DANA HALL SCHOOL
SUMMER READING
2024
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All students at Dana Hall are required to complete summer reading. The books you read will be used in your English class during the first few weeks of the first trimester. As you read, we urge you to remember that the art of reading is a creative act, a collaboration between reader and writer.

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

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

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

ALANA (Asian, Latina, African American and Native American): Affinity group for Middle School students of color
Asian Affinity Group: Serves Upper School students who identify as Asian
Bridge: Gay/Straight/Bisexual/Transgender alliance for Upper School students
Dana All: Middle School group for students interested in identity markers and social justice
GSA (Gender and Sexuality Alliance): Gay/Straight/Bisexual/Transgender alliance for Middle School students
ISA (International Student Alliance): International student group
Kesher: Jewish student culture group
NAG (Neurodiversity Affinity Group): Affinity space for students who identify as having a Learning Disability/difference or ADD/ADHD
Salaam: Islamic culture and support alliance group
SHADES (Sisters Honoring All Diasporas & Enlightening Society): Upper School Black and Latinx affinity group
**Middle School Requirements**

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

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

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

**Grade 5**

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

All rising 5th graders will receive an assignment for the required reading.

**Recommended Books for Grade 5**

*Alone*, Megan Freeman

Imagine waking up and finding yourself alone. Everyone in your whole town has evacuated in the night, and it’s just you. That’s how Maddie finds herself at the beginning of *Alone*, a gripping survival story told in verse. After some major panic, Maddie realizes she has to figure it out — she has to survive all alone. With the help of a new dog friend, she learns to do what needs to be done to keep herself safe and alive, but as the years tick by, nothing helps her feel less lonely.

*Amari and the Night Brothers*, B.B. Alsto

Amari’s brother went missing, and not even the police have been able to find out what happened. When she discovers a ticking briefcase in his closet with an invitation to join the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs, she’ll have to swap the real world for a magical one in the hopes of finding her brother in this action-, magic- and adventure-packed book!

© Recommended by ALANA

*Athena: Grey-Eyed Goddess*, George O’Connor

This graphic novel is all about the Greek goddess of wisdom. If you’re a fan of Percy Jackson and Greek mythology, this is a great read!
Bayou Magic, Jewell Parker Rhodes
“It’s city-girl Maddy’s first summer in the bayou, and she just falls in love with her new surroundings: the glimmering fireflies, the glorious landscape, and something else, deep within the water, that only she can see. Could it be a mermaid? As her grandmother shares wisdom about sayings and signs, Maddy realizes she may be the only sibling to carry on her family’s magical legacy. And when a disastrous oil leak threatens the bayou, she knows she may also be the only one who can help. Does she have what it takes to be a hero? Jewell Parker Rhodes weaves a rich tale celebrating the magic within.” (Publisher)

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

Chirp, Kate Messner
When Mia heads to Vermont for the summer to help her ailing grandmother, she is relieved to leave some things behind. Something happened to her that she won’t talk about, and it makes her uncomfortable and wary around friendly new adults. So with her new friends from camp, she dives head first into a mystery: Is someone trying to sabotage her grandma’s cricket farm? As she investigates, will she find the courage to speak up for herself?

City Spies, James Ponti
“Sara Martinez is a hacker. However, instead of being hailed as a hero, Sara finds herself facing years in a juvenile detention facility and banned from using computers for the same stretch of time. Enter Mother, a British spy who not only gets Sara released from jail but also offers her a chance to make a home for herself within a secret MI6 agency. Operating out of a base in Scotland, the City Spies are five kids from various parts of the world. When they’re not attending the local boarding school, they’re honing their unique skills, such as sleight of hand, breaking and entering, observation, and explosives. Before she knows what she’s doing, Sara is heading to Paris for an international youth summit, hacking into a rival school’s computer to prevent them from winning a million euros, dangling 30 feet off the side of a building, and trying to stop a villain… all while navigating the complex dynamics of her new team.” (Publisher)

Click, Kayla Miller
In this graphic novel, everyone else in her class has formed groups to perform in the school variety show, leaving Olive behind. She thought she was friends with everyone, but suddenly, she finds herself alone and questioning everything. Is there a role for her? Somewhere that she fits?
**Middle School**

*Dear Sweet Pea*, Julie Murphy

“Patricia ‘Sweet Pea’ DiMarco wasn’t sure what to expect when her parents announced they were getting a divorce. She never could have imagined that they would have the brilliant idea of living in nearly identical houses on the same street. In the one house between them lives their eccentric neighbor Miss Flora Mae, the famed local advice columnist behind ‘Miss Flora Mae I?’ Dividing her time between two homes is not easy. Then one day Flora leaves for a trip and asks Sweet Pea to forward her the letters for the column. And Sweet Pea happens to recognize the handwriting on one of the envelopes. What she decides to do with that letter sets off a chain of events that will forever change the lives of Sweet Pea DiMarco, her family, and many of the readers of ‘Miss Flora Mae I?’” (Publisher)

*From the Desk of Zoe Washington*, Janae Marks

Life is complicated. For Zoe, part of her life is consumed by baking and her desire to audition for a food competition show on TV. The other part of her life, though, is consumed by thoughts of her father, a man she has never met, who is imprisoned for a crime he claims he didn’t commit. When Zoe receives a letter from her father for her 12th birthday, her world is thrown into a tailspin as she wonders whether her father is telling the truth of his innocence. What does it mean if a man who didn’t commit a crime is now in prison?

*Recommended by Dana All*

*The Lost Library*, Rebecca Stead and Wendy Mass

“When a mysterious Little Free Library (guarded by a large orange cat) appears overnight in the small town of Martinville, 11-year-old Evan plucks two weathered books from its shelves, never suspecting that his life is about to change. Evan and his best friend Rafe quickly discover a link between one of the old books and a long-ago event that none of the grown-ups want to talk about. The two boys start asking questions whose answers will transform not only their own futures, but the town itself.” (Publisher)

*A Mango-Shaped Space*, Wendy Mass

“Mia Winchell appears to be a typical kid, but she’s keeping a big secret: sounds, numbers and words have color for her. No one knows, and Mia wants to keep it that way. But when trouble at school finally forces Mia to reveal her secret, she must learn to accept herself and embrace her ability — called synesthesia — a mingling of the senses.” (Publisher)

*Recommended by Dana All and NAG*

*Masterminds*, Gordon Korman

“Eli Frieden has never left Serenity, New Mexico... Why would he ever want to? Then one day, he bikes to the edge of the city limits and something so crazy and unexpected happens, it changes everything. Eli convinces his friends to help him investigate further, and soon it becomes clear that nothing is as it seems in Serenity. The clues mount to reveal a shocking
discovery, connecting their ideal crime-free community to some of the greatest criminal masterminds ever known. The kids realize they can trust no one — least of all their own parents.” (Publisher)

Melissa, 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 Melissa. Learn about what makes Melissa terrified and ecstatic in this heart-warming book about facing your fears and being true to yourself.

ديد Recommended by GSA

The Parker Inheritance, Varian Johnson
After her parents’ divorce, Candice spends the summer in her mother’s childhood home in South Carolina. When she discovers an old letter addressed to her grandmother in the attic, she doesn’t know it will be the start of a mysterious puzzle hunt that will unlock dark secrets from the town’s past. As she and her new friend Brandon uncover clues, they learn more about themselves and about the challenges their families faced as African Americans in the segregated South of the 1950s.

ديد Recommended by ALANA

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

The Secret Keepers, Trenton Lee Stewart
“When Reuben discovers an extraordinary antique watch with a secret power, his life takes an intriguing turn. As one secret leads to another, Reuben finds himself torn between his honest nature and the lure to be a hero. Now he is on a dangerous adventure — full of curious characters, treacherous traps and hairsbreadth escapes — as he races to solve the mystery before it is too late. With fearless Penny, mighty Jack and the wise Mrs. Genevieve on his side, can Reuben outwit a sly villain called The Smoke and save the city from a terrible fate?” (Publisher)

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.

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.
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 Klan 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 Strangers, Margaret Peterson Haddix
The Greystone children are shocked when they hear reports of three kidnapped children: three children with the same names (Chess, Emma and Finn) and the same birthdays as them. Suddenly, they aren’t sure who they are — or who their mother is. Before they can ask her, though, their mother goes on a “business trip,” leaving the Greystone kids to solve the mystery themselves.

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

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

GRADE 6
• Required: City of Ember, Jeanne DuPrau
• Two books from the reading lists “Recommended Books for Grade 6,” “Recommended Books for Grade 7” or “Recommended Books for Grade 8”

All rising 6th graders will receive an assignment for the required book and the two free-choice books.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADE 6
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 Soviet spies can get their hands on the apothecary’s secrets.
**Middle School**

*Attack of the Black Rectangles*, Amy Sarig King
“When Mac first opens his classroom copy of Jane Yolen’s *The Devil’s Arithmetic* and finds some words blacked out, he thinks it must be a mistake. But then when he and his friends discover what the missing words are, he’s outraged. Someone in his school is trying to prevent kids from reading the full story. Even though his unreliable dad tells him to not get so emotional about a book (or anything else), Mac has been raised by his mom and grandad to call out things that are wrong. He and his friends head to the principal’s office to protest the censorship... but her response doesn’t take them seriously. So many adults want Mac to keep his words to himself. Mac’s about to see the power of letting them out.” (Publisher)

*Blended*, Sharon Draper
“Eleven-year-old Isabella’s parents are divorced, so she has to switch lives every week: One week she’s Isabella with her dad, living in a fancy house where they are one of the only Black families in the neighborhood. The next week she’s Izzy with her mom, in a small, not-so-fancy house that she loves. Isabella feels completely stuck in the middle, split and divided between them more than ever. And she is beginning to realize that being split between her mom and dad involves more than switching houses, switching nicknames, switching backpacks: It’s also about switching identities. And when her parents, who both get engaged at the same time, get in their biggest fight ever, Isabella doesn’t just feel divided, she feels ripped in two. It seems like nothing can bring Isabella’s family together again — until the worst thing happens. Isabella and Darren are stopped by the police. A cell phone is mistaken for a gun. And shots are fired.” (Publisher)

*Breaking the Mold*, Dana Alison Levy
Scientists who collect microbes from surfers’ skin, who use radar sensors to gather data miles away, who combat inequality by pushing for cleaner air policies... each with their own story, all working to make life better for future generations.

*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.

*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.
Finding Junie Kim, Ellen Oh
“Junie Kim just wants to fit in. So she keeps her head down and tries not to draw attention
to herself. But when racist graffiti appears at her middle school, Junie must decide between
staying silent or speaking out. Then Junie’s history teacher assigns a project and Junie
decides to interview her grandparents, learning about their unbelievable experiences as kids
during the Korean War. Junie comes to admire her grandma’s fierce determination to
overcome impossible odds, and her grandpa’s unwavering compassion during wartime.
And as racism becomes more pervasive at school, Junie taps into the strength of her ances-
tors and finds the courage to do what is right.” (Publisher)

📢 Recommended by Dana All

A First Time for Everything, Dan Santat
“Dan’s always been a good kid. The kind of kid who listens to his teachers, helps his mom
with grocery shopping, and stays out of trouble. But being a good kid doesn’t stop him
from being bullied and feeling like he’s invisible, which is why Dan has low expectations
when his parents send him on a class trip to Europe. At first, he’s right. He’s stuck with
the same girls from his middle school who love to make fun of him, and he doesn’t know
why his teacher insisted he come on this trip. But as he travels through France, Germany,
Switzerland, and England, a series of first experiences begin to change him: first Fanta, first
fondue, first time stealing a bike from German punk rockers... and first love.” (Publisher)

A Good Kind of Trouble, Lisa Moore Ramée
Shayla has always followed the rules, but now that she’s in middle school, she’s learning that
some rules are meant to be broken. When her older sister Hana becomes involved in the
Black Lives Matter movement, Shay is at first unsure, but after facing the ramifications of
racial injustice in her own community, Shay finds her own voice. Despite how it will affect
her friendships at school, she pushes back against a ban on the black armbands she and oth-
ers are wearing in solidarity of the movement.

