



Required Reading for Summer 2016

Students are required to read a total of four books over the summer, including the following specific titles selected by faculty for particular courses. Each teacher will have his/her own assignment or assessment when the course begins in September.

English	World Language
<p>English 9: <i>The Secret Life of Bees</i> by Sue Monk Kidd.</p> <p>English 10: <i>The Scarlet Pimpernel</i> by Baroness Emmuska Orczy. <i>Jane Eyre</i> by Charlotte Bronte (optional)</p> <p>English 11: <i>The Round House</i> by Louise Erdrich. <i>Clybourne Park</i> by Bruce Norris. If you are considering taking the AP Literature and Composition test, you should read two additional novels by American writers this summer.</p> <p>English 12: <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</i> by Mark Haddon. <i>Great Expectations</i> by Charles Dickens If you are considering taking either the AP Language and Composition test or the AP Literature and Composition test, you should read two additional novels this summer.</p> <p>Students will be assessed on these required titles during the first week of class.</p>	<p>French 4: <i>L'oeil du loup</i> by Daniel Pennac French Honors: <i>L'enfant de Noe</i> by Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt. AP French: <i>Le garçon incassable</i> by Florence Seyvos.</p> <p>Latin 3: Either <i>Murder on the Appian Way</i> or <i>The Venus Throws</i> by Steven Saylor. AP Latin/Honors Latin 4: <i>The Aeneid</i> by Virgil, Penguin ed. in English. Background readings from Caesar's Gallic Wars.</p> <p>AP Spanish: <i>Abel Sanchez</i> by Miguel de Unamuno. Honors Spanish: <i>Don Quijote de La Mancha</i> - adapted for intermediate students by William T Hardy.</p>
History	STEM
<p>AP U.S. History: <i>Caleb's Crossing</i> by Geraldine Brooks.</p>	<p>AP Biology: <i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i> by Rebecca Skloot.</p>

AP Psychology:

Mistakes Were Made But Not By Me: Why We Justify Foolish Beliefs, Bad Decisions, and Hurtful Acts by Carol Tarvis and Elliot Aronson.

AP Statistics:

The Drunkard's Walk by Leonard Mlodinow.

AP Computer Science Principles:

Read one of the following -

The Code Book: The Science of Secrecy from Ancient Egypt to Quantum Cryptography by Simon Singh.

Code: The Hidden Language of Computer Hardware and Software by Charles Petzold.

The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution by Walter Isaacson.

Algorithms to Live By: The Computer Science of Human Decisions by Brian Christian.

English Department

Contemporary

Chabon, Michael. *Summerland*.

The ferishers, little creatures who ensure perfect weather for Summerland, recruit Ethan Feld, one of history's worst baseball players, to help them in their struggle to save Summerland, and ultimately the world, from giants, goblins, and other legendary, terrible creatures.

Eggers, Dave. *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*.

This is a moving and sometimes hilarious memoir of a college senior who, in the space of five weeks, loses both of his parents to cancer and inherits his eight-year-old brother.

Eugenides, Jeffrey. *The Marriage Plot*.

English major Madeleine Hanna must choose between two suitors while working on her senior thesis on the marriage plot that lies at the heart of the greatest English novels.

Harman, Claire. *Charlotte Bronte: A Fiery Heart*.

Sweeping biography of the author.

Hosseini, Khalid. *A Thousand Splendid Suns*.

Afghan women Mariam and Laila grow close, despite their nearly twenty-year age difference and initial rivalry, as they suffer at the hands of a common enemy--their abusive, much-older husband, Rasheed.

Ishiguro, Kazuo. *When We Were Orphans*.

Christopher Banks, an English boy who was orphaned after his parents disappeared in Shanghai under suspicious circumstances, returns to Shanghai twenty years later in the hopes of learning what really happened to his parents.

Lahiri, Jhumpa. *The Lowland*.

Subhash, having left his family in Calcutta to pursue a career in science in the United States, returns home to look into what happened to his brother, Udayan, who had joined the Naxalite Movement, and try to rebuild his shattered family and help his brother's wife. 2013 National Book Award Finalist.

McEwan, Ian. *Sweet Tooth*.

A story of love, betrayal, intrigue and the "invented self" about intelligent, beautiful Serena Frome, a Cambridge University student recruited by the legendary British spy agency, MI5.

McLain, Paula. *The Paris Wife*.

