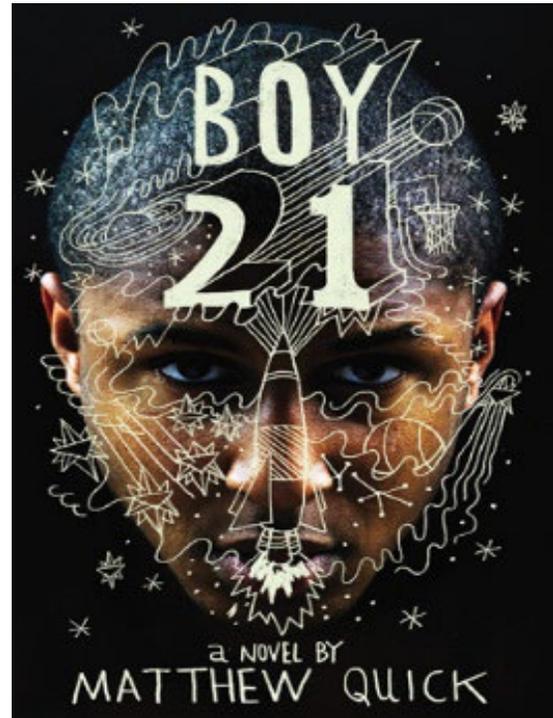


English 1, Level 2 Co-Taught (N201132)

Boy 21, Matthew Quick

ISBN-10: 0316127965

For Finley McManus, basketball serves as both identity and escape. Finley and his longtime girlfriend, Erin Quinn (“probably the best girls’ player in the state—no exaggeration”), work tirelessly on their games. Their plan is to have a successful senior season, graduate, and then move far away from Belmont, a fictional working-class, Irish-mob influenced town. Finley’s world is shaken, however, when one of the top-ranked point guards in the nation transfers in. He refers to himself as BOY21 and his painful history is one that Finley can understand and connect with (from *The New York Times Book Review*).



To complete your summer reading, please complete the following:

1. **Read the first section of the book (from the Preface to page 102).** We will continue reading the rest of the book together in class.
2. **Annotate** as you read in the margins (write words/thoughts) for **characterization** and what is revealed about characters through what they *say, act, feel, look, think, and how others respond to them*. Pay special attention to moments that show whether the person displays the qualities of a good friend or not.
3. **Be prepared to discuss:**
 - What qualities and characteristics are important in a friend?
 - Who in *Boy 21* demonstrates the qualities of a good friend?