

# 8th Grade Summer Reading

@ OVMS

**ATTENTION PARENTS:** it's not too late to help your child become a better reader before the new school year begins. Summer is an important time for students to keep reading and improve their language skills. If your child hasn't been reading regularly this summer, they may be in danger of the "summer slide"—a decline in their reading ability.

Numerous studies indicate that students who don't read or read infrequently during their summer vacation see their reading abilities stagnate or decline. This effect becomes more pronounced as students get older and advance through the school system.

"It's like if you play an instrument but put it down for three months," said Laurie Calvert, a teacher who is working as the Director of Teacher Outreach at ED. She wrote an academic thesis on improving summer reading programs at her North Carolina high school. "You're not going to be as good as a person who continues to play the instrument over those three months."

This "summer slide" can be avoided by ensuring that children are as engaged as possible in whatever they choose to read—just as long as they're reading every day.

"Anything that keeps students reading works," Calvert said. "The more engaged you are in the text, the closer you're going to read it. The closer you read it, the more you comprehend. And that process grows your skill."

Source: <https://blog.ed.gov/2011/08/why-summer-reading-pays-off-year-round/>

**Read a series from this list, then complete one of the projects shown on the next page...  
Both your project and your signed Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment form are due  
to your Reading Teacher by Friday, August 23rd  
in order to qualify for your Reading Teacher's REWARD!**

**If you complete your project electronically, you can email/share your work with  
your Reading Teacher using the teacher's email address, found on the OVMS web site @  
[www.sbac.edu/oakview](http://www.sbac.edu/oakview) (click "Faculty & Staff").**

**THIS WORK IS VOLUNTARY, NOT REQUIRED, FOR OVMS NON-MAGNET PROGRAM STUDENTS.**

## PARENT/GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The series my child, \_\_\_\_\_, selected to read from the  
summer list was \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.  
student name series name author name

Please check if completed:

- My child has had at least one conversation with me about each of the books that he/she has read in the series, and I was able to get a good grasp of what each book was about.
- My child did her/his own work to complete at least one of the projects recommended in this packet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
parent/guardian name

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

Read a series from the list, complete one of the projects below, and get your parent/guardian's signature...

Both your project and your signed Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment form are due to your Reading Teacher by Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> in order to qualify for your Reading Teacher's REWARD!

If you complete your project electronically, you can email/share your work with your Reading Teacher using the teacher's email address that you can find on the OVMS web site @ [www.sbac.edu/oakview](http://www.sbac.edu/oakview) (click "Faculty & Staff").

**Comprehension Test!** – using notebook paper or Google Docs/MS Word or an online quiz generator  
Create a multiple choice test that contains at least 20 questions about the series.

1. Each question must have 4 possible choices.
2. Be careful not to use "All of the above" as a choice more than three times.
3. Be careful not to use "None of the above" as a choice more than three times.
4. Do *more* than just ask "who did what" and "what happened when" and "where did that happen" kinds of questions – *be sure to also ask at least three questions* about "why" things happened the way they did, too!

**Character Alphabet!** – using notebook paper or Google Docs/MS Word

Choose a character you liked from the series and then create sentences using a main word that begins with the next letter in the alphabet – your goal is to show your deep knowledge of the character. You will end up with a sentence for each letter of the alphabet (X and Z will work as long as your main word in the sentence contains that letter)  
For example, if your favorite character was the Giant from the tale of "Jack and the Beanstalk", your Character Alphabet might look like this:

A is for the ANGER the giant felt when he realized Jack had stolen his harp and hen.

B is for the BREAD that the giant wanted to make using Jack's bones.

C is for the CHOPPING of the vine that caused the giant to fall to his death.

... and so on until you get to Z! (And remember, most characters have something EXTRA or CRAZY going on at some point in their story....)

**Infographic!** – using posterboard-sized paper or an online app/site (just Google search the phrase "infographic creator", there are several very good free sites that can be used) or Google Slides/MS PowerPoint

1. Make sure the title of the series is strongly featured.
2. Use words, phrases, and sentences that illustrate or tell about important  
(A) Settings, (B) Characters, and (C) Events in the series.
3. Use images (drawn or collected from the internet, magazines, etc.) to help illustrate what you are describing in #2.
4. Work to create at least 12 such words, phrases, or sentences for #2 so that the whole posterboard paper or computer graphic will be covered.
5. The viewer of your Infographic should be able to get a good feel for the main characters, places, and events in the series.

