

# Saint Ann's Library

Suggested Summer
Reading List
for Students Entering
9th Grade, 2024

I've read all these books.

Mysteries & Thrillers · Rom-Coms · Adaptations · Fantasy, Magic & Dystopian Worlds · Real Stuff · Realistic-ish Fiction · Graphic Novels

# Top three not-to-be-missed books. So Good!



**Whalefall** by Daniel Kraus

What would you call this book? Science horror?

Science thriller? Whatever you call it, it is gripping. Seventeen-year-old Jay Gardiner has decided to try to retrieve the remains of his father, who died off the coast of Monastery Bay in California. Jay, an experienced if out-of-practice scuba diver, gets swallowed by an eighty-foot, sixty-ton sperm whale when he has only one hour of oxygen left in his tank.

#### The Reappearance of Rachel Price

by Holly Jackson



When Bel was only two years old, her mother, Rachel Price, disappeared. Now,

sixteen years later, with her mother presumed dead, the Price family agrees to film a true crime documentary about the disappearance. In the middle of filming, Bel's mom turns up. Is the story of what happened and where she was believable? If you liked Jackson's Good Girl's Guide to Murder series, try this!

**Lunar New Year Love Story** by Gene Luen Yang and Leuyen Pham

Valentina Tran has always been obsessed with Valentine's Day. But she has been told that her family is cursed when it comes to love, so she's steering clear of any romance. When she gets involved in lion dancing for the Lunar New Year celebration and meets two cute dancers, things begin to change. A graphic novel for folks who liked *Heartstopper* and *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*.

Read books all summer with Sora, the Saint Ann's Digital Library! Access it at

https://soraapp.com/library/saintannssny

Most titles on this list are available on Sora as an **ebook**, **audiobook**, or both.

means ebook, nmeans audiobook, nmeans both

See the end of this list for more instructions.

# MYSTERIES & THRILLERS



**Not Like Other Girls** by Meredith Adamo

These days, Jo Kirby has one friend, uses a flip

phone, and is persona non grata wherever she goes, due to some leaked nude photos. When her former best friend, Maddie Price, comes asking for help, Jo doesn't quite believe Maddie actually needs help...until Maddie goes missing.



Icarus by K. Ancrum

Icarus is a thief who steals priceless art mainly from the cruel

Mr. Black, who Icarus and his father blame for Icarus's mother's death. The stolen art is replaced with forgeries. Icarus gets caught, not by Mr. Black, but by his son, Helios. A friendship—and more—is forged. As Helios and Icarus grow closer, Icarus is forced to make some tough choices; the wrong one might lead to his downfall. Romance, mystery, thriller, and just a little bit of mythology.



**Flavia de Luce** series by Alan Bradley

Eleven-year-old Flavia, an eccentric science

prodigy with a penchant for poison, lives in an ancient English country house. Fearless and unflappable, she solves crimes. Totally fun.
Twelve books in the series, the first six are: The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie, The Weed that Strings the Hangman's Bag, A Red Herring Without Mustard, I am Half

Sick of Shadows,
Speaking from Among
the Bones, The Dead in
Their Vaulted Arches.



**Promise Boys** by Nick Brooks

When the principal of Urban Promise Prep

school is murdered, the police focus on three students—J.B., Ramón, and Trey—as the most likely suspects. They have to work together to prove their innocence and find the real killer before it's too late.



Because I Could Not Stop for Death (An Emily Dickinson Mystery) by Amanda Flowers

It's 1885 in Amherst,
Massachusetts. Emily Dickinson's
maid, Willa Noble, tells her that she
thinks her brother has been
murdered and did not, in fact, die in
a tragic accident at the stables. The
two decide to figure out what
happened, only to discover that
corruption runs deep.



**The Counselors** by Jessica Goodman

Goldie Easton is a "townie" who has

gotten to attend and now work as a counselor at the nearby posh Camp Alpine Lake. When a body turns up in the lake, Goldie's summer takes a different trajectory. Secrets, murder, suspense? Bring it on. **□∩** 



Girl in the Blue Coat by Monica Hesse

It is 1943, and Dutch teenager Hanneke supports her family by

selling hard-to-find goods on the black market. Though her boyfriend was killed on the front lines when Germany invaded, she knows nothing of how the Nazi regime treats Jews. All that changes when a woman asks Hanneke to find not a product but a person: a Jewish person the woman has been hiding in her home who has suddenly disappeared. A page-turning historical mystery!



