

2016 Summer Reading List

for a Community of Readers



Vivian Tao '17



North
Cross
School

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Jarion Jenkins-Saunders '17



“Be it grand or slender,
 burrowing, blasting, or
 refusing to sanctify;
 whether it laughs out
 loud or is a cry without
 an alphabet, the choice
 word, the chosen silence,
 unmolested language
 surges toward knowledge,
 not its destruction.”

~Toni Morrison

A Note on Content: Parents have varying standards for the material they think appropriate for their children. All books in the North Cross School Summer Reading List have either been read by a member of the faculty or have been recommended for student reading by reputable educational institutions or other independent schools. Books marked “Mature Themes” contain material some parents may think inappropriate for some younger readers. A designation of “Challenging” means the text is written at a college level. These are good books for strong readers. If you have a question about a particular book, please research it on your own or check with your child’s teacher.

Message from the English Department

We all know that reading is one of the most critical components of a child's success in school and in life. As such, classroom reading instruction at North Cross begins with the youngest children in junior kindergarten and continues through the literature-based English classes in the Upper School. Of course, you were reading to your children even before they started school, before they could identify letters, probably before they could even recite the alphabet or understand the stories. Parents who read to their children from a very early age do so because they know that reading skills are valuable for practical reasons; but they also understand the more intrinsic rewards which come from shared reading time.

Before children are literate, reading time provides a wonderful opportunity to bond with your young child while helping them to increase their vocabulary and comprehension skills. Most children have a particular book they ask their parents to read over and over, being just as enthralled with the fiftieth rendition as they were with the first. As these children get older, they remember these stories and this special time spent reading.

Even after children become proficient readers and begin to read to themselves, books can still give parents a way to connect with their growing reader. Many of the books that your child reads in his or her formative years will be ones with which you are familiar. You may have read them in school yourself. These books can provide topics of conversation for family dinners, or they can provide an opportunity to discuss shared reading experiences. Did you also read that book in sixth grade? Did you experience the same reactions that your child is experiencing?

The texts chosen for the English curriculum are challenging ones meant to improve students' reading skills, but they are also meant to broaden students' horizons. They will read about other cultures. They will learn about other time periods and ways of thinking. They will be introduced to new ways of seeing their own, familiar world.

As we strive to make reading a pleasurable, year-round habit, we offer this summer reading list as an opportunity for students to choose their own adventure. We hope that they will come back from the summer with new ideas and a new love for reading, and we encourage you to share in their journey.

The North Cross School English Department



Eleanor Lake '24



Palmer Owen '30



Lower School Reading List

“Many places you would like to see are just off the map and many things you want to know are just out of sight or a little beyond your reach. But someday you'll reach them all, for what you learn today...will help you discover all the wonderful secrets of tomorrow.”

~The Phantom Tollbooth

Rising Early Childhood Program Level 1 & 2

The ECP 1 and ECP 2 teachers are excited to introduce a suggested reading list for our youngest students. There are no required books for ECP 1 or ECP 2. The books on this list have been selected to represent a variety of subjects, writing styles, and illustration styles. We hope they will offer you and your child the opportunity to explore ideas as well as simply enjoy reading time.

Additional Resources:

<http://childrensbooksforparents.com>

<http://www.starfall.com>

<http://www.meddybemps.com/SuperMenu.html>

Ashman, Linda; **Castles, Caves, and Honeycombs**
 Ayres, Katherine; **Up, Down, and Around**
 Baker, Keith; **L M N O Peas**
 Berkes, Marianne; **Over in the Jungle**
 Bunting, Eve; **Flower Garden**
 Carle, Eric; **The Mixed-Up Chameleon; The Very Busy Spider**
 Child, Lauren; **The New Small Person**
 Cronin, Doreen; **Click, Clack, Splish, Splash: A Counting Adventure**
 Dewdney, Anna; **Roly Poly Pangolin**
 Dodd, Emma; **Dog's Colorful Day**
 Ehlert, Lois; **Waiting for Wings**
 Emberley, Rebecca; **Chicken Little**
 Falwell, Cathryn; **Turtle Splash!: Countdown at the Pond**
 Fleming, Denise; **Alphabet Under Construction**
 Hall, Michael; **My Heart is Like a Zoo**
 Haughton, Chris; **Little Owl Lost**
 Henkes, Kevin; **Birds**
 Ho, Minfong; **Hush!**
 Hood, Susan; **Spike, the Mixed-up Monster**
 Landa, Norbert; **Sorry!**
 Lewis, Kevin; **My Truck is Stuck!**
 Martin, Jr, Bill; **Baby Bear, Baby Bear, What Do You See?**
 Massie, Diane Redfield; **The Baby Beebee Bird**
 McLeod, Bob; **Superhero A B C**
 Murphy, Stuart; **Animals on Board; Just Enough Carrots**
 Root, Phyllis; **One Duck Stuck**
 Rosenthal, Amy Krouse; **Little Pea**
 Schlein, Miriam; **Hello, Hello!**
 Shannon, David; **Duck on a Bike**
 Stojic, Manya; **Rain**
 Ward, Jennifer; **Somewhere in the Ocean**
 Wells, Rosemary; **My Very First Mother Goose**
 Willems, Mo; **Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!**
 Wood, Audrey; **The Napping House**

Rising Kindergarteners (ECP Level 3)

Requirements:

A Color of His Own by Leo Lionni

Parents are encouraged to read to their children as much as possible over the summer. Shared reading time with your child supports language development and is one of the best preparations for independent reading.

Accountability:

Students should draw a picture of their favorite part of *A Color of His Own*. Students should bring their picture with them on the first day of school.

Additional Resource:

Award Winning Children's Books:
<http://www.readingrockets.org/books/awardwinners>

Aardema, Verna; ***Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain***

Arnold, Ted; ***Super Fly Guy***

Base, Graeme; ***The Water Hole***

Brett, Jan; ***Town Mouse, Country Mouse***

Carle, Eric; ***Mister Seahorse***

Cottin, Menena; ***The Black Book of Colors***

Dewdney, Anna; ***Llama, Llama, Red Pajama***

Diesen, Deborah; ***The Pout-Pout Fish***

Donaldson, Julia; ***Charlie Cook's Favorite Book***

Ehlert, Lois; ***Mole's Hill***

Fisher, Valorie; ***Ellsworth's Extraordinary Electric Ears***

Fox, Dorothea Warren; ***Miss Twiggley's Tree***

Giganti, Jr. Paul; ***Each Orange Had Eight Slices: A Counting Book***

Gilman, Phoebe; ***Something From Nothing***

Gravett, Emily; ***The Odd Egg; Meerkat Mail***

Grossman, Bill; ***My Little Sister Ate One Hare***

Jenkins, Steve; ***What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?***

Karlin, Nurit; ***The Fat Cat Sat on the Mat***

Lionni, Leo; ***Swimmy***

Mayer, Mercer; ***Little Critter*** (series)

McCloskey, Robert; ***Blueberries for Sal***

McGranaghan, John; ***Saturn for My Birthday***

Moss, Lloyd; ***Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin!***

Murphy, Stuart; ***Captain Invincible and the Space Shapes; Double the Ducks***

Numeroff, Laura; ***If You Give a (Mouse, Pig, Moose, etc) ...series***

Pinczes, Elinor J.; ***One Hundred Hungry Ants***

Rosenthal, Amy Krouse; ***Cookies: Bite Size Life Lessons***

Seeger, Laura Vaccaro; ***Black? White! Day? Night!***

Seuss, Dr.; ***Green Eggs & Ham***

Shaw, Nancy; ***Sheep in a Jeep***

Steiner, Joan; ***Look-Alikes, Jr.***

Ungerer, Tomi; ***Cricter***

Vamos, Samantha R.; ***The Cazuela That the Farm Maiden Stirred***

Viorst, Judith; ***Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day***

Wiesner, David; ***Flotsam***

Willems, Mo; ***Elephant & Piggie*** (series)

Rising First Graders

Requirements:

Big Al by Andrew Clements

Parents are encouraged to read to their children as much as possible over the summer. Shared reading is one of the best preparations for independent reading.

Accountability:

Students should create a list of the books read over the summer, including the title and author of each book. Students should bring their list on the first day of school.

