

# Summer Reading 2023

**9th Grade  
Realistic Fiction**



# Summer Reading Activity

- **Choose any novel considered realistic fiction**
- **Themes may include the following:**
  - Discrimination
  - Family Dynamics
  - Overcoming an Obstacle
  - Facing a Personal Challenge
- **Do not choose a title you have already read**
- **As you read, create one of the following that focuses on the theme of the novel and supporting evidence:**
  - Annotations in the margins
  - Post-it notes
  - Reading journal
- **In September you will complete an assessment for your teacher**
- **Reading must be completed by September 20th, 2023**

# Titles You May Like



Visit the following sites for more  
book recommendations:

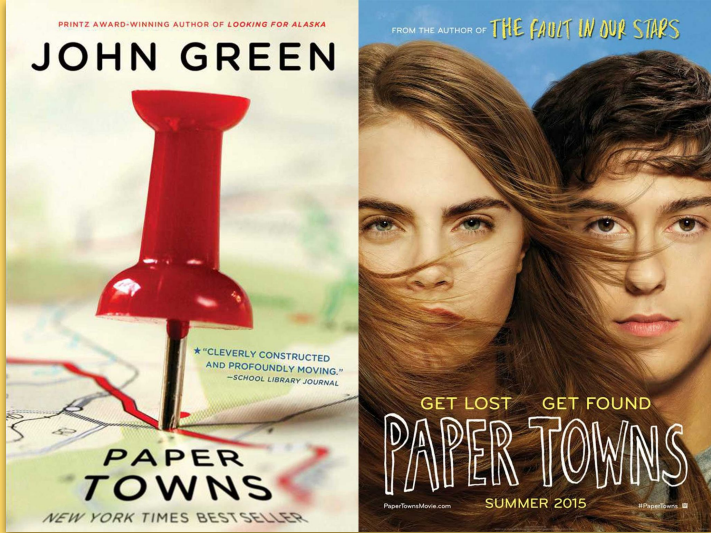
[Goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com)

[BookRiot.com](https://www.bookriot.com)

[GoogleBooks.com](https://books.google.com)



*Some of the titles suggested  
may contain adult themes and/or  
languages due to the genre or  
content of the book*



## **Paper Towns by John Green**

Margo enlists her longtime neighbor and childhood friend, Quentin, to help her exact revenge on her cheating boyfriend and her disloyal best friend. But after a night of thrilling hijinks, Margo disappears, leaving behind clues for Quentin to find her. As time passes, Quentin begins to wonder if the clues will lead him anywhere and if Margo actually wants to be found.

## **Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon**

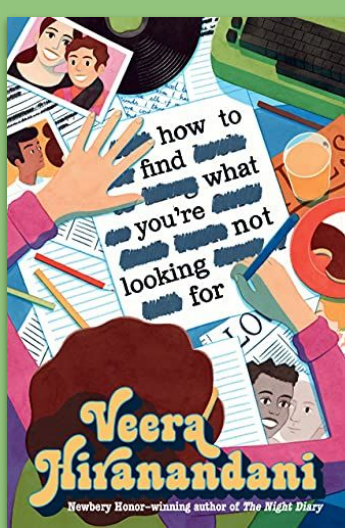
Every day is the same as the one before for Madeline; she suffers from an illness that prevents her from any contact with the outside world. But then the boy who moves in next door catches her eye and everything changes.



## **How to Find What You're Not Looking For by Veera Hiranandani**

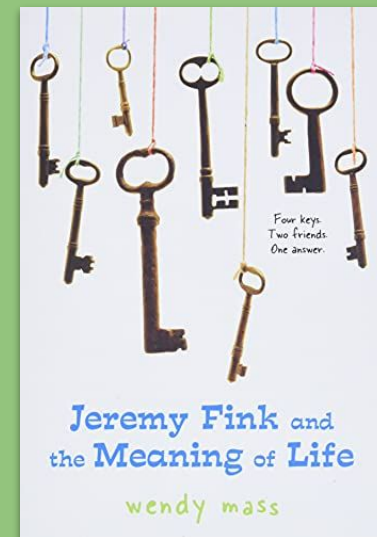
New historical fiction from a Newbery Honor-winning author about how middle schooler Ariel Goldberg's life changes when her big sister elopes following the 1967 Loving v. Virginia decision, and she's forced to grapple with both her family's prejudice and the antisemitism she experiences, as she defines her own beliefs.

Twelve-year-old Ariel Goldberg's life feels like the moment after the final guest leaves the party. Her family's Jewish bakery runs into financial trouble, and her older sister has eloped with a young man from India following the Supreme Court decision that strikes down laws banning interracial marriage. As change becomes Ariel's only constant, she's left to hone something that will be with her always--her own voice.

