



Ursuline
High School
WIMBLEDON



Welcome Back!

Message From the New Librarian

Welcome to this year's first LRC Newsletter! Having just joined Ursuline High School in September, I wanted to introduce myself as the school's new librarian. My name is Ms Sykes, and prior to working at UHS I lived in Bristol where I studied for my BA in English Literature. As a former English student, I absolutely love all kinds of reading. Becoming a librarian seemed a natural decision for me, and working in a school where I can inspire young people to love books as much as I do makes it all the better. My favorite writers are Mary Ann Evans (George Eliot), Christina Rossetti, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. As a school librarian, I am currently

reading a lot of teen fiction! Some of my favorites from this month have included *The House with Chicken Legs* by Sophie Anderson, *Fingersmith* by Sarah Walters, and *Northern Lights* by Phillip Pullman.



Student Librarian Segment

This year, we have 15 girls working as Student Librarians in the LRC. Here is what some of them had to say about being a Student Librarian!

I like being a librarian because I am able to help others by sharing my love of reading. Currently, I am reading the book series *Beautiful Creatures*, which I find very interesting, and would recommend it to anyone into fantasy books.
-Alba

I wanted to be a librarian this year because I have been a librarian in primary school and wanted to relive a childhood memory. I also love helping others and reading books. If I had to pick a favorite book, it would be *Peter Pan* because it's a very magical book.
-Daniela

My favorite book so far is *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*. It is interesting and it is about children with powers. I wanted to be a librarian as I enjoy books and I love the smell of libraries! I like organizing things and I am good at speaking with others.
-Masha



KS3 Book Club

All Rico wants is to change the world
Benjamin Zephaniah



Terror Kid

This term, we have been reading *Terror Kid* by Benjamin Zephaniah. *Terror Kid* explores racial profiling through the lens of a young male protagonist, Rico, who just wants to make his world a better and fairer place. Set in the backdrop of the 2011 London Riots, Zephaniah explores new methods of crime through online exploitation, outlining the dangers of the internet for a young audience.

Here are some of the girls' responses to what we have read so far:

'I enjoy *Terror Kid* because it raises awareness about the way people are treated due to their skin colour- this book is set some time ago but prejudice still occurs. I would recommend it because some people are unaware of the injustice in the world and this book tells you about it in an interesting way.' -Maura

'*Terror Kid* is a really good book because it is raising awareness of things that are going on around us that we might not be aware of.' - Ella

'I really like the book *Terror Kid* because it spreads awareness to the reader about things like racism and stereotyping and it is just such a good read.' Amelie

'I liked *Terror Kid* because it is a gripping story and very interesting. It is based on things that have actually happened and it's good for raising awareness about stereotypes.' - Róisín

'I like *Terror Kid* because it shows racial injustice in a way that follows an engaging storyline.' - Lucy

'I like *Terror Kid* because it is very interesting and is very clear and written well.' - Francesca

'I enjoyed *Terror Kid* because it discusses challenging, and often upsetting, topics, challenging our preconceptions and ideologies, encouraging a re-evaluation of our society.' -Simone

'It's very interesting and leaves you addicted, wanting to know what will happen next.' -Laura

'It challenges and changes perspectives and highlights the ridiculous society we live in.' -Hannah

'I think *Terror Kid* is a good book because it is really interesting and it makes you want to read more of the book. I think you guys should read it!' - Adonia

'I like the book *Terror Kid* because it isn't really a normal book but that isn't a bad thing. I haven't really read a book like *Terror Kid* as it's really engaging.' - Isabella

'*Terror Kid* is very interesting because every chapter ends on a cliffhanger. It is addictive and I enjoy how the book talks about injustice and racism. I can't stop reading it.' -Nikola

KS3 Book Club runs year- round on Mondays from 3.15-4pm in the LRC.

The girls are encouraged to read aloud from the set text in a friendly and supportive environment

We discuss the book we are reading towards the end of each session, motivating girls to think critically and formulate their own arguments outside of the classroom setting.

