

AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR OF SALT TO THE SEA
RUTA SEPETYS

I
MUST
betray
YOU

ROBIN HA

*almost
American
Girl*

THE
LAST
CUENTISTA

Grade 8

summer reading choices

Choose ONE book from this list to read this summer. Arrive at school in the fall ready to discuss your book!

Psst! You can find these books on soraapp.com and at your local library!

DYSTOPIAN

The Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera

Petra's world is ending. Earth has been destroyed by a comet, and only a few hundred scientists and their children — among them Petra and her family — have been chosen to journey to a new planet. They are the ones who must carry on the human race. Hundreds of years later, Petra wakes to the discovery that she is the only person who remembers Earth. A sinister Collective has taken over the ship during its journey. Petra alone now carries the stories of our past, and with them, any hope for our future. Can she make them live again?

Uglies (First in a series) by Scott Westerfeld

Tally can't wait to turn sixteen and become Pretty. Sixteen is the magic number that brings a transformation from a repellent Ugly into a stunning Pretty, and catapults you into a high-tech paradise where your only job is to have a really great time. But Tally's new friend, Shay, isn't sure she wants to be Pretty. She'd rather risk life on the outside. When Shay runs away, Tally learns about a whole new side of the Pretty world — and it isn't very pretty.

NON-FICTION

It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime (Adapted for Young Readers) by Trevor Noah

Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of The Daily Show began with a crime: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on an adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle.

BOOKS IN VERSE

Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds

New York Times bestselling author Jason Reynolds's electrifying novel takes place in sixty potent seconds—the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother. Will gets on an elevator, determined to seek revenge. The whole long way down, as the elevator stops on each floor, someone connected to his brother gets on to give Will a piece to a bigger story than the one he thinks he knows. (Content Warning: Contains violence, mature language)

HISTORICAL FICTION

I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys

Romania, 1989. Communist regimes are crumbling across Europe. Seventeen-year-old Cristian Florescu dreams of becoming a writer, but Romanians aren't free to dream; they are bound by rules and force. Amidst the tyrannical dictatorship of Nicolae Ceaușescu in a country governed by isolation and fear, Cristian is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer. He's left with only two choices: betray everyone and everything he loves—or use his position to creatively undermine the most notoriously evil dictator in Eastern Europe.

GRAPHIC NOVEL (MEMOIR)

Almost American Girl by Robin Ha

Growing up as the only child of a single mother in Seoul, Korea, wasn't always easy, but it has bonded Robin and her mother fiercely together. So when a vacation to visit friends in the U.S. becomes a permanent relocation—following her mother's announcement that she's getting married—Robin is devastated. She is separated from her friends and dropped into a new school where she doesn't understand the language. Then one day Robin's mother enrolls her in a comic drawing class, which opens the window to a future Robin could never have imagined.