looks like his ticket to a better life in the big city. But his entire future is threatened when several violent guys find out Gabe, the popular DJ, is also Elizabeth from school. | **ALA**

**All Our Pretty Songs** by Sarah McCarry
In the Pacific Northwest, the bond between two best friends is challenged when a mysterious and gifted musician comes between them and awakens an ancient evil. | **ALA Outstanding Books for the College Bound**

**The Sky is Everywhere** by Jandy Nelson
In the months after her sister dies, seventeen-year-old Lennie falls into a love triangle and discovers the strength to follow her dream of becoming a musician. | **Lexile:** 860

**Tone Deaf** by Olivia Rivers
Ali Collins was a child piano prodigy until a brain tumor caused her to lose her hearing, and now, after meeting Jace, the lead singer of Tone Deaf, her musical and romantic possibilities increase. | **ALA**

**Eleanor & Park** by Rainbow Rowell
Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits—smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try. | **ALA, ILA**

**The Scar Boys** by Len Vlahos
Written as a college admission essay, eighteen-year-old Harry Jones recounts a childhood defined by the hideous scars he hid behind, and how forming a band brought self-confidence, friendship, and his first kiss. | **ALA, ILA**

**The Lucy Variations** by Sara Zarr
Sixteen-year-old San Franciscan Lucy Beck-Moreau once had a promising future as a concert pianist. Her chance at a career has passed, and she decides to help her ten-year-old piano prodigy brother, Gus, map out his own future, even as she explores why she enjoyed piano in the first place. | **ALA Outstanding Books for the College Bound**
**Summer Reading List**

**POETRY**

**The Rose That Grew From Concrete** by Tupac Shakur
A collection of verse by the late hip-hop star Tupac Shakur includes more than one hundred poems confronting such wide-ranging topics as poverty, motherhood, Van Gogh, and Mandela. | ALA

**NONFICTION**

**Symphony for the City of the Dead:** Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad by M. T. Anderson
An account of the Siege of Leningrad reveals the role played by Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich and his Leningrad Symphony in rallying and commemorating their fellow citizens. | ALA, NCSS | Lexile: 990

**Sensing the Rhythm:** Finding My Voice in a World Without Sound by Mandy Harvey
The musician recounts her life and career, including how she lost her hearing at age eighteen, suffered from depression, and found her way back to music.

**Ready for a Brand New Beat:** How "Dancing in the Street" Became the Anthem for a Changing America by Mark Kurlansky
Traces the meteoric popularity of the iconic song by Marvin Gaye, Mickey Stevenson, and Ivy Jo Hunter against a backdrop of the Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964, exploring how the song's multiple meanings rendered it an activist anthem. | ALA Outstanding Books for the College Bound

**This is Your Brain on Music:** the Science of a Human Obsession by Daniel J. Levitin
Explores the relationship between the mind and music by drawing on recent findings in the fields of neuroscience and evolutionary psychology to discuss topics such as the sources of musical tastes and the brain's responses to music.

**Children of the Stone:** The Power of Music in a Hard Land by Sandy Tolan
Chronicles the life story of Ramzi Aburedwan, a Palestinian refugee who got an education, mastered the viola, and founded a music school in the West Bank, showing how his love of music helped to inspire children in a violent land.

**BIOGRAPHY**

**Janis Joplin** by Ann Angel
A biography of rock musician Janis Joplin, with photographs and anecdotes from those who knew her, covering her work to improve as a singer, struggle against authority and love for her mother. | ALA | Lexile: 1170

**Yoko Ono:** Collector of Skies by Neil Beram
A lyrical introduction to the life and art of Yoko Ono covers her avant-garde visual art and her experimental music, exploring how she endured as the misunderstood wife of John Lennon and sought unique creative expressions. | ALA Outstanding Books for the College Bound

**This Land Was Made for You and Me** by Elizabeth Partridge
A biography of Woody Guthrie, a singer who wrote over 3,000 folk songs and ballads as he traveled around the United States, including This Land is Your Land and So Long It's Been Good to Know You. | ALA Outstanding Books for the College Bound, NCSS | Lexile: 1020

**Die Young With Me:** A Memoir by Rob Rufus
The author describes growing up in rural West Virginia and starting a punk band with his twin brother, only to be diagnosed with stage four cancer, which forced him to discover his inner strength. | ALA ALEX Award

*Many listed were selected as exemplary by one or more of the following organizations: the American Library Association (ALA), the International Literacy Association (ILA), the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) or the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY).
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie
Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. | Lexile: 600

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson
A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school. | Lexile: 690

Feed by M. T. Anderson
In a future where most people have computer implants in their heads to control their environment, a boy meets an unusual girl who is in serious trouble. | Lexile: 770

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
Set in the near future, America has become a puritanical theocracy and Offred tells her story as a Handmaid under the new social order. | Lexile: 750

Squashed by Joan Bauer
As sixteen-year-old Ellie pursues her two goals--growing the biggest pumpkin in Iowa and losing twenty pounds herself--she strengthens her relationship with her father and meets a young man with interests similar to her own. | Lexile: 930

