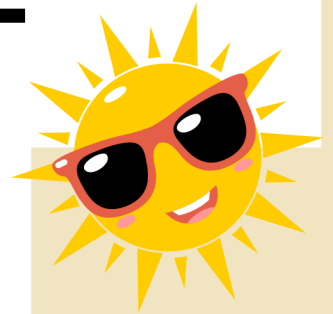




PINES COLLEGIATE ACADEMY 6-12 SUMMER READING



GET A HEAD START!

Students are invited to participate in our **Summer Reading and Response activity!** Students can choose one of the award-winning novels listed and complete an activity after reading it.

When students return in August, they will submit their assignment for extra credit in quarter 1 of their Language Arts class!

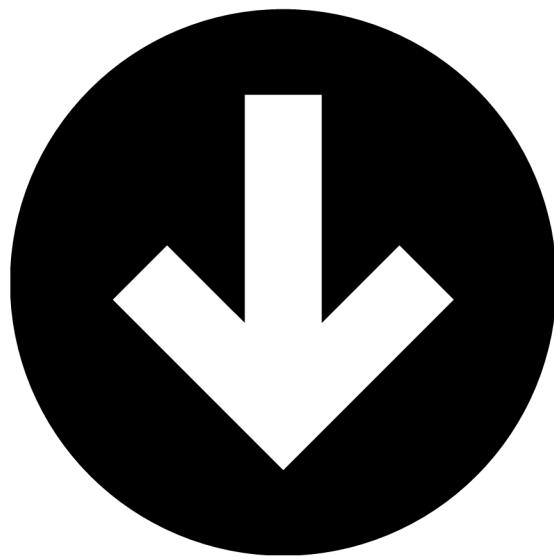
View the activity choices and novel lists below.

Happy Reading!

*For questions please contact:
nicole.beneby@browardschools.com*



Summer Reading & Response Activity Choices



Pines Collegiate Academy 6-12-Summer Reading & Response Activity Choices

Directions: Choose ONE activity that best fits your learning style, then complete it for the novel that you read. The assignment will be due to your Language Arts teacher by August 31, 2026.

*****Students, be sure to get permission from your parents before completing this Summer Reading & Response Activity.**

Graphic	Kinesthetic	Verbal	Technological	Visual	Written
Complete a Plot Diagram	Create a Puzzle Board	Decisions, Decisions	Novel Prezi Presentation	Novel postcards	In the News
The Top 10	Character Creation	Listen Up	Book Trailer	Draw the Highlights	Create a New Ending
Create a 3W's Chart	Dice Scenes	Novel discussion Questions	Kahoot Game	Main Idea Tree	Question the author

Graphic-

1. Complete a Plot Diagram-Complete a Plot diagram for your novel by identifying the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution of the novel. Please have at least 4 sentences for each element.
2. The Top 10- Create a list of the top 10 things you enjoyed about your novel. What were your favorite parts?
3. Create a 3 W's chart- The first W is- "What do I already know about this book." The second W is- "What do I want to know about this book." The third W is- "What have I learned from reading this book." Be sure you have at least a 4-5 sentence paragraph for each W.

Kinesthetic-

1. Create a Puzzle Board-Create a puzzle board that has pictures and a discussion of the story in the form of puzzle pieces. Draw the puzzle pieces on paper or construction paper.
2. Character Creation-Decorate an old coffee can or similar small container with pictures, events, and writings about a character in your novel.
3. Dice Scenes- Using oversized dice, draw scenes on each side that illustrates an important event in your novel.

Verbal-

1. Decisions, Decisions- Create a list of important decisions that were made by different characters in your novel. Then explain the effects those decisions had on the rest of the story (1 page).
2. Listen Up-Persuade other students to read your book by writing a radio advertisement about the book (2-3 paragraphs).
3. Novel Discussion Questions-Create a list of 10 questions that you can use for a novel discussion. Be sure to add at least 3 short response questions.

Technological-

1. Novel Prezi Presentation- Go to prezi.com and create a Prezi presentation of your novel. Discuss the characters in your book, add pictures, and give an *original* summary of it.
2. Book Trailer-Similar to a movie trailer, create/record a one-two minute video to tell students about your novel.
3. Kahoot Game- Go to <https://getkahoot.com> and create an *original* Kahoot game for your novel. It must have at least 10 questions and answers.