Gracefully Grayson, Ami Polonsky
Grayson has a secret. “He” wishes to be a girl. When she auditions to play a girl’s part in the
school play, it challenges her family and community. Although she faces some bullies, a sup-
portive teacher and some new friends help her find a way to shine.

📢 Recommended by GSA

A Kind of Spark, Elle McNicoll
“Ever since Ms. Murphy told us about the witch trials that happened centuries ago right
here in Juniper, I can’t stop thinking about them. Those people weren’t magic. They were
like me. Different like me. I’m autistic. I see things that others do not. I hear sounds that
they can ignore. And sometimes I feel things all at once. I think about the witches, with no
one to speak for them. Not everyone in our small town understands. But if I keep trying,
maybe someone will. I won’t let the witches be forgotten. Because there is more to their story. Just like there is more to mine.’ Award-winning and neurodivergent author Elle McNicoll delivers an insightful and stirring debut about the European witch trials and a girl who refuses to relent in the fight for what she knows is right.” (Publisher)

Living with Viola, Rosena Fung
“Livy is already having trouble fitting in as the new girl at school — and then there’s Viola. Viola is Livy’s anxiety brought to life, a shadowy twin that only Livy can see or hear. Livy tries to push back against Viola’s relentless judgment, but nothing seems to work until she strikes up new friendships at school. Livy hopes that Viola’s days are numbered. But when tensions arise both at home and at school, Viola rears her head stronger than ever. Only when Livy learns how to ask for help and face her anxiety does she finally figure out living with Viola.” (Publisher)

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

Murder is Bad Manners, Robin Stevens
“Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are best friends at Deepdean School for Girls, and they both have a penchant for solving mysteries. The only problem? They have nothing to investigate. But that changes once Hazel discovers the body of their science teacher, Miss Bell — and the body subsequently disappears. Determined to get to the bottom of the crime — and to prove that it happened — before the killer strikes again. Daisy and Hazel must hunt for evidence, spy on their suspects, and use all the cunning, scheming, and intuition they can muster. But will they succeed? And can their friendship stand the test? Previously published as Murder Most Unladylike in the UK.” (Publisher)

My Life in Pink and Green, Lisa Greenwald
Lucy loves doing makeovers at her parents’ pharmacy where she presides over the makeup counter offering advice. Unfortunately, that’s not enough to keep the family business afloat, and the pharmacy is no longer the center of town life that it once was. Can Lucy find a way to save the pharmacy and her family’s way of life?
**Ninth Ward**, Jewell Parker Rhodes
Unable to leave New Orleans, Lanesha and her elderly caretaker, Mama Ya-Ya, stay to ride out Hurricane Katrina in this imaginative and emotional story about a real-life event.

*Recommended by ALANA*

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

*Recommended by Dana All*

**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.

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

*Recommended by ALANA*

**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.

**Small Spaces**, Katherine Arden
“After suffering a tragic loss, 11-year-old Ollie, who only finds solace in books, discovers a chilling ghost story about a girl named Beth, the two brothers who loved her and a peculiar deal made with ‘the smiling man.’ Captivated by the tale, Ollie begins to wonder if the smiling man might be real when she stumbles upon the graves of the very people she’s been reading about on a school trip to a nearby farm. Then, later, when her school bus breaks down on the ride home, the strange bus driver tells Ollie and her classmates:
‘Best get moving. At nightfall, they’ll come for the rest of you.’ Nightfall is, indeed, fast descending when Ollie’s previously broken digital wristwatch begins a startling countdown and delivers a terrifying message: RUN. As the trio head out into the woods, the bus driver has just one final piece of advice for Ollie and her friends: ‘Avoid large places. Keep to small.’ And with that, a deliciously creepy and hair-raising adventure begins.” (Publisher)

*Starfish*, Lisa Fipps

“Ever since Ellie wore a whale swimsuit and made a big splash at her 5th birthday party, she’s been bullied about her weight. To cope, she tries to live by the Fat Girl Rules, like ‘no making waves,’ ‘avoid eating in public,’ and ‘don’t move so fast that your body jiggles.’ And she’s found her safe space — her swimming pool — where she feels weightless in a fat-obsessed world. In the water, she can stretch herself out like a starfish and take up all the room she wants. It’s also where she can get away from her pushy mom, who thinks criticizing Ellie’s weight will motivate her to diet. Fortunately, Ellie has allies in her dad, her therapist, and her new neighbor Catalina, who loves Ellie for who she is. With this support buoying her, Ellie might finally be able to cast aside the Fat Girl Rules and starfish in real life: by unapologetically being her own fabulous self.” (Publisher)

*Recommended by Dana All*

*Stepping Stones*, Lucy Knisley

In this realistic graphic novel, Jen’s mom is living her dream of starting a farm, only she’s doing it with her boyfriend Walter and they’re making both of their families move to do so. Jen, it should be noted, does not share her mom’s dream. She is dreading all of the changes, like not only having to move, but also having to work at the new family farm stand (counting change is hard!) and having to adjust to new step-siblings.

*To Night Owl From Dogfish*, Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer

This one is like a double-reverse Parent Trap, written as emails between two girls. When their dads fall in love, Bett and Avery are sent, against their will, to the same sleepaway camp. Their dads hope that they will find common ground and become friends — and possibly, one day, even sisters. But Avery and Bett are so different, they have nothing in common, and besides — they have always had their dads to themselves! They are determined to have nothing to do with each other, but slowly discover that they might actually like one another. From enemies to best friends, they start planning for their life together as step-sisters. Then their dads break up, and the whole plan blows up in their faces. Can they reverse-Parent Trap their dads back together again?

*When the World Was Ours*, Liz Kessler

Three friends. One memory. Vienna. 1936. Three young friends — Leo, Elsa, and Max — spend a perfect day together, unaware that around them Europe is descending into a growing darkness and that they will soon be cruelly ripped apart from one another.
With their lives taking them across Europe — to Germany, England, Prague, and Poland — will they ever find their way back to one another? Will they want to? Inspired by a true story. (Publisher)

Wink, Rob Harrell
Loosely based on the author’s experience, Wink tells the story of a 7th grader recently diagnosed with eye cancer. Filled with humor and sensitivity, the reader follows along as Ross Maloy finds his way through life as the “cancer kid” in school.

Words on Fire, Jennifer Nielsen
“Danger is never far from Audra’s family farm in Lithuania. She always avoids the occupying Russian Cossack soldiers, who insist that everyone must become Russian — they have banned Lithuanian books, religion, culture, and even the language. But Audra knows her parents are involved in something secret and perilous. In June 1893, when Cossacks arrive abruptly at their door, Audra’s parents insist that she flee, taking with her an important package and instructions for where to deliver it. But escape means abandoning her parents to a terrible fate. As Audra embarks on a journey to deliver the mysterious package, she faces unimaginable risks, and soon she becomes caught up in a growing resistance movement. Can joining the underground network of book smugglers give Audra a chance to rescue her parents?” (Publisher)

Grade 7
- Required: Inside Out & Back Again, Thanhha Lai
- Two books from the reading lists “Recommended Books for Grade 7” or “Recommended Books for Grade 8”

All rising 7th 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.

Recommended Books for Grade 7
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.

Borders, Thomas King
In Canada, a young boy and his mother set off on a road trip to visit his sister in Salt Lake City. At the border, a border guard asks his mother for their citizenship and she responds with their tribal identity: “Blackfoot.” This sets off a chain of events that keeps the boy
and his mother stuck in limbo between the Canadian and United States borders. This thought-provoking graphic novel, written by an indigenous author, questions how we define national identity and citizenship, and how we relate to the land we live on.

**Recommended by ALANA**

*City of Ghosts*, Victoria Schwab

Cass almost died, and now she sees ghosts. Something about almost passing through the veil between life and death has made that barrier much thinner. Flimsier. And now, it often pulls itself aside to reveal the lives and deaths of those who have stayed behind since their own deaths. In fact, Cass’s best friend is a ghost. As it so happens, her parents are ghost hunters with their own TV show, and they travel the world (with Cass in tow) searching for haunted places. When they arrive in Scotland, Cass finds that it’s getting harder and harder to tune the ghosts out… especially the ones that mean to do her harm.

**Recommended by Dana All**

*Frizzy*, Claribel Ortega

“Marlene loves three things: books, her cool Tía Ruby and hanging out with her best friend Camila. But according to her mother, Paola, the only thing she needs to focus on is school and ‘growing up.’ That means straightening her hair every weekend so she could have ‘presentable, good hair.’ But Marlene hates being in the salon and doesn’t understand why her curls are not considered pretty by those around her. With a few hiccups, a dash of embarrassment, and the much-needed help of Camila and Tía Ruby, she slowly starts a journey to learn to appreciate and proudly wear her curly hair.” (Publisher)

*Genesis Begins Again*, Alicia Williams

“There are 96 reasons why 13-year-old Genesis dislikes herself; she knows the exact number because she keeps a list. Genesis is determined to fix her family, and she’s willing to try anything to do so... even if it means harming herself in the process. But when Genesis starts to find a thing or two she actually likes about herself, she discovers that changing her own attitude is the first step in helping change others.” (Publisher)

**Recommended by Dana All**

*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.

*Hide and Seeker*, Daka Hermon

“I went up the hill, the hill was muddy, stomped my toe and made it bloody, should I wash it? Justin knows that something is wrong with his best friend. Zee went missing for a year.
And when he came back, he was... different. Nobody knows what happened to him. At Zee’s welcome home party, Justin and the neighborhood crew play Hide and Seek. But it goes wrong. Very wrong. One by one, everyone who plays the game disappears, pulled into a world of nightmares come to life. Justin and his friends realize this horrible place is where Zee had been trapped. All they can do now is hide from the Seeker.” (Publisher)

*I Will Always Write Back*, Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda
This is the true story of people on different continents and the letters that connected them. When Caitlin writes a letter to her new pen pal in Zimbabwe, she doesn’t know that it is the beginning of a years-long friendship. You won’t be able to put this book down as you learn of Caitlin’s and Martin’s lives and struggles, and how their letters changed their lives.

*Ivy Aberdeen’s Letter to the World*, Ashley Herring Blake
Ivy’s home is destroyed in a tornado. She and her family escape but lose almost everything, including Ivy’s deeply personal sketchbook, which contains pictures she’s drawn of herself holding hands romantically with other girls. Ivy is devastated and wasn’t ready to share this part of herself with others yet, so when pages from the book start appearing in her locker with encouraging messages, she doesn’t know how to feel or what she wants to do.

