Summer Beaver Readers 2020-2021
10th-12th grade

Field Guide to the North American Teenager by Ben Phillepe (HUM) Norris Kaplan is a Black French-Canadian teen who moves to Austin, Texas, and experiences the joys, clichés, and awkward humiliations of the American high school experience.

Hollow Kingdom by Kira Jane Buxton (DYS) S.T., a foul-mouthed crow is humanity’s only chance to survive Seattle’s zombie problem and who takes you on a big-hearted, boundlessly beautiful romp through the apocalypse.

The Institute by Stephen King (HOR) In this most sinister of institutions, the director, Mrs. Sigsby, and her staff are ruthlessly dedicated to extracting from these children the force of their extranormal gifts and the unforgettable story of kids confronting evil.

The Exact Opposite of Okay by Laura Steven (RF) Izzy is used to laughing her way out of any situation, as she finds herself first the center of high school gossip and then in the middle of a national scandal, it’s hard even for her to find humor in the situation.

Finnikin of the Rock by Melina Marchetta (FAN) Safety is shattered in Lumatere during the five days of the unspeakable, when the king and queen and their children are brutally murdered in the palace. An impostor seizes the throne, a curse binds all who remain inside the walls, and those who escape are left to roam the land as exiles, dying by the thousands in fever camps. Ten years later, Finnikin is summoned to save the kingdom.

The Way Of Kings by Brandon Sanderson (FAN) It has been centuries since the fall of the 10 consecrated orders known as the Knights Radiant, but their Shardblades and Shardplate remain: mystical swords and suits of armor that transform ordinary men into near-invincible warriors. Wars were fought for them and won by them. But it is the an ancient text called The Way of Kings that fascinates many.

*The Swallows by Lisa Lutz (RF) timely tale of revenge and disruption shows us what can happen when silence wins out over decency for too long - and why the scariest threat of all might be the idea that sooner or later, girls will be girls.

Tiny Beautiful Things by Cheryl Strayed (NF) Sugar—the once-anonymous online columnist at The Rumpus, is the person thousands turn to for advice which includes humor, insight, compassion—and absolute honesty—this book is a balm for everything life throws our way.

Aftermath by Kelly Armstrong (MYS) Three years after losing her brother Luka in a school shooting, Skye Gilchrist is moving home. But there’s no sympathy for Skye and her family because Luka wasn’t a victim; he was a shooter.The closer Skye gets to the truth of what happened that day, the closer she gets to a new killer.

Sissy: A Coming-Of-Gender Story by Jacob Tobia (NF) A heart-wrenching, eye-opening, and giggle-inducing memoir about what it’s like to grow up not sure if you’re (a) a boy, (b) a girl, (c) something in between, or (d) all of the above.

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A Poisoner in Chief by Stephen Kinzer (NF) This book tells the astonishing story of the man who oversaw the CIA’s secret drug and mind-control experiments of the 1950s and ’60s.

The Liar’s Daughter by Megan Cooley Peterson (MYS) Seventeen-year-old Piper knows that Father is a Prophet. Infallible. The chosen one. She would do anything for Father. That’s why she takes care of all her little sisters. That’s why she runs end-of-the-world drills. That’s why she never asks questions. Because Father knows best until the day he doesn’t.

The Loop by Ben Oliver (SF) Life inside The Loop—the futuristic death row for teens under eighteen—is one long repetitive purgatory. But when news of the encroaching chaos in the outside world reaches the inmates and disorder begins to strike, the prison becomes the least of their worries. Perfect for fans of The Fifth Wave and The Maze Runner.

It Sounded Better in My Head by Nina Kenwood (ROM) When her parents announce their impending divorce, Natalie can’t understand why no one is fighting, or at least mildly upset. Then Zach and Lucy, her two best friends, hook up, leaving her feeling slightly miffed and decidedly awkward. Now everything has changed, and nothing is quite making sense. Until an unexpected romance comes along and shakes things up even further.

The Darkest Corners by Kara Thomas (MYS) There are ghosts around every corner in Fayette, Pennsylvania. Tessa left when she was nine. Memories of things so dark will burn themselves into your mind if you let them. Callie never left. She moved to another house, so she doesn’t have to walk those same halls. But ever since she left, Tessa has had questions. Things have never quite added up. And now she must go back to Fayette— to Wyatt Stokes, sitting on death row; to Lori Ćawley, Callie’s dead cousin; and to the one other person who may be hiding the truth.

Roam by C.H. Armstrong (RF) Seventeen-year-old Abby Lunde and her family are living on the streets. They had a normal life back in Omaha but, thanks to her mother’s awful mistake, they head for a new start in Rochester. Abby tries to be an average teenager-fitting in at school, dreaming of a boyfriend, college and a career in music. But Minnesota winters are unforgiving, and she knows she must trust those around her to help.

All-American Muslim Girl by Nadine Jolie Courtney (RF) Allie Abraham is a straight-A student with good friends and a close-knit family, and she’s dating popular, sweet Wells Henderson. There’s only one problem: Wells’ father is Jack Henderson, America’s most famous conservative shock jock, and Allie hasn’t told Wells that her family is Muslim.

