

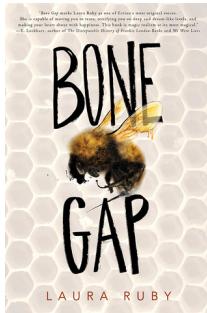
# ORRJHS 2019 Summer Reading

## Grade 8

Putting high-interest books into the hands of our students and developing a school-wide community of readers are the most important goals of our summer reading program. Incoming 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students will choose one book from the list below to read over the summer and then meet in small groups in September to discuss their books.

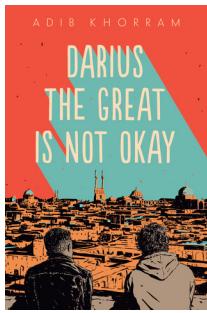
Once students have chosen a book to read, they should sign up by using our online form. Students may change their book choice by signing up a second time, but final selections must be made by Aug. 1. The link to the form can be found on our library website: [orrijhslibrary.weebly.com](http://orrijhslibrary.weebly.com). The books can all be borrowed from local public libraries or purchased at area bookstores or online.

### Grade 8 Summer Reading Choices



**Bone Gap** by Laura Ruby  
(mystery; horror; dating & relationships)

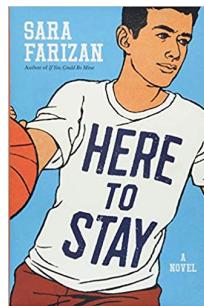
Everyone knows Bone Gap is full of gaps. So when young, beautiful Roza went missing, the people of Bone Gap weren't surprised. But Finn knows what really happened to Roza. He knows she was kidnapped by a dangerous man whose face he cannot remember. But the searches turn up nothing, and no one believes him anymore. Not even his brother Sean, who has more reason to find Roza than anyone and every reason to blame Finn for letting her go.



**Darius the Great Is Not Okay** by Adib Khorram (soccer; mental health; depression and meds; multigenerational family; Iranian culture)

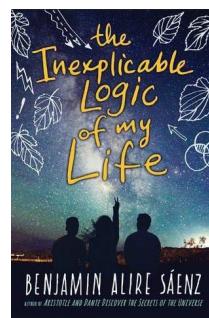
Darius Kellner speaks better Klingon than Farsi, and he knows more about Hobbit social cues

than Persian ones. He's a Fractional Persian—half, his mom's side—and his first-ever trip to Iran is about to change his life. Darius has never really fit in at home, and he's sure things are going to be the same in Iran. His clinical depression doesn't exactly help matters, and trying to explain his medication to his grandparents only makes things harder. Then Darius meets Sohrab, the boy next door, and everything changes. Adib Khorram's brilliant debut is for anyone who's ever felt not good enough—then met a friend who makes them feel so much better than okay.



**Here To Stay** by Sara Farizan  
(basketball; teamwork; friendship)

What happens when a kid who's flown under the radar for most of high school gets pulled off the bench to make the winning basket in a varsity playoff game? If his name is Bijan Majidi, life is suddenly high fives in the hallways and invitations to exclusive parties—along with an anonymous photo sent by a school cyberbully that makes Bijan look like a terrorist. *Here to Stay* is a painfully honest, funny, authentic story about growing up, speaking out, and fighting prejudice.

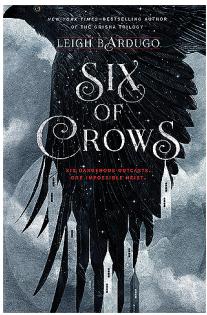


**The Inexplicable Logic of My Life** by Benjamin Alire Saenz  
(adoption; family; friendship; identity)

Sal used to know his place with his adoptive gay father, their loving Mexican American family, and his best friend, Samantha. But it's senior year, and suddenly Sal is throwing punches, questioning everything, and realizing he no longer knows himself. If Sal's not who he thought he was, who is he?

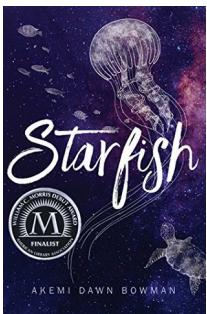
This humor-infused, warmly humane look at universal questions of belonging is a triumph.

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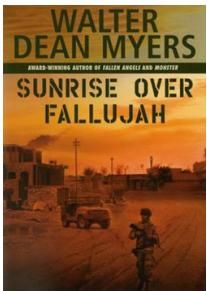
***Six of Crows*** by Leigh Bardugo  
(fantasy; action & adventure)

Six dangerous outcasts. One impossible heist. Kaz Brekker's crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction—if they can pull it off. Each highly skilled crew member is armed with a special criminal or magical ability, and they'll need them all because once the heist starts, nothing goes according to plan.



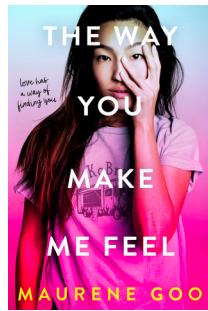
***Starfish*** by Akemi Dawn Bowman  
(art; family; identity; self-esteem)

Kiko Himura has always had a hard time saying exactly what she's thinking. With a mother who makes her feel unremarkable and a half-Japanese heritage she doesn't quite understand, Kiko prefers to keep her head down, certain that once she makes it into her dream art school, Prism, her real life will begin. But then Kiko doesn't get into Prism, at the same time her abusive uncle moves back in with her family. So when she receives an invitation from her childhood friend to leave her small town and tour art schools on the west coast, Kiko jumps at the opportunity in spite of the anxieties and fears that attempt to hold her back.



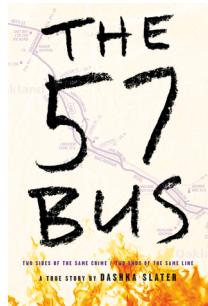
***Sunrise over Fallujah*** by Walter Dean Myers (war fiction)

Robin "Birdy" Perry, a new army recruit from Harlem, isn't quite sure why he joined the army, but he's sure where he's headed: Iraq. Birdy and the others in the Civilian Affairs Battalion are supposed to help secure and stabilize the country and successfully interact with the Iraqi people. Officially, the code name for their maneuvers is Operation Iraqi Freedom. But the young men and women in the CA unit have a simpler name for it: WAR.



***The Way You Make Me Feel*** by Maurene Goo (humor; friendship; romantic comedy; food)

Clara Shin lives for pranks and disruption. When she takes one joke too far, her dad sentences her to a summer working on his food truck, the KoBra, alongside her uptight classmate Rose Carver. Not the carefree summer Clara had imagined. But maybe Rose isn't so bad. Maybe the boy named Hamlet (yes, Hamlet) crushing on her is pretty cute. Maybe Clara actually feels invested in her dad's business. What if taking this summer seriously means that Clara has to leave her old self behind?



***The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives*** by Dashka Slater (narrative nonfiction; LGBTQ; social issues)

If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment. The case garnered international attention, thrusting both teenagers into the spotlight.

Note: Summaries are provided by the publishers and/or based on the Library of Congress CIP data.