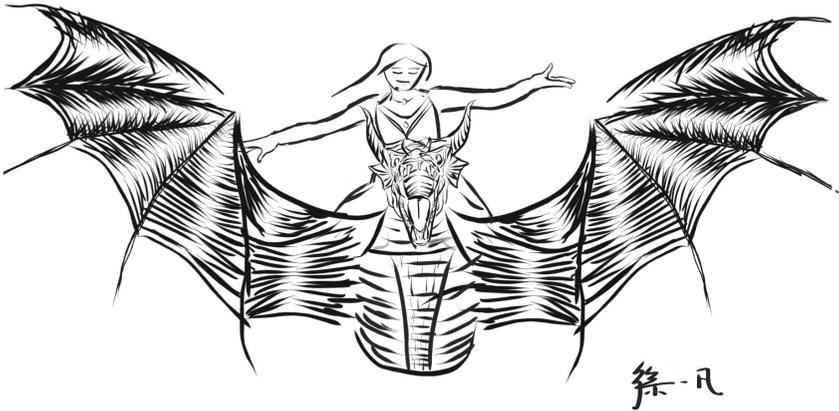


2016 SUMMER READING LIST



**Dana Hall School
Wellesley, MA**

DANA HALL SCHOOL
SUMMER READING LIST 2016
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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.

"From that time on, the world was hers for the reading. She would never be lonely again, never miss the lack of intimate friends. Books became her friends and there was one for every mood. There was poetry for quiet companionship. There was adventure when she tired of quiet hours. There would be love stories when she came to adolescence and when she wanted to feel a closeness to someone she could read a biography. On that day when she first knew she could read, she made a vow to read one book a day as long as she lived."

—Betty Smith, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*

"To sit alone . . . with a book spread out before you . . . such is a pleasure beyond compare."

—Yoshida Kinko, *Essays in Idleness*

"...I write because I want to make deposits, not withdrawals. For me, writing is more like having a savings account: it's where we go to when we've run out of checks. I like to think of writing as a kind of gift you give to others, something they can use . . . I'm a die-hard idealist, which is probably why I am compelled to write . . . So far, it's the easiest way I've found to be of some service to the world. More and more of us are realizing that when we open up a book, we are opening up a world."

—Terry McMillan

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; however, 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
- One book from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 5”

All 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

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.

The Golden Goblet, Eloise Jarvis McGraw

The only thing standing between Renofer and his dream of being a goldsmith is his cruel half-brother Gebu. When Renofer discovers a goblet of pure gold in Gebu’s chambers, he sets in motion a series of events that may cost him his life.

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.

The Corn Grows Ripe, Dorothy Rhoads

Tigre’s father is injured, and now it is Tigre’s job to plant the corn that will feed his family.

GOING GREEN

My Life with the Chimpanzees, Jane Goodall

Reknowned anthropologist Jane Goodall shares stories of her adventures living with and learning about (and from) the primates she loves.

Who Was Rachel Carson?, Sarah Fabiny and Dede Putra

Rachel Carson was one of the first champions of environmentalism. Her 1962 *Silent Spring* brought attention to the damage to the ecosystem caused by the insecticide DDT.

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?

SMART GIRLS

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 out on behalf of girls who don't have a voice.

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.

The Forbidden Schoolhouse, Suzanne Jurmain

Prudence Crandall faced abuse and threats for opening her all-girls schoolhouse to African-American girls. This book tells the true story of Crandall and her fight to educate girls, despite the cruel and occasionally violent actions of others in her village in Connecticut.

GIRLS BEING GIRLS

Flora and Ulysses, Kate DiCamillo

When a Ulysses the squirrel is sucked up into a vacuum cleaner, he experiences a fantastical change. He and new friend Flora go on an adventure and discover that not all heroes have superpowers.

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 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.

The Tail of Emily Windsnap, Liz Kessler

Emily Windsnap lives on a boat with her mother but doesn't know how to swim. When she finally convinces her mother to allow her to take swimming lessons, she discovers that she has something remarkable: a mermaid tail.

GRADE 6

- Required: *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, Avi
- 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

Al Capone Does My Shirts, Gennifer Choldenko

When Moose moves to Alcatraz Island, where his dad guards some of the country's most notorious prisoners, he has a hard time taking care of his autistic older sister and adjusting to his new life.

Becoming Naomi León, Pam Muñoz Ryan

Naomi, Owen and their great-grandmother take a life-changing trip to Mexico to find the children's long-lost father.

Close to Famous, Joan Bauer

A warm, funny novel about Foster, her mom, a reclusive movie star, and the world's best cupcakes.

A Crooked Kind of Perfect, Linda Urban

Zoe longs to be a piano prodigy, but instead of a piano, she ends up with a Perfectone organ. Can playing hits of the seventies in the Perfectone Perform-A-Rama ever compete with dreams of Carnegie Hall?

