Summer Reading List

Dana Hall
2018
INTRODUCTION

MIDDLE SCHOOL
General Requirements 3
Grade 5 3
Grade 6 5
Grade 7 9
Grade 8 12

UPPER SCHOOL
General Requirements 16
New International Students 17
Literature and Composition I Required 18
Recommended Books for Grade 9 19
Literature and Composition II Required 23
Recommended Books for Grade 10 23
Grades 11 & 12 Required 29
  Literature and Composition III 29
  AP English Language 30
  Found Voices, Speaking of Class &
  I, Too, Sing America 30
  AP English Literature 31
Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12 31
Social Studies Books 41
World Language Books 46
AP Art History Books 48
Global Scholars Capstone Books 49
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.

***

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

**Bridge**: Gay/Straight/Bisexual/Transgender alliance
**Dana All**: Middle School multicultural club
**ISA** (International Student Alliance): International student group
**Kesher**: Jewish student culture club
**Salaam**: Islamic culture and support club
**SHADES** (Sisters Honoring All Diasporas & Enlightening Society): Multicultural club
MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS
1. During the first few weeks in your English classes, you will be asked to discuss and to write about the books you read during the summer. Your first trimester grade will include work connected with your summer reading.

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

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

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

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

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADE 5
ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS
D’Aulaire’s Book of Norse Myths, Ingri and Edgar Parin D’Aulaire
Just like the D’Aulaire’s other famous book about Greek mythology, this book beautifully tells and illustrates the mythology of old Norse culture. From Thor to Odin to Freya, you’ll be fascinated by the amazing things that happen in the realm of these Scandinavian gods.

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

The Red Pyramid, Rick Riordan
Join siblings Carter and Sadie as they race to reverse the magic that has awoken the gods of Ancient Egypt.
Starry River of the Sky, Grace Lin
Guests at an inn put their own spin on traditional Chinese folktales as they try to discover the reason for the moon’s disappearance from the sky.

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

My Life with the Chimpanzees, Jane Goodall
Renowned anthropologist Jane Goodall shares stories of her adventures living with and learning about (and from) the primates she loves.

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

Stella by Starlight, Sharon Draper
Bumblebee, North Carolina, may be in the segregated South, but Stella and her family are accustomed to following the rules of Jim Crow… until the KKK holds a clan meeting and burns a cross just around the corner. Overnight, Stella’s world transforms from one of daily oppression to one of sheer terror. Despite the mounting fear, a few of the African-Americans in Stella’s community dare to register to vote, leading to severe consequences. Thankfully, this is a story of the power of community to come together and the power of many voices raised together to drown out the few.

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

KIDS LIKE YOU
Flora and Ulysses, Kate DiCamillo
When Ulysses the squirrel is sucked up into a vacuum cleaner, he experiences a fantastical change. He and new friend Flora go on an adventure and discover that not all heroes have superpowers.
George, Alex Gino
Have you ever really wanted that great part in the school play? Have you ever kept a secret deep inside? If you have, then you have a lot in common with George. Learn about what makes George terrified and ecstatic in this heart-warming book about facing your fears and being true to yourself.

*Recommended by Dana All*

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

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

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

**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](http://library.danahall.org/reading-lists/summer-reading) by June 1.*

**Recommended Books for Grade 6**

**Kids Like You**

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

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

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

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

**Fantastic Fantasy**

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

*Dealing with Dragons*, Patricia C. Wrede
Bored with being a princess, Cimorene runs away to live with dragons in this funny fairy tale. First in a series.

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

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

**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*.

*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**

*Ninth Ward*, Jewell Parker Rhodes
Unable to leave New Orleans, Lanesha and her elderly caretaker, Mama Ya-Ya, stay to ride out Hurricane Katrina.

*The One and Only Ivan*, Katherine Applegate
The Newbery-winning tale of a captive gorilla, a baby elephant and their incredible friendship.

**Poems and Pictures**

*El Deafo*, Cece Bell
“Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers!” (Publisher description) A Newbery Honor-winning graphic memoir.

*Inside Out & Back Again*, Thanhha Lai
When the Vietnam War forces her family to escape to the U.S., Ha faces many challenges in adapting to her new life. An autobiographical story told in poems.
Roller Girl, Victoria Jamieson
If you love Raina Telgemeier’s books, you’ll definitely enjoy this graphic novel. Astrid is spending the summer at roller derby camp with a group of entirely new people. Scary? She’s terrified. Making new friends is hard, and roller skating competitively is not so easy either. Find out how Astrid makes it to the finish line.