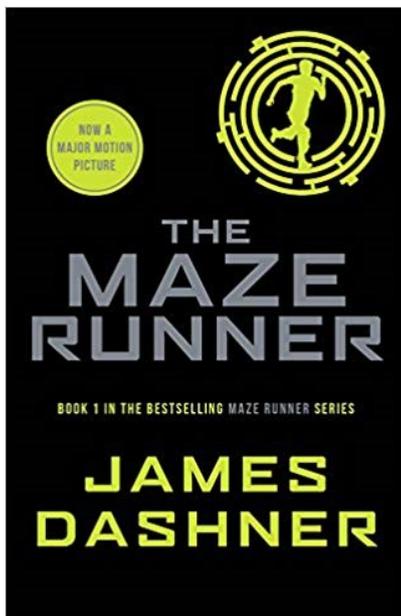
Email Ms Sykes on emily.sykes@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk for more information.

Dystopias

As the current Year 7 classes are studying Dystopia in their lessons, we put on a dystopia display in the library to aid them in their further reading.

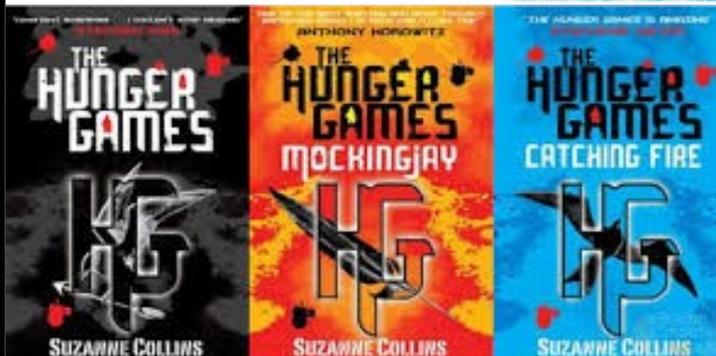
A dystopia is ‘an imagined state or society in which there is great suffering or injustice, typically one that is totalitarian or post-apocalyptic.’

DYSTOPIAN READS

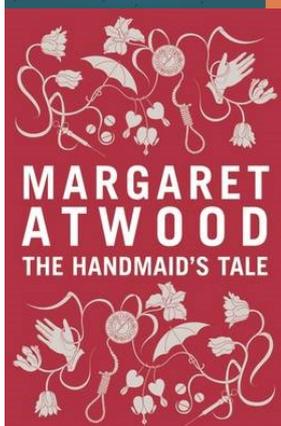
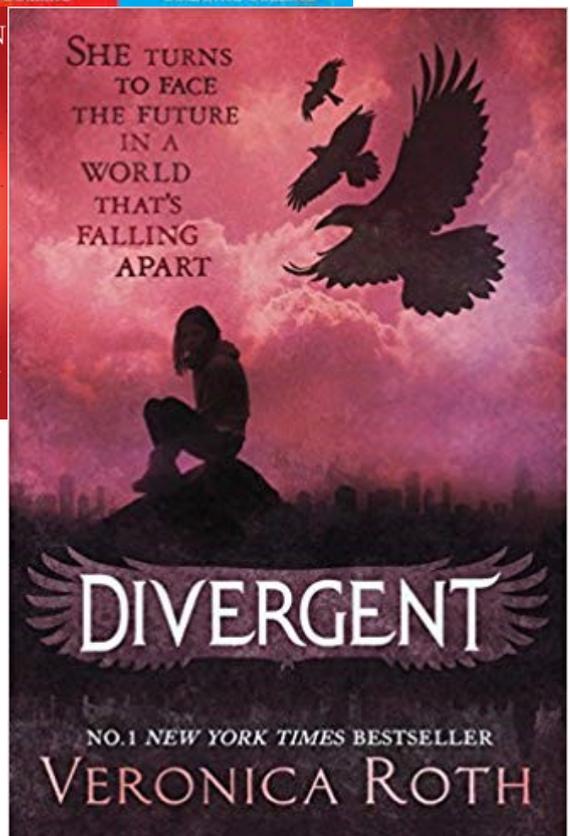
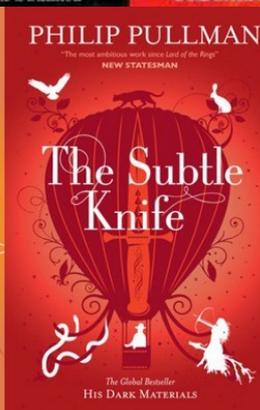
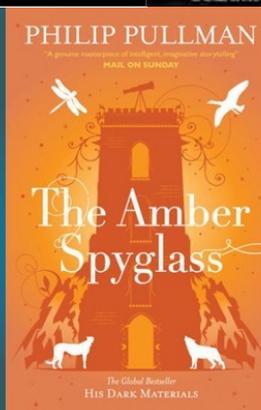
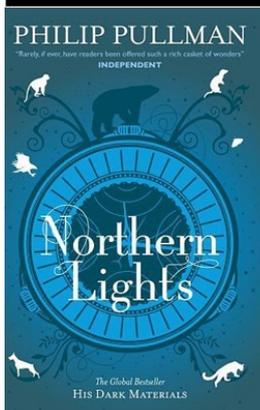