Slay by Brittney Morris (SF) By day, seventeen-year-old Kiera Johnson is an honors student, a math tutor, and one of the only Black kids at Jefferson Academy. But at home, she joins hundreds of thousands of Black gamers who duel worldwide as Nubian personas in the secret multiplayer online role-playing card game, SLAY. No one knows Kiera is the game developer. But when a teen in Kansas City is murdered over a dispute in the SLAY world, news of the game reaches mainstream media, and SLAY is labeled a racist, exclusionist, violent hub for thugs and criminals, and Kiera must protect her game without losing herself in the process.

The Speed of Falling Objects by Nancy Richardson Fischer (ADV) "Danny" Danielle Warren is no stranger to falling. After losing an eye in a childhood accident, she had to relearn her perception of movement and space. Danny certain that her mom’s bitterness and her TV star father’s absence are her fault. If only she were more - more athletic, charismatic, attractive - life would be perfect. When her dad calls with an offer to join him to film the next episode of his popular survivalist show, Danny jumps at the chance. But when their small plane crashes in the Amazon, and a terrible secret is revealed, Danny must face the truth about the parent she worships and find her own inner strength and worth to light the way home.
The Kingdom by Jess Rothenberg (FAN) The Kingdom is an immersive fantasy theme park where and bioengineered species - formerly extinct - roam free. Ana is one of seven Fantasists, beautiful “princesses” engineered to make dreams come true. When she meets park employee Owen, Ana begins to experience emotions beyond her programming including, for the first time...love. But the fairy tale becomes a nightmare when Ana is accused of murdering Owen.

Here to Stay by Sara Farizan (SPORTS) What happens when a kid who’s flown under the radar for most of high school gets pulled off the bench to make the winning basket in a varsity playoff game? If his name is Bijan Majidi, life is suddenly high fives in the hallways and invitations to exclusive parties—along with an anonymous photo sent by a school cyberbully that makes Bijan look like a terrorist.

Fireborne by Rosaria Munda (FAN) Annie and Lee were just children when a brutal revolution changed their world, giving everyone—even the lowborn—a chance to test into the governing class of dragonriders. Now they are both rising stars in the new regime. Growing up in the same orphanage forged their friendship, and seven years of training have made them rivals for the top position in the dragonriding fleet which calls into question what matters most: the family you were born into, or the one you’ve chosen.

Felix Ever After by Kacen Callender (ROM) Felix Love has never been in love—He desperately wants to know what it’s like and why it seems so easy for everyone but him to find someone. What’s worse is that, even though he is proud of his identity, Felix also secretly fears that he’s one marginalization too many—Black, queer, and transgender—to ever get his own happily-ever-after.

We Are the Wildcats by Siobhan Vivian (SPORTS) A toxic coach finds himself outplayed by the high school girls on his team in this deeply suspenseful novel, which unspools over twenty-four hours through six diverse perspectives of the Women’s Wildcat varsity field hockey squad.

Tweet Cute by Emma Lord (ROM) Meet Pepper, swim team captain, chronic overachiever, and all-around perfectionist whose family owns a massive fast-food burger chain with a Twitter account she secretly runs. Enter Jack, class clown and constant thorn in Pepper’s side. He is often busy working in his family’s deli. His relationship with the business that holds his future might be love/hate, but when Big League Burger steals his grandma’s iconic grilled cheese recipe, he’ll do whatever it takes to take them down, one tweet at a time.

Meddling Kids by Edgar Cantaro (MYS) In 1977, four teenagers and a dog spend a night in Deboën Mansion and solve a mystery and apprehend the culprit. Now, in 1990, the twenty-something former teen detectives are lost souls and when the man they apprehended all those years ago makes parole, Andy tracks him down to confirm what she’s always known—they got the wrong guy. Now she’ll need to get the gang back together and return to Blyton Hills to find out what really happened in 1977.

Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay (MYS) Jay Reguero discovers that his Filipino cousin Jun was murdered as part of President Duterte’s war on drugs, and no one in the family wants to talk about what happened, Jay travels to the Philippines to find out the real story.

Music From Another World by Robin Talley (HF) It’s 1977 and closeted lesbian Tammy Larson can’t be herself anywhere. Not at her strict Christian high school, not at her conservative Orange County church and certainly not at home, where her ultra-religious aunt relentlessly organizes antigay political campaigns. Tammy’s only outlet is writing secret letters in her diary to gay civil rights activist Harvey Milk...until she’s matched with a real-life pen pal who changes everything.

Rules for Being a Girl by Candice Bushnell and Catie Cotugno (RF) Marin has always been good at navigating these unspoken guidelines. A star student and editor of the school paper, she dreams of getting into Brown University until Mr. Beckett, her teacher, takes things too far and comes on to Marin. Marin works up the courage to tell the administration what happened, but no one believes her.
Frankly in Love by David Yoon (ROM) Frank Li has an American name, Frank Li, and Sung-Min Li, his Korean name. His parents expect him to end up with a nice Korean girl—which is a problem, since Frank is finally dating the girl of his dreams: Brit Means. Brit, who is funny and nerdy just like him. Brit, who makes him laugh like no one else. Brit . . . who is white. Desperate to be with Brit without his parents finding out, Frank turns to family friend Joy Song, who is in a similar bind. Together, they come up with a plan to help each other and keep their parents off their backs.

