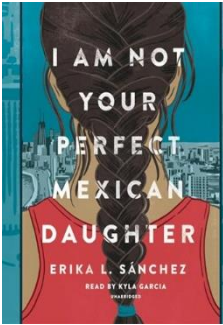




# 2025 Suggested Summer Reading

## Incoming Freshmen

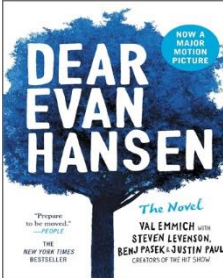
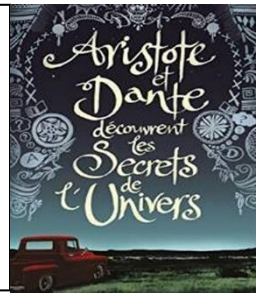


### 1. *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika L. Sánchez (ISBN: 9781524700515)

[Lexile 730 L] The story revolves around **Julia**, who is not the “perfect” Mexican daughter. Unlike her late sister **Olga**, Julia doesn’t conform to the traditional roles expected of her. She yearns for independence, education, and a life beyond her parents’ house. But when tragedy strikes, leaving Olga dead and Julia grappling with grief, she embarks on a journey to uncover the truth about her sister.

### 2. *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Sáenz (ISBN: 9781442408937)

[Lexile 380 L] *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Sáenz is a captivating young adult novel that weaves together themes of friendship, identity, and self-discovery.

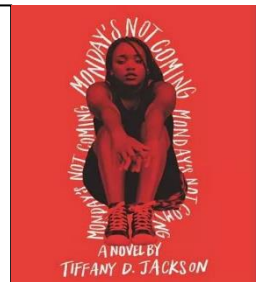


### 3. *Dear Evan Hansen* by Val Emmich (ISBN: 9780316420235)

[Lexile 590 L] When a letter that was never meant to be seen by anyone draws high school senior Evan Hansen into a family’s grief over the loss of their son, he is given the chance of a lifetime: to belong.

### 4. *Monday’s Not Coming* by Tiffany L Jackson (ISBN: 9780062422675)

[Lexile 620 L] Jackson’s characters and their heart-wrenching story linger long after the final page, urging readers to advocate for those who are disenfranchised and forgotten by society and the system.



## Additional Suggested Readings for Proviso East High School students\*

2024 Lincoln Nominee Books from Broadview Public Library - [CLICK HERE](#)

2024 Lincoln Nominee Books from Forest Park Public Library – [CLICK HERE](#)

2024 Lincoln Nominee Books from Maywood Public Library – [CLICK HERE](#)

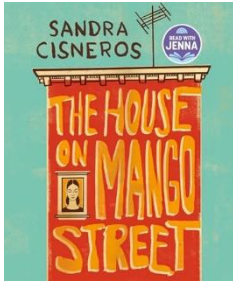
2024 Lincoln Nominee Books from Melrose Park Public Library - [CLICK HERE](#)

\* Based on the Abraham Lincoln Annual Book Award given to the author of the book voted most outstanding by students in grades 9-12 in participating Illinois schools.



# 2025 Suggested Summer Reading

## Rising Sophomores



### 1. **The House on Mango Street, by Sandra Cisneros (ISBN: 9780679734772)**

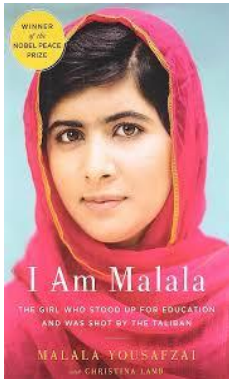
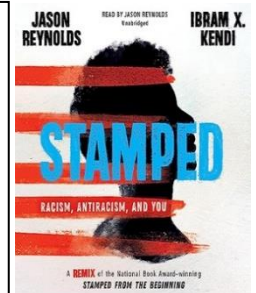
[Lexile 860 L] The House on Mango Street is a 1984 novel by Mexican-American author Sandra Cisneros. Structured as a series of vignettes, it tells the story of Esperanza Cordero, a 12-year-old Chicana girl growing up in Chicago.

### 2. **Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You, by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi (ISBN: 9780316453691)**

[Lexile 1000L] "A timely, crucial, and empowering exploration of racism--and antiracism--in America.

This is NOT a history book. This is a book about the here and now.

A book to help us better understand why we are where we are. A book about



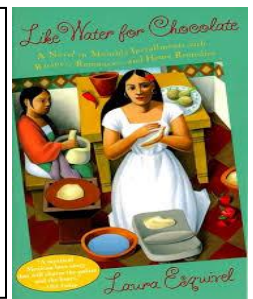
### 3. **I Am Malala, by Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb (ISBN: 9780316322409)**

[Lexile 830 L] "On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive.

Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate."

### 4. **Like Water for Chocolate, by Laura Esquivel (ISBN: 9780365420174)**

[Lexile 1030L] "A sumptuous feast of a novel, it relates the bizarre history of the all-female De La Garza family. Tita, the youngest daughter of the house, has been forbidden to marry, condemned by Mexican tradition to look after her mother until she dies. But Tita falls in love with Pedro, and he is seduced by the magical food she cooks."



### **Additional Suggested Readings for Proviso East High School students\***

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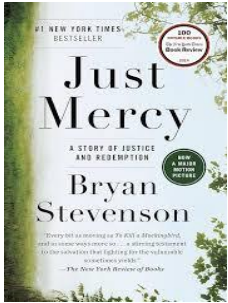
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# 2025 Suggested Summer Reading

## Rising Juniors



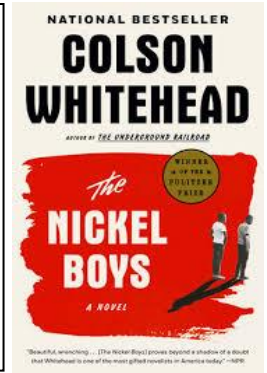
### 2. Just Mercy, by Bryan Stevenson

[Lexile 1130L] "An unforgettable true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us and a clarion call to end mass incarceration in America – from one of the most inspiring lawyers of our time."

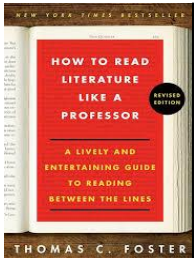
Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a nonprofit law office in Montgomery, Alabama, dedicated to defending the poor, the incarcerated, and the wrongly condemned."

### 1. Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead

[Lexile 940L] "Elwood Curtis has taken the words of Dr Martin Luther King to heart: he is as good as anyone. Abandoned by his parents and brought up by his loving, strict, and clear-sighted grandmother, Elwood is about to enroll in the local black college. But given the time and the place, one innocent mistake is enough to destroy his future, and so Elwood arrives at The Nickel Academy, which claims to provide 'physical, intellectual and moral training' that will equip its inmates to become 'honorable and honest men'"



## Rising Seniors

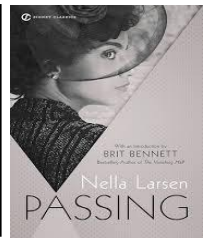


### 1. How to Read Literature Like a Professor, by Thomas C. Foster

[Lexile 1150L] "How to Read Literature Like a Professor" by Thomas C. Foster is an engaging and insightful guide that helps readers become more analytical when exploring literary works."

### 2. Passing, by Nella Larsen

[Lexile 810 L] It revolves around the intricate concept of racial passing, where individuals escape discrimination by presenting themselves as white



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