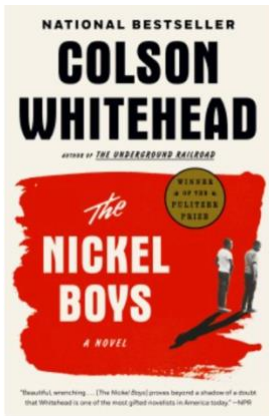


# Briarcliff High School

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade English – 2022



All incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Grade English students are expected to read *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead

### Summary:

In this Pulitzer Prize-winning follow-up to *The Underground Railroad*, Colson Whitehead brilliantly dramatizes another strand of American history through the story of two boys unjustly sentenced to a hellish reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida.

When Elwood Curtis, a black boy growing up in 1960s Tallahassee, is unfairly sentenced to a juvenile reformatory called the Nickel Academy, he finds himself trapped in a grotesque chamber of horrors. Elwood's only salvation is his friendship with fellow "delinquent" Turner, which deepens despite Turner's conviction that Elwood is hopelessly naive, that the world is crooked, and that the only way to survive is to scheme and avoid trouble. As life at the Academy becomes ever more perilous, the tension between Elwood's ideals and Turner's skepticism leads to a decision whose repercussions will echo down the decades.

### Assignment:

**You will be required to annotate *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead as you read it.** Below are instructions/tips for annotating text. When we return to school in September your annotations will be checked, and we will be working with your annotations and discussing the book and its themes, so be sure to be thorough in your annotations so you can participate fully.

### Annotating A Text

Annotation is a key component of close reading. Since we will annotate/take notes all year, you need to develop a system that works for you (within the following guidelines). If you have your own copy, you can annotate right in the book. Otherwise use sticky notes or a separate piece of paper: handwritten is preferable.

Use any combination of the following:

- ❖ Make brief comments about the plot and development.
- ❖ Circle or put boxes, triangles, or clouds around words or phrases that stand out to you.
- ❖ Use abbreviations or symbols - brackets, stars, exclamation points, question marks, numbers, etc.
- ❖ Connect words, phrases, ideas, circles, boxes, etc. with lines or arrows.
- ❖ \*Underline/highlight – jot thoughts down so you can recall why you highlighted an excerpt.

[See next page for further instructions](#)

## Close Reading:

What should you annotate? Again, the possibilities are limitless. Keep in mind the reasons we annotate. Your annotations must include comments. ***We want to see evidence of thinking.***

- ❖ Have a conversation with the text - Talk back to it. Ask questions (essential to active reading).
- ❖ Comment on the actions or development of a character. Does the character change? Why? How? the result?
- ❖ Comment on something that intrigues, impresses, amuses, shocks, puzzles, disturbs, repulses, aggravates, etc.
- ❖ Comment on lines / quotations you think are especially significant, powerful, or meaningful.
- ❖ Express agreement or disagreement.
- ❖ Make predictions.
- ❖ Connect ideas to each other or to other texts.
- ❖ Note anything you would like to discuss or do not understand like vocabulary words.
- ❖ Note how the author uses language. What is significant?

Effects of word choice (diction) or sentence structure or type (syntax)	Setting / Historical context – When does the book take place? How does it affect the story?
Point of view / effect	Tone—how characters express themselves
References (historical, pop-culture)	Imagery – how does the author evoke the 5 senses (touch, sight, sound, smell, taste)
Irony – contrasts, contradictions	Themes – what lessons or ideas are expressed?
Mood—how author makes reader feel	Foreshadowing – make predictions as you read

The most common complaint about annotating is that it slows down your reading. **Yes, it does! That's the point.** If annotating as you read is challenging for you, read a chapter and then go back and annotate. Reading a text a second time is preferable anyway.

**\*\*\*Bring all of your annotated texts to class the first day.**

Approach the book with an open mind. Let the text inspire you and stretch your imagination. If you have questions before school starts, feel free to e-mail your teacher then as well. We look forward to seeing you in September!

**If you're looking for some other good books to read this summer, check out the list below!**

# Suggested Summer Reading

## 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

Here is a list of suggested books for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. None of these books are required – they're just great books to read and enjoy!

