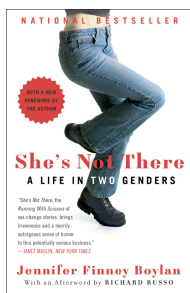


## NOW Academy's English Department High School (9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>) Summer Reading List

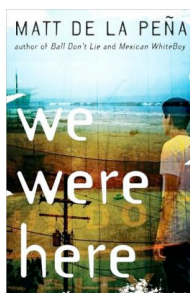
As we approach the end of the 2014-2015 academic year, the prospects and joys of summer are on the horizon! Let us not forget that learning is a lifelong process and in order to foster a love and passion for reading, we have created a NOW Academy Summer Reading List! Below are titles exemplifying a few of literature's finest reads; pages filled with heartache, triumph, a move from innocence to experience, resiliency, family, friendship, culture, tradition, and the struggle for self-actualization in this world. Read the titles below and obtain a parent signature. Return this form and be prepared to have a discussion of the literature with your English teacher at the beginning of the school year for extra credit. Happy reading!



### ***She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders* by Jennifer Finney Boylan, Lexile Level: 950**

The provocative bestseller *She's Not There* is the winning, utterly surprising story of a person changing genders. Hilarious and deeply moving, Jennifer Finney Boylan explores the territory that lies between men and women, examines changing friendships, and rejoices in the redeeming power of family. Told in Boylan's fresh voice, *She's Not There* is about a person bearing and finally revealing a complex secret. As James evolves into Jennifer in scenes that are by turns tender, startling, and witty, a marvelously human perspective emerges on issues of love, sex, and the fascinating relationship between our physical and intuitive selves. Now with a new epilogue from the author and an afterword from Deirdre "Grace" Boylan, *She's Not There* shines a light on the often-confounding process of accepting ourselves.

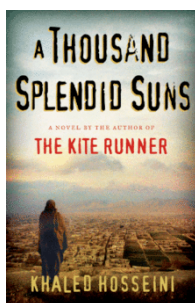
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### ***We Were Here* by Matt de la Peña, Lexile Level: 900**

From the streets of Stockton to the beaches of Venice, all the way to the Mexican border, *We Were Here* follows a journey of self-discovery by a boy who is trying to forgive himself in an unforgiving world. When it happened, Miguel was sent to Juvi. The judge gave him a year in a group home—said he had to write in a journal so some counselor could try to figure out how he thinks. The judge had no idea that he actually did Miguel a favor. Ever since the crime, his mom cannot even look at him in the face. *Any* home besides his would be a better place to live. But Miguel did not bet on meeting Rondell or Mong or on any of what would happen after they broke out. He only thought about Mexico and getting to the border, somewhere he could start anew. Forget his mom. Forget his brother. Forget himself. Life usually does not work out how you think it will, though. And most of the time, running away is the quickest path right back to what you're running from.

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### ***A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini, Lexile Level: 830**

*A Thousand Splendid Suns* is at once an incredible chronicle of thirty years of Afghan history and a deeply moving story of family, friendship, faith, and the salvation to be found in love. Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women brought jarringly together by war, by loss and by fate. As they endure the ever escalating dangers around them—in their home, as well as in the streets of Kabul—they form a bond that makes them both sisters and mother-daughter to each other, which will ultimately alter the course not just of their own lives but of the next generation. With heart-wrenching power and suspense, Hosseini shows how a woman's love for her family can move her to shocking and heroic acts of self-sacrifice, and that in the end it is love, or even the memory of love, that is often the key to survival. A stunning accomplishment, this novel is a haunting, heartbreaking, compelling story of an unforgiving time, an unlikely friendship, and an indestructible love.

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### ***Bone* by Fae Myenne Ng, Lexile Level: 1040**

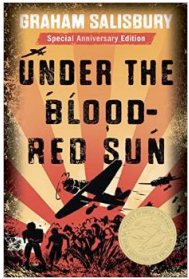
In this profoundly moving novel, Fae Myenne Ng takes readers into the hidden heart of San Francisco's Chinatown, to a world of family secrets, hidden shames, and the lost bones of a "paper father." It is a world in which two generations of the Leong family live in an uneasy tension as they try to fathom the source of the middle daughter Ona's sorrow. Fae Myenne Ng's portraits of the everyday heroism of the Leongs—who inflict deep hurt on each other in their struggles to survive, yet sustain one another with loyalty and love—have made *Bone* one of the most critically acclaimed novels of recent years and immediately a

classic of contemporary American life.

