Freshmen Summer Reading Choices

**Being Jazz - Jazz Jennings**  Jazz Jennings is one of the youngest and most prominent voices in the national discussion about gender identity. Jazz has faced many challenges, bullying, discrimination, and rejection, yet she perseveres as she educates others about her life as a transgender teen. Through it all, her family has been beside her on this journey, standing together against those who don’t understand the true meaning of tolerance and unconditional love. Now Jazz must learn to navigate the physical, social, and emotional upheavals of adolescence--particularly high school--complicated by the unique challenges of being a transgender teen.

**Flying Lessons – Ellen Oh**  This collection of ten short stories explores the uniqueness and universality in all of us. Stories range from basketball dreams, family issues, first crushes, important friendships and the adjustment that comes with new surroundings.

**Long Way Down – Jason Reynolds**  A gat. A hammer. A tool for RULE. Or, you can call it a gun. That’s what fifteen-year-old Will has shoved in the back waistband of his jeans. See, his brother Shawn was just murdered. And Will knows the rules. No crying. No snitching. Revenge. That’s where Will’s now heading, with that gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, the gun that was his brother’s gun. He gets on the elevator, seventh floor, stoked. He knows who he’s after. Or does he?

**#murder trending – Gretchen McNeal**  McNeal creates a world in which those convicted of murder are executed for all to see on by serial killers on a revamped Alcatraz 2.0. Dee Guerrera wakes up on the island refusing to be executed and certain that she was framed for the murder of her step-sister that put her on the island in the first place. Though she isn’t sure who she can trust, Dee sets out with others to not only prove her innocence, but the truth behind The Postman and the show he has created.

**The Free – Lauren McLaughlin**  Though Isaac stole to give his sister Janelle things their mother could never provide, it doesn’t stop him from getting caught and sent to juvie when a job goes wrong. Isaac refuses to participate truthfully in the therapy sessions that are the first step to getting out, but he realizes the longer he remains, the longer his sister is left to fend for herself. Can Isaac come to terms with what happened in his past and share with other therapy participants? If he can’t, what will that mean not only for him, but more importantly for his sister?

**Dead to You – Lisa McMann**  Seven-year-old Ethan was abducted from his front yard while playing with his little brother. Now he’s 16 and miraculously returns to his family. He can recall very little about his life before the abduction, and struggles to transition back into a "normal" family routine. When his brother is assigned a school project on genetics, a difference between them is revealed and suspicions arise about Ethan's heritage.

**Meet Cute: Some People Are Destined to Meet – collected authors**  This collection of romantic short stories tells the tales of "how they first met." Stories range from "meeting cutes" on the subway, a house party, the library, and even an airport. Full of romance, humor, and even a bit of heartbreak.

**Here to Stay – Sarah Farizan**  Bijan had come to terms with warming the varsity basketball's bench, but after an unexpected teammate's injury, Bijan is called in, only to score the winning basket in an important playoff game. Unfortunately, not everyone is happy for Bijan's new popularity, and soon a cyberbully begins to pass around a photoshopped picture of Bijan looking like a terrorist. Bijan just wants to ignore the photo and keep playing ball, and while many stand behind Bijan, others make it clear they don't want "his kind" at their school.

**The Crossover – Kwame Alexander**  Twin brothers Josh and Jordan love both basketball and rap, but as teens they begin to grow apart. Serious issues develop, threatening their relationship, family, and their futures. This book is a quick read, full of rap, family values, and sports.

**Prisoner B-3087 – Alan Gratz**  Yanek Gruener lives a nightmare, losing his family to the Nazis, being moved from one concentration camp to another, and being worked to death. If he survives the terror, who will he be? Will his hope be enough?

**Salt to the Sea – Ruta Sepetys**  World War II is drawing to a close in East Prussia and thousands of refugees are on a desperate trek toward freedom, many with something to hide. Among them are Joana, Emilia, and Florian, whose paths converge en route to the ship that promises salvation, the Wilhelm Gustloff. Forced by circumstance to unite, the three find their strength, courage, and trust in each other tested with each step closer to safety.