Portrays the love affair and marriage between Ernest Hemingway and Hadley Mowrer from their Chicago meeting in 1920 to their lives during the Jazz Age in Paris.

Russell, Karen. *Swamplandia!*

As their island home and alligator-wrestling theme park is threatened by a sophisticated competitor, twelve-year-old Ava struggles to cope with her mother's death while her sister, brother, and father all try to deal with their grief in their own unusual ways. 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

See, Lisa. *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*.

Friends Snow Flower and Lily find solace in their bond as they face isolation, arranged marriages, loss, and motherhood in nineteenth-century China.

Tartt, Donna. *The Goldfinch*.

A young boy in New York City, Theo Decker, miraculously survives an accident that takes the life of his mother. Alone and abandoned by his father, Theo is taken in by a friend's family and struggles to make sense of his new life. In the years that follow, he becomes entranced by one of the few things that reminds him of his mother, a small, mysteriously captivating painting that ultimately draws Theo into the art underworld. 2014 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

English Department (cont.)

Classics/Modern Classics

- Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*.
- Agee, James. *A Death in the Family*.
- Alvarez, Julia. *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*.
- Angelou, Maya. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.
- Austen, Jane. *Persuasion* or *Northanger Abbey* or *Sense and Sensibility*.
- Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood*.
- Cather, Willa. *O Pioneers*.
- Chopin, Kate. *The Awakening*.
- Dickens, Charles. *Oliver Twist*.
- Dostoevsky, Fyodor. *The Brothers Karamazov* or *Crime and Punishment*.
- Doyle, Arthur Conan. *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.
- Dumas, Alexander. *The Count of Monte Cristo*.
- Eliot, George. *Middlemarch* or *Silas Marner*.
- Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*.
- Faulkner, William. *As I Lay Dying*.
- Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *This Side of Paradise* or *Tender Is the Night*.
- Flaubert, Gustave. *Madame Bovary*.
- Gaines, Ernest. *A Lesson Before Dying*.
- Golding, William. *Lord of the Flies*.
- Hardy, Thomas. *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*.
- Hemingway, Ernest. *A Farewell to Arms* or *A Moveable Feast* or *The Old Man and the Sea*.
- Hugo, Victor. *Les Miserables*.
- Huxley, Aldous. *Brave New World*.
- James, Henry. *Portrait of a Lady*.
- Kerouac, Jack. *On the Road*.
- Kesey, Ken. *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.
- Knowles, John. *A Separate Peace*.
- Miller, Arthur. *Death of a Salesman* or *The Crucible*.
- Morrison, Toni. *Beloved* or *Song of Solomon*.
- Orwell, George. *1984* or *Animal Farm*.
- Paton, Alan. *Cry, the Beloved Country*.
- Plath, Sylvia. *The Bell Jar*.
- Rostand, Edmond. *Cyrano de Bergerac*.
- Steinbeck, John. *The Grapes of Wrath* or *Of Mice and Men*.
- Salinger, J.D. *The Catcher in the Rye* or *Franny & Zooey*.
- Tolstoy, Leo. *Anna Karenina* or *War and Peace*.
- Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
- Vonnegut, Kurt. *Cat's Cradle* or *Slaughterhouse Five*.
- Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple*.
- Wharton, Edith. *The Age of Innocence* or *The House of Mirth*.
- Wiesel, Elie. *Night*.
- Wilde, Oscar. *The Importance of Being Earnest*.
- Wolfe, Virginia. *A Room of One's Own* or *To the Lighthouse*.
- Wright, Richard. *Native Son*.

World Language Department

Grades 9 & 10

Clarke, Breena. ***River Cross My Heart.***

A wonderful book for the girls to read based on Georgetown and the hardships of the black population in 1925. I am confident that all the girls will enjoy it very much and will really get a feel for what the people went through. It was the time of President Coolidge.

Grades 11 & 12

Allende, Isabel. ***Island Beneath the Sea.***

“Allende, an entrancing and astute storyteller cherished the world over, returns to historical fiction to portray another resilient woman [Tete, a Haitian slave/concubine in the late 1700s] whose life embodies the complex forces at work in the bloody forging of the New World.” *From a Booklist review.*

Eugenides, Jeffrey. ***Middlesex.***

“Middlesex is a grand, utterly original fable of crossed bloodlines, the intricacies of gender, and the deep, untidy promptings of desire. It’s a brilliant exploration of divided people, divided families, divided cities and nations -- the connected halves that make up our world and ourselves.” *From the inside book flap of the book.*

Garcia Marquez, Gabriel. ***Chronicles of a Death Foretold.***

This book is incredibly thought provoking - a must-read for the lover of mysteries.

