

Saint Ann's Library Suggested Summer Reading List for Students Entering 9th Grade, 2023



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

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



Throwback by
Maurene Goo.

A *Back to the Future*-esque plot, but with a twist. Sam is the daughter of first generation Korean American Priscilla. Sam's high school aspirations couldn't be more different from what her mom expects of her. Priscilla was a cheerleader and bought into the American dream—not Sam's thing. After a big argument, Sam finds herself thrown back in time to the 90s where her mother is her classmate. Uh oh. 📖🎧



All My Rage by Sabaa
Tahir.

In modern-day California, Salahudin and Noor are lifelong friends, bound by their shared Pakistani culture. Three stories are all interwoven in this moving and gritty novel: Sal's struggle to keep his family motel afloat after his mother becomes ill, Noor's desire to escape her overbearing uncle, and Sal's mother's arranged marriage as a young girl in Pakistan. Printz Award winner for best YA. 📖🎧



**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. 📖

Read library books all summer with Saint Ann's Digital Library!

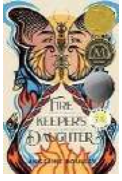
Access it at <https://soraapp.com/library/saintannssny>

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

📖 means ebook, 🎧 means audiobook, 📖🎧 means both

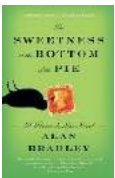
See the end of this list for more instructions.

MYSTERY & THRILLERS



Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley.

Daunis has spent her life balancing between two identities: her father was Ojibwe and grew up on the reservation, and her mom is white, from a wealthy political clan. Because of a death in her family, she puts off college for a year and finds herself embroiled in a mystery involving meth on the reservation, sexual assault, and even the murder of her lifelong friend. An intense thriller featuring Ojibwe history and multiple twists and turns. Won the 2022 Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature. 📖



Flavia de Luce series by Alan Bradley.

These mysteries feature eleven-year-old Flavia, an eccentric science prodigy with a penchant for poison, who lives in an ancient English country house. Fearless and unflappable, she solves crimes herself while in hot pursuit of clues. 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*, *The Curious Case of the Copper Corpse*. 📖🎧



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. 📖



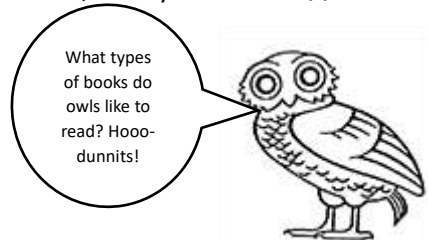
Going Dark by Melissa de la Cruz.

An influencer goes missing while on vacation with her boyfriend; he returns home without her. He swears he didn't do anything, but her blood is on his suitcase. A thrilling story told in social media posts, diary entries, and firsthand accounts. There's more to this story than you might think. 📖



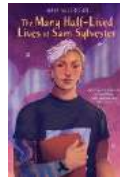
The Agathas by Kathleen Glasgow and Liz Lawson.

Are you an Agatha Christie fan? If so, this is for you. Who killed Brooke Donovan? *This* is the mystery Alica and Iris are determined to solve, that is, if they survive. 📖🎧



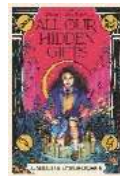
A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson.

Five years ago, Andie was murdered by her boyfriend, Sal Singh, 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. Read the sequels: *Good Girl*, *Bad Blood* and *As Good as Dead*. 📖🎧



The Many Half-Lived Lives of Sam Sylvester by Maya MacGregor.

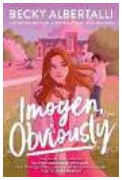
Sam and their dad have just moved to a new town to start afresh after a traumatic incident. They get more than they bargained for—a murder mystery, romance, ghosts, and a whole lot of queer joy. 📖



All Our Hidden Gifts by Caroline O'Donoghue.

Maeve becomes an in-demand tarot card reader at her boarding school when she finds a deck in her closet. After one ill-fated reading, Maeve's friend Lily disappears. Maeve struggles to find answers in the cards—the police seem clueless—while she attempts to maintain a romance with Lily's gender-fluid sibling. There's a lot happening that the nuns don't know about. 📖

SUMMER & ROM-COM FUN



Imogen, Obviously by Becky Albertalli.

