about seemingly powerless individuals finding the ability to make a difference.



### **Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi**

Grades 9-12

***Kirkus Reviews* starred (February 15, 2018)**

Seventeen-year-old Zélie and companions journey to a mythic island seeking a chance to bring back magic to the land of Orïsha, in a fantasy world infused with the textures of West Africa. Dark-skinned Zélie is a divîner—someone with latent magical abilities indicated by the distinctive white hair that sets them apart from their countrymen. She saves Princess Amari, who is on the run from her father, King Saran, after stealing the scroll that can transform divîners into magic-wielding maji, and the two flee along with Zélie’s brother. The scroll vanished 11 years ago during the king’s maji genocide, and Prince Inan, Amari’s brother, is sent in hot pursuit. When the trio learns that the impending solstice offers the only chance of restoring magic through a connection to Nana Baruku, the maternal creator deity, they race against time—and Inan—to obtain the final artifact needed for their ritual. Over the course of the book allegiances shift and characters grow, change, and confront traumas culminating in a cliffhanger ending that will leave readers anxiously awaiting the next installment. Well-drawn characters, an intense plot, and deft writing make this a strong story. That it is also a timely study on race, colorism, power, and injustice makes it great. Powerful, captivating, and raw—Adeyemi is a talent to watch. Exceptional.

### **Endurance: A Year in Space, A Lifetime of Discovery by Scott Kelly**

Grade 6-up

***Library Journal* (September 15, 2017)**

Inspired by Tom Wolfe's book *The Right Stuff* (1979), Kelly became a navy pilot and astronaut. Before retiring from NASA, he earned the record for the most total time spent in space, including 340 consecutive days at the International Space Station. This memoir is filled with stories of the daring, patience, and humanity necessary to be an effective leader in space, along with the stress of being away from family. His brother Mark Kelly is also a retired astronaut; Scott tells of hearing about the 2011 shooting of his sister-in-law U.S. congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, from afar and subsequently leading a moment of silence in honor of the victims. While Kelly's story is personal, it's also a cautionary tale about the future of space exploration, especially if deeper investment is not made. Highly recommended to anyone who has an interest in memoirs or space travel.

### **March Trilogy by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin (graphic novel)**

Grades 9-12

*March* is a vivid first-hand account of John Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis' personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement. *Book One* tells of Lewis's childhood in rural Alabama, his desire as a young man to be a preacher, his life-changing interactions with Martin Luther King, Jr., and the nonviolent sit-ins he joined at lunch counters in Nashville as a means of undermining segregation. The narrative continues in subsequent books to tell of the 1963 March on Washington (*Book Two*) and the march across Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama in 1965 (*Book Three*).

### **Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes by Suzanne Collins**

Grades 8 and up

***School Library Journal Xpress* (May 22, 2020)**

Coriolanus Snow still lives in his once-great family's Capitol penthouse, but now he repurposes old shirts and eats boiled cabbage to quell his hunger pangs. He keeps up appearances among his fellow students and the faculty at the prestigious Academy, and remembers the war that ravaged the country, including the Capitol, 10 years earlier. During the reaping for the 10th Hunger Games, he's selected to mentor Lucy Gray Baird, a talented singer from District 12, and their success will determine whether he receives a much-needed scholarship to the University. This prequel takes place 64 years before *The Hunger Games* and follows the boy who will become cruel President Snow. Like the first book, this novel provides thrilling action and chilling gore, but the pace lags at times with school minutiae. Much of the narrative functions mainly as world-building for the original trilogy. Fans will appreciate revisiting the world of Panem, and teens may relate to Coriolanus beginning to grapple with big ideas like human nature and whether people on opposite sides of a war are fundamentally different. Sejanus, a new money classmate from the districts, provides balance as he recognizes the Games as monstrous from the start.

### **The Boy who Challenged Hitler by Phillip M. Hoose**

Grades 6-12

***Publishers Weekly* (March 16, 2015)**

Hoose (*Moonbird*) vividly recounts the true story of the courageous and brazen teens who inspired the Danish resistance movement in WWII. Angered and embarrassed by his nation's lack of opposition to the German invasion, 15-year-old Knud Pedersen, his older brother, and a few classmates formed the secret Churchill Club (named for the British prime minister they admired). For five months in 1942, club members committed daring acts of sabotage, often from their bikes and mostly in broad daylight ("Arson became our game. We took to carrying a small quantity of petrol with us... stuffing the canister in a school bag "). Hoose's narrative alternates with Pedersen's verbatim recollections (taken from a weeklong interview with him in 2012). Though readers initially may have trouble knowing when Pedersen's quotations end and the author's segues begin, this gripping story quickly gathers momentum, and the shifts between narrators flow smoothly. Archival photos break up the text, while an epilogue details what happened to each young resister after his imprisonment and the war's end. A bibliography and source notes conclude this inspiring account.