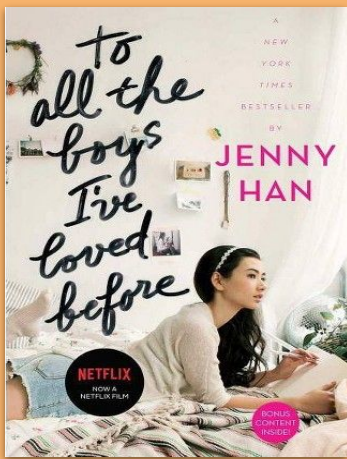


## **Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life by Wendy Mass**

Jeremy and his best friend (not girlfriend) Lizzy go on an adventure. They're trying to open a box that his dad left him to open on his 13th birthday. This mystery-filled story provides page-turning action and thought-provoking lessons about the meaning of life.







## To All the Boys I've Loved Before by Jenny Han

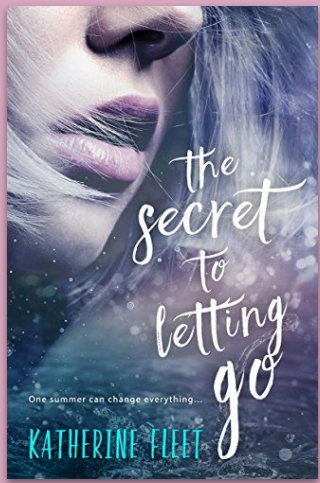
What if all the crushes you ever had found out how you felt about them...all at once? Sixteen-year-old Lara Jean Song keeps her love letters in a hatbox her mother gave her. They aren't love letters that anyone else wrote for her; these are ones she's written. One for every boy she's ever loved – five in all. When she writes, she pours out her heart and soul and says all the things she would never say in real life, because her letters are for her eyes only. Until the day her secret letters are mailed, and suddenly, Lara Jean's love life goes from imaginary to out of control.

## Color Me In by Natasha Diaz

Growing up in an affluent suburb of New York City, sixteen-year-old Nevaeh Levitz never thought much about her biracial roots. When her Black mom and Jewish dad split up, she relocates to her mom's family home in Harlem and is forced to confront her identity for the first time.

Nevaeh wants to get to know her extended family, but because she inadvertently passes as white, her cousin thinks she's too privileged, pampered, and selfish to relate to the injustices African Americans face on a daily basis. In the meantime, Nevaeh's dad decides that she should have a belated bat mitzvah instead of a sweet sixteen, which guarantees social humiliation at her posh private school. But rather than take a stand, Nevaeh does what she's always done when life gets complicated: she stays silent. Only when Nevaeh stumbles upon a secret from her mom's past, finds herself falling in love, and sees firsthand the prejudice her family faces that she begins to realize she has her own voice. And choices. Will she continue to let circumstances dictate her path? Or will she decide once for all who and where she is meant to be?



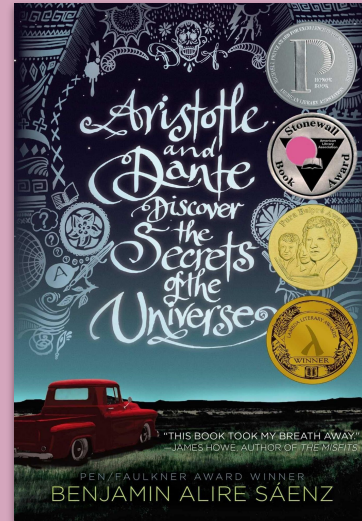


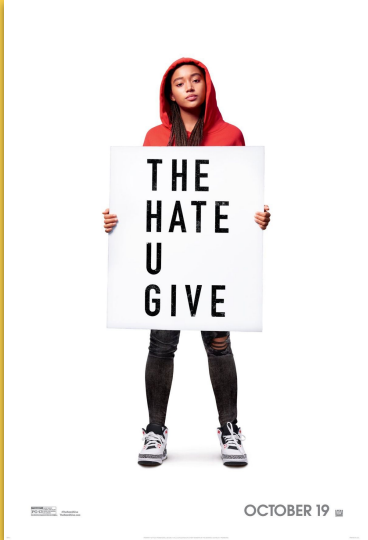
## ***The Secret to Letting Go* by Katherine Fleet**

This novel is the perfect read for teenage romance enthusiasts. From the moment Daniel and Clover meet until the novel's end, the whirlwind of emotions never dies down. Unfortunately their troubling pasts seem to constantly disrupt their hope for happiness together.

## ***Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Sáenz**

Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship—the kind that changes lives and lasts a lifetime. And it is through this friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves and the kind of people they want to be.





