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New Haven Public Schools Wilbur Cross High School

Annual Reading Guide 2025 ~ 2026



Mr. Matthew Brown, Principal

* Ms. Tianko Ellison * Ms. Cora Muñoz *
* Ms. Karen Lorde * Mr. Garfield Pilliner *
* Mr. Daniel Wajnowski *

New Haven Public Schools
54 Meadow Street
New Haven, CT 06519

<http://nhps.net>

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Browse the site or choose from these suggestions:

[Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen.](#) Though considered a romantic novel set in the Regency era in England, this novel is full of satire regarding marriage and money. The story follows the character Elizabeth Bennet, the protagonist of the book who learns about the repercussions of her hasty judgments (prejudice) and the character of Fitzwilliam Darcy, who appears excessively haughty and reserved (pride).

[Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad.](#) This book has been widely re-published and translated into many languages. It provided the inspiration for Francis Ford Coppola's 1979 film Apocalypse Now. The story is narrated by Charles Marlow, recalling his obsessive quest to locate the ivory trader Kurtz, who has become ensconced deep in the jungle managing a remote outpost. As he ventures further and further down the Congo, Marlow finds himself and his surroundings become increasingly untethered.

[The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald.](#) The story of the mysteriously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan, as well as lavish parties on Long Island, *The Great Gatsby* is an exquisitely crafted tale of America in the 1920s.

[The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka.](#) Gregor Samsa lives an uneventful life. That is, until one morning he awakes to find himself transformed into a monstrous, verminous bug.

[The Time Machine by H.G. Wells.](#)

When the Time Traveller courageously stepped out of his machine for the first time, he found himself in the year 802,700—and everything had changed. In this unfamiliar, utopian age creatures seemed to dwell together in perfect harmony. The Time Traveller thought he could study these marvelous beings, unearth their secret and then return to his own time, until he discovered that his invention, his only avenue of escape, had been stolen.

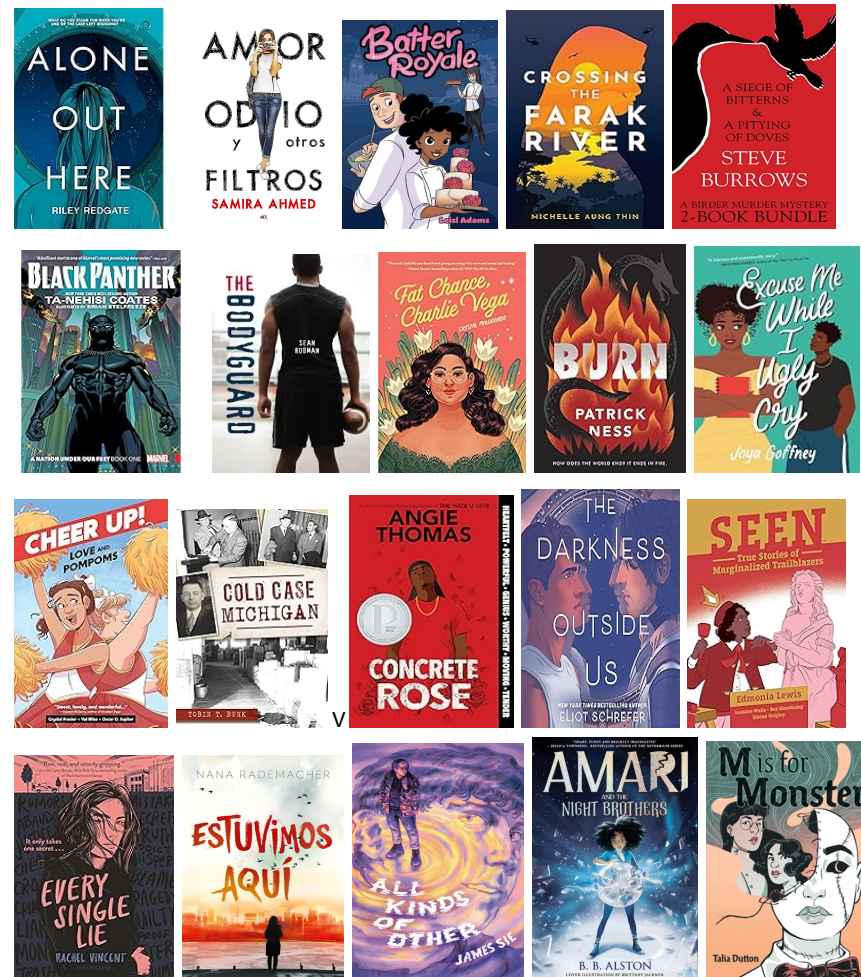
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**Top QUICK PICKS for Young Adults
Looking to GET INTO Reading -
Chosen by the American Library Association**

Aisle Nine by Ian X Cho, 2024.

Like many teens, Jasper works a retail job and has to deal with grumpy customers. He also has to clean up the open portal to Hell in aisle nine. A quirky debut with a lot of humor, a little romance, and plenty of demon-fighting.

The Enigma Girls: How Ten Teenagers Broke Ciphers, Kept Secrets, and Helped Win WWII by Candace Fleming, 2024.

