



Great Summer Reads 2014

FICTION

All the Truth That's in Me, by Julie Berry. Judith is a pariah after her tongue is cut out. But when Roswell Station is attacked in the war, long-buried secrets come to light, and Judith is forced to choose: continue to live in silence, or recover her voice, even if it means changing her world, and the lives around her, forever.

Chomp, by Carl Hiaassen. The difficult star of the reality television show, "Expedition Survival," disappears on location in the Florida Everglades, where they were filming animals from the wildlife refuge run by Wahoo Crane's family, and Wahoo and classmate Tuna Gordon set out to find him, but they must avoid Tuna's gun-happy father.

Eleanor and Park, by Rainbow Rowell. Eleanor is used to being mocked—her hair, her weight—but that is not her biggest problem. Park, who gets to know her, decides the things that other kids mock her for are... wonderful. She might even be able to trust him with the secrets in her life.

Freakboy, by Kristen Clark. Told from three viewpoints, seventeen-year-old Brendan, a wrestler, struggles to come to terms with his place on the transgender spectrum while Vanessa, the girl he loves, and Angel, a transgender acquaintance, try to help.

The Illustrated Man, by Ray Bradbury. Bradbury is a master of speculative fiction (*Fahrenheit 451* is also his). These are short stories, each with an unexpected, unforgettable, twist.

The Impossible Knife of Memory, by Laurie Halse Anderson. Hayley Kincaid and her father move back to their hometown to try a 'normal' life, but the horrors he saw in the Vietnam war threaten to destroy their lives.

The Invention of Wings, by Sue Monk Kidd. Based on a real person, a woman abolitionist from the South, this novel alternates voices between the white girl slave owner and her slave girl, in the South before the Civil War.

Madame Bovary, by Gustave Flaubert. Emma Bovary is much too young and beautiful to be stuck in a small French town, married to an older and (honestly) duller man. Is she to blame when a very handsome suitor says he can't live without her?

Million Dollar Throw, by Mike Lupica. Eighth grade star quarterback Nate Brodie gets a chance to try for a one million dollar prize if can make his throw at a Patriot's half-time show. His family, his best friend, everyone is counting on him.

Mother, Mother, by Koren Zailckas. Talk about horror mothers: this is one of the worst you'll ever see! She emerges as the source of a dark mystery wrapped up in this family of three kids, MOTHER, and dad. By the author of *Smashed*.

Panic, by Lauren Oliver. A real-life Hunger Games, in which kids in a small upstate New York town compete in dares (such as jumping off the highest cliff into the reservoir) in order to win thousands of dollars and get out of town.

Series to try: Maggie Stiefvater's *The Raven Cycle*: *The Raven Boys*, followed by *The Dream Thieves*; third novel to come in October 2014. Ancient magic in the earth, a small town in Virginia, a boys' school, and a girl named

Blue whose family is all witchy—so much fun. AND: The Lorian Legacies, starting with *I am Number Four*, by Pittacus Lore. Non-stop action in a dystopic world where the hero is always on the run, always looking for allies.

Graphica: *Hyperbole and a Half: Unfortunate Situations, Flawed Coping Mechanisms, Mayhem, and Other Things that Happened*, by Allie Brosch. Especially when she is imagining what her dogs are thinking, this book is hilarious.

Relish: My Life in the Kitchen, by Lucy Knisley. Lucy Knisley loves food. The daughter of a chef and a gourmet, this talented young cartoonist comes by her obsession honestly. In her forthright, thoughtful, and funny memoir, Lucy traces key episodes in her life thus far, framed by what she was eating at the time and lessons learned about food, cooking, and life. With recipes!

NON-FICTION

The Anatomy of Being, by Shinji Moon.

But all of this
isn't me being a dreamer,
or a spilt-milk, heart-shaped romantic.

It's just me
trying to turn this husk of muscle and dirty fingernails
into something more

[young poet Moon has been setting fans on fire]

The Color of Water: a Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother, James McBride. McBride remembers his childhood the way a child would, for example not even noticing until he's already in school that his mother is white. His memoir is loving and in places, heartbreaking.

The Grand Design, by Stephen Hawking. The three central questions of philosophy and science: Why is there something rather than nothing? Why do we exist? Why this particular set of laws and no other? Hawking examines these in his characteristic clear, concise style.

Love at Goon Park: Harry Harlow and the Science of Affection, by Deborah Blum. Harlow's most famous study was about how differently infant monkeys who grew up with an artificial cloth mother versus an artificial wire mother behaved. This is the whole story about the man and his work, and will help you understand why you are being raised as you are. A must-read for anyone interested in psychology.

Sergeant Stubby: How a Stray Dog and his Best Friend Helped Win World War I and Stole the Heart of a Nation, by Ann Bausum. Sergeant Stubby (1916 or 1917 – April 4, 1926), was the most decorated war dog of World War I and the only dog to be promoted to sergeant through combat. He was wounded, acted as a lookout, and caught his own German spy. A perfect "hero dog" account.

The Secret Rooms: A True Story of a Haunted Castle, a Plotting Duchess, & a Family Secret, by Caroline Bailey. Historical writer and researcher Bailey gets permission to go into the archives of one of the oldest titled families in England. While she started with one goal, she is soon pursuing another: a family secret deeply hidden in all those thousands of documents. Bailey puts together piece after piece to solve the Great War mystery.

This Star Won't Go Out, by Esther Grace Earl. Esther is the original for the main character in *The Fault in Our Stars*, by John Green. She is just as funny and charming as you would hope.

More lists: 100 Most Influential Books of the Century: < <http://thegreatestbooks.org/lists/42>>. Goodreads Popular Fun Reads Books < <http://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/fun-reads>>. Top 100 Science Fiction & Fantasy: <<http://www.npr.org/2011/08/11/139085843/your-picks-top-100-science-fiction-fantasy-books>>.

Happy Reading!

--Ms. Bell

Ithaca High School May 2014