# Dana Hall School
## Summer Reading List 2015
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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.

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“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.

**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.
Middle School

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 Moutain 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, Wisconsin, will Hope find a home at last?
Middle School

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 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?

**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 sold 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
Book of Everything, Guus Kuijer
Growing up in a difficult family, Thomas records the magic he sees in the world in his “Book of Everything.”

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 Knisley
If you love food, or Raina Telgemeier’s Smile, or both, this graphic memoir is for you! Lucy tells the story of her life and family through delicious food (with recipes!).

FANTASTIC TALES
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)

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. A must-read for fantasy fans.

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 these 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**

- *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Alexandre Dumas (only the Lowell Bair edition)
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 9”

**New 10th-12th Grade International Students**

- *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Alexandre Dumas (only the Lowell Bair edition)
- *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**

- *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Alexandre Dumas (only the Lowell Bair edition)
- 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**

- *Fences*, August Wilson
- *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

**AP English Language**

- *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*, Katherine Boo
- One book from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”
Found Voices
• *Bird by Bird*, Anne Lamott
• Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

Women at the Edge 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 *The Count of Monte Cristo*, and all new 10th-12th grade international students will be mailed copies of *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *The Joy Luck Club* in early June.

I. *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Alexandre Dumas
This classic French novel tells the story of hero Edmond Dantes, who is unjustly accused and imprisoned for 14 years on an island fortress. Full of passion and suspense, this story tells of one man’s journey to survive, remake himself, and plot an elaborate revenge against his enemies. Author Alexandre Dumas sets this winding tale in exotic locations in France and Italy and depicts the characters with beauty and mystery. While you will not be required to turn in a writing assignment for this novel, you are encouraged to take notes in a journal or notebook and to underline significant passages in the book as you read.

1. Keep a timeline of events of this book in your notes, marking the major shifts in location and action. You will not have space to record every event, only those that represent a change in character, motivation, or action. We will use these visual representations of the book as we discuss the reading.
2. What have you learned about imprisonment from this novel? Make notes about how the limits of confinement change Dantes’s character.
3. Think about similarities and differences between pairs of characters, such as Valentine de Villefort and Eugenie Danglars, and Madame Danglars and Mercedes. How do these characters represent opposite characteristics? What themes become evident through this comparison?
4. Consider character change in this novel. Compare Edmond Dantes with the Count of Monte Cristo. Has Dantes become a completely new person by the end of this novel?
5. Bring in one discussion question of your own that will inspire your classmates to talk about the themes of 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 this character?

Include in these two pages at least two quotations about this character 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 though 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 conversation about this novel.

**Literature and Composition I**

**Required Reading**

- *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Alexandre Dumas (only the Lowell Bair edition)
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 9”

*The Count of Monte Cristo*, Alexandre Dumas

This classic French novel tells the story of hero Edmond Dantes, who is unjustly accused and imprisoned for 14 years on an island fortress. Full of passion and suspense, this story tells of one man’s journey to survive, remake himself, and plot an elaborate revenge against his enemies. Author Alexandre Dumas sets this winding tale in exotic locations in France and Italy and depicts the characters with beauty and mystery. While you will not be required to turn in a writing assignment for this novel, you are encouraged to take notes in a journal or notebook and to underline significant passages in the book as you read.

1. Keep a timeline of events of this book in your notes, marking the major shifts in location and action. You will not have space to record every event, only those that represent a change in character, motivation, or action. We will use these visual representations of the book as we discuss the reading.
2. What have you learned about imprisonment from this novel? Make notes about how the limits of confinement change Dantes’s character.
3. Think about similarities and differences between pairs of characters, such as Valentine de Villefort and Eugenie Danglars, and Madame Danglars and Mercedes. How do these characters represent opposite characteristics? What themes become evident through this comparison?
4. Consider character change in this novel. Compare Edmond Dantes with the Count of Monte Cristo. Has Dantes become a completely new person by the end of this novel?

5. Bring in one discussion question of your own that will inspire your classmates to talk about the themes of 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.

*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?

*Brat Farrar*, Josephine Tey
Twelve-year-old Patrick Ashby, distraught over the death of his parents, apparently commits suicide, leaving behind a cryptic note. But then, eight years later, he reappears at the Ashby estate, just in time to inherit the family horse farm. What the readers know—but the other characters do not—is that “Patrick” is a fraud who bears a remarkable resemblance to the Ashby family. But then strange “accidents” start happening that endanger his life. This short novel by British crime novelist Josephine Tey is a captivating tale of suspense, false identity, forbidden romance, and passion for horses.

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, Mark Haddon
Autistic math genius Christopher Boone must solve the mystery of his neighbor’s murdered poodle.

*Daughter of Smoke and Bone*, by Laini Taylor
Orphaned art student Karou has a curious adoptive family, and an even more curious job: collecting teeth for a secretive buyer. Her life derails when what appears to be a furious, angel-like being begins tracking and possibly attempting to murder her in this fantasy title.
The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks, E. Lockhart
The same fall she discovers that she is beautiful enough to attract the attention of the most handsome senior at a coed private school, Frankie begins to ask big questions about the mysterious world of boys. Why are their relationships with friends so intense and yet so distant? What is their definition of loyalty? And can a girlfriend ever get as close to knowing a boy’s heart as his best friend can? This alternately funny and vaguely disturbing book looks at male secret societies and leaves us wondering whether Frankie is a genius of social criticism or one seriously crazed stalker.

Dracula, Bram Stoker
You’ve read and seen dozens of stories about vampires, so why not go back to the source? Read about the heroes, villains, and victims whose adventures have become etched forever into our collective experience of fear.

Half Bad, Sally Green
Nathan is a teenage witch who lives in a magical modern-day England that is much darker and grittier than Harry Potter’s. He is the illegal child of a dark witch and a white witch, and both sides want him to turn their way when his powers manifest. He has been persecuted his whole life, living chained in a cage by politically powerful white witches, being trained to kill dangerous dark witches. His only hope is to escape and find his father, Marcus, the very dark witch who he is training to kill, and who may want to kill him.

The Hobbit, J.R.R. Tolkien
Bilbo is visited by the wizard Gandalf and thirteen dwarves who seek a fourteenth member for their journey to steal treasure from the dragon Smaug. Though reluctant at first, Bilbo is convinced to join the unexpected party, and his epic adventure takes him face to face with trolls, goblins, a riddling creature named Gollum, elves, and, of course, the dragon. (adapted from blurbhack.com)

I Capture the Castle, Dodie Smith
Sixteen-year-old Cassandra lives with her older sister, younger brother, eccentric stepmother (who is not much older than Cassandra), and novelist father in a dilapidated British castle. The tone of the novel is humorous, the characters are lovable and well drawn, and the plot will keep you guessing. The novel takes the form of Cassandra’s journal, so reading it is like sharing the intimate thoughts of a close friend.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou
Powerful, lyrical autobiography of an African American writer growing up in the South.

Jellicoe Road, Melina Marchetta
Abandoned at a boarding school as a little girl, Taylor searches for clues to her past in a
story written by the mysterious young woman who raised her. Stick through the confusing beginning, and you won’t be able to put down this tragic, uplifting book.

*Maisie Dobbs*, Jacqueline Winspear
Maisie Dobbs is an English housemaid in the early twentieth century; she is smart and driven enough to work her way into Cambridge and then to become a nurse during World War I. After the war, she becomes a private investigator, but her very first case brings up dark memories of the war. This is the first novel in an extremely engaging series.

*My Most Excellent Year: A Novel of Love, Mary Poppins, and Fenway Park*, Steve Kluger
Best friends T.C. and Augie have treated each other like brothers since they were little. When T.C. falls for feisty and brilliant Alé and Augie falls for a boy, it’s the beginning of the most excellent year of their lives.