Other Times
Enchanted Air, Margarita Engel
Have you ever felt like an outsider? In this memoir-in-verse book, you will learn the story of Margarita, a Cuban-American girl growing up in California during the heart of the Cold War. A coming-of-age tale, Margarita struggles to understand why the two countries she loves—Cuba and America—hate each other so much, and why she feels torn between two cultures that are at war with one another.

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.

Sophia’s War, Avi
When Sophia sees the violence of the American Revolution first hand, she wants to help. She soon finds herself working as a maid in the household of a British general, spying for the rebels. Filled with action and danger, this is a thrilling historical tale.

The War That Saved My Life, Kimberley Brubaker Bradley
Ava cannot walk well; one of her legs doesn’t work quite right, and her mother has never let her leave their dingy flat in 1930s London. Big changes are coming, though. Ava’s little brother Jamie tells her they are evacuating children to the countryside in anticipation of the Nazis’ bombing of London. Will Ava find the courage to walk away from their mother and join her brother? And will anyone take in a disabled girl and her brother if she does?

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.

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

*From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, E. L. Konigsburg
When Claudia and her little brother Jamie decide to run away, they do it in style. They spend their days and nights in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. But when Claudia’s favorite sculpture goes missing and they decide to solve the mystery, they end up with more than they bargained for!

*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.

*When You Reach Me*, Rebecca Stead
Miranda’s normal life is suddenly full of odd characters, like the crazy man who lives under the mailbox on her street and the kid who punches her best friend for no reason. And then she starts getting the notes…

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

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

**Recommended Books for Grade 7**
**Girl Up: Girl Leaders**
*The 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.

*Hidden Figures (Young Readers’ Edition)*, Margot Lee Shetterly
Did you enjoy watching the movie? Would you like to know which major plot points the movie got wrong? Read this edition for an informative look at the inspiring African-American women behind many of NASA’s major advances.
Hope Was Here, Joan Bauer
Hope has grown up working in diners up and down the East Coast with her aunt, Addie. She loves being a waitress, but all that moving around is hard. Now that Addie’s taking over a diner in tiny Mulhoney, Wisc., will Hope find a home at last?

I Am Malala (Young Readers’ Edition), Malala Yousafzai
Malala Yousafzai, the youngest winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, is a champion for girls’ education. Her desire to attend school in her home country, Pakistan, had dire consequences but hasn’t stopped her from continuing to speak on behalf of girls who don’t have a voice. 🌟 Recommended by Dana All

Kids Like You
Counting by 7s, Holly Goldberg Sloan
Although this book starts with a tragedy—the main character’s parents die—it is not depressing. Read more to find out about Willow Chance, a 12-year old genius with a unique way of seeing the world and coping with grief.

Dairy Queen, Catherine Gilbert Murdock
D.J. Schwenk is overworked enough as she tries to keep the family farm running—then she also agrees to secretly train the rival high school’s quarterback. First in a trilogy.

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

Olive’s Ocean, Kevin Henkes
Just before heading to the beach for her summer vacation, Martha receives a page from a journal. The journal entry is by Olive, Martha’s recently-deceased classmate, and expresses Olive’s desire to get to know Martha better. The entry brings up all kinds of confusing feelings for Martha, who grapples with them as well as family issues and first love while she spends her summer at the Cape with her family.

Summerlost, Allie Condie
It’s the first real summer since the accident that killed Cedar’s father and younger brother, Ben. From the bestselling author of the Matched series, this is a book about a young girl recovering from tragedy who meets a new friend and works to uncover a mystery.

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

**Twists & Turns**

*Graceling*, Kristin Cashore

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

*The Great Trouble*, Deborah Hopkinson

It’s 1854 and a neighborhood of London is besieged by a terrible plague of cholera. Eel, a street kid and “mudlark,” joins forces with the refined Dr. Snow to seek answers. Based on the true story of the Broad Street cholera outbreak, this fascinating and thrilling historical novel adds an extra dimension to the discovery of the causes of illness.

*Redwall*, Brian Jacques

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

**Global Adventures**

*The Boy on the Wooden Box*, Leon Leyson

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

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

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

© Recommended by Dana All

*Endangered*, Eliot Schrefer

Sophie, whose mother runs a sanctuary for bonobo apes in 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.
In Real Life, Cory Doctorow and Jen Wang
In this graphic novel, Anda questions her love of the videogame Coarsegold when her gaming adventures intersect with real life on the other side of the world.