All Aboard Reading (series)

DK Readers (series)

I Can Read (series)

Let's Read and Find Out (series)

Ready-To-Read (series)

Step Into Reading (series)

Ada, Alma Flor; **I Love Saturdays y domingos**

Adler, David; **A Picture Book of Abraham Lincoln** (biography series)

Aston, Dianna Hutts; **An Egg is Quiet**

Brett, Jan; **The Mitten**

Cannon, Janell; **Stellaluna**

Cronin, Doreen; **Duck for President**

Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee; **Grandma and the Great Gourd: A Bengali Folktale**

Eastman, Philip D.; **Go, Dog. Go!; Are You My Mother?**

Falconer, Ian; **Olivia**

Freeman, Don; **Corduroy**

Gilani-Williams, Fawzia; **Nabeel's New Pants: An Eid Tale**

Henkes, Kevin; **Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse**

Hills, Tad; **How Rocket Learned to Read**

Jenkins, Steve; **I See a Kookaburra!**

Kraus, Robert; **Leo the Late Bloomer**

Lo, Ginnie; **Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic**

McCloskey, Robert; **Make Way for Ducklings**

McGovern, Ann; **Stone Soup**

Nargi, Lela; **The Honeybee Man**

Polacco, Patricia; **Chicken Sunday**

Prelutsky, Jack; **The New Kid on the Block** (poetry)

Prelutsky, Jack (compiler); **The Random House Book of Poetry for Children**

Rylant, Cynthia; **The Relatives Came**

Seuss, Dr.; **Hop on Pop!**

Slobodkina, Esphyr; **Caps for Sale**

Steig, William; **Sylvester and the Magic Pebble**

Yolen, Jane; **The Emperor and the Kite**

Rising Second Graders

Requirements:

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs by Judi Barrett

Two books from this list.

One book of choice.

Accountability:

Students should create a list of the books read over the summer, including the title and author of each book. They should also choose their favorite book and draw a scene from the story. Student should bring their list and drawing on the first day of school.

Adler, David; ***Cam Jansen*** (series)
 Anderson, C.W.; ***Billy and Blaze***
 Bemelmans, Ludwig; ***Madeline's Rescue***
 Blume, Judy; ***The One in the Middle is the Green Kangaroo***
 Blume, Judy; ***Freckle Juice***
 Burns, Marilyn; ***The Greedy Triangle***
 Burton, Virginia Lee; ***The Little House***
 Chaconas, Dori; ***Cork and Fuzz***
 Cleary, Beverly; ***The Mouse and the Motorcycle***
 Clements, Andrew; ***Dogku***
 Cole, Joanna; ***The Magic School Bus*** (series)
 Davis, Aubrey; ***A Hen for Izzy Pippik***
 DiCamillo, Kate; ***Mercy Watson*** (series)
 DiPucchio, Kelly; ***Grace for President***
 Keats, Ezra Jack; ***The Snowy Day***
 Kline, Suzy; ***Horrible Harry and the Goog***
 Lichtenheld, Tom; ***Cloudette***
 Lobel, Arnold; ***Frog and Toad All Year***
 McCloskey, Robert; ***One Morning in Maine***
 Minarik, Else; ***Little Bear's Friend***
 Myller, Rolf; ***How Big is a Foot?***
 Osborne, Mary Pope; ***Magic Tree House*** (series)
 Page, Robin; ***How to Clean a Hippopotamus***
 Parish, Peggy; ***Amelia Bedelia***
 Sendak, Maurice; ***Where the Wild Things Are***
 Silverstein, Shel; ***A Light in the Attic***
 Smith, Roland; ***S is for Smithsonian***
 Yolen, Jane; ***The Seeing Stick***
 Zelinsky, Paul; ***Rapunzel***
 Zepeda, Gwendolyn; ***Growing Up with Tamales/Los tamales de Ana***

Rising Third Graders

Requirements:

The Hundred Dresses

by Eleanor Estes

Two books from this list.

One book of choice.

Accountability:

Students should create a “picture packet” of the books they have read.

These packets should consist of a

cover and four illustrations which depict one scene from each book

the student reads. At the top of each picture, write the title and author and one sentence describing the scene.

Each picture should be drawn in detail and colored. Please bring the required book and “picture packet” on the first day of school. Books will be used to complete in-class assignments.

Arkin, Alan; ***The Lemming Condition***

Atwater, Richard; ***Mr. Popper’s Penguins***

Bulla, Clyde; ***Shoeshine Girl, White Bird***

Cleary, Beverly; ***Runaway Ralph, Ralph S. Mouse***

Clements, Andrew; ***Frindle***

Dahl, Roald; ***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory***

Gannett, Ruth Stiles; ***My Father’s Dragon***

Gardiner, John Reynolds; ***Stone Fox***

Grahame, Kenneth; ***The Reluctant Dragon***

Hunter, Erin; ***Warriors*** (series)

Hurwitz, Johanna; ***Baseball Fever***

Kennedy, Caroline; ***A Family of Poems***

Konigsburg, E. L.; ***From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler***

Lawson, Robert; ***Rabbit Hill***

Lindgren, Astrid; ***Pippi Longstocking***

MacDonald, Betty; ***Mrs. Piggle Wiggle***

Mills, Claudia; ***7 x 9 = Trouble! Fractions = Trouble!***

Park, Barbara; ***Junie B. Jones*** (series)

Patterson, Nancy Ruth; ***The Shiniest Rock of All***

Pennypacker, Sara; ***Clementine*** (series)

Scieszka, John; ***Time Warp Trio*** (series)

Sharmat, Margorie Weinman; ***Nate the Great and the Sticky Case***

Smith, Robert K.; ***Chocolate Fever; Jelly Belly***

Snicket, Lemony; ***A Series of Unfortunate Events*** (series)

Sobol, Donald; ***Encyclopedia Brown*** (series)

Spinelli, Jerry; ***Third Grade Angels***

Taylor, Sidney; ***All of a Kind Family***

Warner, Gertrude Chandler; ***The Box Car Children*** (series)

Warner, Sally; ***Ellray Jakes*** (series)

White, E. B.; ***Charlotte’s Web***

Rising Fourth Graders

Requirements:

The Search for Delicious

by Natalie Babbitt

Two books from this list.

One book of choice.

Accountability:

Students should fill out the “Story Map” forms given to them by their teacher at the end of the school year for ***The Search for Delicious*** and one other book that they have read. These forms are also available on the school website. Students will turn in their two Story Map forms on the first day of school.

Aesop; ***Aesop’s Fables***

American Girls Collection; various authors

Avi; ***Night Journeys***

Banks, Lynn Reid; ***The Indian in the Cupboard***

Blume, Judy; ***Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing***

Brink, Carolyn; ***Caddie Woodlawn***

Burnett, Frances Hodgson; ***A Little Princess***

Cleary, Beverly; ***Dear Mr. Henshaw***

DiCamillo, Kate; ***Because of Winn-Dixie***

DiTerlizzi, Tony; ***The Spiderwick Chronicles*** (series)

Dixon, Franklin; ***The Hardy Boys*** (series)

Eager, Edward; ***Half Magic***

English, Karen; ***The Carver Chronicles*** (series)

Enright, Elizabeth; ***Thimble Summer***

Fitzhugh, Louise; ***Harriet the Spy***

Fleischman, Sid; ***The Whipping Boy***

Fritz, Jean; ***Bully for You, Teddy Roosevelt***

Fritz, Jean; ***Stonewall***

Fritz, Jean; ***And Then What Happened, Paul Revere?***

Fritz, Jean; ***Why Don’t You Get a Horse, Sam Adams?***

Fritz, Jean; ***Will You Sign Here, John Hancock?***

Fritz, Jean; ***Can’t You Make Them Behave, King George?***

Fritz, Jean; ***Who’s That Stepping on Plymouth Rock?***

Grahame, Kenneth; ***The Wind in the Willows***

Harness, Cheryl; ***The Trailblazing Life of Daniel Boone: How Early Americans Took to the Road***

Keene, Carolyn; ***Nancy Drew*** (series)

Kehret, Peg; ***Earthquake Terror***

L’Engle, Madeline; ***A Wrinkle in Time***

Langton, Jane; ***The Fledgling***

Lawson, Robert; ***Ben and Me***

MacLachlan, Patricia; ***Sarah Plain and Tall***

Milne, A.A.; ***The House at Pooh Corner***

Naylor, Phyllis Reynold; ***Shiloh***

Nelson, Kadir; ***We Are the Ship: the Story of Negro League Baseball***

Rockwell, Thomas; ***How to Eat Fried Worms***

Rowling, J. K.; ***Harry Potter*** (series)

Sachar, Louis; ***Holes***

Selden, George; ***The Cricket in Times Square***

Sewell, Anna; ***Black Beauty***

Speare, Elizabeth George; ***The Bronze Bow***

The Usborne Book Series on History; Many authors

Taylor, Theodore; ***The Cay***

Young, Judy; ***R is for Rhyme***

Rising Fifth Graders

Requirements:

Boy of the Painted Cave

by Justin Denzel

Two books from this list.

One book of choice.

Accountability:

For each of the four books read, the student must complete the chart given to them at the end of the school year. The charts ask the students their opinions about characters and plot points and also ask them to deconstruct each book by its story elements. There is a different chart for fiction and nonfiction books. Charts are also available on the school website.

Alexander, Lloyd; ***The Chronicles of Prydain***

This award-winning fantasy series chronicles the adventures of Taran the Assistant Pig-Keeper on a journey through the magical land of Prydain.