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

*The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency*, Alexander McCall Smith
Precious Ramotswe, a “traditionally-sized” African woman, opens the only detective agency in Botswana run by a woman. The cases she cleverly investigates are exciting, such as her search for an 11-year-old boy who may have been snatched by witch doctors. But Mama Ramotswe’s philosophy of living and her understanding of people make this book more than just a detective novel. Caution: after this first book, you may have strong urges to read the whole series.

*The Prince and the Pauper*, Mark Twain
Tom Canty is an impoverished child of the cruel streets of London, and Prince Edward is the son of Edward VII, King of England. As fate would have it, the two meet, discover they look more alike than twins, switch clothes, and have a good romp tricking their friends. However, when a freak accident occurs, the boys are separated, with the likely outcome that the beggar will become king of England and the royal son will be murdered by a thieving, abusive father. If you subscribe to Atticus Finch’s belief that “You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view—until you climb into his skin and walk around in it,” you will enjoy this exciting tale of mistaken identity.

*Revolution*, Jennifer Donnelly
Since the death of Andi’s younger brother, her family has fallen apart. Andi, in danger of failing her senior year of high school, is dragged by her father to Paris for winter break so
he can watch her write her senior thesis. There Andi discovers the diary of a girl who lived over two centuries ago, and she distracts herself with the discovery of things that happened long ago. Can a diary from the past and a French rapper named Virgil help Andi find her way back to her own life?

_Son_, Lois Lowry
In the gripping finale to _The Giver_ quartet, Lowry keeps the suspense mounting until the last few pages. “The elders in _The Giver_ and _Gathering Blue_ believed that knowledge should be held by a few for the good of the many. But the people of the community where Claire’s son lives know — through painful trial and error — that knowledge shared and freedom of choice can build strength among its citizens. Now they are put to an extreme test.” (Shelf Awareness) If you are a fan of _The Hunger Games_ and have not read these four books, you are in for a treat.

_Speak_, Laurie Halse Anderson
Incoming ninth-grader Melinda Sordino secures outcast status for herself when she calls the cops at a rowdy end-of-the-summer party. You’ll cheer as Melinda, made nearly mute by her experience that night and in the ensuing year, regains her ability to speak.

_Story of a Girl_, by Sara Zarr
Imagine making a mistake at thirteen so big and so public that it defines you. In an effort to escape the role her town has given her, Deanna Lambert gets a job the summer of her sophomore year so she can raise enough money to move her, her 19-year-old brother, his wife, and their newborn daughter out of their parents’ basement. As a waitress at the worst pizza shop in California, she wrestles through conflicts with her best friend, seductive ghosts from her past, and a father who hasn’t looked at her for three years. _Story of a Girl_ offers readers believable realism and a hint at how, even after the greatest mistakes, life can go on.

_The Wednesday Wars_, Gary D. Schmidt
Holling Hoodhood has a problem: he’s the only Presbyterian in his class, so he has to stay after school every Wednesday afternoon while everyone else goes off to Jewish or Catholic class. He’s stuck all alone with his teacher, who decides that they will read Shakespeare together. Life is so unfair! Actually, life is unfair in all kinds of ways in 1967. You’ll come to love Holling as he shares his many adventures in this funny and poignant novel.

_Whale Talk_, Chris Crutcher
Multiethnic TJ gives a bunch of nonconformists the chance to be a swim team. Who says they need a pool?
Will Grayson, Will Grayson, John Green and David Levithan
Will Grayson has so far survived high school by adhering strictly to two rules: feel nothing and say nothing. He has one true friend, the spectacularly large and spectacularly gay Tiny Cooper, and a maybe girlfriend who is adorable; however, in order to win her he might have to admit that he has feelings for her. No can do. Fates conspire for him to meet “will grayson,” a depressed, closeted senior who goes to another high school. Though their meeting is brief, it sets off a series of remarkable changes in the Wills and the people in their lives. If you like hilarity, outrageous characters, and musings on the nature of love and the whole “fate or free will?” debate, you will love Will Grayson, Will Grayson, which, incidentally, is written by two writers!

The Wizard of Earthsea, Ursula K. LeGuin
The story of Ged, a boy with an unusual aptitude for wizardry; the first book of Le Guin’s famous Earthsea trilogy.

When I Was Puerto Rican, Esmeralda Santiago
A memoir of a girl’s journey from extreme poverty in Puerto Rico to life in New York—and her first year at Harvard University.

Literature and Composition II
Required Reading
• The Joy Luck Club, Amy Tan
• Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 10”

The Joy Luck Club, 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 this character?

Include in these two pages at least two quotations about this character, which 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 though you’re writing a letter to your Lit Comp II 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 conversation 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.

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.

Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation, Jonathan Kozol
A documentary account of human triumph and struggle. Through the author, we see the dangers, injustice, and hopelessness of a South Bronx community in the throes of unthinkable poverty.

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.

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.

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 Camel Bookmobile**, Masha Hamilton
A librarian travels from New York to a village in Kenya, where she joins with local villagers to run the bookmobile. This interesting novel explores potential clashes between book cultures and oral history cultures.

**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.

**Code Name Verity**, by 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 Color of Earth**, Dong Hwa Kim
The story of Ehwa, a girl growing up in Korea from the time she is a child to her wedding night. Over the years, Ehwa slowly learns about the confusing world of love. First in a graphic novel trilogy.

**The Complete Sherlock Holmes**, Arthur Conan Doyle
When faced with mysteries that confound everyone else, Holmes, the famous fictional detective, uses his brilliant deductive reasoning and his encyclopedic knowledge of everything from chemistry (especially poisons) to law to declare to his friend Watson that the solution is “elementary”!
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.

Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe, Fannie Flagg
In this delightful narrative set in the American South, two women run a restaurant, challenge injustice, and form a strong center in a close-knit community.

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 Great Santini, Pat Conroy
An autobiographical novel that describes a Southern family ruled by a dogmatic retired Marine. The book brilliantly depicts the emotional tension in the relationship between Bull Meacham and his 18-year-old son, Ben.

The House at Sugar Beach: In Search of a Lost African Childhood, Helene Cooper
What happens to a rich, protected girl when the country she lives in erupts in war and chaos? That’s the situation of Helene Cooper, who is now a respected American journalist but in 1980 was a high school student living in Liberia when that country was torn apart by a series of armed rebellions. This is a gripping, engaging memoir—sometimes funny, sometimes sad, always enlightening—about Cooper’s childhood in Liberia, her experience of the military coups, her adolescence and adulthood in America, where the family fled after the fighting began, and finally her return to Liberia in 2003 to reunite with the adopted sister who had stayed in Liberia when the rest of the family left.

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.)

*Inside the Halo and Beyond: The Anatomy of a Recovery*, Maxine Kumin
From a celebrated poet and horsewoman comes this journal of recovery after a nearly fatal accident when Kumin’s horse bolted. A heartwarming story of a fighter and a survivor.

*Into Thin Air*, Jon Krakauer
Experience both the thrill and horror of mountain climbing as described by one of the survivors of a devastating attempt to scale Mt. Everest.

*Iron and Silk*, Mark Salzman
Salzman taught English in China following his graduation from Yale University. In this memoir, he presents touching vignettes of the people he met, including Pan, his martial arts teacher. (Recommended for East Asian Studies students.)

*The Last Time I Saw Mother*, Arlene J. Chai
A grown woman is summoned home to the Philippines by her mother, who feels compelled to reveal the secret she has kept hidden for years.

