



Summer Reading

Dana Hall • 2019





DANA HALL SCHOOL
SUMMER READING LIST 2019
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All students at Dana Hall are required to complete summer reading. The books you read will be used in your English class during the first few weeks of the first trimester. As you read, we urge you to remember that the art of reading is a creative act, a collaboration between reader and writer.

Hold a dialogue with these books: question, argue, disagree; underline those passages that exhilarate you as well as those that infuriate you. Keep a notebook to jot down your immediate responses to each of these works and write questions that you want to discuss in your English classes. Encourage your family and friends to join you in these reading experiences.

A number of the books on this list have been made into movies, many of them wonderful in their own right. Seeing a movie instead of reading the book, however, will not prepare you for your teacher's assignment related to that book, nor will it replace the unique experience of interacting with a specific text. A better idea is to read the book first, making note of your responses and completing the assigned work, and then see the movie, which as a result you will experience on two levels.

This reading list includes stories with characters that showcase a variety of experiences. The diversity clubs of Dana Hall have recommended books throughout this list. They are indicated with the following symbol: 📌

Bridge: Gay/Straight/Bisexual/Transgender alliance

Dana All: Middle School multicultural club

ISA (International Student Alliance): International student group

Kesher: Jewish student culture club

Salaam: Islamic culture and support club

SHADES (Sisters Honoring All Diasporas & Enlightening Society): Multicultural club

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

1. During the first few weeks in your English classes, you will be asked to discuss and to write about the books you read during the summer. Your first trimester grade will include work connected with your summer reading.

2. Most of the books we have selected are readily available in paperback, and some are also available in e-book format. Review the reading list early in the summer to make sure that you can obtain copies of your choices. Many of these books are also available at your local library; it would be best if you brought the books you read during the summer with you in September.

3. **The assignments for Middle School summer reading titles will be posted on the Helen Temple Cooke Library website on June 1: <http://library.danahall.org/reading-lists/summer-reading/>**

GRADE 5

- Required: *Faith, Hope and Ivy June*, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 5”

All rising fifth graders will receive an assignment for the required reading. **In addition, this document will be posted on the Helen Temple Cooke Library website at <http://library.danahall.org/reading-lists/summer-reading> by June 1.**

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADE 5

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

Aru Shah and the End of Time, Roshani Chokshi

After telling some lies to help her fit in at school, Aru finds herself in way over her head. She has lit the cursed Lamp of Bharata, her classmates and mother are now frozen in time, and it's all down to Aru to save them from the Sleeper. She must enter the mythological worlds of the Hindu stories of the Mahabharata, fight a demon and save her friends before it's too late. Great for fans of Rick Riordan's books, and the first in a new series!

The Red Pyramid, Rick Riordan

Join siblings Carter and Sadie as they race to reverse the magic that has awoken the gods of Ancient Egypt.

Starry River of the Sky, Grace Lin

Guests at an inn put their own spin on traditional Chinese folktales as they try to discover the reason for the moon's disappearance from the sky.

GOING GREEN

Beyond the Bright Sea, Lauren Wolk

On a tiny island off the coast of Maine, Crow lives with gruff but kind Osh, who found her washed up in a rowboat when Crow was just hours old. Now Crow is curious about finding out where she came from, and her curiosity leads her into a dangerous situation.

Hoot, Carl Hiassen

Someone has been sabotaging the construction site for the new pancake restaurant in Coconut Grove, Fla., by pulling up stakes, spray-painting graffiti and putting an alligator in the Port-a-Potty. Why would someone go to such lengths to stop a pancake restaurant?

Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, Kate DiCamillo

Edward Tulane, a well-dressed china rabbit, thinks quite highly of himself. When his owner, Abilene, lets him fall from the edge of a ship, Edward is quite literally lost. If you like a good cry and know what it's like to lose a part of your identity, find out what happens as Edward Tulane goes on a twisting journey from the bottom of the sea to a train to a doll shop to a toy chest.

Wild Robot, Peter Brown

Roz the robot finds herself washed up on an island, surrounded by frightened animals. Slowly, she adapts to island life and even adopts a tiny feathered friend. Then, the corporation that owns Roz tracks her down and tries to take her "home."

SMART GIRLS

Amina's Voice, Hena Khan

Amina is just trying to fit in with her classmates when a local mosque is vandalized. Suddenly, Amina's Muslim American identity seems to stick out even more, and she grapples with whether to hide it or let it shine.

The Red Pencil, Andrea Davis Pinkney

Amira lives in Sudan, where a brutal civil war means that she and her family are constantly in fear of an attack by the Janjaweed. When the Janjaweed come, Amira escapes on foot and journeys to a refugee camp, where the opportunity to learn to read and write gives her hope for the future.

👉 Recommended by Dana All

Stella by Starlight, Sharon Draper

Bumblebee, North Carolina, may be in the segregated South, but Stella and her family are accustomed to following the rules of Jim Crow... until the KKK holds a clan meeting and burns a cross just around the corner. Overnight, Stella's world transforms from one of daily oppression to one of sheer terror. Despite the mounting fear, a few of the

African Americans in Stella's community dare to register to vote, leading to severe consequences. Thankfully, this is a story of the power of community to come together and the power of many voices raised together to drown out the few.

The Wide Awake Princess, E.D. Baker

What if, while Sleeping Beauty's whole kingdom slept, someone stayed awake? In this fractured fairy tale, the sleeping princess Gwen has a little sister named Annie who is not affected by the spell of the evil fairy. In fact, she is impervious to magic, which is a good thing (usually) as she sets out to break the spell by finding Gwen's true love.

KIDS LIKE YOU

George, Alex Gino

Have you ever really wanted that great part in the school play? Have you ever kept a secret deep inside? If you have, then you have a lot in common with George. Learn about what makes George terrified and ecstatic in this heart-warming book about facing your fears and being true to yourself.

👉 Recommended by Dana All

Listening for Lions, Gloria Whalen

Rachel is snatched away from the only life she has ever known after her parents die. Born and raised in the British colonies of East Africa, Rachel suddenly finds herself in England with a cruel and scheming pair of guardians who make her pretend to be someone else. Thankfully, Rachel finds her inner strength and manages to stand up to those who seek to use her. This book is filled with stunning descriptions of Rachel's home in Africa and lots of plot twists!

The Penderwicks, Jeanne Birdsall

The four Penderwick sisters spend a summer at a beautiful manor house in western Massachusetts where they make new friends, try to avoid the snooty Mrs. Tifton and stumble upon adventure.

Real Friends, Shannon Hale and LeUyen Phan

This graphic novel tells a classic story of middle school friendship. Shannon and Adrienne are longtime friends who are drifting apart, and Shannon isn't sure what she's done wrong to push Adrienne away. Now Adrienne is a member of The Group, popular girls who aren't always kind to others, and Shannon is their target.

Smile, Raina Telgemeier

When Raina was younger, she experienced years of emotional and physical pain in an attempt to make her smile perfect. She tells her story in this humorous graphic novel.

The War That Saved My Life, Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

As the threat of war hangs over 1939 London, the children are evacuated to the countryside where it is safer. Ada, however, has to sneak out to evacuate, because her mother is so embarrassed by Ada's physical deformity that she doesn't want Ada to leave their apartment. With her younger brother Jamie in tow, Ada escapes to a new life in the country in the dark of night, but will her past follow her there?

👉 Recommended by Dana All

GRADE 6

- Required: *Belly Up*, Stuart Gibbs
- Two books from the reading lists “Recommended Books for Grade 6,” “Recommended Books for Grade 7” or “Recommended Books for Grade 8”

All rising sixth graders will receive an assignment for the required book and the two free-choice books. **In addition, this document will be posted on the Helen Temple Cooke Library website at <http://library.danahall.org/reading-lists/summer-reading> by June 1.**

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADE 6

KIDS LIKE YOU

Forget Me Not, Ellie Terry

Told from two points of view, this is the story of Calliope. Calliope has Tourettes Syndrome, which sometimes makes her act differently, and it's starting to catch the eye of her new classmates. However, her neighbor Jinsong sees past Calliope's tics and enjoys being friends with her. Can he bring the rest of the class around to seeing Calliope for who she really is?

Frazzled: Everyday Disasters and Impending Doom, Booki Vivat

Think *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* meets *Ramona*. This hilarious graphic novel follows newbie 6th grader Abbie Wu through the last careless days of summer straight into her first panic-laden year of middle school. Abbie navigates the halls in a string of mishaps and disappointments with the feeling that, just like at home, she is the only one struggling to get it right.

Out of My Mind, Sharon Draper

Melody has cerebral palsy, and her case is so severe that she can't walk or talk; she feels trapped inside her own brain. That brain is brilliant, though—she can remember everything and is probably the smartest kid at her school. It's just hard for her to show it, because all of her classmates and even her teachers assume that she is mentally challenged because of her physical disability and inability to communicate. Melody is determined, though, to break out of her mind and show the world what she has to offer.

Raymie Nightingale, Kate DiCamillo

Raymie's dad just ran away with a dental hygienist, but she has a plan to bring him home. She will enter the Miss Central Florida Tire beauty pageant, win, and her victorious photo in the newspaper will make her father regret leaving and rush home. Of course, things don't always turn out the way we plan, as Raymie soon discovers.

Short, Holly Goldberg Sloan

Julia's summer is about to get a lot more busy. She and her brother are in *The Wizard of Oz*. Here's her worry: she's short. Just like Julia's Grandma Mittens, she is shorter than her classmates and she doesn't want to talk about it. So when she gets cast as a munchkin, she feels even more self-conscious about her size. See Julia rise to the challenge of embracing her big personality on stage. Big question: Can your size define you?

Stargirl, Jerry Spinelli

She's the new girl in school and she marches to the beat of her own drummer. At first, the whole school is transfixed by Stargirl—even a little in love. But as popularity goes, they build her up just to tear her down. This book is the classic story of how rumors become myths become cautionary tales.

FANTASTIC FANTASY

The Apothecary, Maile Meloy

While visiting the local pharmacy, Janie watches as the pharmacist (or apothecary, if you're British) is kidnapped. Janie and the apothecary's son Benjamin must use a magical book, the Pharmacopoeia, to track him down before a gang of Russian spies can get their hands on the apothecary's secrets.

Dealing with Dragons, Patricia C. Wrede

Bored with being a princess, Cimorene runs away to live with dragons in this funny fairy tale. First in a series.

The False Prince, Jennifer Nielsen

In this thrilling tale, four orphans are snatched off the streets and forced to compete. This isn't just any competition, though: It's part of a plot to replace the king with an imposter. Of the four boys, whoever performs best as a false prince becomes the next king. Whoever fails dies. The stakes couldn't be higher for Sage, who faces treachery at every turn.

How to Catch a Bogle, Catherine Jinks

Birdie is an apprentice bogler, which means that she works with Alfred the Bogler luring out and killing bogles and other spooks. It's dangerous work, especially for Birdie, who serves as bait. Then, other street children around London start to go missing and Birdie suspects an especially tricky bogle. It's up to her to hunt it down... before it hunts her!

York: The Shadow Cypher, Laura Ruby

Twins Tess and Theo live in a version of New York City that is almost like our own, but different. Designed and built by the genius Morningstarrs in the early 1900s, the city is filled with mechanical features and automatons that make the citizen's lives easier. It also contains a hidden secret. Can Tess, Theo and their new friend Jaime follow the clues to the secret before the beloved buildings are destroyed by greedy developers?

BOOKS TO MAKE YOU LAUGH

Better Nate Than Ever, Tim Federle

Determined to live his dream of Broadway stardom, Nate and his best friend Libby plan an escape to New York to audition for *E. T.: The Musical*.

Chomp, Carl Hiaasen

Things aren't going well on the set of Expedition Survival!, a reality show that Wahoo's father is working on as an animal wrangler. The animals are out of control, a massive storm is raging, and the show's main star, Derek Badger, has gone missing in the Florida Everglades. Then there's that angry guy with the gun...

