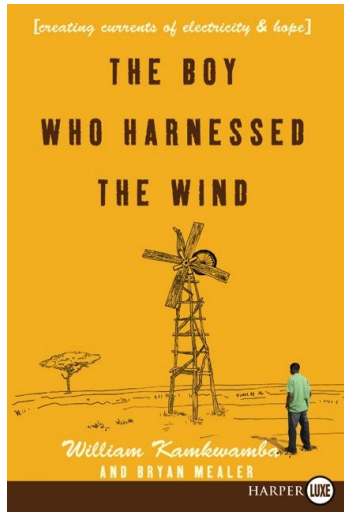


Summer Reading Recommendations



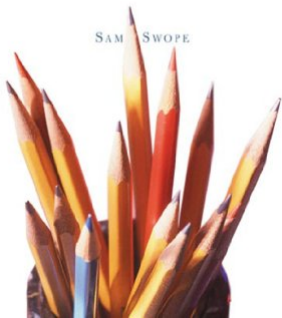
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba

With nothing more than a fistful of cornmeal in his stomach, a small pile of science textbooks, and an armory of curiosity and determination, he embarked on a daring plan to bring his family a set of luxuries that only two percent of Malawians could afford and what the West considers a necessity—electricity and running water. Ages - middle and high school.

I Am a Pencil

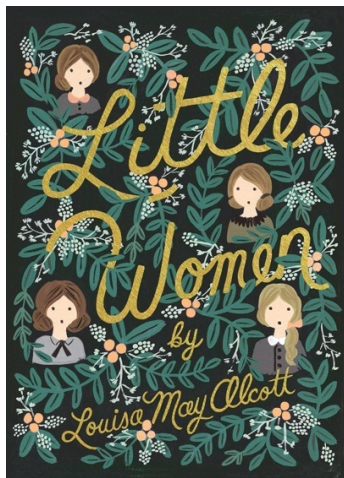
A TEACHER, HIS KIDS, AND
THEIR WORLD OF STORIES

SAM SWOPE



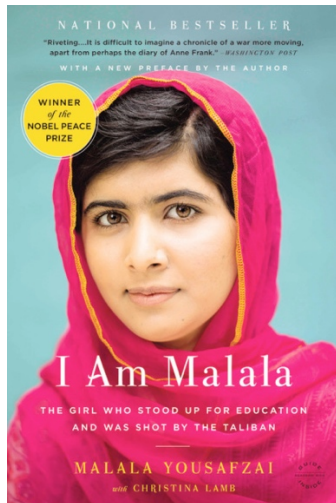
I am a Pencil by Sam Swope

In 1995, writer Sam Swope gave a workshop to a 3rd grade class in a Queens school bursting at the seams with kids from around the world. So enchanted was he with his 28 students that he “adopted” the class for three years, teaching them to write stories and poems. Preparing his students for a world of adult dangers, Swope is astonished by their courage, their humanity, and most of all, their strength. Ages - middle and high school.



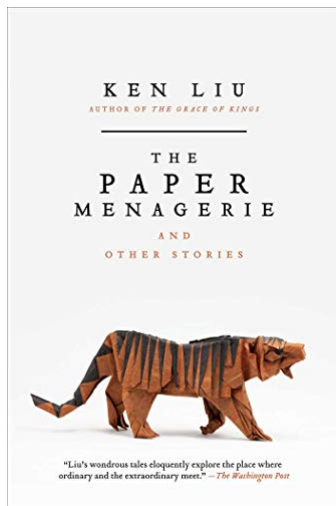
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

As a New England mother struggles to support her family in the wake of her husband’s service in the Civil War, her four daughters struggle, too - caught between childhood dreams and the realities of burgeoning adulthood. For Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy March, raised in integrity and virtue, negotiating the right path in life means making choices that will either narrow or expand their destinies. Ages: middle and high school.



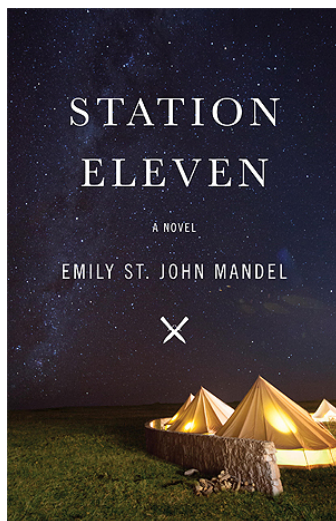
I am Malala
by Malala Yousafzai

Before she was the youngest Noble Peace Prize winner, Malala Yousafzai was a young Pashtun girl who loved to learn in her hometown of Pakistan's Swat Valley. Although her mother was illiterate, Malala grew up in a girls' school run by her father. A curious, precocious learner who firmly believed in a girl's God-given right to learn, Malala was considered a blasphemous troublemaker by the Taliban, and in 2012 she was shot by a Taliban gunman. She survived and refused to be silenced. Ages: middle and high school.



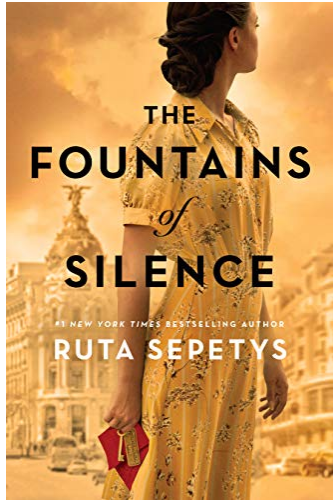
The Paper Menagerie
by Ken Liu

Bestselling author Ken Liu selects his award - winning science fiction and fantasy tales for a groundbreaking collection - including a brand -new piece exclusive to this volume. A must read for every science fiction and fantasy fan, this beautiful book is an anthology to savor. Ages: high school.