Skies Like These, Tess Hilmo

Jade is grumpy about spending the summer with her aunt in Wyoming until she meets cowboy-obsessed Roy and gets caught up in his crazy schemes to save his dad's store.

OTHER WORLDS

The Chronicles of Chrestomanci, Diana Wynne Jones

Christopher has nine lives, can travel between worlds and is therefore destined to be the next magical leader Chrestomanci. So why is he so hilariously terrible at magic? A must-read for all *Harry Potter* fans! First in a series.

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.

A Wrinkle in Time, Madeleine L'Engle

With their neighbor Calvin O'Keefe, Meg Murray and her brother Charles Wallace embark on a cosmic journey to find their lost father, a scientist studying time travel. First in a series.

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*.

Holes, Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats and his family have never had anything but bad luck, so it's really no surprise to him when he is falsely accused and convicted of theft. This is a terrific, action-packed story, full of great characters with strong voices; exciting, funny scenes; and enough twists and turns to keep you reading nonstop.

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

Bridge to Terabithia, Katherine Paterson

Jess has never had a friend like Leslie. Together they create and explore an imaginary world they call Terabithia—until tragedy strikes.

Ninth Ward, Jewell Parker Rhodes

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

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.

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.

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon, Grace Lin

“Inspired by [her father’s] stories, Minli sets off on an extraordinary journey to find the Old Man on the Moon to ask him how she can change her family’s fortune.” (Publisher description)

OTHER TIMES

The Night Journey, Kathryn Lasky

Rachel dreads the time she spends with her great-grandmother, Nana Sashie, until Sashie begins to relate the story of her Jewish family’s daring escape from turn-of-the-20th-century Russia.

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.

MYSTERY AND SURVIVAL

Breadcrumbs, Anne Ursu

Hazel and Jack used to be best friends. Then he stopped talking to her...and one day he disappeared. Hazel’s search for Jack takes her into a mysterious forest of ice where fairy tales are not what they seem.

Doll Bones, Holly Black

Zach, Poppy and Alice have played an elaborate game of make-believe for years, but they’re growing up and growing apart. They decide to go on one last adventure to lay the game to rest...but the adventure quickly becomes creepier than they planned.

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!

My Side of the Mountain, Jean Craighead George

Tired of living at home, Sam runs away to live off the land. He makes his home in a hollowed-out tree, trains a falcon named Frightful and survives alone using only his wits.

The Westing Game, Ellen Raskin

Who killed Mr. Westing? His heirs (and you!) must solve the mystery to claim their inheritance.

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: *Miles to Go for Freedom: Segregation and Civil Rights in the Jim Crow Years*, Linda Barrett Osborne
- Required: *Brown Girl Dreaming*, Jacqueline Woodson
- 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 Girl of Fire and Thorns, Rae Carson

Marked by God for a great destiny, Elisa is sent to marry the king of a far-off country threatened by war and magic. First in a trilogy.

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 Kill the Mockingbird, Paul Acampora

Why don't their classmates love *To Kill a Mockingbird* as much as Lucy and her friends do?

The friends hatch a plot to get everyone in town excited about the book, but their schemes quickly get out of hand!

Lions of Little Rock, Kristin Levine

When Marlee's best friend Liz is kicked out of school for passing as white, "Marlee decides that doesn't matter. She just wants her friend back. And to stay friends, Marlee and Liz are even willing to take on segregation and the dangers their friendship could bring to both their families." (Publisher description)

Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World, Sy Montgomery and Temple Grandin

Temple loves animals and believes her autism gives her a special understanding of them. Read the fascinating biography of Temple Grandin, animal scientist and one of the most famous people with autism.

The True Meaning of Smekday, Adam Rex

When the alien Boov invade Earth and abduct her mom, Gratuity "Tip" Tucci, her cat Pig, and an outlaw Boov named J. Lo go on a road trip to save the planet. Read now before you see the movie *Home*!

KIDS LIKE YOU

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.

One for the Murphys, Lynda Mullaly Hunt

When Carley joins a new foster family—the lovable Murphys—she finally starts to feel at home. What will she do when her mother wants her back?

Tell Us We're Home, Marina Budhos

Best friends Jaya, Maria, and Lola are the daughters of maids who work for their classmates' wealthy families. That's hard enough—and then Jaya's mother is accused of theft.

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.

Greenglass House, Kate Milford

Milo's parents' inn is filling up with odd guests, one of whom appears to be a thief. Snowbound for days, Milo and his new friend Meddy are determined to solve all the mysteries of Greenglass House. A cozy, perfect mystery.

The Lost Conspiracy, Frances Hardinge

Gullstruck Island: downtrodden native tribes, baffled colonists, telepathic powers and two sisters on a dangerous quest. This complex, amazing fantasy is impossible to describe—just read it!

Riverman, Aaron Starmer

Are Fiona's tales of her trips to the magical land of Aquavania true or is she in a more real-world sort of trouble? The Riverman is stalking her—but who is he really? First in a trilogy.

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.