**Cartoon It! (aka "Storyboard It!")** – using paper or MS PowerPoint/Google Slides

Think of the plot for the series and create at least one panel (8.5"x11" piece of paper, PPT slide, etc.) to illustrate *each* of those important moments. You should use both images (drawn or collected from the internet, magazines, etc.) as well as words (both descriptions as well as "speech bubbles").

Remember plot structure?

*Exposition* (Introduces the Setting [where and when] and Main Characters [protagonist, antagonist])

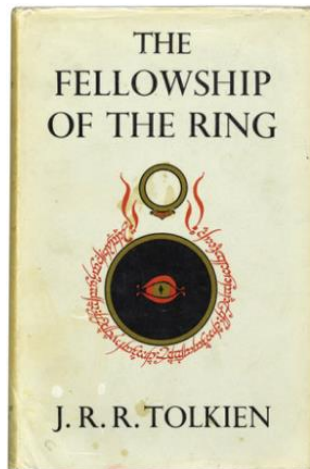
*Conflict* (What is the problem that the protagonist(s) are faced with having to overcome?)

*Rising Action* (What events lead up to the "big moment" in the story?) – this will require several pieces of paper or slides because in a series there are *a lot* of different events that lead up to that ultimate "big moment".

*Climax* (The "big moment" in the story, where the main problem is either solved or it isn't.)

*Falling Action* (What events happen as a direct result of the Climax?)

*Resolution* (How is the story ended, how have the main characters changed, what are they doing?)



GENRE: FANTASY

*The Lord of the Rings* series by J.R.R. Tolkien

3 Books (Book 1: *The Fellowship of the Ring*)

*One Ring to Rule Them All.*

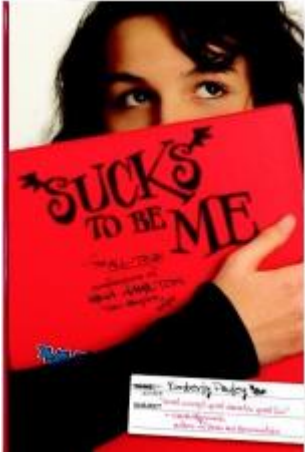
*One Ring to Find Them.*

*One Ring to Bring Them All*

*And in the Darkness, Bind Them.*

In ancient times the Rings of Power were crafted by the Elven-smiths; then Sauron, The Dark Lord, forged the One Ring, filling it with his own power so that he could rule all others. But the One Ring was taken from him, and though he sought it throughout Middle-earth, it remained lost to him. After many ages it fell into the hands of Bilbo Baggins, as told in *The Hobbit* (recommended reading prior to *The Lord of the Rings*).

In a sleepy village in the Shire, young Frodo Baggins finds himself faced with an immense task, as his elderly cousin Bilbo entrusts the Ring to his care. Frodo must leave his home and make a perilous journey across Middle-Earth to the Cracks of Doom, there to destroy the Ring and foil the Dark Lord in his evil purpose.



GENRE: FANTASY

*Sucks to Be Me* series by Kimberly Pauley

2 Books (Book 1: *Sucks to Be Me: The All-True Confessions of Mina Hamilton, Teen Vampire (maybe)*)

*My parents are freaks. Sure, every teenager says that. But I know for a fact mine are bloodsucking vampire freaks.*

Mina Hamilton's parents want her dead. (Or undead to be precise.) They're vampires, and like it or not, Mina must decide whether to become a vampire herself. But Mina's more interested in hanging out with best friend Serena and trying to catch the eye of the too-hot-for-high-school Nathan Able than in the vampire training classes she's being forced to take.

How's a girl supposed to find the perfect prom date and pass third-year French when her mom and dad are breathing down her neck--literally?



GENRE: FANTASY

*Hush, Hush* series by Becca Fitzpatrick

4 Books (Book 1: *Hush, Hush*)

*A Sacred Oath.*

*A Fallen Angel.*

*A Forbidden Love.*

Romance was not part of Nora Grey's plan. She's never been particularly attracted to the boys at her school, no matter how hard her best friend, Vee, pushes them at her. Not until Patch comes along. With his easy smile and eyes that seem to see inside her, Patch draws Nora to him against her better judgment.