A Tale Dark and Grimm, Adam Gidwitz

Hansel and Gretel and other fairy tale characters meet gruesome, hilarious fates on their way to a happy ending.

BOOKS TO MAKE YOU CRY

Because of Mr. Terupt, Robert Buyea

Several students narrate the story of their fabulous teacher, Mr. Terupt. We learn about their lives, and how Mr. Terupt makes them feel seen and heard. Then, Mr. Terupt suffers from a terrible accident and the students must learn how to cope with tragedy.

Ninth Ward, Jewell Parker Rhodes

Unable to leave New Orleans, Laneshia and her elderly caretaker, Mama Ya-Ya, stay to ride out Hurricane Katrina.

👉 Recommended by Dana All

The One and Only Ivan, Katherine Applegate

The Newbery-winning tale of a captive gorilla, a baby elephant and their incredible friendship.

POEMS AND PICTURES

El Deafo, Cece Bell

“Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires

superpowers!” (Publisher description) A Newbery Honor-winning graphic memoir.

👉 Recommended by Dana All

Inside Out & Back Again, Thanhha Lai

When the Vietnam War forces her family to escape to the U.S., Ha faces many challenges in adapting to her new life. An autobiographical story told in poems.

👉 Recommended by Dana All

Roller Girl, Victoria Jamieson

If you love Raina Telgemeier’s books, you’ll definitely enjoy this graphic novel. Astrid is spending the summer at roller derby camp with a group of entirely new people. Scary? She’s terrified. Making new friends is hard, and roller skating competitively is not so easy either. Find out how Astrid makes it to the finish line.

OTHER TIMES

One Crazy Summer, Rita Williams-Garcia

Delphine and her sisters are sent to spend the summer with their long-lost mother in California, where they get caught up in the Black Panther Party and the Civil Rights struggles of 1968.

A Long Walk to Water, Linda Sue Park

Two stories merge into one as two children live their lives in Sudan in both 1985 and 2008. Nya walks for hours every day to fetch water for her family from the pond. Salva flees his village in order to escape becoming a child soldier, running for weeks in search of safety from the rebel army. Both endure hardship and persevere in the face of unbelievable odds.

MYSTERY AND SURVIVAL

Escape From Mr. Lemoncello’s Library, Chris Grabenstein

If you enjoyed *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* or *The Candy-makers*, you’ll love Mr. Lemoncello. The new library in Kyle’s town was funded and designed by the brilliant but mysterious gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello. Twelve kids, including Kyle, win the opportunity to spend the night in the new library before it opens to the public but find themselves locked in. In order to find their way out, they must solve all of the elaborate games and puzzles Mr. Lemoncello has devised.

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

When Claudia and her little brother Jamie decide to run away, they do it in style. They spend their days and nights in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. But when Claudia’s favorite sculpture goes missing and they decide to solve the mystery, they end up with more than they bargained for!

Refugee, Alan Gratz

They are escaping. They are trying to find a better life. They are doing everything they can to survive. This is the story of a boy running from the Nazis in Germany in the 1930s, a girl escaping violence in Cuba in the 1990s and a boy fleeing a war in Syria only a few years ago. They may be from different places and times but they all are searching for same thing: a safe space to call home.

👉 Recommended by Dana All

When You Reach Me, Rebecca Stead

Miranda's normal life is suddenly full of odd characters, like the crazy man who lives under the mailbox on her street and the kid who punches her best friend for no reason. And then she starts getting the notes...

GRADE 7

- Required: *The Outsiders*, S.E. Hinton
- Two books from the reading lists "Recommended Books for Grade 7" or "Recommended Books for Grade 8"

All rising seventh graders will receive a reading guide for the required books. This guide will include questions to answer as well as other activities to prepare you to do additional work on the required books when you begin school in September. **In addition, this document will be posted on the Helen Temple Cooke Library website at <http://library.danahall.org/reading-lists/summer-reading> by June 1.**

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADE 7

GIRL UP: GIRL LEADERS

The Breadwinner, Deborah Ellis

In Afghanistan during the time of the Taliban, it is next to impossible for girls to go to school or leave her family's compound. But sometimes a girl's gotta do what a girl's gotta do... and dress up as a boy in order to make the money to support her family. Parvana's family has been taken in the night by men in trucks. At 11 years old, Parvana knows it's up to her to rise up and be the breadwinner.

👉 Recommended by Dana All

Hope Was Here, Joan Bauer

Hope has grown up working in diners up and down the East Coast with her aunt, Addie. She loves being a waitress, but all that moving around is hard. Now that Addie's taking over a diner in tiny Mulhoney, Wisc., will Hope find a home at last?

I Am Malala (Young Readers' Edition), Malala Yousafzai

Malala Yousafzai, the youngest winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, is a champion for girls' education. Her desire to attend school in her home country, Pakistan, had dire

consequences but hasn't stopped her from continuing to speak on behalf of girls who don't have a voice.

👉 Recommended by Dana All

KIDS LIKE YOU

Counting by 7s, Holly Goldberg Sloan

Although this book starts with a tragedy—the main character's parents die—it is not depressing. Read more to find out about Willow Chance, a 12-year old genius with a unique way of seeing the world and coping with grief.

Dairy Queen, Catherine Gilbert Murdock

D.J. Schwenk is overworked enough as she tries to keep the family farm running—then she also agrees to secretly train the rival high school's quarterback. First in a trilogy.

Every Soul a Star, Wendy Mass

Astronomy and friendship come together in this beautiful story of a solar eclipse. Told from three different perspectives, this novel explores three very different lives and the one thing they all have in common.

Lucky Broken Girl, Ruth Behar

Ruth Mizrahi has just moved from Cuba to the U.S. She is finally starting to get settled when she gets into a terrible car accident. She has to spend a year confined to her bed in a full body cast. This is the story of how she manages to grow even while staying in one place.

The Thing About Jellyfish, Ali Benjamin

Suzy's best friend Franny has just died. Only, they weren't best friends when she died; they weren't even speaking. Now, Suzy is trying to understand how such a thing could happen, grappling with her grief and her guilt. This is a beautiful story of friendship and grief, and how to cope with the worst life can throw at you.

TWISTS & TURNS

Graceling, Kristin Cashore

Katsa was born with an unstoppable fighting ability, which causes her to be feared by everyone in her life—until she meets Po, a prince with the same gift. Their investigation of the kidnapping of Po's grandfather puts them in danger as they discover the horrible secret behind a distant king's rule.

The Great Trouble, Deborah Hopkinson

It's 1854 and a neighborhood of London is besieged by a terrible plague of cholera. Eel, a street kid and "mudlark," joins forces with the refined Dr. Snow to seek answers.

Based on the true story of the Broad Street cholera outbreak, this fascinating and thrilling historical novel adds an extra dimension to the discovery of the causes of illness.

Redwall, Brian Jacques

Mattias has always dreamed of adventure and of finding the sword of the legendary Martin the Warrior, hidden somewhere inside the Redwall Abbey. When the dreaded Cluny the Scourge attacks Redwall, the peaceful inhabitants must find it in themselves to defend their refuge. Mattias and the others must rise to the challenge if they plan to protect their home in this adventure-filled first novel in the classic series.

The Seventh Most Important Thing, Shelley Pearsall

Arthur is given a list in the junkyard where he will spend 120 hours of community service with the Junk Man. On the list are glass bottles, foil, cardboard, pieces of wood, lightbulbs, coffee cans, and mirrors. But why are these things on a list for him to collect? What is the Junk Man doing with this... garbage? Inspired by a true story, the Junk Man is building something so epic it will land him and Arthur's collected trash in the Smithsonian Museum.

👉 Recommended by Dana All

Warcross, Marie Lu

Emika accidentally hacks her way into the most popular video game tournament in the world, but rather than get arrested, she is hired. The creator of the game asks her to be a spy in the game to help him uncover a security threat. Suddenly, Emika finds herself smack dab in the middle of a cyber world of intrigue, danger and a plot much worse than she ever imagined.

GLOBAL ADVENTURES

The Boy on the Wooden Box, Leon Leyson

This is the only memoir written by a child saved from the Holocaust by Oskar Schindler's famous list.

Does My Head Look Big In This?, Randa Abdel-Fattah

Amal is from Melbourne, where she's enrolled as an eleventh grader in a suburban prep school. When she decides to commit to wearing a hijab and fully embracing her religious identity, she's not sure how others will react: if her family and friends will support her; if she can handle cruel prejudices; if she can find cute hijab to match her outfits; and if, of course, her crush will ever share her feelings.

👉 Recommended by Dana All

Endangered, Eliot Schrefer

Sophie, whose mother runs a sanctuary for bonobo apes in the Congo, becomes a foster

mother to an orphan baby bonobo, Otto. When the Congo breaks out in civil war, Sophie and Otto must survive alone in the jungle and make it to safety.

In Real Life, Cory Doctorow and Jen Wang

In this graphic novel, Anda questions her love of the videogame Coarsegold when her gaming adventures intersect with real life on the other side of the world.

War Horse, Michael Morpurgo

The unforgettable story of a brave farm horse sold into battle in World War I.

CLASSICS FOR A REASON

Anne of Green Gables, L. M. Montgomery

Red-headed orphan Anne Shirley is far too dramatic and imaginative for the likes of her prim, proper new family! Discover her misadventures with green hair dye, red currant wine, and Gilbert, the dreadful (but cute) boy down the road.

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, C. S. Lewis

Four siblings slip through a wardrobe in their new home and find themselves in a magical land ruled by the cruel White Witch. First in a series.

GRADE 8

- Required: *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, Sherman Alexie
- Two books from the reading lists “Recommended Books for Grade 8” or “Recommended Books for Grade 9”

All rising eighth graders will receive a reading guide for the required book. This guide will include questions to answer as well as other activities to prepare you to do additional work on the required book when you begin school in September. **In addition, this document will be posted on the Helen Temple Cooke Library website at <http://library.danahall.org/reading-lists/summer-reading> by June 1.**

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADE 8

CLASSIC ADVENTURES

Little Women, Louisa May Alcott

A perennial classic, *Little Women* tells the story of four courageous, funny and above all relatable sisters who navigate life and relationships in the Civil War era.

Murder on the Orient Express, Agatha Christie

When someone commits murder on the luxurious Orient Express train, it is up to Inspector Poirot to solve the case.

TWISTS & TURNS

Bloody Jack: Being an Account of the Curious Adventures of Mary 'Jacky' Faber, Ship's Boy,
L.A. Meyer

Irrepressible orphan Jacky Faber disguises herself and is hired as ship's boy on a 19th century merchant ship where she learns to sail, fights pirates, and all the while must keep her identity secret from her crewmates, a hard thing to do when, you know... you're kind of crushing on one AND you have a sudden need to buy a bra!

Chime, Franny Billingsley

If Briony keeps secrets—about her powers, about her sister's accident—she believes she can keep her family safe. But sometimes secrets are more dangerous than the truth.

House of the Scorpion, Nancy Farmer

Matteo is a clone of a powerful and cruel drug lord named El Patron in a world where those who grow opium are the rulers of the land. He lives a lonely existence on a massive estate, hated by everyone else but treated like a favorite by his master. When Matteo learns the reason he is kept like El Patron's pet, he decides to escape.

Jackaby, William Ritter

Abigail Roth is new to New England and lands a job with oddball investigator R.F. Jackaby, whose investigative talents include seeing the supernatural. She joins Jackaby on the hunt for a serial killer in this funny and spooky historical novel. Will Abigail survive her first case?

The Search for WondLa, Tony DiTerlizzi

Are you a fan of action and adventure? Do you like reading about futuristic societies filled with robots, peculiar creatures and hi-tech gadgets? If so, then pick up this book about Eva Nine, a 12-year-old girl who has grown up protected in a self-sustaining underground shelter but longs to explore the outside world. One day, Eva Nine is unexpectedly forced above ground, and together with a strange group of travelers, she sets off to find the mysterious WondLa. Along the way, Eva Nine must learn a lot about despair, survival, courage and above all... hope.

