2020 Read Alouds: High School

A Very Large Expanse of Sea by Taherah Mafi
It’s only been a year since 9/11. Sixteen year-old Shirin is fed up with being bullied and being labeled as a terrorist simply because she is Muslim and chooses to wear a headscarf. Things get even more complicated at her new school when she starts falling for the star basketball player and she has to decide what she is willing to fight for.

Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyami
A ruthless king has taken over the magical world of Orïsha. He has killed all of the maji—including Zélie’s mother. Zélie, and her people, feel lost without the power of magic. But is it really lost? Zélie begins to question everything when she discovers she has her own magical powers and feelings for the prince who will do anything to eradicate magic forever.

In Other Lands by Sarah Rees Brennan
A novel about surviving four years in the most unusual of schools, about friendship, falling in love, diplomacy, and finding your own place in the world — even if it means giving up your phone. There are elves, harpies, and—best of all as Elliot is concerned—mermaids.

On the Come Up by Angie Thomas
Insightful, unflinching, and full of heart, this is an ode to hip-hop from one of the most influential literary voices of a generation. It is the story of fighting for your dreams, even as the odds are stacked against you; and about how, especially for young black people, freedom of speech isn’t always free.

Price of Duty by Todd Strasser
Jake comes home from overseas a military hero—he’s been awarded the Silver Star for his heroic feats. The only problem is, he doesn’t feel like a hero at all. For Jake, inner war has just begun as he tries to come to grips with his injuries and what he went through in the war.

Pride by Ibi Zoboi
Zuri has more pride about her Brooklyn roots than her new neighbor, Darius, knows what to do with. Darius has more money that Zuri can even imagine. Can these two figure out how to get over their prejudices and give in to the chemistry they both feel? This modern-day twist on the iconic Pride & Prejudice story adds modern-day cultural and class identities into the mix in a classic boy-meets-girl story.

Sadie by Courtney Summers
When her sister Mattie is found dead, Sadie’s entire world crumbles. Following a botched police investigation, Sadie is determined to bring her sister’s killer to justice and hits the road following a few clues to find him. When West McCray, a radio personality, overhears Sadie’s story at a local gas station, he becomes obsessed with finding the missing girl. He starts his own podcast as he tracks Sadie’s journey, trying to figure out what happened, hoping to find her before it’s too late.

Shout by Laurie Halse Anderson
In free verse, Anderson shares reflections, rants, and calls to action woven between deeply personal stories from her life that she’s never written about before. A denouncement of our society’s failures and a love letter to all the people with the courage to say #MeToo and #TimesUp, whether aloud, online, or only in their own hearts.

Warcross by Marie Lu
In the not-so-distant future, everyone’s life is a virtual reality game—Warcross to be exact. Teenage hacker Emika Chen works in Warcross as a bounty hunter in order to survive. During one of her hacks, she accidentally inserts herself into the high-stakes Warcross Championship game...and she can’t get out. Not only does she have to play the game but the creator of the game asks to investigate a sinister plot that might change the game—and the real world--forever.

Wild Bird by Wendelin Van Draanen
Want to know what happens to kids who have gone so far off the rails, their parents don’t know what to do with them anymore? They send them to wilderness therapy camp. Eight weeks of survivalist camping in the desert. Wren’s going to have to admit she needs help if she is going to survive.