

# High School Summer Reading Suggestions

Hey! Do you have any suggestions for summer reading? Good books, not boring ones...

**The Mark of the Lion** series by Francine Rivers is set during the conquest of Jerusalem and follows a young Jewish girl all the way to the Roman Colosseum. It's a page-turning series filled with action, romance, and history, and Book two is one of the purest pictures of the Gospel I've ever read. You'll see the conquest of Jerusalem, the 'games' in the Colosseum, and the life of a Roman slave, but none are too gruesome.



I love any kind of spy thriller, and **The Kremlin Conspiracy** by Joel C. Rosenberg is a great read for anyone in high school! It's a story about a new American President who fails to grasp the threat posed by a nuclear-armed Russian leader who keeps taking military action against his neighbors. As Russia's expansionist policies bring the world to the brink of nuclear war, the reader follows the unexpected twists and turns through the eyes of former U.S. Secret Service agent Marcus Ryker.



I remember you talking about this one in history. There was another one you liked, too...what was its name?

**House Rules** by Jodi Picoult – it's a book about an autistic boy accused of murder. He is fascinated by true crime and somehow gets himself involved in the middle of an active investigation. Did he? Or didn't he? It keeps you guessing and is great book for those who like a mystery to try and solve. Keeps you wanting to turn the page for more. Some language, though, but appropriate for any age high schooler.



**Gilead** – it's an epistolary novel by Marilynne Robinson, written from a dying preacher to his young son. It serves as one of the few serious, modern commentaries on what it means to be religious and/or have faith. The writing is beautiful, and the characters are as fully fleshed and developed as any you'll find. Minor language in one or two spots, but a great read for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders.



Definitely an English teacher description

**A Case for Christ** by Lee Strobel. Strobel is a lawyer who decided to debate the existence of Christ as if it was a court case. It is a great read for people who often have doubts or questions about Christ.



**Love Does** by Bob Goff, whose friends consider him the world's best-kept secret. Love fuels his impact, but it's not the kind of love that stops at thoughts and feelings. Bob's love takes action, and that's when life gets interesting. Each day turns into a hilarious, whimsical, meaningful chance that makes faith simple and real.



Kinda goes with our theme from last year - Love One Another. That gets me extra AR points, right?

Try **Wuthering Heights** by Emily Bronte! It's said that love and hate are really just two sides of the same coin, and Bronte does a fantastic job exploring that. This is NOT your typical romance - it's dark and gritty, with main characters who consistently live out the idea that, "if I can't have you, no one can."



Are you trying to sneak in a classic novel, Mrs. Hill?

**A Tale of Three Kings: A Study in Brokenness** by Gene Edwards is based on the biblical figures of David, Saul, and Absalom. It's a compelling story that offers comfort, healing, and hope, and addresses tough topics like how to love Christians who disappoint you and how to serve under leadership that is not godly. Great for 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>.



**The Harbinger**. This story is made up, but all the Biblical references are true. The author, Jonathan Cahn is a Messianic Jew who was a Rabbi. He draws incredibly fascinating parallels between Old Testament Israel and the U.S. today. It was very interesting, like a mystery, and I learned a lot! I think anyone 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> will enjoy it!



**Pastoralia** – it's a collection of short stories by George Saunders that explores the mundane absurdity of modern life in a fashion that's always humorous and often touching. Saunders is probably the funniest writer alive, yet he still manages a level of empathy in his writing that underscores the very best (and sometimes worst) of humanity. Definitely for older students - language and content can be adult at times, but nothing is ever presented for shock value alone.



**The Paradigm** by Jonathan Cahn. The author compares ancient Israel to modern day America and compares key political figures from Biblical times to today's political leaders. Very interesting political read and food for thought for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders!



**Fly Boys** by James Bradley is great – it's a historical book about WWII.



Thanks for NOT making me read a novel before reading the actual novel  
\*cough cough English teachers\*

**The Hunger Games** series by Suzanne Collins. The main character, Katniss, volunteers as tribute to protect her little sister, and must go fight against people from other districts in order to stay alive. It's an action-packed book that I found very easy to read! Some violence, but appropriate for high schoolers.



So, basically Fortnite

**The Last Jihad, The Kremlin Conspiracy, The Third Target**, and all the fiction books by Joel Rosenberg. Rosenberg is able to weave these exciting stories together to give you understanding of what is happening in the Middle East. I think boys and girls would both enjoy the action. They're appropriate for high school kids, some of the action is brutal, but not described too graphically.



**The Nightingale** is an amazing historical fiction novel by Kristin Hannah. It's the story of two sisters in France during World War II, and their struggle to survive and resist the German occupation of France. I loved the story of these women and their quest to do what they could to help with the war effort. It is one of my favorite books of all time!!



That's the other one!  
Thanks!

**The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements** - by Sam Kean. Don't let the title scare you off! Sam Kean uses humor, off-the-wall stories, and surprising twists in every chapter. I did NOT love chemistry when I first picked up this book, but now I wish I'd had it to read when I was taking Chem in high school. The book was fun, approachable, and memorable. There's some mild language, but not much. Great for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders, especially those interested in science and history!



**The Selection** series by Kiera Cass. The Selection is the chance of a lifetime for 35 girls to live in a palace and compete for the heart of a prince. But for America Singer, being Selected is a nightmare. It means turning her back on her secret love with Aspen, who is a caste below her, and leaving her home to enter a fierce competition for a crown she doesn't want. It's a fun read with a touch of royalty and romance!



**Before I Fall** by Lauren Oliver is about a teenage girl who for over 7 days, is able to relive the day she died. First, she tries to avoid the accident, but then she begins to change the way she lived during that last day. I liked how it makes you dig deep and realize that the way you treat others matters, in a way that relatable to teenagers!

