

Mrs. Cathy Brankman

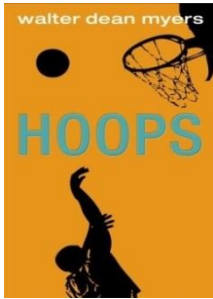
Grades 8, 9 and 12

Summer Reading Suggestions:

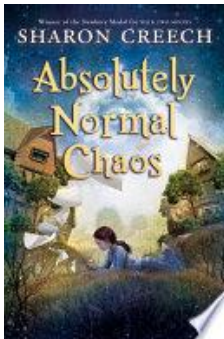
*The Cage* by Ruth Minsky Sender



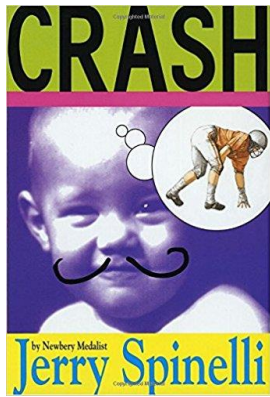
*Hoops* by Walter Dean Myers



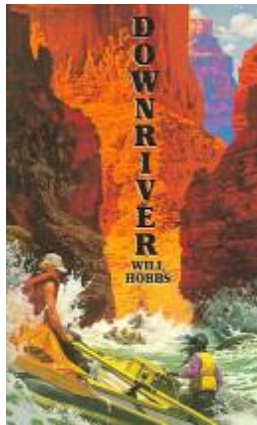
*Absolutely Normal Chaos* by Sharon Creech



*Crash* by Jerry Spinelli



*Downriver* by Will Hobbs

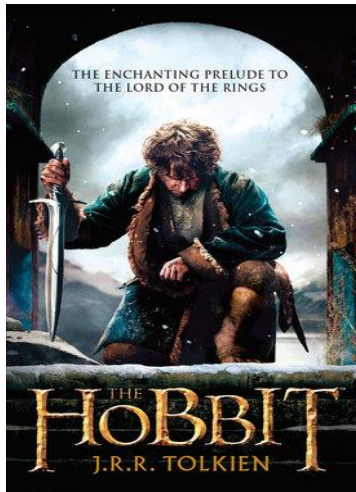


*The Fellowship of the Ring* by J.R.R. Tolkien

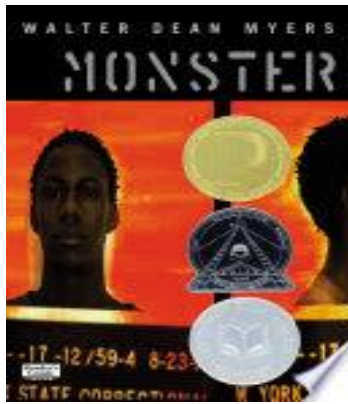


*Great Expectations*, Charles Dickens

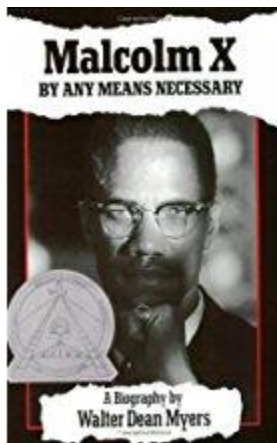
*The Hobbit*, J.R.R. Tolkien



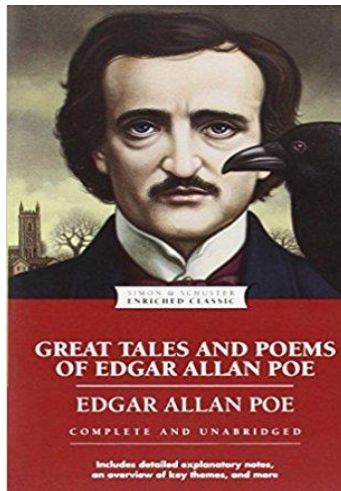
*Monster*, Walter Dean Myers



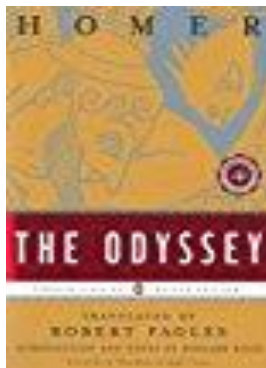
*Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary*, Walter Dean Myers