**The Magpie Murders** by Anthony Horowitz

Agatha Christie fan? Look no further. A

literary agent receives a manuscript featuring an old-school detective (think Hercule Poirot) who investigates a series of murders. But the last chapter is missing, and the agent decides to track down the pages. More mystery!



**The Agathas** by Kathleen Glasgow and Liz Lawson

One more for Agatha Christie fans. Who killed

Brooke Donovan? *This* is the mystery Alice and Iris are determined to solve, that is, if they survive.

# ROM-COM FUN



**Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen



Romance and SO much more. Wit and keen

observations steal the show in this classic featuring Elizabeth Bennet and the eligible bachelor Fitzwilliam Darcy. She thinks he's arrogant and conceited. He is not impressed by her beauty and intelligence. Spoiler: They change their opinions about each other.



**Salaam, with Love** by Sara Sharaf Beg

Spending the holy month of Ramadan in Queens with her more

conservative extended family isn't exactly how Dua imagined visiting NYC (she's from Virginia). There's the fasting all day to contend with, as well as her rather reserved about-to-be-married cousin, Mahoor. Things start to look up when Hasaan, a cute drummer in a Muslim band shows up.



Gwen & Art are Not in Love by Lex Croucher

Arthur, future Lord and descendant of the fabled

King Arthur, is supposed to marry Gwendoline, princess of England. The only problem is they don't like each other. Arthur likes Gwen's brother and Gwen has a crush on the only female knight, Bridget Leclair. Sword fighting, jousting—if you're looking for a medieval queer rom-com, this is for you.



**Rise to the Sun** by Leah Johnson

Olivia has been dumped again, so she

heads off to a weekend music festival with her best friend, Toni, who is also going through a rough time after the death of her father. Healing, love, and lots of music await them. By the author of *You Should See Me in a Crown*.



**The Breakup Lists** by Adib Khorram

Jackson is Iranian, Deaf, and gay. He's also a guy

who prefers to keep a low profile, especially when it comes to romance. Jackson's sister, Jasmine, gets her heart broken enough for the two of them. In fact, Jackson likes to make up lists chronicling all her ex-boyfriends' flaws. Enter Liam. Turns out Jackson and Jasmine both have a crush on him. But what does Liam think?



*The Loophole* by Naz Kutub

Sy's life is not going so well—he has been

kicked out of his home and his boyfriend has left him and the country. When Sy meets a genie who grants him three wishes, life takes a turn for the better. Love, adventure, magic.



All the Right Reasons by Bethany Mangle

Cara and her mom, Julia, are contestants

on a Bachelorette-style dating game, during which Julia will choose a potential husband and Cara vets her would-be stepsiblings. Then, Cara starts to fall for the son of one of the prospective bachelors.



**Better Than the Movies** by Lynn Painter

Liz has always loved Michael and when he

miraculously moves back to town after being away (yay!), Liz is determined to make him her prom date. How? With the help of her pain-in-the-butt next door neighbor, Wes, who has somehow befriended Michael. Wes is her *in* with Michael. As usual in a romcom, things don't go as planned. Love is in the air.



**Frankly in Love** by David Yoon

Frank Li is in love with Brit, who is funny and

goofy, just like Frank. Great, right? Wrong. Although born in California, Frank's traditional Korean parents expect him to date only Korean girls. Brit is white. So, Joy Song, Frank's friend who has similarly traditional parents, offers to be his girlfriend. Great, right? Wrong again.

# **ADAPTATIONS**



**Shadow and** *Bone* by Leigh Bardugo

When soldier Alina Starkov's regiment is attacked by monsters

crossing the dark Shadow Fold, she is positive she won't make it. But Alina fights back and survives by releasing a dormant magic she didn't know she possessed. As a result, she begins training with the Grisha, her country's magical military elite, commanded by their leader known as Darkling. He has faith in Alina's magical prowess...if she can harness it. There are three interconnected series, but each can stand alone. HBO produced two seasons based on the first three books. Series: **Shadow and Bone**: Shadow and Bone, Siege and Storm, Ruin and Rising; Six of Crows: Six of Crows, Crooked Kingdom; King of Scars: King of Scars and Rule of Wolves.