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

“With *One Hundred Years of Solitude* Gabriel García Márquez introduced Latin American literature to a world-wide readership. Translated into more than two dozen languages, his brilliant novel of love and loss in Macondo stands at the apex of 20th-century literature.” --*Alix Wilber*

Saylor, Steven. ***Murder on the Appian Way.***

A true depiction of life in the Roman Republic.

Sijie, Dai. ***Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress.***

“This beautifully presented novella tracks the lives of two teens, childhood friends who have been sent to a small Chinese village for ‘re-education’ during Mao’s Cultural Revolution.”

Zafon, Carlos Ruiz. ***The Shadow of the Wind.***

Set in 1945 Spain, this Spanish author gives many cultural insights into the time period. It may be read in Spanish or in English.

Fine Arts Department

Grades 9 and 10

Chevalier, Tracy. *The Girl with the Pearl Earring*.

A fictional story based on the famous painting by Vermeer.

Harr, Jonathan. *The Lost Painting*.

A WONDERFUL book on Caravaggio.

Korman, Gordon. *Born to Rock*.

A high school senior, president of the Young Republicans club, 4.0 GPA, future Harvard student—had his entire future perfectly planned out. He then discovers that his real father is a punk rock legend. The student must then reconcile his two histories.

Tucker, Lisa. *The Song Reader*.

A tender narrative about grief, love, madness and crippling family secrets, in which the premise is that the main character analyzes the songs stuck in the heads of her clients, explaining what the song fragments reveal about their psyches.

Grades 11 and 12

DuPre, Hilary and Piers DuPre. *Hilary and Jackie*.

Biography of the famous cellist, Jacqueline DuPre, who died of multiple sclerosis at age 42, written by her sister and brother-in-law. It includes her triumphs and achievements as well as her crises and flaws.

Lapierre, Alexandra. *Artemisia*.

Artemisia Genteleschi was born in the late Renaissance to an accomplished painter. She gained experience from her father and then surpassed his expertise, working in the style of Caravaggio and becoming one of the most significant painters of her time.

Lane, Dakota. *The Orpheus Obsession*.

The lyrics of a rock song speak directly to the main character, who decides that the song was written just for her. A story of chat rooms, blogs, self-deception, arrogance and interwoven plotlines.

Lebrecht, Norman. *Song of Names*.

A violin prodigy and a Polish refugee whose family perished in the Holocaust, lives with a wealthy Jewish family in London and befriends their socially awkward son. After a time he slides into London's seamier nightlife, eventually disappears on the day of his much-anticipated debut, and then reappears 40 years later.

Levenson, Thomas. *Measure for Measure: A Musical History of Science*.

This is a fascinating and probing account of the intertwining of science and music. Levenson explores the truth that every serious musician comes to recognize: the importance of mathematics to the basics of music.

Manning, Sarra. *Guitar Girl*.

Story of teen-aged rock star attempting to reach maturity, sort out what's important and decide what needs to be let go. Wryly funny and realistic.

Rice, Anne. *Cry to Heaven*.

Fictional account of opera in 17th and 18th century Italy, specifically Venice. It is accurate both musically and historically.

Smith, Diane. *Pictures from an Expedition*.

Recently written book set in 1876 just after the Battle of the Little Big Horn in Montana, and just after the Civil War. A woman artist who is a scientific illustrator is hired to accompany a scientific and exploration expedition west.

Fine Arts Department (cont.)