### POPULAR TITLES

- Acevedo, Elizabeth      *The Poet X*: Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking. **Printz Award Winner 2019**
- Adams, Douglas      *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*: Seconds before Earth is destroyed to make room for a galactic freeway, a young man is rescued by an alien friend who whisks him away on a space-traveling adventure. **Sequels: Restaurant at the End of the Universe, Life, The Universe and Everything, So Long and Thanks for All the Fish and Mostly Harmless**
- Adams, Richard      *Watership Down*: Set in England's Downs, a once idyllic rural landscape, this stirring tale of adventure, courage, and survival follows a band of very special rabbits on their flight from the intrusion of man and the certain destruction of their home. Led by a stouthearted pair of brothers, they journey from their native Sandleford Warren through the harrowing trials posed by predators and adversaries, to a mysterious promised land and a more perfect society.
- Adeyemi, Tomi      *Children of Blood and Bone*: They killed my mother. They took our magic. They tried to bury us. Now we rise. Zelig Adebola remembers when the soil of Orisha hummed with magic. But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Now Zelig has one chance to bring back magic and strike against the monarchy. She must outwit and outrun the crown prince, who is hell-bent on eradicating magic for good. But the greatest danger may be Zelig herself as she struggles to control her powers and her growing feelings for an enemy. **Sequel: *Children of Virtue and Vengeance***
- Ahmed, Samira      *Internment*: A terrifying, futuristic United States where Muslim-Americans are forced into internment camps, and seventeen-year-old Layla Amin must lead a revolution against complicit silence.
- Albergotti, Reed & O'Connell, Vanessa      *Wheelmen: The Tour de France and the Greatest Sports Conspiracy Ever*: The sensational New York Times bestselling in-depth look at Lance Armstrong's doping scandal, the phenomenal business success built on the back of fraud, and the greatest conspiracy in the history of sports.
- Austen, Jane      *Pride and Prejudice*: Jane Austen called this brilliant work "her own darling child" and its vivacious heroine, Elizabeth Bennet, "as delightful a creature as ever appeared in print." The romantic clash between the opinionated Elizabeth and her proud beau, Mr. Darcy, is a splendid performance of civilized sparring. And Jane Austen's radiant

wit sparkles as her characters dance a delicate quadrille of flirtation and intrigue, making this book the most superb comedy of manners of Regency England.

Bradbury, Ray

***Fahrenheit 451***: Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television "family." But when he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn't live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known.

Brashares, Ann

***The Here and Now***: Seventeen-year-old Prenna, an immigrant who moved to New York when she was twelve, came from another time and she and the other travelers must follow strict rules to avoid destroying the new life they have worked so hard to get, as well as the one person Prenna is desperate to protect. Follow the rules. Remember what happened. Never fall in love.

Brown, Don

***In the Shadow of the Fallen Towers: The Seconds, Minutes, Hours, Days, Weeks, Months, and Years After the 9/11 Attacks***: A graphic novel chronicling the immediate aftermath and rippling effects of one of the most impactful days in modern history: September 11, 2001. The consequences of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City, both political and personal, were vast, and continue to reverberate today. Profound, troubling, and deeply moving, this book bears witness to our history & and the ways it shapes our future.

Buck, Pearl S.

***The Good Earth***: The poignant tale of a Chinese farmer and his family in old agrarian China. The humble Wang Lung glories in the soil he works, nurturing the land as it nurtures him and his family. Hard times come upon Wang Lung and his family when flood and drought force them to seek work in the city. The working people riot, breaking into the homes of the rich and forcing them to flee. When Wang Lung shows mercy to one noble and is rewarded, he begins to rise in the world.

Burcaw, Shane

***Laughing at My Nightmare***: With acerbic wit and a hilarious voice, Shane Burcaw describes the challenges he faces as a twenty-one-year-old with spinal muscular atrophy. From awkward handshakes to having a girlfriend and everything in between, Shane handles his situation with humor and a "you-only-live-once" perspective on life. While he does talk about everyday issues that are relatable to teens, he also offers an eye-opening perspective on what it is like to have a life-threatening disease.

Calame, Dan

***Dan vs. Nature***: Shy and scrawny Dan Weekes spends his time creating graphic novels inspired by his dream girl and looking out for his mom as she dates every man in the state of California. Then his mom drops a bomb: she and Hank, are engaged, and she's sending her "two favorite men" on a survivalist camping trip to "bond." Determined to trick Hank into showing his true — flawed — colors on the trip, Dan and his nerdy germaphobe best friend, Charlie, prepare a series of increasingly gross and embarrassing pranks.