Imogen is straight, but she’s a darn good LGBTQ ally. When she goes to visit her newly-out friend, Lili, at college, she starts to wonder if maybe she’s not so straight after all. 📖🎧



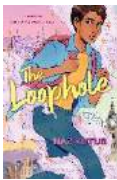
The First Thing About You by Chaz Hayden.

Harris and his family have just moved to New Jersey—and no longer does he want to be known as the kid in the wheelchair. It’s a time to start fresh and do new things like have friends, stay out late, go to a party, go on a date, and maybe even kiss a girl. These dreams start to feel possible when he meets Zander (nerdy, but friend material) and Nory (definite girlfriend potential) on the first day of school, and soon thereafter Miranda, a youthful and cool nursing student, agrees to be his full-time nurse. Plans go awry. 📖🎧



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 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. 📖



I’ll be the One by Lyla Lee.

Skye Shin is determined to be a K-Pop star. She enters an internationally televised competition searching for the next big star and she actually aces the audition. When she finds that the Korean pop entertainment industry is a *lot* less comfortable with her size-16 body than she is, she plans to break all the rules and shatter the stereotypes. A body-positive rom-com. 📖🎧



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...Only Cara starts to fall for the son of one of the prospective bachelors. 📖



You Don’t Have a Shot by Raquel Marie.

A hating→dating romance between two fiercely independent soccer stars, Valentina “Vale” Castillo-Green and Leticia Ortiz. Familial expectations, heartbreak, and romance. 📖🎧



You, Me, and Our Heartstrings by Melissa See.

Daisy and Noah are two cellists who both hope to attend Julliard. A video of them performing a duet together where they kiss at the end (yes, they’re starting to fall for each other) goes viral. The internet decides that Daisy is an “inspiration” for playing the cello despite her cerebral palsy and Noah is a “saint” for overlooking her disability. What? It’s nothing short of infuriating. 📖



The Queens of New York by E.L. Shen.

Its summer and best friends Jia Lee, Ariel Kim, and Everett Hoang are not going to be together. Tragic. As Everett follows her acting dreams in Ohio and Ariel her STEM dreams in San Francisco, Jia is stuck at home in Queens with her parents and their Chinese restaurant. Despite their physical distance from each other, they are together in spirit. 📖

ADAPTATIONS



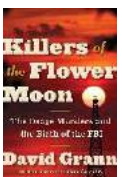
The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett.

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 has plans to make it into a series. 📖🎧



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. Martin Scorsese's film starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Jesse Plemons, Robert De Niro, and Indigenous actors Lily Gladstone and Tantoo Cardinal is now out! 📖🎧



The Nightingale by Kristen Hannah.

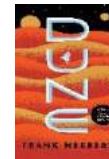
During World War II in German-occupied, war-torn France, two sisters face the reality of war under vastly different circumstances. Vianne, whose house is requisitioned by a German captain while her husband is off fighting, is forced to live with the enemy while her sister, Isabelle, risks her life to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



Unpregnant by Jenni Hendriks and Ted Caplan.

When 17-year-old Veronica realizes that she is pregnant, she enlists her ex-best friend, Bailey, to drive 900 miles with her from her home in Missouri to New Mexico—the nearest place to legally get an abortion. (You had to be 18 to get an abortion w/o parental consent in Missouri at the time this was

written. Now abortion is completely illegal in Missouri with a few exceptions.) Things don't go as planned! Haley Lu Richardson and Barbie Ferreira star in the 2020 HBO movie. 📖🎧



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. 📖🎧



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*. 📖🎧

FANTASY, MAGIC, & DYSTOPIAN WORLDS



King of Scars by Leigh Bardugo.

King Nikolai Lantsov has endured hardship during his country's civil war. Now enemies amass at his country's borders and a dark magic within him threatens to overwhelm him. Nikolai needs to face his demons. *King of Scars* and its sequel *King of Wolves* are new additions to the Grishaverse—interconnected books about the land called Grisha. Each series stands alone, but the order is: **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*. 📖



Cinderella is Dead by Kalynn Bayron.