“When reading The Maze Runner by James Dashner, I was really intrigued by the vocabulary and the structure of the text. Personally, I really like this book because it is intense and I love that sort of genre in a book.”

ORWELL 1984



“The Hunger Games really catches your attention because it engages you in the book so you feel like you were in the games. It is a very well described book and the different scenes get you scared because they get your heart beating really fast.”

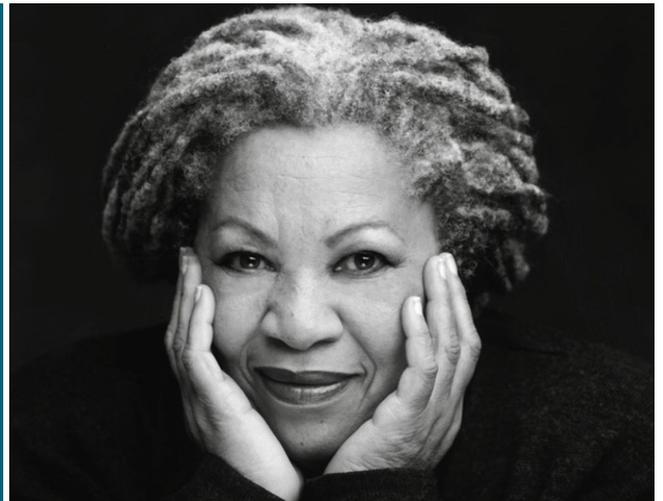


“Divergent is a haunting thriller based on an amazing group of teenagers who are curious about what is on the other side of a big wall that's keeping them trapped. They go on an anticipating adventure until they meet other people, which was quite a shock because they didn't believe that there was anyone outside they're little town. For people who love adventure, action and drama, this is a really good book. It is a dystopian novel and film set in a destroyed and ruined version of Chicago. I rate it a 10 out of 10. There are also other books in the series called Insurgent and Allegiant.”

September –October Literary Dates and Displays

Toni Morrison

Sadly, August 2019 saw the death of ‘Beloved’ (and beloved) author Toni Morrison. As an homage to such an influential writer, September’s book displays included one dedicated to the American essayist, novelist, and Professor. The girls in our year 12 Reading Enrichment Group further decided to choose ‘Beloved’ as our first text this term. The first black female editor at Random House Publishing, Morrison fought oppression throughout her life. In 1993, she was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, and in 2012 was given the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama. She leaves behind an impressive legacy of 11 novels, 9 non-fiction works, 5 children's books, 2 short stories, and 2 plays, as well as her impact on the countless African American women writers she inspired.

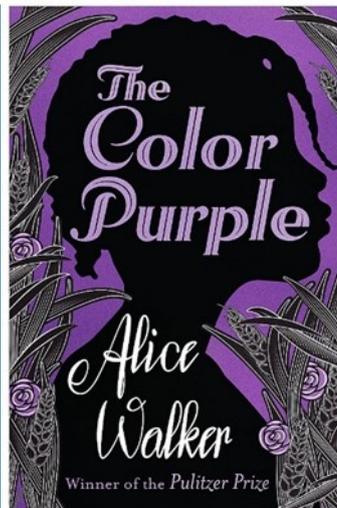


Banned Books Week

22-28th September marked this year’s Banned Books Week, in which we celebrated literary freedom and our right to read. Books on this year’s display included Alice Walker’s *The Color Purple*, Roald Dahl’s *James and the Giant Peach*, Oscar Wilde’s *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, and Chinua Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart*. Our most popular book from this display was the widely celebrated *The Color Purple*. Winning the Pulitzer Prize in 1983, *The Color Purple* focusses on the lives of African American women living in the Deep South of North America in the 1930’s. The novel has been frequently targeted by censorship, appearing on the ALA list of the 100 Most Frequently Challenged Books of 2000-2009 due to its violent and explicit content.