Arthur, Robert; ***The Three Investigators*** (series)

These classic mystery/adventure stories feature three boys who start their own detective agency. Unfortunately, these books are no longer in print, but they are well worth seeking out! They are available at the public library and on Amazon.com.

Avi; ***The Good Dog***

This vividly imagined story is told from the perspective of McKinley, a sled dog whose life changes after he meets a wolf.

Bendick, Jeanne; ***Along Came Galileo; Archimedes and the Door of Science***

Bendick writes books about science for children and has a remarkable ability to express complex concepts in language that is interesting for younger readers.

Birdsall, Jeanne; ***The Penderwicks***

This charming National Book Award winner is the first in a series about the Penderwick family. The Penderwick sisters are spending the summer on the grounds of a beautiful estate where they enjoy many adventures.

D'Aulaire, Ingri and Edgar; ***D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths***

This classic collection includes all the great gods and goddesses of ancient Greece. Beautifully illustrated and skillfully told, this is a wonderful addition to any home library.

DiCamillo, Kate; ***The Magician's Elephant***

DiCamillo has crafted a timeless story in which an orphan named Peter Augustus Duchene is told that his fate is tied to an elephant that has inexplicably fallen from the sky.

Dreary, Terry and Brown, Martin; ***Horrible Histories*** (series)

These nonfiction books are not only a lot of fun to read but also an excellent way to learn about the past. These titles were originally published in the UK; many are now available for Nook or Kindle, as well as on Amazon from various booksellers.

Forbes, Esther; ***Johnny Tremain***

Johnny is a hardworking artisan's apprentice who becomes a patriot at the outset of the American Revolution.

Guerber, H. A.; ***The Story of the Greeks***

This is a free e-book. Enter "The Story of the Greeks by H.A. Guerber Baldwin Project" in your Google search bar.

Guerber, H. A.; ***The Story of the Romans***

This is a free e-book. Enter "The Story of the Romans by H.A. Guerber Baldwin Project" in your Google search bar.

Harness, Cheryl; ***The Remarkable Rough-Riding Life of Teddy Roosevelt***

This vibrant portrait of Teddy Roosevelt is further enhanced by Cheryl Harness's amazing illustrations as well as the timeline she adds along the bottom of each page.

Rising Fifth Graders *(continued)*

Henry, Marguerite; ***King of the Wind***

This Newbery Medal winner tells the story of the bond between a mute stable boy and the stallion who later became the Godolphin Arabian.

Hershenhorn, Esther; ***S is for Story: a Writer's Alphabet***

This beautifully illustrated book presents a host of information about the writing process. Character development, brainstorming, genres, plot, and writing styles are all here, along with lots of great tips for improving your writing!

Holt, Kimberly Willis; ***My Louisiana Sky***

Tiger Ann Parks is a girl living in a small Louisiana town in the 1950s with her mentally challenged parents. In this poignant story, Tiger must decide if she will remain with her parents or live with her aunt.

Horvath, Polly; ***Everything on a Waffle***

After her parents are lost at sea, Primrose lives in a small Canadian town where the local restaurant serves everything on waffles! This is a book filled with humor and wisdom as well as Primrose's quiet faith that her parents will return.

Jacques, Brian; ***Redwall*** (series)

Redwall Abbey is the setting of the first book in this epic adventure series which is filled with animal characters.

Jonell, Lynne; ***The Secret of Zoom***

This entertaining and imaginative book describes the adventures of Christina Adnoid and an orphan named Taft as they try to unravel the mystery behind a secret lab.

Justor, Norton; ***The Phantom Tollbooth***

Milo is bored by everything until a mysterious tollbooth appears in his bedroom. Giving it a try takes him on an adventure that is full of twists and turns and a host of unusual characters along the way!

L'Engle, Madeline; ***Time Trilogy (A Wrinkle in Time; A Wind in the Door; A Swiftly Tilting Planet)***

Meg and her brother battle a dark force that is threatening the universe in these science fiction/fantasy classics.

Lin, Grace; ***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon***

In this beautifully illustrated Newbery Honor book, a young girl named Minli sets off on an extraordinary journey to find the Old Man on the Moon in an effort to change her family's fortune.

McGraw, Eloise Jarvis; ***Mara, Daughter of the Nile***

This book describes the adventures of an Egyptian slave girl who undertakes a dangerous assignment as a spy in the royal palace of Thebes.

McMullan, Kate; ***Myth-o-Mania*** (series)

This fun series includes parodies of a number of Greek myths, all purported to be the "true" story of the gods and goddesses. The puns and wordplay make this a great addition to study of these myths.

Paterson, Katherine; ***Jacob Have I Loved***

Louise constantly compares herself to her twin sister Caroline but must learn to accept herself as she is and find her own place in the world.

Paulsen, Gary; ***Hatchet***

After the plane thirteen-year-old Brian is on crashes in the Canadian wilderness, he must try to survive with only his wits and a small hatchet.

Salten, Fleix; ***Bambi: A Life in the Woods***

This classic was published in the 1920s and is quite different from the Disney version. Salten's wonderful story is layered with meaning and not to be missed.

Scieszka, Jon (ed.); ***Guys Read: The Sports Pages***

This lively collection of sports stories is written by a variety of authors and includes stories about baseball, football, basketball, hockey, and martial arts.

Sidman, Joyce; ***Ubiquitous: Celebrating Nature's Survivors***

These beautifully illustrated poems investigate the natural world with an amazing blend of science and humor.

Slote, Alfred; ***Hang Tough, Paul Mather***

A young pitcher with leukemia is determined to play baseball no matter what.

Verne, Jules; ***20,000 Leagues Under the Sea***

This classic novel introduces Captain Nemo and his fantastic submarine, the Nautilus. Written in 1870, it is considered one of the earliest science fiction books.

Weitzman, David; ***Pharaoh's Boat***

Weitzman created striking illustrations to accompany this story of how a boat built for a mighty pharaoh was found and then rebuilt.



Triff H'Doubler '19

Middle School Reading List

“You’re given the form, but you have to write the sonnet yourself.
What you say is completely up to you.”

~A Wrinkle in Time

Rising Sixth Graders

Requirements:

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech

Two books from this list.

One book of choice.

If students have a book they would prefer to read that is not on the list, they need to have permission from their English teacher. Students should bring the books they read to class on the first day of school.

Accountability:

During the first weeks of school, there will be graded assignments on the assigned books. To prepare for these assignments, students should complete four reading forms. These forms are available on the school website. They must be turned in on the first day of school and will be used to complete in-class assignments.

Bradford, Chris; **The Way of the Warrior** (Young Samurai series)

After twelve-year-old Jack is orphaned by a ninja pirate attack off the coast of Japan in 1611, he is determined to prove himself to the sword master who rescues him and begins training him as a samurai warrior.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson; **The Secret Garden**

Mary Lennox, a self-centered orphan at age ten, is unhappy and lonely until she goes to live with her uncle and her life changes forever.

Collins, Suzanne; **Gregor the Overlander** (the Underland Chronicles series)

Gregor expects a boring summer before he and his little sister fall through an air vent in their New York City apartment and wind up in an underground world where humans live alongside huge bats, cockroaches, and rats.

George, Jean Craighead; **My Side of the Mountain**

This Newbery Honor book is about Sam Gribly, who tires of life in the city and runs away to the Catskill Mountains to forge a life of his own.

Jacques, Brian; **Redwall** (series)

These popular epic adventures are built around an amazing animal world filled with mice, moles, and badgers.

Kadohata, Cynthia; **Weedflower**

When Pearl Harbor is attacked, the lives of a Japanese-American girl and her family are thrown into chaos.

Kipling, Rudyard; **The Jungle Book**

Published in 1894, these classic stories include the memorable characters Mowgli, Baloo, and Shere Khan.

Konigsburg, E.L.; **From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler**

In this Newbery Medal winner, Claudia and her brother Jamie run away to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and find an adventure - and a mystery!

L'Engle, Madeline; **A Wrinkle in Time**

In this scientific fantasy, Meg and members of her family embark on a perilous quest through space to find their father.

Lewis, C.S.; **The Chronicles of Narnia** (series)

Follow the adventures of four children as they travel repeatedly to the fantasy world of Narnia where everything is far more than it seems.

Lord, Cynthia; **Rules**

Twelve-year-old Catherine is torn between love for her autistic brother, David, and impatience with the responsibilities he brings. This award-winning book is heartwarming and thought provoking.

Martin, Ann; **Rain Reign**

Not everyone understands Rose Howard's obsession with homonyms. Rose is the narrator of this heartwarming story of a girl who sees life in black and white and the dog who becomes her beloved companion.

Rising Sixth Graders *(continued)*

Montgomery, Lucy; ***Anne of Green Gables***

Anne Shirley is a scrawny, red-haired, eleven-year-old orphan who is adopted by an elderly couple and changes their lives forever.