But after a series of terrifying encounters, Nora's not sure whom to trust. Patch seems to be everywhere she is and seems to know more about her than her closest friends. She can't decide whether she should fall into his arms or run and hide. And when she tries to seek some answers, she finds herself near a truth that is way more unsettling than anything Patch makes her feel.

For she is right in the middle of an ancient battle between the immortal and those that have fallen - and, when it comes to choosing sides, the wrong choice will cost Nora her life.



GENRE: FANTASY

*If I Stay* series by Gayle Forman

2 Books (Book 1: *If I Stay*)

*Just listen, Adam says with a voice that sounds like shrapnel.*

*I open my eyes wide now.*

*I site up as much as I can.*

*And I listen.*

*Stay, he says.*

Choices. Seventeen-year-old Mia is faced with some tough ones: Stay true to her first love—music—even if it means losing her boyfriend and leaving her family and friends behind?

Then one February morning Mia goes for a drive with her family, and in an instant, everything changes. Suddenly, all the choices are gone, except one. And it's the only one that matters.



GENRE: FANTASY

*Pivot Point* by Kasie West

2 Books (Book 1: *Pivot Point*)

*One girl. Two fates. One choice.*

Knowing the outcome doesn't always make a choice easier...

Addison Coleman's life is one big "What if?" As a Searcher, whenever Addie is faced with a choice, she can look into the future and see both outcomes. It's the ultimate insurance plan against disaster. Or so she thought. When Addie's parents ambush her with the news of their divorce, she has to pick who she wants to live with—her father, who is leaving the paranormal compound to live among the "Norms," or her mother, who is staying in the life Addie has always known. Addie loves her life just as it is, so her answer should be easy. One Search six weeks into the future proves it's not.

In one potential future, Addie is adjusting to life outside the Compound as the new girl in a Norm high school where she meets Trevor, a cute, sensitive artist who understands her. In the other path, Addie is being pursued by the hottest guy in school—but she never wanted to be a quarterback's girlfriend. When Addie's father is asked to consult on a murder in the Compound, she's unwittingly drawn into a dangerous game that threatens everything she holds dear. With love and loss in both lives, it all comes down to which reality she's willing to live through... and who she can't live without.



GENRE: STEAMPUNK

*Fever Crumb* series (prequel to the *Mortal Engines* series) by Philip Reeve

3 Books (Book 1: *Fever Crumb*)

*There's a secret lurking in Fever's past, a secret only she can uncover, a secret she cannot ignore.*

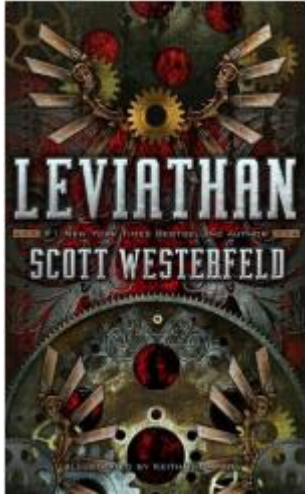
Fever Crumb is a girl who has been adopted and raised by Dr. Crumb, a member of the order of Engineers, where she serves as apprentice. In a time and place where women are not seen as reasonable creatures, Fever is an anomaly, the only female to serve in the order.

Soon though, she must say goodbye to Dr. Crumb - nearly the only person she's ever known - to assist archeologist Kit Solent on a top-secret project. As her work begins, Fever is plagued by memories that are not her own and Kit seems to have a particular interest in finding out what they are. Fever has also been singled out by city-dwellers who declare her part Scriven.

The Scriveners, not human, ruled the city some years ago but were hunted down and killed in a victorious uprising by the people. If there are any remaining Scriven, they are to be eliminated.

All Fever knows is what she's been told: that she is an orphan. Is Fever a Scriven? Whose memories does she hold? Is the mystery of Fever, adopted daughter of Dr. Crumb, the key to the secret that lies at the heart of London?