- Caletti, Deb ***A Heart in a Body in the World:*** When everything's been taken from you, what else is there to do but run? That's what Annabelle does-- from Seattle to Washington, DC. She's not ready to think about the *why*, just the *how*--muscles burning, heart pumping, feet pounding the earth. But no matter how hard she tries, she can't outrun the tragedy from the past year, or the person--*The Taker*--that haunts her. Followed by Grandpa Ed in his RV and backed by her brother and friends, Annabelle becomes a reluctant activist as people connect her journey to the trauma from her past. **Printz Honor Book, 2019**
- Chee, Traci ***We Are Not Free:*** For fourteen-year-old budding artist Minoru Ito, his two brothers, his friends, and the other members of the Japanese-American community in southern California, the three months since Pearl Harbor was attacked have become a waking nightmare: attacked, spat on, and abused with no way to retaliate--and now things are about to get worse, their lives forever changed by the mass incarcerations in the relocation camps.
- Cherrix, Amy E. ***In the Shadow of the Moon: America, Russia, and the Hidden History of the Space Race:*** You've heard of the space race, but do you know the whole story? The most ambitious race humankind has ever undertaken was masterminded in the shadows by two engineers on opposite sides of the Cold War--Wernher von Braun, a former Nazi officer living in the US, and Sergei Korolev, a Russian rocket designer once jailed for crimes against his country--and your textbooks probably never told you.
- Coles, Jay ***Tyler Johnson Was Here:*** When Marvin Johnson's twin, Tyler, goes to a party, Marvin tags along to keep an eye on his brother. What starts as harmless fun turns into a shooting, followed by a police raid. The next day, Tyler is missing, and it's up to Marvin to find him. But when Tyler is found dead, a video leaked online tells an even more chilling story: Tyler has been shot and killed by a police officer. Terrified as his mother unravels and mourning a brother who is now a hashtag, Marvin must learn what justice and freedom really mean.
- Crane, Stephen ***The Red Badge of Courage:*** During his service in the Civil War, a young Union soldier matures to manhood and finds peace of mind as he comes to grips with his conflicting emotions about war.
- Deen, Nathasha ***In the Key of Nira Ghani:*** Nira Ghani has always dreamed of becoming a musician. Her Guyanese parents, however, have big plans for her to become a scientist or doctor. Nira's grandmother and her best friend, Emily, are the only people who seem to truly understand her desire to establish an identity outside of the one imposed on Nira by her parents. When auditions for jazz band are announced, Nira realizes it's now or never to convince her parents that she deserves a chance to pursue her passion.
- Deuker, Carl ***Golden Arm:*** Lazarus Weathers has always been shy, and his issue with stuttering hasn't helped. Laz finds baseball helps him escape from the world of poverty and drugs. When he gets a chance to pitch for a team across town, he has a chance to get drafted by the major leagues. But playing for the other team means leaving behind his family, including his younger brother. Now Laz will have to choose

between being the star pitcher he always dreamed of becoming and the team player his family needs.

Dickens, Charles

***Great Expectations***: Pip, an orphan in Victorian England, is plucked from a life of poverty and informed he is to be raised and educated as a gentleman.

Emezi, Akwaeke

***Pet***: There are no monsters anymore, or so the children in Lucille are taught. Jam and her friend, Redemption, have grown up with this lesson all their life. But when Jam meets Pet, a creature made of horns and claws, who emerges from a painting she must reconsider what she's been told. Pet has come to hunt a monster, and the shadow of something grim lurks in Redemption's house. Jam must fight not only to protect her best friend, but also to uncover the truth, and the answer to the question--*How do you save the world from monsters if no one will admit they exist?*

Elston, Ashley

***This is Our Story***: No one knows what happened that morning at River Point. Five boys went hunting. Four came back. The boys won't say who fired the shot that killed their friend, Grant; the evidence shows it could have been any one of them. Kate, an intern at the DA's office and the Assistant DA must solve the crime to get justice for Grant.

