

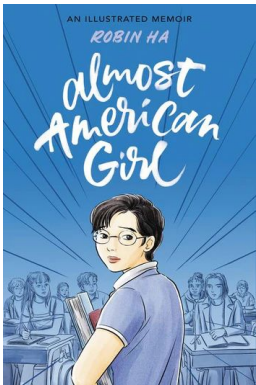


# Rolling Meadows High School Summer Reading Choices 2023



**Choose 1 of 13 choices for summer reading.**

**If you are in Honors or AP courses, check RMHS website in June for further instructions.**



## **Graphic Novel Non-Fiction Memoir**     *Almost American Girl* by Robin Ha

**A graphic novel memoir about immigration, belonging, and how art can save a life.**

*Award: Harvey Award Nominee*

For as long as she can remember, it's been Robin and her mom against the world. Growing up as the only child of a single mother in Seoul, Korea, wasn't always easy, but it has bonded them fiercely together. So when a vacation to visit friends in Huntsville, Alabama, unexpectedly becomes a permanent relocation—following her mother's announcement that she's getting married—Robin is devastated. Overnight, her life changes. She is dropped into a new school where she doesn't understand the language and struggles to keep up. She is completely cut off from her friends in Seoul and has no access to her beloved comics. At home, she doesn't fit in with her new stepfamily, and worst of all, she is furious with the one person she is closest to—her mother.



## **Fiction**     *Fat Chance, Charlie Vega* by Crystal Maldonado

**Charlie Vega is a lot of things. Smart. Funny. Artistic. Ambitious. Fat.**

People sometimes have a problem with that last one. Especially her mom. Charlie wants a good relationship with her body, but it's hard, and her mom leaving a billion weight loss shakes on her dresser doesn't help. The world and everyone in it have ideas about what she should look like: thinner, lighter, slimmer-face, straighter-haired. *Be smaller. Be whiter. Be quieter.*

But there's one person who's always in Charlie's corner: her best friend Amelia. Slim. Popular. Athletic. Totally dope. So when Charlie starts a tentative relationship with cute classmate Brian, the first worthwhile guy to notice her, everything is perfect until she learns one thing--he asked Amelia out first. So is she his second choice or what? Does he even really see her? UGHHH. Everything is now officially a MESS.



## **Mystery / Magical Realism**     *Firekeepers Daughter* by Angeline Boulley

**After a shocking murder, Daunis must go undercover to discover the truth.**

*Awards: 2022 Printz Award, 2022 Edgar Allan Poe Award, Goodreads Choice*

As a biracial, unenrolled tribal member and the product of a scandal, Daunis Fontaine has never quite fit in—both in her hometown and on the nearby Ojibwe reservation. When her family is struck by tragedy, Daunis puts her dreams on hold to care for her fragile mother. The only bright spot is meeting Jamie, the charming new recruit on her brother's hockey team.

After Daunis witnesses a shocking murder that thrusts her into a criminal investigation, she agrees to go undercover. But the deceptions—and deaths—keep piling up and soon the threat strikes too close to home. How far will she go to protect her community if it means tearing apart the only world she's ever known?



## **Magical Realism**     *Instructions for Dancing* by Nicola Yoon

**Evie has the power to see other people's romantic fates.**

Evie Thomas doesn't believe in love anymore. Especially after the strangest thing occurs one otherwise ordinary afternoon: she witnesses a couple kiss and is overcome with a vision of how their romance began . . . and how it will end. After all, even the greatest love stories end with a broken heart, eventually.

As Evie tries to understand why this is happening, she finds herself at La Brea Dance Studio, learning to waltz, fox-trot, and tango with a boy named X. everything that Evie is not; X is adventurous, passionate, daring. His philosophy is to say yes to everything--including entering a ballroom dance competition with a girl he's only just met.

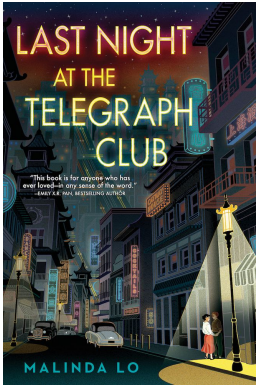
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**Historical Fiction**     *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo  
**A story of love and duty set in San Francisco's Chinatown during the 1950s.**  
*Awards: National Book Award, Asian-Pacific American Award, Printz Honor*

Seventeen-year-old Lily Hu can't remember exactly when the question took root, but the answer was in full bloom the moment she and Kathleen Miller walked under the flashing neon sign of a lesbian bar called the Telegraph Club.

America in 1954 is not a safe place for two girls to fall in love, especially not in Chinatown. Red-Scare paranoia threatens everyone, including Chinese Americans like Lily. With deportation looming over her father—despite his hard-won citizenship—Lily and Kath risk everything to let their love see the light of day.



**Science Fiction / Book 1 of 3**     *The Loop* by Ben Oliver  
**The Loop: a futuristic death row for teens under eighteen.**

It's Luka Kane's sixteenth birthday and he's been inside The Loop for over two years. Every inmate is serving a death sentence with the option to push back their execution date by six months if they opt into "Delays" scientific and medical experiments for the benefit of the elite in the outside world. But rumors of a war on the outside are spreading amongst the inmates, and before they know it, their tortuous routine becomes disrupted. The government issued rain stops falling. Strange things are happening to the guards. And it's not long until the inmates are left alone inside the prison.



**Poetry**     *This Impossible Light* by Lily Myers  
**Ivy is expected to be perfect but what happens when that's impossible.**

Fifteen-year-old Ivy's world is in flux. Her dad moved out, her mother is withdrawn, her brother is off at college, and her best friend, Anna, has grown distant. Worst of all, Ivy's body won't stop expanding. She's getting taller and curvier, with no end in sight.

