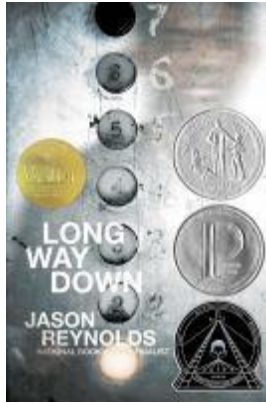


## Grade 9



### [Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds](#)

Lexile: HL720L

An ode to *Put the Damn Guns Down*, this is *New York Times* bestseller Jason Reynolds's fiercely stunning novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds – the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother.

Told in short, fierce staccato narrative verse *Long Way Down* is a fast and furious, dazzlingly brilliant look at teenage gun violence.



### [The Sun is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon](#)

Lexile: HL650L

Natasha: I'm a girl who believes in science and facts. Not fate. Not destiny. Or dreams that will never come true. I'm definitely not the kind of girl who meets a cute boy on a crowded New York City street and falls in love with him. Not when my family is twelve hours away from being deported to Jamaica.

Falling in love with him won't be my story.

Daniel: I've always been the good son, the good student, living up to my parents' high expectations. Never the poet. Or the dreamer.

But when I see her, I forget about all that. Something about Natasha makes me think that fate has something much more extraordinary in store—for both of us.

The Universe: Every moment in our lives has brought us to this single moment. A million futures lie before us. Which one will come true?



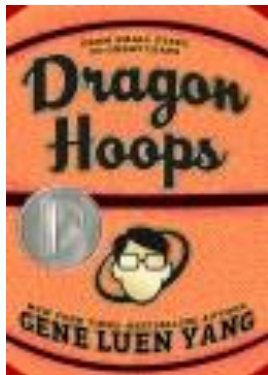
### [Been Here All Along by Sandy Hall](#)

Lexile: HL700L

Gideon *always* has a plan. His plans include running for class president, becoming head of the yearbook committee and having his choice of colleges. They do *not* include falling head over heels for his best friend and next-door neighbor, Kyle. It's a distraction. It's pointless, as Kyle is already dating the gorgeous and popular head cheerleader, Ruby. And Gideon doesn't know what to do . . .

Kyle *finally* feels like he has a handle on life. He has a wonderful girlfriend, a best friend willing to debate the finer points of *Lord of the Rings*, and social acceptance as captain of the basketball team.

Then, both Ruby and Gideon start acting *really* weird, just as his spot on the team is threatened, and Kyle can't quite figure out what he did wrong . . .



### [Dragon Hoops by Gene Luen Yang](#)

Lexile: HL550

Gene understands stories—comic book stories, in particular. Big action. Bigger thrills. And the hero always wins.

But Gene doesn't get sports. As a kid, his friends called him "Stick" and every basketball game he played ended in pain. He lost interest in basketball long ago, but at the high school where he now teaches, it's all anyone can talk about. The men's varsity team, the Dragons, is having a phenomenal season that's been decades in the making. Each victory brings them closer to their ultimate goal:

The California State Championships.

Once Gene gets to know these young all-stars, he realizes that their story is just as thrilling as anything he's seen on a comic book page. He knows he has to follow this epic to its end. What he doesn't know yet is that this season is not only going to change the Dragons' lives, but his own life as well.

All book descriptions adapted from the publisher or goodreads.com.