2017 Mrs. Zaker’s Lists

Three Author Picks

1. Matt de la Pena: He wrote *The Living, Mexican Whiteboy, Ball Don’t Lie, We Were Here,*  and *I Will Save You*. His books make me consider a perspective that is not typically heard. Teens in these stories are in foster care, prisons, or group homes. They are trying to survive. I read a few of these books last year, and I seek his name out first in any young adult reading section. (Incidentally, he is usually under “P”.)
2. Gayle Forman: She wrote *Leave Me, If I Stay (*series), *Sisters in Sanity, and I Was Here. (I Was Here* reminded me of *Thirteen Reasons Why.)* The girls in these books are looking for relationships and friendships, to figure out what they want, and who they are.
3. Lauren Oliver: She wrote *Delirium* (series), *Before I Fall, Panic, Vanishing Girls,* and others that I want to read. She is suspenseful, and keeps you guessing until the end. Her characters are gutsy and spontaneous. She reminds me of Veronica Roth, author of *Divergent* series*.*

Books to Check out: These books are all about survivors.

1. *Mockingbird,* by Kathryn Erskine-This is not to be confused with *Mockingjay*  or *To Kill a Mockingbird*, though the title is a reference to TKAM. The main character is different than most people, and her world has recently been rocked. Great book.
2. *Echo,* by Pam Munoz Ryan-You might recognize the author; she also wrote *Esperanza Rising*. If you like music, this one might be a match. Each section of the book is about a different person and an instrument. The connections between characters will make sense in the end. History also plays a role here. Amazing.
3. *Counting by 7s,* by Holly Goldberg Sloan-This girl cannot get a break, but she is gifted, really she is…she counts by 7s every time she is in a stressful situation. Watch how she impacts the people around her, and hope that someone will save her.
4. *How Starbucks Saved My Life*, by Michael Gates Gill- Nonfiction. The author was forced out of his advertising executive job, late in his career, and grasped at a lifeline: Starbucks. This job required him to work with a team of young, African American coworkers. Learning never stops for the author. Go behind the counter and learn how baristas get trained.