Morpurgo, Michael; ***Shadow***

Aman and his mother are barely surviving in war-torn Afghanistan and flee to England, only to find that life there is not the freedom they had hoped for. This is a story of friendship and the love of a special dog.

O'Brien, Robert C.; ***Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh***

This Newbery Medal winner includes some unusual lab rats who learn more than the scientists bargain for. Mrs. Frisby is a widowed mouse with a sick child who must turn to these rats for assistance.

Palachio, R. J.; ***Wonder***

August Pullman is a boy born with a facial deformity who is about to start mainstream school for the first time. This uplifting novel is written from many different perspectives.

Peck, Richard; ***A Long Way from Chicago***

Set in the 1930s, this book follows Joe and his sister, Mary Alice, during one of their annual visits to their grandmother's house. Grandma Dowdel is quite a character, and her outlandish exploits include many members of her colorful community.

Raskin, Ellen; ***The Westing Game***

In this Newbery Medal winner, sixteen individuals try to solve the puzzle of who killed Samuel Westing and who will win his millions by uncovering the murderer.

Steinbeck, John; ***The Red Pony***

This is the story of a young boy who learns about responsibility by caring for a pony of his own in rural California.

Stewart, Trenton Lee; ***The Mysterious Benedict Society***

Reynie Muldoon is an eleven-year-old orphan when he becomes one of four children chosen to use their special talents for a secret mission to uncover the mysterious Mr. Curtain's plans. This book includes dramatic plot twists and unusual characters, along with an underlying theme about the power of media messages.

Taylor, Theodore; ***The Cay***

An adolescent boy is blinded after a World War II submarine torpedoes the freighter he is traveling on. He finds himself stranded on a small island with an old man who teaches him lessons in courage, determination, and love.

Urban, Linda; ***A Crooked Kind of Perfect***

Zoe dreams of giving piano recitals at Carnegie Hall but must settle for the sounds of the Perfectone D-60 organ her father buys instead. A story filled with hope and humor – and a subtle message about appreciating your own quirkiness.

Voigt, Cynthia; ***Homecoming***

Voigt's depiction of the four Tillerman children and their journey after their mother abandons them is gripping and beautifully written.

Wilson, N.D.; ***100 Cupboards***

In this fantasy adventure, twelve-year-old Henry York awakens to find plaster falling, revealing doors of all shapes and sizes all over the wall of his bedroom. Finding out where these doors lead will change Henry's life.

Wood, Maryrose; ***The Incurrigible Children of Ashton Place***

The Incurrigibles are no ordinary children, but fortunately Miss Penelope Lumley is also no ordinary governess. Children raised by wolves and a series of mysterious events are just the beginning in this series filled with wit and satire.

Woodson, Jacqueline; ***Brown Girl Dreaming***

In this Newbery Honor book, Woodson creates a memoir in verse, describing what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960's and 1970's.

Rising Seventh Graders

Requirements:

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

Two books from this list.

One book of choice.

If students have a book they would prefer to read that is not on the list, they need to have permission from their English teacher. Students should bring the books they read to class on the first day of school.

Accountability:

During the first weeks of school, there will be graded assignments on the assigned books. To prepare for these assignments, students should complete four reading forms. These forms are available on the school website. They must be turned in on the first day of school and will be used to complete in-class assignments.

Alexander, Kwame; ***The Crossover***

Twins Josh and Jordan are junior high basketball stars in this Newbery Medal winner. Written in verse, this well-crafted story is full of energy, with elements of hip-hop and jazz, and a portrait of a strong family bond.

Anderson, Laurie Halse; ***Fever 1793***

This book is based on the actual epidemic of yellow fever in Philadelphia that killed over 5,000 people in three months. Anderson's novel is extremely well-researched and the female narrator and supporting characters bring history to life in a compelling and dramatic plot.

Balliett, Blue; ***Hold Fast***

Early's father, Dash, works at the Chicago Public Library. When he mysteriously disappears, Early and her mother and brother are forced to move into a homeless shelter. As her family navigates this new world, Early searches for clues to her father's disappearance.

Christie, Agatha; ***Poirot Investigates***

This delightful collection of detective stories established the brilliant Belgian sleuth's reputation in classic detective fiction.

Crane, Stephen; ***The Red Badge of Courage***

This small masterpiece was published in 1895 and features a young soldier caught up in an unnamed battle of the American Civil War.

Draper, Sharon; ***Out of My Mind***

Melody is the smartest kid in her whole school, but no one knows it because Melody can't talk, walk, or write. Get ready to meet a girl whose voice you'll never forget.

Flanagan, John; ***Ranger's Apprentice*** (series)

The Rangers are a mysterious band who keep the law of the land and serve as spies for the Kingdom of Araluen. Fifteen-year-old Will was orphaned at a young age after the death of his father and becomes an Apprentice Ranger in the first book of this exciting series.

Gibson, William; ***The Miracle Worker***

This powerful play depicts the education of Helen Keller and her relationship with her extraordinary teacher, Anne Sullivan.

Green, Bette; ***The Summer of My German Soldier***

This novel is set during World War II in a small southern town where a Jewish girl helps a German prisoner of war escape.

Halpern, Jake; ***Dormia***

After nurturing a strange plant in his sleep, Alphonso Perplexon finds out that he is from a hidden land called Dormia, whose inhabitants have perfected wakeful sleeping.

Alphonso must travel to Dormia to return the plant and save the city.

Kadahota, Cynthia; ***Kira-Kira***

Set in the 1950s, this 2005 Newbery Medal winner tells the story of two Japanese-American sisters whose family moves from Iowa to Georgia. Narrated by younger sister, Katie, this poignant novel describes the trials of racial discrimination, economic hardship, and terminal illness.

Lewis, C.S.; ***Out of the Silent Planet***

In this first volume of his space trilogy, Lewis creates an ethical struggle between man and nature within the Universe.

Rising Seventh Graders *(continued)*

Lowry, Lois; ***Number the Stars***

This 1990 Newbery Medal winner is based on the true story of the evacuation of Jews from Nazi-held Denmark during World War II.

Meyer, Marissa; ***Cinder (The Lunar Chronicles)***

Cinder is a gifted mechanic in New Beijing, a city ravaged by a deadly plague. She is also a cyborg with a mysterious past. This Cinderella is tough and resourceful and finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle.

Poe, Edgar Allan; ***The Raven and Other Poems***

Poe considered himself first and foremost a poet, and his poems are among the most universally admired poems in English.

Pullman, Philip; ***The Ruby in the Smoke***

Set in Victorian London, this mystery features sixteen-year-old Sally as the unusual heroine.

Quirk, Katie; ***A Girl Called Problem***

Shida's name means "problem" in Swahili, and she certainly has a lot of problems in her life. Shida longs for a chance to go to school to become a healer. There is also a mystery involved in this story of life in rural Tanzania in the 1970's.

Reeve, Philip; ***Larklight***

In this steampunk novel, Reeve combines historical fiction, fantasy, and science fiction to create a world where Queen Victoria reigns and British children Art and Myrtle live in a home that hangs just beyond the moon. When their home is attacked, their wild adventures begin.

Ryan, Pam Munoz; ***Esperanza Rising***

Ryan uses the experiences of her own Mexican grandmother in this novel set in 1930. Esperanza must leave her home and her social class as she immigrates to California and begins a new life.

Sheinkin, Steve; ***Bomb: The Race to Build – and Steal – The World's Most Dangerous Weapon***

This Newbery Honor book and winner of the Robert F. Sibert Medal begins in 1936 when a scientist in a German laboratory discovers how to split a uranium atom in two. That discovery sparked a race that would span three continents and include scientists, spies, and some of the world's most ruthless dictators. This is the story of the atomic bomb.

Shusterman, Neal; ***The Schwa Was Here***

When Antsy and his friends meet Calvin Schwa, they are impressed by his ability to appear and disappear before their very eyes. This funny book is filled with charismatic characters and intriguing issues.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg; ***Counting by 7's***

This is the moving story of Willow Chance, a twelve year old genius who finds it hard to connect with others. Her world is tragically changed, but Willow's endearing story is one of endurance and the ties that unite a family.

Steinbeck, John; ***The Pearl***

The classic tale of how a priceless pearl brings greed, treachery, and loss to a poor Mexican pearl diver and his family.

Tolkien, J.R.R.; ***The Trilogy: The Fellowship of the Ring; The Two Towers; The Return of the King***

Both groundbreaking and timeless, Tolkien's epic recounts the Great War of the Ring in Middle Earth.

Vanderpool, Clare; ***Moon Over Manifest***

This 2010 Newbery winner follows the story of Abilene Tucker, a girl who is sent to spend the summer in Manifest, Kansas. While Abilene searches for details about her absent father, she also finds friendship, the respect of other townspeople, and answers to some long-held secrets.

Verne, Jules; ***A Journey to the Center of the Earth***

In this classic, three men discover many unusual things on their trip to the Earth's mysterious core.