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

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

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, C. S. Lewis
Four siblings slip through a wardrobe in their new home and find themselves in a magical land ruled by the cruel White Witch. First in a series.

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

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

Recommended Books for Grade 8
Classic Adventures
The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
The first collection of stories about the world’s most famous detective.

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

Little Women, Louisa May Alcott
A perennial classic, Little Women tells the story of four courageous, funny and above all relatable sisters who navigate life and relationships in the Civil War era.
Murder on the Orient Express, Agatha Christie
When someone commits murder on the luxurious Orient Express train, it is up to Detective Poirot to solve the case.

Twists & Turns

13 Little Blue Envelopes, Maureen Johnson
Ginny finds herself on a global scavenger hunt when she gets a letter from her beloved but deceased Aunt Peg. After the first letter, Ginny tracks down 12 more, finding adventure (and herself) along the way.

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.

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

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

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

On the Shorter Side

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

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

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

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

**Other Lives**

*Beekeeper’s Apprentice*, Laurie R. King
The world’s most famous detective, Sherlock Holmes, meets his match in daring young Mary Russell.

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

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

*The Hired Girl*, Laura Amy Schlitz
It’s 1911 and 14-year-old Joan Skaggs sees no future for herself on the farm, grieving her mother’s death and cleaning up after her miserable father and brothers. Bright, tough and impulsive, Joan reinvents herself as Janet Lovelace, finds work as a hired girl with a Jewish family in the city, and begins her quest for knowledge, adventure and love.
**Salt to the Sea**, Ruta Sepetys
For fans of historical fiction comes the frightening true tale of the *Wilhelm Gustloff*, a little-known maritime disaster that was six times deadlier than the Titanic. Based in 1945 during WWII, this book traces the stories of four narrators—Emilia, Florian, Alfred and Joana—as they try to escape the advancing Russian army on a journey across Europe. One is pregnant, one carries a dangerous secret, one is a young Nazi dreaming of glory, and all witness firsthand the horrors of war.

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

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

**Wicked Girls**, Stephanie Hemphill
Convicted of murdering a 4-year-old girl when they were 11, Jade and Bel spend the rest of their youth in two separate British correctional facilities. Upon their release as adults, they are given new names and the condition that they never have contact again. Twenty-five years later, the girls meet again. This chilling mystery is chock full of surprises. (Adapted from Booklist).
UPPER SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

New 10th-12th Grade International Students
- *Girl in Translation*, Jean Kwok
- *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
- *Girl in Translation*, Jean Kwok
- 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
- *Homegoing*, Yaa Gyasi
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

AP English Language
- *Homegoing*, Yaa Gyasi
- A non-fiction text of your choosing from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”
Senior English Courses: Creative Writing: Found Voices; Speaking of Class: The Language of Social Class in Literature; and 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
• Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
All new 9th grade international students will be mailed a copy of Girl in Translation, and all new 10th-12th grade international students will be mailed copies of Girl in Translation and The Joy Luck Club in early June.

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

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

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

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

4. An important theme in this novel is choice—or lack of choice. How much choice do you feel Kim and her mother have about their work and living conditions? What factors limit their options? Where in the story do you feel they could have made different choices?
II. *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 Lit Comp 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**
- *Girl in Translation*, Jean Kwok
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 9”

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

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

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

3. Kimberly believes that devoting herself to school will allow her to free her family from poverty. Does school always live up to her expectations? Where do you think it fails her? How does it help her succeed?
4. An important theme in this novel is choice—or lack of choice. How much choice do you feel Kim and her mother have about their work and living conditions? What factors limit their options? Where in the story do you feel they could have made different choices?

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADE 9
Choose two books from this annotated list to complete your summer reading requirement. We encourage you to read as many of these selections as you can.

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

*Black Ice*, Lorene Cary
An autobiographical account of the author’s struggles as a young black girl who tries to maintain two separate lives while attending an independent school.

*Court of Fives*, Kate Elliot
Jessamy dreams of the Court of Fives, a masked American Gladiator-esque competition in her Roman-esque world. Jess is the daughter of an aristocratic general and a commoner; her dark skin marks her as different, and few aristocrats accept her family. When Jes lets Kal, nephew of a scheming lord, beat her to avoid being unmasked, they strike up a friendship. Jes’ world is upended and her family torn apart when Kal’s uncle turns her father into a pawn in his game, and she must choose whether or not to risk her own dreams to save her family as the game becomes her reality.

*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.