Visual-

1. Novel Postcards-Imagine that you are one of the main characters in your novel, then create 5 postcards that you could send to friends. You must stay in character as you create these postcards.
2. Draw the highlights-Think about the best, most exciting events of your novel then draw them on paper in the order in which it appeared in your novel (minimum of 4-5 events).
3. Main Idea Tree- Create a Main Idea Tree. The trunk of the tree will tell the main idea of the novel and the branches will be the supporting details. Be sure to have at least 8 supporting detail branches.

Written-

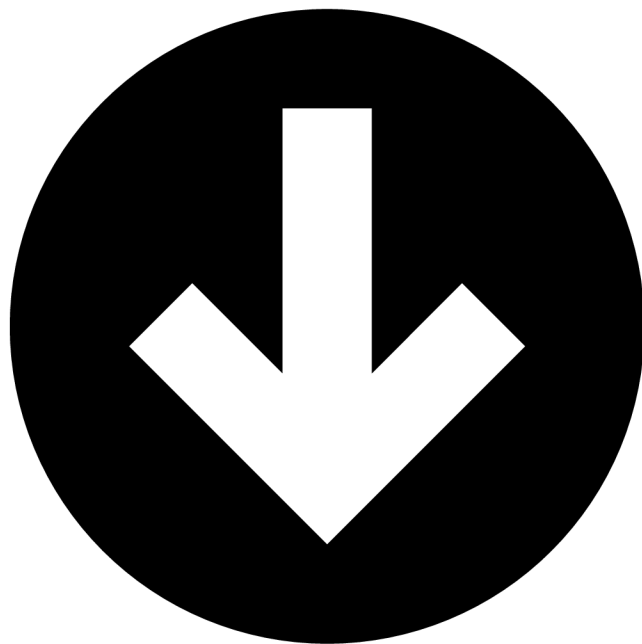
1. In the News- Write a news report that could be read in the local newspaper or heard on the evening news. The news report should tell the main events of your novel (3-4 paragraphs).
2. Create a New Ending- Imagine that you are the author of the novel. Now, write a new ending for your novel. It Must be at least 3-4 paragraphs.
3. Question the Author-Write a letter to the author of the book, asking various questions about the novel and about why the author chose to write it. Must be at least 3-4 paragraphs.

Grades

6-8

Book

List



Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books 2026 - 2027 List for Grades 6 - 8



Bye Forever, I Guess by Jodi Meadows

Ingrid's been living a double life. At school, she's her popular friend Rachel's charity case. Online, things are different: she crushes it in her favorite MMORPG and runs a popular social media account. But when Ingrid finally stands up to Rachel, it suddenly feels like she has no life at all. Until she gets a wrong-number text from a mystery boy at her school, and everything starts to go right. Playing online with him makes her feel like she's really connecting with someone. But when she begins to suspect that the mystery boy may be a popular classmate who is WAY above her in the cool-kid food chain—and whose original text was actually intended for Rachel—she faces a difficult choice. Can they be friends IRL?



Dog Trouble by Kristin Varner

Ash is a good kid at heart. But his grades are slipping, and when he gets caught vandalizing an old building, it's the last straw. It's decided: Ash will spend some time away from the city, at his dad's place on Ferncliff Island. That's bad enough, but his parents are also making him do community service at the local animal shelter! Ash isn't a dog person, but as he bonds with the pups at the shelter, especially Cooper, a clever, fun-loving pointer that gives sloppy kisses—he starts to see that maybe his time on Ferncliff Island isn't a total loss.



I.R.L. by Jenny Goebel

Not every kid would be thrilled to move to rural Alaska, but sixth grader Lucy is eager to leave her bullies behind and start over. However, it turns out that Lucy's new school does remote learning from October to April, when the roads become too icy to navigate safely. Being the new kid is hard enough -- how is she going to make friends when she can't meet anyone in person? Luckily, the sixth grade class is tiny (just thirteen students) and they're all super nice and really welcoming. As the ice starts to thaw, Lucy grows excited about finally meeting her new friends in person. But when she arrives at her new school, Lucy doesn't know what to believe. Are her new "friends" pulling an elaborate prank? Or is truth far, far more horrifying?