**The Vanishing Half** by Brit Bennett

Desiree and Stella are twins born in the 1950s

in the South. Although different, their relationship is intense—they even escape their small hometown together at the age of 16. So how does one end up back at home with her daughter while the other leaves the family behind to pass for white? You'll have to read to find out. HBO's planned series will be produced by Issa Rae.



**Girl with a Pearl Earring** by Tracy Chevalier

History and fiction merge in this novel

about Vermeer, the famous 17th century Dutch artist from Delft. The story imagines what life was like for the model who posed for one of his most famous paintings. There is an old film of it starring Colin Firth and Scarlett Johanssen.



**Blackout** by Dhonielle Clayton and others

Six authors (including Nicola Yoon and Angie

Thomas!) collaborated on this novel comprised of intersecting stories. Friendship, romance, and a whole mess of other stuff goes down one sweltering summer night when a blackout hits New York City. Adaptation planned by Higher Ground (the Obamas' production company).



Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann

In the 1800s the Osage Indians were relegated to land in Oklahoma that no white people wanted—well, not until oil was discovered. By the 1920s the Osage were incredibly wealthy. They drove fancy cars, built mansions, and traveled. Soon, however, various Osage started dying mysteriously. The bodies piled up before any proper

investigation was carried out.
Watch Martin Scorsese's film
starring Lily Gladstone, Tantoo
Cardinal, Leonardo DiCaprio, Jesse
Plemons, and Robert De Niro.



Turtles All the Way
Down by John Green

For Aza, who has anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorder,

making it through the day has its challenges. When the super-rich father of Aza's old camp friend and love interest (aka Davis) disappears, Aza and her best friend Daisy are intrigued by the offer of \$100,000 for information that might lead to the whereabouts of Davis's dad. Watch the film starring Isabela Merced that came out this past May.

#### **Homegoing** by Gyasi, Yaa



Effia and Esi are two half-sisters—born to the same Asante woman in the mid-1800s in what is

now known as Ghana—who never actually meet. Effia marries an Englishman who participates in the Gold Coast slave trade. Esi is sold into slavery and sent to America. Every chapter focuses on a descendant of the original sisters, both in Ghana and in America. Masterful. Sorry—no film yet, but there really should be!



**The Nightingale** by Kristen Hannah

During World War II in German-occupied, war-

torn France, two sisters face the reality of war under vastly different circumstances. Vianne, whose house is requisitioned by a German captain while her husband is off fighting, is forced to live with the enemy while her sister, Isabelle, risks her life to join the resistance. Movie to be released eventually.



**Dune** by Frank Herbert

First published in 1965, Dune is a sci-fi classic. Paul Atreides is heir to a

noble throne; he rules over an inhospitable world where thinking machines (like computers) have been rejected. The only thing of value is a substance known as the spice melange—it prolongs life, protects against disease, and enhances abilities. When the Atreides family is betrayed, the young heir embarks on an epic path. Timothée Chalamet stars in the 2021 movie. A sequel came out in 2024. Start with these (there are many more). Series: Dune, Dune Messiah, Children of Dune.



A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson

Five years ago, Andie was murdered by her boyfriend, Sal, and then

Sal died by suicide. Pip has always felt there was something more to

the story, and now that she's a senior, she's decided to devote her senior project to discovering the truth. It appears, however, that someone doesn't want the truth discovered. The BBC is airing a series starring Emma Myers later this year. **Series**: A Good Girl's Guide to Murder; Good Girl, Bad Blood; and As Good as Dead.



The Three-Body
Problem by Cixin Liu

The series on Netflix is awesome, but so is the

book. Start with the first book where astrophysicist Ye Wenjie encounters an alien civilization. The alien civilization has grown unstable, and they want to invade Earth. Not great. Wenjie lives in China during the Cultural Revolution, complicated enough without having to contend with aliens. Series: The Three Body Problem, The Dark Forest, Death's End, The Redemption of Time.