We Are the Ants by Shaun David Hutchinson (SF) Henry Denton has spent years being periodically abducted by aliens. Then the aliens give him an ultimatum: The world will end in 144 days, and all Henry has to do to stop it is push a big red button. Only he isn’t sure he wants to. Henry is left with the ultimate choice: push the button and save the planet and everyone on it...or let the world—and his pain—be destroyed forever.

Talking to Strangers by Malcolm Gladwell (NF) How did Fidel Castro fool the CIA for a generation? Why did Neville Chamberlain think he could trust Adolf Hitler? Why are campus sexual assaults on the rise? Do television sitcoms teach us something about the way we relate to each other that isn’t true? Something is very wrong, Gladwell argues, with the tools and strategies we use to make sense of people we don’t know. And because we don’t know how to talk to strangers, we are inviting conflict and misunderstanding in ways that have a profound effect on our lives and our world.

The Calculating Starts: A Lady Astronaut Novel (HF) by Mary Robinette Kowal On a cold spring night in 1952, a huge meteorite fell to earth and obliterated much of the east coast of the United States, including Washington D.C. The ensuing climate cataclysm will soon render the earth inhospitable for humanity, as the last such meteorite did for the dinosaurs. This looming threat calls for a radically accelerated effort to colonize space, and requires a much larger share of humanity to take part in the process.

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Be Not Far from Me by Mandy McGinnis (DYS) The world is not tame. Ashley knows this truth deep in her bones, so when she goes hiking in the Smokies with her friends for a night of partying, the falling dark and creaking trees are second nature to her. Ashley catches her boyfriend with another girl, drunken rage sends her running into the night, stopped only by a nasty fall into a ravine. Morning brings the realization that she’s alone—and far off trail. Ashley must figure out how to survive with the red streak of infection creeping up her leg.

Graphic Novels

Street Angel Gang by Jim Rugg (GN/RF) What if Kal El had been found by the Warriors instead of the Kents? The deadliest girl alive accidentally joins a super violent street gang. Are the Bleeders the family Jesse never had, or is Jesse the child they never wanted? What?

I am Legion by John Cassady and Fabien Nury (GN/FAN) A supernatural take on World War II espionage featuring a girl with the ability to possess other bodies in Europe, December 1942.

Watchmen by Alan Moore and David Gibbons (GN/FAN) The fall from grace of a group of superheroes plagued by all-too-human failings. Along the way, the concept of the superhero is dissected as an unknown assassin stalks the erstwhile heroes.

Spinning by Tillie Walden (GN/MEMOIR) It was the same every morning. Wake up, grab the ice skates, and head to the rink while the world was still dark. Weekends were spent in glitter and tights at competitions. Perform. Smile. And do it again. She was good. She won. And she hated it. But as she switched schools, got into art, and fell in love with her first girlfriend, she began to question how the close-minded world of figure skating fit in with the rest of her life.

Lighter Than My Shadow by Katie Green (GN/MEMOIR) Like most kids, Katie was a picky eater. She’d sit at the table in silent protest, hide uneaten
toast in her bedroom, listen to parental threats that she’d have to eat it for breakfast. But in any life, a set of circumstances can collide, and normal behavior can soon shade into something sinister, something deadly.

**Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic**
*by Alison Bechdel (GN/MEMOIR)*
Distant and exacting, Bruce Bechdel was an English teacher and director of the town funeral home. It was not until college that Alison, who had recently come out as a lesbian, discovered that her father was also gay. A few weeks after this revelation, he was dead, leaving a legacy of mystery for her daughter to resolve.

**Good Talk: A Memoir in Conversations**
*by Mira Jacob (GN/MEMOIR)*
Like many six-year-olds, Mira Jacob’s half-Jewish, half-Indian son, Z, has questions about everything. At first, they are innocuous enough, but as tensions from the 2016 election spread from the media into his own family, they become much, much more complicated.

**Camp Spirit**
*by Axelle Lenoir (GN/MYS)*
Summer camp is supposed to be about finding nirvana in a rock garden... But Elodie prefers Nirvana and Soundgarden. Can she confront rambunctious kids, confusing feelings, and supernatural horrors all at once?

**The Spire**
*by Simon Spurrier (GN/FAN)*
At the Spire, a sprawling mountain of metal and stone in the middle of a radioactive desert, Sha, the Commander of the City Watch, is tasked with keeping the hodgepodge of forgotten technology and new biology safe. When a string of gristy murders is committed just as a new Baroness of the Spire is about to be sworn in, Sha will have to find the killer and bring them to justice.

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**Book Key:**
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RF-Realistic Fic
FAN-Fantasy
HF-Historical Fic
GN-Graphic Novel
POE-Poetry
NF-Nonfiction
SF-Science Fic
HOR-Horror
CLAS-Classic
ROM-Romance
SPORTS
ADV-Adventure
*Very adult themes

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