Reading Olympics 2016-2017

Book Summaries

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian by Sherman Alexie

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Native American is the school mascot. -- REALISTIC FICTION

All American Boys by Jason Reynolds

When sixteen-year-old Rashad is mistakenly accused of stealing, classmate Quinn witnesses his brutal beating at the hands of a police officer who happens to be the older brother of his best friend. -- REALISTIC FICTION

Anya's Ghost by Vera Brosgol

Anya, embarrassed by her family and lacking confidence in her body and her social skills, finally finds a friend after falling down a well, but quickly learns there are drawbacks to having a ghost for a friend. -- GRAPHIC NOVEL

Audacity by Melanie Crowder

A historical fiction novel in verse detailing the life of Clara Lemlich and her struggle for women's labor rights in the early 20th century in New York. -- HISTORICAL FICTION

AuRevoir, Crazy European Chick by Joe Schreiber

Perry's parents insist that he take Gobi, their quiet, Lithuanian exchange student, to senior prom but after an incident at the dance he learns that Gobi is actually a trained assassin who needs him as a henchman, behind the wheel of his father's precious Jaguar, on a mission in Manhattan. -- REALISTIC FICTION

Beauty Queens by Libba Bray

When a plane crash strands thirteen teen beauty contestants on a mysterious island, they struggle to survive, to get along with one another, to combat the island's other diabolical occupants, and to learn their dance numbers in case they are rescued in time for the competition. -- REALISTIC FICTION

Before I Die by Jenny Downham

A terminally ill teenaged girl makes and carries out a list of things to do before she dies. -- REALISTIC FICTION

Born Confused by Tanuja Desai Hidier

As Dimple Lala turns seventeen, she realizes that life is about to become more complex as her best friend starts pulling away and her parents try to find a suitable boyfriend for Dimple, despite the fact that she is not interested. -- REALISTIC FICTION

The Burn Journals by Brent Runyon

Presents the true story of Brent Runyon who at fourteen set himself on fire and sustained burns over eighty percent of his body, and describes the months of physical and mental rehabilitation that followed as he attempted to pull his life together. -- BIOGRAPHY

Climbing the Stairs by Padma Venkataman

In India, in 1941, when her father becomes brain-damaged in a non-violent protest march, fifteen-year-old Vidya and her family are forced to move in with her father's extended family and become accustomed to a totally different way of life. -- HISTORICAL FICTION

Crank by Ellen Hopkins

Kristina Georgia Snow's life is turned upside-down, when she visits her absentee father, gets turned on to the drug "crank", becomes addicted, and is led down a desperate path that threatens her mind, soul, and her life. -- REALISTIC FICTION

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother. -- REALISTIC FICTION

The Dressmaker of Khair Khana by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon

Recounts the true story of Kamila Sidiqi, a woman who was forced to support herself and her five siblings after the Taliban seized control of the city of Kabul and her father and brothers fled the country. -- BIOGRAPHY

Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans by Don Brown

A graphic novel account of the Hurricane Katrina disaster in November of 2005, when the city of New Orleans, Louisiana, and surrounding areas were flooded and more than fourteen hundred people lost their lives. -- GRAPHIC NONFICTION

<u>Dumplin'</u> by Julie Murphy

Sixteen-year-old Willowdean wants to prove to everyone in her small Texas town that she is more than just a fat girl, so, while grappling with her feelings for a co-worker who is clearly attracted to her, Will and some other misfits prepare to compete in the beauty pageant her mother runs. -- REALISTIC FICTION

Everlost by Neal Shusterman

When Nick and Allie are killed in a car crash, they end up in Everlost, or limbo for lost souls, where, although Nick is satisfied, Allie will stop at nothing--even skinjacking--to break free. (First book in the Skinjacker trilogy.) -- SCIENCE FICTION

Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon

The story of a teenage girl who's literally allergic to the outside world. When a new family moves in next door, she begins a complicated romance that challenges everything she's ever known. The narrative unfolds via vignettes, diary entries, texts, charts, lists, illustrations, and more. -- REALISTIC FICTION

The First Part Last by Angela Johnson

Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter. -- REALISTIC FICTION

Getting Away with Murder by Chris Crowe

Presents a true account of the murder of fourteen-year-old, Emmett Till, in Mississippi, in 1955. -- NONFICTION

Hold Me Like a Breath by Tiffany Schmidt

Penny Landlow, seventeen, the overprotected daughter of a powerful crime family, has rarely left the family estate due to a blood disorder but when tragedy strikes and she is left alone in New York City, she must prove she is not as fragile as everyone believes. -- REALISTIC FICTION

How I Killed Pluto and Why It Had It Coming by Mike Brown

Astronomer Mike Brown describes how his search for a tenth planet, Eris, a planet more massive than Pluto, led to the demotion of Pluto to a dwarf planet. -- NONFICTION

Illuminae by Amie Kaufman

The planet Kerenza is attacked, and Kady and Ezra find themselves on a space fleet fleeing the enemy, while their ship's artificial intelligence system and a deadly plague may be the end of them all. -- SCIENCE FICTION

Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer

Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. -- SCIENCE FICTION

A Long Way Gone by Ishmael Beah

Ishmael Beah describes his experiences after he was driven from his home by war in Sierra Leone and picked up by the government army at the age of thirteen, serving as a soldier for three years before being removed from fighting by UNICEF and eventually moving to the United States. -- BIOGRAPHY

Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac by Gabrielle Zevin

After a nasty fall, Naomi realizes that she has no memory of the last four years and finds herself reassessing every aspect of her life. -- REALISTIC FICTION

Most Dangerous by Steve Sheinkin

The story of Daniel Ellsberg and his decision to steal and publish secret documents about America's involvement in the Vietnam War. -- NONFICTION

Nimona by Noelle Stevenson

Lord Ballister Blackheart seeks to bring down the Institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics with the aid of his new shapeshifting sidekick Nimona. -- GRAPHIC NOVEL

Paper Covers Rock by Jenny Hubbard

In 1982 Buncombe County, North Carolina, sixteen-year-old Alex Stromm writes of the aftermath of the accidental drowning of a friend, as his English teacher reaches out to him while he and a fellow boarding school student try to cover things up. -- REALISTIC FICTION

A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry

A three-act play concerned with the tensions in a middle-class African American family living on Chicago's Southside in the 1950s. -- DRAMA

Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard

In a world divided by blood--those with common, Red blood serve the Silver-blooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities--seventeen-year-old Mare, a Red, discovers she has an ability of her own. To cover up this impossibility, the king forces her to play the role of a lost Silver princess and betroths her to one of his own sons. But Mare risks everything and uses her new position to help the Scarlet Guard--a growing Red rebellion--even as her heart tugs her in an impossible direction. -- FANTASY

Repossessed by A.M. Jenkins

A fallen angel, tired of being unappreciated while doing his pointless, demeaning job, leaves Hell, enters the body of a seventeen-year-old boy, and tries to experience the full range of human feelings before being caught and punished, while the boy's family and friends puzzle over his changed behavior. -- SCIENCE FICTION

The Rest of Us Just Live Here by Patrick Ness

What if you aren't the Chosen One? The one who's supposed to fight the zombies, or the soul-eating ghosts, or whatever the heck this new thing is, with the blue lights and the death? What if you're like Mikey? Who just wants to graduate and go to prom and maybe finally work up the courage to ask Henna out before someone goes and blows up the high school. Again. Because sometimes there are problems bigger than this week's end of the world, and sometimes you just have to find the extraordinary in your ordinary life. Even if your best friend is worshipped by mountain lions. -- REALISTIC FICTION

Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys

As World War II draws to a close, refugees try to escape the war's final dangers, only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull. -- HISTORICAL FICTION

The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen

When a school bus accident leaves sixteen-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb and her track team finds a way to help rekindle her dream of running again. -- REALISTIC FICTION

The Scorpio Races by Maggie Stiefvater

Nineteen-year-old returning champion Sean Kendrick competes against Puck Connolly, the first girl ever to ride in the annual Scorpio Races, both trying to keep hold of their dangerous water horses long enough to make it to the finish line. -- FANTASY

Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli

Sixteen-year-old, not-so-openly-gay Simon Spier is blackmailed into playing wingman for his classmate or else his sexual identity-and that of his pen pal--will be revealed. -- REALISTIC ROMANCE

Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo

Six dangerous outcasts. One impossible heist. Kaz's crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction--if they don't kill each other first. -- FANTASY

Split by Swati Avasthi

A teenaged boy thrown out of his house by his abusive father goes to live with his older brother, who ran away from home years earlier under similar circumstances. -- REALISTIC FICTION

Stupid Fast by Geoff Herbach

Just before his sixteenth birthday, Felton Reinstein has a sudden growth spurt that turns him from a small, jumpy, picked-on boy with the nickname of "Squirrel Nut" to a powerful athlete, leading to new friends, his first love, and the courage to confront his family's past and current problems. -- REALISTIC FICTION

Twisted by Laurie Halse Anderson

After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies and his ever-angry father, seventeen-year-old Tyler enjoys his tough new reputation and the attentions of a popular girl, but when life starts to go bad again, he must choose between transforming himself or giving in to his destructive thoughts. -- REALISTIC FICTION

Under the Mesquite by Q. Garcia McCall

Throughout her high school years, as her mother battles cancer, Lupita takes on more responsibility for her house and seven younger siblings, while finding refuge in acting and writing poetry. Includes glossary of Spanish terms. -- REALISTIC FICTION

The Weight of Feathers by Anna-Marie Mclemore

Although Lace Paloma knows all about the feud between the Palomas and the Corbeaus, she finds herself falling for Cluck Corbeau when he saves her life while both families are performing in the same town. -- FANTASY

White Cat by Holly Black

When Cassel Sharpe discovers that his older brothers have used him to carry out their criminal schemes and then stolen his memories, he figures out a way to turn their evil machinations against them. (First book in the Curse Workers series.) -- SCIENCE FICTION

Wingshooters by Nina Revoyr

Michelle LeBeau, the daughter of an American man and a Japanese woman, lives with her grandparents in Deerhorn, Wisconsin, and their lives are forever changed when an African American family moves into their all-white town in 1974. -- REALISTIC FICTION

X: A Novel by Ilyasah Shabazz

Malcolm Little's parents have always told him that he can achieve anything, but from what he can tell, that's a pack of lies--after all, his father's been murdered, his mother's been taken away, and his dreams of becoming a lawyer have gotten him laughed out of school. There's no point in trying, he figures, and lured by the nightlife of Boston and New York, he escapes into a world of fancy suits, jazz, girls, and reefer. -- HISTORICAL FICTION