Voigt, Cynthia; ***Dacey's Song***

This Newbery Medal winner continues the story of the Tillerman family as Dacey and her siblings adjust to life on their grandmother's farm.

Wells, H.G.; ***The Time Machine***

Follow the Time Traveler as he travels more than 800,000 years into the future to discover what will happen to the human race.

Zindel, Paul; ***The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds***

This Pulitzer Prize-winning play centers on Tillie Hunsdorfer and her family. Tillie studies the growth of flowers for a science project in an effort to escape the bitterness of her family and surroundings.

Rising Eighth Graders

Requirements:

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

Two books from this list.

One book of choice.

If students have a book they would prefer to read that is not on the list, they need to have permission from their English teacher. Students should bring the books they read to class on the first day of school.

Accountability:

During the first weeks of school, there will be graded assignments on the assigned books. To prepare for these assignments, students should complete four reading forms. These forms are available on the school website. They must be turned in on the first day of school and will be used to complete in-class assignments.

Abdel-Fattah, Randa; **Where the Streets Had a Name**

Since her Palestinian family lost their home, times have been hard for Hayyat, who lives in Bethlehem on the occupied West Bank. When her beloved grandmother becomes ill, Hayyat decides to make her way to Jerusalem to collect soil from her grandmother's ancestral home.

Anderson, Laurie Halse; **Chains**

This well-researched book describes the lives of a young slave named Isabel and her sister, Ruth, who are sold to wealthy loyalists in New York City in the spring of 1776. Chains is a winner of the Scott O'Dell Award for historical fiction and a National Book Award finalist.

Asimov, Isaac; **The Robots of Dawn**

Written in 1983, this science fiction novel sends New York detective Elijah Bailey to investigate a puzzling case of roboticide.

Bascomb, Neal; **The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi**

Based on the adult bestseller *Hunting Eichmann*, this is the amazing story of the capture of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann by an elite team of Israeli spies.

Bruchac, Michael; **March Toward the Thunder**

In 1864, Louis Nolette is a fifteen-year-old Abenaki Indian who decides to enlist after a recruiter convinces him that it's worth the bounty to join an Irish brigade marching from New York to Virginia.

Chabon, Michael; **Summerland**

Pulitzer Prize winner Chabon blends several mythologies to create a vivid fantasy where baseball is king.

Christie, Agatha; **Murder on the Orient Express**

This mystery gathers a remarkable set of characters for a journey on the fabled Orient Express as it travels from Istanbul to Paris.

Dickens, Charles; **Great Expectations**

In what may be Dickens' best novel, orphaned Pip is apprenticed to the dirty work of the forge but dares to dream of becoming a gentleman.

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan; **The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes**

This is a collection of the famous detective's adventures which includes many of his most memorable cases.

Flanagan, John; **Brotherband Chronicles** (series)

There is a new cast of characters for the world of Skandians and Araluens from the Ranger's Apprentice series. Adventure, friendship, loyalty, and courage are all part of this series as well.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson; **Uprising**

This historical novel deftly melds information about the history of immigration, the struggle for women's rights, and the horrific Triangle Shirtwaist fire in 1911. The story is told from the alternating perspectives of Bella, an Italian immigrant; Yetta, a Russian Jewish immigrant; and Jane, the daughter of an upper-class businessman.

Rising Eighth Graders *(continued)*

Hale, Shannon; ***The Goose Girl***

This is a magical retelling of the Grimm's fairy tale about a girl born with the ability to speak to animals. She is a princess, but she must become a goose girl before she can become queen.

Hickam, Homer; ***Rocket Boys: A Memoir***

This book beautifully captures a time when a band of teenage dreamers in a dying coal mining town placed their sights on the stars. Hickam grew up to be a NASA engineer.

Kidd, Sue Monk; ***The Secret Life of Bees***

Set in South Carolina in 1964, this book tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped by the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed.

Mulligan, Andy; ***Trash***

Three young teenagers, trash-pickers living in the city dump of an unnamed third-world country, discover a mysterious bag one morning, triggering a chain of events that will change their lives forever.

Orwell, George; ***Animal Farm***

This famous political fable is based on the events of Russia's Bolshevik revolution.

Park, Linda Sue; ***A Long Walk to Water***

This book describes the difficult journeys of Salva, in 1985, and Nya, in 2008. Based on a true story, the amazing intersection of these two people's lives reminds us of all we take for granted.

Pullman, Philip; ***The Golden Compass***

Pullman creates a world parallel to our own in which Lyra Belacqua embarks on an adventure pitting good against evil.

Reef, Catherine; ***The Bronte Sisters: The Brief Lives of Charlotte, Emily, and Anne***

This young adult biography explores the lives of these literary sisters and includes more than sixty archival images.

Shakespeare, William; ***As You Like It***

All ends well in Shakespeare's comedy about the banished princess who falls in love at first sight with a poor but brave young man.

Smith, Betty; ***A Tree Grows in Brooklyn***

In this profoundly moving novel, young Francie Nolan, an avid reader and penny-candy connoisseur, struggles against all odds to survive and thrive.

Stiefvater, Maggie; ***Scorpio Races***

Returning champion Sean Kendrick competes against Puck Connolly, the first girl ever to ride in the annual Scorpio Races. This book was inspired by Irish and Scottish legends of beautiful but deadly horses that are said to emerge from the sea each autumn.

Swanson, James; ***Chasing Lincoln's Killer***

This is an engrossing account of Lincoln's assassination and the twelve-day search for his killer.

Thom, James Alexander; ***Follow the River***

When Shawnee Indians invaded the Virginia settlement where Mary Ingles lived, she was taken captive. After managing to escape, she walked over a thousand miles to get back to her home.

Thompson, Kate; ***The New Policeman***

In this fantasy set in Ireland, J.J. Liddy's mother jokingly asks for a birthday present of more time. When J.J. learns that his mother's request might not be impossible, he begins a thrilling quest into an alternate world.

Wells, H.G.; ***The War of the Worlds***

First published in 1898, this science fiction novel details twelve days in which invaders from Mars attack the planet Earth.

Wilder, Thornton; ***Our Town***

This Pulitzer Prize winning three-act play portrays the drama of life - and death - in the small village of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire.

Wolff, Virginia Euwer; ***Make Lemonade***

This novel in verse tells the story of LaVaughn, who at fifteen already knows that life is hard and that getting ahead takes a strong mind - and an even stronger will.



Shermeen Imam '16

Upper School Reading List

“A book is the only place in which you can examine a fragile thought without breaking it, or explore an explosive idea without fear it will go off in your face.”

~Edward P. Morgan

Upper School Reading List

Requirements:

Book selected for Upper School:

All the Pretty Horses by Cormac McCarthy

Ninth: **All Quiet on the Western Front** by Erich Maria Remarque.

Tenth: **Invisible Man** by Ralph Ellison.

Eleventh: **1984** by George Orwell.

Thematic Literature (12): **Ceremony** by Leslie Marmon Silko

Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky ((Pevear and Volokhonsky translation)

One book from the following list.

One book of choice.

Accountability:

Students will be assessed on summer reading assignments as follows:

Upper School Book: Students will take a test on this book during the first week of school.

Book Required for English Class: Students will take a test on this book during the first few days of school. In most cases, students will have other assignments, such as essays and journal entries, based on this book.

One book from the Upper School Reading List and one book of the student's choosing. Each English teacher will hold students accountable for having read books in these two categories. Teachers may choose book reviews, essays, brief oral presentations, or other methods of assessment. It is important that the students read the required books thoroughly and completely before the beginning of the school year. Late enrollees need to contact the director of the Upper School for advice regarding their summer reading.

Classics

Austen, Jane; **Emma**

Austen described Emma Woodhouse as "a heroine whom no one but myself will much like;" but the author endowed Emma with enough charm to see her through her most egregious behavior, and the ability to learn from her mistakes.

Defoe, Daniel; **Robinson Crusoe**

Considered by some critics to be the "first" novel, it is a book many people know but have not necessarily read. Crusoe, the son of a middle-class English family, is shipwrecked and lives on an island for 24 years before being rescued.

Fielding, Henry; **Tom Jones**

Our hero, the charming foundling, Tom Jones, is one of the most endearing characters in fiction, and this novel follows his rollicking journey to maturity.

Forster, E.M.; **A Passage to India**

A young native doctor is falsely charged with attacking an English woman in this novel set in colonial India.

Fowles, John;

The French Lieutenant's Woman

Well-known as an international best-seller and award-winning film, this novel is an intricate portrait of Victorian relationships.

Hemingway, Ernest;

For Whom the Bell Tolls

In this story set in the Spanish Civil War, Hemingway's craft is so fine that the story becomes a historical document.

Upper School Reading List *(continued)*

James, Henry; ***Daisy Miller***

Daisy, a delightfully uninhibited young American, visits the European community and causes social scandals with her high spirits and disregard of formal conventions.