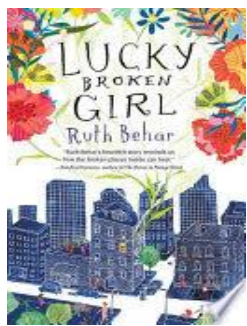


*Great Tales and Poems* of Edgar Allan Poe



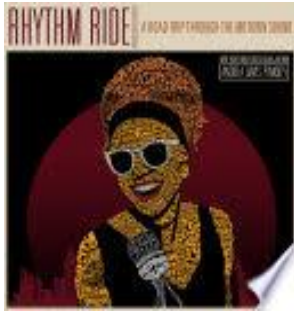
*Odyssey* - Homer





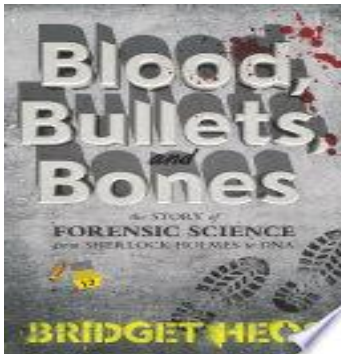
***Lucky Broken Girl*** by Ruth Behar Nancy Paulsen, 2017, ISBN: 9780399546440.

After a move from Cuba to New York City, an unexpected accident traps Ruthy in a body cast for months, cutting her off from friends, school and fun, leading her to explore her world through art.



***Rhythm Ride: A Road Trip Through the Motown Sound*** by Andrea David Pinkney Roaring Brook Press, 2015, ISBN: 9781596439733

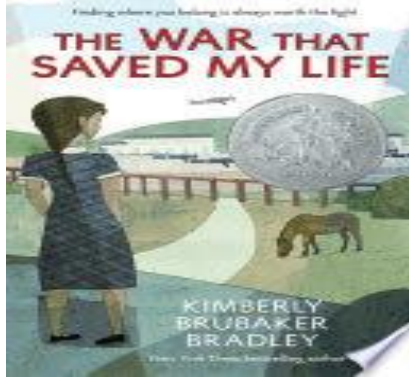
A narrative history of the Motown record label: the business, the music, the people, and the historical, political, and cultural context of its times.



***Blood, Bullets, and Bones: The Story of Forensic Science from Sherlock Holmes to DNA***

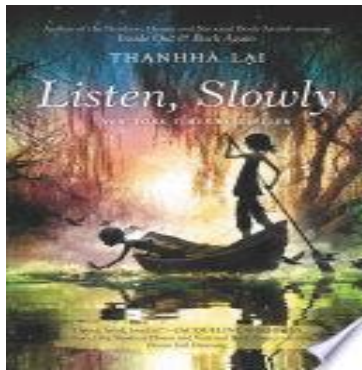
by: Bridget Heos Balzer & Bray, 2016, ISBN: 9780062387622

A gruesome and fascinating account of the indispensable role forensic science plays in our criminal justice system.



***The War that Saved My Life*** by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley Dial Books, 2015, ISBN: 9780803740815

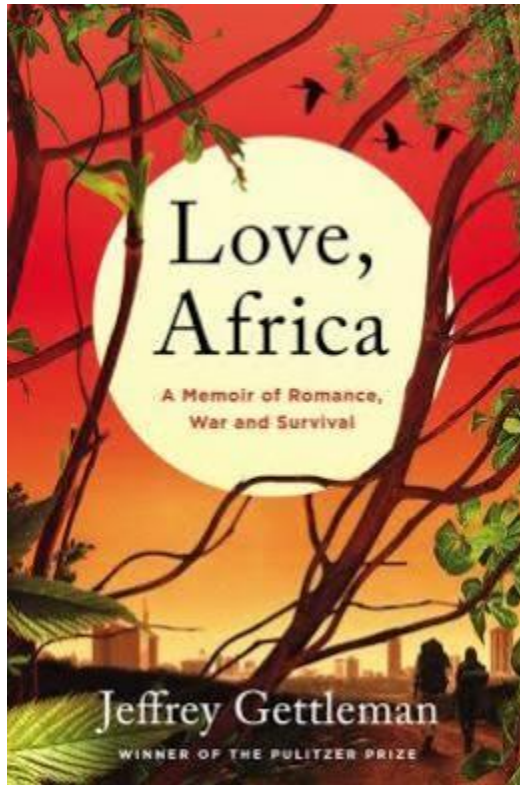
Like many other city children during World War II, Ada and Jamie are being evacuated to live with strangers in the countryside, away from the bombings. They are leaving their mother and all they have ever known. How could this is possibly the best thing that could ever have happened to them?