This nonfiction account tells the stories of ten women who, as teenagers, supported Britain's World War II code breaking efforts through top secret work that only became known decades after the war's end.

Ghost Roast by Shawneè Gibbs and Shawnelle Gibbs 2024.

When Chelsea gets caught at a party, her punishment involves working all summer at her dad's embarrassing paranormal extermination company. However, things get really interesting when she discovers that she can actually see ghosts and that one of them is a really cute and intriguing boy her own age.

Even if It Breaks Your Heart by Erin Hahn, 2024.

Winnie graduated early to work on the Michaels' ranch to help her younger siblings, but she dreams of rodeo stardom. Case is a rich kid that is grieving the loss of his best friend. Fast-moving plot points and easy-to-root-for characters make it a great pick for the country and romance fans.

A Deathly Compendium of Poisonous Plants by Rebecca E. Hirsch and Eugenia Nobati (illustrator), 2024.

True crime, history, and natural science are all collected in a book about plants that are not only pretty to look at; they can kill.

That's Not My Name by Megan Lally, 2023.

A teenage girl wakes up with no memory of who she is, until a man claiming to be her father, seemingly with proof, says that her name is Mary. Meanwhile, a boy searches for his missing girlfriend, whom most of his town thinks he murdered.

Poemhood: Our Black Revival: History, Folklore, and the Black

Experience: A Young Adult Poetry Anthology by Amber McBride, Erica Martin, and Taylor Byas, editors, 2024.

A short, poignant poetry anthology that explores the diversity of the Black experience in America through the poetry of thirty-seven classic and contemporary Black poets. The poems touch on a range of topics including family life, history, folklore, religion, and politics.

Homebody by Theo Parish, 2024.

This memoir shares Theo's nonbinary journey: both the highs and lows of self-reflection, questioning societal expectations, and what it feels like to feel at home.

The Last Dragon on Mars by Scott Reintgen, 2024.

Planetary bodies are occupied by dragons; the Earth is habitable because Gaia sacrificed herself. When humankind tried to colonize Mars, that dragon died cursing the planet. Thirteen-year-old Lunar Jones, a scavenger on Mars, stumbles into a restricted zone with the one hope left for his planet – a new dragon.

Every Time You Hear That Song by Jenna Voris, 2024.

Darren embarks on a road trip scavenger hunt with her coworker in order to find a recently deceased country superstar's hidden album and win \$3 million. On her journey, she learns that her hometown has shaped her, whether she likes it or not.



Resources for Reading & Learning Online

* Wilbur Cross High School Library Media Center eBook Collection:

GO TO: crosslmc.webstarts.com > Book Search > click on the RAINBOW symbol for **MackinVIA** > Log In with your NHPS Gmail account **OR** Download the **MackinVIA APP** on your device!

Bluford High Series: The entire series of Bluford High books is available as audio for FREE on this site: <https://www.bluford.org/audiobooks/>
The series focuses on urban teenagers dealing with the challenges that teens often encounter in their homes, schools, and communities. (Check the WCHS library eBook collection for Bluford series books too!)

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Teen Ink: Teen Ink magazine is available for FREE as a digital publication. Teen Ink offers some of the most thoughtful and creative work generated by teens today. <https://www.teenink.com/>

National Public Radio: Keep up with national, international, and historic events by visiting NPR daily! The website contains news & human-interest articles in both print and audio formats. <https://www.npr.org/>

POETRY: The **Poetry Foundation** offers full text of poems written by respected poets from across the globe – and it's free! The Academy of American Poets offers a huge collection of poems and information about the poets, as well as the inspiring Poem- a-Day feature! Check them both out at their websites poetryfoundation.org & poets.org .

* **The United States Library of Congress:** This collection includes books, sound recordings, motion pictures, photographs, maps, and manuscripts. <https://loc.gov/>

Sites marked with an asterisk (*) have materials in various languages.

Suggested reading chosen by the WCHS LMS based on current standards to help students prepare for their upcoming school year.

9th Grade:

The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier
Pet by Akwaeke Emezi
Welcome to the New World by Jake Halpern & Michael Sloan
Monster by Walter Dean Myers *
Bone Gap by Laura Ruby
I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erica L. Sanchez
The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas *

10th Grade:

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson
Animal Farm by George Orwell * (in Spanish)
When I Was Puerto Rican: A Memoir by Esmeralda Santiago
All American Boys by Jason Reynolds
Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood by Marjane Satrapi
Concrete Rose by Angie Thomas *
Dragon Hoops by Gene Luen Yang

11th Grade:

Simon vs. the Homosapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli
The Best We Could Do: An Illustrated Memoir by Thi Bui *
Home is Not a Country by Safia Elhillo
Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
Shut Up, This is Serious by Carolina Ixta
Almost a Woman by Esmeralda Santiago
Accountable: The True Story of a Racist Social Media Account & the Teenagers Whose Lives It Changed by Dashka Slater

12th Grade:

Manchild in the Promised Land by Claude Brown
Liliana's Invincible Summer: A Sister's Search for Justice by Cristina Rivera Garza
Dig by A.S. King
Last Night at the Telegraph Club by Malinda Lo
Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut *
American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang
Solito: A Memoir by Javier Zamora

* Available in eBook @ crosslmc.webstarts.com