Wharton, Edith; ***Summer***

The willful heroine wants a grander life than her small town can offer but finds herself in a difficult dilemma as a result of her choices. One of the first American novels to deal frankly with a young woman's sexual awakening, it was a publishing sensation when it appeared in 1917.

Woolf, Virginia; ***Mrs. Dalloway***

This novel details one day in the life of Clarissa Dalloway as she moves, rather disinterestedly, from glimpsing a "somebody" in a car, to her party where she ignores a "nobody." At the time this novel was published (1925), its narrative style was still considered experimental.

Modern Classics

Capote, Truman; ***Breakfast at Tiffany's***

Holly Golightly is one of the most charming heroines in all of modern American literature. Immortalized in a film starring Audrey Hepburn, this novel captures the restless, slightly madcap era of 1940s New York.

Gibbons, Kaye; ***Ellen Foster***

Despite many obstacles, including the early death of her mother and a troubled relationship with her father, young Ellen's spirit triumphs.

Haley, Alex; ***Roots***

The author portrays the struggles of seven generations who trace their roots back to West Africa. (Mature Themes)

Huxley, Aldous; ***Brave New World***

Huxley satirizes utopias in this novel written in the 1920s, which prophetically catalogs a society existing at a future time.

Kerouac, Jack; ***On the Road***

Almost a cultural metaphor, this is the record of a bohemian journey cross country. (Mature Themes)

O'Connor, Flannery; ***The Violent Bear it Away***

This landmark in American literature was first published in 1955 and features the orphaned Francis Marion Tidewater, his cousins, and the schoolteacher Rayber, who defy the prophecy of Tidewater's dead uncle.

Rand, Ayn; ***The Fountainhead***

One man struggles to maintain his integrity as an architect despite the social, economic, and legal consequences.

Steinbeck, John; ***The Grapes of Wrath***

In the dustbowl of Oklahoma a family struggles to survive the harshness of the landscape and their own poverty. Steinbeck won the Pulitzer Prize for this book in 1940.

Science Fiction/Fantasy

Adams, Douglas; ***The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy***

A clever, comic, sci-fi classic about a clueless earthling who explores the wonders of the universe, permanently shattering his preconceived ideas.

Anderson, M.T.; ***Feed***

Anderson's satire describes a future world where television and computers are connected directly into people's brains when they are babies.

Beagle, Peter; ***The Last Unicorn***

The last unicorn on earth journeys to the edge of the world accompanied by a foolish magician and a soul-searching woman, each seeking something they lost or never had.

Card, Orson Scott; ***Ender's Game***

A frighteningly brilliant boy is recruited to a military academy whose emergency mission is to find a way to destroy an insectoid alien race.

Crichton, Michael; ***Eaters of the Dead***

In the year 922, a devout Muslim finds himself in a party of Viking raiders embroiled in a fight against supernatural mist monsters. This is an entertaining and scholarly work about cultural differences.

Fisher, Catherine; ***Incarceron***

The mysterious world of Incarceron has factions of daring prisoners, led by the incorrigible team of Finn and Claudia, who are searching for a means of escape.

Upper School Reading List *(continued)*

Westerfeld, Scott; ***Leviathan***

This steampunk adventure is World War I as never seen before. The story begins the same; with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand. But the global conflict is between the Clankers, who put their faith in machines, and the Darwinists, whose technology is based on the development of new species.

Magical Realism

Kafka, Franz; ***The Trial***

In this moral parable, a bank clerk awakens one morning to find he has been arrested. He knows he has not committed a crime; and, although he is not imprisoned, he must regularly appear in court to argue for his innocence.

Kundera, Milan; ***The Unbearable Lightness of Being***

Tomas, the protagonist of this fine Czechoslovakian novel, is a successful surgeon until the Russians invade Prague. Tomas is forced to give up his practice and become a window washer.

Marquez, Gabriel Garcia; ***One Hundred Years of Solitude***

Through the history of a Latin American family, this novel recounts the rise and fall of the mythical town of Macondo.

Maugham, W. Somerset; ***The Razor's Edge***

Largely set in France, this novel tells the story of the spiritual odyssey of Larry Darrell, a young American in search of God and the Infinite.

Morrison, Toni; ***The Song of Solomon***

In this powerful novel, Milkman Dead hears the strange story of how his father and aunt witnessed their father's murder, and the man's bones have remained with a family member for 20 years. Winner of the 1978 National Book Critics Award.

Mysteries/Detective Fiction

Chandler, Raymond; ***The Big Sleep***

If you enjoyed Dashiell Hammett and Sam Spade, then meet Phillip Marlowe who travels in a world of crime and depravity.

Christie, Agatha; ***The Mysterious Affair at Styles***

Christie's first mystery, published in 1920, introduces Hercule Poirot. The story centers on Mrs. Inglethorpe, a wealthy, elderly woman who is found dead from arsenic poisoning as the mystery begins.

Le Carre, John; ***A Perfect Spy***

In this superb spy novel, the hero is a middle-aged senior official in British Intelligence who decides to write an autobiography for his son.

Sayers, Dorothy; ***Whose Body?***

This is Sayers' first mystery of many, published in 1923. In it, we are introduced to Lord Peter Wimsey, an eccentric amateur detective; Mr. Parker, employed by Scotland Yard; and Lord Peter's butler, valet, and rescuer, Bunter.

Historical Fiction

Buck, Pearl; ***The Good Earth***

Though almost 80 years have passed since this remarkable novel won the Pulitzer Prize, it has retained its popularity and become one of the great modern classics. Buck presents a graphic view of a China when the last emperor reigned and the vast political and social upheavals of the twentieth century were but distant rumblings for the ordinary people.

Frazier, Charles; ***Cold Mountain***

This is an extraordinary novel about a soldier's perilous journey back to his beloved at the end of the Civil War.

Hugo, Victor; ***Les Miserables***

A beautifully written novel concerning the implications of stealing a loaf of bread in an unjust world.

McCullers, Carson; ***The Heart is a Lonely Hunter***

When this novel was published in 1940, Carson McCullers became a literary sensation. At its center is the deaf-mute John Singer who becomes the confidant for various misfits in a Georgia mill town during the 1930s.

Paton, Allan; ***Cry, the Beloved Country***

The troubled and changing South Africa of the 1940s is the setting for this story about the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son Absalom.

Upper School Reading List *(continued)*

Peet, Mal; **Tamar**

This Carnegie Medal-winning novel is a riveting story about resistance fighters in the Netherlands during World War II. Masterfully crafted, it is equal parts mystery and drama.

Solzhenitsyn, Alexander; **One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich**

A prisoner in a labor camp in Siberia employs memory and ritual in his attempt to survive the hardships.

Tan, Amy;

The Bone Setter's Daughter

The central portion of this novel takes place in China in the remote, mountainous region where anthropologists discovered Peking Man in the 1920s. LuLing, the protagonist's mother, has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and is determined to preserve the facts about her family history for her daughter.

Contemporary Realistic Fiction/Modern Fiction

Anderson, Laurie Halse; **Speak**

This award-winning, highly acclaimed, and controversial novel is about a teenager who chooses not to speak rather than to give voice to what really happened to her. (Mature Themes)

Asher, Jay; **Thirteen Reasons Why**

In this mesmerizing novel, Clay Jensen receives a mysterious package filled with cassette tapes from his classmate, Hannah, who committed suicide. He's one of thirteen people who receive Hannah's story, and the text alternates between Hannah's voice and Clay's thoughts. (Mature Themes)

Dos Passos, John;

Manhattan Transfer

Considered by many to be John Dos Passos's greatest work, this book is an expressionistic picture of New York in the 1920s that reveals the lives of wealthy power brokers and struggling immigrants alike.

Foer, Jonathan Safran; **Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close**

Oskar Schell is a nine-year-old amateur inventor, jewelry designer, astrophysicist, tambourine player and pacifist. When his father dies in the World Trade Center collapse, Oskar shifts his boundless energy to a quest for answers. (Challenging)

Forman, Gayle; **If I Stay**

In this intensely moving novel, the last normal moment that Mia, a talented cellist, can remember is being in the car with her family. Mia's singular perspective as she lies in a coma allows for powerful portraits of her family and friends as they cope.

McEwan, Ian; **Saturday**

Just a normal Saturday. London neuro-surgeon Henry Perowne plans to play squash with a friend, visit his mother, and cook dinner for his family. A minor auto accident with a belligerent young man, however, proves more disruptive than Perowne ever could have imagined.

Myers, Walter Dean; **Monster**

Steve Harmon, age sixteen, is accused of serving as a lookout for a robbery of a Harlem drugstore. The owner was shot and killed, and now Steve is in prison awaiting trial for murder. Steve, an amateur filmmaker, recounts his experiences in the form of a movie screenplay.