Foley, Jessie Ann

***The Carnival at Bray***: In 1993, Maggie is dismayed to leave Chicago and her beloved Uncle Kevin behind when she moves to a small Irish town. Yet it is within this evocative setting that Foley unwinds Maggie's exceptional coming-of-age tale, where Maggie discovers music and forgiveness as antidotes for grief. **Printz Honor Book, 2015**

Gaddy, K.R.

***Flowers in the Gutter: The True Story of the Edelweiss Pirates, Teenagers who Resisted the Nazis***: The Edelweiss Pirates were a loosely organized group of working-class young people in the Rhine Valley of Germany. They faced off with Nazis during the Third Reich and suffered consequences for their resistance during and after World War II.

Golding, William

***Lord of the Flies***: After a plane crash strands them on a tropical island while the rest of the world is ravaged by war, a group of British schoolboys attempts to form a civilized society but descends into brutal anarchy.

Greenfield, Amy

***The Woman All Spies Fear: Code Breaker Elizebeth Smith Friedman and Her Hidden Life***: An inspiring true story. Elizebeth Smith Friedman had a rare talent for spotting patterns and solving puzzles. These skills led her to become one of the top cryptanalysts in America playing a major role decoding messages during both World War I and World War II and also for the Coast Guard's war against smugglers. Elizebeth and her husband, William, became the top code-breaking team in the US, and she did it all at a time when most women weren't welcome in the workforce.

Grogan, John

***Marley & Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog***: A tender story of his family's love for their yellow Labrador retriever, Marley, chronicling how he grew from a mischievous puppy into a nearly impossible adult that no amount of obedience school training could correct.

- Guerrero, Diane *In The Country We Love: My Family Divided:* Diane Guerrero, television actress from the hits "Orange is the New Black" and "Jane the Virgin," recalls the day her parents were detained and deported when she was 14, and how she was able to remain in the country, finish her education, and build a successful acting career.
- Hansberry, Lorraine *A Raisin in the Sun:* (play) When it was first produced in 1959, *A Raisin in the Sun* was awarded the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for that season and hailed as a watershed in American drama. A pioneering work by an African-American playwright, the play was a radically new representation of black life.
- Hemingway, Ernest *The Old Man and the Sea:* The story of an old Cuban fisherman and his supreme ordeal: a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream. Using the simple, powerful language of a fable, Hemingway takes the timeless themes of courage in the face of defeat and personal triumph won from loss and transforms them into a magnificent twentieth-century classic.
- King, Stephen *The Shining:* Jack Torrance's new job at the Overlook Hotel is the perfect chance for a fresh start. As the off-season caretaker at the old hotel, he'll have plenty of time to spend reconnecting with his family and working on his writing. But as the harsh winter weather sets in, the idyllic location feels ever more remote . . . and more sinister. And the only one to notice the strange and terrible forces gathering around the Overlook is Danny Torrance, Jack's uniquely gifted five-year-old.
- Kirby, Matthew J. *A Taste for Monsters:* In 1888 seventeen-year-old Evelyn Fallow, herself disfigured by the phosphorus in the match factory where she worked, has been hired as a maid to Joseph Merrick, the Elephant Man--but when the Jack the Ripper murders begin she and Merrick find themselves haunted by the ghosts of the slain women, and Evelyn is caught up in the mystery of Jack's identity.
- Konigsberg, Bill *Openly Straight:* Tired of being known as "the gay kid", Rafe Goldberg decides to assume a new persona when he comes east and enters an elite Massachusetts prep school--but trying to deny his identity has both complications and unexpected consequences.
- Krosoczka, Jarrett *Hey, Kiddo:* In his graphic novel style memoir, Jarrett Krosoczka describes how in kindergarten his teacher asks him to draw his family, with a mommy and a daddy. But Jarrett's family is much more complicated than that. His mom is an addict, in and out of rehab, and - Jarrett's life. His father is a mystery. Jarrett lives with his loud, opinionated, but loving grandparents. Only as a teenager can Jarrett begin to piece together the truth of his family, reckoning with his mother and tracking down his father.
- Jack, Gordon *The Boomerang Effect:* Because of a string of pranks, Lawrence Barry is one step away from reform school unless he agrees to mentor a Norwegian exchange student with Spock-like intelligence but no social skills. During Homecoming week, someone dressed as the school's Viking mascot starts destroying the homecoming floats, and Lawrence becomes suspect #1. As the situation spirals

out of control, he realizes that Spencer may be his best friend -- the one he never knew he needed.