*The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*, Sherman Alexie
This collection of short stories about contemporary Native Americans and their joys and struggles focuses on the Spokane Indian Reservation and is narrated by a quirky central character named Victor. Readers will appreciate Alexie’s unique ability to partner troubling issues such as economic struggles and alcoholism with beautiful or amusing images.

*Lonesome Dove*, Larry McMurtry
Cowboys, adventure, love, danger, humor—the best of the American West—are all present in this intelligent and exciting novel that won the 1986 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Characters and events on the great trail drive will brand you with their unforgettable power.

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

*The Miseducation of Cameron Post*, Emily M. Danforth
“When Cameron’s parents die suddenly in a car crash, her shocking first thought is relief. Relief they’ll never know that, hours earlier, she had been kissing a girl. That relief doesn’t last, however, and Cam is soon forced to move in with her conservative aunt Ruth and
her well-intentioned but hopelessly old-fashioned grandmother. Survival in Cam’s small Montana town means blending in and leaving well enough alone (as her grandmother might say), and Cam becomes an expert at both. Then Coley Taylor moves to town…and Cam is brought face-to-face with the cost of denying her true self—even if she’s not exactly sure who that is.” (Publisher description)

_The Moonstone_, Wilkie Collins
Everyone is a suspect in the first detective story in the English language, set in Victorian England. Who stole the precious and cursed Moonstone from the country house by the sea? Will it ever be found? Will anyone be happy again? This classic is for readers who wish Sherlock Holmes paid a visit to _Downton Abbey_.

_Murder on the Orient Express_, Agatha Christie
This absorbing 1934 mystery by the famous “Queen of Crime,” Agatha Christie, has become a beloved classic, and with good reason. Detective Hercule Poirot investigates the murder of an American tycoon on the swanky Orient Express train, which has been stopped in its tracks one night by a blizzard. The train’s doors are locked. Will Poirot find the killer, before he—or she—strikes again?

_New Boy_, Julian Houston
As the first African-American student at an exclusive boarding school in the 1950s, Rob Garrett is a witness to the civil rights struggle as it plays out on small and large stages.

_Oliver Twist_, Charles Dickens
Charles Dickens’ second novel traces the story of Oliver Twist, a young orphan in Victorian London whose journey takes him from a workhouse to an undertaker to a gang of child pickpockets. Dickens criticizes the miserable treatment of orphans, both by the misguided social programs designed to help them and by the outright criminals who take advantage of them.

_Paper Towns_, John Green
Quentin has been in love with Margot, the girl next door, since forever. Now that they are seniors in high school, they move in different circles and rarely talk outside of pleasantries. After she crawls into his bedroom unexpectedly one night and takes him on an adventure, he’s not sure what to think anymore. When he wakes up the next day to discover she has disappeared, he is convinced that she has left clues for him to find her.

_The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake_, Aimee Bender
Right before her birthday, Rose discovers that she has a form of ESP: she can sense what her mother is feeling, not by reading her mind but by eating the food she cooks. Rose’s dependable but strange father and her even stranger, but brilliant, younger brother, add flavor to our observant and witty protagonist’s daily life.
The Passion of Alice, Stephanie Grant
This eloquent novel, set in Boston, explores the complex mind of an intelligent young woman who is hospitalized for anorexia. What sets this novel apart from other books about eating disorders is the fullness of the character development, the refusal of the author to turn her characters into victims, and its suggestion that popular contemporary explanations of why young women develop eating disorders may not tell the whole story.

Plain Truth, Jodi Picoult
One of Jodi Picoult’s less well-known novels, Plain Truth is perhaps one of her most exciting in its examination of an Amish community in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The novel details the shocking and devastating story of Katie Fisher, an 18-year old, unmarried Amish woman who is accused of killing her own child.

A Raisin in the Sun, Lorraine Hansberry
Set in Chicago’s south side in the 1950s, between World War II and the Civil Rights Movement, A Raisin in the Sun is the story of the Younger family. Through the realistic and frank portrayal of this African-American family, Hansberry’s play explores issues of gender, morality, identity, and justice. A Raisin in the Sun is a classic of American literature in which the American dream is repeatedly deferred.

Red: Teenage Girls in America Write on What Fires Up Their Lives Today, ed. Amy Goldwasser
In this book of essays, 58 American teenage girls—from a diverse range of geographic, socioeconomic, racial and religious backgrounds—write about body image, family, politics, and pop culture. These well-written essays document the authors’ thoughts and reactions to such topics as post-Katrina New Orleans, Johnny Depp, and the pain of losing a friend.

Rocket Boys, Homer Hickam
Against overwhelming odds and with little knowledge of rocket science, Hickam and his high school buddies win the National Science Award for rocketry. The author went on to become a NASA engineer.

Seabiscuit: An American Legend, by 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).

Selected Poems, Edna St. Vincent Millay
Millay was famous for her wild love life, including her many affairs with both men and women, but she also wrote some of the best sonnets of the twentieth century. This collection
includes her most famous poems—poems that are both sentimental and cynical about love.

*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.

*The Songlines*, Bruce Chatwin
*The Songlines* pays homage to the nomadic spirit that prompted Chatwin’s own peripatetic existence with an exploration of the “labyrinth of invisible pathways which meander all over Australia,” the “dreaming-tracks” or “songlines” of the Aboriginals. Chatwin weaves memoir, history, science, and philosophy into an Australian Outback travel tale of brilliance and beauty.

*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 fifteen years after and before a pandemic virus eliminates most of civilization as we know it in this post-apocalyptic novel about life, art, love, and the way we’re all connected.

*Still Life with Rice*, Helie Lee
In this memoir of her Korean grandmother’s life, Lee interprets the complex nature of family relations, the impact of social upheaval on an individual, and the rapidly changing lives of women in the 20th century. (Recommended for *East Asian Studies* students.)
Stolen, Lucy Christopher
Imagine this scenario: you are abducted from the airport by a handsome stranger, only to wake up in the Australian Outback, the only two people for hundreds of miles. Then you discover that he has been following you and planning this for years. Could you ever stop being afraid and try to escape? Could you ever forgive him?

Strength in What Remains, Tracy Kidder
Deogratias (“Thanks be to God” in Latin) moves to the United States from Burundi in 1994, after a civil war tears his country apart. Kidder tells Deo’s story in chapters that alternate between Deo’s life in New York, as he teaches himself English and discovers his calling as a doctor; accounts of the losses he experienced in Burundi; and his return home to establish a much-needed clinic.

The Syringa Tree, Pamela Gien
Set in South Africa in 1963 at the height of the Apartheid movement, this story is seen through the eyes of Lizzie, a young white girl caught up in racial and political upheaval when the family of her black nurse is torn apart by law and the violence of brutal police raids. The story builds to its conclusion at the 1976 Soweto uprising, which was led by children.

This Boy’s Life, Tobias Wolff
In his memoir, both hilariously funny and heart-breakingly sad, Wolff recounts his struggles to survive adolescence while on the road with his single mother in the 1950s. Toby’s penchant for trouble forces him to invent a new life for himself. Think Holden Caulfield in Salinger’s The Catcher in the Rye—but Toby’s story is true.

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.

Tomorrow They Will Kiss, Eduardo Santiago
“Imaginate!” says Caridad, one of three smart Cuban girlfriends living in a small town during the early days of Castro’s regime. This fast-paced, funny novel includes their daring escapes from Cuba, searches for love, and their work in a New Jersey doll factory.