Sports

Kennedy, Kostya;

56: Joe DiMaggio and the Last Magic Number in Sports

Seventy baseball seasons ago, on a May afternoon at Yankee Stadium, Joe DiMaggio lined a hard single to left field. Starting that day, the vaunted Yankee centerfielder kept on hitting—at least one hit in game after game after game. Kennedy tells the remarkable story of how the streak found its way into countless lives across the country.

Malamud, Bernard; **The Natural**

Malamud details the career of an upcoming star in the world of baseball and, at the same time, sustains an allegory that does not get in the way of the story.

MacLean, Norman;

A River Runs Through It

Fly fishing becomes a metaphor of life for two brothers in this novel set in the American West.

Moskowitz, Tobias;

Scorecasting: The Hidden Influences Behind How Sports Are Played and Games Are Won

Both scholarly and entertaining, this book examines conventional sports wisdom, challenging many assumptions and presenting fascinating information.

Upper School Reading List *(continued)*

Peet, Mal; ***Keeper***

Published originally in the United Kingdom, this unusual novel won the 2004 Branford Boase Award. Framed as an interview between a South American sports reporter and the world's best soccer goalkeeper, the now 30-year-old "El Gato" relates how he developed his skills, achieved great fame, and won the coveted World Cup.

Short Stories

Carver, Raymond; ***Cathedral***

If you know the famous strangely minimalistic paintings of Edward Hopper, you know some of the characters who live in Carver's space. A dozen stories that overflow with "clear, hard language so right that we shiver from the knowledge we gain from it." – Thomas Williams, Chicago Tribune Book World

Joyce, James; ***Dubliners***

Among the most read and studied stories in English literature, these fifteen tales offer vivid, tightly-focused observations of the lives of Dublin's poorer classes.

Updike, John;

The Early Stories: 1953-1975

Updike is considered by many critics the most skillful American short story writer. His ability to use geography and setting to advance plot while developing themes is central to his craft.

Welty, Eudora;

The Collected Stories

Welty's short stories are well written, full of metaphors and symbolism, and speak a multi-generational and multi-regional dialect all their own.

Poetry

Brooks, Gwendolyn;

Selected Poems

This is a classic volume by the distinguished modern African-American poet and winner of the 1950 Pulitzer Prize.

Neruda, Pablo; ***Selected Poems***

In his long life as a poet, Pablo Neruda succeeded in becoming what many poets have aspired to but never achieved: a public voice, a voice not just for the people of his country but for his entire continent.

Ovid; ***Metamorphoses***

Sometimes mistaken for a mythology handbook, Ovid transforms myths into narratives and poetry.

Drama

Chekhov, Anton; ***The Cherry Orchard***

One of the finest plays of the early 20th century, Anton Chekhov's last play centers on the impending loss of the "orchard."

Cunningham, Michael; ***The Hours***

This Pulitzer Prize winning novel was made into an Oscar-winning movie. The story concerns three generations of women affected by a Virginia Woolf novel.

Ibsen, Henrik; ***A Doll's House***

Ibsen's strong-willed heroine, Nora Helmer, is mistress of the domestic world she calls her doll's house. When her notion that marriage could protect her from all eventualities is shattered, Nora decides to leave her doll's house to seek independence in the outside world.

O'Neill, Eugene;

Long Day's Journey Into Night

The mother, Mary Tyrone, says, "None of us can help the things that life has done to us. They're done before you realize it, and once they're done they make you do other things until at last everything comes between you and what you'd like to be, and you've lost your true self forever." This is one of the most important plays of the 20th century.

Shaw, George Bernard;

The Devil's Disciple

Written in 1897 and first published in 1901, this is Shaw's only play set in America. It is the story of Revolutionary War hero Richard Dudgeon, wrongly arrested by British soldiers in a case of mistaken identity, who keeps the secret, fully aware he will be hanged for another man's crimes.

Sophocles; ***The Complete Greek Tragedies: Sophocles I***

Oedipus's parents attempt to avoid a bad omen, but these attempts lead them right back to exactly what they tried to avoid. Sophocles epitomizes that Greek sense of the human condition: noble, but tragic because of our limitations.

Wilde, Oscar;

The Importance of Being Earnest

Set in England during the late Victorian era, this play's humor derives in part from characters maintaining fictitious identities to escape unwelcome social obligations. It is replete with witty dialogue and satirizes some of the foibles and hypocrisy of late Victorian society.

Upper School Reading List *(continued)*

Williams, Tennessee;
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Vintage Tennessee Williams, this play is as big as the Deep South of the early 1950s it portrays. The Pollitt family has numerous problems; among them are Big Daddy's bout with cancer and son Brick and daughter-in-law Maggie's marital breakdown. Take heart; the ending is truly upbeat.

Biography, Autobiography, and Letters

Alexie, Sherman; ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian***

Alexie's first young adult novel is a semi-autobiographical chronicle of Arnold Spirit, a Spokane Indian from Wellpinit, Washington. Arnold is a bright fourteen-year-old boy who was born with a number of health problems, is regularly the target of bullies, and loves to draw.

Angelou, Maya; ***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings***

Angelou writes of her experiences growing up in Stamps, Arkansas and of how literature and a stubborn, loving grandmother saved her from a life of humiliation. (Mature Themes)

Didion, Joan; ***The Year of Magical Thinking***

A memoir of grief, a most personal tale, Didion chronicles the sudden death of her husband and the equally stunningly unbelievable death of her only child, Quintana.

Greenblatt, Stephen; ***Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare***

This is one of the most articulate, carefully researched, and thoughtfully concluded biographies of Shakespeare in recent times.

Griffin, John Howard; ***Black Like Me***

Novelist Griffin darkened his skin and set out to discover some startling truths about what it was really like to be an African-American in the Deep South in the 1950s.

Levi, Primo; ***Survival in Auschwitz***

In 1943, Primo Levi, a 25-year-old chemist and "Italian citizen of Jewish race," was arrested and sent to Auschwitz. This is his classic account of his ten months in the German death camp.

Thompson, Hunter; ***Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas***

Written in 1971, this is a pop-culture classic, a satirizing romp through the drug culture of the 60s. (Mature Themes)

X, Malcolm; ***The Autobiography of Malcolm X***

Now an established classic of modern America, this autobiography of Malcolm Little conveys the pathos and impact of this controversial man.

Nonfiction

Abramson, John, M.D.; ***Overdosed America***

Dr. Abramson provides concrete scientific facts and figures to expose the mechanism by which pharmaceutical companies rake in billions of dollars each year.

Carson, Rachel; ***Silent Spring***

This narrative articulately describes the intimate relationship between environment and life.

Chaitin, Gregory; ***The Limits of Mathematics: Information Theory and the Limits of Formal Reasoning***

This book discusses algorithmic information theory and the epistemology of mathematics and physics. (Challenging)

Coll, Steve; ***Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and Bin Laden, From the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001***

This book reveals details of the CIA's involvement in the development of the Taliban and Al Qaeda before the attacks on the World Trade Center. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, it is painstakingly researched and presents a nuanced understanding of the complexity of intelligence gathering.

Dubois, W.E.B.; ***The Souls of Black Folks***

An educator born in New England, Dubois argues in 1903 for the abolition of the social color line. At the core of his argument is the importance of education. This is an especially interesting book for those interested in Southern culture.

Flannery, Tim; ***The Weather Makers: How Man is Changing the Climate and What It Means for Life on Earth***

Flannery presents an articulate, well-researched, and authoritative work on the relationship between global warming and climate changes.

Upper School Reading List *(continued)*

Friedman, Thomas;
Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution – and How it Can Renew America

Friedman, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, speaks to America's urgent need for national renewal and explains how a green revolution can bring about both a sustainable environment and a sustainable America.

Goldfield, David;
America Aflame: How the Civil War Created a Nation

This sweeping, provocative history of America from the 1830s through Reconstruction has two grand themes. One is the importance of evangelical Protestantism in changing slavery from a political problem to an intractable moral issue that could only be settled by bloodshed. The second is the Civil War's transformation of America into a modern industrial nation with a powerful government and a commercial, scientific outlook.

Hillenbrand, Laura;
Unbroken: A World War II Airman's Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption

The inspiring true story of a man who lived through a series of catastrophes almost too incredible to be believed. In evocative, immediate descriptions, Hillenbrand expertly unfurls the story of Louie Zamperini—a juvenile delinquent who became an Olympic runner and then an Army hero.

Krakauer, Jon; ***Into the Wild***

In this best seller, Krakauer explores why Christopher McCandless decided to drop out of society and live in the wilderness in Alaska.

Ross, Alex; ***The Rest is Noise: Listening to the Twentieth Century***

Written by the music critic for The New Yorker, this ambitious text traces the history of music during the 20th century.

Schlosser, Eric; ***Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal***

Schlosser's incisive history of the development of American fast food indicts the industry for some shocking crimes against humanity, including systematically destroying the American diet and landscape, and undermining our values and our economy.