Endangered, Eliot Schrefer

Sophie, whose mother runs a sanctuary for bonobo apes in Congo, becomes a foster mother to an orphan baby bonobo, Otto. When Congo breaks out in civil war, Sophie and Otto must survive alone in the jungle and make it to safety.

Golden Boy, Tara Sullivan

Habo is an albino—a boy born without any pigment in his skin. In his small village in Tanzania, he is feared and hunted, so he runs away to the big city. Will he find a home at last? (Recommended by ISA)

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.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, Betty Smith

Growing up in Brooklyn in the early 1900s, shy Francie Nolan faces challenge and tragedy to grow into a strong young woman.

GRADE 8

- Required: *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, Sherman Alexie
- Three 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

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The first collection of stories about the world’s most famous detective.

Call of the Wild, Jack London

Buck is a dog born to luxury, but his life changes dramatically when he is kidnapped, sold to dog traders and shipped north to be a sled dog in the Yukon Territory.

Murder on the Orient Express, Agatha Christie

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

TWISTS & TURNS

All the Truth That’s in Me, Julie Berry

Four years ago, Judith and her best friend disappeared from their small town. Judith has now returned, alone and unable to speak. What happened to her? How can she heal and reclaim her life?

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.

Feed, M. T. Anderson

In the near future, almost everyone has a feed—a brain implant that constantly “feeds” them entertainment and shopping. Titus’s easy, empty life is threatened when he meets Violet, a girl who dares to think for herself...and whose feed is dangerously malfunctioning.

ON THE SHORTER SIDE

Maggot Moon, Sally Gardner

Standish’s life is harsh, bound by the Motherland’s strict rules. But on the other side of the wall behind Standish’s house, he discovers the Motherland’s deepest secret... This book is brief, strange and full of mysteries even when you’ve finished reading it.

Make Lemonade, Virginia Euwer Wolff

A teenage single mom and her 14-year-old babysitter try to cope with life’s lemons in this tough, funny and ultimately hopeful novel in verse.

Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty, Christine Heppermann

“Using fairy tale characters..., [these dark, clever poems] explore how girls are taught to think about themselves, their bodies and their friends.” (Publisher description)

Relish: My Life in the Kitchen, Lucy Knisely

“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*) If you love food, or Raina Telgemeier’s *Smile*, or both, this graphic memoir is for you!

FANTASTIC TALES

The Book Thief, Markus Zusak

“Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living [in Nazi Germany] who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can’t resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.” (Publisher description) (Recommended by Keshner)

Golden Compass, Philip Pullman

The first novel in an epic fantasy trilogy of stolen children, Arctic witches, armored bears, mysterious prophecies and a struggle for the soul of the world.

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)

Plain Kate, Erin Bow

When Kate's village tries to burn her as a witch, a mysterious stranger offers her escape and her heart's wish—in exchange for her shadow.

Seraphina, Rachel Hartman

In a court full of dragons who look human, reclusive court musician Seraphina must solve a royal murder alongside Prince Lucien—while keeping her own dangerous secret.

OTHER LIVES

Beekeeper's Apprentice, Laurie R. King

The world's most famous detective, Sherlock Holmes, meets his match in daring young Mary Russell.

Cleopatra's Moon, Vicky Alvear Shecter

After witnessing her parents' deaths, Cleopatra's daughter Selene is brought as a royal captive to Rome. Can she keep herself and her brothers safe in the home of their enemy? Will she be able to reclaim Egypt?

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)

Every Day, David Levithan

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

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.

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; however, it would be best if you brought the books you read during the summer with you in September.

New 9th Grade International Students

- *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, Betty Smith
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 9”

New 10th-12th Grade International Students

- *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, Betty Smith
- *The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan
- One book from the reading lists “Recommended Books for Grade 10” or “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

Literature and Composition I

- *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, Betty Smith
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 9”

Literature and Composition II

- *The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 10”

Literature and Composition III

- *The Glass Castle*, Jeannette Walls
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

AP English Language

- *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2015*, Rebecca Skloot, ed.
- One substantive nonfiction book of your choice

Found Voices

- *If You Want to Write: A Book about Art, Independence and Spirit*, Brenda Ueland
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

Speaking of Class: The Language of Social Class in Literature and I, Too, Sing America: The Voices of Black Americans

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

AP English Literature

- *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston
- *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*, Thomas Hardy
- One book from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

All new 9th grade international students will be mailed copies of *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, and all new 10th-12th grade international students will be mailed copies of *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* and *The Joy Luck Club* in early June.

I. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, Betty Smith

As you read *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* (in paperback, please, rather than e-book), please mark up your book so that it’s easy for you go back and find passages that are your favorites or that seem especially meaningful. When school starts in August, be ready to explain why these are your favorite passages.

Also, think carefully about which characters you like, which characters you dislike, and why.

What social issues are particularly important in the novel?

You will write an essay on this novel in the first weeks of school, so read carefully as you enjoy the novel.