The Truth About Forever, Sarah Dessen

Macy is coping—but not really—with the death of her father. She's keeping herself busy for the summer with a new catering job, where she meets the super hot Wes. The problem is, Macy already has a boyfriend. Filled with Dessen's humorous treatment of difficult subjects, you'll love getting to know Macy and her crew.

ON THE SHORTER SIDE

Nimona, Noelle Stevenson

In this fun and snarky graphic novel, Nimona wants to be the sidekick of the nefarious villain Lord Ballister Blackheart, but she may actually be too evil even for him. Her ability to change into any creature, and her brilliant but cruel plots for revenge, stoke the fires of an all out war against the Institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics.

FANTASTIC TALES

The Girl from Everywhere, Heidi Heilig

Nix's father captains a ship that can navigate to any time and place on a map—even mythical places. After 16 years of adventures, Nix and the crew find themselves back where it all began: 1860s Hawaii, where her father met her mother and Nix was born. Her father has a plot to bring the family together, but things are much more dangerous than they seem. Will Nix reunite with her dead mother and sail off into the sunset? Or will Nix's father take too big a gamble and lose big for them all?

Ready Player One, Ernest Cline

For teenager Wade Watts the virtual world OASIS is everything, a way to escape the terrible reality of the year 2045. He spends all his time online trying to solve an elusive puzzle left by the world's creator that will leave him wealthy beyond imagination. When he discovers the first clue, the race to find the rest is on.

Shadow and Bone, Leigh Bardugo

Alina discovers that she has magical powers while on a dangerous military mission into the Fold, a land of terrifying creatures. She is sent away from her regiment, and her best and only friend Mal, to train as a Grisha and learn how to use her powers. She finds herself far from the battlefields in the lavish but perilous court of the Darkling. First in a series.

Starflight, Melissa Landers

Solara indentures herself to the rich but rude Doran in order to pay for her ride to the Outer Realm of the galaxy. When they get kicked off their ship, they have to stick together to hitchhike the rest of the way, while chased by both space pirates and space police. This is a fun space adventure with lots of exciting twists.

Uglies, Scott Westerfield

Tally longs for her 16th birthday when she'll have an operation to make her a Pretty: perfectly beautiful, like all adults in her society. But when her friend Shay runs away to avoid the operation, the authorities give Tally a choice: find Shay or never turn Pretty at all. The first book in a series.

OTHER LIVES

Eleanor & Park, Rainbow Rowell

“Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits—smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try.” (Publisher description)

Finding Audrey, Sophie Kinsella

Audrey has crippling anxiety—the kind that prevents her from going to school, or worse, leaving her house. Then she connects with her brother’s teammate Linus, and maybe, just maybe, a few sparks kindle and perhaps even start her down a path to recovery.

The Hired Girl, Laura Amy Schlitz

It’s 1911 and 14-year-old Joan Skaggs sees no future for herself on the farm, grieving her mother’s death and cleaning up after her miserable father and brothers. Bright, tough and impulsive, Joan reinvents herself as Janet Lovelace, finds work as a hired girl with a Jewish family in the city, and begins her quest for knowledge, adventure and love.

Piecing Me Together, Renée Watson

Jade is wise; she works hard for everything, but has no friends in the mostly white private school she’s attended for the past two years. Mostly, Jade is tired of being the “at-risk,” “bad neighborhood” kid identified for mentorship and after-school programs. She wants to be seen and heard, not pre-judged by the color of her skin or the money her mom doesn’t have, and she’s about to use that wisdom to find some change.

👉 Recommended by Dana All

Salt to the Sea, Ruta Sepetys

For fans of historical fiction comes the frightening true tale of the *Wilhelm Gustloff*, a little-known maritime disaster that was six times deadlier than the Titanic. Based in 1945 during WWII, this book traces the stories of four narrators—Emilia, Florian, Alfred and Joana—as they try to escape the advancing Russian army on a journey across Europe. One is pregnant, one carries a dangerous secret, one is a young Nazi dreaming of glory, and all witness firsthand the horrors of war.

The Secret Life of Bees, Sue Monk Kidd

It is 1964 in South Carolina, the height of civil rights tensions. When Lily’s beloved nanny Rosaleen gets into trouble with the police for trying to assert her right to vote, Lily and Rosaleen flee their home and begin a life-transforming journey.

The Sun is Also a Star, Nicola Yoon

What if you only had one day: one day to try and stay in the U.S. legally, where you’ve grown up and where your family is, one day to try to save your normal? One day to try to



convince Yale to accept you, one day to make your parents proud and live up to their expectations? What if you only had one day to fall in love? We don't know what you'd do, but we'd pick up this book!

Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina, Michaela DePrince with Elaine DePrince
“The extraordinary memoir of an orphan who danced her way from war-torn Sierra Leone to ballet stardom, most recently appearing in Beyoncé’s *Lemonade* and as a principal in a major American dance company.” (Amazon)

UPPER SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

1. During the first two weeks in your English classes, you will be asked to discuss and to write about the books you read during the summer. Your first trimester grade will include work connected with your summer reading.

2. Most of the books we have selected are readily available in paperback, and some are also available in e-book format. Review the reading list early in the summer to make sure that you can obtain copies of your choices. Many of these books are also available at your local library; it would be best if you brought the books you read during the summer with you in September.

New 9th Grade International Students

- *Girl in Translation*, Jean Kwok
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 9”

New 10th–12th Grade International Students

- *Girl in Translation*, Jean Kwok
- *Interpreter Of Maladies*, Jhumpa Lahiri
- One book from the reading lists “Recommended Books for Grade 10” or “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

Literature and Composition I

- *Girl in Translation*, Jean Kwok
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 9”

Literature and Composition II

- *Interpreter Of Maladies*, Jhumpa Lahiri
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 10”

Literature and Composition III

- *Homegoing*, Yaa Gyasi
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

AP English Language/Comp

- *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2018*, Sam Kean, ed.
- *Homegoing*, Yaa Gyasi
- A **non-fiction** text of your choosing from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

Senior English Courses: Creative Writing; Found Voices; Speaking of Class: The Language of Social Class in Literature; and This is Us: Contemporary Narratives of the Human Experience

- *The Street*, Ann Petry
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

AP Literature & Composition

- *The Stories of Eva Luna*, Isabel Allende
- *The Woman in White*, Wilkie Collins

NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

All new 9th grade international students will be mailed a copy of *Girl in Translation*, and all new 10th–12th grade international students will be mailed copies of *Girl in Translation* and *Interpreter Of Maladies* in early June.

I. *Girl in Translation*, Jean Kwok

As you read *Girl in Translation*, take notes to keep track of your perceptions of this novel’s themes and the characters’ development. In particular, prepare bullet point notes on each of these four questions so you are prepared to work with these questions right away when school begins:

1. The title tells us that this is a story of a girl, but it also tells us that it is a story about translation. Learning to translate between her two languages is the key to Kimberly’s ability to thrive in her new life. What other translations must Kimberly learn to make? Be ready to refer to specific instances where these translations occur and explain why they are significant to the story as a whole.

2. How do Chinese values (such as the importance of family obligations, respect for educators, etc.) that Kim and her mother brought with them to New York help them in their new home? How did these values make their life more difficult? What impressions of Chinese values and culture did you take away from this book?

3. Kimberly believes that devoting herself to school will allow her to free her family from poverty. Does school always live up to her expectations? Where do you think it fails her? How does it help her succeed?

4. An important theme in this novel is choice—or lack of choice. How much choice do you feel Kim and her mother have about their work and living conditions? What factors limit their options? Where in the story do you feel they could have made different choices?

II. *Interpreter Of Maladies*, Jhumpa Lahiri

This is a collection of short stories that each work on their own as individual stories, but also belong together in this collection. As you read Jhumpa Lahiri's stories, look for patterns and themes that reoccur in different stories. Make a note of the similarities and differences in characters, conflicts and themes.

Choose **two** stories that interest you to write about:

Choose one story that speaks to you because it has a character or situation that is familiar to you, something that sounds like your own life in some way. Explain that similarity or familiarity in one well-developed paragraph, including quotations.

Choose a second story that stands out to you because it is very unfamiliar to you; perhaps a character or a conflict or a significant struggle is very different from your own experience. Explore that contrast, what it reveals and what it leaves you wondering in one well-developed paragraph, including quotations.

Two well-developed paragraphs should run about 500–700 words in total.

LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION I

REQUIRED READING

- *Girl in Translation*, Jean Kwok
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 9”

As you read *Girl in Translation*, take notes to keep track of your perceptions of this novel's themes and the characters' development. In particular, prepare bullet point notes on each of these four questions so you are prepared to work with these questions right away when school begins:

1. The title tells us that this is a story of a girl, but it also tells us that it is a story about translation. Learning to translate between her two languages is the key to Kimberly's ability to thrive in her new life. What other translations must Kimberly learn to make? Be ready to refer to specific instances where these translations occur and explain why they are significant to the story as a whole.
2. How do Chinese values (such as the importance of family obligations, respect for educators, etc.) that Kim and her mother brought with them to New York help them in their new home? How did these values make their life more difficult? What impressions of Chinese values and culture did you take away from this book?

3. Kimberly believes that devoting herself to school will allow her to free her family from poverty. Does school always live up to her expectations? Where do you think it fails her? How does it help her succeed?

4. An important theme in this novel is choice—or lack of choice. How much choice do you feel Kim and her mother have about their work and living conditions? What factors limit their options? Where in the story do you feel they could have made different choices?

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADE 9

Choose two books from this annotated list to complete your summer reading requirement. We encourage you to read as many of these selections as you can.

Beauty Queens, Libba Bray

Imagine being trapped on an island after a plane crash. You have limited food, water and you know, toilet paper, and you're not sure when or how your rescuers are going to find you. Now imagine that you're trapped in the same circumstances with 50 other girls... 50 beauty pageant queens. It's no surprise that this funny novel is a satire of *Lord of the Flies*!

Between Shades of Gray, Ruta Sepetys

Lina lives a pretty normal 1941 life in Lithuania. That is, it was normal until war interferes and Soviet soldiers separate her family and drag Lina, her mother and little brother onto a packed cattle car, taking them thousands of miles to a prison camp in desolate Siberia. They must fight for their very existence in this incredible harsh climate, hoping to stay alive long enough that one day they might go home.

Black Ice, Lorene Cary

An autobiographical account of the author's struggles as a young black girl who tries to maintain two separate lives while attending an independent school.

China Rich Girlfriend, Kevin Kwan

Admit it—you've all seen the movie and planned your million dollar fantasy Crazy Rich Asians inspired wedding promposals. Why not pick up where the movie and book left off and pick up the second book in the series? In this sequel, Rachel is about to have her own fantasy wedding, but after a chance encounter in Shanghai realizes she's missing one big father-sized piece of her own puzzle.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Mark Haddon

Autistic math genius Christopher Boone must solve the mystery of his neighbor's murdered poodle.

Diary of a Tokyo Teen: A Japanese-American Girl Travels to the Land of Trendy Fashion, High-Tech Toilets, and Maid Cafes, Christine Mari Inzer

This graphic novel is one part memoir, one part travel guide, one part fashion guide, one part food blog, and all parts awesome. The author was born in Japan but moved to the States, and returned on a solo trip when she was 16. She documented her travels and adventures in Japan as a fun, funny, sweet and heartfelt graphic novel.

Every Day, David Levithan

What if you woke up in a different body every day? What if you fell in love?

