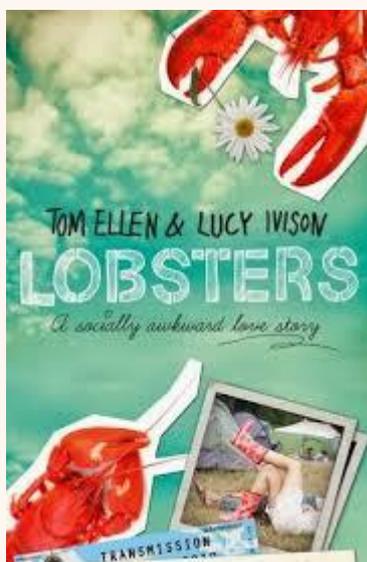


Summer Recommended Reads

by



Summer holidays have begun . . . so whether you are travelling or staying at home, don't forget to pack a book. This **TRAC** list features books with a **summery setting or theme**: everything from road trips to summer romances, the worst summer job ever, and a historical novel set in post-earthquake Haiti. *You think you're hot?* Nowhere gets hotter than Haiti, unless it's a muggy August day in New York City. There are mysteries, thrillers, tragedies and comedies. No reason to be bored this summer!



LOBSTERS

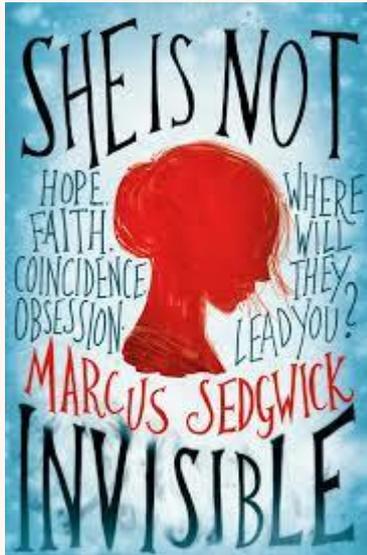
by *Tom Ellen and Lucy Ivison*

Sam and Hannah, fresh from the torture of A-level exams, are both desperate for a summer romance. At first meeting, even though it takes place in a purple bathroom, they are struck by their easy chemistry; but misunderstandings and interfering friends create one problem after another. Told in the alternating point of view of both Sam and Hannah, this comedy of errors takes place in many settings familiar to UK teens. As Shakespeare knew, *the course of true love never did run smooth* . . . even though none of *his* characters ever tried to hook up at a music festival.

Reading and interest level: 15+

Genre: realistic; humour; friendship; romance

This book contains strong language, references to drugs and alcohol, and some sexual scenes.



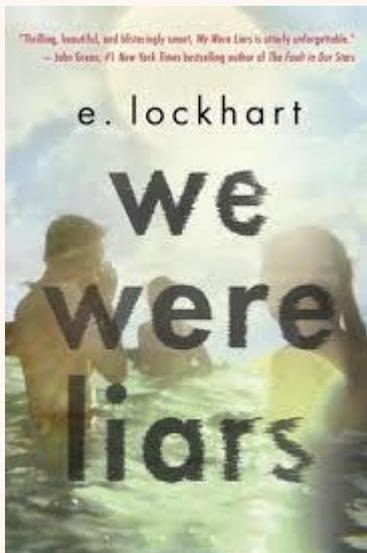
She is Not Invisible

by Marcus Sedgwick

One hot day in August, 16 year old Laureth and her little brother Benjamin board a plane for New York City. They are on a quest to find their father, who has gone missing; after receiving a blackmailing email, Laureth suspects foul play. Two problems: No one knows where they are going, and Laureth is blind. Both mystery and thriller, this unusual novel explores the idea of coincidence. Is it a matter of mathematical probability, or something more significant? Let the reader decide.