II. *The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan

Amy Tan’s fictional account of three Chinese-American daughters and their Chinese immigrant mothers is a novel about immigration, mother-daughter relationships and growing up.

Choose one mother-daughter pair and write two pages, typed and double-spaced, about why you find this character pair particularly interesting.

- Do you perhaps identify with either character?
- Are either of the characters so far outside your own world that you find her a puzzle?
- Are you inspired by or disgusted by either character?

Include in these two pages at least two quotations about your character pair, quotations that

will help illustrate why you've reacted as you have. This is personal writing about your own response to a character; use "I" and treat this assignment as through you're writing a letter to your teacher about your reactions. These "letters" will be turned in on the first day of class and will be the starting point for the class's conversations about this novel.

LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION I

REQUIRED READING

- *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, Betty Smith
- Two books from the reading list "Recommended Books for Grade 9"

As you read *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* (in paperback, please, rather than e-book), please mark up your book so that it's easy for you go back and find passages that are your favorites or that seem especially meaningful. When school starts in August, be ready to explain why these are your favorite passages.

Also, think carefully about which characters you like, which characters you dislike, and why.

What social issues are particularly important in the novel?

You will write an essay on this novel in the first weeks of school, so read carefully as you enjoy the novel.

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.

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.

Boy Meets Boy, David Levithan

Paul has a close group of friends (including Infinite Darlene, the larger-than-life football star and homecoming/drag queen), a supportive family and a budding romance with artistic Noah, the new boy at school. (Recommended by BRIDGE)

The Bermudez Triangle, Maureen Johnson

Nina, Avery and Mel have been best friends forever. How dare Avery and Mel mess everything up by falling in love with each other?

immigrant mothers is a novel about immigration, mother-daughter relationships, and growing up.

Choose one mother-daughter pair and write two pages, typed and double-spaced, about why you find this character pair particularly interesting.

- Do you perhaps identify with either character?
- Are either of the characters so far outside your own world that you find her a puzzle?
- Are you inspired by or disgusted by either character?

Include in these two pages at least two quotations about your character pair, quotations that will help illustrate why you've reacted as you have. This is personal writing about your own response to a character; use "I" and treat this assignment as through you're writing a letter to your teacher about your reactions. These "letters" will be turned in on the first day of class and will be the starting point for the class's conversations about this novel.

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.

Afterworlds, Scott Westerfeld

This book is two stories in one, running in parallel in different worlds. Darcy Patel, freshly graduated from high school and already an up-and-coming writer, is experiencing the New York literary scene for the first time. She meets other authors, agonizes over rewrites, and falls in love for the first time with fellow novelist, Imogen. Her book, *Afterworlds*, is a paranormal romance that takes place between the planes of the living and the dead. As Darcy faces a deadline to finish her novel, she sews the threads of her angst into the story of Lizzie, her protagonist who has survived a terrorist attack and now sees the world in a new way. Both girls must grapple with making adult decisions about their futures while embracing the changes that result.

All Quiet on the Western Front, Erich Maria Remarque

This classic war novel tells the story of World War I through the eyes of a young man, full of idealism about war, who enlists in the German army. He quickly becomes convinced of the horror of war and vows to work against the forces of hate that compel an entire generation of young men to kill one another.

Angela's Ashes, Frank McCourt

In this humorous and deeply touching memoir, Frank McCourt takes us through his childhood in Limerick, Ireland. Coping with death, disease, extreme poverty and alcoholism, McCourt magically leads us into the depths of love and loss that his family experiences.

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*)

Boxers and Saints, Gene Luen Yang

"This two-volume graphic novel follows the intertwined lives of two young people on opposite sides of China's Boxer Rebellion. Little Bao, whose story is told in *Boxers*, grows up fascinated by the opera's colorful traditional tales and filled with reverence for the local deities. Appalled by the arrogant behavior of foreign soldiers, Christian missionaries and their Chinese supporters, he eventually becomes a leader of the Society of the Righteous and Harmonious Fist, fighting under the slogan "Support the Ch'ing! Destroy the Foreigner!" The protagonist of *Saints*—an unlucky, unwanted, unnamed fourth daughter—is known only as Four-Girl until she's christened Vibiana upon her conversion to Catholicism. Beaten by her family for her beliefs, she finds refuge and friendship with foreign missionaries, making herself a target for the Boxers. The books ask big questions about culture, faith and identity, and refuse to offer simple answers." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

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.

The Chosen, Chaim Potok

This is the warm and moving story of two friends, both young Orthodox Jews, going to a boys' school in Brooklyn before and during World War II. Religious differences between their fathers (one is a Hasidic Jew and the other is not) threaten to destroy their friendship. (Recommended by Kesher)

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.

Emma, Jane Austen

If you knew an idle girl, admired, beautiful and of good family, a young lady who has never encountered any obstacle to her wishes, a meddler in the affairs of others, a manipulative and patient maker of love-matches, wouldn't you just love to be her? Or, would you prefer to see her get her comeuppance? If you answered "Yes!" to either question, *Emma* is for you.

