Summer Reading List Summaries 2019-20

Fiction

11/22/63 (42 points)  Stephen King
When English teacher Jake Epping discovers a portal to the past, he decides to use it to prevent the John F. Kennedy assassination.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian (6 points)  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.

All We Have Left (12 points)  Wendy Mills
In interweaving stories of 16-year-olds, modern-day Jesse tries to cope with the ramifications of her brother's death on 9/11, while in 2001, Alia, a Muslim, gets trapped in one of the Twin Towers and meets a boy as flames rage around them.

American Panda (11 points)  Gloria Chao
A freshman at MIT, 17-year-old Mei Lu tries to live up to her Taiwanese parents' expectations, but no amount of tradition, obligation, or guilt prevent her from hiding several truths.

The Bar Code Tattoo (8 points)  Suzanne Weyn
Kayla is ostracized at school because she refused to get the required tattooed bar code and now she must run to avoid the authorities and fight for her freedom. Book #1.

The Belles (16 points)  Dhonielle Clayton
In a world where Beauty is a commodity only a few control, one Belle will learn the dark secrets behind her powers and rise up to change the world. Book #1.

The Bitter Side of Sweet (12 points)  Tara Sullivan
Kept as forced labor on a chocolate plantation in the Ivory Coast, Amadou and his younger brother Seydou had given up hope, until a young girl arrives at the camp who rekindles the urge to escape. The plot contains profanity and violenc.
**Bluescreen: A Mirador Novel (13 points)**

Dan Wells

Using her smart-device brain implants to enjoy a higher quality of life in mid-20th-century, Marisa learns about an allegedly safe virtual drug only to become enmeshed in a dangerous conspiracy. The plot contains profanity and violence. Book #1

**Burn Baby Burn (10 points)**

Meg Medina

During the infamous New York summer of 1977 when the Son of Sam was running rampant, seventeen-year-old Nora Lopez faces danger within her own home. The plot contains profanity, sexual references, and violence.

**Burning Midnight (11 points)**

Will McIntosh

Teens Sully, Hunter, Dom, and Mandy team up in a race against unscrupulous billionaire CEO Alex Holliday to locate a collectible sphere, which may have a very steep price. The plot contains mild profanity.

**Dan vs. Nature (11 points)**

Don Calame

Dan spends his time creating graphic novels and looking out for his mom, who announces that she is sending Dan and her fiancé on a survivalist camping trip.

**Elijah of Buxton (12 points)**

Christopher Curtis

In 1859, eleven-year-old Elijah, the first freeborn child in Buxton, Canada, a haven for slaves fleeing the American South, uses his wits to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

**The Friends (7 points)**

Rosa Guy

When Phyllisia is overwhelmed with life in New York she finds true friendship in a very unlikely place, a girl named Edith who lives on her own.

**Goodbye Days (13 points)**

Jeff Zeitner

Carver Briggs never thought the last message he would ever send to his three best friends Mars, Eli, and Blake would lead to their deaths.

**The Hazel Wood (13 points)**

Melissa Albert

Seventeen-year-old Alice and her mother have spent most of Alice's life on the road, always a step ahead of the uncanny bad luck biting at their heels. The plot contains mild profanity and graphic violence.
**The Hill (8 points)**
Karen Bass

Based on the Cree Wîhtiko legend and inspired by the real story of a remote plane crash, something eerie is happening in the northern Alberta landscape. The plot contains profanity and violence.

**Homecoming (16 points)**
Cynthia Voigt

Daneille is helping Alec escort a vanload of racehorses from New York to Florida. This will give her the opportunity to visit her horse, Redman, who is at a riding camp up north. The trip is more hazardous than anyone imagined.

**I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter (12 points)**
Erika Sanchez

Julia help her family pick up the pieces after her sister, Olga, dies in a tragic accident. In the process, Julia learns that Olga may not have been so perfect after all. The plot contains profanity, sexual situations, violence, and racial slurs.

**The Illustrated Man (10 points)**
Ray Bradbury

The Illustrated Man is a wanderer whose entire body is a living canvas of exotic tattoos. What's even more remarkable, and increasingly disturbing, is that the illustrations are themselves magically alive, and each proceeds to unfold its own story.

**Kids of Appetite (12 points)**
David Arnold

Teens Victor and Madeline sit in separate police interrogation rooms telling about the misfits who brought them together and their journey sparked by a message in an urn. The plot contains profanity and violence.

**Kindred (14 points)**
Octavia Butler

Dana, a young black writer living in Los Angeles in 1976, undertakes a series of unexpected and dangerous trips into the year 1819 to rescue Rufus, the young son of a Maryland slaveholder.

**The Last Boy and Girl in the World (17 points)**
Siobhann Vivian

If her town is to be evacuated due to flooding, high-school senior and class clown Keeley wants to cheer up her friends and pursue her big crush. This story is inspired by true events and contains profanity and sexual references.

**Like Water on Stone (3 points)**
Dana Walrath

Inspired by a true story, this novel in verse relates the tale of siblings Sosi, Shahen, and Mariam, who survive the Armenian genocide of 1915 by escaping alone from Turkey over the mountains. The text contains descriptions of violence.
Looking for Alaska (11 points)  
John Green

Sixteen-year-old Miles's first year at a prep school includes good friends and great pranks but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash. The plot contains profanity, sexual situations, and alcohol use.