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## *NOW Academy's English Department Middle School (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) Summer Reading List*

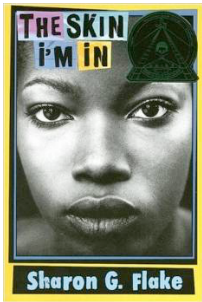
As we approach the end of the 2014-2015 academic year, the prospects and joys of summer are on the horizon! Let us not forget that learning is a lifelong process and in order to foster a love and passion for reading, we have created a NOW Academy Summer Reading List! Below are titles exemplifying a few of literature's finest reads; pages filled with heartache, triumph, a move from innocence to experience, resiliency, family, friendship, culture, tradition, and the struggle for self-actualization in this world. Read the titles below and obtain a parent signature. Return this form and be prepared to have a discussion of the literature with your English teacher at the beginning of the school year for extra credit. Happy reading!



### ***Under the Blood Red Sun* by Graham Salisbury, Lexile Level: 640**

Tomi was born in Hawaii. His grandfather and parents were born in Japan, and came to America to escape poverty. World War II seems far away from Tomi and his friends, who are too busy playing ball on their eighth-grade team, the Rats. But then the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, and the United States declares war on Japan. Japanese men are rounded up, and Tomi's father and grandfather are arrested. It's a terrifying time to be Japanese in America. But one thing does not change: the loyalty of Tomi's buddies, the Rats.

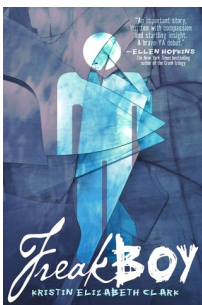
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### ***The Skin I'm In* by Sharon Flake, Lexile Level: 670**

Maleeka suffers every day from the taunts of the other kids in her class. If they're not getting at her about her homemade clothes or her good grades, it's about her dark, black skin. When a new teacher, whose face is blotched with a startling white patch, starts at their school, Maleeka can see there is bound to be trouble for her too. But the new teacher's attitude surprises Maleeka. Miss Saunders loves the skin she's in. Can Maleeka learn to do the same?

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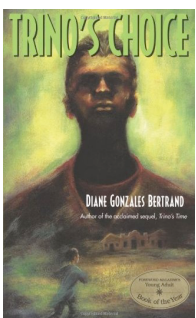


### ***Freakboy* by Kristin Elizabeth Clark, Lexile Level: 700**

From the outside, Brendan Chase seems to have it pretty easy. He's a star wrestler, a video game aficionado, and a loving boyfriend to his seemingly perfect match, Vanessa. But on the inside, Brendan struggles to understand why his body feels so wrong—why he sometimes fantasizes having long hair, soft skin, and gentle curves. Is there even a name for guys like him? Guys who sometimes want to be girls? Or is Brendan just a freak?

In *Freakboy's* razor-sharp verse, Kristin Clark folds three narratives into one powerful story: Brendan trying to understand his gender identity, Vanessa fighting to keep her and Brendan's relationship alive, and Angel struggling to confront her demons.

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### ***Trino's Choice* by Diane Gonzales Bertrand, Lexile Level: 780**

Run or die, seventh-grader Trino thinks when he sees Rosca and some other eighth-graders beating up the neighborhood convenience store owner. Desperate, he ducks inside a dark bookshop, which he briefly considers robbing before some school kids, including the lovely Lisana, show up, interested in an upcoming poetry reading by a Latino poet who writes about the barrio. Although Trino and Lisana go to the same school, their lives seem worlds apart. Living in a Texas trailer park with his working mother, three younger stepbrothers, and alcoholic uncle, Trino hates his life and, frustrated, is drawn by Rosca's offer to hang out and maybe make some quick cash, which leads to tragedy. This is a dramatic and realistic contemporary

novel about a Latino boy struggling to grow into manhood and somehow make the right choices in the absence of adult guidance or even his own understanding of the serious consequences.

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