Reading and interest level: 12+

Genre: realistic; mystery; thriller



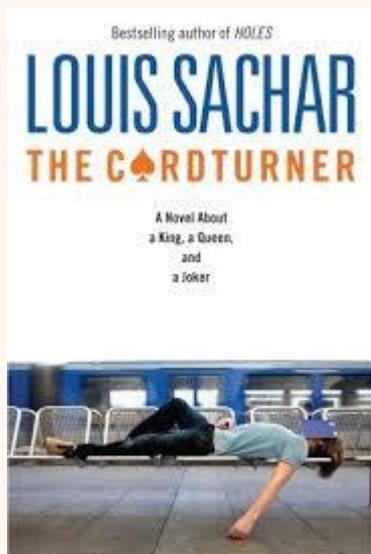
We Were Liars

by E. Lockhart

The beautiful Sinclair family have their very own island off the coast of Massachusetts. Every summer they go there to swim, play games and mess about in boats with their cousins – until the fifteenth summer, when something unimaginable and tragic happens. Even as the reader is led to an understanding of the tragedy, along with the amnesiac narrator, it still manages to be surprising and completely devastating. Beautifully written and impossible to pull down.

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: realistic; mystery; thriller; romance; tragedy



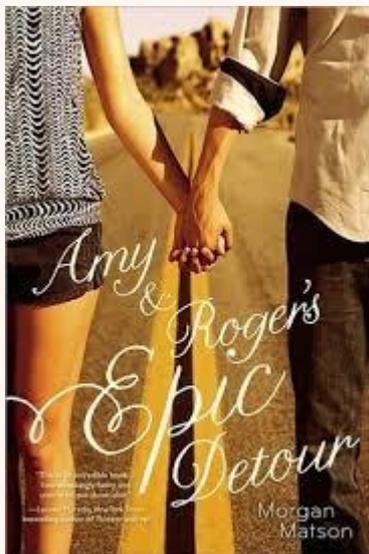
The Cardturner

by *Louis Sachar*

Alton Richards, 17, jobless and broke, has been hearing stories about his Uncle Lester – rich, blind and cantankerous – all of his life. When Alton is recruited to be his uncle’s cardturner, it sounds like the worst job ever. Alton ends up learning a lot more than he bargained for – about his family, romance, and especially the game of bridge. Like *Holes*, Louis Sachar’s best-known book, this story contains plenty of humour, quirky characters, a bit of mystery and a few ghosts. The reader will also get more than a glimpse into the competitive bridge world. This may be the only YA novel ever published which teaches the fundamentals of bridge, but it will be a “two-fer” of entertainment and mental challenge for the right reader.

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: realistic; humour; family; mystery; bridge



Amy and Roger’s Epic Detour

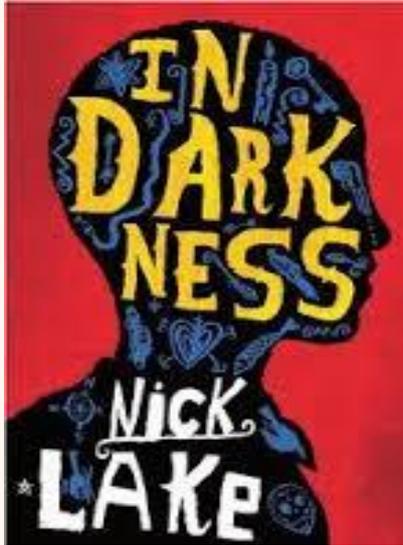
by *Morgan Matson*

Amy doesn’t drive anymore, and she cannot talk about the reason why. When her family moves from California to Connecticut the summer before her senior year, Amy needs a driver. Meet Roger. Amy and Roger start out as strangers, but after many thousand miles and a lot of significant detours, their relationship definitely evolves. This road trip novel is part emotional journey, part travelogue; the graphic extras, including Roger’s iPod playlists, add a lot of interest to the storyline.

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: realistic; romance; family; tragedy

This book contains mild references to drugs, alcohol and sexuality.