Love in the Time of Global Warming by Francesca Lia Block
After a devastating earthquake destroys the West Coast, causing seventeen-year-old Penelope to lose her home, her parents, and her ten-year-old brother, she navigates a dark world, holding hope and love in her hands and refusing to be defeated. | Lexile: 890

Weetzie Bat by Francesca Lia Block
Follows the wild adventures of Weetzie Bat and her Los Angeles friends, Dirk, Duck, and My-Secret-Agent-Lover-Man. | Lexile: 960

Kindred by Octavia Butler
A young African-American woman is mysteriously transferred back in time leading to an irresistible curiosity about her family's past. | Lexile: 580

Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card
Young Ender Wiggin may prove to be the military genius Earth needs to fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race that will determine the future of the human race. | Lexile: 780

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky
A series of letters to an unknown correspondent reveals the coming-of-age trials of a high-schooler named Charlie. | Lexile: 720

Girl Overboard by Justina Chen
After a snowboarding accident, Syrah Cheng, a billionaire's daughter, must rehabilitate both her knee and her self-esteem while forging relationships with those who accept her for who she is. | Lexile: 960

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
A young girl living in a Hispanic neighborhood in Chicago ponders the advantages and disadvantages of her environment and evaluates her relationships with family and friends. | Lexile: 850

Just Listen by Sara Dessen
Isolated from friends who believe the worst because she has not been truthful with them, sixteen-year-old Annabel finds an ally in classmate Owen, whose honesty and passion for music help her to face and share what really happened at the end-of-the-year party that changed her life. | Lexile: 810

Copper Sun by Sharon M. Draper
Two fifteen-year-old girls--one a slave and the other an indentured servant--escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Moses, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves. | Lexile: 820

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer
Follows nine-year-old Oskar Schell as he encounters a number of interesting characters in his search for information about his father, who died in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, and tries to find the lock that fits the mysterious key he left behind. | Lexile: 940

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green
Sixteen-year-old Hazel, a stage IV thyroid cancer patient, has accepted her terminal diagnosis until a chance meeting with a boy at cancer support group forces her to reexamine her perspective on love, loss, and life. | Lexile: 850

April 2015
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon
Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother. | Lexile: 1180

Seraphina by Rachel Hartman
In a world where dragons and humans coexist in an uneasy truce and dragons can assume human form, Seraphina, whose mother died giving birth to her, grapples with her own identity amid magical secrets and royal scandals, while she struggles to accept and develop her extraordinary musical talents. | Lexile: 760

Game by Walter Dean Myers
If Harlem high school senior Drew Lawson is going to realize his dream of playing college, then professional, basketball, he will have to improve at being coached and being a team player, especially after a new--white--student threatens to take the scouts' attention away from him. | Lexile: 800

Monster by Walter Dean Myers
While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken. | Lexile: 670

Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi
Contains black-and-white comic strip images in which the author shares the story of her life in Tehran, Iran, where she lived from ages six to fourteen while the country came under control of the Islamic regime. | Lexile: 380

Midwinterblood by Marcus Sedgwick
Seven linked vignettes unfold on a Scandinavian island inhabited--throughout various time periods--by Vikings, vampires, ghosts, and a curiously powerful plant. | Lexile: 770

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith
Young Francie Nolan, having inherited both her father's romantic and her mother's practical nature, struggles to survive and thrive growing up in the slums of Brooklyn in the early twentieth century. | Lexile: 810

Buried Onions by Gary Soto
When nineteen-year-old Eddie drops out of college, he struggles to find a place for himself as a Mexican American living in a violence-infested neighborhood of Fresno, California. | Lexile: 850

Marcelo in the Real World by Francisco X. Stork
Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy on the high-functioning end of the autistic spectrum, faces new challenges, including romance and injustice, when he goes to work for his father in the mailroom of a corporate law firm. | Lexile: 700

Jumped by Rita Williams-Garcia
The lives of Leticia, Dominique, and Trina are irrevocably intertwined through the course of one day in an urban high school after Leticia overhears Dominique's plans to beat up Trina and must decide whether or not to get involved. | Lexile: 600

How to Save a Life by Sara Zarr
Told from their own viewpoints, seventeen-year-old Jill, in grief over the loss of her father, and Mandy, nearly nineteen, are thrown together when Jill's mother agrees to adopt Mandy's unborn child but nothing turns out as they had anticipated. | Lexile: 710

SERIES

Weetzie Bat series by Francesca Lia Block
Finishing School series by Gail Carriger
The Mortal Instruments series by Cassandra Clare
The Hunger Games series by Suzanne Collins
The Maze Runner series by James Dashner
The Rangers Apprentice series Flanagan

Earthsea series by Ursula K. Le Guin
Life as We Knew It series by Susan Beth Pfeffer
His Dark Materials series by Philip Pullman
The Raven Cycle by Maggie Stiefvater
Shiver trilogy by Maggie Stiefvater
Daughter of Smoke and Bone series by Laini