Girl in Translation, Jean Kwok

In this compelling coming-of-age novel, Ah-King Chang becomes Kimberly when she immigrates to Brooklyn from Hong Kong. She lives a double life—by day a star high school student, by night an exploited worker in a Chinese sweatshop. Navigating her way among worlds, Kimberly finds herself torn between her duties to her family, her first love and herself.

A Great and Terrible Beauty, Libba Bray

This suspenseful novel, the first of the Gemma Doyle trilogy, features a 16-year-old protagonist who is sent from India to a girls' boarding school in England after she begins having terrible visions, the first of which accurately foretells her mother's violent death. As she learns to control her visions, they lead her into magical realms where all things are possible...but also dangerous.

The Hundred Secret Senses, Amy Tan

In the spirit of *The Joy Luck Club*, Tan writes about three generations of Chinese women, weaving together their lives, loves and the ghosts that haunt them. (Recommended for **East Asian Studies** students.)

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 as that between a man and a woman?

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.

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 in *Seabiscuit: An American Legend*. (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 becomes almost obsessed with discovering the truth behind it.

She's Not There, Jennifer Boylan

A bittersweet account of being transgendered 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. (Recommended by BRIDGE)

Spirit Legacy, E.E. Holmes

Jess' life has never been what anyone would call easy; doing damage control in the wake of your troubled mother doesn't exactly make for a storybook childhood. But now her world has fallen apart just when it should be coming together: her mother gone—dead under mysterious circumstances; her life uprooted to stay with estranged relatives she's never met; and there's something odd about some of the people she's been meeting at school: They're dead.

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

tion 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!

Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass, Meg Medina

Rumor has it Yaqui Delgado wants to kick Piddy Sanchez’s youknowwhat. Piddy has a lot more on her mind, like trying to keep her weekend job, do well in her honors classes and figure out who her dad was. Piddy doesn’t get why Yaqui’s after her, or what she’s done to enrage her, but Yaqui and her gang are starting to be a bit too much and Piddy’s starting to crack.

GRADES 11 & 12

REQUIRED READING

I. Literature and Composition III

- *The Glass Castle*, Jeannette Walls
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

The Glass Castle is a memoir that explores the dreams, both realized and unrealized, of the author’s family. Describing her father’s dreams, Walls writes: “When Dad wasn’t telling us about all the amazing things he had already done, he was telling us about the wondrous things he was going to do. Like build the Glass Castle.”

As you read, think about each character’s dreams. Then write a two-page (750-900 words) essay that explores the ways that one character’s dreams shape or influence his or her choices and reactions to challenges. For example, you might want to think about Rex’s dreams for himself and his family, Rose Mary’s dreams for her daughter, or the siblings’ dreams for themselves and each other.

Your essay should include a thoughtful introduction that includes an insightful thesis statement, paragraphs that develop that thesis statement, and a creative, perceptive conclusion about the memoir as a whole. This should be double-spaced and have properly cited quotations from the text (using the MLA parenthetical format). Be prepared to turn this in via Schoology on the first day of classes, before class retreats and the Harbor Cruise.

II. AP English Language

- *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2015*, Rebecca Skloot, ed.
- One substantive nonfiction book of your choice

The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2015, Rebecca Skloot, ed.

Spotted hyenas. Liberian Ebola clinics. Genetically modified foods. Empathy exams for medical students. These and many other topics are explored in this fascinating collection

of engaging, well-written essays. 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:

- Is this essay primarily expository (explaining or describing something) or argumentative (proving a thesis)? Since these are all essays about science or nature that are written for a general audience, they are all going to be expository to some extent; the question is whether the author is also trying to make an argument. Explain your answer concisely.
- 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.

These answers for each of the 10 essays you choose are due on the first day of classes in the fall.

Choose a nonfiction book: biography, science, history, cooking, politics—you name it. Anything's fair game with one exception: Although humorous memoirs like Amy Poehler's *Yes Please* are really fun to read, choose a book with more substance. The book doesn't need to be a downer but does need to stretch you or teach you something valuable. During the summer, email Dr. Keely with your selection (so she can read it too if it sounds intriguing!).

III. Found Voices

- *If You Want to Write: A Book about Art, Independence and Spirit*, Brenda Ueland
- Two books from the reading list "Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12"

It's best to read *If You Want to Write*, Brenda Ueland's classic book about writing and creativity, slowly, in bits and pieces. It's okay to read the chapters out of order, too. Allow yourself plenty of time to read and absorb Ueland's ideas. Read your first chapter in early June; you'll see what I mean. You may want to start with Chapter XIV so you can get started on the diary assignment right away (see below). As you read, please do the following:

- Mark the passages you find especially meaningful, and note why in the margins.
- As you write your college essay (due on the first day of class), follow at least one piece of advice from this book. Include a brief note telling me which piece(s) of advice you chose and how this advice helped you write your essay. Be specific!
- Inspired by Chapter XIV, "Keep A Slovenly, Headlong, Honest, Impulsive Diary," begin a "diary" or writer's notebook. Get yourself a reasonably big (8 ½ x 11) notebook (any kind that appeals to you—spiral bound, cloth bound, lined or unlined). Follow Ueland's instructions in this chapter and write at least five (5) pages in this notebook before the first day of school. Bring your notebook to the first day of class; I will check it but won't read it.