The Hobbit, J.R.R. Tolkien

Bilbo is visited by the wizard Gandalf and 13 dwarves who seek a 14th member for their journey to steal treasure from the dragon Smaug. Though reluctant at first, Bilbo is convinced to join the unexpected party, and his epic adventure takes him face to face with trolls, goblins, a riddling creature named Gollum, elves and, of course, the dragon. (Adapted from blurback.com)

I Believe in a Thing Called Love, Maureen Goo

Desi Lee is a high-powered high school senior intent on being excellent at everything. The only thing she hasn't mastered is romance; Desi literally trips over her own feet any time she tries to flirt with anyone. But when she decides she is going to win over the new boy in school, all she needs as a foolproof plan, and she knows where to find it: in the Korean dramas her father watches obsessively. When her quirky friends help her model her love life after K dramas, hilarity—and a little bit of emotion—ensues in this breezy and charming novel.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou

Powerful, lyrical autobiography of an African American writer growing up in the South.

👉 Recommended by SHADES

My Most Excellent Year: A Novel of Love, Mary Poppins, and Fenway Park, Steve Kluger

Best friends T.C. and Augie have treated each other like brothers since they were little.

When T.C. falls for feisty and brilliant Alé and Augie falls for a boy, it's the beginning of the most excellent year of their lives.

Nation, Terry Pratchett

Mau's island village is destroyed by a great wave. The same wave shipwrecks British traveler Daphne. "Separated by language and customs, the two are united by catastrophe. Slowly, they are joined by other refugees. And as they struggle to protect the small band, Mau and Daphne defy ancestral spirits, challenge death himself, and uncover a long-hidden secret that literally turns the world upside down." (Publisher description)

Neverwhere, Neil Gaiman

What if another world existed just beyond the one you know, in the subway of your hometown? When he stops to help a young woman in need, Richard Mayhew steps through the cracks of the London sidewalk and into the sinister and occasionally horrific realm of Neverwhere and ends up on a life or death quest.

The Odyssey, Gareth Hinds

Shipwrecks, angry gods, man-eating giants—Homer’s *Odyssey* is one of the greatest adventures ever told, and the story comes to life in this exciting graphic novel adaptation.

Prisoner of Night and Fog, Anne Blankman

In 1930s Germany, Gretchen Müller admires everything about her Uncle Dolf and works hard to please him, even as she begins to feel some doubts about her brother’s work with him in the National Socialist Party. But when she impulsively stops her brother from beating up a Jewish man on the street, her life turns upside down. That chance encounter leads to another, with a young Jewish newspaper reporter who tells her that her dead father was actually murdered. Nothing is what it seems, and danger is everywhere ... for the man she calls “Uncle Dolf” is Adolf Hitler. This is a gripping suspense novel about one young woman’s attempt to protect herself and those she loves in Nazi Germany.

Raven Boys, Maggie Stiefvater

Blue Sargent comes from a family of clairvoyants. They make their living from predicting the future and talking to ghosts. This might be ok if it weren’t for the fact that Blue has been living with a prediction her whole life: “If you were to kiss your true love, he would die.” Have that hanging over your head, plus a ghost of a boy from the local private school and a posse of his pissed off friends, and Blue has more than enough going on for her impending sixteenth birthday. Follow Blue from the beginning of this trilogy as she uncovers ugly truths, solves mysteries and helps a wayward band of private school boys stay alive.

Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda, Becky Albertalli

Sixteen-year-old, not-so-openly-gay Simon Spier is blackmailed into playing wingman for his classmate or else his sexual identity—and that of his secret pen pal...who he happens to have a major crush on—will be revealed on his school Tumblr. This contemporary novel set in Atlanta is filled with great characters, musical theatre, shenanigans, sibling rivalry, crushes, tough decisions and friendship.

👉 Recommended by Bridge

Story of a Girl, by Sara Zarr

Imagine making a mistake at 13 so big and so public that it defines you. In an effort to escape the role her town has given her, Deanna Lambert gets a job the summer of her sophomore year so she can raise enough money to move her, her 19-year-old brother,

This is a collection of short stories that each work on their own as individual stories, but also belong together in this collection. As you read Jhumpa Lahiri’s stories, look for patterns and themes that reoccur in different stories. Make a note of the similarities and differences in characters, conflicts and themes.

Choose **two** stories that interest you to write about:

Choose one story that speaks to you because it has a character or situation that is familiar to you, something that sounds like your own life in some way. Explain that similarity or familiarity in one well-developed paragraph, including quotations.

Choose a second story that stands out to you because it is very unfamiliar to you; perhaps a character or a conflict or a significant struggle is very different from your own experience. Explore that contrast, what it reveals and what it leaves you wondering in one well-developed paragraph, including quotations.

Two well-developed paragraphs should run about 500–700 words in total.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADE 10

Choose two books from this annotated list to complete your summer reading requirement. We encourage you to read as many of these selections as you can.

American Street, Ibi Zoboi

Fabiola Toussaint and her mom are on their way from Haiti to live with family in Detroit. Their plans are derailed when her Haitian mom is detained and Fabiola, an American citizen only by circumstance of her birth there years ago, is sent ahead alone. The home she finds on the corner of Joy and American streets is much, much different than the one she left behind in Haiti. The dangers, joys and romance is new and real, her customs and culture are as foreign as those she encounters, and she soon encounters the cost of the American dream as she struggles to find a way to have her mom released.

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe, Benjamin Alire Saenz

“When Aristotle and Dante meet in the summer of 1987, they are 15-year-olds existing in the universe between boys and men. The two are opposites in most ways: Dante is sure of his place in the world, while Ari feels he may never know who he is or what he wants. But both are thoughtful about their feelings and interactions with others, and the book explores the back-and-forth in their relationship over the course of a year. Family issues take center stage, as well as issues of Mexican identity, but the heart of the novel is Dante’s openness about his homosexuality and Ari’s suppression of his.” (*Booklist*)

👉 Recommended by Bridge

Birth House, Ami McKay

A young woman comes of age in a remote village in Nova Scotia, training to be a midwife under the tutelage of a woman many consider a witch. Tensions rise even further as conflict develops between the midwives and the local doctor who disparages their folk medicine.

Born on a Blue Day, Daniel Tammet

This fascinating autobiography is the memoir of an autistic British man, one who is extraordinarily gifted (able to learn a language in a single week, for example) and who can only function within very strict routines.

Boy Toy, Barry Lyga

Josh Mendel has a secret. Unfortunately, everyone knows what it is. Five years ago, Josh's life changed. Drastically. And everyone in his school, his town—seems like the world—thinks they understand. But they don't—they can't. And now, about to graduate from high school, Josh is still trying to sort through the pieces. (*Goodreads*)

Briar Rose, Jane Yolen

Becca's grandmother repeatedly told the classic fairy tale of Briar Rose to her grandchildren when they were young. After her grandmother's death, Becca travels back to Poland to solve the mystery of her grandmother's past during the Holocaust and explore what it had to do with Briar Rose.

Code Name Verity, Elizabeth Wein

This is a story of friendship, courage and two young enlisted British women during World War II. One is a pilot who transports planes between bases, and the other, her best friend, who has been captured and held as a spy in Nazi-occupied France. Thrilling and frightening, it is a heartbreaking, heartwarming and captivating story.

The Devil in the White City, Erik Larsen

While architect Daniel H. Burnham was painstakingly constructing an entire city of pure white buildings in the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, Dr. H. H. Holmes was building a house of horrors: a boarding house complete with dead-end hallways, a crematorium and a gas chamber in the basement. Not for the faint of heart (Holmes' boarding house served as an inspiration for the hotel in *American Horror Story: Hotel*), this book delves deep into the life and mind of a real life monster as well as the environment that enabled his crimes.

Exit, Pursued by a Bear, E.K. Johnston

Hermione Winters has got it. She's a star on her high school cheerleading squad. Yeah, it's a sport, and an elite one at Palermo Heights High School. As Hermione sees it, there is the top of the high school food chain, her, and the bottom, those girls who get pregnant

and have to drop out. The problem is, after a party, Hermione is now both of those girls: top and bottom, cheerleader and pregnant.

Hidden Figures, Margot Lee Shetterly

A group of women known to NASA as “human computers” are the heroes of the race to the moon. Many of these women were African Americans and not recognized for their incredible contribution to the space program. Read the stories of mathematicians and engineers Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson and Christine Darden. Fighting injustice from within the system is a different kind of war.

👉 Recommended by SHADES

How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less, Sarah Glidden

In this memoir in graphic novel form, Sarah Glidden’s tour of Israel is complicated by her anger at Israeli politics and the oppression of Palestinians. Indeed, “it’s complicated” becomes her ongoing refrain as she talks with local Muslims and Jews, with fellow travelers on the tour, and with the Israeli soldiers who guard the tour group.

👉 Recommended by Keshner and Salaam

If You Could Be Mine, Sara Farizan

Have you ever been told who you can and cannot love? Have you ever had to keep a secret so deep you are lying to yourself and those you love? For Nasrin and Sahar, true love is difficult to confront in Iran, and they so desperately want to stay together and stay alive. The question is compelling and terrifying: Can they love each other openly, or physically change who they are to be accepted in this society that sees love only between a man and a woman?

Into Thin Air, Jon Krakauer

Experience both the thrill and horror of mountain climbing as described by one of the survivors of a devastating attempt to scale Mt. Everest.

Jellicoe Road, Melina Marchetta

Abandoned at a boarding school in the Australian bush as a little girl, Taylor searches for clues to her past in a story written by the mysterious young woman who raised her, all while trying to command her school to victory over the townies and visiting boys school in their annual turf war. The beginning feels confusing, but it makes the tragic, uplifting, ugly-cry finale of book worth it.

Marcelo in the Real World, Francisco X. Stork

Marcelo, a young man with Asperger’s Syndrome, has spent his whole life in a special school. For his last summer in high school, his dad gets Marcelo a job in the “real world”: the mailroom of his dad’s law firm. The real world turns out to be full of new friends, moral ambiguity and a lot more growing up than Marcelo or his dad had anticipated.

Rebecca, Daphne Du Maurier

A young woman is swept off her feet by the love of her life. That seems like a happy ending, but it's really only the beginning of this romantic suspense novel. After the wedding, he takes her to his family's estate, where everyone is haunted by the memory of his first wife, Rebecca. At first, she's just worried that she'll never measure up to the perfect Rebecca, but then her fear deepens as she encounters secrets and dangers, especially in the form of Mrs. Danvers, the housekeeper whose loyalty to the first Mrs. de Winter has become an obsession.

Relish: My Life in the Kitchen, Lucy Knisley

"Knisley, daughter of a chef mother and gourmand father, had the kind of upbringing that would make any foodie salivate, and she's happy to share. In this collection of memories studded with recipes, she explores how food shaped her family life, friendships, travel experiences and early career as a cartoonist. Knisley's illustrated recipes are particularly delightful and inventive, and she tempers any navel-gazing impulses with humor, humility and honesty, noting, for example, that even someone who loves fine food can still put away a truckload of McDonald's fries from time to time." (*Booklist*)

Seabiscuit: An American Legend, Laura Hillenbrand

With his smallish stature, knobby knees and slightly crooked forelegs, Seabiscuit looked more like a cow pony than a thoroughbred. But looks aren't everything; his quality, an admirer once wrote, "was mostly in his heart." Laura Hillenbrand tells the story of the unlikely racehorse who became a cultural icon. (Adapted from the Amazon.com review)

Shadow of the Wind, Carlos Ruiz-Zafon

As a child growing up in Franco's Spain, Daniel finds a rare and possibly cursed book titled *The Shadow of the Wind*, written by the mysterious Julian Carax. He learns that a man is seeking and burning all copies of the book, and he becomes almost obsessed with discovering the truth behind it.

She's Not There, Jennifer Boylan

A bittersweet account of being transgender before, during and after gender reassignment surgery. After reading this, you will want to read Boylan's *I'm Looking Through You: Growing up Haunted*, her account of growing up among ghosts—in her childhood house in Pennsylvania, in her community and in her heart.