GENRE: STEAMPUNK

*Leviathan* by Scott Westerfeld

3 Books (Book 1: *Leviathan*)

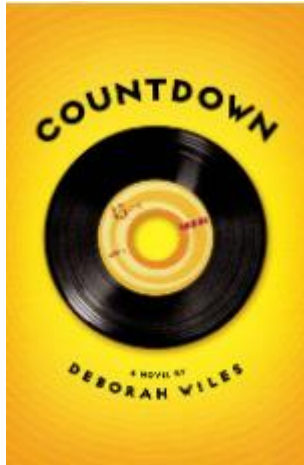
*Choose a side: Beastie or Clanker?*

Prince Aleksander, would-be heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, is on the run. His own people have turned on him. His title is worthless. All he has is a battle-torn war machine and a loyal crew of men.

Deryn Sharp is a commoner, disguised as a boy in the British Air Service. She's a brilliant airman. But her secret is in constant danger of being discovered.

With World War I brewing, Alek and Deryn's paths cross in the most unexpected way...taking them on a fantastical, around-the-world adventure that will change both their lives forever.

Thrown together aboard the mighty airship Leviathan, the two fight side-by-side. British fabricated beasts versus German steam-powered war machines. They are enemies with everything to lose, yet somehow destined to be together.



GENRE: HISTORICAL

*The Sixties Trilogy* by Deborah Wiles

3 Books (Book 1: *Countdown*)

*Franny Chapman just wants some peace.*

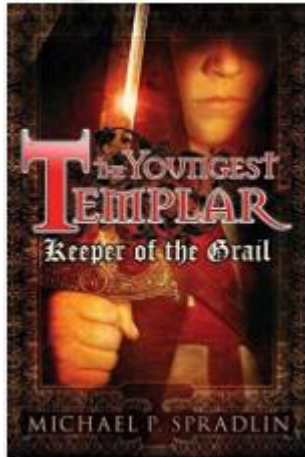
But that's hard to get when her best friend is feuding with her, her sister has disappeared, and her uncle is fighting an old war in his head. Her saintly younger brother is no help, and the cute boy across the street only complicates things.

Worst of all, everyone is walking around just waiting for a bomb to fall.

It's 1962, and it seems that the whole country is living in fear. When President Kennedy goes on television to say that Russia is sending nuclear missiles to Cuba, it only gets worse.

Franny doesn't know how to deal with what's going on in the world -- no more than she knows how to deal with what's going on with her family and friends.

But somehow she's got to make it through.



GENRE: HISTORICAL

*The Youngest Templar* by Michael P. Spradlin

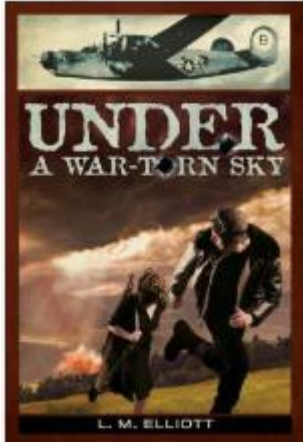
3 Books (Book 1: *Keeper of the Grail*)

*Even knights sworn to serve God will kill to get their hands on the Holy Grail!*

1191 A.D.

The orphan Tristan has joined the Knights Templar as a squire, journeying with Richard the Lionheart on his crusade to free the Holy Land from the Saracens. As defeat looms near, Tristan is entrusted with the most sacred of Christian relics, the Holy Grail. He must return it safely to Britain, but he must also keep it secret, because the Grail's power will drive men to madness, and even his fellow Knights Templar will kill for it.

Tristan teams up with the fiery Robard Hode, returning to his home in Sherwood after serving with the King's Archers, and Maryam, an equally fierce assassin. Together they must escape the Holy Land, dodging bandits, the forces of the Saladin, and unscrupulous knights who will stop at nothing to possess the Grail.



GENRE: HISTORICAL

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

3 Books (Book 1: *Under a War-Torn Sky*)

*The bomber was in a death dive...*

*Henry looked up through the shattered window and saw the green, leafy domes of treetops racing toward him. Closer, closer. There wasn't anything left to do but die.*

*He tried to scream.*

When Henry Forester is shot down during a bombing run over France, the World War II pilot finds himself trapped behind enemy lines.

In constant danger of discovery by German soldiers, Henry begins a remarkable journey to freedom. Relying on the kindness of strangers, Henry moves from town to town--traveling by moonlight, never asking questions, or even the names of the people who help him along the way.

Through his journey, Henry gains an understanding of the French and their struggle; and of his own place in a war that will change the face of Europe forever.