IV. Speaking of Class: The Language of Social Class in Literature and I, Too, Sing America: The Voices of Black Americans

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

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, forcing 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? 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.

V. AP English Literature

- *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston
- *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*, Thomas Hardy
- One book from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

1. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston

As you read, annotate your text, paying particular attention to:

- Stages of character development
- Character motivations
- Motifs and repeated images
- Figurative language (metaphor, symbol, etc.)
- Settings and where they are reflective of character and/or theme

In addition, identify passages that pertain to the themes of AP Literature courses: money, class, power and/or self-definitions. Be prepared to discuss these themes and ideas in class.

2. You will also need to read Thomas Hardy’s 1891 novel *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* by the first day of class. You will write a timed essay on the novel very early in the school year, so read actively and carefully, annotating the novel as you read.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADES 11 & 12

11/22/63, Stephen King

If you had the power to travel back in time to stop the assassination of a major figure like JFK, would you do it? And if you did, what might happen after? Would it affect the present? Modern high school English teacher Jake is faced with this very predicament in Stephen King’s gripping thriller that goes backwards, forwards and sideways in time.

1984, George Orwell

Written in 1948, this futuristic dystopian novel is set in a society ruled by a terrifyingly totalitarian regime. Winston Smith longs for human connection and a sense of selfhood while he struggles to maintain original thought in a world hell bent on erasing individuality. The novel addresses many contemporary issues such as privacy, technology and a government’s responsibilities in such a way that some have called it prophetic. Would you give up your personal freedoms to ensure your country’s safety?

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.

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)

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay, Michael Chabon

Two young artists—one New Yorker, one Jewish immigrant—create comic books out of their fears and dreams as Hitler’s power grows in Europe. This novel won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. (Recommended by Keshner)

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. (Required for **AP U.S. History** students; if you are in **AP U.S. History** you must choose another title to fulfill your English requirement.)

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 in this short but powerful book. (Recommended by SHADES)

Between Two Worlds: My Life and Captivity in Iran, Roxana Saberi

An American journalist of Japanese and Iranian descent, Saberi was dragged from her home and arrested, charged with espionage. In this compelling and inspirational story, she writes of her imprisonment, trial and ultimate release, and introduces us to a remarkable group of women who have been otherwise forgotten.

The Big Sleep, Raymond Chandler

Tough, loveable Philip Marlowe investigates the blackmail of a dying millionaire’s daughter and becomes embroiled in a web of gambling, murder, pornography and seduction—for starters. Marlowe’s first-person narration is romantically dark, profoundly witty and highly addictive. *The Big Sleep* is a big treat.

Black Boy, Richard Wright

This classic and gripping memoir tells of Wright’s childhood as a young black boy in the 1920s and 30s in the American South.

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.

Brief Encounters with Che Guevara, Ben Fountain

This short story collection will take you to the rain forests of Columbia, refugee camps in Sierra Leone, and, among other bizarre spots, a trailer park in Texas. The stories are thrilling, sometimes funny, and filled with vivid images about love and Voodoo and finding what really matters in life.

City of Thieves, David Benioff

The people of Leningrad are slowly starving under Nazi seige; 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

Girl, Interrupted, Susanna Kaysen

Susanna Kaysen was 18 years old when her parents sent her to McLean, a mental hospital in Belmont, Mass. It was 1967: America was at war overseas while dealing with race riots at home, and society was in the midst of a sexual revolution. Kayson spent two years there. In her stories and those of the other women she was institutionalized with, she paints a picture of a mental health system based in determining how its patients will function within society. This darkly comic memoir explores mental health: who determines what sanity is, how sanity can be recovered, and if it really needs to be, all while questioning what it actually means to be normal.

The Good Thief, Hannah Tinti

Abandoned at a monastery as an infant, Ren has no idea where he came from or how he lost one of his hands. He is adopted by a man claiming to be his long-lost older brother, but all is not as it seems, and this stranger seems to be more grave robber than savior. Now leading a life with which he's not entirely comfortable, Ren begins to unravel the mystery of who he is and where he came from. This work of historical fiction is one part Charles Dickens, one part Tim Burton, and completely mesmerizing.

Gulliver's Travels, Jonathan Swift

Go on a journey with Lemuel Gulliver, surgeon and sea captain, as he meets the Lilliputians, the Brobdingnagians, the Yahoos and other strange creatures. This is satire at its best!

