

Summer Reading 2023

**11th Grade
Historical Fiction**



Summer Reading Activity

- **Choose any novel considered historical fiction**
- **Consider choosing a title that is set during one of the following eras:**
 - The Great Depression
 - World War II/The Holocaust
 - The Civil War
 - The Harlem Renaissance
 - The American Revolution
 - The Civil Rights Movement
 - 9/11 Events
- **Do not choose a title you have already read**
- **As you read, create one of the following that focuses on the setting of the novel and how it affects the characters:**
 - 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:

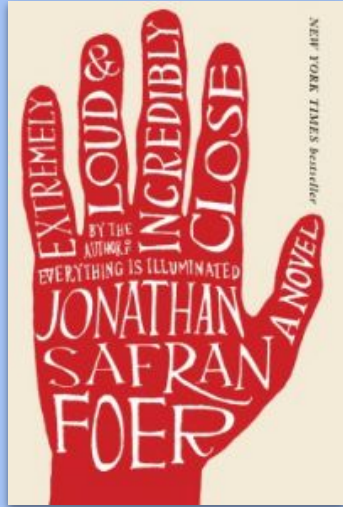
[Goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com)

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

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



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

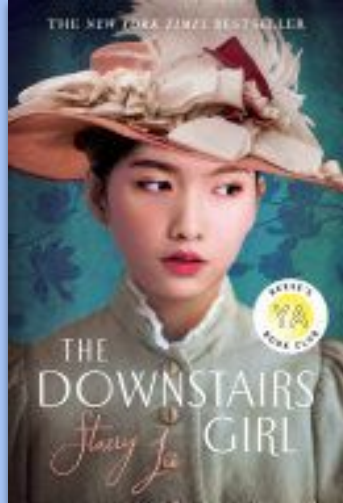


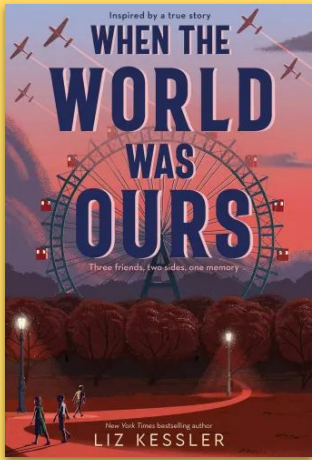
***Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer**

Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close is a 2005 novel by Jonathan Safran Foer. The book's narrator is a nine-year-old boy named Oskar Schell. In the story, Oskar discovers a key in a vase that belonged to his father, a year after he is killed in the September 11 attacks. The discovery inspires Oskar to search all around New York for information about the key and closure following his father's death.

***Under a War-Torn Sky* by L.M. Elliot**

By day, seventeen-year-old Jo Kuan works as a lady's maid for the cruel daughter of one of the wealthiest men in Atlanta. But by night, Jo moonlights as the pseudonymous author of a newspaper advice column for the genteel Southern lady, "Dear Miss Sweetie." When her column becomes wildly popular, she uses the power of the pen to address some of society's ills, but she's not prepared for the backlash that follows when her column challenges fixed ideas about race and gender. While her opponents clamor to uncover the secret identity of Miss Sweetie, a mysterious letter sets Jo off on a search for her own past and the parents who abandoned her as a baby. But when her efforts put her in the crosshairs of Atlanta's most notorious criminal, Jo must decide whether she, a girl used to living in the shadows, is ready to step into the light. With prose that is witty, insightful, and at times heartbreaking, Stacey Lee masterfully crafts an extraordinary social drama set in the New South.

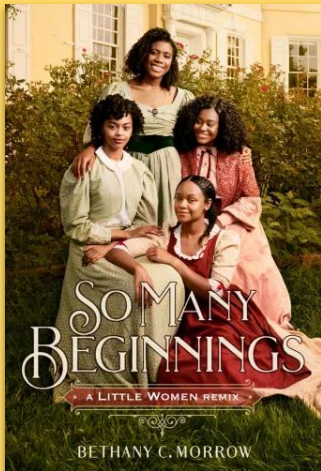




When the World Was Ours by Liz Kessler

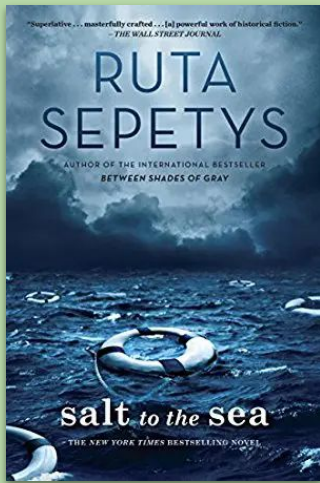
Three friends. One memory. Vienna. 1936. Three young friends—Leo, Elsa, and Max—spend a perfect day together, unaware that around them Europe is descending into a growing darkness and that they will soon be cruelly ripped apart from one another. With their lives taking them across Europe—to Germany, England, Prague, and Poland—will they ever find their way back to one another? Will they want to?