### **On the Come Up by Angie Thomas**

Grades 8-12

***School Library Journal* (February 1, 2019)**

Aspiring rapper Bri records "On the Come Up" to protest the racial profiling and assault she endured at the hands of white security guards at her high school. The song goes viral, and Bri seizes the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of her late father and lift her family out of poverty, but her loved ones worry, especially when some listeners paint her as an angry black girl inciting violence. Tension mounts as Bri's mother loses her job, Bri's relationship with her beloved aunt and musical mentor splinters, and a new manager dangles the prospect of fame and wealth-at a price. Set in the same neighborhood as Thomas's electrifying *The Hate U Give*, this visceral novel makes cogent observations about the cycle of poverty and the inescapable effects of systemic racism. Though the book never sands over the rough realities of Garden Heights,

such as gang warfare, it imbues its many characters with warmth and depth. While acknowledging that society is quick to slap labels onto black teens, the author allows her heroine to stumble and fall before finding her footing and her voice.

### ***The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne**

Grades 8-12

Berlin, 1942: When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move to a new house far, far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people in the distance. But Bruno decides there must be more to this desolate new place than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different from his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.

### ***The Light in Hidden Places* by Sharon Cameron**

Grades 9 and up

***School Library Journal* (January 1, 2020)**

One of nine children, 16-year-old Stefania Podgorska, "Fusia," leaves the farm in Bircza and moves to Przemysl to work for the Jewish Diamant family. Fusia, a Catholic, joins the Diamant household, but they are forcibly moved to the ghetto by Germans, leaving her behind as she scrambles to sneak food to them right under the nose of German patrols. After her secret love, Izio Diamant, is killed in a labor camp, grief-ridden, angry Fusia travels to Bircza to find that the Nazis have ruined both of her families, but she is reunited with her 6-year-old sister, Helena. Fusia begins a grueling factory job making screws and risks her own life and Helena's in order to hide Izio's brother, Max, and 12 other Jews in an apartment at Tatarska 3. Exhaustion and fear become her daily life, even more so when Nazis move nurses into her apartment, with 13 Jews hiding overhead. Authentic writing and well-researched history combined with the gripping and terrifying subject matter make this a must-read for historical fiction fans. Verdict: Cameron's remarkable, heartbreaking true story of one woman's bravery and selflessness in World War II Poland will intrigue both teens and adult readers.

### ***Tigers, not Daughters* by Samantha Mabry**

Grades 9 and up

***School Library Journal* (February 1, 2020)**

A magical realist twist in this evocative and lovely novel. There used to be four Torres sisters: Ana, Jessica, Iridian, and Rosa. Each with a strong individual personality, they captivated the boys of their San Antonio neighborhood with their beauty and ferocity. But when Ana died, falling out of her window, the sisters each reacted to their grief differently. Jessica tried to replace Ana in her old life, Iridian lost herself in books, and spiritual Rosa became preoccupied by looking for signs to explain why this happened. But their memories are tangible as well as mental, as Ana's ghost haunts them in the form of mysterious occurrences in their house. Much of the plot, told from multiple points of view, examines how the family members balance their personal challenges with their grief. Ultimately, Ana's ghost is the impetus for the surviving sisters to reconnect and find the strength to move forward, together. Similar to the March sisters, the Bennets in *Pride and Prejudice*, and the three sisters in *King Lear* (which inspired this book's title), Jessica, Iridian, and Rosa have competitive, at times jealousy-tinged, but ultimately loving

relationships. Mabry's lyrical style weaves themes of sisterhood, death, and romance along with Shakespearean inspiration and paranormal elements to create something magical.

### ***Tweet Cute* by Emma Lord**

Grades 9 and up

#### ***School Library Journal* (December 1, 2019)**

High schoolers and potential heirs to their family deli and burger franchises, Jack and Pepper are not exactly friends. Jack is living in the shadow of his popular and somehow more handsome identical twin brother, while Pepper, a Nashville-to-NYC transplant, quickly becomes a chameleon at their fancy private high school. Instead of installing a social media team to keep their businesses on the up-and-up, both sets of parents insist that the teens handle it all. It's not long before a Twitter war between the two companies starts and, unknowingly to Jack and Pepper, they are each on the other side of the keyboard. Filled with humor, heart, and a dose of social media reality-including consequences-debut author Lord packs a punch in this adorably fun novel. Subplots abound, including a student-made anonymous app that ends up bringing people together. Family issues will strike a chord with readers, whether or not they're familiar with the ins and outs of running a restaurant. Lord keeps it light when she needs to but isn't afraid to bend to the point of breaking when it matters most. The action takes on a darker edge as the anonymous app subplot thickens, and the companies' competition goes viral in the Twitter-verse.