The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood

In a dystopian future, women are no longer allowed to read or control money. The polluted environment has also reduced fertility, so women who can still bear children are reduced to the role of "handmaids," servants who must produce offspring for the infertile upper classes. A gripping and frightening futuristic fable!

A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius, Dave Eggers

This is both a memoir of the author's experiments at raising his younger brother after their parents' death and an experiment in narrative prose. The story of Eggers and his brother is heartbreaking at times, and even the preface is clever, if not a work of staggering genius—in particular, pay close attention to his "Rules and Guidelines for Enjoyment of this Book." Whatever it might be, this book is never boring and usually very funny.

Her Fearful Symmetry, Audrey Niffenegger

Julia and Valentina Poole are inseparable identical twins. Their lives are forever changed when they receive a letter from their mother's twin, Elsepth, whom they've never met. Elsepth has died and has left her London apartment to the twins under the conditions that they live in it for a year before they sell it and that their parents never set foot inside it.

mysterious corpse in the cucumber patch, she uses her scientific skills to try to uncover the murderer. Flavia is a comic forerunner of those slick female scientists on *CSI*.

Tender is the Night, F. Scott Fitzgerald

Fitzgerald's semi-autobiographical novel is a good choice for those of you who enjoyed or who are looking forward to reading *The Great Gatsby* in Literature and Composition III. While vacationing on the French Riviera, the beautiful young movie starlet Rosemary Hoyt falls in love with the handsome American psychologist Dick Diver. Dick, however, is married to Nicole, a Chicago heiress and his patient. The complex relationships amongst these glamorous expatriates provide a fascinating glimpse into human nature and into the lives of Americans living abroad in the 1920s and 1930s.

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.

Thunderstruck, Erik Larson

This intriguing history reads like a suspense novel. A London doctor murders his wife and then flees across the Atlantic, followed by a Scotland Yard detective; meanwhile, the rest of the world follows the exciting chase via the newly developed wireless telegraph.

The Uncommon Reader, Alan Bennett

When the Queen, in pursuit of her wandering corgis, stumbles upon a mobile library, she feels duty bound to borrow a book. Aided by Norman, a young man from the palace kitchen who frequents the library, Bennett describes the Queen's transformation as she discovers the liberating pleasures of the written word. (Goodreads)

A Visit from the Goon Squad, Jennifer Egan

In this brilliant novel, winner of the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, Egan explores the interlocking stories of a group of people with links to each other and/or the music business, starting in contemporary New York and moving forward and backward in time and across relationships. Speaking through the distinctive voices of her various characters (one of whom uses only PowerPoint charts), Egan explores the effects of the "goon squad" (time) on each one. All of the characters are flawed, and most of them are unlikeable; still, you will grow to care about the fates of Bennie, an insecure music producer, Sasha, his kleptomaniac assistant, and their spouses, friends, children and even high school buddies.

Wait Till Next Year, Doris Kearns Goodwin

A warm, humorous memoir about a young girl growing up in the suburbs of New York during the 1950s. Doris, her father and her neighborhood are united by a love of baseball, through which she is also exposed to the fears of polio, the paranoia of McCarthyism and the ugly face of racial prejudice. (Recommended for **American Identities** students.)

Waking Up White, Debbie Irving

Debbie Irving is a well-intentioned white person. She wants to help others and be an ally in the conversation about race in America. In this work of nonfiction, as she begins to better understand her history as a person of privilege, Irving slowly uncovers the vast history of advantages given to people in this country based on the color of their skin. Through her self study, it becomes clear that being colorblind isn't a good thing, and that in order to respect every person we must see every experience, color and perspective. (Recommended by SHADES)

We Band of Angels: The Untold Story of American Nurses Trapped on Bataan by the Japanese, Elizabeth M. Norman

Women in war: The true, untold account of the first American nurses to prove their mettle in captivity at the hands of the Japanese during World War II.

What the Dog Saw and Other Adventures, Malcolm Gladwell

What do hair dyes, ketchup brands, birth control pills, plagiarism, homelessness and pit bulls have in common? They're all topics that Gladwell explores in this collection of engaging essays (all published originally in the *New Yorker* magazine). Essays are especially suited for pool-side reading because they're so easy to read in short bursts.

When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present, Gail Collins (FL)

Do you ever wonder what it was like to be a woman in the United States before Title IX allowed girls the equal opportunity to play sports? This book is a pop-history of the cultural shifts in the U.S. coinciding with the birth of the "Pill."

The Woman in White, Wilkie Collins

This Victorian bestseller has all the ingredients of a suspenseful mystery: a fragile heroine, an insane asylum and Count Fosco, the villain you love to hate.

Yes, Please, Amy Poehler

Amy Poehler has written exactly the book we would expect from her after years of watching her perform on television. She tells smart, funny, true stories from her time in college, as a founding member of the Upright Citizens Brigade improv troupe in Chicago, and as a cast member on SNL. As you read, you can hear her voice addressing what it means to be

a capable, ambitious woman in the male-dominated world of comedy, as well as a friend, a wife and a mother.