Why we love this book:

Strong black female characters with a driving message of female empowerment. Eloquent use of Black English Vernacular.



National Poetry Day: 3rd October

The theme for this year’s National Poetry Day is Truth.

Some of our favorite poems about truth are

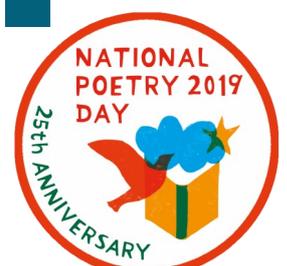
Tell All the Truth but Tell it Slant– Emily Dickinson

Lost– Michael Rosen

The excerpt I have selected is from Sylvia Plath’s ‘Mirror’, a poem told from the point of view of a mirror. The poem looks at a woman reflected as an object within it, and examines truth of the self within its retrospective gaze.

“Now I am a lake. A woman bends over me,
Searching my reaches for what she really is.”

Sylvia Plath, ‘Mirror’

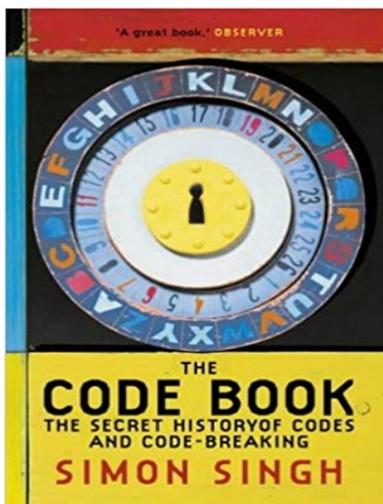
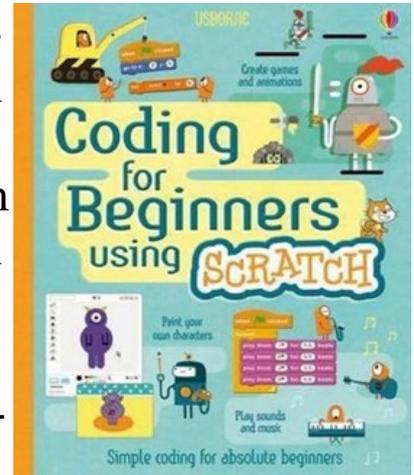


New Books!

We are excited to announce that we are developing a computing section in the LRC! Coding and software design are professions on the rise, with thousands of young women taking up places to study Computer Science at top U.K Universities.

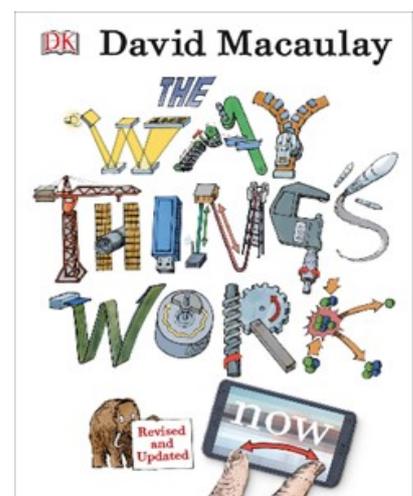
Some of our new acquisitions:

Coding for Beginners using Scratch by Rosie Dickins, Jonathan Melmoth and Louie Stowell -A teen-friendly guide to coding using an easy coding language.



The Code Book: The Secret History of Codes and Code-Breaking, by Simon Singh -A book examining the history of code, with puzzles of its own to solve! Singh delves into the previously classified field of WW2 codebreaking, looking at enigma machines and Turing's bombe device which ultimately won the war.

The Way Things Work Now by David Macaulay – A reference book for readers of all ages examining modern technology and the way it works. This guide is incredibly comprehensive, allowing us all to visualize the inner workings of the machines around us and understand their hidden mechanisms.



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Greta Thunberg Speeches

The LRC were lucky enough to acquire 10 books of Greta Thunberg's speeches courtesy of the Big Green Bookshop.