Johnson, Lea

***You Should See Me in a Crown***: Liz Lighty has always done her best to avoid the spotlight in her small, prom-obsessed midwestern high school, especially since her mother died; instead she has concentrated on her grades and musical ability in the hopes that it will win her a scholarship to elite Pennington College. But when that scholarship falls through she is forced to turn to her school's scholarship for prom king and queen, which plunges her into the gauntlet of social media and leads her to discoveries about her own identity and the value of true friendships.

Larbalestier, Justine

***My Sister Rosa***: When his father's business takes the family to New York City, a seventeen-year-old Australian boy must balance his desire to protect his ten-year-old sister, a diagnosable psychopath, from the world with the desperate need to protect the world from her.

Levithan, David

***Every Day***: Every morning, A wakes in a different person's body, in a different person's life, learning over the years to never get too attached, until he wakes up in the body of Justin and falls in love with Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon. **Sequel: *Another Day, Some Day***

Levitt, Stephen D.

***Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything***: The authors explore the economics of real-world issues often viewed as insignificant, such as the extent to which the Roe v. Wade decision affected violent crime, and examine hidden incentives behind all sorts of human behavior.

Le Guin, Ursula

***A Wizard of Earthsea***: Ged was the greatest sorcerer in Earthsea, but in his youth he was the reckless Sparrowhawk. In his hunger for power and knowledge, he tampered with long-held secrets and loosed a terrible shadow upon the world. This is the tumultuous tale of his testing, how he mastered the mighty words of power, tamed an ancient dragon, and crossed death's threshold to restore the balance.

McManus, Karen

***You'll Be the Death of Me***: Ivy, Mateo, and Cal used to be close. Now all they have in common is Carlton High and the beginning of a very bad day. So when the three unexpectedly run into each other, they decide to avoid their problems by ditching school together. They've barely left the parking lot before they run out of things to say. . . until they spot a classmate skipping school--and follow him to the scene of his own murder. Their day goes from bad to deadly. It turns out the three still have some things in common...like a connection to the dead kid. Could it be that their chance reconnection wasn't by chance after all?

Morton, Kate

***The Lake House***: 16-year-old Alice Edevane's brother Theo disappears one night during a party with hundreds of guests at her family's English estate. Years later, Alice still harbors a suspicion as to how her brother disappeared. Meanwhile, London detective Sadie Sparrow stumbles upon the old Edevane estate, now abandoned. With her curiosity sparked, a chain of events brings her and Alice together and reveals the shocking truth behind the mystery.



- Murphy, Julie ***Puddin'**: Companion to book & Netflix movie *Dumplin'*: Millie Michalchuk has gone to fat camp every year since she was a little girl. Not this year. She has plans to chase her secret dream of being a newscaster--and to kiss the boy she's crushing on. Callie Reyes is the pretty girl who is next in line for dance team captain and has the popular boyfriend. But when it comes to other girls, she's more frenemy than friend. When circumstances bring the girls together over the course of a semester, they surprise everyone by realizing that they might have more in common than they imagined.*
- Poe, Edgar Allan ***The Collected Tales of Edgar Allan Poe***: Edgar Allan Poe was one of the most original writers in the history of American letters, a genius who was tragically misunderstood in his lifetime. This edition includes his most well-known works--"The Raven," "The Pit and the Pendulum," "Annabel Lee," "The Fall of the House of Usher," "The Murders in the Rue Morgue"--as well as less-familiar stories, poems, and essays.
- Reynolds, Jason ***When I was the Greatest***: Ali lives in Bed-Stuy, a Brooklyn neighborhood known for guns and drugs, but he and his sister, Jazz, and their neighbors, Needles and Noodles, stay out of trouble until they go to the wrong party, where one gets badly hurt and another leaves with a target on his back.
- Reynolds, Jason ***Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You***: This is NOT a history book. This is a book about the here and now. A book to help us better understand why we are where we are. A book about race.
- Rowell, Rainbow ***Eleanor and Park***: 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. When Eleanor meets Park, you'll remember your own first love—and just how hard it pulled you under. **Printz Honor Book, 2014**
- Sepetys, Ruta ***Fountains of Silence***: Madrid, 1957. Under the fascist dictatorship of General Francisco Franco, Spain is hiding a dark secret. Meanwhile, tourists and foreign businessmen flood into Spain under the welcoming promise of sunshine and wine. Among them Daniel Matheson who is hoping to connect with the country through the lens of his camera. Photography--and fate--introduce him to Ana, whose family is still suffering from the lingering effects of the Spanish Civil War. Daniel's photographs leave him with uncomfortable questions amidst shadows of danger.
- Searle, Sarah Winifred ***The Greatest Thing***: It's the first day of sophomore year and Winifred's two best (and only) friends have transferred to a private school & she must navigate high school on her own. In art class, she meets two offbeat students, Oscar and April. The three bond through clandestine sleepovers, thrift store shopping, and zine publishing. Winifred is finally breaking out of her shell, but there's one secret she can't bear to admit to April and Oscar, or even to herself--and this lie is threatening to destroy her newfound friendships. *Graphic Novel*

