

CCHS 2021 Recommendations for Summer Reading

Book blurbs and cover images courtesy of GoodReads

Additional inspiration: [College Board 101 Great Book Recommendations for College-Bound Readers](#)

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Featured Summer Community Book:

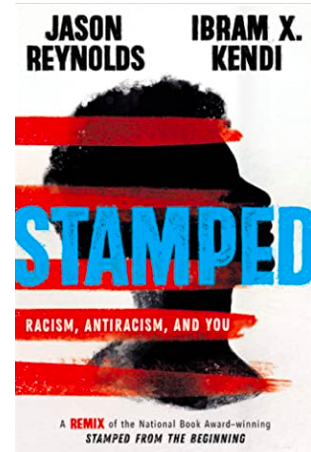
[Stamped: Racism, Anti Racism, and You](#),

by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi

A timely, crucial, and empowering exploration of racism

--and antiracism--in America

[Now available for FREE on Spotify](#)



This is NOT a history book.

This is a book about the here and now.

A book to help us better understand why we are where we are.

A book about race.

The construct of race has always been used to gain and keep power, to create dynamics that separate and silence. This remarkable reimagining of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's National Book Award-winning *Stamped from the Beginning* reveals the history of racist ideas in America, and inspires hope for an antiracist future. It takes you on a race journey from then to now, shows you why we feel how we feel, and why the poison of racism lingers. It also proves that while racist ideas have always been easy to fabricate and distribute, they can also be discredited.

Through a gripping, fast-paced, and energizing narrative written by beloved award-winner Jason Reynolds, this book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas--and on ways readers can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives.

Fiction	
	Dry, by Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman When the California drought escalates to catastrophic proportions, one teen is forced to make life and death decisions for her family in this harrowing story of survival. The drought—or the Tap-Out, as everyone calls it—has been going on for a while now. Everyone’s lives have become an endless list of don’ts: don’t water the lawn, don’t fill up your pool, don’t take long showers. Until the taps run dry. Suddenly, Alyssa’s quiet suburban street spirals into a warzone of desperation; neighbors and families turned against each other on the hunt for water. And when her parents don’t return and her

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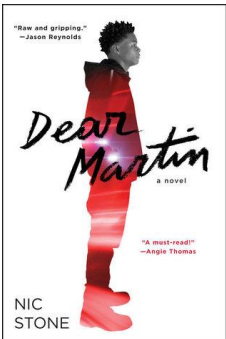
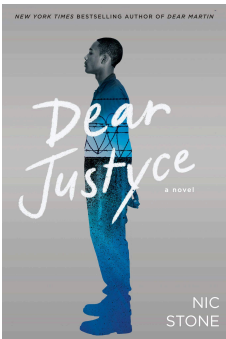
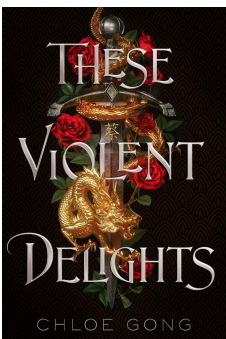
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	life—and the life of her brother—is threatened, Alyssa has to make impossible choices if she's going to survive.
	Dear Martin, by Nic Stone Raw, captivating, and undeniably real, Nic Stone joins industry giants Jason Reynolds and Walter Dean Myers as she boldly tackles American race relations in this stunning debut. Justyce McAllister is top of his class and set for the Ivy League—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. And despite leaving his rough neighborhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates. Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a journal to Dr. King to find out. Then comes the day Justyce goes driving with his best friend, Manny, windows rolled down, music turned up—way up, sparking the fury of a white off-duty cop beside them. Words fly. Shots are fired. Justyce and Manny are caught in the crosshairs. In the media fallout, it's Justyce who is under attack.
	Dear Justyce, by Nic Stone In the stunning and hard-hitting sequel to the <i>New York Times</i> bestseller <i>Dear Martin</i>, incarcerated teen Quan writes letters to Justyce about his experiences in the American prison system. Shortly after teenager Quan enters a not guilty plea for the shooting death of a police officer, he is placed in a holding cell to await trial. Through a series of flashbacks and letters to Justyce, the protagonist of <i>Dear Martin</i>, Quan's story unravels. From a troubled childhood and bad timing to a coerced confession and prejudiced police work, Nic Stone's newest novel takes an unflinching look at the flawed practices and ideologies that discriminate against African American boys and minorities in the American justice system.
	These Violent Delights, by Chloe Gong The year is 1926, and Shanghai hums to the tune of debauchery. A blood feud between two gangs runs the streets red, leaving the city helpless in the grip of chaos. At the heart of it all is eighteen-year-old Juliette Cai, a former flapper who has returned to assume her role as the proud heir of the Scarlet Gang—a network of criminals far above the law. Their only rivals in power are the White Flowers, who have fought the Scarlets for generations. And behind every move is their heir, Roma Montagov, Juliette's first love...and first betrayal. But when gangsters on both sides show signs of instability culminating in clawing their own throats out, the people start to whisper. Of a contagion, a madness. Of a monster in the shadows. As the deaths stack up, Juliette and Roma must set their guns—and grudges—aside and work together, for if they can't stop this mayhem, then there will be no city left for either to rule. This heart-stopping debut is an imaginative <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> retelling set in 1920s Shanghai, with rival gangs and a monster in the depths of the Huangpu River.