Seife, Charles; ***Decoding the Universe: How the New Science of Information is Explaining Everything in the Cosmos, From Our Brains to Black Holes***

This treatise by a science journalist explains how the concepts of information theory have begun to unlock many of the mysteries of the universe. What makes Seife's book so riveting is his ability to make the most complicated concepts of quantum mechanics accessible to the lay person. (Challenging)

Stewart, Rory; ***The Places in Between***

Designated by The New York Times as one of the "Ten Best Books of 2006," this is a fascinating memoir of Stewart's walk across Afghanistan in 2002.

Wright, Frank Lloyd;
Modern Architecture

This is a collection of lectures Wright delivered in 1931 at Princeton University.

Faculty & Staff Favorites

Lily Angus

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate

Susan Baker

The Revenant: a Novel of Revenge by Michael Punke

Stephen Belderer

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams

Emily Brown

Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty

Jennifer Burtch

Winnie: the True Story of the Bear Who Inspired Winnie-the-Pooh by Sally M. Walker

Kate Clark

The Martian by Andy Weir

Lisa Cone

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

Betsy Cook

One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Richard Cook

Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow

Republic Lost by Lawrence Lessig

Ryan Cook

Washington's Secret War by Thomas Fleming

1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus by Charles C. Mann

Crosswalk Faculty

Overcoming Dyslexia by Sally Shaywitz, MD

Sharon Daly

Guess How Much I Love You by Sam McBratney

Ed Dickenson

Conquistadors of the Useless by Lionel Terray

Jimmie Donnini

Killing Reagan by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard

Malcolm Douglas

The Little Locksmith by Katherine Butler Hathaway

Wanda Finney

John Adams by David McCullough

Laura Gamble

Once Upon a Poem compiled by Kevin Crossley-Holland

Robin Garrett

The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah

Anne Hagan

The Gratitude Diaries by Janice Kaplan

Leigh Ann Hamlin

Listening is an Act of Love: A Celebration of American Life from the StoryCorps Project by Dave Isay

Jared Hanson

The Most Dangerous Book: the Battle for James Joyce's Ulysses by Kevin Birmingham

Joe Harris

The Fire Next Time by James Baldwin

Melanie Harrison

Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty

Pam Haskins

Far From the Madding Crowd by Thomas Hardy

Mariana Hermosilla de Casco

Diversity Consciousness: Opening Our Minds to People, Cultures, and Opportunities by Richard D. Bucher

Amy Holley

The Seventh Most Important Thing by Shelley Pearsall

Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein

Lauren Horner

Christy by Catherine Marshall

Erin Hunter

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle by Barbara Kingsolver

Amy Jackson

Winnie Davis: Daughter of the Lost Cause by Heath Hardage Lee

Rare Bird: A Memoir of Loss and Love by Anna Whiston-Donaldson

Deborah Jessee

The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt

Erin Jones

Pope Joan by Donna Woolfolk Cross

Faculty & Staff Favorites *(continued)*

Polly Jones

Saturday by Ian McEwan

Jeff Kennard

Sick in the Head: Conversations About Life and Comedy
by Judd Apatow

Josh Kier

Seraph on the Suwanee
by Zora Neale Hurston

The Rational Optimist

by Matt Ridley

David Lake

One Summer, America 1927
by Bill Bryson

Victor Lamas

Sapiens by Yuval Noah Harari

Jennifer Landry

Lies the Mushroom Picker Told
by Tom Phelan

Wendy Lawrence

Brain on Fire by Susannah Cahalan

Shawn Lee

West Point History of WWII, Volume 1 by The United States Military Academy

Karen List

Dead Wake by Erik Larson

All the Light We Cannot See

by Anthony Doerr

Jennifer Luckay

All the Light We Cannot See
by Anthony Doerr

Meade Martin

The Devil in the White City
by Erik Larson

Sharnice Mayo

Put Me in the Zoo
by Robert Lopshire

Reed McGinn

Brotherband Chronicles
by John Flanagan

Audrey Osborne

Fancy Nancy by Jane O'Connor

Sandy Patterson

The Antarctic Book of Cooking and Cleaning: A Polar Journey
by Wendy Trusler and Carol Devine

Chris Proctor

Mr. Midshipman Hornblower
by C.S. Forrester;

The Century Trilogy by Ken Follett

Annie Robertson

The Name of God is Mercy
by Pope Francis

Robert Robillard

Lit Up: One Reporter. Three Schools. Twenty Four Books that Can Change Lives by David Denby

Jennifer Sanders

Gaudy Night by Dorothy Sayers

Patrice Sanders

The House at Riverton
by Kate Morton

Lee Ann Sigmon-Farley

Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee

Jon Sirko

Bleeding Edge by Thomas Pynchon

Heather Slaughter

The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah

Mark Thompson

Prisoners of Geography – Ten Maps that Explain Everything about the World by Tim Marshall

Scott Wilde

Flash Boys: A Wall Street Revolt
by Michael Lewis

Alison Vagts

Olivia by Ian Falconer

Emily Votta

Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes

Senior Favorites from the Class of 2016

Vincent Arnold

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams

Peyton Bailey

Uncommon Manhood by Tony Dungy

Allison Burton

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

Brandon Campbell

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer

Jim Card

109 East Palace: Robert Oppenheimer and the Secret City of Los Alamos by Jennet Conant

Joseph Cartledge

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Raymond Clarke

Go, Dog. Go! by P. D. Eastman

Dre Colston

Native Son by Richard Wright

Jack Cranwell

Thief of Always by Clive Barker

Jaime Dooley

Walden: or, Life in the Woods by Henry David Thoreau

Hannah Dunn

Looking for Alaska by John Green

Amy Eggleston

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Laith Fada

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

Alice Fan

The Great Gatsby by Alice Fan

Jack Fishwick

Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow

Michael Fleming

1984 by George Orwell

Mary Kate Graeff

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

Mackenzie Graham

Miracles from Heaven by Christy Wilson Beam

Olivia Hanson

Kafka on the Shore by Haruki Murakami

Shermeen Imam

A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park

Jack Irons

The Trial by Franz Kafka

Justin Jensen

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

Tristan Johnson-Hodges

Jitterbug Perfume by Tom Robbins

Brett Jones

Socks by Beverly Cleary

Campbell Lake

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

Patricia Liu

Black Dogs by Ian McEwan

Daniel Lorens

The 5th Wave by Rick Yancey

Jordan Lowery

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

Walter Mann

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Sarah Maurer

The Big Sleep by Raymond Chandler

Ty Olinger

No Easy Day: the Firsthand Account of the Mission that Killed Osama Bin Laden by Mark Owen and Kevin Maurer

Will Perry

The Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger

Meagan Pruitt

Outlander by Diana Gabaldon

Nathaniel Richardson

American Sniper by Chris Kyle

Maddie Robinson

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

Bailey Sanders

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

Sam Sawyer

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

Philip Schueler

The Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro

Lissa Smith

The Five People you Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom

Tanner Smith

Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything by Steven Levitt & Stephen J. Dubner

Adrienne Spring

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer

Zander Theoharis

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff

Nolan Wages

Digital Fortress by Dan Brown

Jane Ward

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

Eric Xie

The Road to Character by David Brooks

Parent Resources

Codell, Esme Raji; ***How to Get your Child to Love Reading: For Ravenous and Reluctant Readers Alike***

Coloroso, Barbara; ***The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander: From Preschool to High School – How Parents and Teachers Can Help Break the Cycle***

Eide, Brock L. and Fernetta F. Eide; ***The Dyslexic Advantage: Unlocking the Hidden Potential of the Dyslexic Brain***

Ginsburg, Kenneth R.; ***Building Resilience in Children and Teens: Giving Kids Roots and Wings***

Goldberg, Donna; ***The Organized Student: Teaching Children the Skills for Success in School and Beyond***

Hopkins, Lee Bennett; ***Days to Celebrate: A Full Year of Poetry, People, Holidays, History, Fascinating Facts, and More***

Leveen, Steve; ***The Little Guide to Your Well-Read Life: How to Get More Books in Your Life and More Life from Your Books***

Levine, Mel; ***A Mind at a Time: America's Top Learning Expert Shows How Every Child Can Succeed***

Savage, Marjorie; ***You're On Your Own (But I'm Here if You Need Me): Mentoring Your Child During the College Years***

Schuld, Jackie; ***Grief is a Mess***

Silvey, Anita, ed; ***Everything I Need to Know I Learned from a Children's Book: Life Lessons from Notable People from All Walks of Life***



Vivian Tao '17

North Cross School is an independent, nonsectarian, college-preparatory school that serves children from early childhood through twelfth grade. North Cross provides a rigorous academic curriculum, competitive with the best college-preparatory schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia. While we explicitly recognize the importance of intellectual development and academic achievement, we also strive to promote personal integrity, empathy, and responsibility to self and community. Through this, our graduates will act as leaders in the local and global communities, persons of intellectual and moral courage, and scholars in the service of others.



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