Zeitoun, Dave Eggers

Zeitoun is a family: a mom, dad and four kids who live in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina hits. The story of what happens to them, especially Abdulrahman, the father of the family, will make you shake your head in wonder at the capacity for good and evil in our fellow humans. This book is non-fiction, but it reads like a thriller.

The Zookeeper's Wife, Diane Ackerman

If you're intrigued by the desperate connections human beings make with each other and with animals during horrific times, you will marvel at this true story of a husband and wife, the keepers of the Warsaw Zoo, who rescued hundreds of Poles from death at the hands of the Nazis.

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 “The Monkey King” as a metaphor for his own search for identity. This book is a great introduction to issues faced by Asian Americans today and to one of the most popular and influential stories in East Asian culture.

China in the 21st Century: What Everyone Needs to Know, Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom
 China has a long, complex history that can be daunting to a beginning learner, and Professor Wasserstrom’s book does an admirable job of covering the breadth of Chinese history and culture in an accessible manner. Reading this book is an excellent introduction to many of the topics—both ancient and modern—that will be discussed throughout the year in East Asian Studies.

The Tao of Pooh, Benjamin Hoff
 Hoff uses the classic story of Winnie the Pooh to explain the deeper meaning of the beliefs of Taoism, one of the oldest and most important Chinese philosophies and a worldview that informs much of East Asian art and culture. Hoff reveals that the Pooh that we know is actually a Taoist in disguise, as are many of the other inhabitants of the wood.

Understanding China Through Comics, Jing Liu
 This short introduction to the earliest history of China and its culture uses the graphic novel format to explain many of the ideas and events that are the foundations of Chinese civilization.

MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America, Firoozeh Dumas
 Dumas came to America for the first time in the early 1970s, when many Americans were unfamiliar with Iran. She has a unique perspective on American culture, and she balances the comedy of her family’s misadventures with the more serious prejudices they face.

How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less, Sarah Glidden
 A secular Jew with strong opinions, Glidden sets off on her first visit to Israel and learns that there are no easy answers to her questions. She details her discoveries in this beautifully-drawn graphic novel.

In the Country of Men, Hisham Matar
 In this novel of pre-Arab-Spring Libya, a young boy lives under the oppression of a dictator. His life is defined by his mother’s resentment of the denial of her own emotional identity, her fear for her husband who is involved in revolutionary activity, and her passion for her son. The novel, which is written from the boy’s perspective, gives a sense of how fear can twist the behavior of people living in a dictatorial regime and of how lonely it can be to live in such a society. Can a culture whose children have been so abandoned ever recover?

My Name is Red, Orhan Pamuk

In Istanbul, in the 1590s, the Sultan secretly commissions a great book, but any work of art—an affront to Islam—is considered dangerous. This murder mystery set during the time of the Ottoman Empire uses colors as characters that help decipher the killer’s identity.

A Map of Love, Ahdaf Soueif

At either end of the 20th century, two women fall in love with men outside their familiar 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.

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS

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.

RUSSIAN STUDIES

Nicholas and Alexandra, Robert K. Massie

A popular history of the last Tsar and Tsarina and their doomed family, inspired by the story of the most famous hemophiliac child in history, the only son and heir to the Romanov crown, Tsarevich Alexis.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.**)

En la ardiente oscuridad, Antonio Buero Vallejo

One of the major dramatic works of modern Spanish theater, full of human warmth and pity. (Recommended for **level III.**)

AP ART HISTORY BOOKS

Required Titles

- *A History of the World in 100 Objects*, Neil MacGregor
- *Still Life with Oysters and Lemon*, Mark Doty

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

1. *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

1. Mummy of Hornedjitef, pgs 3-8

4. Swimming Reindeer, pgs. 19-25

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

12. Standard of Ur, pgs. 69-77

15. Early Writing Tablet, pgs. 91-94

16. Flood Tablet, pgs. 97-101

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

29. Olmec Stone Mask, pgs. 183-189

33. Rosetta Stone, pgs. 209-214

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 (2-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 do the material and/or art-making process used contribute to a message of power?

2. *Still Life with Oysters and Lemon*, Mark Doty

Reading/Reflection

Mark Doty explores the practice of highly descriptive writing in a beautiful little essay, *Still Life with Oysters and Lemon*. Doty specializes in ekphrasis. The word once meant the description of a work of visual art within a poem, but has come to mean poetic description more generally. Mark Doty's prose has been hailed as "tempered and tough, sorrowing and serene" (*The New York Times Book Review*) and "achingly beautiful" (*The Boston Globe*). In *Still Life with Oysters and Lemon*, he offers a stunning exploration of our attachment to ordinary things—how we invest objects with real human value.

Assignment:

Read the book! We will be doing a class exercise with this in the fall.

NOTES

NOTES

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

Eric Goodson, Department Head, and
members of the Social Studies Department

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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