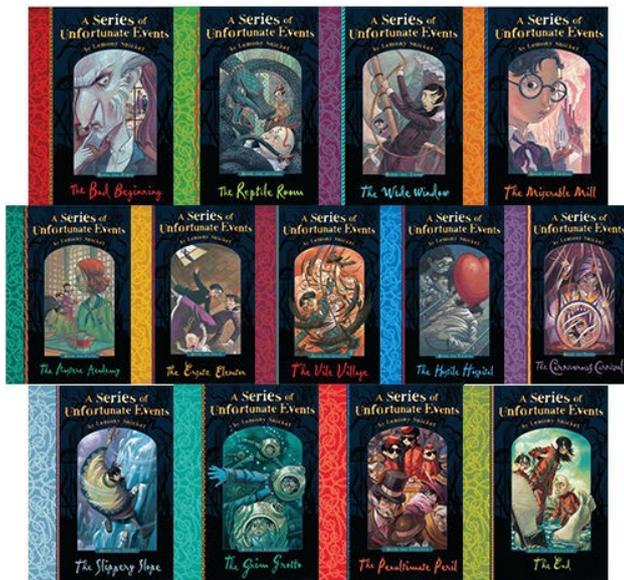
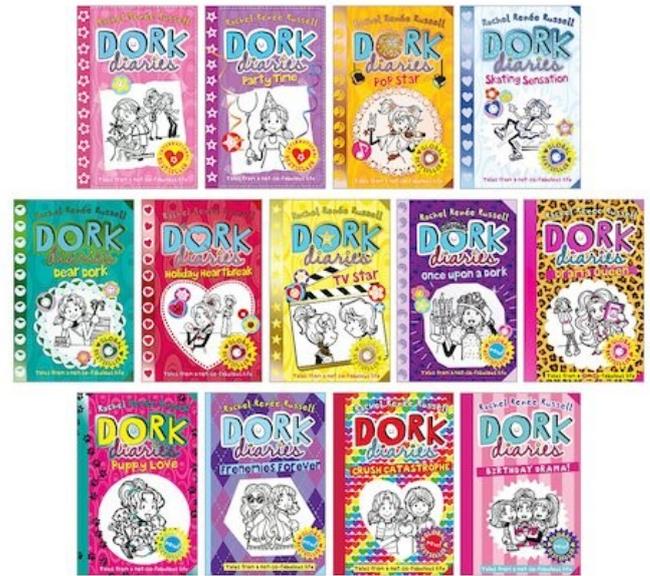
Aged just 16, Greta shot to worldwide renown for her School Strike for Climate protest, which has since spread to schools across the globe.

Eco-consciousness and climate change are issues we care about deeply at Ursuline. We have taken a school-wide stand against single-use plastics, and displays made by KS3 showing the harm of plastic can be seen around the LRC.

Pick up a copy of Greta's speeches today and be inspired to stand up and make a difference.

Year 7 Wednesdays

On Wednesday Lunchtimes, the LRC is open to Year 7 Students only. This has allowed our new girls to experience the library space and have exclusive access to books and other resources. The girls are now competent in borrowing, renewing, and returning library books, and have learned how to print from their own laptops.



‘The library is the best place to study. It is peaceful and you can tell that people love it so much because it is always full. I would rate the library 5 stars. My favorite books are: Dork Diaries Harry Potter First Class Murder.’ Jessica

‘I absolutely love coming to the library. It is my favorite place to go in the whole school. I come during break and lunch and if I’m early to school I go to the library. I normally go to the library with Jessica, who’s in my form, but sometimes I come on my own especially if I need a place to rest or calm down.

My Favorite Books

Harry Potter

Dork Diaries

A Series of Unfortunate Events

Model Undercover

Murder Most Unladylike

I love them because they all contain fantasy, romance, or crime, so I recommend them if you like these types of books.’ Alexis

World Mental Health Day 2019



Find them in the LRC today!

Libraries and Mental Health

Did you know...

It's been scientifically proven that reading can improve your mental health. Studies have shown that children who read outside of school are three times more likely to have high levels of mental wellbeing than those who do not.

School libraries are quiet refuges amongst the bustle of school life. If you are ever feeling stressed, or just want a space to sit and be still for a while, the library is the perfect place to be.