Inspired by a true story, *When the World Was Ours* is an extraordinary novel that is as powerful as it is heartbreaking and that shows how the bonds of love, family, and friendship allow glimmers of hope to flourish, even in the most hopeless of times.



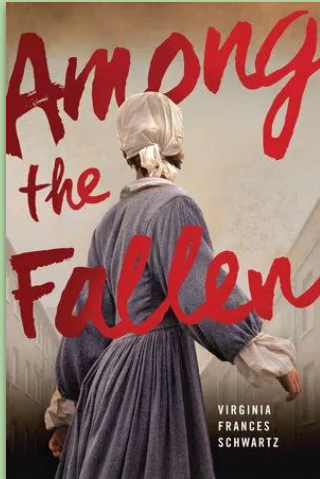
So Many Beginnings by Bethany Morrow

North Carolina, 1863. As the American Civil War rages on, the Freedmen's Colony of Roanoke Island is blossoming, a haven for the recently emancipated. Black people have begun building a community of their own, a refuge from the shadow of the "old life." It is where the March family has finally been able to safely put down roots with four young daughters: Meg, a teacher who longs to find love and start a family of her own; Jo, a writer whose words are too powerful to be contained; Beth, a talented seamstress searching for a higher purpose; and Amy, a dancer eager to explore life outside her family's home. As the four March sisters come into their own as independent young women, they will face first love, health struggles, heartbreak, and new horizons. But they will face it all together.



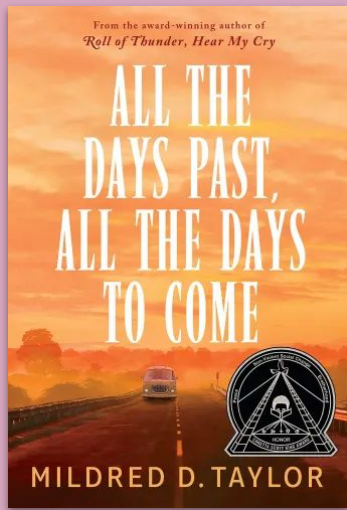
***Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys**

You know about the Titanic, and maybe even the Lusitania disaster (the subject of Erik Larson's *Dead Wake*). But you've likely never heard of the Wilhelm Gustloff, though the number of lives lost dwarfs the number of people who died in those two better-known disasters at sea. The ship was hugely over capacity when it sunk in the Baltic Sea after being hit by Soviet torpedoes. Told in four distinct characters' voices, that of a young nurse, a Prussian soldier, an expecting mother, and a delusional Nazi recruit converge. Sepetys excels at writing historically accurate, page-turning YA novels equally beloved by tweens, teens, and grown-ups.



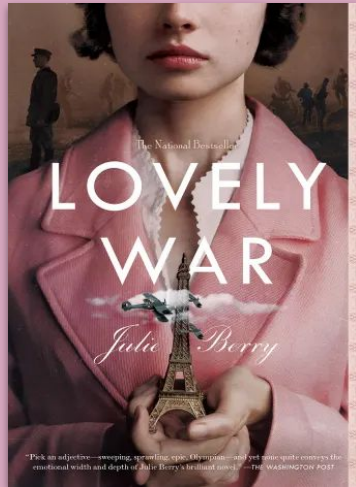
***Among the Fallen* by Virginia Frances Schwartz**

Sixteen-year-old Orpha is imprisoned in the infamous Tothill prison for crimes she did not commit and harbors a terrible secret about the man who put her there. When an unusual invitation from Charles Dickens arrives, she finds the way out of the broken cycle of poverty and crime she was longing for. Orpha's heartbreaking yet inspiring story tells of the resilience and courage needed to start over when the deck has always been stacked against you.



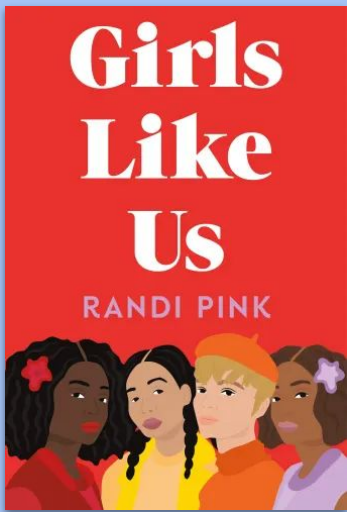
***All the Days Past, All the Days to Come* by Mildred D. Taylor**

In her tenth book, Mildred Taylor completes her sweeping saga about the Logan family of Mississippi, which is also the story of the civil rights movement in America of the 20th century. Cassie Logan, first met in *Song of the Trees* and *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, is a young woman now, searching for her place in the world, a journey that takes her from Toledo to California, to law school in Boston, and, ultimately, in the 60s, home to Mississippi to participate in voter registration. She is witness to the now-historic events of the century: the Great Migration north, the rise of the civil rights movement, preceded and precipitated by the racist society of America, and the often violent confrontations that brought about change. Rich, compelling storytelling is Ms. Taylor's hallmark, and she fulfills expectations as she brings to a close the stirring family story that has absorbed her for over forty years. It is a story she was born to tell.