*Recommended by GSA*

*Mona Lisa Vanishes*, Nicholas Day
“On a hot August day in Paris, just over a century ago, a desperate guard bursts into the office of the director of the Louvre and shouted, *La Joconde, c’est partie!* The Mona Lisa, she’s gone! No one knew who was behind the heist. Travel back to an extraordinary period of revolutionary change: turn-of-the-century Paris... Meet the infamous thieves — and detectives — of the era. And then slip back further in time and follow Leonardo da Vinci, painter of the Mona Lisa, through his dazzling, wondrously weird life. Discover the secret at the heart of the Mona Lisa: the most famous painting in the world should never have existed at all.” (Publisher)

*Not If I Save You First*, Ally Carter
Maddie’s father is a Secret Service agent; Logan’s father is the president. Their friendship is cut short when Maddie’s dad suddenly drags her off into the Alaskan wilderness, where they live off the grid for six years. Then Logan shows up and things get… complicated. Like, running from a professional assassin through the rough terrain of the Arctic and trying to stay alive complicated. She would kill Logan for coming along and messing everything up, but she’ll have to save him first.

*Not Your All-American Girl*, Wendy Wan-Long Shang
It’s 1984 and biracial Jewish-Chinese Lauren is excited to audition for the lead in the school play. She crushes her audition, but her blue-eyed blonde best friend gets the part instead,
and Lauren is cast as part of the ensemble. Lauren’s friends don’t get why she’s upset and she’s left struggling to process the injustice on her own with the help of her new discovery: the music of Patsy Cline.

*Recommended by ALANA*

**The Prince and the Dressmaker**, Jen Wang
This graphic novel is a kind of inside-out Cinderella, where the prince is the one dressing up in gowns and sneaking away at night. Sebastian relies on his best friend and dressmaker Frances to make his elaborate outfits... and keep his secret. However, Frances wants to be famous for her designs, and make a name for herself. How can she honor her best friend’s greatest secret while honoring her own hopes and dreams?

*Recommended by GSA*

**Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise**, Dan Gemeinhart
Coyote and her dad live on a converted school bus traveling the country, stopping at RV parks and meeting new people. While life on the road is exciting and full of adventure, sometimes it just feels like they’re running. Coyote and her dad are mourning the loss of her mom and sister, and Coyote’s dad doesn’t really want to talk about it. When Coyote learns that a place special to her family will soon be destroyed, she tries to find a way to trick her dad into driving back towards home in time to save it. On the way, they pick up several other wayward souls with their own quests and adventures, including a tiny kitten she names Ivan.

**Renegades**, Marissa Meyer
“The Renegades are a syndicate of prodigies — humans with extraordinary abilities — who emerged from the ruins of a crumbled society and established peace and order where chaos reigned. As champions of justice, they remain a symbol of hope and courage to everyone... except the villains they once overthrew. Nova has a reason to hate the Renegades, and she is on a mission for vengeance. As she gets closer to her target, she meets Adrian, a Renegade boy who believes in justice — and in Nova. But Nova’s allegiance is to a villain who has the power to end them both.” (Publisher)

**Ride On**, Faith Erin Hicks
“Victoria has always loved horses. But riding in competitions is high stakes, high stress, and shockingly expensive. And even though Victoria’s best friend Taylor loves competing, Victoria has lost her taste for it. After a heartbreaking fight with Taylor, Victoria needs a new start — at a new stables. A place where she doesn’t have to worry about anything other than riding. No competition, no drama, no friends. Just horses. Edgewood Stables seems ideal. There are plenty of horses to ride, and Victoria is perfectly happy giving the other riders the cold shoulder. But can she truly be happy with no friends?” (Publisher)
The Running Dream, Wendelin Van Draanen
Sixteen-year-old runner Jessica despairs that she will never be able to run again after losing her leg in a bus accident. As Jessica struggles to get used to her new prosthetic leg, Rosa, a classmate with Cerebral Palsy, helps her learn to cope with her new normal. As Jessica strives to cross a finish line once again, she vows that she will take Rosa with her.

The Second Death of Edie and Violet Bond, Amanda Glaze
“Edie and Violet Bond know the truth about death. The 17-year-old twins are powerful mediums, just like their mother: Violet can open the veil between life and death, and Edie can cross into the spirit world. But their abilities couldn’t save them when their mother died and their father threatened to commit them to a notorious asylum. Now runaways, Edie and Violet are part of a traveling Spiritualist show, a tight-knit group of young women who demonstrate their real talents under the guise of communing with spirits. Each night, actresses, poets, musicians, and orators all make contact with spirits who happen to have something to say... notions that young ladies could never openly express. But when Violet’s act goes terribly wrong one night, Edie learns that the dark spirit responsible for their mother’s death has crossed into the land of the living. As they investigate the identity of her mysterious final client, they realize that someone is hunting mediums — and they may be next.” (Publisher)

Signs of Survival, Renee Hartman and Joshua M. Greene
“Meet Renee and Herta, two sisters who faced the unimaginable — together. This is their true story. As Jews living in 1940s Czechoslovakia, Renee, Herta, and their parents were in immediate danger when the Holocaust came to their door. As the only hearing person in her family, Renee had to alert her parents and sister whenever the sound of Nazi boots approached their home so they could hide. But soon their parents were tragically taken away, and the two sisters went on the run, desperate to find a safe place to hide. Eventually they, too, would be captured and taken to the concentration camp Bergen-Belsen. Communicating in sign language and relying on each other for strength in the midst of illness, death, and starvation, Renee and Herta would have to fight to survive the darkest of times.” (Publisher)

To Dance, Siena Cherson Siegel
Puerto Rican Siena’s dance dreams started when she was 6 years old and go all the way forward to dancing with the New York City Ballet as an adult in this beautiful graphic novel memoir about dance, growing up and family.

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

**GRADE 8**

- Required: *Elatsoe*, Darcie Little Badger
- Two books from the reading lists “Recommended Books for Grade 8” or “Recommended Books for Grade 9”

All rising 8th 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.

**RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADE 8**

100 Days of Sunlight, Abbie Eamon

“When 16-year-old poetry blogger Tessa Dickinson is involved in a car accident and loses her eyesight for 100 days, she feels like her whole world has been turned upside-down. Terrified that her vision might never return, Tessa feels like she has nothing left to be happy about. But when her grandparents place an ad in the local newspaper looking for a typist to help Tessa continue writing and blogging, an unlikely answer knocks at their door: Weston Ludovico, a boy her age with bright eyes, an optimistic smile... and no legs. Knowing how angry and afraid Tessa is feeling, Weston thinks he can help her. But he has one condition: no one can tell Tessa about his disability. And because she can’t see him, she treats him with contempt: screaming at him to get out of her house and never come back. But for Weston, it’s the most amazing feeling: to be treated like a normal person, not just a sob story. Tessa spurns Weston’s ‘obnoxious optimism,’ convinced that he has no idea what she’s going through. As Tessa grows closer to Weston, she finds it harder and harder to imagine life without him — and Weston can’t imagine life without her. But he still hasn’t told her the truth, and when Tessa’s sight returns he’ll have to make the hardest decision of his life: vanish from Tessa’s world... or overcome his fear of being seen.” (Publisher)

ABC Murders, Agatha Christie

There’s a serial killer on the loose, working his way through the alphabet and the whole country is in a state of panic. A is for Mrs. Ascher in Andover, B is for Betty Barnard in Bexhill, C is for Sir Carmichael Clarke in Churston. With each murder, the killer is getting more confident, but leaving a trail of deliberate clues to taunt the proud Hercule Poirot might just prove to be the first — and fatal — mistake.

All Creatures Great and Small, James Herriot

One of the world’s best-loved veterinarians, James Herriot, travels the English countryside tending to animals big and small. From a tale about struggling to safely deliver a calf to one
about comforting an old man whose beloved canine companion has died, Herriot will captivate your heart and imagination with stories about the bond between human and animal.

*The Book Thief*, Marcus Zusak
Death has a story to tell. In this uniquely narrated book set in 1939 Nazi Germany, Liesel is a foster child struggling to recover from the grief of losing her family. She soon begins to steal books and learns the power of words, family and friendship to survive the most difficult times.

**Recommended by ALANA**

*Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults*, Robin Wall Kimmerer
“Drawing from her experiences as an Indigenous scientist, botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer demonstrated how all living things — from strawberries and witch hazel to water lilies and lichen — provide us with gifts and lessons every day in her best-selling book, *Braiding Sweetgrass*. Adapted for young adults by Monique Gray Smith, this new edition reinforces how wider ecological understanding stems from listening to the earth’s oldest teachers: the plants around us. With informative sidebars, reflection questions and art from illustrator Nicole Neidhardt, *Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults* brings Indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge and the lessons of plant life to a new generation.” (Publisher)

*Crafting Change*, Jessica Vitkus
“You don’t have to be old enough to vote to drive political change. In *Crafting Change*, author, TV producer, and craftivist Jessica Vitkus explores the rich lineage of craftivism, with profiles of craftivist icons, many of whom are women and people of color. This YA non-fiction book shines a light on artist-driven projects like *This Is Not a Gun* — workshops where people sculpt objects the police have mistaken for a gun in fatal shootings — alongside creative movements that mobilized entire communities, like the AIDS Memorial Quilt and the Pussyhat project for the 2017 Women’s March.” (Publisher)

*Dry*, Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman
“The drought — or the Tap-Out, as everyone calls it — has been going on for a while now. Everyone’s lives have become an endless list of don’ts: don’t water the lawn, don’t fill up your pool, don’t take long showers. Until the taps run dry. Suddenly, Alyssa’s quiet suburban street spirals into a warzone of desperation; neighbors and families turned against each other on the hunt for water. And when her parents don’t return and her life — and the life of her brother — is threatened, Alyssa has to make impossible choices if she’s going to survive.” (Publisher)

*An Ember in the Ashes*, Sabaa Tahir
In a world like ancient Rome, Laia’s brother is arrested. Promised by rebels that they will help her brother avoid execution if she helps them, Laia goes undercover as a slave at the
powerful military academy. There, she meets the top student-soldier, Elias, who more than anything secretly wishes he could be free from enforcing the brutal world they are all trapped in. This first book in a series is action packed, full of twists and turns, and hints at romance yet to come.

**Recommended by ALANA**

*The Gilded Ones*, Namina Forna
In this fantasy title, Deka is anxiously awaiting the coming of age ritual she must endure. It tests the color of her blood: red blood is good blood, gold blood is not. When her blood runs gold, she learns she is a near-immortal woman warrior, tasked with protecting the community that rejected her for not having red blood. This action-packed title is inspired by West-African mythology.

**Recommended by ALANA**

*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.

*I Am Still Alive*, Kate Alice Marshall
This harrowing survival story follows Jess, who goes to live in a cabin in the wilderness with her estranged father after the sudden, tragic death of her mom. However, her father has secrets and one of them leads to his murder, leaving Jess alone in the middle of nowhere with only her wits to keep her alive. Pushed on by thoughts of revenge against her father’s murderer, Jess finds food and shelter and works to endure the punishing whims of nature.

*I’ll Be the One*, Lyla Lee
Skye Shin dreams of being the next big Korean pop sensation. A reality TV competition seems like the opportunity of a lifetime, and she nails the audition. But is the world of K-pop ready for a plus-sized star? This is a sugary sweet, body positive romance about following your heart (and it has a killer Spotify playlist!).