*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.
Dumplin’, Julie Murphy
Her mom calls her Dumplin’. Not the best nickname for a fat girl, especially when that fat girl’s mom runs the most important beauty pageant in her South Texas town. But Willowdean knows who she is and she knows what she is worth; she knows she deserves all the love any girl can give herself, so why does she feel bad about herself? When the cute boy at work likes her, why won’t she let herself believe him? And when she signs up for that beauty pageant, knowing girls like her aren’t supposed to be in pageants, how could such a thing lead her to self-realization? In this inspirational and funny novel, Willowdean draws on strength from her own team—her misfit friends, her beloved 500-pound dead aunt and drag queen Dolly Parton impersonators—and she slays.

Every Day, David Levithan
What if you woke up in a different body every day? What if you fell in love?

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

Honor Girl, Maggie Thrash
Maggie Thrash tells her story of her time at Camp Bellflower, a 100-year-old all-girls camp with lots of traditions. If you liked the honesty and illustrations of Persepolis, you’ll love Thrash’s brutal honesty about everything she loves, hates and longs for at camp, especially the forbidden romance.

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.

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

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

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

*The 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 different traditions. Now they must compete against each other, neither aware that in order for someone to win, the other must die.

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

*Raven Boys*, Maggie Stiefvater
Blue Sargent comes from a family of clairvoyants. They make their living from predicting the future and talking to ghosts. This might be ok if it weren’t for the fact that Blue has been living with a prediction her whole life: “If you were to kiss your true love, he would die.” Have that hanging over your head, plus a ghost of a boy from the local private school and a posse of his pissed off friends, and Blue has more than enough going on for her impending sixteenth birthday. Follow Blue from the beginning of this trilogy as she uncovers ugly truths, solves mysteries and helps a wayward band of private school boys stay alive.
**Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda**, Becky Albertalli  
Sixteen-year-old, not-so-openly-gay Simon Spier is blackmailed into playing wingman for his classmate or else his sexual identity—and that of his secret pen pal...who he happens to have a major crush on—will be revealed on his school Tumblr. This contemporary novel set in Atlanta is filled with great characters, musical theatre, shenanigans, sibling rivalry, crushes, tough decisions and friendship.  
© Recommended by Bridge

**Story of a Girl**, by Sara Zarr  
Imagine making a mistake at 13 so big and so public that it defines you. In an effort to escape the role her town has given her, Deanna Lambert gets a job the summer of her sophomore year so she can raise enough money to move her, her 19-year-old brother, his wife and their newborn daughter out of her 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 a hint at how, even after the greatest mistakes, life can go on.

**A Tree Grows in Brooklyn**, Betty Smith  
Beloved by generations of plucky girls, this classic American novel tells a surprisingly fresh coming-of-age tale. Follow young Francie Nolan as she grows up in poverty in 1910s Brooklyn, the child of struggling immigrants. You will applaud Francie as she uses her intelligence, her perseverance, her imagination and her big heart to defy stereotypes, and find herself and her rightful place in the world.

**We Were Liars**, E. Lockhart  
Cadence spends her summers on a private island off of Cape Cod living a carefree life of privilege with her cousins Johnny and Mirren and best friend Gat. The island was a paradise until two summers ago, when a mysterious and tragic event injured Cadence and left her with amnesia. Now she is trying to put the pieces back together, an unreliable narrator trying to grasp the complexities of family drama while under the influence of major pain killers. If you enjoy a little romance, a little mystery and a big twist, this book will have you turning the pages.

**Wolf by Wolf**, Ryan Graudin  
In this alternate-history dystopian science fiction thriller, Graudin asks the question: What if the Nazis had won World War II? What if all of Europe and most of Asia were under Nazi rule? And what if one teen-aged, motorcycle-racing, resistance-fighting, skin-shifting, concentration-camp-escapee Jewish girl could single-handedly spark the revolution? Yael is sure going to try. Join her in a no-holds-barred road race from Berlin to Tokyo to kill Hitler and change the world in this exciting and thought-provoking novel.
**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
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 through you’re writing a letter to your Lit Comp 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.

*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)

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

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

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

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

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

**Exit, Pursued by a Bear**, E.K. Johnston
Hermione Winters has got it. She’s a star on her high school cheerleading squad. Yeah, it’s a sport, and an elite one at Palermo Heights High School. As Hermione sees it, there is the top of the high school food chain, her, and the bottom, those girls who get pregnant
and have to drop out. The problem is, after a party, Hermione is now both of those girls: top and bottom, cheerleader and pregnant.

*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.