***Listen, Slowly*** by Thanhha Lai HarperCollins, 2015, ISBN: 9780062229182

Mai must spend her summer vacation in Vietnam with her Grandmother (Ba). While there, Mai learns more about her family, while Ba learns what happened to her husband during the war.

## English 12



### [Love, Africa: A Memoir of Romance, War and Survival by Jeffrey Gettleman](#)

This title is being added in real time. I am working on this blog post while listening to the most recent [Pod Save the World](#) episode in which Tommy Vietor is interviewing *New York Times* journalist Jeffrey Gettleman about his new book *Love, Africa*. In the interview, Gettleman describes how a trip he took across Africa at age 18 changed his life and he cites [Dan Eldon](#), who was on the trip, as being central to that transformation. The book tells this story and all that has transpired as a result of that trip.

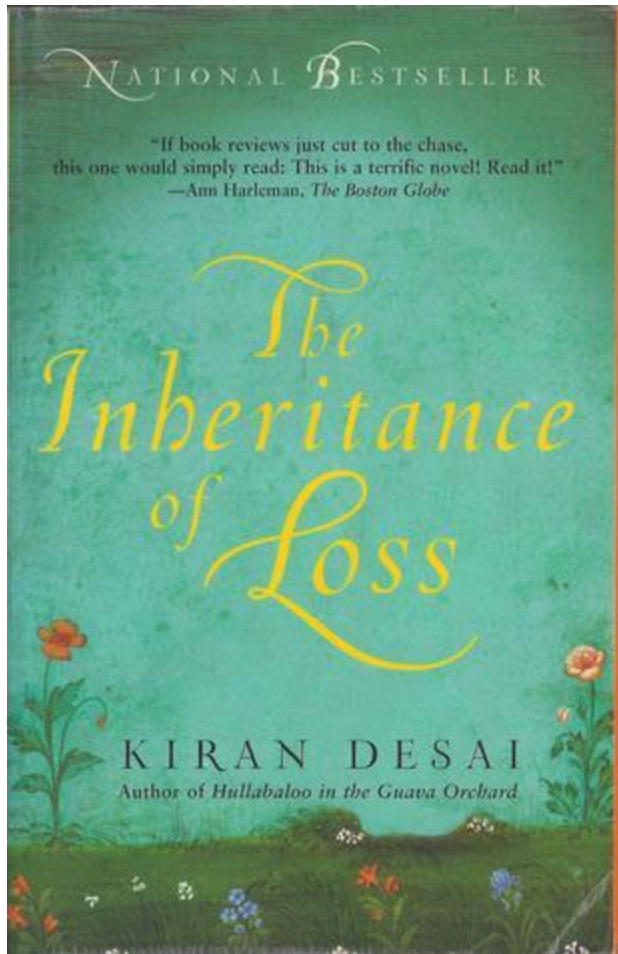
Here's the description from the back cover:

*A seasoned war correspondent, Jeffrey Gettleman has covered every major conflict over the past twenty years, from Afghanistan to Iraq to the Congo. For the past decade, he has served as the East Africa bureau chief for the New York Times, fulfilling a teenage dream.*

*At nineteen, Gettleman fell in love for the first time—twice. On a do-it-yourself community-service trip in college, he went to East Africa—a terrifying, exciting, dreamlike part of the world in the throes of change that imprinted itself on his imagination and on his heart. But at around the same time he also fell in love with a fellow Cornell student—the brightest, classiest, most principled woman he'd ever met. To say they were opposites was an understatement. She became a criminal lawyer in America; he hungered to be in Africa. For the next decade he would be torn by two dueling obsessions.*

*A sensually rendered coming-of-age story, Love, Africa is a tale of passion, violence, far-flung adventure, tortuous long-distance relationships, screwups, forgiveness, parenthood, and happiness that explores the power of self-discovery in the most unexpected of places.*



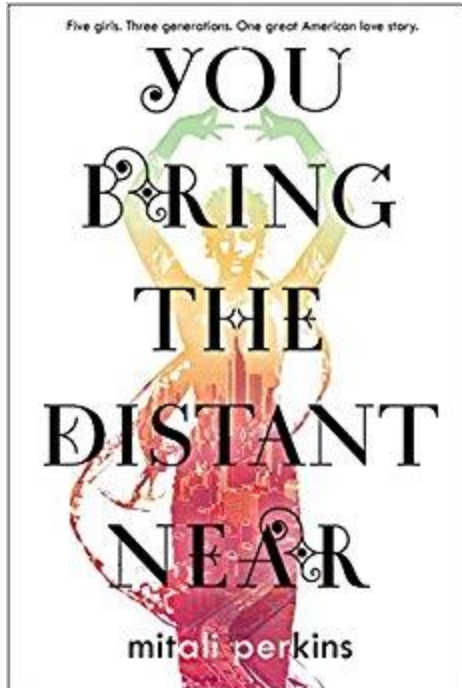


## The Inheritance of Loss by Kiran Desai

Check out the following description of *The Inheritance of Loss* by Penguin Random House:

