

# Falls Church High School \* Ninth Grade Summer Reading List

Requirements: Each student enrolled in English 9 must read **one** book of choice. Students enrolled in English 9 Honors must read **two**. Students can purchase books or visit local libraries to find appropriate selections. The books must be age and reading level appropriate. For options and suggestions, please refer to the lists below.

[Barnes and Noble list of YA Novels](#)

[67 Must Read Books for Teens](#)

[Barnes and Noble Teen Fiction \(Boys & Young Men\)](#)

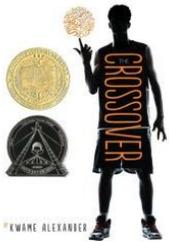
[LGBTQ Literature](#)

[16 Books Everyone Should Read Before High School](#)

[YA Novels with Hispanic Protagonists](#)

**Previews: Below are just a few of the books featured in the links above.**

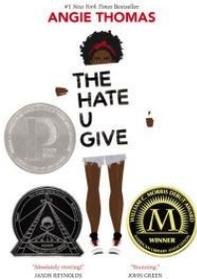
YOUR EXPLOSION... I'LL BE THE CENTER OF EVERYONE'S MIND! —KOSHY GIBSON



## *Crossover* by Kwame Alexander

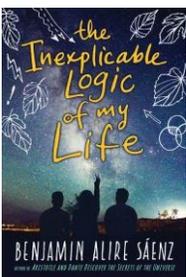
Synopsis: "With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood from Kwame Alexander.

Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.



## *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas

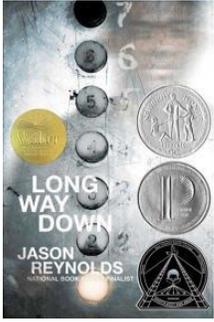
Synopsis: Thomas's Black Lives Matter–inspired debut has spent months atop the bestseller list, gained fans around the world, and become a kind of shorthand for a much-needed wave of fiction examining police brutality against black communities (for a slightly earlier take, see also: last year's excellent *All American Boys*). But at the heart of the hype is the wonderful story of Starr Carter, sole witness to her childhood friend's killing by a white cop during a traffic stop. THUG is a breathless, topical, and heartbreaking take on an issue that trends with horrifying frequency, but it's also a warm, hilarious look at the life of a family and a neighborhood, rendered with vivid, loving specificity.



## *The Inexplicable Logic of My Life* by Benjamin Alire Sáenz

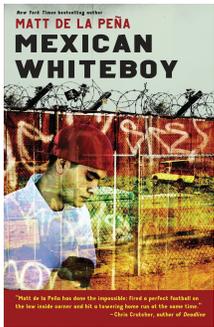
Synopsis: Sal comes from a very complicated family. He's ethnically white and was adopted by a gay dad and a Mexican American family. Still, he *feels* Mexican, no matter what anyone tells him. But at a time in his life when he's surrounded by tragedy and death and abandonment, he's trying to hold on to the things that make him intrinsically *Sal*. He thought he knew his place in the world, but now the outside world is trying to define him, including through verbal assault pointed at himself and his family. Soon Sal is questioning everything about who he is. The problem is, if he was wrong all this time, who *can* he be after

all these years?



### *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds

**Synopsis:** Reynolds' brief, knockout novel in verse is a thoroughly modern ghost story. It follows the grieving brother of a young man killed in a retributive act of gun violence, who's setting out to continue the vicious cycle by killing the man he believes is responsible. But as he makes his way by elevator from his apartment to the street, gun tucked into his waistband, reality buckles and ghosts come in. On each floor, a different spirit from his past enters the elevator, each offering their perspective on the costs and perverse draw of gun violence, from the childhood friend slaughtered by an errant bullet to a fellow foot soldier in the never-ending war of eye for an eye. This vivid book pulls no punches, and ends on a note that's just elliptical enough to ensure it'll be on your mind for days.

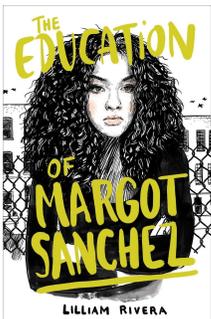


### *Mexican Whiteboy* by Matt De La Peña

**Synopsis:** Danny is tall and skinny. Even though he's not built, his arms are long enough to give his pitch a power so fierce any college scout would sign him on the spot. Ninety-five mile an hour fastball, but the boy's not even on a team. Every time he gets up on the mound, he loses it.

But at his private school, they don't expect much else from him. Danny is brown. Half-Mexican brown. And growing up in San Diego that close to the border means everyone else knows exactly who he is before he even opens his mouth. Before they find out he can't speak Spanish, and before they realize his mom has blond hair and blue eyes, they've got him pegged. But it works the other way too. And Danny's convinced it's his whiteness that sent his father back to Mexico.

That's why he's spending the summer with his dad's family. But to find himself, he may just have to face the demons he refuses to see—the demons that are right in front of his face. And open up to a friendship he never saw coming.



### *The Education of Margot Sanchez* by Lilliam Rivera

**Synopsis:** Things/People Margot Hates:

- Mami, for destroying her social life
- Papi, for allowing Junior to become a Neanderthal
- Junior, for becoming a Neanderthal
- The supermarket
- Everyone else

After "borrowing" her father's credit card to finance a more stylish wardrobe, Margot Sanchez suddenly finds herself grounded. And by grounded, she means working as an indentured servant in her family's struggling grocery store to pay off her debts.

With each order of deli meat she slices, Margot can feel her carefully cultivated prep school reputation slipping through her fingers, and she's willing to do anything to get out of this punishment. Lie, cheat, and maybe even steal... Margot's invitation to the ultimate beach party is within reach and she has no intention of letting her family's drama or Moises—the admittedly good looking but outspoken boy from the neighborhood—keep her from her goal.