***Lovely War* by Julie Berry**

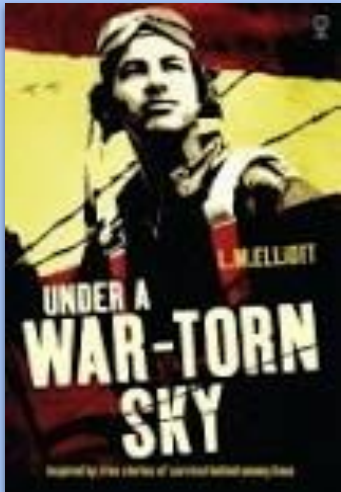
They are Hazel, James, Aubrey, and Colette. A classical pianist from London, a British would-be architect-turned-soldier, a Harlem-born ragtime genius in the U.S. Army, and a Belgian orphan with a gorgeous voice and a devastating past. Their story, as told by goddess Aphrodite, who must spin the tale or face judgment on Mount Olympus, is filled with hope and heartbreak, prejudice and passion, and reveals that, though War is a formidable force, it's no match for the transcendent power of Love. Hailed by critics, *Lovely War* has received seven starred reviews and is an indie bestseller. Author Julie Berry has been called “a modern master of historical fiction” by *Bookpage* and “a celestially inspired storyteller” by the *New York Times*, and *Lovely War* is truly her masterwork.



Girls Like Us by Randi Pink

Four teenage girls. Four different stories. What they all have in common is that they're dealing with unplanned pregnancies.

It's the summer of 1972, before Roe v. Wade. In rural Georgia, Izella is wise beyond her years, but burdened with the responsibility of her older sister, Ola, who has found out she's pregnant. Their young neighbor, Mississippi, is also pregnant, but doesn't fully understand the extent of her predicament. When her father sends her to Chicago to give birth, she meets the final narrator, Susan, who is white and the daughter of an anti-choice senator.

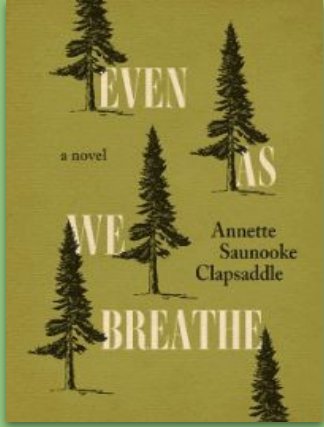


Under a War-Torn Sky by L.M. Elliott

Shot down on a mission, 19-year-old pilot Henry is alone in a treacherous land. Desperate to get back to his family and the girl he loves, he is forced to rely on the cunning of the French Resistance. But in his battle to survive the deadly journey across Nazi-occupied Europe, he must face a terrible choice: can he take a life to save his own?

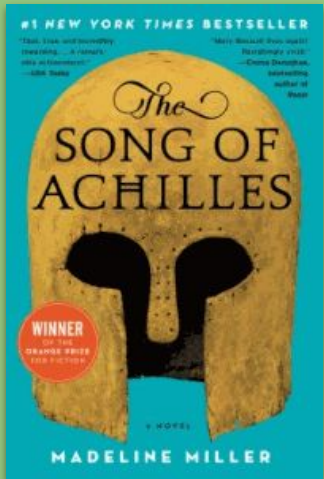
L. M. Elliott works as a senior writer for the Washingtonian magazine. *Under a War-Torn Sky* was inspired by her father's experiences in World War II, and his stories of the courage and self-sacrifice of the French Resistance.

Even as We Breathe by Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle



Nineteen-year-old Cowney Sequoyah yearns to escape his hometown of Cherokee, North Carolina, in the heart of the Smoky Mountains. When a summer job at Asheville's luxurious Grove Park Inn and Resort brings him one step closer to escaping the hills that both cradle and suffocate him, he sees it as an opportunity. With World War II raging in Europe, the inn is the temporary home of Axis diplomats and their families, who are being held as prisoners of war. Soon, Cowney's refuge becomes a cage when the daughter of one of the residents goes missing and he finds himself accused of abduction and murder.