- Shusterman, Neal ***Dry:*** The drought--or the Tap-Out, as everyone calls it--has been going on for a while now. Everyone's lives have become an endless list of don'ts: don't water the lawn, don't fill your pool, don't take long showers. Until the taps run dry. Suddenly, Alyssa's quiet suburban street spirals into a warzone of desperation; neighbors turned against each other on the hunt for water. When her parents don't return and her life and her brother's is threatened, Alyssa has to make impossible choices if she's going to survive.
- Stevenson, Bryan ***Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption:*** Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship--and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.
- Stiefvater, Maggie ***The Raven Boys:*** Though she is from a family of clairvoyants, Blue Sargent's only gift seems to be that she makes other people's talents stronger, and when she meets Gansey, one of the Raven Boys from the expensive Aglionby Academy, she discovers that he has talents of his own--and that together their talents are a dangerous mix. ***Sequel: The Dream Thieves, Blue Lily Lily Blue, The Raven King***
- Thomas, Angie ***On the Come Up:*** Sixteen-year-old Bri hopes to become a great rapper, and after her first song goes viral for all the wrong reasons, must decide whether to sell out or face eviction with her widowed mother.
- Vermette, Katherena ***A Girl Called Echo Vol. 1:*** Echo Desjardins, a 13-year-old Metis girl adjusting to a new home and school, is struggling with loneliness while separated from her mother. Then an ordinary day in Mr. Bee's history class turns extraordinary, and Echo's life will never be the same. During Mr. Bee's lecture, Echo finds herself transported to another time and place--a bison hunt on the Saskatchewan prairie--and back again to the present. In the following weeks, Echo slips back and forth in time. She visits a Metis camp, travels the old fur-trade routes, and experiences the perilous and bygone era of the Pemmican Wars. **Graphic novel**
- Volponi, Paul ***The Final Four:*** Four players at the Final Four of the NCAA basketball tournament struggle with the pressures of tournament play and the expectations of society at large.
- Whitman, Walt ***Leaves of Grass:*** Abraham Lincoln read it with approval, but Emily Dickinson described its bold language and themes as "disgraceful." Leaves of Grass inaugurated a new voice and style into American letters and gave expression to an optimistic, bombastic vision that took the nation as its subject.
- Yang, Gene Luen ***Dragon Hoops:*** Gene Luen Yang understands stories -- comic book stories, in particular. Big action. Bigger thrills. And the hero always wins. But Gene doesn't get sports. He lost interest in basketball long ago, but at the high school where he now teaches, it's all anyone can talk about. The men's varsity team, the Dragons,

is having a phenomenal season and each victory brings them closer to their ultimate goal: the California State Championship. Once Gene meets these young all-stars, he realizes that their story is just as thrilling as anything he's seen on a comic book page. **Printz Honor, 2021**

Yoon, Nicola

*Everything, Everything*: The story of a teenage girl who's literally allergic to the outside world. When a new family moves in next door, she begins a complicated romance that challenges everything she's ever known. The narrative unfolds via vignettes, diary entries, texts, charts, lists, illustrations, and more.

Zoboi, Ibi

*America Street*: Fabiola Toussaint, a young Haitian immigrant to the United States, must navigate her life, school and relationships, while dealing with her loud cousins after her mother is detained by the United States immigration department.

Zusak, Markus

*The Book Thief*: Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.