GENRE: DYSTOPIAN

*Jenna Fox Chronicles* by Mary E. Pearson

3 Books (Book 1: *The Adoration of Jenna Fox*)

*She wasn't supposed to survive the accident.*

*But she did.*

Who is Jenna Fox?

Seventeen-year-old Jenna has been told that is her name. She has just awoken from a coma, they tell her, and she is still recovering from a terrible accident in which she was involved a year ago. But what happened before that? Jenna doesn't remember her life.

Or does she? And are the memories really hers?

Set in a near future America, Jenna struggles to understand what has been done for her. To her. And just what, exactly, does it mean to be human any more?



GENRE: DYSTOPIAN

*The Selection* by Kiera Cass

5 Books (Book 1: *The Selection*)

*35 girls.*

*1 crown.*

*The competition of a lifetime.*

For thirty-five girls, the Selection is the chance of a lifetime. The opportunity to escape the life laid out for them since birth. To be swept up in a world of glittering gowns and priceless jewels. To live in a palace and compete for the heart of gorgeous Prince Maxon.

But for America Singer, being Selected is a nightmare. It means turning her back on her secret love with Aspen, who is a caste below her. Leaving her home to enter a fierce competition for a crown she doesn't want. Living in a palace that is constantly threatened by violent rebel attacks.

Then America meets Prince Maxon. Gradually, she starts to question all the plans she's made for herself—and realizes that the life she's always dreamed of may not compare to a future she never imagined.



GENRE: DYSTOPIAN

*The UnWind Dystology* by Neal Shusterman

4 Books (Book 1: *UnWind*)

*Connor, Risa, and Lev are running for their lives.*

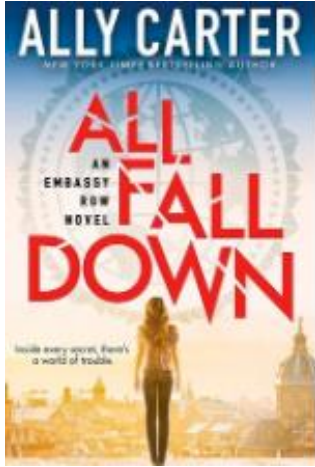
The Second Civil War was fought over reproductive rights. The chilling resolution: Life is protected and nurtured from the moment of conception until age thirteen.

Between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, however, parents and guardians can have their child "unwound," whereby all of the child's organs are transplanted into different people, so that – for the privileged – life doesn't technically have to end.

Connor is too difficult for his parents to control. Risa, a ward of the state, is not enough to be kept alive. And Lev is a tithe, a child conceived and raised to be unwound.

Together, they may have a chance to escape.

And to survive.



GENRE: ADVENTURE

*Embassy Row* by Ally Carter

3 Books (Book 1: *All Fall Down*)

*Grace Blakely is absolutely certain of three things:*

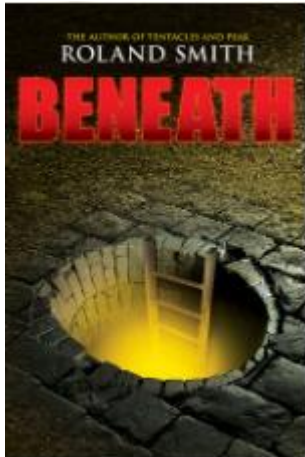
- 1. She is not crazy.*
- 2. Her mother was murdered.*
- 3. Someday she is going to find the killer and make him pay.*

As certain as Grace is about these facts, nobody else believes her -- so there's no one she can completely trust. Not her grandfather, a powerful ambassador. Not her new friends, who all live on Embassy Row. Not Alexei, the Russian boy next door, who is keeping his eye on Grace for reasons she neither likes nor understands.

Everybody wants Grace to put on a pretty dress and a pretty smile, blocking out all her unpretty thoughts. But they can't control Grace -- no more than Grace can control what she knows or what she needs to do.

Her past has come back to hunt her . . . and if she doesn't stop it, Grace isn't the only one who will get hurt. Because on Embassy Row, the countries of the world stand like dominoes, and one wrong move can make them all fall down.





GENRE: ADVENTURE

*Beneath* by Roland Smith

2 Books (Book 1: *Beneath*)

*It's up to Pat to find his brother -- and bring him home.*

What waits Beneath?