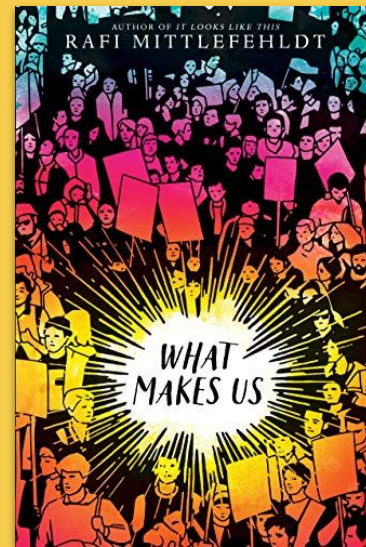
## **The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas**

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

## **What Makes Us by Rafi Mittlefehldt**

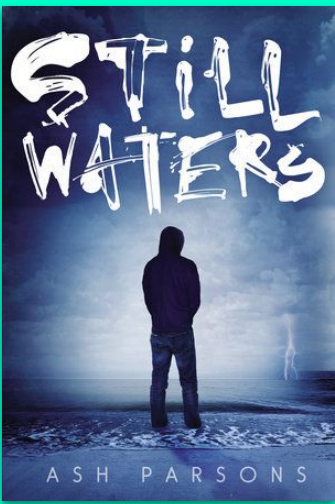
A viral video reveals a teen's dark family history, leaving him to reckon with his heritage, legacy, and identity in this fiery, conversation-starting novel. Eran Sharon knows nothing of his father except that he left when Eran was a baby. Now a senior in high school, Eran is a passionate young man deeply interested in social justice and equality. When he learns that the Houston police have launched a program to increase traffic stops, Eran organizes a peaceful protest. But a heated moment at the protest goes viral, and a reporter connects the Sharon family to a tragedy fifteen years earlier -- and asks if Eran is anything like his father, a supposed terrorist. Soon enough, Eran is wondering the same thing, especially when the people he's gone to school and temple with for years start to look at him differently. Timely, powerful, and full of nuance, Rafi Mittlefehldt's novel confronts the prejudices, fears, and strengths of family and community, striking right to the heart of what makes us who we are.

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## **Still Waters by Ash Parsons**



High school senior Jason knows how to take a punch. Living with an abusive father will teach a kid that. But he's also learned how to hit back, earning a reputation at school that ensures no one will mess with him. Even so, all Jason truly wants is to survive his father long enough to turn eighteen, take his younger sister, Janie, and run away.

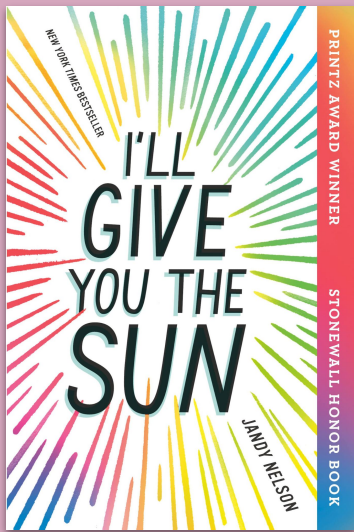
Then one day, the leader of the in crowd at school, Michael, offers to pay Jason to hang out with him, wanting to be seen with someone with a tough rep. As Jason gets drawn deeper into Michael's game, the money keeps flowing, but the stakes grow ever more dangerous.

*Still Waters* is an intense, gritty thriller that brings to mind a classic favorite, *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. It's an intense, gritty thriller that explores the dark relationship between poverty and privilege, and shows what lengths one boy will go to protect his family.

## **Break This House by Candice Iloh**

Yaminah Okar left Obsidian and the wreckage of her family years ago. She and her father have made lives for themselves in Brooklyn. She thinks she's moved on to bigger and better things. She thinks she's finally left behind that city she would rather forget. But when a Facebook message about her estranged mother pierces Yaminah's new bubble, memories of everything that happened before her parents' divorce come roaring back. Now, Yaminah must finally reckon with the truth about her mother and the growing collapse of a place she once called home.





## **I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson**

**“We were all heading for each other on a collision course, no matter what. Maybe some people are just meant to be in the same story.”**

**At first, Jude and her twin brother are Noah and Jude; inseparable. Noah draws constantly and is falling in love with the charismatic boy next door, while daredevil Jude wears red-red lipstick, cliff-dives, and does all the talking for both of them.**

**Years later, they are barely speaking. Something has happened to change the twins in different yet equally devastating ways . . . but then Jude meets an intriguing, irresistible boy and a mysterious new mentor.**

**The early years are Noah's to tell; the later years are Jude's. But they each have only half the story, and if they can only find their way back to one another, they'll have a chance to remake their world.**

**From the acclaimed author of *The Sky Is Everywhere*, this exhilarating novel will leave you breathless and teary and laughing—often all at once.**

## **If I Stay by Gayle Forman**

**In the blink of an eye everything changes. Seventeen year-old Mia has no memory of the accident; she can only recall what happened afterwards, watching her own damaged body being taken from the wreck. Little by little she struggles to put together the pieces- to figure out what she has lost, what she has left, and the very difficult choice she must make. Heart-wrenching and beautiful, this will change the way you look at life, love, and family. Now a major motion picture starring Chloe Grace Moretz, Mia's story will stay with you for a long, long time.**

