

GRADES 9 - 12 • 2020 Summer Book List

To view videos about the listed books, visit our YouTube channel **CCPL Summer Reading**.

SINGLE BOOKS



With the Fire on High by Elizabeth Acevedo

Emoni is starting her senior year of high school living with her abuela and her toddler daughter. She got pregnant freshman year, kept the baby, and has been working hard to keep up ever since. Emoni has a strong sense of her roots, both her late mother's black American side and her father's Puerto Rican side. She loves to cook and relishes every chance to do so. When her homeroom teacher shares that the school is opening a culinary arts class, Emoni can hardly wait to sign up. This story has a great community of

characters, mouth-watering descriptions of food, and a whole lot of heart.



Kiss Number 8 by Colleen AF Venable

Mads is pretty happy with her life. She goes to church with her family and minor league baseball games with her dad. She goofs off with her best friend Cat and has thus far managed to avoid getting kissed by Adam, the boy next door. It's everything she hoped high school would be, until all of a sudden, it's not. Her dad is hiding something big, so big it could tear her family apart. And that's just the beginning of her problems; Mads is starting to figure out that she doesn't want to kiss Adam, because the only person

she wants to kiss is Cat. *Kiss Number 8* is a layered, funny, sharp-edged story of teen sexuality and family secrets.



Monday's Not Coming by Tiffany D. Jackson

Have you ever known something deep in your gut? That something is terribly wrong, yet you just can't get the adults in your life to take you seriously, to believe what you're trying to say? Because what could you possibly know, you're just a kid? That's what Claudia is facing. She's just returned to DC from visiting her grandmama in Georgia all summer, and she can't find her best friend Monday. They're supposed to start 8th grade together, to do all the things they need to do to start their journey through high school, college,

life. Monday would not just abandon Claudia, would she? But the recorded lady on the other end of the phone keeps saying there's no one there, the number's been disconnected, the number's wrong.

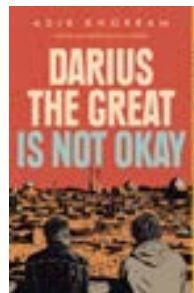
Monday has *never* missed a day of school, but days go by, then weeks, then months, and no one seems to know where she is. Everyone's got a different story, a different excuse as to where she's gone: she's at her father's, she's at her aunt's, maybe she's run away. When Claudia gets worried enough to start asking people in charge, there's a whole different set of excuses. People seem too busy to get worked up about a little girl from the poor side of town with a family that can't seem to get itself together. But Claudia cares, she cares a whole lot. Her person, her whole life is gone and she won't stop until she finds Monday.



Aurora Rising by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff

Aurora Rising is the first book in a new young adult sci-fi book series by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff. The story is about a group of lovable losers and misfits: Brain, Alpha, Face, Tank, Ace, and Gearhead. There's an additional squad member, who could be the catalyst that starts a war millions of years in the making, the "Girl out of Time". So, "Prepare to meet the squad...They're not the heroes we wanted. They're just the ones we could find." "This squad just might be the last hope for the entire galaxy." The follow up,

Aurora Burning, will be released soon.



Darius the Great Is Not Okay by Adib Khorram

Darius Kellner is an expert on three things: tea, Star Trek, and being bullied. There are lots of things he knows nothing about, like how to speak Farsi, his Persian mother's native language, or how to communicate with his father, AKA the Übermensch. Most of all, he doesn't know what to expect when his parents tell him they're going to visit his mother's parents in Iran. Darius has never really fit in at home and he's sure this trip abroad won't be any different. The clinical depression that haunts him at home

won't just magically disappear.

In Iran, Darius meets a neighborhood boy named Sohrab and everything changes. They spend their days playing soccer, visiting tourist attractions, and tasting the best Persian food the country has to offer. Darius finally starts to feel like himself. Thanks to Sohrab, Darius is finally an expert in one more thing, what it's like to have a friend. For a beautifully-written comfort read about friendship, family, and mental health, read Adib Khorram's *Darius the Great Is Not Okay*.



The Lady Is a Spy by Don Mitchell

Virginia Hall grew up the daughter of a wealthy Baltimore County banker. She was traveling in Europe in 1939 when World War II broke out in Poland. Instinct might tell you that was a good time to head for home, but not for Virginia! She had already fallen in love with France, so she decided to go there to help the cause in any way she could. She first found work as a member of an ambulance company, but it wasn't long before she began helping the French Resistance as an undercover member of the British Office of Strategic

Services. How do you think she ended up doing that? And what happened that allowed her to be called a hero? How does someone from Maryland end up fighting for France?

If you like reading about spies, and particularly about women spies, or about the people who helped us win the war, you'll enjoy this book! Virginia Hall was a very brave person who was willing to take chances in ways that a lot of other spies were not. She escaped from some of the most dangerous circumstances and lived to tell the story.