The Last Dragon on Mars by Scott Reintgen

Keep your eyes down and your feet moving, or this planet will rust you. That's what Lunar Jones tells the other kids at the relocation clinic. All of them were born on Mars, a planet that never wanted people in the first place. With resources scarce and hope even scarcer, it's easy to get distracted looking up. After all, their ancestors descended from the stars. Lunar knows all the old stories about dragons and space, but no one up there's planning to help him or his crew. Instead, he focuses on scrapping valuable gear that the storms uncover in the war zone. Until one day, a salvaging run goes wrong. Desperate to find shelter, Lunar goes underground in a restricted zone. What he finds there, buried in the Martian dust, might just be the only hope left for a dying planet.



The Legend of the Last Library by Frank L. Cole

After a devastating Blight killed off all the trees, paper is worth more than just about anything. Juni's parents died when she was young, so now it's just her and Grandpa Edgar. When she's not in school, Juni and her friends Doler and Quaze turn to plifting—scavenging for any paper they can find. If Juni can find enough paper, she can pay for the health care Grandpa needs. So when Juni discovers a book—the first one she's ever seen—hidden in a box in her grandpa's closet, she's both surprised and elated thinking of the money she could get for it. That all changes when she decides to read the book. Beyond opening her imagination, the book contains clues that point to what could be the last library on Earth. If reading one book could change Juni's life, what would access to thousands—or millions—of books do?



The Myth of Monsters: Medusa by Katherine Marsh

Ava Baldwin has always tried to keep her anger in check, just like her mom taught her. But when know-it-all classmate Owen King tries to speak over her yet again, Ava explodes . . . and Owen freezes, becoming totally unresponsive. Although Owen recovers, Ava's parents whisk her off to her mother's alma mater, the Accademia del Forte, a mysterious magical boarding school in Venice, Italy. But not everything at the Accademia is as it seems. After her friend Fia is almost expelled for challenging a teacher, Ava realizes the school is hiding a dangerous secret. To uncover the truth, Ava and her new friends embark on an adventure that could change the way they view history, ancient mythology—and themselves—forever...or end their lives.



The No Brainer's Guide to Decomposition by Adrianna Cuevas

Bodies buried in her backyard doesn't exactly make Frani Gonzalez the most popular kid in school, and the imaginary spider that lives in a web in her brain isn't helping either. Arañita's always to blame for the distracted thoughts weaving through Frani's mind. But when a hand reaches out of the ground and grabs her ankle, Frani realizes that she's got bigger problems. Not everything is as it seems at the body farm, and now Frani must help the zombie that crawled out of the dirt...before he gets too hungry. But as more and more zombies begin to appear—and they seem to get less and less friendly—can Frani embrace the true nature of her brain and count on new friendships to solve the body farm's mystery before it's overrun with the undead?

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Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books 2026 - 2027 List for Grades 6 - 8, Page 2



On Thin Ice by Jessica Kim

Twelve-year-old fraternal twins Phoebe and Dexter Bae are polar opposites in every way except for their love of the ice. Phoebe is hyper focused on pairs figure skating, and Dex loves his hockey team. But when Phoebe's partner injures his knee just two months before competitions, and Dex gets cut from his team in favor of a new hotshot goalie from Canada, they're both left spinning. With their skating dreams dashed, their mother suggests that Dex fill in as Phoebe's doubles partner. It's a hard sell—the twins haven't been close since their father passed away two years ago. Can these siblings skate past their differences toward victory?



Plain Jane and the Mermaid by Vera Brosgol

Jane is incredibly plain. Everyone says so: her parents, the villagers, and her horrible cousin who kicks her out of her own house. Determined to get some semblance of independence, Jane prepares to propose to the princely Peter. It's a good plan! Or it would've been, if he wasn't kidnapped by a mermaid. Jane must venture underwater to rescue her maybe-fiancé. But the depths of the ocean hold beautiful mysteries and dangerous creatures. What good can a plain Jane do?



Secrets of the Broken House by Taryn Souders

In the small, southern town of Everson, goats can run for mayor, the mail is always late, and nothing all that bad ever happens. That is, until thirteen-year-old Tucker finds Miss Geraldine dead at the bottom of her stairs. At first glance, it looks like an accident. But Tucker has always had a knack for noticing details that others overlook, and the details surrounding Miss Geraldine's death just aren't adding up. Miss Geraldine was miserable and mean. Miss Geraldine was murdered. The whole town seems to have reason to want her dead, which makes Tucker's search for the truth nearly impossible. Anyone could be the killer, and in a small town that loves to gossip, if Tucker isn't careful, he could be the next one to have an "accident".