Song of Achilles, Madeline Miller

We all know the story of Trojan War hero Achilles—but do we really? Achilles was the rockstar jock of the Greeks; a warrior stronger, faster and more deadly than his counterparts. Patroclus is an exiled prince, said to be Achilles' dearest friend. When Helen is

kidnapped and all Greek heroes are called to get her back, everything they know will be left to the unforgiving hands of the Gods.

👉 Recommended by Bridge

Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness, Sy Montgomery
Did you know that the octopus can problem solve? Did you know they have personality in addition to eight bendy arms and the ability to bounce balls, change color and trick other octopuses? Us either. This nonfiction book is filled with heart, science and intelligence.

A Spy in the House, Y.S. Lee

In Victorian England, women had few rights and fewer options. What better setting for a top-secret women's detective agency? In this first novel in a series, the agency rescues orphan Mary Quinn from the gallows and trains her to become a detective; her first case places her as a spy in the household of a suspected smuggler and threatens not only the scandalous secret that she has kept for years but also her very life.

Station Eleven, Emily St. John Mandel

What do a Hollywood star, the medic who tries to save him, a traveling group of actors and musicians, and the collapse of civilization have in common? This novel roams back and forth over the 15 years after and before a pandemic virus eliminates most of civilization as we know it in this post-apocalyptic novel about life, art, love and the way we're all connected.

Still Life with Rice, Helie Lee

In this memoir of her Korean grandmother's life, Lee interprets the complex nature of family relations, the impact of social upheaval on an individual, and the rapidly changing lives of women in the 20th century.

Strange Practice, Vivian Shaw

Just because vampires are undead doesn't mean they don't have medical needs! Meet Greta Helsing, a human doctor whose patients include witches, ghouls, vampires and other monsters. When a group of killer monks begins murdering both humans and vampires in London, Greta and her human and vampire friends must track down the religious cult and the animating force that is directing them.

Underground Girls of Kabul: In Search of a Hidden Resistance in Afghanistan, Jenny Nordberg

This is an amazing study of a hidden culture in Afghanistan that sanctions the raising of infant girls as boys in order to secure the status of a family.

👉 Recommended by Salaam

When I Was Puerto Rican, Esmeralda Santiago

A memoir of a girl's journey from extreme poverty in Puerto Rico to life in New York—and her first year at Harvard University.

Wrath and the Dawn, Renee Ahdieh

In this book inspired by *One Thousand and One Nights*, a murderous but tormented boy king, Khalid, kills a different bride every night. Imagine Prince Joffrey from George R.R. Martin's *Game of Thrones*, but with a much more intense track record and penchant for torturing women. It is up to the woman, Shahrzad, brave enough to volunteer for the position of Khalid's next bride (a la Katniss Everdeen in *The Hunger Games*) to stop his murderous streak and discover what is driving this violence before time runs out in the worst way possible. The first in a series, this book will leave you wanting more!

GRADES 11 & 12

REQUIRED READING

I. Literature and Composition III

- *Homegoing*, Yaa Gyasi
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

Homegoing, Yaa Gyasi

Ghana, 18th century: Two half sisters, Effia and Esi, are born into different villages, each unaware of the other. One will marry an Englishman and lead a life of comfort in the palatial rooms of the notorious Cape Coast Castle. The other will be captured in a raid on her village, imprisoned in the very same castle, and shipped off to America to be sold into slavery.

With breathtaking scope, *Homegoing* follows the parallel paths of these sisters and their descendants through eight generations: from the slave traders of the Gold Coast to the plantations of Mississippi, from the Asantes' struggle against British colonialism to the first stirrings of the American Civil War, from the jazz of 20th century Harlem to the sparkling shores of modern Ghana. Yaa Gyasi's extraordinary novel illuminates slavery's troubled legacy both for those who were taken and those who stayed—and shows how the memory of captivity has been inscribed on the soul of our nation. (source: Penguin Random House)

As you read *Homegoing* (in paperback, please, rather than e-book), pay close attention to the family tree included in the opening pages. Mark it up with notes that will help you remember each character. Also, please make notes in the margins so that it's easy to go back and find passages that are your favorites or seem especially meaningful.

When you finish reading the novel, please write a two-page reading reflection responding to the following topic:

Toward the end of the novel, Yaw tells his students, “History is storytelling.” He continues: “We believe the one who has the power. He is the one who gets to write the story. So when you study history, you must always ask yourself, Whose story am I missing? Whose voice was suppressed so that this voice could come forth? Once you have figured that out, you must find that story, too” (226-27). Write two pages reflecting on the role of storytelling in this novel. Who are the storytellers? What kinds of stories do they tell and to whom? Why do they tell their stories? Does reading this novel give you a new understanding of history? Of storytelling in general? Be prepared to turn in your reflection on the first day of class.

II. AP English Language/Comp

- *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2018*, Sam Kean, ed.
- *Homegoing*, Yaa Gyasi
- A **nonfiction** text of your choosing from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2018, Sam Kean, ed.

Your summer assignment is to read at least 10 of the collection’s 26 essays. For each of the 10 essays of your choice, answer the following questions briefly but thoughtfully:

- All of these essays about science or nature are written for a general audience, so they are all expository (that is, explaining or describing something) to some extent. Is this exposition the primary purpose of the essay, or is it also argumentative (that is, proving a thesis)? If so, what is that argument? Explain your answer in a brief paragraph.
- Did you learn something you consider worthwhile in this essay, and did you enjoy reading this essay? Why? (There’s no right or wrong answer here—you’re allowed to have an opinion, after all!)
- Type out a sentence that you particularly like or think is well-crafted from this essay; include a parenthetical citation with page number. Briefly explain why you think it’s such a good sentence.

The answers to these questions for each of the 10 essays you choose are due on the first day of class. You will complete assignments on *Homegoing* and the nonfiction book of your choice during the first week of class.

III. Senior English Courses: Creative Writing: Found Voices; Speaking of Class: The Language of Social Class in Literature; and This is Us: Contemporary Narratives of the Human Experience

- *The Street*, Ann Petry
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

The Street, Ann Petry

Written by black author Ann Petry in 1946, *The Street* tells the story of Lutie Johnson, a

young black mother struggling to raise her son in 1940s Harlem. The novel follows Lutie's attempts to navigate the poverty, sexism, violence and racism of America, inviting readers to confront key questions about personal choices and societal responsibility.

In a 500–750 word response, look at Lutie and examine the definition of womanhood as presented through the novel. In what ways does Lutie fit the 1940s American society's expectations for a woman? A black woman? A wife? A mother? A sexual being? An employee? What commentary do you think Petry is making about womanhood and its challenges through her characterization of Lutie? Plan to hand in your response on the first day of class. Your work will be graded on the depth of your ideas and the quality of your writing.

IV. AP Literature & Composition

- *The Stories of Eva Luna*, Isabel Allende
- *The Woman in White*, Wilkie Collins

As you read, annotate your text carefully and be prepared to engage in lively discussions and to write thoughtful essays when classes begin. In addition, identify passages that pertain to some of the themes of our AP Literature & Composition course: changing women's roles and the definitions of *human* and *monster*.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADES 11 & 12

A Tale of Love & Darkness, Amos Oz

Amos Oz grew up in a tiny apartment with many people and even more books in even more languages. This memoir follows him through his life as he leaves his family, joins a kibbutz and finds his voice through political activism in the Middle East. Yes, it's about books but it includes wisdom on so much more: "When I was little, my ambition was to grow up to be a book. Not a writer. People can be killed like ants. Writers are not hard to kill either. But not books."

👉 Recommended by Keshner

Acceptance, Susan Coll

Feeling the tingle, nay, the urge to read about the college admissions process? "AP" Harry (so named for the unprecedented number of advanced placement courses he has taken) side-steps his top choice, Harvard, and examines another of U.S. News & World Report's top 50 colleges. This race for the "best" is cutthroat, and it's hard to tell who wins and who loses.

The Age of Innocence, Edith Wharton

This famous novel is about upper-class New York society in the late 19th century. The wealthy young Newland Archer is attracted to two very different women, one of them a respectable young American woman and the other a "dangerous" European divorcée.

The Alchemist, Paulo Coelho

An enchanting tale about a boy who goes on a journey filled with epic adventure, only to find the treasure he's been searching for is in the most unexpected of places. This classic story has charmed millions of readers and will likely resonate with you for years to come.

All the Light We Cannot See, Anthony Doerr

It's World War II. The Nazis are bombarding the coast of France near Saint Malo and the need to stop them has never been more desperate. Can a young girl, blind and vulnerable, help save her city? Can a young Nazi soldier find the courage to act on his principles against the Reich? This novel will thrill your mind and heart. You won't sleep until you finish this Pulitzer Prize winning novel.

Band of Sisters: American Women at War in Iraq, Kirsten Holmstedt and Senator Tammy Duckworth

Increasingly, American women are joining the U.S. military in non-combat positions, driving trucks, flying transport planes, and working as nurses and doctors. But in modern combat, there is no such thing as "the front lines." In these short reports, the author interviews women who were unexpectedly attacked or trapped in enemy territory. Their experiences reveal the inherent risk of war, as well as the heroism of these young soldiers.

Bel Canto, Ann Patchett

A band of revolutionaries invades a birthday party hosted by the vice president of a South American country for a visiting Japanese businessman. With only one translator, an opera singer, important party guests and revolutionaries held together on one compound, this story quickly turns from festive to hostage crisis. Based loosely on a true story, this novel is lyrical, thoughtful, romantic and tragic.

Between the World and Me, Ta-Nehisi Coates

"What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden?" Coates works to answer these important questions in a gut-wrenching, painful letter to his son. There is no way around the issues this book poses to the United States and its people. Get ready to dive in and reflect on this short but powerful book.

Bone Clocks, David Mitchell

In 1980s England, teenager Holly Sykes runs away after a brush up with her mother. Over the years, she is part of the lives of the other narrators in this novel that starts in the past, jumps to the present and past, and ends in the future: a Cambridge undergrad best described as a total jerk, a war reporter in Iraq, a middle-aged writer with an ego, and an ancient doctor. All are tied together, but their stories are told in unique voices, both likeable and unlikeable, and in different genres, times and settings.

The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, Daniel Brown and Daniel James Brown

The title tells everything you need to know about this book except that you will fall in love with these young men and learn quite a bit about the Nazi Olympics—and that even if you can't tell a scull from a seal, you're at risk to fall in love with rowing.

Brothers and Keepers, John Edgar Wideman

In 1975, Robby Wideman and a partner committed robbery, during which his partner shot and killed their victim. He is now serving a life sentence in a Pittsburgh prison. He and his older brother, John Edgar Wideman, had grown apart as they grew up—two black men from the ghetto, one headed toward a life of crime while the other became a respected author and professor—but Robby's imprisonment ironically reversed that distance. John Wideman and his brother reconnected through multiple conversations in the prison's visiting room, and the result of those conversations is the memoir *Brothers and Keepers*, a moving family history about race and opportunity in America.

City of Thieves, David Benioff

The people of Leningrad are slowly starving under Nazi siege; they survive by eating anything they can find while they pray the nightly bombs don't land on them. A teenage boy accused of looting and an accused deserter are spared from execution...if they find 12 eggs for wedding of the daughter of the commander who sentences them. This novel is darkly funny, heartbreaking and very difficult to put down. By the writer and producer of the *Game of Thrones* series, this is the fictionalized account of his grandfather's survival during the war.

Cutting for Stone, Abraham Verghese

The narrator of this novel starts out by speaking to us from the womb. He then takes us through many generations of his own life and those of his parents, and his characters travel to India, Ethiopia and the United States. Since Verghese is a doctor, he is able to include specific medical details in his descriptions, and we view his experiences through many different lenses.