When Dimple Met Rishi by Sandhya Menon

The parents of Dimple Shah and Rishi Patel

want to arrange a marriage between the two teens. Rishi is all in, but Dimple has other plans—she's going to Stanford. The two meet at a summer program for aspiring web developers and clash big time. Romance! Humor! Watch the 2020 Netflix series, Mismatched, starring Prajakta Koli.

Sequels: There's Something about Sweetie and 10 Things I Hate about Pinky.



The Darkness Outside
Us by Eliot Schrefer

Ambrose is sent to space on a rescue

mission with Kodiak, his sworn enemy. When Ambrose wakes up on the ship things are off—he has no memory of the launch, the ship's operating system speaks to him in his mother's voice (weird), and it looks like he and Kodiak might not be alone on the ship. Only united can Ambrose and Kodiak have any chance of survival. This suspenseful (and romantic) space odyssey is being made into a movie by Elliot Page. **Sequel**: *The Brightness* 



**The Uglies** by Scott Westerfeld

In this futuristic society everyone remains ugly

until age sixteen when an operation transforms you into a "pretty." Pretties live together and just party all the time. A few months before she turns sixteen, Tally meets Shay who introduces her to another world, a world where people live free, a world where she learns the truth about the pretty world— and it's not that pretty! The movie should come out in 2024, starring Joey King and Laverne Cox. Series: Uglies, Pretties, Specials, and Extras.

# FANTASY, MAGIC, & DYSTOPIAN WORLDS



**Skin of the Sea** by Natasha Bowen

Simi is a newly minted Mami Wata (aka a mermaid) whose job is

to collect the souls of those who die at sea. Simi screws up and saves a living boy and now she has to makes amends with the Supreme Creator. Someone, however, doesn't want her to succeed. This is a *Children of Blood and Bone* and *Little Mermaid* mashup for the older reader. Sequel: *Soul of the Deep*.



**Red Rising** by Pierce Brown

Darrow is a Red—the lowest of the low in his

class-conscious society. He is 16, married, and works in a mining colony on Mars. When his wife is executed and he gets recruited by a rebel group to infiltrate the government (Golds), his life takes a dramatic turn. **Series:** Red Rising, Golden Son, Morning Star, Iron Gold, Dark Age, and Light Bringer.



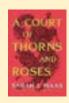


**Ready Player One** by Ernest Cline

It's bleak in 2044 and so Wade spends most of

his time jacked into a virtual utopia called the OASIS. Wade, and everyone else, is searching for the hidden clues that James Halliday, creator of the OASIS, has concealed in the virtual world. The first to

discover and unlock the clues will inherit Halliday's fortune. As Wade begins to unlock the clues, he realizes that he might not live to win.



A Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J. Maas

When Feyre kills a wolf in the woods she seals her fate—not in a good

way. She is forced to spend the rest of her life in the treacherous world of the Fae as the captive of the immortal faerie, Tamlin. Intrigue, drama, and romance saturate this compelling series. The ACOTAR Series: A Court of Thorns and Roses, A Court of Mist and Fury, A Court of Wings and Ruin, A Court of Frost and Starlight, and A Court of Silver Flames.



**Snowglobe** by Soyoung Park

Earth is a barren winter wasteland, except for the Snowglobe—a warm

Shangri-la where residents are protected from the elements under a vast dome. The wretched people who live outside the dome are pacified by 24-hour TV featuring the glamorous lives of the globe residents. Chobahm, who lives outside the dome, gets selected to live inside the globe. Dream come true—or nightmare? Super popular book in Korea—now translated into English.



**Unwind** by Neal Shusterman

The warring Pro-Choice and Pro-Life armies

compromised after the second Civil War—no pregnancy can be terminated. But when children turn 13, they can be unwound so that their organs can be repurposed—so technically not dead. Connor, Risa, and Lev are slated for unwinding.

Series: Unwind, UnWholly,
UnSouled, and UnDivided.



**The Last Bloodcarver** by Vanessa Le

In the industrial city of Theumas, Nhika is viewed as a ruthless

monster who kills for pleasure. But she is more than a killer—she has the ability to alter human biology with her touch. When Nhika is caught by an infamous criminal and forced to heal the last witness to a high-profile murder, she becomes part of something much bigger than just her own survival.