Travels with Charley, John Steinbeck
In 1960, author Steinbeck decided to rediscover America, so he set out in a camper for a three-month journey with Charley, his standard poodle. This is the delightful record of their travels together.
Year of Wonders, Geraldine Brooks
Set in England during the 17th century plague, Year of Wonders is the heroic tale of the people in a small northern village, who—being led by an ascetic and devout minister—quarantine themselves to prevent the spread of the plague. Despite its disturbing subject, Year of Wonders is a fast-paced read which is sure to hold your attention.

Grades 11 and 12
Required Reading
I. Literature and Composition III
• Fences, August Wilson
• The Crucible, Arthur Miller
• Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 11 & 12”
Keep notes as you read the plays, and write a one-page response to one question for each play (two typed, double-spaced pages altogether). We will collect your responses during the first week of class and grade them with special attention to the depth of your thinking and the quality of your writing. We will also spend time discussing the plays during the first two weeks of class; please bring them with you on the first day, along with this written assignment.

Questions about Fences (choose one):
1. Fences is part of a series of plays, set in various time periods, by August Wilson, whose goal was to write plays to help sensitize Americans to the struggles of African Americans. August Wilson sets Fences in 1957. An important physical symbol in the play is the fence Troy is building. As you read the play, make note of the many metaphorical or symbolic fences in the play. Write about two of these fences. In your writing, think about the following: How are fences used in the play? Are these fences a result of the time period? Are they used, as Bono says, “to keep people out…” or “to keep people in”? (II. 1)

2. Wilson’s main character is Troy Maxson, a reformed criminal who is making bold choices in a changing society. He is an unusual and flawed hero. Write a response to Lloyd Richard, the original director of the play, who asks, “Is [Troy’s] life to be discarded or honored?” Support your opinion with specific references to the play.

Questions about The Crucible (choose one):
1. Miller adopts an oracular language for the play, meant to suggest the language of the late seventeenth century. However accurate it may or not be as a reproduction of the actual speech of the time, readers and viewers of the play often particularly enjoy the play’s language. Consider one of the following speeches carefully, and discuss both its meaning and its quality as language—whatever aspect of the language appeals to you and seems to have particular power.
a. Mrs. Putnam (Act One): “There are wheels within wheels in this village, and fires within fires!”

b. Hale (Act One): “Now let me instruct you. We cannot look to superstition in this. The Devil is precise; the marks of his presence are definite as stone, and I must tell you all that I shall not proceed unless you are prepared to believe me if I should find no bruise of hell upon her.”

c. Danforth (Act Three): “This is a sharp time, now, a precise time—we live no longer in the dusky afternoon when evil mixed itself with good and befuddled the world. Now, by God’s grace, the shining sun is up, and them that fear not light will surely praise it.”

d. Parris (Act Four): “I would to God it were not so, Excellency, but these people have great weight yet in the town. Let Rebecca stand upon the gibbet and send up some righteous prayer, and I fear she’ll wake a vengeance on you.”

e. Proctor (Act Four): “Would you give them such a lie? Say it. Would you ever give them this?” She cannot answer. “You would not; if tongs of fire were singeing you you would not! Good, then—it is evil, and I do it!”

2. In his discussions of the events of the Salem witch trials and their resonance in his own time, Miller discusses “theocracy” and suggests that its division of the world into absolute good and evil, truth and falsehood, led to the injustice of the executions in Salem. Whether in terms of religion or of politics, one might argue that a similar absolutism affects life today, on both the national and the world stages. Make a brief comparison between the events of the play and some aspect of contemporary life.

II. AP English Language
You will read all or part of two nonfiction books this summer. In addition, you will read one book (fiction or nonfiction) from the “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12” reading list. Your written assignment for The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2014 is due on the first day of classes in the fall.

1. The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2014, Deborah Blum & Tim Folger, editors
What happens when animals mourn? What are the real costs of the anti-vaccination movement? Does the brain prefer paper? Are extinct animals forms coming back to life? These and many other interesting questions are explored in this well-written, thought-provoking collection of essays. Your summer assignment is to read at least ten of the collection’s twenty-six essays. For each of the ten essays of your choice, answer the following questions briefly but thoughtfully:

• Is this essay primarily expository (that is, explaining or describing something) or argumentative (that is, 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 briefly.
• Did you learn something worthwhile in this essay, and did you enjoy reading it? Why? There is no right or wrong answer here.
• Type out a sentence that you like particularly or consider especially well-crafted from this essay. Include a parenthetical citation with page number.

2. *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*, Katherine Boo

Katherine Boo spent three years among the residents of Annawadi, a makeshift settlement of shacks and huts in the shadow of Mumbai’s International Airport and the glitzy new hotels surrounding it. Exploring economic and social injustice with sharp intelligence and quiet humanity, Boo tells the stories of some of the people living in this slum—stories of astonishing optimism and breathtaking resilience as well as disheartening corruption and cutthroat survival of the fittest. Boo won the National Book Award in 2012 for this unforgettable glimpse into an overlooked world. As you read, make notes in the margins. Mark up the passages you find most interesting, thought-provoking, confusing, and/or touching; write questions and connections in the margins. Also, please think about the following questions and be prepared to discuss them during the first week of class.

• Whose story had the strongest effect on you, and why?
• In exploring the question of why the residents did not bond together in their common interests and against common enemies, Boo writes: “Instead, powerless individuals blamed other powerless individuals for what they lacked. Sometimes they tried to destroy one another” (237). Why, in your view, did these “powerless individuals” blame “other powerless individuals”? Why would they try to destroy one another?
• “In India, a land of few safe assumptions, chronic uncertainty was said to have helped produce a nation of quick-witted, creative problem solvers. Among the poor, it was no surprise that instability fostered ingenuity, but over time the lack of a link between effort and result could become debilitating” (219). Explain what Boo means by “lack of a link between effort and result.” For whom—or for what—could this be debilitating? Do you agree?
• In her Author’s Note, Boo writes: “It is easy, from a safe distance, to overlook the fact that in under-cities governed by corruption, where exhausted people vie on scant terrain for very little, it is blisteringly hard to be good. The astonishment is that some people are good, and that many people try to be…” (254). Did you find this astonishing? Give an example.
• Do you feel you would maintain your sense of optimism in a similar set of circumstances? What about your sense of morality? Your goodness?
• What, in your view, are the strengths and weaknesses in how Boo presents the realities of everyday life in Annawadi? What does she allow you to see and understand more fully? What does she miss or overlook or distort?

3. Your selection from “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

As you read, make notes in the margins. Mark up the passages you find most interesting, thought-provoking, confusing, and/or touching; write questions and connections in the
margins. Be prepared to write a review of your book during the first two weeks of class.

III. Found Voices

- *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*, Anne Lamott
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

An accurate description of *Bird by Bird* is found in its subtitle, *Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. Lamott says in the Introduction, “Writing has so much to give, so much to teach, so many surprises. That thing you had to force yourself to do—the actual act of writing—turns out to be the best part. It’s like discovering that while you thought you needed the tea ceremony for the caffeine, what you really needed was the tea ceremony. The act of writing turns out to be its own reward.” As you read this book, star the passages you find particularly and personally relevant and note why in the margins. Further, seriously consider Lamott’s statement: “The act of writing turns out to be its own reward.” Be ready to discuss and write about that idea as well as your own responses to *Bird by Bird*.

In two chapters early on (16-27), Lamott gives writers two helpful pieces of advice that you will want to consider as you write your college essay, which is due on the first day of class. Also consider Lamott’s warning against perfectionism (28-32)! This essay should respond to one of the Common Application prompts, and the maximum length for the final version is 650 words. Your college essay will undoubtedly start as a very rough first draft; however, by the time you give it to your senior English teacher for his or her feedback, it should be a thoughtful essay that you think will tell colleges something that will help them to know who you are.