The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller

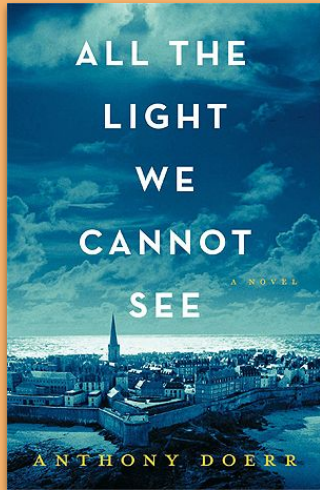


A tale of gods, kings, immortal fame, and the human heart, *The Song of Achilles* is a dazzling literary feat that brilliantly reimagines Homer's enduring masterwork, *The Iliad*. An action-packed adventure, an epic love story, a marvelously conceived and executed page-turner, Miller's monumental debut novel has already earned resounding acclaim from some of contemporary fiction's brightest lights—and fans of Mary Renault, Bernard Cornwell, Steven Pressfield, and Colleen McCullough's *Masters of Rome* series will delight in this unforgettable journey back to ancient Greece in the Age of Heroes.



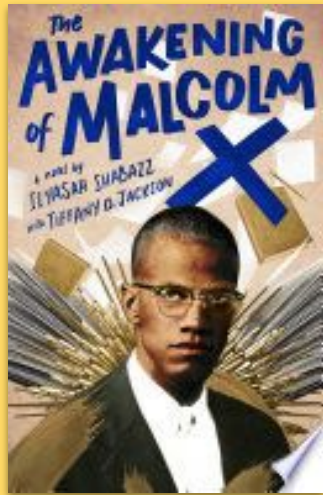
We All Fall Down by Eric Walters

Today is September 10, 2001, and Will, a grade nine student, is spending the day at his father's workplace tomorrow. As part of a school assignment, all the students in his class will be going with their parents tomorrow, but Will isn't excited about it – he'd rather sleep in and do nothing with his friends. His father doesn't even have an exciting job like his best friend James's father, who is a fireman. Will's dad works for an international trading company and has to wake up early every morning to commute to his office on the 85th floor in the south building of the World Trade Center in Manhattan. Will doesn't see his father very often because of the hours he puts in at the office. He doubts that his dad will bother making time for him tomorrow even when they are supposed to be spending the day together.



All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

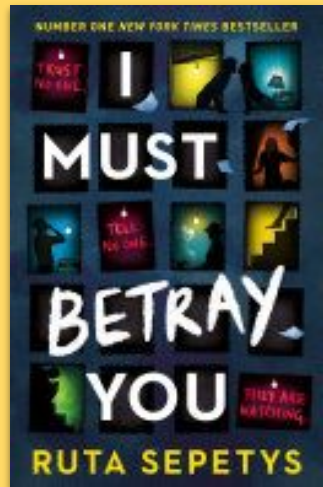
Anthony Doerr's *All the Light We Cannot See* tells the story of two teenagers during World War II (WWII), one a blind girl in Nazi-occupied France, the other a German orphan boy pressed into service by the Nazi army.. Marie-Laure LeBlanc is blind, and lives with her father in France. Werner Pfennig lives in a coal mining town in Germany. As war draws near, Marie-Laure and her father move to the French coast to try to avoid the war while Werner is pressed into service in the German army. Both of the main characters learn to accept and cope with war in their own unique ways. They come of age through the war, and learn to navigate their war-torn world.



***The Awakening of Malcolm X* by Ilyasah Shabazz**

No one can be at peace until he has his freedom.

In Charlestown Prison, Malcolm Little struggles with the weight of his past. Plagued by nightmares, Malcolm drifts through days, unsure of his future. Slowly, he befriends other prisoners and writes to his family. He reads all the books in the prison library, joins the debate team and the Nation of Islam. Malcolm grapples with race, politics, religion, and justice in the 1940s. And as his time in jail comes to an end, he begins to awaken -- emerging from prison more than just Malcolm Little: Now, he is Malcolm X. Here is an intimate look at Malcolm X's young adult years. While this book chronologically follows *X: A Novel*, it can be read as a stand-alone historical novel that invites larger discussions on black power, prison reform, and civil rights. *The Awakening of Malcolm X* is a powerful narrative account of the activist's adolescent years in jail, written by his daughter Ilyasah Shabazz along with 2019 Coretta Scott King-John Steptoe award-winning author, Tiffany D. Jackson.



***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**

Cristian has lived his entire life in the grip of a repressive dictatorship. The country is governed by fear. When the secret police blackmail him, Cristian has an impossible choice. Save the life of his sick grandfather by informing on his family, or risk his life - and all of theirs - by resisting? At 17, Cristian dreams of being free but doesn't know where to turn. In this climate of constant suspicion, can he trust his best friend, his girlfriend or even his family? Closely based on the real events of the Romanian Revolution of 1989, this is a powerful, heart-breaking thriller from the author of *Salt to the Sea*, winner of the Carnegie Medal.