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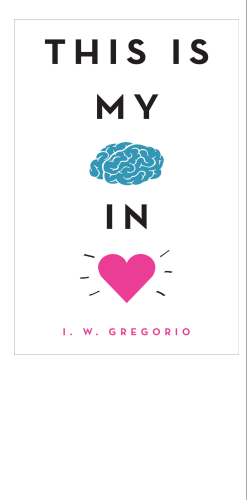
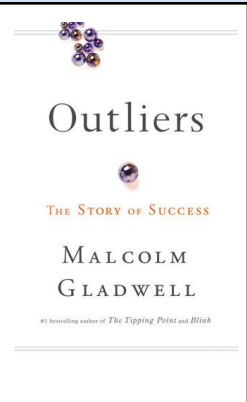
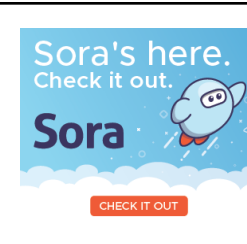
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	This is My Brain in Love, by I.W. Gregorio Jocelyn Wu has just three wishes for her junior year: To make it through without dying of boredom, to direct a short film with her BFF Priya Venkatram, and to get at least two months into the year without being compared to or confused with Peggy Chang, the only other Chinese girl in her grade. Will Domenici has two goals: to find a paying summer internship and to prove he has what it takes to become an editor on his school paper. Then Jocelyn's father tells her their family restaurant may be going under, and all wishes are off. Because her dad has the marketing skills of a dumpling, it's up to Jocelyn and her unlikely new employee, Will, to bring A-Plus Chinese Garden into the 21st century (or, at least, to Facebook). What starts off as a rocky partnership soon grows into something more. But family prejudices and the uncertain future of A-Plus threaten to keep Will and Jocelyn apart. It will take everything they have and more, to save the family restaurant and their budding romance
Nonfiction	
	Outliers: The Story of Success, by Malcolm Gladwell In this stunning book, Malcolm Gladwell takes us on an intellectual journey through the world of "outliers"--the best and the brightest, the most famous and the most successful. He asks the question: what makes high-achievers different? His answer is that we pay too much attention to what successful people are like, and too little attention to where they are from: that is, their culture, their family, their generation, and the idiosyncratic experiences of their upbringing. Along the way he explains the secrets of software billionaires, what it takes to be a great soccer player, why Asians are good at math, and what made the Beatles the greatest rock band. Brilliant and entertaining, <i>Outliers</i> is a landmark work that will simultaneously delight and illuminate.
Other Suggestions	
Don't forget you can get 2 FREE audiobooks each week from Synch Audiobooks for Teens! 	
	Create a FREE account with OverDrive and download the SORA APP for access to audio and ebook content all summer. See our webpage for instructions on how to log in and start reading.