**Recommended by Dana All**

*Inheritance Games*, Jennifer Lynn Barnes
Imagine living out of your car and suddenly finding out that you have been named the heir of a billionaire’s fortune — if you can solve his riddle and survive the schemings of others who want it. Avery must discover not only why she has been named heir, but get help from the very people who want her to fail: the billionaire’s four scheming grandsons.
Invisible Thread (Young Readers Edition), Laura Schroff

“On one rainy afternoon, on a crowded New York City street corner, 11-year-old Maurice met Laura. Maurice asked Laura for spare change because he was hungry, and something made Laura stop and ask Maurice if she could take him to lunch. Maurice and Laura went to lunch together, and also bought ice cream cones and played video games. It was the beginning of an unlikely and magical friendship that changed both of their lives forever.” (Publisher)

Ms. Marvel v.1: No Normal, G. Willow Wilson

Kamala Khan is navigating all the normal challenges of being a comic-loving nerdy teenage Muslim girl in Jersey City — overly protective parents, friends who find her “exotic,” the temptation of bacon — when she suddenly enters the Marvel Universe herself and things get really complicated. Her new powers take some getting used to, and the skimpy superhero outfit just doesn’t work for her, but Kamala takes her place and saves the world like the superhero she is. Written by fantasy powerhouse author G. Willow Wilson and illustrated by Adrian Alphona, this is everything a superhero comic should have been all along.

One of Us is Lying, Karen McManus

“Pay close attention and you might solve this. On Monday afternoon, five students at Bayview High walk into detention. Bronwyn, the brain, is Yale-bound and never breaks a rule. Addy, the beauty, is the picture-perfect homecoming princess. Nate, the criminal, is already on probation for dealing. Cooper, the athlete, is the all-star baseball pitcher. And Simon, the outcast, is the creator of Bayview High’s notorious gossip app. Only, Simon never makes it out of that classroom. Before the end of detention Simon’s dead. And according to investigators, his death wasn’t an accident. On Monday, he died. But on Tuesday, he’d planned to post juicy reveals about all four of his high-profile classmates, which makes all four of them suspects in his murder. Or are they the perfect patsies for a killer who’s still on the loose?” (Publisher)

Piecing Me Together, Renée Watson

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

Pumpkinheads, Rainbow Rowell

From September 1 until November 1, Deja and Josiah are best buddies. For the last four years, they’ve worked together every autumn at the best pumpkin patch in Omaha, but now
they’re seniors and facing down their final Halloween night. Deja is determined to make their last shift together an adventure: it’s time to taste all the snacks, see all the sights, and finally get Josiah to talk to the girl he’s been crushing on for three years. Rowell and artist Faith Erin Hicks have created a fun, uplifting graphic novel that will get you back in the mood for fall.

**Red Queen**, Victoria Aveyard
“Mare Barrow’s world is divided by blood: those with common, Red blood serve the Silver-blooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities. Mare is a Red, scraping by as a thief in a poor, rural village, until a twist of fate throws her in front of the Silver court. Before the king, princes and all the nobles, she discovers she has an ability of her own. To cover up this impossibility, the king forces her to play the role of a lost Silver princess and betroths her to one of his own sons. As Mare is drawn further into the Silver world, she risks everything and uses her new position to help the Scarlet Guard — a growing Red rebellion — even as her heart tugs her in an impossible direction. One wrong move can lead to her death, but in the dangerous game she plays, the only certainty is betrayal.” (Publisher)

**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.

**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.

**Shatter Me**, Tahereh Mafi
“One touch is all it takes. One touch, and Juliette Ferrars can leave a fully grown man gasping for air. One touch, and she can kill. No one knows why Juliette has such incredible power. It feels like a curse, a burden that one person alone could never bear. But The Reestablishment sees it as a gift, sees her as an opportunity. An opportunity for a deadly weapon. Juliette has never fought for herself before. But when she’s reunited with the one person who ever cared about her, she finds a strength she never knew she had.” (Publisher)
Summer of Broken Rules, K.L. Walther
“When Meredith Fox lost her sister, Claire, 18 months ago, she shut everyone out. But this summer she’s determined to join the world again. The annual family vacation to Martha’s Vineyard seems like the perfect place to reconnect. Her entire extended family is gathering for a big summer wedding, and although Meredith is dateless after being unexpectedly dumped, she’s excited to participate in the traditional Fox family game of assassin that will take place during the week of wedding festivities. Claire always loved the game, and Meredith is determined to honor her legacy. But when Meredith forms an assassin alliance with a cute groomsman, she finds herself getting distracted. Meredith tries to focus on the game and win it for her sister, but she can’t help falling for him. And as the week progresses, she realizes she’s not only at risk of losing the game, but also her heart.” (Publisher)

This Time It’s Real, Ann Liang
“When 17-year-old Eliza Lin’s essay about meeting the love of her life unexpectedly goes viral, her entire life changes overnight. Now she has the approval of her classmates at her new international school in Beijing, a career-launching internship opportunity at her favorite magazine... and a massive secret to keep. Eliza made her essay up. She’s never been in a relationship before, let alone in love. All good writing is lying, right? Desperate to hide the truth, Eliza strikes a deal with the famous actor in her class, the charming but aloof Caz Song. She’ll help him write his college applications if he poses as her boyfriend. Caz is a dream boyfriend: He passes handwritten notes to her in class, makes her little sister laugh, and takes her out on motorcycle rides to the best snack stalls around the city. But when her relationship with Caz starts feeling a little too convincing, all of Eliza’s carefully laid plans are threatened. Can she still follow her dreams if it means breaking her own heart?” (Publisher)

You Should See Me in a Crown, Leah Johnson
Liz Lighty has never fit in with the rich, white, prom-obsessed girls at her small Midwestern high school. She is waiting for the day she can leave to attend her dream university and become a doctor. When her college financial aid plans fall through, though, it seems her only hope to achieve her goals may be the $10,000 scholarship awarded each year to the prom king and queen. Can a black, queer girl who always did her best to fade into the background take the crown? And what happens when she starts to fall for new girl Mack... who is also in the running for prom queen?

Recommended by ALANA and GSA
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 available in paperback, and some are available in e-book format. Review the list early in the summer to make sure that you can obtain copies of your choices. Many of these books are 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 Grade International Students
- *Girl in Translation*, Jean Kwok
- *Nervous Conditions*, Tsitsi Dangarembga
- One book from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 10”

New 11th Grade International Students
- *The Glass Castle*, Jeannette Walls
- *Nervous Conditions*, Tsitsi Dangarembga
- One book from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 10”

New 12th Grade International Students
- *Mexican Gothic*, Silva Moreno-Garcia
- Two books from the reading list “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
- *Nervous Conditions*, Tsitsi Dangarembga
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 10”

Literature and Composition III
- *The Glass Castle*, Jeannette Walls
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”
AP English Language/Comp
- The Glass Castle, Jeannette Walls
- The Best American Food Writing 2023, ed. Mark Bittman

All Senior English Courses
- Mexican Gothic, Silva Moreno-Garcia
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
All new international students will be mailed a copy of their books(s) — Girl in Translation, Nervous Conditions, The Glass Castle and/or Mexican Gothic — in early June. Please complete the following assignments based on the book(s) assigned to you.

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 the 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. Nervous Conditions, Tsitsi Dangarembga
This novel, written by a Zimbabwean author, is the first in a trio of novels about a girl growing up in Colonial Rhodesia (now known as Zimbabwe) in the 1960s. It is now
considered a modern classic of world literature. As you read, take note of what seems familiar to you and what seems foreign in the novel’s characters, conflicts and themes.

After you read, write two well-developed paragraphs:

Paragraph 1: Choose ONE character, conflict or theme that seems familiar to you or sounds like your own life in some way. Explore that similarity, what it reveals and what it makes you notice in one well-developed paragraph, including quotations.

Paragraph 2: Choose ONE character, conflict or theme that is unfamiliar to you, something very different from your own experience. Explore that contrast, what it reveals and what it leaves you wondering in one well-developed paragraph, including quotations.

III. *The Glass Castle*, Jeannette Walls

*The Glass Castle* is a memoir (non-fiction) that explores the dreams, both realized and unrealized, of the author’s family. Describing her father’s dreams, Walls writes, “When Dad wasn’t telling us about all the amazing things he had already done, he was telling us about the wondrous things he was going to do. Like build the Glass Castle” (30).

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

Your essay should include a thoughtful introduction that includes an insightful thesis statement, multiple paragraphs that develop that thesis statement using textual analysis, and a creative, perceptive conclusion about the memoir as a whole. This should be double-spaced and have properly cited quotations from the text (using the MLA parenthetical format) and a Works Cited at the bottom. Be prepared to turn this in via Canvas on the first day of classes.

IV. *Mexican Gothic*, Silvia Moreno-Garcia

See the assignment on page 38.

**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 the 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.

*83 Days in Mariupol: A War Diary*, Don Brown
“A young adult graphic novel that captures the complexities of the war in Ukraine, focusing on the siege of Mariupol (February-May 2022) and the brave people who stayed to defend their city against Russian forces as well as the resulting effects on global politics.” (Publisher)

*Admissions*, Kendra James
“Early on in Kendra James’ professional life, she began to feel like she was selling a lie. As an admissions officer specializing in diversity recruitment for independent prep schools, she persuaded students and families to embark on the same perilous journey she herself had made — to attend cutthroat and largely white schools similar to The Taft School, where she had been the first African-American legacy student only a few years earlier. Her new job forced her to reflect on her own elite education experience, and to realize how disillusioned she had become with America’s inequitable system.” (Publisher)

© Recommended by SHADES
**Aurora Rising**, Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff
Tyler is pumped to graduate at the top of Aurora Academy’s class of 2380 and pick the star fleet of his dreams for his first assignment, until an act of kindness gone awry derails his plans and he winds up with the intergalactic version of the Suicide Squad for a crew. Even worse, they wind up rescuing a girl named Aurora from a space ship that disappeared two hundred years ago only to find out that everyone in the galaxy is now hunting for their ship.

**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.

**A Brief History of Montmaray**, Michelle Cooper
“Sophie Fitzosborne lives in a crumbling castle in the tiny island kingdom of Montmaray with her eccentric and impoverished royal family. When she receives a journal for her 16th birthday, Sophie decides to chronicle day-to-day life on the island. But this is 1936, and the news that trickles in from the mainland reveals a world on the brink of war. The politics of Europe seem far away from their remote island — until two German officers land a boat on Montmaray. And then suddenly politics become very personal indeed.” (Publisher)

**A Curse So Dark and Lonely**, Brigid Kemmerer
Harper has Cerebral Palsy and her D.C.-based family is going through a tough time, made even more complicated when she is abducted and discovers herself the captive of the Crown Prince of Emberfall, Rhen. To make matters even more complicated, Rhen has been cursed to turn into a monster seasonally if he cannot find a young woman to fall for him. This contemporary, action packed and heartwarming book starts by feeling pretty familiar to *Beauty and the Beast*, and becomes its very own unique, modern and enjoyable story.