Pat O'Toole has always idolized his older brother, Coop. He's even helped Coop with some of his crazier plans -- such as risking his life to help his big brother dig a tunnel underneath their neighborhood in the suburbs of Washington, DC.

Coop is . . . different. He doesn't talk on the phone, doesn't use email, and doesn't have friends. He's never really cared for anything but the thrill of being underground and Pat. So it's no surprise to anyone -- even Pat -- that after a huge fight with their parents, Coop runs away.

Exactly one year later, Pat receives a package containing a digital voice recorder and a cryptic message from his brother. He follows the clues to New York City, and soon discovers that Coop has joined the Community, a self-sufficient society living beneath the streets.



GENRE: HORROR

*The Apprenticeship of Victor Frankenstein* by  
Kenneth Oppel

2 Books (Book 1: *This Dark Endeavor*)

*The purest intentions can stir up the darkest  
obsessions.*

Victor and Konrad are the twin brothers  
Frankenstein and inseparable – until Konrad falls  
gravely ill.

In the forbidden Dark Library, Victor finds an ancient  
formula, and seeks an alchemist to recreate the Elixir  
of Life. With friends Elizabeth and Henry, he scales  
highest trees in the Strumwald, dives deepest lake  
caves, and each sacrifices a body part.

Victor knows he must not fail. But his success  
depends on how far he is willing to push the  
boundaries of nature, science, and friendship – and  
how much he is willing to sacrifice.



GENRE: HORROR

*Ashes* by Ilsa J. Bick

3 Books (Book 1: *Ashes*)

*It could happen tomorrow.*

An electromagnetic pulse flashes across the sky, destroying every electronic device, wiping out every computerized system, and killing billions.

Alex hiked into the woods to say good-bye to her dead parents and her personal demons. Now desperate to find out what happened after the pulse crushes her to the ground, Alex meets up with Tom—a young soldier—and Ellie, a girl whose grandfather was killed by the EMP.

For this improvised family and the others who are spared, it's now a question of who can be trusted and who is no longer human.



GENRE: HORROR

*Razorland* by Anne Aguirre

3 Books (Book 1: *Enclave*)

*In Deuce's world, people earn the right to a name only if they survive their first fifteen years.*

New York City has been decimated by war and plague, and most of civilization has migrated to underground enclaves, where life expectancy is no more than the early 20's.

When Deuce turns 15, she takes on her role as a Huntress and is paired with Fade, a teenage Hunter who lived Topside as a young boy.

When she and Fade discover that the neighboring enclave has been decimated by the tunnel monsters --or Freaks--who seem to be growing more organized, the elders refuse to listen to warnings. And when Deuce and Fade are exiled from the enclave, the girl born in darkness must survive in daylight--guided by Fade's long-ago memories--in the ruins of a city whose population has dwindled to a few dangerous gangs.



GENRE: SCIENCE FICTION

*The Mortality Doctrine* by James Dashner

3 Books (Book 1: *The Eye of Minds*)

*The world is virtual.*

*The danger is real.*

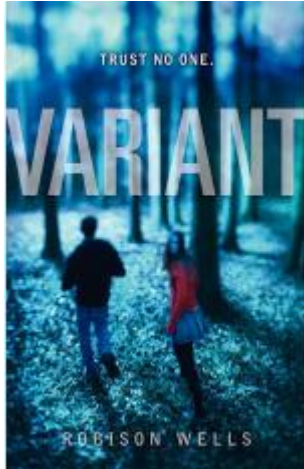
Michael is a gamer. And like most gamers, he almost spends more time on the addictive VirtNet than in the actual world. Thanks to technology, anyone with enough money can experience fantasy worlds, risk their life without the chance of death, or just hang around with Virt-friends. And the more hacking skills you have, the more fun.

Why bother following the rules when most of them are dumb, anyway?

But some rules were made for a reason. Some technology is too dangerous to fool with. And recent reports claim that one gamer is going beyond what any gamer has done before: he's holding players hostage inside the VirtNet. The effects are horrific—the hostages have all been declared brain-dead. Yet the gamer's motives are a mystery.

The government knows that to catch a hacker, you need a hacker.

And they've been watching Michael. They want him on their team.