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

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

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

*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)

**Mosquitoland**, David Arnold
“I am a collection of oddities, a circus of neurons and electrons: my heart is the ringmaster, my soul is the trapeze artist, and the world is my audience. It sounds strange because it is, and it is, because I am strange.” These are the musings of Mim Malone. Mim Malone is not okay. Her parents are divorced and she’s had to move away from her home and her mother, and now she wants out. She’s on a trip from Mississippi to Ohio on a Greyhound bus with $800 of her stepmom’s secret stash. If you liked John Green’s *The Fault in Our Stars*, this book is for you.

**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.

**Night**, Elie Wiesel
Imagine your life completely changed and turned upside down by a shift in political power. In this famous and heartbreaking memoir, Elie Wiesel tells of his journey from his home in Transylvania to Auschwitz, a prison camp of the Nazi regime during World War II. “Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night.”

© Recommended by Kesher

**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 treatment of orphans, both by the misguided social programs designed to help them and by the outright criminals who take advantage of them.

**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.

**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 depicts a family for which the American dream is repeatedly deferred.

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

Relish: My Life in the Kitchen, Lucy 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)

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

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

She’s Not There, Jennifer Boylan
A bittersweet account of being transgender before, during and after gender reassignment surgery. After reading this, you will want to read Boylan’s I’m Looking Through You: Growing up Haunted, her account of growing up among ghosts—in her childhood house in Pennsylvania, in her community and in her heart.

Recommended by Bridge
Song of Achilles, Madeline Miller
We all know the story of Trojan War hero Achilles—but do we really? Achilles was the rockstar jock of the Greeks; a warrior stronger, faster and more deadly than his counterparts. Patroclus is an exiled prince, said to be Achilles’ dearest friend. When Helen is kidnapped and all Greek heroes are called to get her back, everything they know will be left to the unforgiving hands of the Gods.

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

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

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

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

Underground Girls of Kabul: In Search of a Hidden Resistance in Afghanistan, Jenny Nordberg
This is an amazing study of a hidden culture in Afghanistan that sanctions the raising of infant girls as boys in order to secure the status of a family.

When I Was Puerto Rican, Esmeralda Santiago
A memoir of a girl’s journey from extreme poverty in Puerto Rico to life in New York—and her first year at Harvard University.
Wrath and the Dawn, Renee Ahdieh
In this book inspired by One Thousand and One Nights, a murderous but tormented boy king, Khalid, kills a different bride every night. Imagine Prince Joffrey from George R.R. Martin’s Game of Thrones, but with a much more intense track record and penchant for torturing women. It is up to the woman, Shahrzad, brave enough to volunteer for the position of Khalid’s next bride (a la Katniss Everdeen in The Hunger Games) to stop his murderous streak and discover what is driving this violence before time runs out in the worst way possible. The first in a series, this book will leave you wanting more!

Grades 11 & 12
Required Reading
I. Literature and Composition III
• Homegoing, Yaa Gyasi
• Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

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

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

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

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

II. AP English Language

- *Homegoing*, Yaa Gyasi
- A non-fiction text of your choosing from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”


Your summer assignment is to read at least 10 of the collection’s essays. For each of the 10 essays you read, answer the following questions in paragraph form:

- What is the purpose of this essay? Is it to make an argument (and if so, what is the argument)? Is it to explain or describe something (and if so, what is being explained)? Is the purpose something else entirely? Explain your answer in a short paragraph.
- Was the essay persuasive or illuminating in its argument or explanation? Explain any strengths or weaknesses you saw in the piece.
- Type out a particularly well-crafted sentence or passage from the essay including a parenthetical citation with a page number. Briefly explain why this sentence is effective rhetoric.

The answers to these questions are due on the first day of class. You will complete assignments on *Homegoing* and the non-fiction text of your choice during the first week of class.

III. Senior English Courses: Creative Writing: Found Voices; Speaking of Class: The Language of Social Class in Literature; and 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”

*The Street*, Ann Petry

Written by black author Ann Petry in 1946, *The Street* tells the story of Lutie Johnson, a young black mother struggling to raise her son in 1940s Harlem. The novel follows Lutie’s attempts to navigate the poverty, sexism, violence and racism of America, inviting readers to confront key questions about personal choices and societal responsibility.

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

IV. AP English Literature
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

*Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston
As you read, annotate your text, paying particular attention to:
- Stages of character development
- Character motivations
- Motifs and repeated images
- Figurative language (metaphor, symbol, etc.)
- Settings and where they are reflective of character and/or theme

In addition, identify passages that pertain to some of the themes of our AP Literature courses: changing women’s roles and changing self-definitions. Be prepared to discuss these themes in class.

**RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADES 11 & 12**

*11/22/63*, Stephen King
If you had the power to travel back in time to stop the assassination of a major figure like JFK, would you do it? And if you did, what might happen after? Would it affect the present? Modern high school English teacher Jake is faced with this very predicament in Stephen King’s gripping thriller that goes backwards, forwards and sideways in time.

*1984*, George Orwell
Written in 1948, this futuristic dystopian novel is set in a society ruled by a terrifyingly totalitarian regime. Winston Smith longs for human connection and a sense of selfhood while he struggles to maintain original thought in a world hell bent on erasing individuality. The novel addresses many contemporary issues such as privacy, technology and a government’s responsibilities in such a way that some have called it prophetic. Would you give up your personal freedoms to ensure your country’s safety?

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

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

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

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

_Bad Feminist_, Roxane Gay
A searing, funny, insightful collection of essays covering everything from politics and contemporary culture to personal history by one of the strongest voices in modern feminist thought. Roxane Gay uses her love of reality television, Beyonce and Scrabble to examine the impossible standards to which women often hold themselves.

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

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

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

The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, Daniel Brown and Daniel James Brown
The title tells everything you need to know about this book except that you will fall in love with these young men and learn quite a bit about the Nazi Olympics—and that even if you can’t tell a scull from a seal, you’re at risk to fall in love with rowing.

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

China in 10 Words, Yu Hua
People, Leader, Reading, Writing, Lu Xun, Revolution, Disparity, Grassroots, Copycat, and Bamboozle. All of these words and phrases are explored in this series of personal essays by Yu Hua. Get to know about this country through the eyes of the quick-witted and snarky humor of the author. Incidentally, this book was not published in China.

City of Thieves, David Benioff
The people of Leningrad are slowly starving under Nazi seige; they survive by eating anything they can find while they pray the nightly bombs don’t land on them. A teenage boy accused of looting and an accused deserter are spared from execution...if they find 12 eggs for wedding of the daughter of the commander who sentences them. This novel is darkly funny, heartbreaking and very difficult to put down. By the writer and producer of the Game of Thrones series, this is the fictionalized account of his grandfather’s survival during the war.
Cutting for Stone, Abraham Verghese
The narrator of this novel starts out by speaking to us from the womb. He then takes us through many generations of his own life and those of his parents, and his characters travel to India, Ethiopia and the United States. Since Verghese is a doctor, he is able to include specific medical details in his descriptions, and we view his experiences through many different lenses.

Do Not Say We Have Nothing, Madeline Thien
A young Chinese-Canadian woman begins unraveling the secrets that led to her father’s suicide in 1989 during the Tiananmen Square protests. As she traces clues about the lives of three young musicians at the Shanghai Conservatory during the Cultural Revolution, she comes to a new understanding of her father’s life as well as the lives of the people he loved. Spanning three generations, this beautiful novel is an absorbing historical epic as well as a gripping meditation on the meaning of unfinished lives, of “broken music.”

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

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

Euphoria, Lily King
Three anthropologists from England, America and Australia come together in 1933 in New Guinea to explore the indigenous cultures they find there. Loosely based on the life and work of anthropologist Margaret Mead, this novel is not only a portrait of the three main characters struggling with love and fame but also a fascinating depiction of interactions between “native” cultures and the Westerners who are studying them. The novel is told from the perspective of one of the protagonists, interspersed with pages from another of the characters’ diary.

Everything I Never Told You, Celeste Ng
The first lines of this book say almost all you need to know: “Lydia is dead. But they don’t
know this yet.” An exploration of family, interracial marriage, thwarted dreams, feminism, identity and love, this is the moving story of a biracial Chinese-American family living in Ohio in the 1970s, starting and ending with the drowning death of their teenage daughter.

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

•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••

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

Finnikin of the Rock, Melina Marchetta
Finnikin was just a boy when the royal family of Lumatere was murdered in a coup and Lumatere sealed shut by the curse of the woman framed for the murder. Half the surviving Lumaterans were trapped inside, while the rest have been brutally exiled for 10 painful years to countries that don’t want them. Finnikin and his diplomat guardian meet a young woman who claims she has seen visions that the heir is still alive, and that she is to lead the Lumaterans home to reclaim their homes and the throne. This is the first book in a series that will be a hit for fans of *Game of Thrones*.