Plays from the Standard Theatre Repertoire

Grades 9 - 12

- Albee, Edward. ***The American Dream and The Sandbox.***
Cynical plays about relationships and misplaced values.
- Anonymous. ***Everyman.***
Morality play from the Middle Ages.
- Beckett, Samuel. ***Endgame.***
Absurdist piece about communication.
- Chase, Muriel. ***Harvey.***
The story of a man and his make believe rabbit.
- Coward, Noel. ***Blithe Spirit.***
- Fletcher, Louise. ***Sorry, Wrong Number.***
A classic murder mystery.
- Gibson, W. ***The Miracle Worker.***
The story of Helen Keller.
- Goodrich, F and A. Hacketts. ***The Diary of Anne Frank*** (based on the writings of Anne Frank).
A young girl's diary while hiding from Nazi's in Holland.
- Hansberry, Lorraine. ***A Raisin in the Sun.***
A poor family and their struggles to face reality.
- Harat, Moss and George Kaufman. ***You Can't Take It With You.***
A funny play about an unusual family.
- Ionesco, Eugene. ***The Chairs, The Bald Soprano, The Lesson.***
Absurdist plays about existentialism.
- Jackson, Shirley. ***The Lottery.***
Frightening story about arbitrary and unquestioned laws.
- Kesselring, Joseph. ***Arsenic and Old Lace.***
Two maiden aunts and their murderous philanthropy.
- Shaw, G. B. ***Saint Joan.***
Play based on the trial of Joan as a soldier and her spirituality.
- Wilde, Oscar. ***The Importance of Being Earnest.***
Charming and amusing romantic story about a man left in a handbag.
- Wilder, Thornton. ***Our Town.***
Famous story about life and death in small town America.
- Zindel, Paul. ***The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds.***
A bohemian mother and two very different sisters grow together through a science project.

History Department

Grades 9 & 10

Balakian. ***Black Dog of Fate.***

History of the 1894 Armenian massacre by the Ottoman Turks, one of the greatest episodes of racial genocide in global history.

Brittain, Vera. ***Testament of Youth.***

Memoir of a young British woman who left her studies at Oxford to serve as a nurse when World War I broke out in 1914; poignant account of the losses and sacrifices of this generation.

Brooks, Geraldine. ***Year of Wonders.***

The story focuses on the plague year, 1666, and English villagers' response to the sickness, fears and deaths.

Chang, Jung. ***Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China.***

Examines the volatile history of 20th century through the eyes of three generations of Chinese women.

Chen, Da. ***Colours of the Mountain.***

The story focuses on a boy's struggle to fulfill his dreams during a time in China fraught with many political challenges.

Dickens, Charles. ***A Tale of Two Cities.***

A suspenseful tale that takes place in London and Paris during the radical bloody phase of the French Revolution; follows the sequence of events between 1787 and 1793 very accurately and creates absolutely unforgettable characters caught in the turmoil of the Reign of Terror.

Fuller, Alexandra. ***Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight : An African Childhood.***

This is a wonderful memoir of a British girl growing up in southern and central Africa from 1972 to 1990. It dramatically links her childhood to the spectacular landscape.

Hakakian, Roya. ***Journey from the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran.***

Well written story of one girl's experiences growing up in Iran during a revolutionary time filled with much repression.

Remarque, Erich Maria. ***All Quiet on the Western Front.***

Pacifist novel about a young German soldier's experience on the Western Front during World War I. This is a very moving account of the effects of war on the young men in the trenches.

Sebald, W.G. ***Austerlitz.***

A painful but gripping holocaust memoir.

Spencer, Jonathan. ***The Question of Hu.***

History of a collision of cultures; a lowly devout Chinese Catholic who accompanied a Jesuit missionary on a journey to ship his library to France in 1722 was locked up in an insane asylum in France shortly his arrival because of his "mad" behavior.

Vijayaraghaven, Vineeta. ***Motherland: The Other Side of My Heart.***

An Indian American teenager is sent to India to live with her relatives. At first, she struggles with the culture shock, but comes to recognize the beauty and value in traditional Indian culture.

Voltaire. ***Candide.***

The story of a gentle man who, though pummeled and slapped in every direction by fate, clings desperately to the belief that he lives in "the best of all possible worlds"

History Department (cont.)

Grades 11 & 12

Frazier, Charles. *Cold Mountain*.

This novel chronicles the journey of a war-weary Civil war soldier as he escapes the miseries of war and returns to his home and his beloved.

Frazier, Ian. *Family*.

“Using letters and other family documents, Frazier reconstruct two hundred years of middle class life, visiting small towns his ancestors lived in, reading books they read, and discovering the larger forces of history that affected them.”

Gaines, Ernest J. *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*.

Follows the life of one woman who lived for over 100 years, born into slavery and alive to witness the Civil Rights movements of the mid-20th century.

Goodwin, Doris Kearns. *No Ordinary Time*.

Great historical writing about the FDR White House years.

Hemingway, Ernest. *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.

Fictional account of the American Abraham Lincoln Brigade’s involvement in the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s.