**A Deadly Education**, Naomi Novik
“A Deadly Education is set at Scholomance, a school for the magically gifted where failure means certain death (for real) — until one girl, El, begins to unlock its many secrets. There are no teachers, no holidays and no friendships, save strategic ones. Survival is more important than any letter grade, for the school won’t allow its students to leave until they graduate… or die! The rules are deceptively simple: Don’t walk the halls alone. And beware of the monsters who lurk everywhere. El is uniquely prepared for the school’s dangers. She may be without allies, but she possesses a dark power strong enough to level mountains and wipe out millions. It would be easy enough for El to defeat the monsters that prowl the school. The problem? Her powerful dark magic might also kill all the other students.” (Goodreads)
Every Heart a Doorway, Seanan McGuire
We’ve read stories about children stepping through portals into magical lands, but what happens to those kids when they come back? Can ordinary life ever live up to adventures in a fantasy world? Welcome to Eleanor West’s Home for Wayward Children, a boarding school designed to help teenagers readjust to the real world, even as they are all hoping and waiting for their doorway back to Candyland or Faerie or the Land of the Dead to reappear. This bite-size book is part fantasy, part murder mystery, and is the start of an ongoing series featuring a diverse cast of characters.

Everyone Hates Kelsie Miller, Meredith Ireland
“Kelsie hasn’t heard from her best friend, Brianna Hoffman, for 30 days, not since Brianna left upstate New York and moved to Seattle to live with her mom. Brianna has been posting on social media, so Kelsie knows she’s OK but not what went wrong with their friendship. When Kelsie literally crashes into Eric Mulvaney Ortiz, quarterback of their elite private school’s football team and her rival for valedictorian, at a party, they start chatting. They realize that Brianna and Jessica Lovelace, the girlfriend who ghosted him, are both going to be at the University of Pennsylvania that weekend, and they come up with a plan to road trip there to win them back.” (Kirkus Reviews)

Fat Chance, Charlie Vega, Crystal Maldonado
It’s hard to be a teen in a Connecticut suburb when the people around you (sometimes even your own mom!) make you feel too fat and too brown to fit in. When Charlie starts her first relationship with a cute classmate, she thinks things may be starting to look up… until she finds out that he asked out her popular best friend first. A funny and authentic look at growing up, falling in love and being true to yourself.

Fierce Fairytales: Poems and Stories to Stir Your Soul, Nikita Gill
Nikita Gill is a poet who will change the way you see the fairytales of your childhood. “Await no princes to save you… Through their lips touching yours…Wake each other up instead.” Turning fairytales upside down and examining how stories portray women here, she’s also a social media sensation. Follow her and then fly through this quick collection of poems and stories.

Himawari House, Harmony Becker
Nao, who was born in Japan and raised in America, takes a gap year to reconnect with her Japanese heritage. She moves into Himawari House, where she becomes fast friends with her roommates, fellow expats from Singapore and South Korea. This graphic novel follows all three young women as they deal with culture clash, language barriers, and love, friendship, and family.
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)

I Believe in a Thing Called Love, Maureen Goo

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

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou

Powerful, lyrical autobiography of an African American writer growing up in the South. Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local “powhitetrash.” At 8 years old and back at her mother’s side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age — and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns that love for herself, the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors (“I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare”) will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned.

Jurassic Park, Michael Crichton

Dinosaurs at the zoo? In this action-packed page-turner, scientists have figured out how to replicate dinosaur DNA and bring them back to life on an isolated island off the coast of Costa Rica. It’s Disney’s Animal Kingdom, prehistoric style. But what happens when the dinosaurs get loose? If you love thrillers that pit humans against nature, you’ll enjoy Crichton’s iconic text. Sometimes those animals that have gone extinct should stay extinct.

Legendborn, Tracy Deonn

“Filled with mystery and an intriguingly rich magic system… Legendborn offers the dark allure of City of Bones with a modern-day twist on a classic legend and a lot of Southern Black Girl Magic.” (Publisher)
London’s Number One Dog-Walking Agency, Kate McDougall
“The irresistibly charming memoir of a young woman who started her own business as a
dog walker for London’s busy, well-heeled dog lovers. A true love letter to London, dogs
and growing up.” (Publisher)

Love from A to Z, S.K. Ali
“Eighteen-year-old Muslims Adam and Zayneb meet in Doha, Qatar, during spring break
and fall in love as both struggle to find a way to live their own truths.” (Publisher)

Nothing Burns as Bright as You, Ashley Woodfolk
“Two girls. One wild and reckless day. Years of tumultuous history unspooling like a thin,
fraying string in the hours after they set a fire. They were best friends. Until they became
more. Their affections grew. Until the blurry lines became dangerous. Over the course of
a single day, the depth of their past, the confusion of their present, and the unpredictability
of their future is revealed. And the girls will learn that hearts, like flames, aren’t so easily
tamed. It starts with a fire. How will it end?” (Publisher)

Queens of Geek, Jen Wilde
“Three friends, two love stories, one convention: this fun, feminist love letter to geek culture
is all about fandom, friendship and finding the courage to be yourself.” (Publisher)

Radio Silence, Alice Oseman
“Frances Janvier spends most of her time studying. Everyone knows Aled Last as that
quiet boy who gets straight As. You probably think that they are going to fall in love or
something. Since he is a boy and she is a girl. They don’t. They make a podcast. In a world
determined to shut them up, knock them down, and set them on a cookie cutter life path,
Frances and Aled struggle to find their voices over the course of one life-changing year.
Will they have the courage to show everyone who they really are? Or will they be met with
radio silence?” (Publisher)

The Reappearance of Rachel Price, Holly Jackson
“Eighteen-year-old Bel has lived her whole life in the shadow of her mom’s mysterious dis-
appearance. Sixteen years ago, Rachel Price vanished and young Bel was the only witness,
but she has no memory of it. Rachel is gone, long presumed dead, and Bel wishes everyone
would just move on. But the case is dredged up from the past when the Price family agrees
to a true crime documentary. Bel can’t wait for filming to end, for life to go back to normal.
And then the impossible happens. Rachel Price reappears, and life will never be normal
again.” (Publisher)
The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-Year-Old Boy with Autism, Naoki Higashida
“You’ve never read a book like The Reason I Jump. Written by Naoki Higashida, a very smart, very self-aware and very charming 13-year-old boy with autism, it is a one-of-a-kind memoir that demonstrates how an autistic mind thinks, feels, perceives and responds in ways few of us can imagine. Parents and family members who never thought they could get inside the head of their autistic loved one at last have a way to break through to the curious, subtle and complex life within.” (Publisher)

Recommended by NAG

Rules for Vanishing, Kate Alice Marshall
Sara’s sister Becca disappeared a year ago, and everyone assumes she ran away with her troublesome boyfriend. After finding some of Becca’s notebooks, Sara is pretty sure her sister went in search of the mysterious road that only appears at certain times. This road, a source of local legend, is the reason why Lucy Gallow went missing decades ago, and Sara believes she can find it. So in the middle of the night, Sara goes looking, and is surprisingly joined by her estranged former friends. Once on the mysterious road, they learn that there are very specific rules to follow. Breaking the rules has terrible consequences, but there is no choice but to move forward, toward Lucy and maybe toward Becca. This thriller is a cross between the found-footage style of The Blair Witch Project and the frightening journey of Baum’s original Wizard of Oz.

The Sawbones Book: The Hilarious, Horrifying Road to Modern Medicine, Justin McElroy & Sydnee McElroy
“Wondering whether eating powdered mummies might be just the thing to cure your ills? Tempted by those vintage ads suggesting you wear radioactive underpants for virility? Ever considered drilling a hole in your head to deal with those pesky headaches? Probably not. But for thousands of years, people have done things like this — and things that make radioactive underpants seem downright sensible! In their hit podcast, Sawbones, Sydnee and Justin McElroy breakdown the weird and wonderful way we got to modern healthcare. And some of the terrifying detours along the way.” (Publisher)

Someday We Will Fly, Rachel Dewoskin
In 1940, 15-year-old Lillia flees Nazi-occupied Poland with her circus performer father and younger sister, finding a home in Shanghai, China, one of the few places that will welcome Jewish refugees without visas. As they wait — and wait — for news of Lillia’s missing mother, Lillia uses her creativity in unusual ways to keep her family afloat. This fascinating, touching story of multicultural friendship and survival is dedicated to “anyone who has ever needed to leave home.”

Recommended by Kesher
Truly Devious, Maureen Johnson
Exclusive and historic boarding school Ellington Academy’s history has been made infamous by the 1920s murder mystery and missing person case that robbed its founder of his wife and daughter. One hundred years later, Stevie is admitted because of her interest in the case. Unfortunately, the murders on campus don’t seem to be over and a fellow student Stevie has been working with on a project about the murder is found dead. This is the extremely addictive, funny and engrossing first in a three-part mystery series that you’ll find hard to put down!

Vicious, V.E. Schwab
In college, Victor and Eli’s ambition and arrogance led them to experiment with the limits of human ability, seeking to unlock the secret of creating superpowered ExtraOrdinaries. Now, 10 years after everything went awry, Victor has broken out of prison determined to get even with his former friend. Inspired by the soap operatics of comic book rivalries (think Magneto and Professor X), Schwab creates a complicated world where the line between good and evil is never clear.

What If It’s Us, Becky Albertalli and Adam Silvera
New York City in the summer is a little stinky, a little sweaty and can be a lot romantic. Ben and Arthur coincidentally meet at the post office and feel sparks, but are unfortunately separated by a flash mob before they can exchange info, and have to scramble to figure out how to find each other. They couldn’t be any more different, but they also couldn’t be any more real, funny, complexly human or sweet!

Literature and Composition II
Required Reading
- Nervous Conditions, Tsitsi Dangarembga
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 10”

Nervous Conditions, written by a Zimbabwean author, is the first in a trio of novels about a girl growing up in Colonial Rhodesia (now known as Zimbabwe) in the 1960s. It is now considered a modern classic of world literature. As you read, take note of what seems familiar to you and what seems foreign in the novel’s characters, conflicts and themes.

After you read, write two well-developed paragraphs:

Paragraph 1: Choose ONE character, conflict or theme that seems familiar to you or sounds like your own life in some way. Explore that similarity, what it reveals and what it makes you notice in one well-developed paragraph, including quotations.
Paragraph 2: Choose ONE character, conflict or theme that is unfamiliar to you, something very different from your own experience. Explore that contrast, what it reveals and what it leaves you wondering in one well-developed paragraph, including quotations.

**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.

*The 100 Best African American Poems*, ed. Nikki Giovanni

“The 100 Best African American Poems is a riveting exploration of African American life, culture, and history, as seen through the lens of poetry. The anthology spans different periods and styles, showcasing the richness and variety of African American poetic expression. From legendary poets like Langston Hughes and Maya Angelou to contemporary voices pushing the boundaries of poetic art, Giovanni’s expertly curated selection provides a comprehensive view of the African American poetic tradition. Each poem is a lyrical journey that invites readers to engage with poignant themes, stirring narratives, and powerful emotions.” (Publisher)

Recommended by SHADES

*The Bangalore Detectives Club*, Harini Nagendra

“The first in a charming, joyful, cozy crime series set in 1920s Bangalore, featuring sari-wearing detective Kaveri and her husband Ramu. When clever, headstrong Kaveri moves to Bangalore to marry handsome young doctor Ramu, she’s resigned herself to a quiet life. But that all changes the night of the party at the Century Club, where she escapes to the garden for some peace and quiet — and instead spots an uninvited guest in the shadows. Half an hour later, the party turns into a murder scene.” (Publisher)

*The Bear and the Nightingale*, Katherine Arden

Vasya, the daughter of a farmer in a village on the edge of the woods in Medieval Russia, has a special power: she can talk to animals, house gnomes and spirits in the woods. However, she must keep this ability hidden so that her village will not punish her for being a witch. As she comes of age (and to terms) with her magical abilities, she must decide who to trust: the handsome young monk who has just arrived from Moscow or the Frost King who resides deep in the forest. With her trusted horse, Solovey, Vasya needs to determine her friends from her enemies in this first installment of a three-part series.