Do Not Say We Have Nothing, Madeline Thien

A young Chinese-Canadian woman begins unraveling the secrets that led to her father's suicide in 1989 during the Tiananmen Square protests. As she traces clues about the lives of three young musicians at the Shanghai Conservatory during the Cultural Revolution, she comes to a new understanding of her father's life as well as the lives of the people he loved. Spanning three generations, this beautiful novel is an absorbing historical epic as well as a gripping meditation on the meaning of unfinished lives, of "broken music."

East of Eden, John Steinbeck

Steinbeck’s magnum opus is an epic family saga of the Hamiltons and the Trasks, set in Salinas, California, at the turn of the century. Filled with scandal, intrigue and the intricacies only found in the relationship between brothers, it is a surprisingly relatable and compelling read. It brings to mind all manner of complex themes—fate versus choice, biology versus destiny—but at its heart, *East of Eden* is a great story, featuring fascinating characters and thrilling twists.

The Elegance of the Hedgehog, Muriel Barbery

They are unlikely friends: a rich Japanese gentleman named Kakuro Ozu; Renée, the middle-aged concierge of an exclusive Parisian apartment building; and Paloma, a 12-year-old girl who lives there with her wealthy, intellectual family. The three are drawn together in this intricate and compelling novel as Paloma, a sort of French Holden Caulfield, struggles to find a reason not to commit suicide on her 13th birthday.

Everything I Never Told You, Celeste Ng

The first lines of this book say almost all you need to know: “Lydia is dead. But they don’t know this yet.” An exploration of family, interracial marriage, thwarted dreams, feminism, identity and love, this is the moving story of a biracial Chinese-American family living in Ohio in the 1970s, starting and ending with the drowning death of their teenage daughter.

Everything is Illuminated, Jonathan Safran Foer

Jonathan Safran Foer is on a quest. He is armed with only a yellowing photograph and a Ukrainian translator named Alex. Chapters jump between Jonathan’s family’s past and present. It’s tantalizingly funny, hauntingly sad, and it will reveal how people, places and things can completely disappear in war.

The Fifth Season, N.K. Jemisin

In this award-winning fantasy novel, “a fresh cataclysm besets a physically unstable world whose ruling society oppresses its most magically powerful inhabitants. . . . [it] tackles racial and social politics which have obvious echoes in our own world while chronicling the painfully intimate struggle between the desire to survive at all costs and the need to maintain one’s personal integrity. Beneath the story’s fantastic trappings are incredibly real people who undergo intense, sadly believable pain.” (Kirkus.com)

Freakonomics, Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner

An economics book for beach reading? Really? Though written by economists, this book reads nothing like an economics textbook. Levitt and Dubner collect mounds of data as they examine social trends, and they reach surprising conclusions about the way society functions and the impact present actions can have on the future. Written in lively prose and

full of fascinating stories, *Freakonomics* will engage and entertain you, and it may change the way you see the world.

Fun Home, Alison Bechdel

An engrossing memoir in graphic novel format, *Fun Home* documents Bechdel's childhood experiences and coming of age as a woman and lesbian. At its center lies her painful relationship with her distant father.

Gabi, a Girl in Pieces, Isabel Quintero

Gabi Hernandez chronicles in her diary her senior year in high school as she copes with the teen pregnancy of one friend and another's coming out; her father's drug abuse; her identity as a Latina; and her love of food, boys and the poetry that helps forge her identity. Part diary, part poetry, and part zine, it's really hard not to wish Gabi is really your friend.

Get in Trouble: Stories, Kelly Link

This acclaimed and contemporary collection of short stories is a wry, sometimes creepy and often satirical look at pop-culture and human nature. Blending sci-fi, fairy tales and realism (both real and magical), this book is filled with stories about animatronic boyfriend dolls, friendships formed on the Internet, superpowers, faeries and regular humans.

Girl Mans Up, M-E Girard

Pen is in a tough spot; her best friend Colby is making her do some pretty shady things and it needs to stop. Her parents need to learn English. She needs to get better at Portuguese. Everything was easier before she fell hard for this girl and now she's scrambling to keep it all together. One of these days Pen has got to stop pretending, but she's not sure she'll come out of it alive.

👉 Recommended by Bridge

Gulp: Adventures in the Alimentary Canal, Mary Roach

"How much can you eat before your stomach bursts? Can constipation kill you? Did it kill Elvis? In *Gulp*, we meet scientists who tackle the questions no one else thinks of—or has the courage to ask. We go on location to a pet-food taste-test lab, a fecal transplant and into a live stomach to observe the fate of a meal" (Publisher). Mary Roach tackles the questions you've always wanted to ask but haven't in this palatable and funny nonfiction book.

Hunger, Roxane Gay

This memoir details author Roxane Gay's relationship with food and her weight over the course of her life, as well as her hunger for acceptance and self-love. Sexually assaulted at a young age, Gay began to purposefully overeat in order to protect herself from potential predators. This is not a tale of a woman learning to deal with her trauma to lose weight;

instead, Gay lays herself and her emotions bare, asking questions that almost every woman faces at some point.

👉 Recommended by Bridge and SHADES

The Husband's Secret, Liane Moriarty

“Imagine your husband wrote you a letter, to be opened after his death. Imagine, too, that the letter contains his deepest, darkest secret—something with the potential to destroy not only the life you have built together, but the lives of others as well. And then imagine that you stumble across that letter while your husband is still very much alive...” (Amazon)

I'll Give You the Sun, Jandy Nelson

Fraternal twins Jude and Noah were inseparable and competitive for most of their lives, until tragedy struck. Now, they barely acknowledge each other. In alternating chapters, we learn that Noah was a shy artist while Jude was a popular, boy crazy surf-queen. Now their roles are hugely reversed, and both are developing feelings for new boys in their lives. Each of them only has half the story that led to the tragedy that tore them apart; they'll have to find a way to put themselves back together in this novel that is a love story of all kinds.

👉 Recommended by Bridge

In the Woods, Tana French

This is the first book in French's Dublin Murder Squad series, a collection of loosely related, brilliantly written mysteries. *In the Woods* introduces us to Detective Rob Ryan, who is investigating a case that hits chillingly close to home, specifically a wood near his childhood home that was once the scene of his own traumatic event. Will his past as the lone survivor of a horrible unsolved crime keep him from solving the murder of a 12-year-old girl who is found in the same wood? As is the case in all of her mysteries, French weaves a story around a central, complex character whose personal experience affects his perception of and reaction to the crime. A gripping, thrilling, can't-put-it-down read.

Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?, Mindy Kaling

In this collection of personal essays, the writer, producer and star of *The Mindy Project*, Massachusetts native Mindy Kaling recounts her experiences with trying to find romance, working in Hollywood and maintaining friendships.

Killers of the Flower Moon, David Grann

Back in the 1920s, oil was almost actually worth its weight in gold. The Osage nation in current-day Oklahoma became instant millionaires when they sold much of their oil rich land. Things were good for a while—many Osage had chauffeurs, mansions and the trappings of a rich life—but suddenly many people started to turn up dead in very suspicious circumstances. Using cutting edge techniques to uncover a massive, horrifying conspiracy

to kill the Osage for their land rights and money, this is the case that legitimized a fledgling law enforcement agency called the FBI.

Labgirl, Hope Jehren

Hope Jehren is a scientist—a female scientist—who studies plants and the natural world. Her memoir has been called funny, fresh, filled with friendship and empowering to female scientists around the world.

Life After Life, Kate Atkinson

What if you could live again and again until you got it right? On a cold and snowy night in 1910, Ursula Todd is born, the third child of a wealthy English banker and his wife. She dies before she can draw her first breath. On that same cold and snowy night, Ursula Todd is born, lets out a lusty wail, and embarks upon a life that will be, to say the least, unusual. (Adapted from publisher.)

March: Book One, John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, et al.

You've seen the recent protests in the news: March For Our Lives, Black Lives Matter, Women's March, etc. But have you seen and experienced the march that inspired them all, the 1963 March on Washington? Moreover, have you seen it through the eyes of John Lewis, the 17-term congressman from Georgia who was there, marching as a young man? In graphic novel format, you can see and experience it for yourself.

Me, My Hair, And I, ed. Elizabeth Benedict

This is a book of personal essays about hair. Women of all ages from many countries talk about haircuts, strangers touching hair, awkward questions about hair, questions about dying, straightening or relaxing hair, and more. Why do we care so much? What do our choices about hair say about us?

Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl, Issa Rae

Issa Rae shares her story of being a young African American woman learning to be cool with her awkward self. Sassy, smart and sometimes sad, this is an earnest look at a woman who is pretty easy to identify with. Favorite quote: "If I could go back in time and slap all of the idiocy out of my mouth, I would be a busy time traveler."

My Year of Meats, Ruth Ozeki

What is more important: telling the truth or making money? For documentary filmmaker Jane Takagi-Little, this question continues to plague her as she tries to make a film for her Japanese employers about how delicious, nutritious and delightful American meat is. Jane comes face-to-face with the realities of the meat industry and has to choose if the truth will come out.

Opposite of Loneliness, Marina Keegan

Marina Keegan was a young writer and Massachusetts native with tremendous promise who died in a car crash the day after she graduated from Yale in 2012. This book of her essays, short stories and speeches was published by her professors and her parents and became an instant bestseller.

Oranges are Not the Only Fruit, Jeanette Winterson

Before orange was the new black, it was not the only fruit. Jeannette Winterson wrote this ground-breaking, semi-autobiographical coming-of-age novel in 1985. The witty, quirky narrator grows up in an English pentecostal community, where she stitches samplers with apocalyptic themes, plans a life as a missionary—and then falls in love with another girl. An imaginative, poignant story of a creative young woman's struggle to find her voice in the face of furious backlash from her conservative family and community.

Pachinko, Min Jin Lee

This novel begins in 1910 during the Japanese occupation of Korea. The attempt to colonize Korea, and the removal of some Koreans to Japan, creates deep questions about identity which are asked over the course of four generations of one family, concluding in 1989. There are many stories about family, identity, immigration, colonization, feeling othered, and finding love and self in Pachinko.

Please Look After Mom, Shin Kyung-sook

In preparation for a celebration, a young Korean businessman brings his mother by train to be reunited with her adult children in Seoul. However, in the crowd at the train station, they become separated. Although they search for her, the children discover that they know too little about their mother; they don't even agree on how to describe her to the police. As the story goes on, we slowly learn all about the life of this overlooked Korean mother.

👉 Recommended by ISA

A Prayer for Owen Meany, John Irving

Owen Meany, seen through the eyes of his best friend, consistently challenges the traditional New England community in which he grows up, creating hilarious adventures as well as heart-warming and heart-wrenching moments.

People of the Book, Geraldine Brooks

In this fast-paced novel of rich and vivid detail, Geraldine Brooks transcends time and place by tracing the journey of an ancient and mystifying Hebrew manuscript. Through her analysis of artifacts found in the Sarajevo Haggadah's ancient binding, Anna, the protagonist, unveils the complicated and troubling history of the diverse people and cultures who have possessed it.

👉 Recommended by Keshner

Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen

In one of the most romantic novels of the 19th century, Jane Austen tells the story of Elizabeth Bennet, a stubborn, witty and independent young woman who struggles with unexpected love. Jane Austen’s masterpiece exposes the secrets of high-society England and makes us, along with her heroine, slowly fall in love with the curt Mr. Darcy. This is Austen at her finest!

The Rainbow Troops, Andrea Hirata

Ikal promised his teacher he would write her a book. However, Ikal has never known if his school will be open tomorrow. He’s growing up on an island in Indonesia, and between typhoons and government cutbacks for public education, every day is a question mark. The rainbow troops—the gang of bicycle riding kids on the island—are his constants. They are going to make it. They are going to get the education that gets them to far away places. This semi-autobiographical book is internationally recognized, and has been translated into over 20 languages.

👉 Recommended by ISA

Real American, Julie Lythcott-Haims

In this memoir, Julie Lythcott-Haims details her experiences growing up as the daughter of a black American man and a white British woman in the United States. Both personal relationships and societal systems are discussed as she comes to terms with her biracial identity, as well as with the country’s perception of her identity, moving through stages of self loathing to find pride and love.