**Fourth Wing** by Rebecca Yarros

Violet is forced by her mother (the general) to

join the Basgiath War College to become an elite dragon rider. It's a death sentence for her because she's small, fragile, and hated by her peers. Can she defy the odds? The options are graduate or die.

Sequel: Iron Flame.

#### REAL STUFF



Letters to a Young
Athlete by Chris Bosh

Chris Bosh knows basketball and is, by all

accounts, a great player. In 2017, after being diagnosed with a lifethreatening medical condition and compelled to retire from the Miami Heat, he was forced to come to terms with his identity as a basketball player and a human in this world. Insightful memoir.



**Coming Home** by Brittany Griner and Michelle Burford

This is Brittany Griner's first-hand account of her tenmonth ordeal as a prisoner in a Russian penal colony. Her sentence was nine years, but she was ultimately freed after Russia and the U.S. agreed to a prisoner swap.



Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption by Lauren Hillenbrand

After their Army Air Forces plane crashes during a routine mission in May of 1943, Louie and two pals find themselves on a life raft in the middle of the Pacific Ocean dodging bullets from an attacking aircraft. This is an incredible survival story—47 days on a raft in the open ocean,



*Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer

In 1992, Christopher Johnson McCandless, a

privileged young man, gave up all his worldly possessions and went off to live in the wilderness of Alaska. His journey didn't end well.



The Color of Water: A
Black Man's Tribute to
His White Mother by
James McBride

McBride, author of *Deacon King Kong* (also amazing) wrote this memoir about growing up as number eight of twelve children with a white mother, a Black minister for a father and, later, a Black stepfather. What was his mother, Ruth McBride, like?

Nothing short of amazing.



I'm Glad My Mom Died by Jennette McCurdy

Have you ever seen the Nickelodeon series *iCarly?* This is the

memoir of Jennette, who played Sam on the show. Her mom pushed her into acting, dominated every aspect of her life (i.e., restricted her eating and even showered her until she was sixteen), and expected Jennette to financially support the entire family. Bizarre stuff.



**Alive** by Piers Paul Read

In October of 1972, a Uruguayan plane carrying a team of rugby

players crashed in the remote snowy peaks of the Andes. Only 16 of the original 45 passengers survived when their ordeal ended ten weeks later. This is an incredible story of survival (yes, there is some cannibalism involved). Gripping. Watch the 2023 movie: *Society of the Snow*.



Queer Ducks (and Other Animals): The Natural World of Animal Sexuality by Eliot Schrefer

An incredibly entertaining exploration of queer animal behavior.  $\blacksquare \mathbf{\hat{h}}$ 



**Solito** by Javier Zamora

This is the story of Zamora's journey to the United States when he

was 9 years old. The "trip," as his parents called it, was supposed to last two weeks. Instead, it lasted a grueling two months and included a desert crossing, thirst, hunger, and fear as he and other migrants followed a coyote who was paid to lead them to safety.

# REALISTIC-ISH FICTION



Where Sleeping Girls Lie by Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé

Sade Hussein is starting junior year of high school after being homeschooled. Everything about her new boarding school is new and surprising. What's especially surprising is when her new roommate disappears and Sade is suspected to have something to do with it. Then, a student is found dead.



**Plan A** by Deb Caletti

Ivy was planning on spending her summer working at the local

drugstore in her Texas town, but when the pregnancy test turns up positive, plans change. She and her boyfriend, Lorenzo, go on a cross-country road trip to visit lvy's grandmother on the West Coast where she can legally get an abortion. Featuring reproductive rights and bodily autonomy, this is the abortion-road-trip-love-story you didn't know you needed.



**Ariel Crashes a Train** by Olivia A. Cole

Ariel has never been comfortable in her own

skin. She's too big, too gay, and too weird. With her supportive sister and best friend away for the summer and the intrusive, violent thoughts in her head taking over,

she feels like something is really wrong with her. Her job at the traveling carnival is awesome, but can she be trusted not to do something terrible and destructive? Written in verse, this is a compelling exploration of the reality of dealing with obsessive compulsive disorder.