*Black Enough*, Ibi Zoboi, et al.

Stories about everything from summer camp, gym class, summer in New York City or two cowboys kissing. But here’s the important part and the theme that threads them together: each and every one of these stories features a young character of color. See yourself in stories...
or see a story you think you know from a different perspective. These stories will make you weep and pee your pants laughing.

**Recommended by SHADES**

*Carry On*, Rainbow Rowell
This super meta novel is based on fanfiction of a stand-in for Harry Potter that first appeared in another of the author’s titles, *Fangirl*. Despite being a fanfiction of a fiction that appeared in another work of fiction (PHEW, got that?), this first book in a series stands alone as an awesome LGBTQ+ friendly, more contemporary Harry Potter read alike. Will Simon, the unwilling Chosen one, and his vampire roommate and nemesis, Baz, find a way to save the magical world or is their strife a sign of... something more?

**Recommended by Bridge**

*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.

*Color Me In*, Natasha Diaz
When Nevaeh Levitz’s Black mom and Jewish dad break up, she moves from a wealthy suburb to her mom’s family home in Harlem. Nevaeh is pushed and pulled between the two cultures, as her cousins can’t stand that she inadvertently passes as white, and her dad decides to throw her a belated bat mitzvah that she doesn’t want. When Nevaeh finds a secret from her mom’s past, falls in love and faces prejudice, she has to make some tough decisions about the person she wants to be and the way she wants to live.

**Recommended by Kesher and SHADES**

*Delicious Monsters*, Liselle Sambury
“On the heels of her boyfriend’s betrayal, Daisy and her mom get a long-awaited call: They’ve inherited the “Miracle Mansion” of Daisy’s mother’s teenage summers and can finally move out of Toronto to start an Airbnb. In a parallel storyline set 10 years in the future, podcast host Brittney and her partner Jayden investigate the same mansion for an episode in the newest season of their ghost-story YouTube show. As Daisy contends with her ability to see ghosts and all the things her mom isn’t telling her, Brittney and Jayden unravel Daisy’s story from the end, until the two narratives collide in a haunting revelation.” (Booklist)

*The Devotion of Suspect X*, Keiga Higashino
Murder or accidental death? There are many layers of truth here in this murder mystery involving a mom, a daughter and her estranged father. One of them ends up wrapped in a
blue plastic sheet in Tokyo’s Factory District. This fast-paced, murder mystery thriller will show you life in Japan as well as get your heart racing. Do you even want the detectives to know what happened?

◊ Recommended by ISA

*Downstairs Girl*, Stacy Lee
Audaciously herself in the 1890s! Jo Kuan, a bold, smart 17-year-old Chinese-American girl, lives in a secret basement apartment under a family of newspaper publishers. Mysteriously abandoned by her parents and looked after by her kindly guardian, Jo struggles to balance her need to remain invisible with her need to express herself as she begins writing a witty, forward-thinking, wildly popular advice column for the newspaper under the name of Miss Sweetie. Miss Sweetie’s opinions about gender roles and racial segregation cause controversy, and a rival paper tries to expose her identity — just as she sets off to find answers about her parents. Set in the vibrant, diverse world of Atlanta, Georgia, *The Downstairs Girl* treats serious issues with humor and heart. In development as a TV series — read it here first!

*A Face for Picasso*, Ariel Henley
“At only 8 months old, identical twin sisters Ariel and Zan were diagnosed with Crouzon syndrome — a rare condition where the bones in the head fuse prematurely. They were the first twins known to survive it. Growing up, Ariel and her sister endured numerous appearance-altering procedures. Surgeons would break the bones in their heads and faces to make room for their growing organs. While the physical aspect of their condition was painful, it was nothing compared to the emotional toll of navigating life with a facial disfigurement. Ariel explores beauty and identity in her young-adult memoir about resilience, sisterhood, and the strength it takes to put your life, and yourself, back together time and time again.” (Publisher)

*The House in the Cerulean Sea*, TJ Klune
Linus Baker, a caseworker for the Department in Charge of Magical Youth, is used to evaluating the orphanages that take care of sprites, fairies, trolls and other magical children, but when he gets an assignment to assess a home that houses a potentially dangerous child, his life turns upside down. This heartwarming and funny novel about finding family where you least expect it is the antidote to everything that’s been hard about the last few years!

◊ Recommended by Bridge

*How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less*, Sarah Glidden
In this memoir in graphic novel form, Sarah Glidden’s tour of Israel is complicated by her anger at Israeli politics and the oppression of Palestinians. Indeed, “it’s complicated” becomes her ongoing refrain as she talks with local Muslims and Jews, with fellow travelers on the tour, and with the Israeli soldiers who guard the tour group.

◊ Recommended by Kesher
I Love You So Mochi, Saraj Kuhn
In this sweet and funny novel about growing up, you’ll meet Kimi Nakamura, a girl interested in fashion, art and a cute med student. After a big fight with her mom, Kimi decides to spend spring break with her grandparents in Kyoto, Japan. While exploring a culture that is both foreign and familiar, Kimi learns about herself and the mother she has rejected.

I Was Their American Dream, Malakha Gharib
A light-hearted memoir of growing up in America in not one but two immigrant communities: Filipino and Egyptian. Gharib plays around in fun ways with different kinds of storytelling in graphic novel form.

If I Was Your Girl, Meredith Russo
Amanda’s just like all of us: she’s got her secrets and she just wants to fit in in school and live her life. When she meets Grant, she can’t help but be drawn to him and want to share everything... everything but her one big secret: she used to be Andrew.

The Infinite Noise, Lauren Shippen
A spinoff of the author’s popular fiction podcast, this story is about Caleb, a popular football player who starts experiencing other people’s emotions. He is diagnosed as Atypical, meaning he has enhanced senses. He finds himself drawn to Adam, another kid who is a calm presence in the storm of emotions flying at him, but when you feel everyone else’s feelings, too, it’s really hard to know if you’re falling for someone or if they’re falling for you!

The Institute, Stephen King
When teenager Luke Ellis wakes up one morning, he finds himself in a windowless room far from his Minneapolis home. He soon discovers that he now lives in the “Front Half” of the Institute, a sinister compound where adults abduct children with paranormal gifts and seek to extract their abilities. Even more nefarious is the “Back Half” where children mysteriously disappear at random. Luke soon learns that he not only needs to get out, but that he needs to get help to free his friends Kalish, Nick, George, Iris and Avery from the clutches of the director, Mrs. Siggsby. There is one problem: no one has yet escaped the Institute.

The Lesbiana’s Guide to Catholic School, Sonora Reyes
“After being outed by her crush and ex-best friend before transferring to Slayton Catholic, Yami has new priorities: keep her brother out of trouble, make her mom proud, and, most importantly, don’t fall in love. Granted, she’s never been great at any of those things, but that’s a problem for Future Yami. The thing is, it’s hard to fake being straight when Bo, the only openly queer girl at school, is so annoyingly perfect. And smart. And talented. And cute. So cute. Either way, Yami isn’t going to make the same mistake again. If word got
back to her mom, she could face a lot worse than rejection. So she’ll have to start asking, WWSGD: What would a straight girl do?” (Publisher)

*Recommended by Bridge*

**Light it up**, Kekla Magoon
After an unarmed 13-year-old girl is killed on her way home from school in a police shooting, her community is left reeling. In this fictional account, they tell their stories narrator by narrator to explore the impact on all of them.

*Recommended by SHADES*

**Lobizona**, Romina Garber
Manuela has never fit in: She is an undocumented Argentinian living in Miami, dodging immigration, hiding in her family’s shared apartment because her eyes give her away. Her eyes are... different. When her mom is arrested by ICE, Manuela’s new journey begins, as she discovers she is a Lobizona, part human, part werewolf. Manu enters a new community where she doesn’t quite fit either, where she searches for her lost father, falls in love, and sparks a movement to challenge sexist and heteronormative stereotypes. Above all else, Manuela finally can seek her manada — her pack.

*Recommended by SHADES*

**Night**, Elie Wiesel
Imagine your life 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.”

**Once and Future**, Cori McCarthy
What if King Arthur was a teenage girl determined to save the universe from an evil curse? After Ari Helix crash-lands in the time of knights, dragons and magic, she meets a teenage Merlin and together they go on a quest to defeat a cruel government and bring peace and equality to humankind. Try this book if you love heroes, adventures, suspense and humor.

**A Place for Us**, Fatima Farheen Mirza
“As an Indian wedding gathers a family back together, parents Rafiq and Layla must reckon with the choices their children have made. There is Hadia: their headstrong, eldest daughter, whose marriage is a match of love and not tradition. Huda, the middle child, determined to follow in her sister’s footsteps. And lastly, their estranged son, Amar, who returns to the family fold for the first time in three years to take his place as brother of the bride. What secrets and betrayals have caused this close-knit family to fracture? Can Amar find his way back to the people who know and love him best?” (Publisher)

*Recommended by Salaam*
The Poet X, Elizabeth Acevedo
“Sometimes it seems like writing is the only way I keep from hurting.” Xiomara Batista feels like she is not truly seen, nor heard, and so she writes. She writes elaborate, gut-wrenching poems that speak to the ocean of feelings inside. Outside, she is trying to ignore the guys verbally assaulting her, trying to be the good Christian girl her mom wants her to be and all the while the words come. This book is a fast read because it’s all poetry, capturing Xiomara’s every moment in verse. If you like Angie Thomas’s On the Come Up, you will love this book.

Recommended by SHADES

Pride, Ibi Zoboi
Ibi Zoboi is a masterful writer as she adapts Jane Austen’s brilliant romance, Pride and Prejudice, and brings it to Brooklyn, where the Benitez family is watching their neighborhood change rapidly. Enter the wealthy Darcy family across the street and Zuri Benitez will find that everything she thought she knew about that arrogant boy Darius Darcy is based on judging someone before she gets to really know them. Get ready to feel all the feels, and to change your mind.

Recommended by SHADES

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.

Recommended by SHADES

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.

Strange Practice, Vivian Shaw
Just because vampires are undead doesn’t mean they don’t have medical needs! Meet Greta Helsing, a human doctor whose patients include witches, ghouls, vampires and other monsters. When a group of killer monks begins murdering both humans and vampires in London, Greta and her human and vampire friends must track down the religious cult and the animating force that is directing them.
**Tell Me How You Really Feel**, Aminah Mae Safi
Two high school seniors star in this story of love and self-discovery: Pakistani-American model student Sana tries to figure out her life’s path, while Mexican-American Jewish Rachel tries to cobble together her vision as a filmmaker. Neither expects to fall in love, but in this queer meet-cute love story, there are many surprises. This high school romance is both traditional and nothing like the high school romance novels you may have read before.