*In a crumbling, isolated house at the foot of Mount Kanchenjunga in the Himalayas lives an embittered judge who wants only to retire in peace, when his orphaned granddaughter, Sai, arrives on his doorstep. The judge's cook watches over her distractedly, for his thoughts are often on his son, Biju, who is hopscotching from one gritty New York restaurant to another. Kiran Desai's brilliant novel, published to huge acclaim, is a story of joy and despair. Her characters face numerous choices that majestically illuminate the consequences of colonialism as it collides with the modern world.*

Truth time. I discovered this title because a passage from the book was on a practice AP Literature test. The richness of Desai's prose is simultaneously detailed and nuanced. I jotted the title down in the back of my lesson planner. The above description of Desai's bestseller, winner of the 2006 Man Booker Prize and National Book Critics Circle Award, has landed it at the very top of my list.

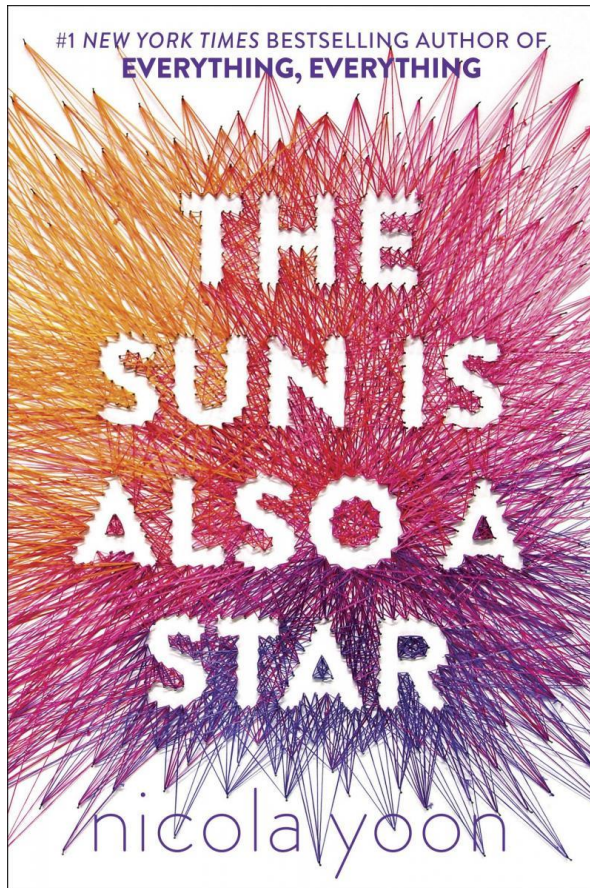


*You Bring the Distant Near* by Mitali Perkins

Indian-American family with humor and heart. Told in alternating teen voices across three generations, *You Bring the Distant Near* explores sisterhood, first loves, friendship, and the inheritance of culture—for better or worse.

From a grandmother worried that her children are losing their Indian identity to a daughter wrapped up in a forbidden biracial love affair to a granddaughter social-activist fighting to preserve Bengali tigers, Perkins weaves together the threads of a family growing into an American identity.

Here is a sweeping story of five women at once intimately relatable and yet entirely new.



### The Sun Is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon

It is Natasha's last day in New York City, where she has lived for 10 years. Her family, living as undocumented immigrants in a small Brooklyn apartment, is being deported to Jamaica after her father's arrest for drunk driving. Natasha is scouring the city for a chance to stay in the United States legally. She wants the normal teen existence of her peers. Meanwhile, poetic Daniel is on his way to an interview as part of his application process to Yale. He is under great pressure to get in because his parents (who emigrated from South Korea) are adamant that he become a doctor. Events slowly conspire to bring the two leads together. When Daniel and Natasha finally meet, he falls in love immediately and convinces her to join him for the day. They tell their stories in alternating chapters. Additional voices are integrated into the book as characters interact with them. Both relatable and profound, the bittersweet ending conveys a sense of hopefulness that will resonate with teens.