For some "Shelfhelp" go to:

<https://reading-well.org.uk/>

HAPPINESS IS



...a new stack of unread library books.

J.A.P.E.S.G.
facebook.com/itswithahappypage

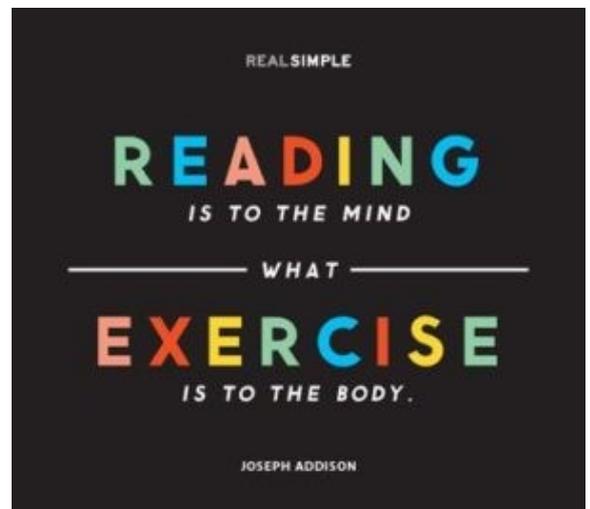
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When: World Mental Health Day is on the 10th October

Why: We all have a mental health. WMHD allows us to reduce stigma and conduct open and honest conversations about how we are feeling and how we can improve our wellbeing.

What to do if you are experiencing a Mental Health issue: Talk to someone you trust. Whether it's a friend, a teacher, or your parents, talking to someone when you are experiencing distress allows you to work together to find a solution and makes you feel less alone.

Don't feel comfortable talking to someone you know? That's okay too. You can reach someone over the phone on Childline at 0800 1111



New Releases and Recommended Reads

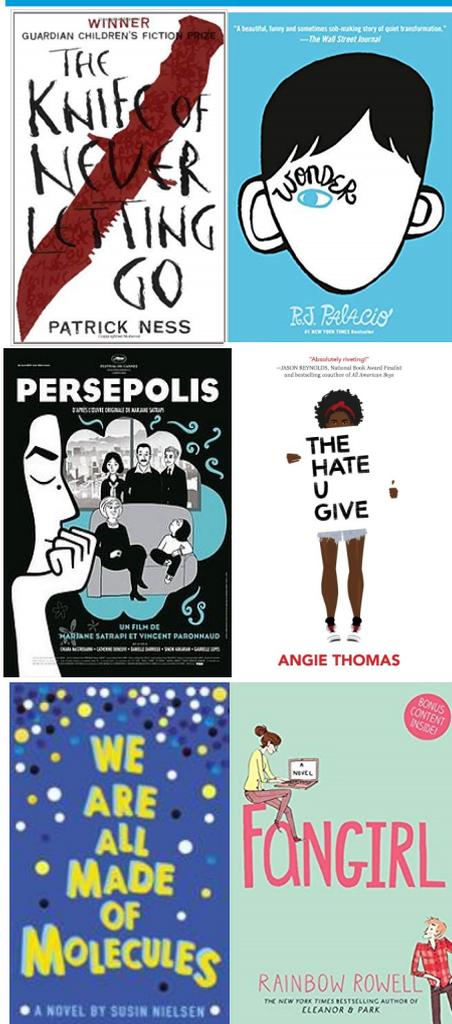
New Releases!

3rd October- The Book of Dust Volume 2 –Philip Pullman

Return to Lyra’s world in Pullman’s next installment of his renowned fantasy series.

1st October-Smoke in the Sun– Renée Ahdieh– The long-awaited sequel to Flame in the Mist, Smoke in the Sun blends the genres of romance, fantasy, and adventure in a spellbinding return to feudal Japan.

1st October– Scars Like Wings– Erin Stewart– A year after a fire destroys everything she loves, Ava Lee must return to high school. Burned and scarred, she finds solace in Piper, a fellow survivor. Will Ava fade back into her past, or fight back against it?



Recommended Reads:

The Knife of Never Letting Go– Patrick Ness

Wonder– R.J. Palacio

The Hate U Give– Angie Thomas

Persepolis– Marjane Satrapi

Fangirl– Rainbow Rowell

We Are All Made of Molecules– Susin Nielsen