*Recommended by Bridge*

**The Truths We Hold: An American Journey**, Kamala Harris
This gripping autobiography by our nation’s first female vice president shares many interesting stories about her political career as well as personal stories of her childhood and family. If you’re not already a fan of the vice president, you will be after you read her memoir! (The audiobook is narrated by Harris herself.)

*Recommended by Salaam*

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

*Recommended by Salaam*

**We Have Always Lived in the Castle**, Shirley Jackson
A deliciously creepy and weird-in-the-best-ways novel. Who put the arsenic in the sugar bowl six years ago, killing Mary Katherine and Constance Blackwood’s family? Why won’t Constance leave the house? Why does the town distrust the Blackwoods? How will the family react when an unexpected visitor shows up to disrupt their strict routines… and will more people have to die?

**Grades 11 & 12**
**Required Reading**
I. Literature and Composition III
- *The Glass Castle*, Jeanette Walls
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

*The Glass Castle* is a memoir (non-fiction) that explores the dreams of the author’s family; some of those dreams are realized (that is, are achieved), and some are not. Describing her father’s dreams, Walls writes, “When Dad wasn’t telling us about all the amazing things he had already done, he was telling us about the wondrous things he was going to do. Like build the Glass Castle” (30). As you read the memoir, think about each character’s dreams.

When you return to school in September, you will write an analytical, thesis-driven essay that explores the ways that a character’s dreams shape or influence their choices and reactions to challenges. For example, you might want to think about Rex’s dreams for himself.
and his family, Rose Mary’s dreams for her daughter, or the siblings’ dreams for themselves and each other.

II. AP English Language and Composition

- *The Glass Castle*, Jeannette Walls
- *The Best American Food Writing 2023*, ed. Mark Bittman
- One book from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12"

AP English Language and Composition (AP Comp) is a course that emphasizes nonfiction, as reflected in the summer reading.

1. AP Comp and Lit Comp III students are all reading Jeanette Walls’s memoir *The Glass Castle* this summer. Please read the description in the Lit Comp III section, above.

2. In addition, AP Comp students should read parts of *The Best American Food Writing 2023*. Your writing assignment, detailed below, is to reflect on particular essays and to notice the authors’ craft with language. **Please note:** Some of these essays have a strong point of view, one that you may or may not agree with. Think of these essays as one person’s contribution to a conversation; in your reflection paragraph, you’ll continue that conversation, which may include disagreeing with the author.

Read SIX essays of your choice from this collection.

- For each essay, write a reflection paragraph about what you found interesting in it or what you learned that you find valuable. If you’re not finding an essay interesting, ditch it and move on to another piece!
- For each essay, choose a sentence that you think is really well written, and type it up. What makes this sentence particularly good? Be specific in your answer! For example, rather than saying, “This sentence is good because it’s emotional and relatable,” it would be better to write, “The series of adjectives used to describe the firefighter highlight multiple, contradictory aspects of this job, including some details that will surprise most readers.” (Remember to include a parenthetical citation for your quotation, of course.)

This assignment is due on the first day of class.

III. All Senior English Courses

- *Mexican Gothic*, Silvia Moreno-Garcia
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”
Mexican Gothic, Silvia Moreno-Garcia

Gothic novels were a popular literary genre in Europe in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and authors have been adapting the genre ever since. These novels were thriller-mysteries, often set in gloomy medieval castles with locked doors, secret passageways and terrifying dungeons. Gothic novels always have a supernatural element, such as spirits, ghosts, flickering lights, frightening dreams or unseen voices. Sometimes there turns out to be a rational explanation for what seemed supernatural, and sometimes the ghosts really are ghosts! Charlotte Bronte’s Jane Eyre is a great example of a novel that borrows gothic elements to create suspense. Silvia Moreno-Garcia has taken that European gothic tradition and placed it in Mexico.

As you read Mexican Gothic, pay attention to
• Stages of character development
• Character motivations
• Development of gothic suspense and terror
• Motifs and repeated images
• Figurative language (metaphor, symbol, etc.)
• Settings and where they are reflective of character and/or theme

As a thoughtful reader, you will find yourself thinking about questions such as
• What is the power of setting a European genre in Mexico? What does this novel have to say about Mexican-European relations and colonization?
• Why is there so much emphasis on eugenics (the pseudo-science of trying to improve the human race) in this novel? Is there a connection between eugenics and the gothic?
• What is the power and meaning of dreams in the novel?
• How do we know what is real and what is not real? (This is a question about epistemology, which is the study of how humans know what is real.)
• What else do you see going on in this novel? What other themes or questions strike you as interesting as you read?

Take notes as you read and mark your text so you are prepared to discuss the novel, its themes and its literary elements. You will write an essay on this novel in the first weeks of school, so read with care as well as with pleasure!

Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12

Acceptance, Emi Nietfeld
“A luminous, generation-defining memoir of foster care and homelessness, Harvard and Big Tech, examining society’s fixation with resilience — and its cost.” (Publisher)
All Systems Red, Martha Wells
“As a heartless killing machine, I was a terrible failure.” In the distant future, a security android — SecUnit — spends its time binging serial dramas and trying to keep its corporate overlords from realizing that it has disabled its governor module and has technically “gone rogue.” When a mission on a distant planet goes wrong, SecUnit has to step up to save the human clients it has grown reluctantly fond of. SecUnit (or, as it secretly refers to itself, Murderbot) is a snarky, relatable, and incredibly endearing narrator in this first in a series of sci-fi novellas.

Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup, John Carreyrou
“In 2014, Theranos founder and CEO Elizabeth Holmes was widely seen as the next Steve Jobs: a brilliant Stanford dropout whose startup ‘unicorn’ promised to revolutionize the medical industry with its breakthrough device, which performed the whole range of laboratory tests from a single drop of blood. Backed by investors such as Larry Ellison and Tim Draper, Theranos sold shares in a fundraising round that valued the company at more than $9 billion, putting Holmes’s worth at an estimated $4.5 billion. There was just one problem: The technology didn’t work.” (Publisher)

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

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.

Black Girl Call Home, Jasmine Mans
“From spoken word poet Jasmine Mans comes an unforgettable poetry collection about race, feminism and queer identity. With echoes of Gwendolyn Brooks and Sonia Sanchez, Mans writes to call herself — and us — home. Each poem explores what it means to be a daughter of Newark, and America — and the painful, joyous path to adulthood as a young, queer Black woman. Black Girl, Call Home is a love letter to the wandering Black girl and a
vital companion to any woman on a journey to find truth, belonging, and healing.” (Publisher)

© Recommended by Bridge and SHADES

_The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek_, Kim Michele Richardson

“The hardscrabble folks of Troublesome Creek have to scrap for everything — everything except books, that is. Thanks to Roosevelt’s Kentucky Pack Horse Library Project, Troublesome’s got its very own traveling librarian, Cussy Mary Carter. Cussy’s not only a book woman, however, she’s also the last of her kind, her skin a shade of blue unlike most anyone else. Not everyone is keen on Cussy’s family or the Library Project, and a Blue is often blamed for any whiff of trouble. If Cussy wants to bring the joy of books to the hill folks, she’s going to have to confront prejudice as old as the Appalachias and suspicion as deep as the holler. Inspired by the true blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the brave and dedicated Kentucky Pack Horse library service of the 1930s, _The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek_ is a story of raw courage, fierce strength and one woman’s belief that books can carry us anywhere — even back home.” (Publisher)

_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.

_A Burning_, Megha Majumdar

A terrorist attack on a train in contemporary India brings together three people who have the power to make, break or destroy each other in this lyrical modern novel. An aspiring Bollywood star can provide an alibi for Jivan, the Muslim girl accused of the attack after making a careless Facebook comment, but doing so will destroy her. But Jivan’s former gym teacher is now a rising member of a right-wing political party who needs her to be guilty so he can realize his ambitions.

_Carolina Built_, Kianna Alexander

This novel is based on the real life rise of Josephine N. Leary, a former slave who became the first Black real estate magnate in North Carolina. A moving story about passion and perseverance!

© Recommended by SHADES
**Constellations**, Kate Glasheen
“In 1980s Troy, New York, nonbinary teenager Claire’s stint in court-ordered rehab may be exactly what they need to unpack all the bad they have experienced — if they can stay sober in a world seemingly never made for them.” (Publisher)

◆ Recommended by Bridge

**Crying in H Mart**, Michelle Zauner
“In this exquisite story of family, food, grief and endurance, Michelle Zauner proves herself far more than a dazzling singer, songwriter and guitarist. With humor and heart, she tells of growing up one of the few Asian American kids at her school in Eugene, Oregon; of struggling with her mother’s particular, high expectations of her; of a painful adolescence; of treasured months spent in her grandmother’s tiny apartment in Seoul, where she and her mother would bond, late at night, over heaping plates of food. As she grew up, moving to the East Coast for college, finding work in the restaurant industry, and performing gigs with her fledgling band — and meeting the man who would become her husband — her Koreanness began to feel ever more distant, even as she found the life she wanted to live. It was her mother’s diagnosis of terminal cancer, when Michelle was 25, that forced a reckoning with her identity and brought her to reclaim the gifts of taste, language and history her mother had given her.” (Publisher)

◆ Recommended by ISA

**Disappearing Earth**, Julia Philips
The stories of many women in the town of Kamchatka, Siberia, weave together to tell the stories of two young girls who disappear on a summer walk by the lake. Chapter by chapter, individual short story by short story, we learn more about the town, the lives of the women in it, and the impact of the missing girls on all of them. This National Book Award finalist is as haunting, moving, inspiring and complex as life in Siberia.

**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.”

◆ Recommended by Asian Affinity Group

**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.

*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.

*Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry*, Joya Goffney
“Quinn keeps lists of everything: from the days she’s ugly cried, to “Things That I Would Never Admit Out Loud” to all the boys she’d like to kiss. Her lists keep her sane. By writing her fears on paper, she never has to face them in real life. That is, until her journal goes missing. An anonymous account posts one of her lists on Instagram for the whole school to see and blackmails her into facing seven of her greatest fears, or else her entire journal will go public. Quinn doesn’t know who to trust. Desperate, she teams up with Carter Bennett — the last known person to have her journal — in a race against time to track down the blackmailer. Together, they journey through everything Quinn’s been too afraid to face, and along the way, Quinn finds the courage to be honest, to live in the moment, and to fall in love.” (Publisher)

*The Extraordinaries*, TJ Klune
“Some people are extraordinary. Some are just extra… *The Extraordinaries* is a queer coming-of-age story about a fanboy with ADHD and the heroes he loves. Nick Bell? Not extraordinary. But being the most popular fanfiction writer in the Extraordinaries fandom is a superpower, right? After a chance encounter with Shadow Star, Nova City’s mightiest hero (and Nick’s biggest crush), Nick sets out to make himself extraordinary. And he’ll do it with or without the reluctant help of Seth Gray, Nick’s best friend (and maybe the love of his life).” (Publisher)

*Firekeepers Daughter*, Angeline Boulley
Daunis is a biracial, unenrolled member of a Minnesota tribe. She’s excited to be starting college soon with her best friend. But when Daunis witnesses a shocking murder, everything changes in an instant and she doesn’t hesitate when she is asked to go undercover to help stop the trafficking of illegal drugs ravaging her native community. This is part mystery, part coming of age and very hard to put down. Readers should note it does contain violence and assault.
The Five: The Untold Lives of the Women Killed by Jack the Ripper, Hallie Rubenhold
In this fascinating and impeccably researched book, Rubenhold delves into the lives of five women who have long been ignored in favor of their murderer. Rather than focusing on the gruesomeness of their deaths, Rubenhold digs deep into the lives and circumstances that led them there. In many cases, these five women were at the end of a long journey from respectability to impoverishment. The stories underscore the utter reliance women in the Victorian era (and most of history) had on the men in their lives to keep them fed, clothed and housed. Without these protections, the five victims of Jack the Ripper found themselves completely vulnerable.