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

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

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

© Recommended by SHADES

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?*, Mindy Kaling
In this collection of personal essays, the writer, producer and star of *The Mindy Project*, Massachusetts native Mindy Kaling recounts her experiences with trying to find romance, working in Hollywood and maintaining friendships.

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

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

*Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*, Sherman Alexie
In this interconnected short story collection, Alexie depicts contemporary life on the Spokane Indian Reservation with heart-wrenching imagination, humor and compassion. Through an endearingly nerdy storyteller, an alcoholic basketball player and other unforgettable characters, Alexie explores life in a world where the past inhabits the present and where “survival = anger + imagination.” If you loved *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, you are ready to read this book.

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

© Recommended by SHADES

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

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

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

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

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

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

© Recommended by Kesher

_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!

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

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

_Secret History of Wonder Woman_, Jill Lepore
“Not even girls want to be girls so long as our feminine archetype lacks force, strength, power,” said _Wonder Woman_’s creator, a man surrounded by a number of suffrage-fighting real life superheroes in the 1920s. Thus, the iconic avenger was born. She has undergone many changes to suit the needs of the judging public, but for Jill Lepore, the question driving this book is how did such a powerhouse woman make it this far?

_Smoke Gets in Your Eyes_, Caitlin Doughty
Caitlin Doughty is a mortician and one of the leaders of the “death positive” movement. In her poignant and at times hilarious first memoir, she recounts her journey from crematory operator to mortician to “death enthusiast.” Filled with fascinating tales of the reality of dealing with death on a daily basis, Doughty manages to make a morbid subject a little less dark and depressing. She uses her knowledge to remove some of the stigma, mythology and uncertainty from a process that many are curious about but few are brave enough to discuss.
**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.

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

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

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

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

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

**The Zookeeper’s Wife**, Diane Ackerman
If you’re intrigued by the desperate connections human beings make with each other and animals during horrific times, you will marvel at this true story of the keepers of the Warsaw Zoo, who rescued hundreds of Poles from death at the hands of the Nazis.
SOCIAL STUDIES BOOKS
The following titles are suggestions for summer reading from the Social Studies Department. While the required books are part of the assignments for AP European History and AP United States History courses, the other titles reflect readings that will provide enrichment. Each book was selected because it is well written and provides thoughtful excursions to other times, places and ideas. Enjoy!

AFRICAN STUDIES

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

_Mighty Be Our Powers: How Sisterhood, Prayer and Sex Changed a Nation at War_, Leymah Gbowee
Nobel Peace Prize winner Gbowee recounts how “an army of women helped lead her nation [of Liberia] to peace—in the process emerging as an international leader who changed history. _Mighty Be Our Powers_ is a gripping chronicle of a journey from hopelessness to empowerment that will touch all who dream of a better world.” (Amazon.com)

EAST ASIAN STUDIES

_American Born Chinese_, Gene Luen Yang
Using the graphic novel format, the author presents his own experiences growing up as a person of Chinese descent in America. Yang also retells the classic Chinese folk story “The Monkey King” as a metaphor for his own search for identity. This book is a great introduction to issues faced by Asian Americans today and to one of the most popular and influential stories in East Asian culture.

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

_Understanding China Through Comics_, Jing Liu
This short introduction to the earliest history of China and its culture uses the graphic novel 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**

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

*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*)

*The Undercover Economist*, Tim Harford
“‘The economy isn’t a bunch of rather dull statistics with names like GDP (gross domestic product)’ notes Tim Harford columnist and regular guest on NPR’s *Marketplace*. ‘Economics is about who gets what and why.’ In this acclaimed and riveting book—part expose, part users’ manual—the astute and entertaining columnist from the *Financial Times* demystifies the ways in which money works in the world, from why the coffee in your cup costs so much to why efficiency is not necessarily the answer to ensuring a fair society, from improving health care to curing crosstown traffic. All the dirty little secrets of dollars and cents are delightfully revealed by The Undercover Economist.” (Publisher blurb)

*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**

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

**United States History**

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

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

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

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

**AP United States History**

**Required:** _The Autobiography of Malcolm X_, Malcolm X and Alex Haley
A controversial political and social activist of the 1960s, Malcolm X, whose influence continues to grow, tells his life story. Spike Lee’s 1992 movie restored this classic to its bestseller status.