A queer dystopian fantasy that turns the Cinderella story on its head. Two hundred years after Cinderella found her prince, the fairytale is definitely over. When it's Sophia's turn to go to the ball and be selected by a suitor (or face death), she decides to go a different route. 📖



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—now she has to make amends with the Supreme Creator. Someone, however, doesn't want her to succeed. Combining West African mythology with the dark history of the slave trade, 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 very class-conscious society. He is 16, married, and works as a miner 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*. 📖🎧



Dread Nation by Justina Ireland.

In this alternate universe, the Civil War ended because the dead rose up and attacked both armies. A historical zombie thriller? Yes. Jane is forced to attend combat school, as are all the other Black and Indigenous children, in order to become zombie slayers to protect the whites. Jane and her friend have other plans. Sequel: *Deathless Divide*. 📖🎧



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, meaning their organs are repurposed for others—so technically not dead. Connor, Risa, and Lev are slated for rewinding. Series: *Unwind*, *UnWholly*, *UnSouled*, and *UnDivided*. 📖



Daughter of the Moon Goddess by Sue Lynn Tan.

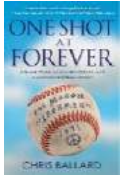
Xingyin grew up on the moon with her mother—hidden away from the feared Celestial Emperor. When her magic abilities cause her whereabouts to be discovered, she flees. But she goes towards the Celestial Kingdom and danger. Magic and Ancient Chinese mythology intersect with adventure, love, and betrayal to create an epic read. Settle in. 📖🎧



Fourth Wing by Rebecca Yarros.

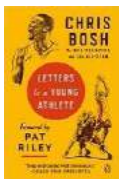
Violet is forced by her mother (the general) to join the Basgiath War College to become an elite dragon rider. It's a death sentence for her because she's small, fragile, and hated by her peers. Can she defy the odds? The options are graduate or die. Sequel: *Iron Flame*. 📖🎧

Real Stuff



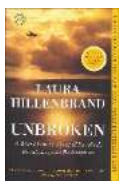
One Shot at Forever by Chris Ballard.

This book is so good. Really. It's 1971 and the Macon Ironmen, a ragtag high school baseball team from small-town Illinois, make it to the state finals—with hand-me-down uniforms and a hippie-loving English teacher as a coach. The ultimate underdog sports tale. 📖🎧



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 life-threatening 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. 📖🎧



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 only to be rescued

and sent to a Japanese prison camp. Brutal. 📖



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. 📖🎧



Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage by Alfred Lansing.

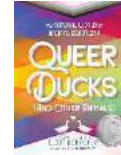
In 1914 Ernest Shackleton and a crew of 27 men sailed for the South Atlantic on the *Endurance* with the goal of eventually crossing the Antarctic overland. They didn't get very far. Still half a continent away from their intended base, the ship was trapped and then crushed in ice. A gripping, first-hand account based on diaries, logs, and extensive research. 📖🎧



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. 📖🎧



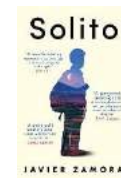
Queer Ducks (and Other Animals): The Natural World of Animal Sexuality by Eliot Schrefer.

An incredibly entertaining exploration of queer animal behavior. 📖🎧



Disability Visibility: Adapted for Young Adults by Alice Wong.

The idea that storytelling is a powerful tool for creating community and fostering agency has been a driving force behind disabled activist Wong's work. Here Wong has collected 17 first-person accounts by people with diverse identities. Don't miss Ariel Henley's story called *There is a Mathematical Equation That Proves I'm Ugly: Or So I Learned in My Seventh-Grade Art Class*. 📖🎧



Solito by Javier Zamora.

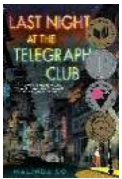
This is the story of Zamora's journey to the United States when he was 9 years old. The "trip," as his parents called it, was supposed to last two weeks. Instead, it lasted a grueling two months and included a desert crossing, thirst, hunger, and fear as he and other migrants followed a coyote who was paid to lead them to safety. Gripping. 📖🎧

REALISTIC-FISH FICTION



Catfishing on CatNet by Naomi Kritzer.