IV. Women at the Edge and I, Too, Sing America: 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 which pertain to the themes of the AP Literature courses: crimes, punishments, and/or self-definitions. Be prepared to discuss these themes and concepts 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 and 12**

*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)

_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.

_American Pastoral_, Philip Roth
If ever a novel deserved the description “powerful,” it is this story of “the Swede” who after World War II builds a life worthy of the great American dream, only to see it destroyed after Vietnam—and it’s all about his children. (Recommended for _American Identities_ students.)

_An Anthropologist on Mars_, Oliver Sacks
With characteristic sensitivity and wit, neurologist Oliver Sacks presents case studies of seven “differently brained” people, from a surgeon with Tourette’s Syndrome to an autistic artist. As he depicts his individual subjects in respectful and humane detail, Sacks also examines the creative potential that can emerge from “defects, disorders, diseases.”

_The Autobiography of Malcolm X_, Malcolm X and Alex Haley
A controversial political and social activist of the 1960s, 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.)

_A Bend in the River_, V.S. Naipaul
This novel tells the harrowing story of a Muslim Indian merchant who opens a store in a newly independent African nation caught between “the alluring modern world and its own past and traditions.”

_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.
Billy Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk, Ben Fountain  
Nineteen-year-old Billy Lynn has a choice: jail or army. Simple. He joins up to fight in Iraq, where after a very fierce firefight with Iraqi insurgents, he and his buddies in the Bravo Company become heroes. Back home, they, along with Beyoncé are the stars of the Dallas Cowboys halftime show. You won’t know if you want to laugh or cry as you read about Billy’s life, and neither does he.

Bossypants, Tina Fey  
Witty, absorbing, and purely hilarious, Tina Fey’s Bossypants is one story not to be missed. Journeying through her uncomfortable early years, Fey worked her way into stardom and the hearts of many through her comedy. The line between being “nobody” and “somebody” is thin, and as she pushes this boundary we discover what the true meaning of “bossy” really is.

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.

The Cider House Rules, John Irving  
Homer Wells is raised as an orphan in St. Cloud, Maine. Under the tutelage of Dr. Larch, he learns the tricks and the trade of obstetrics, a set of skills which shapes his career but which he refuses to let define his morality. In a world fraught with injustice and heartache, Homer learns to embrace honesty and love.

Common Ground: A Turbulent Decade in the Lives of Three American Families, J. Anthony Lukas  
This is a fascinating account of the court-ordered desegregation of Boston public schools in the 1970s. Told from the perspective of three diverse families, this story is a history of race and class conflict in Boston.

Crooked Little Heart, Anne Lamott  
Lamott tells the story of a precocious 12-year-old tennis champ, her loving but dysfunctional family, and her struggle to be confident and capable despite all odds.
**Cutting for Stone**, Abraham Verghese
The narrator of this novel starts out by speaking to us from the womb. He then takes us through many generations of his own life and those of his parents, and his characters travel to India, Ethiopia and the United States. Since Verghese is a doctor, he is able to include specific medical details in his descriptions, and we view his experiences through many different lenses.

**Digging to America**, Anne Tyler
In her 17th novel, Anne Tyler chronicles the intertwining stories of two families who meet at the airport while waiting for the arrival of their adopted Korean infants. Despite cultural clashes—the Donaldsons are emphatically “American,” while the Yazdans have roots in Iran—the families become important in each other’s lives. After reading this witty, touching novel, full of subtle observations about family configurations, cross-cultural communication, assimilation, and the continuing hazards of the American dream, you will be tempted to camp out in the library and catch up on Tyler’s first 16 novels.

**Disgrace**, J. M. Coetzee
*Disgrace* takes place in South Africa after Apartheid. It is a novel about racial violence, revenge, rape, love, and justice. Winner of the 2003 Nobel Prize in Literature, it is both brutal and brilliant.

In November 1889, American women were not allowed to vote. Instead of six hours, it took about six days to travel from New York to Europe -- (if the conditions were favorable) -- and the telegraph was the fastest way to send a message -- (if you knew where someone would be). In November, 1889, two groundbreaking and brave female reporters, Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland, rocked the world when they set off to race around a globe that is very different than the one we experience today.

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

**Empire Falls**, Richard Russo
Miles Roby is forced to give up his college career to return to his run-down hometown of Dexter County, Maine, where the ramshackle ruins of his past threaten to derail the promise of his future. *Empire Falls* is the story of his return and his resilience; the story of how even amidst the worst nightmare one might achieve one’s dreams.
Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close, Jonathan Safran Foer
The search for meaning in the wake of September 11 is shaped by the perspective of Oskar Schell, a precocious nine year old who lost his father in the attack on the World Trade Center. Oskar’s story is a quest to make sense of the world he has inherited. His search is balanced by the narrative of his grandfather, who survived the bombing of Dresden during World War II. The novel’s strength is in Foer’s ability to filter horror, humor, joy, and wonder through a child’s perspective.

Fires in the Mirror, Anna Deavere Smith
A play taken from the words of the people involved in an explosion of ethnic tensions in 1991 Crown Heights, Brooklyn, when a car driven by a Hasidic Jew struck and killed a young African American child.

Franny and Zooey, J.D. Salinger
A moving and sometimes funny pair of interrelated stories about a brother and sister. Franny seeks spiritual purification through increasingly obsessive prayer and has a nervous breakdown, while her older brother, Zooey, tries to calm her down.

Freakonomics, Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner
An economics book for beach reading? Really? Though written by economists, this book reads nothing like an economics textbook. Levitt and Dubner collected mounds of data as they examined social trends, and they reach surprising conclusions about the way society functions and the impact present actions can have on the future. Written in lively prose and full of fascinating stories, Freakonomics will engage and entertain you, and it may change the way you see the world.

A Free Life, Ha Jin
In the aftermath of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, Nan Wu, a Chinese graduate student at Brandeis, decides not to return to his native country and instead leaves his studies to pursue a “free life” in America as a poet. With his wife, Pingping, and their son, Taotao, he eventually buys a Chinese restaurant in suburban Atlanta. Nan struggles to balance the demands of business and poetry as he also confronts the memory of his first love—a memory that keeps him from fully loving his wife and son.

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

The Gardens of Kyoto, Kate Walbert
Walbert’s novel is a mesmerizing narrative of loss, memory and the power of books. The story flows through allusions to mysterious places and times from the Underground
Railroad to a Japanese garden, from an innocent America before World War II to the decision to drop the atomic bomb.

*The Given Day*, Dennis Lehane
An absorbing historical novel set in Boston right after World War I, in which the action unfolds through the lives of two men, one white and one black. The 1918 influenza epidemic arrives with the returning soldiers, and revolutionaries and anarchists want to build a new world even if it means destroying everything first.

*The Glass Castle*, Jeannette Walls
A chronicle of a childhood in the hands of eccentric, nomadic parents, told with love and remarkable gratitude considering the emotional and physical neglect which the author and her siblings endured.

*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!

*Half the House*, Richard Hoffman
A boy grows up in blue-collar America; his brothers sicken with muscular dystrophy; his coach abuses him; his family struggles. As an adult, he writes this memoir, a testament to the healing power of truth telling and a story of love, reconciliation and triumph.

*A Handful of Dust*, Evelyn Waugh
This story of infidelity in 1940s England blends both tragedy and comedy. Tony and Brenda Last seem to have an idyllic marriage until Brenda begins an affair with a young fortune hunter. Their aristocratic life begins to crumble, and Tony flees England, falling into the clutches of a madman in South America.