Everything feels off-kilter until a decision to change the way she eats gives her a boost in confidence and reminds Ivy that her life is her own. If she can just limit what she eats—the way her mother seems to—she can stop herself from growing, focus on the upcoming math competition, and reclaim control of her life. But when her disordered eating gives way to missed opportunities and a devastating health scare, Ivy realizes that she must weigh her mother's issues against her own.



**Poetry**     *Punching the Air* by Ibi Zoboi  
**Powerful novel in verse about a boy who is wrongfully incarcerated.**  
*Awards: LA Times Book Prize, NY Times Best Seller*

The story that I thought  
was my life  
didn't start on the day  
I was born

Amal Shahid has always been an artist and a poet. But even in a diverse art school, he's seen as disruptive and unmotivated by a biased system. Then one fateful night, an altercation in a gentrifying neighborhood escalates into tragedy. "Boys just being boys" turns out to be true only when those boys are white.

The story that I think  
will be my life  
starts today

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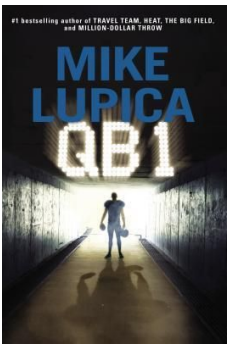




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**Fiction**     *QB 1* by Mike Lupica  
**Football novel set amid the Friday Night Lights world of Texas high school football.**

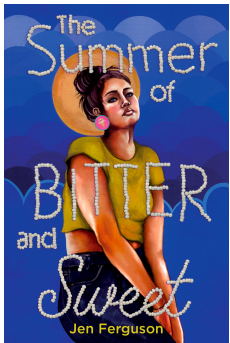
Jake Cullen is a freshman quarterback playing high school football in the high-pressure land of Friday Night Lights Texas. He is also the brother of Wyatt Cullen, who quarterbacked his team to the Texas State Championship last season, not to mention the son of former NFL quarterback and local legend, Troy Cullen. To be a Cullen in Texas is to be royalty . . . and a quarterback. All of which leaves 14-year-old Jake in a Texas-sized shadow, a tall order for any boy, especially one who's merely a freshman.



**Mystery**     *The Rumor Game* by Dhonielle Clayton & Sona Charaipotra  
**“None of it was true, but rumors are like germs. They spread and multiply.” – C.J. Tudor**

At Foxham Prep, a posh private school for the children of DC’s elite, a single rumor has the power to ruin a life. Nobody knows that better than Bryn. She used to have it all—the perfect boyfriend, a bright future in politics, and even popularity, thanks to her best friend, cheer captain Cora. Then one mistake sparked a scandal that burned it all to the ground.

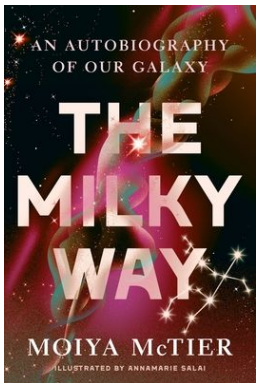
Now it’s the start of a new school year and the spotlight has shifted. It’s geeky Georgie, newly hot after a summer makeover, whose name is on everyone’s lips. When a rumor ignites, Georgie rockets up the school’s social hierarchy, pitting her and Cora against each other. It grants her Foxham stardom . . . but it also makes her a target.



**Fiction**     *The Summer of Bitter & Sweet* by Jen Ferguson  
**A powerful story about rage, secrets, and all the spectrums that make up a person.**  
*Awards: Cybils Award 2022, Governor General’s Literature 2022, Stonewall Honor Book*

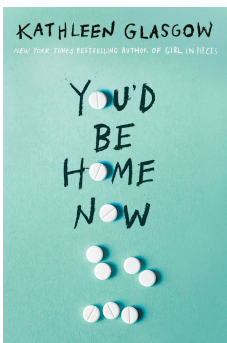
Lou has enough confusion in front of her this summer. She’ll be working in her family’s ice cream shack with her newly ex-boyfriend—whose kisses never made her feel desire, only discomfort—and her former best friend, King, who is back in their Canadian prairie town after disappearing three years ago without a word.

But when she gets a letter from her biological father—a man she hoped would stay behind bars for the rest of his life—Lou immediately knows that she cannot meet him, no matter how much he insists.



**Non-fiction**     *The Milky Way* by Dr. Moiya McTier  
**Approachable and utterly fascinating autobiography of The Milky Way.**

After a few billion years of bearing witness to life on Earth, of watching one hundred billion humans go about their day-to-day lives, of feeling unbelievably lonely, and of hearing its own story told by others, The Milky Way would like a chance to speak for itself. All one hundred billion stars and fifty undecillion tons of gas of it.



**Fiction**     *You’d Be Home Now* by Kathleen Glasgow  
**A breathtaking story about a town, its tragedies, and the “good girl.”**

For all of Emory's life she's been told who she is. In town she's the rich one--the great-great-granddaughter of the mill's founder. At school she's hot Maddie Ward's younger sister. And at home, she's the good one, her stoner older brother Joey's babysitter. Everything was turned on its head, though, when she and Joey were in the car accident that killed Candy MontClair. The car accident that revealed just how bad Joey's drug habit was.

Four months later, Emmy's junior year is starting, Joey is home from rehab, and the entire town of Mill Haven is still reeling from the accident. Everyone's telling Emmy who she is, but so much has changed, how can she be the same person? She must deal with her brother, who might not be cured, the popular guy who lives next door, and most of all, many ghostie addicts who haunt the edges of the town. People spend so much time telling her who she is--it might be time to decide for herself.

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