A Match Made in High School (9 points)  
Kristin Walker

When the high-school principal announces that every senior must participate in a year-long marriage education program, Fiona learns some lessons about people, friendship, crushes, and cheerleading. The plot contains profanity and negative stereotyping.

A Moment Comes (9 points)  
Jennifer Bradbury

As the partition of India nears in 1947 bringing violence even to Jalandhar, Tariq, a Muslim, finds himself caught between his forbidden interest in Anupreet, a Sikh girl, and Margaret, a British girl whose affection for him might help him get to Oxford.

My Sister’s Keeper (18 points)  
Jodi Picoult

Thirteen-year-old Anna, conceived to provide blood and bone marrow for her sister Kate who was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia at the age of two, decides to sue her parents for control of her body when her mother wants her to donate a kidney.

One of us is Lying (14 points)  
Karen McManus

When the creator of a high-school gossip app mysteriously dies in front of four high-profile students, all four become suspects. It is up to them to solve the case. The plot contains profanity, sexual references, and negative stereotypes.

Outrun the Moon (14 points)  
Stacey Lee

In 1906, Mercy bargains her way out of Chinatown and into an exclusive girls’ school. When an earthquake destroys San Francisco, everyone struggles to survive. The plot contains profanity, sexual references, violence, and racial slurs

Peace Locomotion (3 points)  
Jacqueline Woodson

Through letters to his little sister, who is living in a different foster home, sixth-grader Lonnie, also known as "Locomotion," keeps a record of their lives while they are apart and his time with his foster family

Perception: A Clarity Novel (9 points)  
Kim Harrington

Messages and gifts from a secret admirer make Clare questions if they are from Gabriel, the gorgeous boy who gets her pulse racing or from Justin, her ex-boyfriend who'd do anything to win her back. The plot contains profanity and violence. Book #2
*The Perks of Being a Wallflower (9 points)*  
Stephen Chbosky  
Outsider Charlie writes, in graphic detail, about his freshman year in high school, his new, insightful, bohemian friends, his defiance of conformity, and his evolution into a man of action. The plot contains profanity and sexual situations.

*A Prayer for Owen Meany (42 points)*  
John Irving  
A terrifying and unforgettable story of what happens in Owen Meany's life as a result of hitting a foul ball that kills his best friend's mother.

*Sadie (11 points)*  
Courtney Summers  
This story is told from the alternating perspectives of nineteen-year-old Sadie, who runs away to find her younger sister's killer, and a true-crime podcast exploring Sadie's disappearance. The story contains profanity, violence, and sexual violence.

*Salt to the Sea (10 points)*  
Ruta Sepetys  
As World War II draws to a close, refugees try to escape the war's final dangers, only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull. The plot contains sexual situations and graphic violence.

*The Sun is Also a Star (10 points)*  
Nicola Yoon  
Natasha is a girl who believes in science and facts. Daniel has always been a good son and good student. But when they meet and unexpectedly fall in love, they must determine the path they will choose. The plot contains profanity and violence.

*A Time to Dance (5 points)*  
Padma Venkatraman  
This novel in verse tells the story of a girl in India, who excels at Bharatanatyam dance and refuses to give up after losing a leg in an accident.

*This Tiny Perfect World (8 points)*  
Lauren Gibaldi  
Penny has her whole life planned out for senior year and beyond, only to have those plans suddenly upended during a pivotal summer in a prestigious theater camp.

*The Titans (13 points)*  
Victoria Scott  
Losing everything to gambling, 17-year-old Astrid bets her entire future when she's offered a chance to enter an early model Titan in the derby, hoping to win enough money to keep her family together. The plot contains mild profanity and violence.

*This Lullaby (15 points)*  
Sarah Dessen  
Raised by a mother who's had five husbands, eighteen-year-old Remy believes in short-term, no-commitment relationships until she meets Dexter, a rock band musician.
A *Totally Awkward Love Story* (12 points)  
Tom Ellen

Hannah and Sam are each searching for The One, but over the summer, a series of hilarious misunderstandings prevent them from realizing that they're It for one another.

*Up from the Sea* (2 points)  
Leza Lowitz

This novel, told in verse from the point of view of a biracial teenaged boy named Kai, follows his personal journey after the March 2011 tsunami in Japan.

*We’ll Fly Away* (12 points)  
Bryan Bliss

Toby and Luke are best friends, bound by a goal of leaving their hometown after high school, but a series of events during their senior year will test their resolve. The story contains profanity and violence.

*You in Five Acts* (13 points)  
Una LaMarche

In the months leading to the performance that will determine their futures, friends at a performing-arts school look back on an unexpected event that upended everything. The plot contains profanity and drug use.

**Notes**: Students in 9th and 10th grades must read at least one fiction and one non-fiction book from the lists below.

****At the midway point of the 9 weeks, each student must have earned one-half of the required points for the marking period:

- **Regular English (30 required points)**
- **Honors English (45 required points)**