Larsen, Erik. *Devil in the White City*.

“Tells the parallel stories of Daniel Burnham, the main architect of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, and serial killer Henry H. Holmes, discussing the challenges Burnham faced in creating the hugely successful White City, and looking at how Holmes used the opportunities afforded by the fair to lure victims to their deaths.”

Larsen, Deborah. *The White*.

Beautifully written story of a girl’s captivity among natives set in colonial America.

Moody, Anne. *Coming of Age in Mississippi*.

A beautifully written autobiography of a black girl growing up in the rural South in the 20th century.

O’Brien, Tim. *The Things They Carried*.

A compelling examination of one man’s struggles as a soldier during the Vietnam War.

Shaara, Michael. *The Killer Angels*. 1980

An outstanding novel, which creates rich, complex and compassionate vision of the battle of Gettysburg.

X, Malcolm and Alex Haley. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*.

Explores the life of a key figure of the 20th century starting with his childhood as he confronts a racist nation.

Unsworth, Barry. *Sacred Hunger*.

Winner of the Booker Prize, this well written novel examines and 18th century English family’s rise to wealth through their participation in African slave trade.

Von Drehle, David. *Triangle*.

A beautifully written non-fiction study of the causes and results of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire. This brings to life urban and industrial life in New York City at the turn of the century.

Waal, FBM de. *Are We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are?*

“De Waal reviews the rise and fall of the mechanistic view of animals and opens our minds to the idea that animal minds are far more intricate and complex than we have assumed. De Waal's landmark work will convince you to rethink everything you thought you knew about animal—and human—intelligence.”

Library List

Grades 9 – 12

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. *Americanah: a novel*. [Realistic Fiction]

A young woman from Nigeria leaves behind her home and her first love to start a new life in America, only to find her dreams are not all she expected.

Castor, HM. *VIII*. [Genre Mash-up]

Hal, a young man of extraordinary talents, skill on the battlefield, sharp intelligence, and virtue, believes he is destined for greatness but, haunted by his family's violent past, he embarks on a journey that leads to absolute power and brings him face to face with his demons as he grows to become Henry VIII.

Coates, Ta-Nehisi. *Between the World and Me*. [Nonfiction]

For Ta-Nehisi Coates, history has always been personal. At every stage of his life, he's sought in his explorations of history answers to the mysteries that surrounded him--most urgently, why he, and other black people he knew, seemed to live in fear. What were they afraid of? ... Coates takes readers along on his journey through America's history of race and its contemporary resonances through a series of awakenings--moments when he discovered some new truth about our long, tangled history of race, whether through his myth-busting professors at Howard University, a trip to a Civil War battlefield with a rogue historian, a journey to Chicago's South Side to visit aging survivors of 20th century America's 'long war on black people,' or a visit with the mother of a beloved friend who was shot down by the police.

Doerr, Anthony. *All the Light We Cannot See*. [Historical Fiction]

This is the story of Marie-Laure, a blind French girl who flees Paris with her father when the Nazis occupy the city, and Werner, an orphaned German boy who becomes an expert at building and fixing radios, a new instrument crucial to the War. Their paths eventually cross in the occupied French countryside as they both try to survive the devastation of World War II. 2015 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction. 2014 National Book Award Finalist in Fiction.

Fleming, Candace. *The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia*.

[Nonfiction]

From the publisher: "Here is the tumultuous, heartrending, true story of the Romanovs--at once an intimate portrait of Russia's last royal family and a gripping account of its undoing . . . award-winning author Fleming deftly maneuvers between the imperial family's extravagant lives and the plight of Russia's poor masses, making this an utterly mesmerizing read." 2014 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor. 2015 YALSA Excellence in YA Nonfiction Finalist.

Foley, Jessie Ann. *The Carnival at Bray*. [Realistic Fiction]

It's the early 1990s and sixteen-year-old Maggie Lynch, a grunge music fan, must relocate from her native Chicago to a tiny seaside town in Ireland. As she tries to adjust to her new life she relies on care packages from her beloved 26-year-old Uncle Kevin who plays in a band and used to sneak her into concerts, but when she experiences first love and then a tragic death in her family, Maggie heads off to explore the seedy side of Dublin, and then Rome. 2015 Printz Honor. 2015 Morris YA Debut Finalist.