GENRE: SCIENCE FICTION

*Variant* by Robison Wells

2 Books (Book 1: *Variant*)

*Trust no one.*

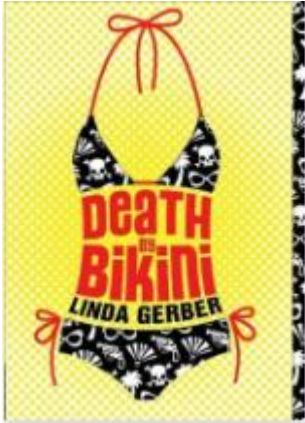
Benson Fisher thought that a scholarship to Maxfield Academy would be the ticket out of his dead-end life.

He was wrong.

Now he's trapped in a school that's surrounded by a razor-wire fence. A school where video cameras monitor his every move. Where there are no adults. Where the kids have split into groups in order to survive.

Where breaking the rules equals death.

But when Benson stumbles upon the school's real secret, he realizes that playing by the rules could spell a fate worse than death, and that escape—his only real hope for survival—may be impossible.



GENRE: MYSTERY / SUSPENSE

*Death By...* by Linda Gerber

3 Books (Book 1: *Death By Bikini*)

*What a killer coincidence!*

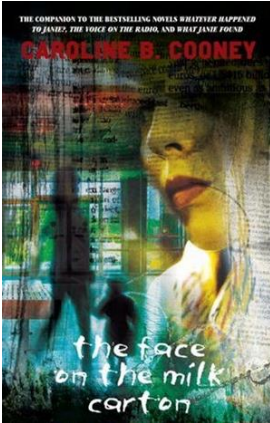
Aphra Behn Connolly has the type of life most teenage girls envy.

She lives on a remote tropical island and spends most of her time eavesdropping on the rich and famous. The problem is that her family's resort allows few opportunities for her to make friends, much less to meet cute boys.

So when a smoldering Seth Mulo arrives with his parents, she's immediately drawn to him. Sure, he's a little bit guarded, and sure his parents are rather cold, and okay he won't say a word about his past, but their chemistry is undeniable.

Then a famous rock star's girlfriend turns up dead on the beach, strangled by her own bikini top, and alarm bells sound. Is it too great a coincidence that Seth's family turned up just one day before a murder?

As the plot thickens, Aphra finds that danger lurks behind even the most unexpected of faces. . . .



GENRE: MYSTERY / SUSPENSE

*Janie Johnson* by Caroline B. Cooney

5 Books (Book 1: *The Face on the Milk Carton*)

*Janie can't believe that her loving parents might be kidnappers – that they might have abducted their own “daughter”...*

The face on the milk carton looks like an ordinary little girl: hair in tight pigtails, a dress with a narrow white collar, a three-year-old who was kidnapped more than twelve years ago from a shopping mall in New Jersey.

As fifteen-year-old Janie Johnson stares at the milk carton, she feels overcome with shock. She knows that little girl is she. But how could it be true?

Janie begins to piece together clues that don't make sense. Why are there no pictures of Janie before she was four? Her parents have always said they didn't have a camera. Now that explanation sounds feeble.

Something is terribly wrong, and Janie is afraid to find out what happened more than twelve years ago.





GENRE: MYSTERY / SUSPENSE

*The Compound* by S.A. Bodeen

2 Books (Book 1: *The Compound*)

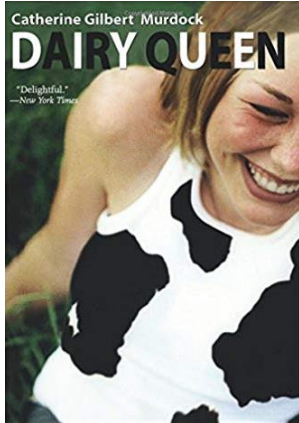
*They can't get out. He won't let them out.*

Eli and his family have lived in the underground Compound for six years. The world they knew is gone, and they've become accustomed to their new life. Accustomed, but not happy.

For Eli, no amount of luxury can stifle the dull routine of living in the same place, with only his two sisters, his father and mother, doing the same thing day after day after day.

As problems with their carefully planned existence threaten to destroy their sanctuary—and their sanity—Eli can't help but wonder if he'd rather take his chances outside.

Eli's father built the Compound to keep them safe. But are they safe—or sorry?