*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!
The Hare with Amber Eyes, Edmund de Waal
The true story of the fabulously rich and cultivated Ephrussi family, who established banks in Vienna and Paris in the 19th century. Their collections of furniture, homes, clothes, and art included hundreds of Japanese netsuke—small ceramic figures, passed from one family member to another and hidden by a devoted servant during the Holocaust. The author, a ceramicist today, tells the breathtaking story of his own family.

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. Julia and Valentina settle into the apartment, and find that Elsepth is perhaps not as gone as they thought.

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents, Julia Alvarez
A story of sisterhood, friendship, and the personal ramifications of political strife by an award-winning novelist and poet.

In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens, Alice Walker
Pulitzer-Prize winner Walker speaks out as a black woman, writer, mother, and feminist in 36 essays ranging from the personal to the political. Included are pieces about other writers, accounts of the civil rights movement of the 1960s and the anti-nuclear movement of the 1980s, and a vivid memoir of a scarring childhood injury and her daughter’s healing words. (Harvest/HBJ)

Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison
One of the great novels of our century. A sequence of events beginning in a Southern town and moving to Harlem convinces the protagonist that he is visible as an African-American man but invisible as a man. (Recommended for AP English Literature students.)

The Known World, Edward P. Jones
This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel presents unknown truths about slavery. It reaches into the hidden corners of this devastating institution to bring to light what most of us can’t and don’t want to imagine. The Known World is a compelling story by a brilliant writer.
The Left Hand of Darkness, Ursula K. LeGuin
This fantasy novel was a groundbreaker in 1969 and has since become a classic in the genre. The story takes place in a lost land where gender is irrelevant; on the planet Winter, the inhabitants have both genders and/or neither. An envoy from a human planet, Genly Ai, has been sent to Winter to help the people move back toward a gendered world.

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

Life of Pi, Yann Martel
A 16-year-old Indian boy’s passage to a new life in Canada leads him into an unusual situation. He survives a shipwreck that leaves him alone on a raft with a zebra, hyena, orangutan, and tiger. He struggles to survive as he discovers his religious identity and develops unexpected friendships with some of the animals. He remains on the raft for 227 devastating, marvelous, desperate, miserable, and magical days. I was hooked from the first page. (Stephanie Dareshori ’13)

Light in August, William Faulkner
Touted as one of Faulkner’s most approachable texts, Light in August threads together the stories of some of Faulkner’s most memorable characters, including Joe Christmas and Lena Grove, as they weed through their pasts in search of their ever-elusive identities. (Recommended for AP English Literature students).

The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love, Oscar Hijuelos
Brothers Cesar and Nestor Castillo, as different as fire and water, leave their home in Cuba behind to pursue their dream of becoming mambo stars. They do find success—and leave a few broken hearts along the way. Winner of the 1990 Pulitzer Prize.

Measuring Time, Helon Habila
The message of this book is that the lives of ordinary people are the raw material of history. Habila chronicles Nigeria’s recent history as witnessed by twin brothers whose paths in life diverge and then reunite in adulthood. Tradition and modernity—“the evils of both but also the rich possibilities that come with their complex interaction” (Booklist)—come face to face in this engrossing story.

Memoirs of a Geisha, Arthur Golden
Sold to a geisha house at the age of nine, Chiyo resists her oppression, yet studies the arts of
the geisha, reaching for success in the only subculture in prewar Japan in which women rule and gain great strength.

*Middlesex*, Jeffrey Eugenides
Spanning eight decades, Eugenides’s novel is a grand, utterly original fable of crossed bloodlines and the intricacies of gender. The story questions what it is that makes us who we are and concludes that one’s inner essence stays the same, even in light of drastic outer changes. You will love watching the narrator go from Callie to Cal, and witnessing all of the life experiences that s/he encounters along the way.

*The Mill on the Floss*, George Eliot
Siblings Maggie and Tom Tulliver struggle to maintain a sense of unity as they face familial and societal oppressions. Set in the early nineteenth century, *The Mill on the Floss* is a story about choices and consequences. Maggie undergoes a series of complex experiences, from poverty to wealth and from love to heartache. When she finally decides what path she wishes to take, disaster strikes and only the solidarity between brother and sister can provide her happiness.

*The Mistress of Spices*, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
In this poetic, spellbinding tale, Tilo, a young ordained spice mistress, inhabits an old body in a San Francisco shop, working spice magic to help her customers. A chance meeting with a romantic man challenges her to question her choices in life.

*Mornings on Horseback*, David McCullough
Courage, love, grief and passion marked the life of Theodore Roosevelt from his early childhood to his position as our 26th President and beyond. The skill and excitement with which McCullough tells Roosevelt’s story will almost convince you that *Mornings on Horseback* is an exciting novel rather than a biography, but it’s all true. (Recommended for U.S. History students.)

*Mountains Beyond Mountains*, Tracy Kidder
This compelling work of nonfiction tells the story of Dr. Paul Farmer, an American doctor who has brought medical aid and world attention to poor people in Haiti through his Boston-based Partners in Health. Farmer specializes in infectious diseases, and his fight for better economic and social conditions as well as better medical care for the poor is inspiring.

*The Night Circus*, Erin Morgenstern
*Le Cirque des Reves*, the Circus of Dreams, is no ordinary circus. A truly magical experience awaits all who enter. It is the arena for two magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood in two very different magical traditions. Now they must compete against each other, neither player aware that in order for someone to win, the other must die.
**Oranges are Not the Only Fruit,** Jeanette Winterson
Before orange was the new black, it was not the only fruit. Jeanette Winterson wrote this ground-breaking, semi-autobiographical coming-of-age novel in 1985. The witty, quirky narrator grows up in an English pentecostal community, where she stitches samplers with apocalyptic themes, plans a life as a missionary—and then falls in love with another girl. An imaginative, poignant story of a creative young woman’s struggle to find her voice in the face of furious backlash from her conservative family and community.

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

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

**The Poisonwood Bible,** Barbara Kingsolver
Zealous Baptist missionary Nathan Price drags his wife and four daughters to the Belgian Congo in 1959: a foolish and grimly misguided enterprise. Unprepared for the weather, the snakes, the culture, and the political instability of their new home, each family member struggles to survive in his or her own way. Narrated in turns by the wife and daughters, this is one of those long, absorbing novels that weaves a family’s history into the larger story of a country’s struggle against colonialism and tyranny. Readers who love stories about sisters and their intertwining fates will especially cherish the memorable characters in this stunning novel.

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

**Reading in the Dark,** Seamus Deane
The hero of this novel is a young man whose life turns upside down when a police officer frames him. Hovering over this mystery is the violence, poverty and despair of 1940s Ireland.

**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)

*The Road*, Cormac McCarthy
“A father and his son walk alone through burned America. Nothing moves in the ravaged landscape save the ash on the wind. It is cold enough to crack stones, and when the snow falls it is gray. The sky is dark. Their destination is the coast, although they don’t know what, if anything, awaits them there. They have nothing; just a pistol to defend themselves against the lawless bands that stalk the road, the clothes they are wearing, a cart of scavenged food — and each other. *The Road* is the profoundly moving story of a journey. It boldly imagines a future in which no hope remains, but in which the father and his son, ‘each the other’s world entire,’ are sustained by love.” (Vintage Books)

*Room*, Emma Donoghue
“In many ways, Jack is a typical five-year-old. He likes to read books, watch TV, and play games with his Ma. But Jack is different in a big way—he has lived his entire life in a single room, sharing the tiny space with only his mother and an unnerving nighttime visitor known as Old Nick. For Jack, Room is the only world he knows, but for Ma, it is a prison in which she has tried to craft a normal life for her son. When their insular world suddenly expands beyond the confines of their four walls, the consequences are piercing and extraordinary…Readers who enter Room will leave staggered, as though, like Jack, they are seeing the world for the very first time.” (Amazon)

*A Room of One’s Own*, Virginia Woolf
What if Shakespeare had had a sister? Would she too have been able to become a world-famous playwright, or would social expectations and pressures around gender have affected her options? Virginia Woolf asks these and other questions about women and writing in this famous and engaging 1929 essay. (Required for AP Literature.)