Grahame-Smith, Seth. *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*. [Genre Mash-up]

An adaptation of "Pride and Prejudice," in which Meryton is overrun with zombies and Elizabeth Bennet does what must be done to rid the world of the flesh-eating fiends, but she is distracted by the arrival of Mr. Darcy, a rich man who harbors an air of arrogance.

Follet, Ken. *The Pillars of the Earth*. [Historical Fiction]

The ambitious prior of Kingsbridge, England, dreams of building the greatest Gothic cathedral in the world, and the struggle to construct it leads to a battle between good and evil in twelfth-century England.

Krakauer, Jon. *Into the Wild*. [Nonfiction]

Tells the story of Chris McCandless, a twenty-four-year-old who walked into the Alaskan wilderness on an idealistic journey and was found dead of starvation nearly four months later.

Lockhart, E. *We Were Liars*. [Mystery]

Cadence has spent many summers on her family's private island off the coast of Massachusetts, but having suffered serious injuries, she doesn't remember much from the summer of her fifteenth year. Two years later, with her cousins and a special boy named Gat, Cadence struggles to fill in the gaps, to find the truth amid all the lies. 2015 Top Ten Best Fiction for Young Adults.

Lu, Marie. *The Young Elites*. [Fantasy]

From the publisher: "Adelina Amouteru is a survivor of the blood plague: marked by a jagged scar, snow-white hair and lashes. Cast out by her family, Adelina [along with her newly-discovered dangerous abilities] has finally found a place to belong within the secret society of Young Elites. To some, the Elites are heroes, here to save innocents in desperate situations. But to the Inquisition Axis, they are monsters with demonic powers who must be brought to justice." 2015 Top Ten Best Fiction for Young Adults.

Mandel, Emily St. John. *Station Eleven*. [Science Fiction]

In a future in which a pandemic has left few survivors, actress Kirsten Raymonde, having witnessed paparazzo-turned-EMT Jeevan Chaudhary try to save the life of actor Arthur Leander after he suffered a heart attack on stage, travels with a troupe performing Shakespeare and finds herself in a community in which a prophet will not let anyone leave alive. Includes subplots about Jeevan as he watches the world change from the pandemic and Arthur before his death. 2014 National Book Award Finalist.

Nelson, Jandy. *I'll Give You the Sun*. [Realistic Fiction]

A story of first love, family, loss, and betrayal told from different points in time, and in separate voices. Jude and her twin brother, Noah, are incredibly close. At thirteen, isolated Noah draws constantly and is falling in love with the charismatic boy next door, while daredevil Jude cliff-dives and wears red-red lipstick and does the talking for both of them. But three years later, Jude and Noah are barely speaking. Something has happened to wreck the twins in different and dramatic ways . . . 2015 Printz Award. 2015 Top Ten Best Fiction for Young Adults.

Ruby, Laura. *Bone Gap*. [Fantasy]

Eighteen-year-old Finn, an outsider in his quiet Midwestern town, is the only witness to the abduction of town favorite Roza, but his inability to distinguish between faces makes it difficult for him to help with the investigation, and subjects him to even more ridicule and bullying. 2016 Printz Book Award. 2015 National Book Award, Young People's Literature.

Shusterman, Neal. *Challenger Deep*. [Genre Mash-up]

A captivating novel about mental illness that lingers long beyond the last page, Challenger Deep is a heartfelt tour de force. 2015 National Book Award, Young People's Literature.

Toibin, Colm. *Brooklyn*. [Historical Fiction]

Eilis Lacey takes advantage of a sponsorship that will allow her to escape the troubled economy of Ireland and work in a Brooklyn neighborhood, and after leaving her family behind, Eilis gets a job in a department store and falls in love with Tony, a man with a big Italian family, but the serendipity of her new life is shattered by bad news from Ireland.

Yoon, Nicola. *Everything, Everything*. [Realistic Fiction]

The story of a teenage girl who's literally allergic to the outside world. When a new family moves in next door, she begins a complicated romance that challenges everything she's ever known. The narrative unfolds via vignettes, diary entries, texts, charts, lists, illustrations, and more. SLJ Best Book of 2015.

Source of book synopses: Titlewave, Follett Library Resources, <<http://www.flr.follett.com>>.

Theology Department

Grades 9 & 10

Albom, Mitch. ***Tuesdays with Morrie: An Old Man, a Young Man and Life's Greatest Lesson.***

A poignant story about celebrating the gift of life told by a man dying of a terminal illness.