Steph is the new kid again. She and her mom never stay in one place for long—they are on the run from Steph’s abusive father. Steph’s closest friends are on CatNet, an online community where members share cat pictures and more. Alternately narrated by Steph and a sentient AI, this fun and heartfelt thriller explores personhood, technology, and identity without being preachy. Sequel: *Chaos on CatNet*. 📖



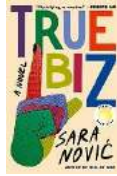
Last Night at the Telegraph Club by Melinda Lo.

A young Chinese American woman in 1950s San Francisco discovers a world she never knew existed when she goes to a gay bar. Winner of the 2022 Stonewall Book Award and the National Book Award. 📖🎧



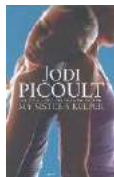
Furia by Yamile Saied Méndez.

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? 📖🎧



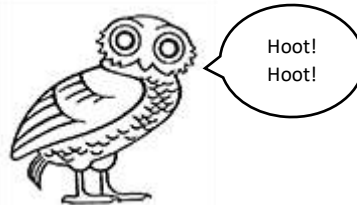
True Biz by Sara Nović.

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.



My Sister’s Keeper by Jodi Picoult.

Anna was born to keep her older sister, Kate, alive. Engineered by her parents (with the help of a lab) to be a perfect genetic match for Kate, who was dying of leukemia, Anna began her life by donating stem cells from her umbilical cord. Each time Kate relapsed, Anna donated; first it was just platelets, then bone marrow. When, at the age of 13, it becomes clear that Anna’s parents expect her to donate a kidney to save Kate’s life, Anna sues for medical emancipation from her parents. Who’s right? Anna? Her parents? 📖



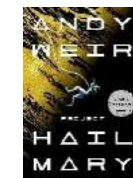
Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz.

Ari and Dante are both lonely teenagers when they meet at a swimming pool. Ari, in particular, is struggling (the youngest of four, born after his father returns from the Vietnam War—forever changed). The two become friends and support each other as they navigate growing up and their sexual orientation. Lin-Manuel Miranda is producing the upcoming adaptation! 📖



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! 📖

GRAPHIC NOVELS



Messy Roots: A Graphic Memoir of a Wuhanese American by Laura Gao.

Gao was born in Wuhan, China and lived with her cousins until she joined her parents in the United States when they attended graduate school. She changed her first name from Yuyang to Laura (after Laura Bush—the First Lady at the time) when she started school, to try and fit in better. A heartfelt exploration of identity. 📖



Squire by Nadia Shammas and Sara Alfageeh.

For Aiza, a member of the subjugated Ornu people, Knighthood is the only way to gain full citizenship in the Bayt-Sajji Empire. When she finally enlists in the competitive squire training program, it's not as she imagined. Danger awaits at every turn—will

she be forced to choose between loyalty to her heritage or to the Empire? 📖



Nimona by ND Stevenson.

Featuring Sir Goldenloin as hero, Lord Blackheart as villain, and spunky shape-shifting Nimona as sidekick, this subversive web-comic-turned-graphic-novel questions the traditional clarity of good and evil as found in your average superhero comic. Animated movie adaptation coming to Netflix very soon! 📖🎧



Have a reading-filled summer!
Love, Your Librarians



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. 📖



Tiananmen 1989: Our Shattered Hopes by Lun Zhang and Adrien Gombeaud.

In 1989 thousands of students and other Chinese citizens joined together to protest and demand political reform. Authorities opened fire on the protesters, shocking the world. Zhang was a witness to the massacre and joined forces with a journalist and an illustrator to tell his story. 📖

Digital Library FACTS: What You Need to Know

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

Logging In: When you log onto Sora for the first time, you'll be prompted 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 participating libraries, including the Brooklyn Public Library, so you can search multiple libraries at once and check out titles using one platform.

Finding Books: To search for a title, click the "explore" icon at the bottom of the page/app and a search bar will appear at the top. You can also browse lists and collections, including this list. **Other: You can have four titles 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 reading lists can be found online at:

<http://saintannsny.org/divisions-and-offices/library/high-school-library/reading-list/>