GRADES 9 - 12 • 2020 Summer Book List

To view videos about the listed books, visit our YouTube channel **CCPL Summer Reading**.

SINGLE BOOKS



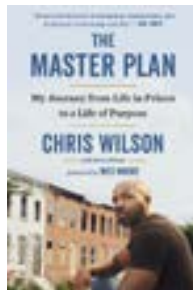
A Very Large Expanse of Sea by Tahereh Mafi

A Very Large Expanse of Sea is a beautifully-written, #ownvoices novel by Tahereh Mafi. At first glance this story looks like a modern Romeo and Juliet story, but this book, which Mafi bases very much on her own life experiences as a Muslim-American, is heartbreaking and hopeful at the same time. Once you read it, you will want to make everyone around you read it, too.

The year is 2002, a time when the 9/11 attacks stoked enormous amounts of fear and hatred against Muslim-Americans. Shirin, who is American-born, is proud to

be Muslim and wear a hijab. The world around her is not kind to her because of it, despite living in a country that claims to protect her religious freedoms. To make matters worse, Shirin has just arrived at her third high school in two years. Feeling lost and alone, and finding solace in little other than her passion for break dancing, she builds up a tough exterior that is deeply shaken when she meets a boy who is her exact opposite, but in many ways, also her perfect match.

Though her exact circumstances might not be the same as the reader's, Shirin's emotions and insights are relatable on a universal level. *A Very Large Expanse of Sea* is a story about love, but also coming-of-age, yearning for acceptance, understanding, and justice. It's about family and friendship and discovering one's self.



The Master Plan by Chris Wilson

The Master Plan is about a teenager named Chris growing up in DC with a heart as big as Texas. Readers are introduced to his family and learn his life is not easy, growing up in poverty. He is no stranger to violence, having seen shootings and stabbings, and even personal attacks on his mom. One night, while defending himself, he shoots and kills a man. He is later sentenced to life in jail for the killing.

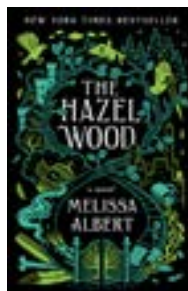
Readers accompany him during his first few years of prison, getting a peek into how things really work in the jail system. During his incarceration, Chris meets an accomplished man, also a prisoner, who bettered himself so much that he held a job and was respected among the inmates. The man affected Chris so deeply that he decided he wanted to turn his life totally around; he sat and wrote what he called his "Master Plan", thirty or so goals that he wanted to work on accomplishing right away. Among some of his goals were to learn Spanish, start a business, stop swearing, and go horseback riding. Some prisoners made fun of him a bit as he was a "lifer", but that didn't stop him. He began to use the prison library to continue his studies, earning his GED and then a degree from community college. He started a successful business, right from within the jail. If crime and punishment in the United States or underdog stories interest you, please read this book.

BOOK SERIES

The Hazel Wood Series by Melissa Albert

This series is the story of a teenager named Alice Proserpine, who, when compared to the Alice who fell into Wonderland, has a much different tale to tell. Instead of disappearing cats and fluffy white rabbits, Alice Proserpine must deal with much stranger, more terrifying creatures from a place known as the Hinterland.

In *The Hazel Wood* we are introduced to Alice and her mother Ella, who have been on the run for as long as Alice can remember. Although she doesn't actually know why, Alice suspects the reason for most of their insane lifestyle is her reclusive grandmother Althea, the famed author of a creepy cult-classic book of fairy tales, *Tales from the Hinterland*. When they get word that Althea has died, things get much worse, Ella mysteriously vanishes. Alice starts on her journey to save her mother, determined to unlock the secrets of her grandmother along the way.



Books Included in the Series
The Hazel Wood
The Night Country

Dance of Thieves Series by Mary Pearson

This new young adult fantasy series is set in the Remnant Chronicles universe. In *Dance of Thieves* a dark secret is a threat to the entire continent. Reformed thief and member of the Queen's Guard Kazi and outlaw leader Jase are brought together intimately in a battle that may cost them both their lives and their hearts.



Books Included in the Series

Dance of Thieves
Vow of Thieves

Slayer Series by Kiersten White

Twins Athena (Nina) and Artemis have grown up among Watchers and Slayers, people who work together to protect the world from demonic evil. Nina and Artemis go about their days in their assigned roles; Nina is a medic, someone who eschews violence. Artemis is the strong one who one day will be out there fighting evil. Then one day Nina protects the castle against a hellhound, her body automatically knowing how to defeat the beast despite never having any training. Could this mean Nina is meant to be a Slayer? In this series, you'll follow along with Nina as she tries to espouse her true nature, fighting evil, and encountering mysteries.



Books Included in the Series

Slayer
Chosen