Canin, Ethan. ***The Palace Thief.***

The movie *The Emperor's Club* is based on this book which examines how a person's actions throughout life form the foundation for his or her character.

Harris, Joanne. ***Chocolat.***

This story follows the experience of a woman and her daughter as they open a chocolate shop in a strict French village. They challenge the townspeople to consider the difference between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law.

Kirberger, Kimberly. ***No Body's Perfect.***

Kirberger's collection of stories by real teens about body image, self-acceptance, and the search for identity.

Potak, Chaim. ***The Chosen.***

Reuven and Danny have a cross-cultural friendship. Together they negotiate adolescence, family conflicts, crisis of faith, loss, love, and the journey to adulthood.

Grades 11 & 12

Boylan, Jennifer F. ***She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders.***

Boylan shares her journey to living an authentic life. She relied on support from friends and family in her search for identity, but the most important voice she needed to hear to was her own.

Gaarden, Jostein. ***Sophie's World: A Novel about the History of Philosophy.***

Young schoolgirl, Sophie, is called to investigate a mystery by an unknown teacher. Sophie's ensuing lessons delve into the meaning of life and the history of philosophy. Deep thinkers and mystery buffs, alike, will love this.

Hesse, Herman. ***Siddhartha.***

Classic fiction about a man's Buddha-like journey from living the high life to choosing the contemplative life. A terrific read and a must for anyone interested in Buddhism.

Hoff, Benjamin. ***The Tao of Pooh.***

Did you grow up with Winnie-the-Pooh? Did you know that his stories can be lessons in Taoism? That's what Hoff shows. A fun, easy read for anyone who believes in simplicity and nature's lessons. Also, a must for anyone interested in Taoism.

Leddy, Mary Jo. ***Radical Gratitude: Discovering Joy through Everyday Thankfulness.***

Gratitude bridges the gulf between our spiritual and material worlds. By coming to appreciate the earthly things around us that give true joy, we open the path to greater authenticity and discover what is most real in ourselves.

Maguire, Gregory. ***Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West.***

Welcome to Oz, but from the Wicked Witch's perspective. A great example of reconstruction and interpretation from a woman's point of view with reflection on the notion of good and evil.

Palmer, Parker. ***Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation.***

Making decisions based upon your own call for greatness is a key component of life. Palmer challenges us to listen to our own life and to be our own person despite many societal pressures.

Science Department

Grades 9 – 12

Alkins, P.W. ***The Periodic Kingdom.***

A sweeping history of the periodic table that connects chemistry, physics and human experience.

Coelho, Paulo. ***The Alchemist.***

Science and spirituality combine in this fascinating fable.

Feynman, Richard. ***Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman.***

Humorous book about his life, science stuff, and self-examination.

Lambert, Joan Dahr. ***Circles of Stone.***

A powerful account of the prehistoric roots of women as leaders.

Morris, Richard. ***Last Sorcerers: The Path from Alchemy to the Periodic Table.***

An amazing scientific saga comes to life on these pages!

Plait, Philip. ***Bad Astronomy.***

Book about science and astronomy misconceptions and hoaxes.

Roueche, B. ***The Medical Detectives.***

This collection is a "page-turner." Each story is a quick and fascinating read.

Sachs, Oliver. ***Uncle Tungsten: Memories of a Chemical Boyhood.***

Memoir of Dr. Sachs' childhood and of his uncle, a chemist.

Sachs, Oliver. ***The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat.***

Interesting stories involving how the brain, and diseases of the brain, can change our perceptions of reality.

Sellers, Heather. ***You Don't Look Like Anyone I Know: A True Story of Family, Face Blindness, and Forgiveness.***

The author describes her life with prosopagnosia, a rare neurological condition that causes her to be unable to recognize people's faces, and details how face-blindness affected her childhood, relationships, and family.

Trefil, James. ***101 Things You Don't Know About and No One Else Does Either.***

Science things explained...

Walker, Jearl. ***Flying Circus of Physics with Answers.***

Book with random (strange) physics happenings explained.

Winchester, Simon. ***Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded.***

A shocking account of the largest volcanic eruption in history in which 40,000 people lost their lives.

Weisman, Alan. ***The World Without Us.***

Called by the *New Yorker* a "pop-science ghost story," what would be left behind if the human population were suddenly and irrevocably wiped out?