Runaway, Alice Munro

This collection of short stories cannot—and should not—be read quickly. Each one is about a woman who faces a moment when she must stay or go. Alice Munro’s masterful writing illuminates the why and how of these decisions and the many different faces of love and betrayal that spur them.

Sacred Lies of Minnow Bly, Stephanie Oakes

Minnow Bly lost her faith, family and hands to a cult. Raised for most of her life in the Kevinian cult, Minnow escapes, runs away, and is arrested and imprisoned for assault the same night the cult burns to the ground and the prophet Kevin disappears suspiciously. She struggles to adjust to her new world of juvie, the real world and learning to get by without her hands. The FBI psychologist assigned to her suspects Minnow knows more than she’s letting on, but Minnow isn’t ready to talk... yet.

Secret History of Wonder Woman, Jill Lepore

“Not even girls want to be girls so long as our feminine archetype lacks force, strength, power,” said *Wonder Woman*’s creator, a man surrounded by a number of suffrage-fighting

A Test of Wills, Charles Todd

After the end of World War I, Inspector Ian Rutledge returns to his former job at Scotland Yard ... but he is a changed man. Shell-shocked, haunted by the voice of a dead soldier, abandoned by his fiancée, Rutledge tries to keep a grip on his own sanity while investigating the murder of an army colonel apparently killed by a decorated war hero who has ties to the royal family. This mystery is the first novel in the best-selling Ian Rutledge series.

The Ways of White Folks, by Langston Hughes

These short stories provide biting observations into racial relationships in the South during Langston Hughes's lifetime. Hughes explores themes of class and women's rights as he presents vignettes of everyday life in the 1930s. The stories may be short, but they will stick with you long after you've closed the book.

👉 Recommended by SHADES

SOCIAL STUDIES BOOKS

The following titles are suggestions for summer reading from the Social Studies Department. While the required books are part of the assignments for AP European History and AP United States History courses, the other titles reflect readings that will provide enrichment. Each book was selected because it is well written and provides thoughtful excursions to other times, places and ideas. Enjoy!

AFRICAN STUDIES

July's People, Nadine Gordimer

"For years, it had been what is called a 'deteriorating situation.' Now all over South Africa the cities are battlegrounds. The members of the Smales family—liberal whites—are rescued from the terror by their servant, July, who leads them to refuge in his village. What happens to the Smaleses and to July—the shifts in character and relationships—gives us an unforgettable look into the terrifying, tacit understandings and misunderstandings between blacks and whites." (Amazon.com) Gordimer won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1991.

Mighty Be Our Powers: How Sisterhood, Prayer and Sex Changed a Nation at War, Leymah Gbowee

Nobel Peace Prize winner Gbowee recounts how "an army of women helped lead her nation [of Liberia] to peace—in the process emerging as an international leader who changed history. *Mighty Be Our Powers* is a gripping chronicle of a journey from hopelessness to empowerment that will touch all who dream of a better world." (Amazon.com)

EAST ASIAN STUDIES

American Born Chinese, Gene Luen Yang

Using the graphic novel format, the author presents his own experiences growing up as a person of Chinese descent in America. Yang also retells the classic Chinese folk story

worlds. In 1901, Anna Winterbourne finds herself enraptured with Egypt and with Sharif Pasha al-Baroudi. Nearly 100 years later, Isabel Parkman, Anna and Sharif's descendant, falls in love with a gifted and difficult Egyptian-American conductor with his own passionate politics.

Someone to Run With, David Grossman

When awkward and painfully shy 16-year-old Assaf is asked to find the owner of a stray yellow lab, he begins a quest that will bring him into contact with street kids, criminals and a talented young singer, Tamar, who is on her own mission: to rescue a teenage drug addict.

EUROPE IN THE 20TH CENTURY

European Union: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions), John Pinder and Simon Usherwood

“Since the second edition of this popular *Very Short Introduction* published in 2007, the world has faced huge economic and political change. Showing how and why the EU has developed from 1950 to the present day, John Pinder and Simon Usherwood cover a range of topics, including the Union’s early history, the workings of its institutions and what they do, the interplay between ‘eurosceptics’ and federalists, and the role of the Union beyond Europe in international affairs and as a peace-keeper.” (Publisher blurb)

COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Half the Sky, Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl Wu Dunn

Relying on case studies from Bangladesh to Zimbabwe, “*New York Times* columnist Kristof and his wife, WuDunn, a former *Times* reporter, make a brilliantly argued case for investing in the health and autonomy of women worldwide.” (*Publisher’s Weekly*)

Women and Politics in a Global World, Sarah L. Henderson and Alana S. Jeydel

This book “offers a cross-national and comparative examination of the impact of women on politics—and the impact of politics on women. Henderson and Jeydel carefully consider women’s participation in institutionalized politics, social protest, and nationalist, fundamentalist, and revolutionary movements.” (Amazon.com)

The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century, Thomas Friedman

An award-winning *New York Times* columnist explains how the flattening—i.e., connectedness—of the world happened at the dawn of the 21st century, what it means to the global economy, and how governments and societies must adapt.

ECONOMICS

The Undercover Economist, Tim Harford

“‘The economy isn’t a bunch of rather dull statistics with names like GDP (gross domestic product)’ notes Tim Harford columnist and regular guest on NPR’s *Marketplace*. ‘Economics is about who gets what and why.’ In this acclaimed and riveting book—

part expose, part users' manual—the astute and entertaining columnist from the *Financial Times* demystifies the ways in which money works in the world, from why coffee costs so much to why efficiency is not necessarily the answer to ensuring a fair society, from improving health care to curing crosstown traffic. All the dirty little secrets of dollars and cents are delightfully revealed by *The Undercover Economist*.” (Publisher blurb)

RUSSIAN STUDIES

Uncle Vanya, Anton Chekov

A play about the melancholy Uncle Vanya, an aging professor, his very young wife, the estate that supports them and the characters that make that happen, and the crisis that results from Vanya's announcement to sell it to provide a better life for himself in the city.

UNITED STATES HISTORY

Brave Companions, David McCullough

Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough presents profiles of exceptional men and women who have contributed to the history of the United States. In this rich collection of 17 essays, readers meet figures such as Harriet Beecher Stowe, Frederic Remington, Teddy Roosevelt, Louis Agassiz and Anne Morrow Lindbergh.

The Feminine Mystique, Betty Friedan

After graduating from Smith College, Friedan interviewed her classmates about their lives following college. What she found were countless women living in silent desperation, forced by social expectations into marriage and homemaking with little opportunity for personal expression. In many ways, this book launched the modern feminist movement.

Founding Brothers, Joseph Ellis

Ellis recounts several pivotal moments in the nation's creation: from the private debates and dealings over where to locate the capital, to the deadly duel between Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr, to arguments between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams over the meaning of the nation. These anecdotes speak to the central values and the fundamental conflicts of the nation, then and now.

Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Harriet Jacobs

The autobiographical account of a young girl's life as a slave and her escape to freedom. Jacobs recounts the horrors of her experience as a slave in North Carolina, her heroic escape and the years she spend in hiding, and her ultimate freedom. Written in a gripping and readable way, this narrative is a classic of slave literature.

AP UNITED STATES HISTORY

Required: *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, Malcolm X and Alex Haley

A controversial political and social activist of the 1960s, Malcolm X, whose influence

continues to grow, tells his life story. Spike Lee's 1992 movie restored this classic to its bestseller status.

👉 Recommended by SHADES

Required: *The Killer Angels*, Michael Shaara

This engaging novel takes place during the three most important days of the United States Civil War. Shaara's gripping characterizations of complex historical figures provide a rich context for an exploration of the pivotal events that took place in Gettysburg during the summer of 1863.

Undaunted Courage, Stephen Ambrose

"*Undaunted Courage* is the story of a heroic and legendary man, and the saga of a great nation creating itself. In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson chose Captain Meriwether Lewis to lead the first government-backed exploration of the vast and unknown western territory of what would become part of the United States. Lewis was the perfect choice. *Undaunted Courage* is first and foremost a significant, scholarly work, yet it reads like an adventure novel filled with high drama, suspense and personal tragedy. It brings to life the times and circumstances of Meriwether Lewis and his unprecedented expedition, and renews our wonder of the vastness of our country and the heroics of our forefathers." (Publisher)

We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy, Ta-Nehisi Coates

"'We were eight years in power' was the lament of Reconstruction-era black politicians as the American experiment in multiracial democracy ended with the return of white supremacist rule in the South. In this sweeping collection of new and selected essays, Ta-Nehisi Coates explores the tragic echoes of that history in our own time: the unprecedented election of a black president followed by a vicious backlash that fueled the election of the man Coates argues is America's 'first white president.'" (Publisher)

WESTERN CIVILIZATION

The Bull from the Sea, Mary Renault

This novel, a marvelous choice for those who like mythology, tells the story of Theseus, who meets the challenge of the Minotaur in the Labyrinth of Crete. Like all good historical fiction, this is not only an engaging story, full of complex characters and outstanding descriptions, but also a window into another time and place. After reading *The Bull from the Sea*, you will have a rich understanding of the ancient Aegean world.

The Eagle of the Ninth, Rosemary Sutcliff

Sutcliff has a great store of information about the Roman world and writes engaging, well-written and historically accurate stories. This particular tale is of a young soldier who must travel to Britain to defend his father's honor.

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY**Required:** *The Prince*, Niccolo Machiavelli

This is the first book of Western political science. Machiavelli gives advice to a prince on how best to run his kingdom. The assumptions about human behavior caused the book to be burned and the author's name to become an adjective for evil political scheming.

Bury the Chains, Adam Hochschild

This is a powerful story of the British anti-slavery movement, which traced its origins from a small focused group to a mass movement that ended first the slave trade and ultimately slavery in the British Empire. Most Americans are taught about the abolitionist movements in the United States but are not aware of the earlier, powerful generation that inspired them.

The Daughter of Time, Josephine Tey

Did Richard III kill those little princes in the tower? This is a classic of historical fiction that attempts to solve the mystery that led to the end of Plantagenet rule in medieval England.

Hard Times, Charles Dickens

A classic novel that takes us into the world of 19th-century people struggling to make ends meet. With Dickens' marvelous characters, strong plot and a pleasing conclusion, the reader finishes *Hard Times* completely satisfied. As an artifact and as a polemic, this novel lets us know that Victorian England could be a grim place.

The Name of the Rose, Umberto Eco

In 1397, finding his sensitive mission at an Italian abbey further complicated by seven bizarre deaths, Brother William of Baskerville turns detective, penetrating the cunning labyrinth of the abbey and deciphering coded manuscripts for clues. This mystery conveys a marvelous sense of time and place.

Sophie's World: A Novel About the History of Philosophy, Jostein Gaarder

A page-turning novel that is also an exploration of the great philosophical concepts of Western thought. In order to answer two existential questions—who are you? and where does the world come from?—Sophie must use the philosophy she is learning. However, the truth turns out to be far more complicated than she could have imagined.

The Swerve: How the World Became Modern, Stephen Greenblatt

A page-turner that combines both biography and history to examine the origin of Western culture's foundation: the free questioning of truth. The story hinges on the discovery in 1417 of an ancient Latin text that had been neglected for a thousand years. We even learn the history of the bookworm—a real entity and one of the enemies of ancient written-cultural transmission. (*Publishers Weekly*)

Wolf Hall, Hilary Mantel

A long but fascinating look at Tudor England, this fictionalized biography of Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII's minister, is a great novel. Our view of the royal family as seen through Cromwell's eyes is dark and frightening, and we worry that his ability to navigate the terrible personal politics of the era will somehow fail. The picture of Sir Thomas More is new: he's not the pure hero and martyr often found in textbooks but just as manipulative as everyone else at court. Cromwell turns out to be the real hero. *Bring Up the Bodies*, this book's sequel, explores the downfall of Anne Boleyn and is equally compelling.