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Special Recommendations for our new 9th-Graders and anyone looking for a really good book

These titles have been chosen because they are fun, high-interest books that have been very popular with CCHS students. We hope you like them, too!

Realistic Fiction

[The Poet X](#), by Elizabeth Acevedo

[Simon vs. the Homosapien Agenda \(Simonverse\)](#), by Becky Albertalli

[Perks of Being a Wallflower](#), by Stephen Chbosky

[We were liars](#), by E. Lockhart

[One of Us is Lying](#), by Karen M. McManus

[All American Boys](#), by Jason Reynolds

[Long Way Down](#), by Jason Reynolds

[Fangirl](#), by Rainbow Rowell

[Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe](#), by Benjamin Alire Saenz

[Dear Martin](#), by Nic Stone

Historical Fiction

[The Girl in the Blue Coat](#), by Monica Hesse

[The Kite Runner](#), by Khaled Hosseini

Fantasy

[Six of Crows \(The Six of Crows Duology\)](#), by Leigh Bardugo

[A Darker Shade of Magic \(Shades of Magic\)](#), by V.E. Schwab

Science Fiction

[Red Rising \(The Red Rising Saga\)](#), by Pierce Brown

[Cinder \(The Lunar Chronicles\)](#), by Marissa Meyer

[Scythe \(Arc Of A Scythe, series\)](#), by Neal Shusterman

Nonfiction

[Outliers: The Story of Success](#), by Malcolm Gladwell

[Free Lunch](#), by Rex Ogle

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Tina Jordan

At Home in Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y.



Egle Zvirblyte

Are you finding it difficult to sit down and read?
You're not alone. Let us help you become a
better reader.

From the New York Times: [6 Steps to Become a Better Reader](#)

1. **Choose the Right Book:** If you want to be a better reader, you first need something to read. Ask yourself some questions:
 - Do you want to read for enjoyment or for knowledge?
 - Are you looking for escapism? (There's nothing wrong with that!)
 - Are you curious about a book that has been atop the best-seller list for months?
2. **Make a Plan:** A reading plan doesn't have to include a schedule — although that's helpful — it should include a goal or promise to yourself that will keep you motivated. (Tip: You should also allow yourself to quit a book: Nothing will derail you faster than books that don't hold your interest.)
3. **Read More Deeply:** To read more deeply, the single most important thing to do is take your time. These tricks will help you slow down:
 - Notice if you start to skim or skip sections. Then, backtrack.
 - Keep a dictionary nearby.
 - Actively reread.
 - Use a highlighter (or sticky notes).

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4. **Read More Critically:** When you are reading deeply and critically, you will find yourself thinking more often about the book you're reading. Stop and ask yourself questions.
 - Consider whether you agree with the book or disagree with it.
 - Think about what makes good writing.

5. **Read More Socially:** Reading may be a solitary endeavor, but once we're done with a book, most of us want to do the same thing: talk to other people about what we loved, what we hated, what we didn't understand. There are many ways to do that:
 - Join an online book club.
 - Find your author on social media.
 - *Sign up for the summer reading program at Concord Free Public Library! Open to all CCHS students!*

6. **Enhance Your Post-Book Experience:** Your experience with a book doesn't need to end when you get to the last page — in fact, in some ways, it's just beginning. Here are some simple steps you can take to stay engaged with books, authors, and the subjects you're learning about.
 - Start a reading journal or reading log.
 - Read for breadth.
 - Read outside your comfort zone.