*Roots*, Alex Haley
This family narrative spans seven generations of African Americans from the 1700s to the middle of the 20th century.

*Run*, Ann Patchett
Since their mother’s death, Tip and Teddy Doyle have been raised by their loving, possessive, and ambitious father. As the former mayor of Boston, Bernard Doyle wants to see his sons in politics, a dream the boys have never shared. But when an argument in a blinding
New England snowstorm inadvertently causes an accident that involves a stranger and her child, all Bernard Doyle cares about is his ability to keep his children—all his children—safe. Patchett shows us how worlds of privilege and poverty can coexist only blocks apart from each other, and how family can include people you’ve never even met. (HarperCollins)

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

The Secrets of Mary Bowser, Lois Leveen
What on earth would make an 1850s black woman leave the free North and travel to the enslaved South, knowing that such a decision could mean the end of her freedom or even her life? How about the opportunity to spy on Confederate President Jefferson Davis? In this exciting novel, based on the life of an actual Union spy, freed slave Mary Bowser returns to Virginia and passes herself off as a slave, sending military secrets to the North and finding love in the midst of danger. (Recommended for U.S. History students.)

Shakespeare, Bill Bryson
“Willm Shaksp,” “William Shakespe,” “Wm Shakspe”: the great Shakespeare never even signed his name the same way twice. So what can we really know about him? That is the question Bryson asks and answers in this fast-paced and amusing book about our most renowned and mysterious playwright and poet.

Slave Moth, Thylias Moss
This neo-slave narrative, written in verse, follows Varl, a young slave girl who finds beautiful and creative ways to rebel against her master’s determination to “collect” her. She attempts to maintain her humanity and her individuality in the face of the many-tiered assaults of slavery, while also bringing something new and worthwhile into the world.

Small Island, Andrea Levy
“Hortense Joseph arrives in London from Jamaica in 1948 with her life in her suitcase, her heart broken, her resolve intact. Her husband, Gilbert Joseph, returns from the war expecting to be received as a hero, but finds his status as a black man in Britain to be second class. His white landlady, Queenie, raised as a farmer’s daughter, befriends Gilbert, and later Hortense, with innocence and courage, until the unexpected arrival of her husband, Bernard, who returns from combat with issues of his own to resolve.” (Macmillan) Told in the vivid voices of these four characters, Small Island is a story of racism, immigration, post-war trauma and, ultimately, female empowerment.
Snow Falling on Cedars, David Guterson
Part love story, part murder mystery, part portrait of a painful time in American history, the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, Snow Falling on Cedars has won numerous awards, including the prestigious Pen/Faulkner Award.

So Far from God, Ana Castillo
This wacky, wild, funny novel, set in New Mexico, engages the reader in the lives of a Chicano mother and her four daughters, their loves and struggles, their gossip, recipes, miracles, and community activism.

Song of the Lark, Willa Cather
A novel about a young woman’s development into a world-famous opera singer. Cather, one of the 20th century’s great writers, portrays the emotional, physical, and financial challenges as well as the rewards of devoting a life to art.

The Sorrow of War: A Novel of North Vietnam, Bao Ninh
The ugliness of war is the backdrop of this novel, and the Vietnamese War, as seen from the point of view of a North Vietnamese Communist soldier, is the focus. Bao Ninh’s brutal honesty is sometimes hard to stomach, and his writing style incorporates the chaos of the soldier’s life. Nonetheless, The Sorrow of War is well worth the work, especially for those of us lucky enough never to have faced war first-hand.

Soul on Ice, Eldridge Cleaver
A spiritual and intellectual biography written by one of the most articulate and prophetic young voices of the African-American community in the atmosphere of turbulence that characterized the early 1960s. A great companion volume to The Autobiography of Malcolm X. (Recommended for U.S. History students.)

The Sparrow, Mary Doria Russell
Here is a science fiction novel whose narrative shifts back and forth between the years 2016 and 2060 as it recounts a scientific mission to a newly discovered extraterrestrial culture. Exciting ideas and disturbing moral issues await.

Speak, Memory, Vladimir Nabokov
Most well known as the author of Lolita, Nabokov was one of the 20th century’s most innovative novelists. Upon publication of this autobiography, The New York Review of Books said, “When he is writing about someone or something he loves, he is irresistible; when he is writing about someone or something he despises, he can manage to enlist one’s sympathies, if only momentarily, for the object of his contempt.”
The Story of Edgar Sawtelle, David Wroblewski
What if you could read the story of Hamlet in modern day English, set on a farm in Wisconsin, with a young hero, Edgar, who can’t speak or hear but who can communicate with his dogs, especially his special dog, who knows and understands all the joy and anguish that Edgar experiences, including a ghost? Well, you can. It’s called The Story of Edgar Sawtelle.

Suite Française, Irene Nemirovsky
This brilliant, compelling novel shows France “at its darkest hour”: the Parisian exodus from the City of Light as the Nazis move in to occupy it. Nemirovsky became part of that exodus, herself caught up in the horrors of World War II.

The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness, Simon Wiesenthal
Wiesenthal, imprisoned in a Nazi concentration camp, was asked for forgiveness by a dying soldier. Fifty-three distinguished commentators respond to the questions his story raises about justice, compassion, forgiveness, and human responsibility.

The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie, Alan Bradley
If you like mysteries and quirky characters, you will love this book set in England during the 1950s. Young Flavia de Luce’s strange home life inspires her solitary diversions such as chemistry experiments in the laboratory of her family’s Victorian house. She also plots sleuth-like vengeance on her two older sisters and delves into the forbidden past of her emotionally unavailable, widowed father, Colonel de Luce. When she discovers a 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. (Recommended for Literature and Composition III students.)

A Thousand Acres, Jane Smiley
An aging Iowa farmer announces his plans to turn over his farm to his three daughters. When the youngest is less than grateful, he cuts her out of the deal, and dark family secrets start to emerge. Set on farm in Iowa, with a plot that masterfully reimagines the story of King Lear from the point of view of the women, particularly the two “bad” daughters, this subtle, compelling story gathers force as it unfolds. Winner of the 1992 Pulitzer Prize for fiction.
The Tiger’s Wife, Tea Obreht
In their daily visits to the zoo, Natalia’s beloved grandfather tells her stories from his youth in a small Balkan village and of his mysterious meetings with the Deathless Man. Years later, the war and its aftermath push Natalia, now a young doctor, to solve the riddle of her grandfather’s mysterious death and to discover his last, untold story—of the tiger and the tiger’s wife. This is a breathtaking novel about the power of story, memory, survival and love.

Unaccustomed Earth, Jhumpa Lahiri
Eight luminous stories that take us from Cambridge and Seattle to India and Thailand—including a linked trio that explore the power of love, fate, and the secrets that lie at the heart of family life—from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Interpreter of Maladies.

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 Very Long Engagement, Sebastien Japrisot
You will find here a mixture of ingredients that make a great story: romance, history, mystery, quest. Set in France during World War I, the novel is dominated by a marvelous heroine, Mathilde Donnoy. (Recommended for AP European History students.)

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 Literature and Composition III and American Identities students.)
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.

Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail, Cheryl Strayed
In this real-life account of her search for wilderness salvation, Cheryl Strayed tells the story of her emotional devastation after the death of her mother and the weeks she spent hiking the 1,100-mile Pacific Crest Trail. As her family, marriage, and sanity go to pieces, Strayed drifts into a wild life. Convinced that nothing else can save her, she latches onto the unlikely idea of a long solo hike. Woefully unprepared, she relies on the kindness and assistance of those she meets along the way. (adapted from Booklist)

Wolf Hall, Hilary Mantel
A fascinating look at Tudor England, this is a fictionalized biography of Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII’s minister. 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 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. (Recommended for AP European History students.)

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.

The Yellow Birds, Kevin Powers
Critics have referred to this novel as The Things They Carried of the Iraq War. Poetic and lyrical, this is the story of Private Bartle, the promise he made to Private Murphy’s mother to keep him safe, how things go wrong, and how Bartle copes with civilian life when it is all said and done.

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)

AMERICAN IDENTITIES
Jasmine, Bharati Mukherjee
This is a story of migration, both physical and personal. Jyoti, an Indian woman, travels to America to escape the confines of village life. She transforms herself again and again: as a laborer in Florida, a nanny in Manhattan, and finally a housewife in Iowa. With each transformation, she offers the reader a unique view into America, where the common becomes exotic and new.

American Pastoral, Philip Roth
This novel follows a father’s struggle to maintain normalcy through the increasingly turbulent 1950s and 1960s, in the face of protest and the Vietnam War, challenges to traditional family ideals and values, and an increasingly rebellious daughter.
**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.

*Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, Lisa See
This is a fictional account of a woman’s life in rural Hunan province in China during the late 19th century. It follows her story from youth to adulthood as she experiences foot binding; learns a secret form of women’s writing called *nu shu*; and faces marriage, childrearing, friendship, and the collapse of her traditional world in the face of modernity.

*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)

Naked Economics, Charles Whelan
“Finally! A book about economics that won’t put you to sleep. In fact, you won’t be able to put this bestseller down. In our challenging economic climate, this perennial favorite of students and general readers is more than a good read, it’s a necessary investment—with a blessedly sure rate of return.” (Amazon.com)

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**

*The Cherry Orchard*, Anton Chekhov
A timeless play about the human condition set in 19th century Russia. It examines the value of traditions in a changing world, and the hopes and fears of aristocratic Russia, even as the old order is replaced by the new.

*City of Thieves*, David Benioff
A novel set in the nightmarish world of the 900-day siege of Leningrad during World War II; a young boy accused of looting and an accused deserter are spared from execution if they complete a task to find 12 eggs in the starving city.

*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.

**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
Ms. 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: An American Childhood, Annie Dillard
In this piece, Annie Dillard shares not only poignant remembrances of her childhood, but also valuable insights into the values and social expectations of suburban Pittsburgh. Dillard’s writing is complex, varied, and accessible.

Required: The Autobiography of Malcolm X, Malcolm X and Alex Haley
A controversial political and social activist of the 1960s, 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.)

*Le Chien jaune*, Georges Simenon
One of the famous Inspecteur Maigret mysteries set in Brittany. The inspector traces a series of mysterious crimes and tries to find the connections between them. (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.)

*Un Long dimanche de fiançailles*, Sebastien Japrisot
During World War I, a French bride searches for clues to find her lost fiancé, a soldier who has mysteriously disappeared from the battlefield. (Recommended for levels III-V.)

*A Moveable Feast*, Ernest Hemingway
A memoir of Hemingway’s early years when he lived in Paris “poor and happy” during the 1920s with his first wife and many other well-known expatriates such as F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, Ezra Pound, James Joyce and Gertrude Stein. Anyone who has visited (and loves) Paris will truly enjoy this book, as it transports you to many magical Parisian places that still exist today.

*Paris to the Moon*, Adam Gopnik
A series of essays written by a New Yorker journalist who lived in Paris with his wife and

*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.)

*Le Racisme expliqué à ma fille*, Tahar Ben Jelloun
A Moroccan writer explains the origins of and his struggles with racism to his daughter so that future generations will not have to suffer from it. (Recommended for levels III-V.)

**Latin**

**Required for IV/V AP:** *Aeneid*, Vergil (only the unabridged Stanley Lombardo translation)
The Latin AP curriculum has changed to include both Vergil and Caesar, and there is no longer time during the school year to read the entire Aeneid in translation. However, the complete book in translation remains on the AP syllabus. This translation by a classicist known also for his translations of the Iliad and Odyssey will provide you with the uninterrupted story using the original order of the books and including an appended glossary of names. Discussion questions to help guide your reading will be provided.

**Required for Latin IV/V AP:** *Always I Am Caesar*, W. Jeffrey Tatum
By examining his military and political career, home life and relationships with women, *Always I Am Caesar* provides a vivid portrait of Caesar's life and of ancient Rome during its transition from republic to empire.

*Augustus*, John Edward Williams
This novel borrows from the history of Rome in the beginning of her Empire, describing in compelling detail the life of Augustus from his youth to his days as emperor of Rome.

*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.

*Carpe Diem: Put a Little Latin in Your Life*, Harry Mount
Mount uses humor, pop culture, and examples from his own British education to make Latin come alive. For those who know a little Latin, this book will make you smile and want to continue learning, and for those who have never learned Latin, this book will make you want to do just that.
**Fairy Tales in Latin: Fabulae Mirabiles**, Victor Barocas
For those of you entering Latin III or IV, this book gives you an opportunity to read Latin without the need for notes or an extensive vocabulary. A glossary is provided, however, for the unusual words.

**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.

**Never Let a Fool Kiss You or a Kiss Fool You**, Mardy Grothe
Chiasmus is a literary device used in Latin poetry (and illustrated by the title of this book). The book gathers an impressive number of examples of chiasmus in English and does a great job explaining how it brings humor and depth to simple expressions. Quotations are grouped by theme and come from celebrities, historical figures, and popular culture.

**The Venus Throw: A Mystery of Ancient Rome**, Steven Saylor
In this intriguing mystery set during the late Republic, detective Gordianus the Finder investigates the actions of Clodia, a sexually promiscuous and powerful woman of the aristocracy. Based on the speeches of Cicero and the poetry of Catullus, the novel gives a glimpse of a specific time previously only portrayed in classical literature.

**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**

**The Lady in the Painting**, Fred Fang-yu Wang
The only full-length story re-written for low to intermediate level learners of Mandarin, *The Lady in the Painting* tells the tale of a lonely young man who receives a painting of a beautiful woman as a gift. This great story is told using only 300 characters and is suitable for students at all levels.

**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 of the stories.

**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.)

*Crónica de una muerte anunciada*, Gabriel García Márquez
According to *The New York Review of Books*, “This investigation of an ancient murder takes on the quality of a hallucinatory exploration, a deep, groping search into the gathering darkness of human intentions for a truth that continually slithers away.” (Recommended for level IV AP.)

*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.)

*Hair/Pelitos*, Sandra Cisneros
This bilingual picture book with its unique artwork helps beginning students read more complex structures with the aid of a translation. (Recommended for levels I and II.)

*Platero y yo*, Juan Ramón Jiménez.
A beautifully written collection of Andalusian poems that describes the birthplace of the author, a Nobel Prize winner in Literature in 1956, and that can be read with pleasure by children and adults alike. (Recommended for level III.)

*El Viaje de su vida*, Lisa Ray Turner and Blaine Ray
A short and easy beginning reader. (Recommended for levels I and II).

*El Viaje perdido*, Lisa Ray Turner and Blaine Ray
Another short and easy beginning reader. (Recommended for levels I and II).
This summer reading list was compiled by

Stephanie Donohue, Library Director
Sam Musher, Middle School Librarian

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

Jacqui Bloomberg, 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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