**Furia** by Yamile Saied Méndez

Camila lives in Argentina and leads a

double life. At home she's a perfect obedient daughter, but on the soccer field she's a fierce and talented player, aka La Furia. When her team qualifies for a big tournament, she gets a chance to fulfill her dreams...but will her family acknowledge that she even has dreams?



*True Biz* by Sara Nović

Charlie, who is deaf and wears cochlear implants, doesn't know much ASL because her

hearing parents were told that she would be less likely to learn to speak English if she learned ASL. But now she is finally going to go to school with other deaf kids. Charlie begins to learn ASL, meets Austin (school royalty since he is 5th generation Deaf), and learns about Deaf activists and the struggle for disability rights.

Hoot! Hoot!



*I Must Betray You* by Ruth Sepetys

In 1989 Romania is governed by a tyrannical

dictatorship. 17-year-old Cristian, who dreams of being a writer, is blackmailed by the secret police into becoming an informer and betraying his family and friends. Can he use his writing to undermine the dictatorship?



**Project Hail Mary** by Andy Weir

Ryland Grace wakes up from a coma to find that he's hurtling

through space on a tiny ship. He has no idea why. Slowly he figures it out: He's supposed to save Earth. Yikes. Lots of science, intrigue, and page-turning suspense. If you haven't read *The Martian* by Weir, you should!





**Kindred** by Damian Duffy and Octavia E. Butler

This adaptation of Octavia Butler's classic

sci-fi novel tells the story of Dana, a young Black woman who lives in 1970s California and is mysteriously transported to the pre–Civil War South. In one world she is a free woman, while in the other she is entrenched in her familial history on a southern plantation.



**Flamer** by Mike Curato

It's 1995 and Aiden Navarro, a devout Catholic boy, is at Boy

Scout camp the summer before high school. Camp is great (friends, archery, orienteering) and not so great (bullies, competitive sports, and "locker room" jokes which are NOT very funny). It's a big summer for Aiden–figuring out who he is and all.

# GRAPHIC NOVELS



**The Gulf** by Adam De Souza

High school is almost over, but Oli hightails

it out of town to a commune on a remote island she has been fantasizing about for years. Alvin and Milo tag along and eventually Liam shows up—her best friend forever and maybe more?

Hitchhiking road trip!



**The Deep Dark** by Molly Ostertag

Magdalena, soon-to-be high school graduate,

has a secret that could potentially kill someone if it got out. Mags keeps to herself mostly—until her childhood friend, Nessa, returns to their small desert town and upends everything.



**Bunt!: Striking Out on Financial Aid** by Ngozi
Ukazu and Mad Rupert

On the first day of art college, Molly Bauer finds out that her expected full-ride scholarship

has been canceled. A desperate Molly discovers a loophole—she can win a sports scholarship if she can organize a team that wins a softball game. Can she do it?



**Are You Listening?** by Tillie Walden

Runaway Bea catches a ride with Lou, who is

driving through West Texas to visit an aunt. Weird stuff happens–like they meet a cat they name Diamond who threatening men are chasing. This is dreamy and intense and will linger in your memory long after reading.



**The Black Panther Party** by David F.
Walker and Marcus
Kwame Anderson

Just who were the Black Panthers? Read about their social, educational, and healthcare programs; their battle against police brutality; and the relentless harassment they received from the FBI.

# Digital Library Facts: What you Need to Know

**Access** the Saint Ann's Digital Library through Sora at <a href="https://soraapp.com/library/saintannssny">https://soraapp.com/library/saintannssny</a> use the free Sora app.

**Logging In:** The first time using Sora, you'll have to find your school. If Saint Ann's doesn't pop up, search for it, then log in with your Saint Ann's Google credentials. Sora allows you to add other libraries, including the Brooklyn Public Library, so you can search multiple libraries at once and check out titles using one platform.

**Finding Books:** Use the "explore" icon to search for a title. You can also browse curated collections. **Other:** Four titles may be checked out at a time and the checkout period is four weeks. You may return books on the app or website. If you don't return a book yourself, it will automatically return. You can download to a Kindle if you use one. Current and past lists can be found online HERE.