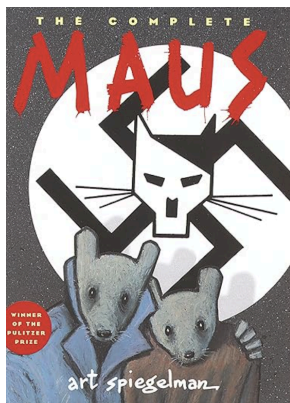


Summer Reading 2025

Freshmen

Choose **one** of the following novels and answer the questions that follow. There will be a follow-up assessment during the first two weeks of school.

1. "The Complete Maus- A Survivor's Tale" by Art Spiegelman- Graphic Novel [Amazon Link](#)



Published: Part I in 1986, Part II in 1991

Grade Level: 9-12

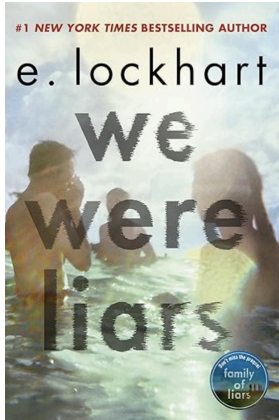
Age Range: 14-18

- This graphic novel tells the story of Vladek Spiegelman, a Polish Jew and Holocaust survivor, as recounted to his son, Art. Through a combination of interviews and flashbacks, it explores the horrors of the Holocaust and its lasting impact on survivors and their families.

Assignment:

1. How does the use of animals to represent different races and nationalities impact the reader's understanding of the Holocaust?
2. In what ways does "Maus" explore the complexities of survivor guilt and intergenerational trauma?
3. How does the relationship between Art and his father, Vladek, evolve throughout the narrative?
4. How does the graphic novel format enhance the storytelling and emotional impact of "Maus"?
5. What does "Maus" suggest about the importance of remembering and documenting history?

2. "We Were Liars" by E. Lockhart-Mystery and Thriller [Amazon Link](#)



Published: 2014

Grade Level: 9-12

Age Range: 14-18

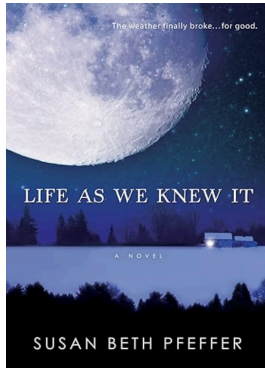
- Cadence Sinclair Eastman, a member of a wealthy family, spends her summers on a private island. After an accident leaves her with memory loss, Cadence tries to piece together what happened, uncovering dark secrets about her family and the events leading up to the tragedy.

Assignment:

1. How does the author use unreliable narration (*unreliable narration is a literary device in which the credibility of the narrator is seriously compromised. This can occur for various reasons, such as the narrator's mental state, biases, limited knowledge, intentional deceit, or immaturity.*) to create suspense and mystery in the novel?
2. In what ways do the themes of memory and truth influence the characters' actions and the story's outcome?
3. How do the Sinclair family's wealth and privilege affect their relationships and moral choices?
4. What does the novel suggest about the nature of guilt and the process of healing from trauma?
5. How does the setting of the private island contribute to the novel's atmosphere and themes?

3. "Life As We Knew It" by Susan Beth Pfeffer-Adventure and Survival

[Amazon Link](#)



Published: 2006

Grade Level: 7-10

Age Range: 12-17

- When an asteroid hits the moon, causing catastrophic natural disasters on Earth, teenager Miranda and her family must adapt to a new world of scarcity and danger. The novel explores their struggle for survival and the shifting dynamics of their relationships in this new reality.

Assignment:

1. How does the novel explore the theme of human resilience in the face of catastrophic events?
2. In what ways do the characters' relationships and dynamics change as they adapt to their new reality?
3. How does the author depict the impact of global disasters on everyday life and societal structures?
4. How do Miranda's priorities and values shift throughout the novel, and what drives these changes?
5. What does the novel suggest about the importance of hope and community during times of crisis?