The Tenth Mistake of Hank Hooperman by Jennifer Choldenko

When eleven-year-old Hank's mom doesn't come home, he takes care of his toddler sister, Boo, like he always does. But it's been a week now. They are out of food and mom has never stayed away this long... Hank knows he needs help, so he and Boo seek out the stranger listed as their emergency contact. But asking for help has consequences. It means social workers, and a new school, and having to answer questions about his mom that he's been trying to keep secret. And if they can't find his mom soon, Hank and Boo may end up in different foster homes—he could lose everything.



The Trouble with Heroes by Kate Messner

Finn Connelly is nothing like his dad, a star athlete and firefighter hero who always ran toward danger until he died two years ago. Finn is about to fail seventh grade and has never made headlines . . . until now. Caught on camera vandalizing a cemetery, he's in big trouble for knocking down some dead old lady's headstone. Turns out that grave belongs to a legendary local mountain climber, and her daughter makes Finn an unusual offer: she'll drop all the charges if he agrees to climb all forty-six Adirondack High Peaks in a single summer. And there's just one more thing—he has to bring along the dead woman's dog.



Valor Wings by Sam Sefton

May 10, 1940: Everyone in Iris's small English village avoids the dragon in the woods. Everyone, that is, except for Iris. When Galahad the dragon is accused of stealing military rations, Iris strikes a bargain that will spare Galahad's life... but send him off to the war brewing in Europe. Soon after, she receives news that her brother is among the troops trapped in France by the advancing German troops. Refusing to give up hope, Iris devises a desperate plan that will either save both her brother and her best friend—or end in disaster. Meanwhile, in Belgium, Max's school day is abruptly interrupted by some terrifying news: The Germans have invaded his country. Across hundreds of miles, the stories of Iris and Max steadily converge toward an explosive conclusion that will change them both forever.



Very Bad at Math by Hope Larson

Verity "Very" Nelson can do it all. She's student body president, debate club whiz, and first chair clarinetist. You could say she's pretty much the best at everything...Well, almost everything. Everything except math. And it's not like she doesn't try. Math just doesn't make sense in her brain. But it better start soon, or else she can kiss her presidency—and her campaign promises—goodbye. Soon Verity finds herself enrolled in a remedial math class where, despite her best efforts, failure persists. All seems lost until a teacher helps her discover the truth: Verity has dyscalculia, a learning disability that causes her to mix up numbers. Armed with a new diagnosis and improved grades, Verity is confident her math struggles will remain secret. But when a gossip podcaster dismantles her perfect image, Verity must choose: remain part of a broken system or fight to fix it.

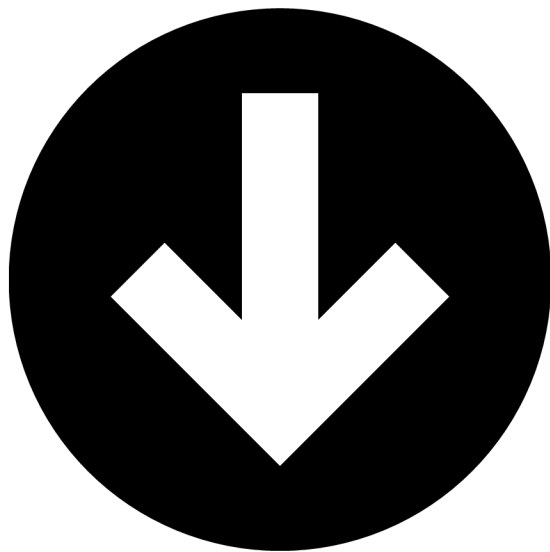


Will's Race for Home by Jewell Parker Rhodes

It's 1889, barely twenty-five years after the Emancipation Proclamation, and a young Black family is tired of working on land they don't get to own. So when Will and his father hear about an upcoming land rush, they set out on a journey from Texas to Oklahoma, racing thousands of others to the place where land is free—if they can get to it fast enough. But the journey isn't easy—the terrain is rough, the bandits are brutal, and every interaction carries a heavy undercurrent of danger. And then there's the stranger they encounter and befriend: a mysterious soldier named Caesar, whose Union emblem brings more attention—and more trouble—than any of them need. All three are propelled by the promise of something long denied to them: freedom, land ownership, and a place to call home—but is a strong will enough to get them there?