**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.

**Western Civilization**

_The Bull from the Sea_, Mary Renault
This novel, a marvelous choice for those who like mythology, tells the story of Theseus, who meets the challenge of the Minotaur in the Labyrinth of Crete. Like all good historical fiction, this is not only an engaging story, full of complex characters and outstanding descriptions, but also a window into another time and place. After reading _The Bull from the Sea_, you will have a rich understanding of the ancient Aegean world.
The Eagle of the Ninth, Rosemary Sutcliff  
Sutcliff has a great store of information about the Roman world and writes engaging, well-written and historically accurate stories. This particular tale is of a young soldier who must travel to Britain to defend his father’s honor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**FRENCH**
**Required for IV AP: La Grammaire est une chanson douce**, Erik Orsenna
A girl and her brother are shipwrecked on a mysterious island. With their musical guide, they discover a magical place where words live and work together to form the basis of the French language. (Recommended for levels III-V.)

*Je voudrais que quelqu’un m’attende quelque part*, Anna Gavalda
Twelve short stories of the daily lives of contemporary everyday people. Some are tragic, some are joyous and some are just accounts of common human experiences. (Recommended for levels III-V.)

*Le Petit prince*, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
The classic story of a stranded pilot and a little boy searching the universe for friendship. Voted the greatest French work of literature of the 20th century by the French people. (Recommended for levels III-V.)
**Latin**

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

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

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

*A Word a Day: A Romp through Some of the Most Unusual and Intriguing Words in English*, Anu and Stuti Garg
Do you love words and wish we could study etymology all year long? Latin class will help your understanding of words, but reading this book will also inspire word lovers to dig even more deeply into roots, prefixes and suffixes.

**Mandarin**

*Monkey: Folk Novel of China*, Wu Ch’eng-en
A thrilling Chinese folk novel centered on a monkey and his interactions with a variety of spirits, gods, demigods and other immortal beings (in English; suitable for all levels).

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

**Spanish**

*Required for V AP: Yerma*, Federico García Lorca
One of Lorca’s final plays from his famous trilogy, this is a powerful and poetic work on the yearning for motherhood.

*Required for IV AP: Devolver al remitente*, Julia Alvarez
A contemporary immigration story told through the alternating viewpoints of Tyler, son of an injured dairy farmer, and Mari, daughter of illegal migrant Mexican workers.
La Casa en Mango Street, Sandra Cisneros
In small vignettes, Esperanza Cordero tells the tales of the people she has met and experiences she has lived on Mango Street. (Recommended for levels IV and V.)

En la ardiente oscuridad, Antonio Buero Vallejo
One of the major dramatic works of modern Spanish theater, full of human warmth and pity. (Recommended for level III.)

AP ART HISTORY
Required: A History of the World in 100 Objects, Neil MacGregor

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

A History of the World in 100 Objects, Neil MacGregor
The director of the British Museum explores world history from two million years ago to the present by looking at 100 objects in the collection.

Reading/Listening/Reflection
This summer, you are to read and/or listen to the chapters on the following artworks:
Introduction: Signals from the Past, pgs. xv-xxvi
9. Maya Maize God Statue, pgs. 49-54
12. Standard of Ur, pgs. 69-77
15. Early Writing Tablet, pgs. 91-94
27. Parthenon Sculpture: Centaur and Lapith, pgs. 171-176
35. Head of Augustus, pgs. 221-226
41. Seated Buddha from Gandhara, pgs. 265-268
51. Maya Relief of Royal Blood-letting, pgs. 327-332
59. Borobudur Buddha Head, pgs. 379-384
64. The David Vases, pgs. 411-415
66. Holy Thorn Reliquary, pgs. 425-430
68. Shiva and Parvati Sculpture, pgs. 437-442
70. Hoa Hakananai’a Easter Island Statue, pgs. 449-455
77. Benin Plaque: The Oba with Europeans, pgs. 497-502
87. Hawaiian Feather Helmet, pgs. 567-571
93. Hokusai’s The Great Wave, pgs. 606-612

Each chapter includes an illustration of the work being discussed. Each chapter is quite brief; only around 4-5 pages of text. All of the works are related to material we will be studying in AP Art History.
Written assignment:
Many of these works communicate ideas about power and authority. Choose two works that you learned about and write a brief (two-page) compare and contrast essay addressing the question, “How does each work of art convey that particular culture’s notion of what constitutes power and authority?” How does the material and/or art-making process used contribute to a message of power?

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

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

Elena Carmichael ’20 (front cover)
Stella Yan ’23 (inside front cover)
Lia Flenniken ’19 (inside back cover)
Ilyssa Yan ’23 (back cover)
This summer reading list was compiled by

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

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

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

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

Molly Kentala, Assistant Communications Director

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

©2018