

# 2025 High School Summer Reading

## Sports/Competition

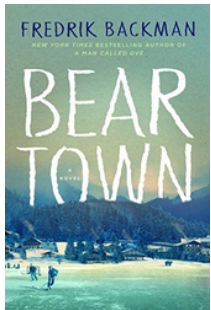


**The Long Run** by James Acker  
When fate--in the form of a party that gets busted--brings together two very different track-and-field athletes, each trying to figure out what they want out of life, they find a love for which they'd risk everything.



**Out of Our League: 16 Stories of Girls in Sports** edited by Dahlia Adler and Jennifer Iacopelli

An anthology of stories by some of today's hottest names in YA all featuring strong female athletes!



**Beartown** by Fredrik Backman

A poignant, charming novel about a forgotten town fractured by scandal, and the amateur hockey team that might just change everything.



**Headshot** by Rita Bullwinkel  
Each of the eight teenage girl boxers in this blistering debut novel has her own reasons for the sacrifices she has made to come to Reno, Nevada, to compete to be named the best in the country.



**This Dark Descent** by Kalyn Josephson  
Every ten years, the citizens of Veradell gather for the Illinir, a treacherous horse race famous for its alluring prize money and high body count.



**Snowglobe** by Soyoung Park  
In a world of constant winter, only the citizens of the climate-controlled city of Snowglobe can escape the bitter cold—but this perfect society is hiding dark and dangerous secrets within its frozen heart.



**Kick the Latch** by Kathryn Scanlan

Kick the Latch vividly captures the arc of one woman's life at the racetrack.



**Run On Your New Legs** by Wataru Midori

Shouta Kikuzato's hopes of starting on his school's prestigious soccer team are derailed when a terrible incident costs him his leg.



**Slam Dunk** by Takehiko Inoue

A tough bruiser of a boy has his world upended when the girl of his dreams introduces him to the sport of basketball.



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## Virtual Reality/Video Games



**Dead Flip** by Sara Farizan  
Cori and Maz, once inseparable best friends, reunite to solve the mystery of what happened to their other friend Sam—who disappeared five years ago and has now returned, not having aged at all.



**Catchpenny** by Charlie Huston  
A thief who can travel through mirrors, a video game that threatens to spill out of the virtual world, a doomsday cult on a collision course with destiny, and a missing teenager at the center of it all.



**Walking in Two Worlds** by Wab Kinew  
An Indigenous teen girl is caught between two worlds, both real and virtual.



**Blood, Sweat, and Pixels** by Jason Schreier  
Schreier takes you behind the scenes of some of the biggest recent games to share never-before-told stories of the struggles and failures the development teams faced along the way.



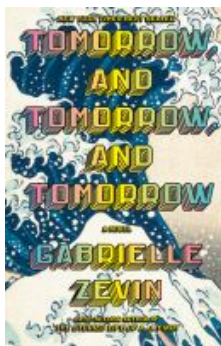
**Find Him Where You Left Him Dead** by Kristen Simmons  
A group of teenagers must reckon with their shared past after they're dragged into a deadly underworld filled with creatures from Japanese folklore in this Jumanji-inspired horror.



**Single Player** by Tara Tai  
Two video game creators go head-to-head in this delightful, queer enemies-to-lovers workplace romance debut.



**It's Only a Game** by Kelsey Yu  
Marina Chan, living under a fake identity to escape her past, risks exposure when her online gaming team accepts a tour of their favorite game company, only to find themselves entangled in a deadly game.



**Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow** by Gabrielle Zevin  
A modern love story about two childhood friends who reunite as adults to create video games, finding an intimacy in digital worlds that eludes them in their real lives.

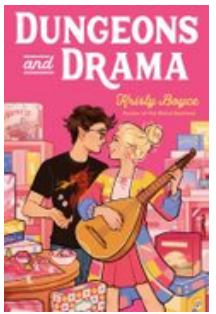


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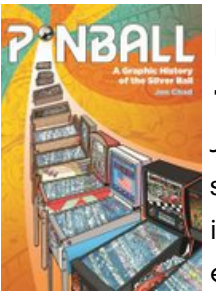
## Classic Games/RPGs/Puzzles



**The Grandest Game** by Jennifer Lynn Barnes  
Players compete for millions in a game of riddles orchestrated by Avery and the Hawthorne brothers, but not everyone is playing by the rules.



**Dungeons and Drama** by Kristy Boyce  
From musical scheming to Dungeons & Dragons adventures, the story's high jinks involve a lovable cast of characters that are relatable and intriguing.



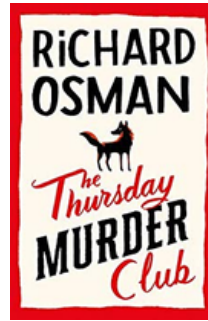
**Pinball: A Graphic History of the Silver Ball** by Jon Chad  
Jon Chad illustrates the little-known story of pinball—how it works and why it all matters in an age of special effects and on-screen gaming.



**Aces Wild** by Amanda DeWitt  
What happens in Vegas when an all-asexual online friend group attempts to break into a high-stakes gambling club? Shenanigans ensue.



**Check & Mate** by Ali Hazelwood  
What happens in Vegas when an all-asexual online friend group attempts to break into a high-stakes gambling club? Shenanigans ensue.



**The Thursday Murder Club** by Richard Osman  
In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves The Thursday Murder Club.



**The No-Girlfriend Rule** by Christen Randall  
Hollis wants to get closer to her boyfriend, but his D&D group has a “no-girlfriend” policy. When she joins a girl-friendly, queer-inclusive crowd, she begins to find her own confidence.



**Lavender House** by Lev AC Rosen  
When your existence is a crime, everything you do is criminal, and the gates of Lavender House can't lock out the real world forever. Running a soap empire can be a dirty business.



**Side Quest: A Visual History of Roleplaying Games** by Samuel Sattin  
This book gives existing fans of tabletop roleplaying games (TTRPGs) insight into the history of the medium—and provides a gateway for anyone new to the phenomenon.