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High School Book List



Florida Teens Read (FTR)

26-27 List

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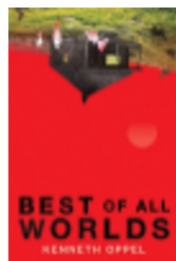
Davis, DeAndra. *All the Noise at Once*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2025.

Aiden has always wanted to play football like his star-quarterback brother, Brandon. After a sensory meltdown costs him a spot during summer tryouts, he finally gets a second chance when an opening appears—but not everyone on the team is happy about it. The team doesn't know how Aiden will handle the pressure while managing his Autism. Rising tension leads to a fight, police involvement, and Brandon stepping in to defend Aiden. Brandon is arrested and wrongly charged with assaulting an officer, after being racially profiled. As his future unravels and the brothers' bond is strained, Aiden becomes determined to uncover what really happened that night. Can he find the truth in time to clear Brandon's name?



Parker, Natalie C. *The Assassin's Guide to Babysitting*. Candlewick, 2025.

Tru isn't your ordinary babysitter. In fact, she's anything but ordinary. Born into a family of assassins, with the dangerous and rare bastion Talent of indestructibility, and later adopted by a reclusive assassin friend of her parents. Tru spends her days balancing high school classes with knife and stealth training, all the while trying to hide both her Talent and her identity. When a babysitting job is interrupted by an assassination attempt, Tru has to flee with a one-year-old and a multitude of questions. Who killed her parents? Can she trust anyone? Is it ever okay to kiss a girl who's trying to kill you? This action-packed mystery/thriller will keep readers in suspense until the very end.



Oppel, Kenneth, *Best of All Worlds*. Scholastic Press, 2025.

Xavier is dreading spending time with his dad and his pregnant step-mom at their remote cabin away from his friends. As if this isn't bad enough, things take a mysterious turn when he wakes up to find the cabin, its contents, and inhabitants have all been transported overnight to a confined environment, a dome, with no other humans to be found. Xavier and his family learn to survive with limited help from a mysterious source. But the questions keep coming when, years later, another family suddenly appears, and they may not be friendly. *Best of All Worlds* is a fast paced sci-fi adventure that will keep you guessing until the very end.



Martel, Jay. *Codebreaker*. St. Martin's Publishing Group, 2025.

Mia Hayes expects a normal summer filled with a part-time job and college applications, but everything changes when federal agents break into her home, leaving her mother dead and her father on the run. Suddenly thrust into a dangerous mystery, Mia must solve the clues her father left behind with the help of Logan, a brilliant and charming hacker she meets along the way. Tracked by federal agents, Mia follows the cryptic codes and tries to uncover the truth about her family. Packed with nonstop action, mystery, and a bit of romance, *Codebreaker* keeps readers on edge, inviting them to crack the codes alongside Mia.



Ryan La Sala, *Dead of Summer*. Scholastic, 2025.

Anchor's Mercy, located off the coast of Maine, is the perfect vacation destination, with its small town vibes and adorable shops. But, hidden under the surface is something darker. In the 60's there was a chemical spill and now many of the town residents have gotten cancer and/or died. Ollie, our main character, has had to face this reality when his mom got sick. They spend a year on the mainland while his mother gets treatment and during that time he stopped talking to his friends. Now they've returned and just in time for everything to go horribly wrong...

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26-27 List

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Boyce, Kristy. *Dungeons and Drama*. Delacorte Press, 2024.

Sometimes the musical is so good you have to take the opportunity to go, even if it means sneaking out and driving without a license. But this leads to Riley getting grounded and having to work at her father's game store. Despite her new job and being banned from anything to do with theater, she still somehow finds a way to fight to keep her school's Spring Musical from being canceled. Part of her scheme includes sweet talking her cute co-worker into taking some of her shifts. Will her plans backfire, though, when she finds out she actually enjoys learning to play Dungeons & Dragons and fake dating Nathan?



Dennard, Susan. *The Executioners Three*. Tor Teen, 2025.

Freddie Gellar didn't mean to get half the rival high school arrested, or become the prank war hero, but because of a phone call to the cops about a scream from the woods, she manages to do both. Then the next day, a body is found. And while the local sheriff is not convinced of foul play, Freddie's instincts tell her otherwise. So, like the aspiring sleuth (and true X-Files aficionado) she is, Freddie sets out to prove there's a murderer at large.



Wilson, Misty. *Falling Like Leaves*. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2024.