GENRE: SPORTS

*Dairy Queen* by Catherine Gilbert Murdock

3 Books (Book 1: *Dairy Queen*)

*When you don't talk, there's a lot of stuff that ends up not getting said.*

Harsh words indeed, from Brian Nelson of all people. But, D. J. can't help admitting, maybe he's right.

"When you don't talk, there's a lot of stuff that ends up not getting said."

Stuff like why her best friend, Amber, isn't so friendly anymore. Or why her little brother, Curtis, never opens his mouth. Why her mom has two jobs and a big secret. Why her college-football-star brothers won't even call home. Why her dad would go ballistic if she tried out for the high school football team herself.

And why Brian is so, so out of her league.

"When you don't talk, there's a lot of stuff that ends up not getting said."

*Welcome to the summer that fifteen-year-old D. J. Schwenk of Red Bend, Wisconsin, learns to talk, and ends up having an awful lot of stuff to say.*



GENRE: SPORTS

*Roller Girls* by Megan Sparks

4 Books (Book 1: *Falling Hard*)

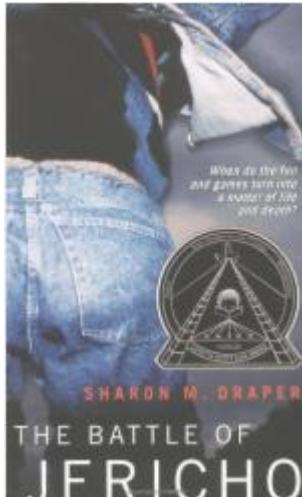
*It's hard to be the new girl – especially in a new country.*

Annie Turner leaves London for a fresh start in the small town of Liberty Heights, Illinois. But with her funny accent, British reserve, and the school's queen bee as an enemy, it doesn't look like Annie is ever going to fit in at Liberty Heights High School.

But at least she's getting to know Tyler, a cute, all-American sports star. And then there's Jesse, the friendly boy who works at the roller rink, who helps her to see a whole new world...

Annie discovers the fast and furious sport of roller derby and is hooked. She's got the speed, the talent, and the determination. But is Annie tough enough to become a roller girl?

And how amazing are those roller girls, anyway?!  
Could she really be like them some day?



GENRE: REALISTIC

*Jericho* by Sharon Draper

3 Books (Book 1: *The Battle of Jericho*)

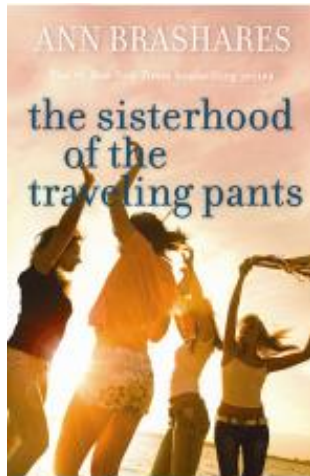
*Warriors Rock!*

*But how far is Jericho willing to go to become one?*

Sixteen-year-old Jericho is psyched when he and his cousin and best friend, Josh, are invited to pledge for the Warriors of Distinction, the oldest and most exclusive club in school. Just being a pledge wins him the attention of Arielle, one of the hottest girls in his class, whom he's been too shy even to talk to before now.

But as the secret initiation rites grow increasingly humiliating and force Jericho to make painful choices, he starts to question whether membership in the Warriors of Distinction is worth it. How far will he have to go to wear the cool black silk Warriors jacket? How high a price will he have to pay to belong?

The answers are devastating beyond Jericho's imagination.



GENRE: REALISTIC

*Sisterhood* by Ann Brashares

5 Books (Book 1: *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*)

*Once there was a pair of pants. Just an ordinary pair of jeans. But these pants, the Traveling Pants, went on to do great things. This is the story of the four friends who made it possible.*

Carmen got the jeans at a thrift shop. They didn't look all that great: they were worn, dirty, and speckled with bleach. On the night before she and her friends part for the summer, Carmen decides to toss them.

But Tibby says they're great. She'd love to have them. Lena and Bridget also think they're fabulous. Lena decides that they should all try them on. Whoever they fit best will get them.

Nobody knows why, but the pants fit everyone perfectly. Even Carmen (who never thinks she looks good in anything) thinks she looks good in the pants. Over a few bags of cheese puffs, they decide to form a sisterhood and take the vow of the Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants . . . the next morning, they say good-bye.

And then the journey of the pants — and the most memorable summer of their lives — begins.