In Darkness

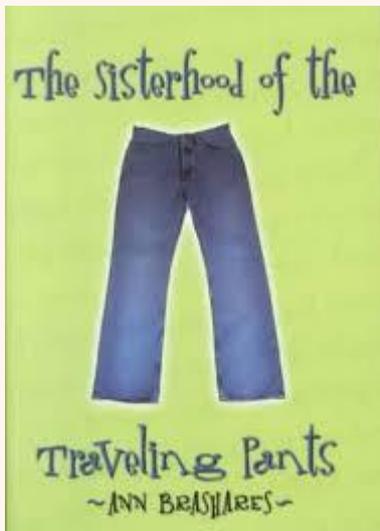
by Nick Lake

This award-winning novel takes two characters and storylines and weaves them together in a rich, complex way. One storyline explores the historically factual life of Toussaint, a former slave who liberated the slaves of Haiti and waged war on both the French and English. The other storyline imagines a young boy called “Shorty,” a gangster from the slums, trapped in rubble after the Haitian earthquake of 2010. This novel is a challenging read in every sense, rewarding for the reader not put off by the difficult language and emotionally disturbing content.

Reading and interest level: 16+

Genre: historical; contemporary Haiti

This book contains very strong language, references to drugs, and disturbing scenes of violence.



The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants

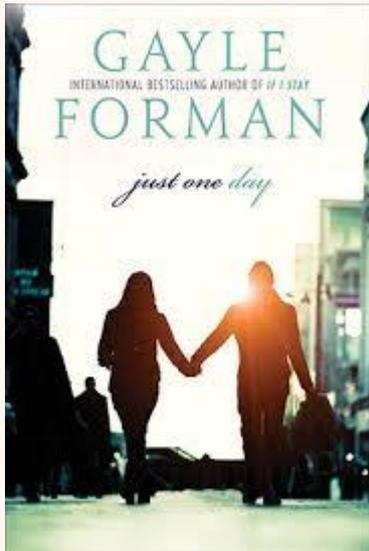
by Ann Brashares

This well-loved series has been around for a while, but still ranks as one of the best-ever books about female friendship . . . *and* summer adventures, romantic and otherwise.

Reading and interest level: 12+

Genre: realistic; family; friendship; romance; humour

This book contains some references to sexuality and family dysfunction.



Just One Day

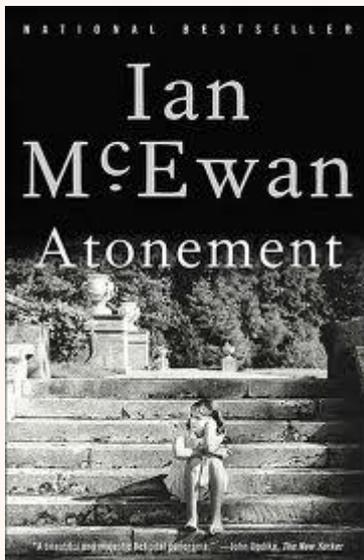
by Gayle Forman

Allyson didn't really expect a summer trip to Europe would change her life, but when she makes an impetuous decision to visit Paris with a near stranger there are far-reaching consequences. Much more than a summer romance novel, this engaging story explores how one crucial day can spin a life into a whole new direction. The coming-of-age theme gets an emotionally complex treatment in this novel for older YA readers.

Reading and interest level: 15+

Genre: realistic; romance; family; friendship

This book contains some sexual scenes and mild language.



Atonement

by Ian McEwan

On a hot summer day in 1934, 13 year old Briony Tallis sees something she does not really understand. Briony's desire to be the centre of attention leads to accusations, misunderstanding and finally a tragic expulsion. War, romance and family tragedy: history comes alive in this surprising and dramatic novel, which will appeal to many older adolescents.

Reading and interest level: 16+

Genre: historical; romance; World War II

This book contains some sexual scenes, violence and a few instances of strong language.

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