Ellis has a lot of expectations for her senior year, but moving from Manhattan to Bramble Falls, Connecticut is not one of them. Yet in the wake of her parents' separation, that's exactly where she and her mother are headed. Ellis finds herself charmed by their quaint small town Falling Leaves Festival, a month-long tourist attraction run by Ellis's aunt—celebrating everything autumn. But it's also full of distractions like local barista Cooper Barnett, Ellis's one-time best friend—and first kiss—who has not only majorly glowed up but wants nothing to do with Ellis.



Goodwin, Idris. *King of the Neuro Verse*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2025. King of the Neuro Verse is a lyrical novel-in-verse that drops you into the mind of Purnell, a creative and witty black teen with ADHD. The story flows like a freestyle battle, capturing Purnell's every racing thought, his doubts, and bursts of brilliance. Purnell has one goal: to become the Cypher King, the ultimate champion of a local freestyle competition. While other people see his ADHD as a weakness, Purnell knows it's his secret weapon. His quick thinking, wild wordplay, and nonstop imagination give him an edge above the competition. And if he's lucky, maybe Purnell will fall in love for the first time.



Williamson, S.F. *A Language of Dragons*. HarperCollins, 2025.

In 1923 London, translation is the ultimate weapon. After her parents are arrested and her sister vanishes, linguistic prodigy Vivien Featherswallow is enlisted into a secret world at Bletchley Park. To buy her family's freedom, she must decipher the forbidden language of dragons before a ticking clock runs out. Viv has to decide who's the enemy in this historical fantasy with a slow-burn romance. The government or the resistance? Caught in a high-stakes web of government lies, Viv realizes the code she's breaking might be the spark that burns the empire down.

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Cobell, K.A. *Looking for Smoke*. Heartdrum, 2024.

During a Powow on the Blackfeet Reservation a girl is murdered. No one knows who did it and the last people to see her were a group involved in the traditional Blackfeet Giveaway. Coincidentally, during the Giveaway, they were honoring another missing girl from the Reservation. Now the group of teens, some friends and some not, are persons of interest in the investigation. It will be up to them to clear their names and figure out who is targeting girls from the Reservation.



Luen Yang, Gene, Illus. Leuyen, Pham. *Lunar New Year Love Story*. First Second, 2024.

Valentina Tran was named after Valentine's Day, which used to be her favorite holiday. But after a truth about her parents is revealed, and the spirit of Saint Valentine tells her she and her family are cursed to always be unlucky in love, she realizes true love is a lie. Meanwhile, lion dancing is the only thing that has given Jae peace after his dad passed away. For some inexplicable reason, Jae hands Val a paper heart at a Lunar New Year festival. Though Val and Jae struggle with the spirits who haunt them they are inextricably brought together in a love story that is satisfying, sweet, and moving.



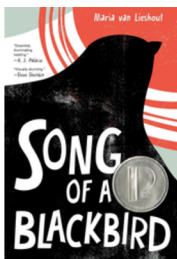
Tew, Jill. *An Ocean Apart*. Joy Revolution, 2025.

Climate disasters have left the poorest populations struggling in flooded cities while the wealthy live safely on ships at sea. Eden, an orphan stuck on the mainland, sneaks onto a yacht to participate in the dating competition for Theo, the heir to the powerful company controlling the world's water. Eden plans to trick him and steal the prize money for her community. But as she gets closer to Theo, Eden starts to question whether he's really the enemy she believed he was. Now she must choose between revenge and the truth - even if it risks her heart.



Reiss, Rachel. *Out of Air*. Wednesday Books, 2025.

Phoebe Ray only feels comfortable underwater. As an outsider, she finally meets a group of friends that share her passion for scuba diving in high school. One day, on a dive they find some gold coins and become known as famous treasure hunters on social media. After graduating, they take one last trip together to Australia and that is when the trouble truly begins; they discover a, lost, infamous cave. What is worse, is that after Phoebe and Gabe explore they begin to slowly, monstrously, transform. With treasure hunters following them, they must race against time to survive.



Van Lieshout, Maria. *Song of a Blackbird*. First Second, 2025.

In 1940s Denmark, Emma witnesses the terrible treatment of her Jewish neighbors under Nazi occupation. Moved by what she sees, she joins the Dutch Resistance. Emma uses her artistic skills to help forge documents and prints that save lives and support the resistance efforts. Through danger, fear, and loss, she learns how powerful art, community, and moral choice can be.

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