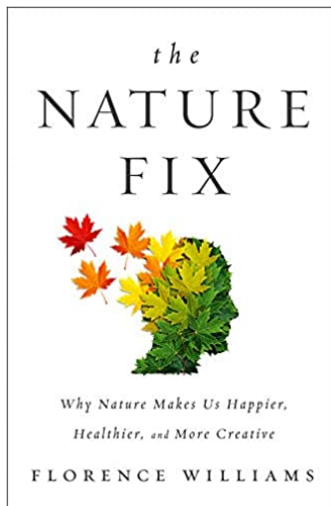
Station Eleven
by Emily St. John Mandel

This is an interesting read about the lives of several characters in a traveling theater group 20 years after a global pandemic. The story includes many flashbacks to their lives before the pandemic. I was drawn in wanting to know how the characters get to where they are in the current time and how their lives are intertwined. Ages: high school.



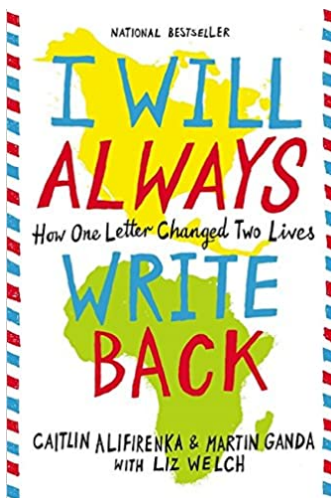
The Fountains of Silence
by Ruta Sepetys

Madrid, 1957. Under a fascist dictatorship, Spain is hiding a dark secret. Meanwhile, tourists and foreign businessmen flood into Spain under the welcoming promise of sunshine and wine. Among them is 18-year-old Daniel, the son of an oil tycoon, who arrives in Madrid with his parents hoping to connect with the country of his mother's birth through the lens of his camera. Soon, lives and hearts collide, revealing an incredibly dark side to the sunny Spanish city. Ages: high school.



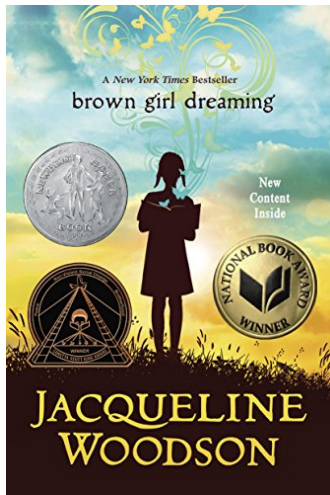
The Nature Fix
by Florence Williams

The Nature Fix demonstrates that our connection to nature is much more important to our cognition than we think and that even small amounts of exposure to the living world can improve our creativity and enhance our mood. In prose that is incisive, witty, and urgent, Williams shows how time in nature is not a luxury but is in fact essential to our humanity. Ages: high school.



I Will Always Write Back – How One Letter Changes Two Lives
by Martin Ganda and Caitlin Alifrenka

In 1997, 12-year-old American middle schooler Caitlin and 14-year-old Zimbabwean Martin are paired as pen pals through their schools. At first, Caitlin sends photos and trinkets and asks for the same, not realizing the depths of poverty in which Martin lives. Eventually Caitlin and her family start to send financial support to Martin, and their international friendship forever changes each of their lives. Ages: middle and high school.



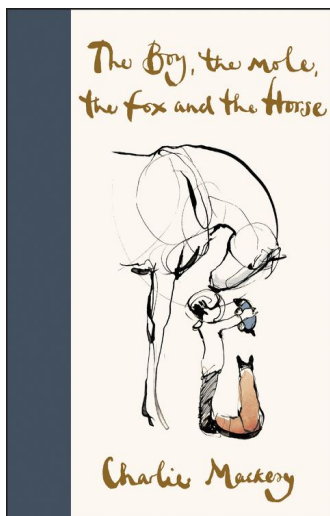
Brown Girl Dreaming
by Jacqueline Woodson

Raised in both South Carolina and New York, author Jacqueline Woodson shares tales of her upbringing through Jim Crow and Civil Rights in the '60s and '70s. Told completely in verse, Woodson's book details cherished memories about her grandparents, pop culture, new friends, and living in both the segregated country and diverse city streets. Ages: middle and high school.



Persepolis
by Marjane Satrapi

Graphic novel, originally written in French and since translated into English. Persepolis is the story of Satrapi's unforgettable childhood and coming of age within a large and loving family in Tehran during the Islamic Revolution. It is the chronicle of a girlhood and adolescence at once outrageous and familiar. Ages: high school.



The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse
by Charlie Mackesy

From the revered British illustrator, a modern fable for all ages that explores life's universal lessons, featuring 100 color and black-and-white drawings. "What do you want to be when you grow up?" asked the mole. "Kind," said the boy. Mackesy offers inspiration and hope in uncertain times in this beautiful book based on his famous quartet of characters. *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse* explores their unlikely friendship and the poignant, universal lessons they learn together. Ages: middle school.