WORLD LANGUAGE BOOKS

The following titles are suggestions and in some cases requirements for summer reading from the Language Department. The required books help our Advanced Placement courses run more smoothly and often prove to be helpful throughout the year. The recommended titles include both books in the language of the courses we offer at Dana—French, Latin, Mandarin, and Spanish—and also books that enhance the study of the cultures associated with each language. We encourage you to use the summer as a great opportunity to enjoy reading in another language not only for enjoyment but also to help keep the language in your ears and in your minds. Some of you might enjoy reading a book on the culture because you are especially interested in that culture and there isn't time for that during the school year.

FRENCH

Required for IV AP: *La Grammaire est une chanson douce*, Erik Orsenna

A girl and her brother are shipwrecked on a mysterious island. With their musical guide, they discover a magical place where words live and work together to form the basis of the French language. (Recommended for levels III-V.)

Je voudrais que quelqu'un m'attende quelque part, Anna Gavalda

Twelve short stories of the daily lives of contemporary everyday people. Some are tragic, some are joyous and some are just accounts of common human experiences. (Recommended for levels III-V.)

Le Petit prince, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

The classic story of a stranded pilot and a little boy searching the universe for friendship. Voted the greatest French work of literature of the 20th century by the French people. (Recommended for levels III-V.)

LATIN

Black Ships, Jo Graham

By focusing on the feminine experience in the Aeneid, Jo Graham transforms the passionate character of Dido into an Egyptian queen and places the entire novel in a new setting.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid Latin Edition: Commentarii de Inepto Puero, Jeff Kinney

Remember when you were in elementary school or middle school and couldn't wait for the next book in the series *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* by Jeff Kinney? Now you can read it in Latin! Get in touch with your younger self and see if you can use your Latin skills to read a favorite story translated into Latin.

Lavinia, Ursula LeGuin

LeGuin takes a relatively invisible character from Vergil's *Aeneid* and weaves an entire story around her. Lavinia plays a crucial role in the eventual founding of Rome, and in this novel she is given a voice, one that adds new meaning to the *Aeneid*.

A Word a Day: A Romp through Some of the Most Unusual and Intriguing Words in English, Anu and Stuti Garg

Do you love words and wish we could study etymology all year long? Latin class will help your understanding of words, but reading this book will also inspire word lovers to dig even more deeply into roots, prefixes and suffixes.

MANDARIN

Monkey: Folk Novel of China, Wu Ch'eng-en

A thrilling Chinese folk novel centered on a monkey and his interactions with a variety of spirits, gods, demigods and other immortal beings (in English; suitable for all levels).

Taipei People, Pai Hsien-yung

Taipei People is a brilliant collection of beautifully translated, contemporary Chinese fiction. For advanced level Mandarin students, try your hand at reading the stories in Chinese; you can check your comprehension with the English translations. For beginning students, journey into the culture and lives of Chinese people by reading the English translations.

SPANISH

Required for V AP: *Yerma*, Federico García Lorca

One of Lorca's final plays from his famous trilogy, this is a powerful and poetic work on the yearning for motherhood.

Required for IV AP: *Devolver al remitente*, Julia Alvarez

A contemporary immigration story told through the alternating viewpoints of Tyler, son of an injured dairy farmer, and Mari, daughter of illegal migrant Mexican workers.

La Casa en Mango Street, Sandra Cisneros

In small vignettes, Esperanza Cordero tells the tales of the people she has met and experiences she has lived on Mango Street. (Recommended for levels IV and V.)

AP ART HISTORY

Required: *A History of the World in 100 Objects*, Neil MacGregor

Full copies of the assignment for this course, along with links to supporting material for the required title, can be accessed beginning on June 1st on the Helen Temple Cooke Library website: <http://library.danahall.org/reading-lists/summer-reading/>

A History of the World in 100 Objects, Neil MacGregor

The director of the British Museum explores world history from two million years ago to the present by looking at 100 objects in the collection.

Reading/Listening/Reflection

This summer, you are to read and/or listen to the chapters on the following artworks:

Introduction: Signals from the Past, pgs. xv-xxvi

9. Maya Maize God Statue, pgs. 49-54

12. Standard of Ur, pgs. 69-77

15. Early Writing Tablet, pgs. 91-94

27. Parthenon Sculpture: Centaur and Lapith, pgs. 171-176

35. Head of Augustus, pgs. 221-226

41. Seated Buddha from Gandhara, pgs. 265-268

51. Maya Relief of Royal Blood-letting, pgs. 327-332

59. Borobudur Buddha Head, pgs. 379-384

64. The David Vases, pgs. 411-415

66. Holy Thorn Reliquary, pgs. 425-430

68. Shiva and Parvati Sculpture, pgs. 437-442

70. Hoa Hakananai'a Easter Island Statue, pgs. 449-455

77. Benin Plaque: The Oba with Europeans, pgs. 497-502

87. Hawaiian Feather Helmet, pgs. 567-571

93. Hokusai's The Great Wave, pgs. 606-612

Each chapter includes an illustration of the work being discussed. Each chapter is quite brief; only around 4-5 pages of text. All of the works are related to material we will be studying in AP Art History.

Written assignment:

Many of these works communicate ideas about power and authority. Choose two works

that you learned about and write a brief (two-page) compare and contrast essay addressing the question, "How does each work of art convey that particular culture's notion of what

constitutes power and authority?” How does the material and/or art-making process used contribute to a message of power?

GLOBAL SCHOLARS CAPSTONE (GRADE 12)

Required Materials:

- Book: *The Ghost Map*, Steven Johnson
- Podcast: “John Snow’s Ghost Map” episode of *The Things You Missed in History Class*. Stream or download from (transcript also available): <https://www.missedinhistory.com/podcasts/john-snows-ghost-map.htm>

Twelfth grade Global Scholars Certificate candidates enrolled in the Capstone course are required to read selections of *The Ghost Map* and listen to the “John Snow’s Ghost Map” episode of *The Things You Missed in History Class* podcast. The assignment, with detail on which sections to read, will be made available on the library website and the course Schoology page on June 1st.

NOTES

NOTES

Original artwork by

Elena Carmichael '20 (front cover)

Stella Yan '23 (inside front cover)

Zoe Sweeney '25 (inside back cover)

Ella Schweizer '22 (back cover)

This summer reading list was compiled by

Stephanie Donohue, Library Director, and
members of the Library Department

Julia Bucci, Department Head, and
members of the English Department

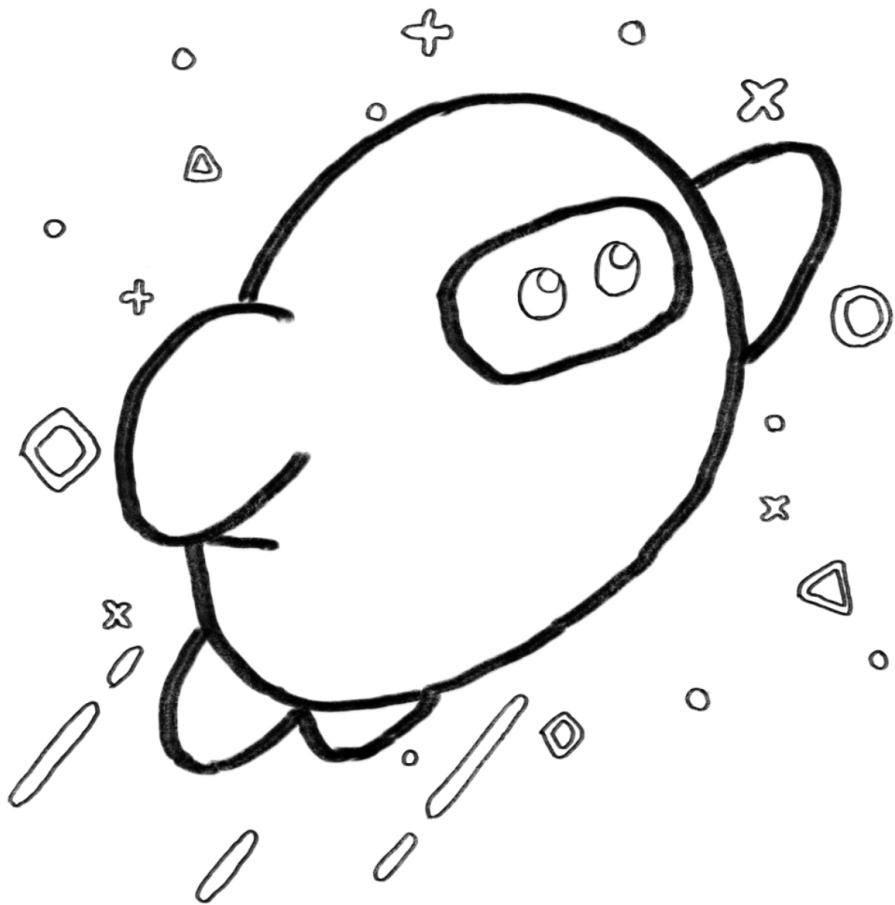
Nicole Wellington, Department Head, and
members of the Language Department

Brian Cook, Department Head, and
members of the Social Studies Department

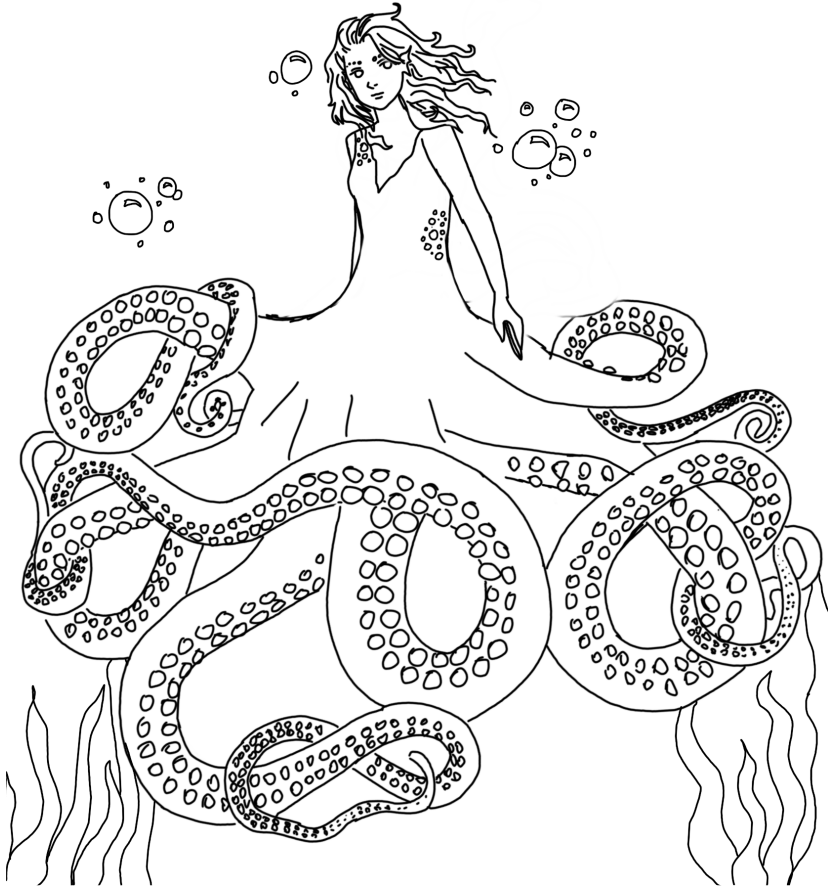
Molly Kieloch, Assistant Communications Director

with selected annotations from the
Greater Boston Cooperative Library Association's
2007 7th and 8th Grade Reading List,
publishers, review journals and websites.

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Dana Hall School
45 Dana Road, P.O. Box 9010
Wellesley, MA 02482-9010
Phone: (781) 489-1386
www.danahall.org
library@danahall.org



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