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.

Hijab Butch Blues, Lamya H
“An insightful memoir-in-essays by a queer nonbinary (she/they) Muslim author, which pairs stories from the Quran with stories about their life.” (Publisher)
Recommended by Bridge and Salaam

How Long ’til Black Future Month?, N.K. Jemisin
N.K. Jemisin exploded the canon of fantasy literature in recent decades, crafting a powerful black, feminist voice in this under-appreciated literary genre. Her new collection of sci-fi/fantasy short stories spans her writing career and runs the gamut: new planets, ecological post-apocalyptic landscapes, robot invasions, cities that come to life... It’s all here, a smorgasbord of sci-fi excellence in a new and magnificent voice.
Recommended by SHADES

Hunger, Roxane Gay
This memoir details author Roxane Gay’s relationship with food and her weight over the course of her life, as well as her hunger for acceptance and self-love. Sexually assaulted at a young age, Gay began to purposefully overeat in order to protect herself from potential predators. This is not a tale of a woman learning to deal with her trauma to lose weight; instead, Gay lays herself and her emotions bare, asking questions that almost every woman faces at some point.
Recommended by SHADES
Killers of a Certain Age, Deanna Raybourn
“They’ve spent their lives as the deadliest assassins in a clandestine international organization, but now that they’re 60 years old, four women friends can’t just retire — it’s kill or be killed in this action-packed thriller.” (Publisher)

Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI, David Grann
Back in the 1920s, oil was almost actually worth its weight in gold. The Osage nation in current-day Oklahoma became instant millionaires when they sold much of their oil rich land. Things were good for a while — many Osage had chauffeurs, mansions and the trappings of a rich life — but suddenly many people started to turn up dead in very suspicious circumstances. Using cutting edge techniques to uncover a massive, horrifying conspiracy to kill the Osage for their land rights and money, this is the case that legitimized a fledgling law enforcement agency called the FBI.

Lab Girl, 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.

Last Night at the Telegraph Club, Malinda Lo
Set in San Francisco’s Chinatown in 1954, this is the story of Lily Hu and Kathleen Miller and how they fell in love during the Red Scare. Post-WWII America is not a safe place for two women to be together or for anyone of Chinese descent. The Cold War fear of communism threatens Lily’s family as her father, an American citizen, faces the possibility of deportation. At least Lily and Kathleen have the Telegraph Club where they can express their true identities among other women who must hide their identities from the world.

The Leavers, Lisa Ko
In this deeply moving novel about the tragedy of total assimilation, a young Chinese boy named Deming Guo becomes Daniel Wilkinson after his mother disappears and he is adopted by two white college professors from upstate New York. As he struggles to become “the all-American boy” that his adoptive parents wish him to be, Deming/Daniel decides to take his own journey into the past to determine his true identity.

Libertie, Kaitlyn Greenidge
“Coming of age in a free Black community in Reconstruction-era Brooklyn, Libertie Sampson is all too aware that her mother, a physician, has a vision for their future together: Libertie is to go to medical school and practice alongside her. But Libertie is hungry for something else — is there really only one way to be independent? And she is constantly reminded that, unlike her light-skinned mother, she will not be able to pass for white.
When a young man from Haiti proposes to Libertie and promises a better life on the island, she accepts, only to discover that she is still subordinate to him and all men. As she tries to parse what freedom actually means for a Black woman, Libertie struggles with where she might find it: for herself and for generations to come.” (Publisher)

The Likeness, Tana French
Irish detective Cassie Maddox thought she’d stepped away from the Dublin Murder Squad until a young woman who is almost identical to her is found dead in the countryside. Cassie is asked to not only rejoin the squad, but to go undercover and impersonate the dead woman in the hopes of finding which of her friends murdered her.

The Maid, Nita Prose
“Molly Gray is not like everyone else. She struggles with social skills and misreads the intentions of others. Her gran used to interpret the world for her, codifying it into simple rules that Molly could live by. Since Gran died a few months ago, 25-year-old Molly has been navigating life’s complexities all by herself. [S]he throws herself with gusto into her work as a hotel maid... Molly’s orderly life is upended the day she enters the suite of the infamous and wealthy Charles Black, only to find it in a state of disarray and Mr. Black himself dead in his bed. Before she knows what’s happening, Molly’s unusual demeanor has the police targeting her as their lead suspect. She quickly finds herself caught in a web of deception, one she has no idea how to untangle. Fortunately for Molly, friends she never knew she had unite with her in a search for clues to what really happened to Mr. Black — but will they be able to find the real killer before it’s too late?” (Publisher)

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

The Miracles of the Namiya General Store, Keigo Higashino
“When three delinquents hole up in an abandoned general store after their most recent robbery, to their great surprise, a letter drops through the mail slot in the store’s shutter. This seemingly simple request for advice sets the trio on a journey of discovery as, over the course of a single night, they step into the role of the kindhearted former shopkeeper who devoted his waning years to offering thoughtful counsel to his correspondents. Through the lens of time, they share insight with those seeking guidance, and by morning, none of their lives will ever be the same.” (Publisher)
Monstrous Regiment, Terry Pratchett
The fantasy duchy of Borogravia has been at war for as long as anyone can remember. After her brother enlists and goes missing in action, barmaid Polly Perks cuts her hair and disguises herself as a man to join the army and track him down. But could her motley crew of fellow soldiers — including a troll, a zombie lab assistant, and a vampire who has traded in blood for coffee — all be hiding a similar secret? This book, part of Pratchett’s beloved Discworld series, is a hysterically funny send-up of fantasy tropes with a gender-bending twist.

On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous, Ocean Vuong
“On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous is a letter from a son to a mother who cannot read. Written when the speaker, Little Dog, is in his late twenties, the letter unearths a family’s history that began before he was born — a history whose epicenter is rooted in Vietnam — and serves as a doorway into parts of his life his mother has never known, all of it leading to an unforgettable revelation. At once a witness to the fraught yet undeniable love between a single mother and her son, it is also a brutally honest exploration of race, class and masculinity... On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous is as much about the power of telling one’s own story as it is about the obliterating silence of not being heard.” (Publisher)

Recommended by Bridge and ISA

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.

Recommended by Bridge

The Raven Tower, Ann Leckie
This story of gods, magic and political intrigue is told from an unusual perspective — a rock (that is also a god) in the titular Raven Tower, who has watched kingdoms rise and fall over countless millennia. A fantasy reimagining of Hamlet that is set apart by its bold, unique narrative voice.

Relish, Lucy Knisley
“Lucy Knisley loves food. The daughter of a chef and a gourmet, this talented young cartoonist comes by her obsession honestly. In her forthright, thoughtful and funny memoir, Lucy traces key episodes in her life thus far, framed by what she was eating at the time
and lessons learned about food, cooking and life. Each chapter is bookended with an illustrated recipe—many of them treasured family dishes, and a few of them Lucy’s original inventions.” (Publisher)

*Rising Out of Hatred: The Awakening of a Former White Nationalist,* Eli Saslow
“Derek Black grew up at the epicenter of white nationalism… Then he went to college. At New College of Florida, he continued to broadcast his radio show in secret each morning, living a double life until a classmate uncovered his identity and sent an email to the entire school. ‘Derek Black… white supremacist, radio host… New College student???’ The ensuing uproar overtook one of the most liberal colleges in the country. Some students protested Derek’s presence on campus, forcing him to reconcile for the first time with the ugliness of his beliefs. Other students found the courage to reach out to him, including an Orthodox Jew who invited Derek to attend weekly Shabbat dinners. It was because of those dinners — and the wide-ranging relationships formed at that table — that Derek started to question the science, history and prejudices behind his worldview… [and] disavowed everything he was taught to believe, at tremendous personal cost. With great empathy and narrative verve, Eli Saslow asks what Derek Black’s story can tell us about America’s increasingly divided nature.” (Publisher)

*Recommended by Kesher*

*Singular Intimacies,* Danielle Ofri
Dr. Danielle Ofri writes about her first year as a doctor in one of the most famous hospitals in the world: Bellevue in New York City. Having just completed medical school, she suddenly finds herself responsible for the lives of countless people, many who speak different languages and come from cultures about which she only knows the bare minimum. In Singular Intimacies, she writes about how important it is for a doctor to form a positive relationship with their patients and how crucial it is to listen to their needs. If you have ever wondered what it is like to be a doctor, this is for you.

*Spinning Silver,* Naomi Novik
Novik spins a rich, complex and absorbing fantasy rooted in both the Jewish story tradition and in classic fairytale tropes. The woman at the heart of this tale is strong, wily, loving and fierce, and her journey to protect and claim what is right for her family takes her to thrilling unknown realms. You will turn these pages until long after bedtime, and then your dreams will be full of magic and daring.

*Recommended by Kesher*
Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America, Ibram X. Kendi
The title says it all: This is a thorough look at the history of anti-Black, racist ideas throughout United States history. It explores how these ideas were created and why. Reading it will prepare you to be a better social justice advocate by helping you understand the origins of these insidious beliefs so you may refute them when you encounter them.

Recommended by SHADES

Swing Time, Zadie Smith
Two biracial girls develop a friendship and as dancers in a London council flat, they dream of careers as professionals. One of them makes it, one of them doesn’t, but who really makes it and who doesn’t is up for debate in this masterful, musical, beautifully written book about friendship, the power of dancing and the decisions we make that shape our lives. “My favorite Smith novel since White Teeth. The best book I read in 2019!” -Ms. Gayton

This Is How It Always Is, Laurie Frankel
There is a gloriously old, ramshackle house in Michigan filled with five outrageous, bantering, unabashed boys... and their parents. They’re in each other's business, dinner is certainly a circus-like event and stories abound in this house of adventure. But everything changes, as it must, when the newest member of the family, Claude, puts on a dress and knows they can’t take it off. When he grows up, Claude says, he wants to be a girl. Be prepared to enjoy a riotous love story of the most ordinary and epic proportions that ends up going all the way to Thailand.

Recommended by Bridge

The Three-Body Problem, Cixi Liu
“Set against the backdrop of China’s Cultural Revolution, a secret military project sends signals into space to establish contact with aliens. An alien civilization on the brink of destruction captures the signal and plans to invade Earth. Meanwhile, on Earth, different camps start forming, planning to either welcome the superior beings and help them take over a world seen as corrupt, or to fight against the invasion. The result is a science fiction masterpiece of enormous scope and vision.” (Publisher)

To Live, Yu Hua
Imagine watching the life you thought you would have slowly melt away. Fugui was born the son of a landlord. He wanted for nothing. Between spending his inheritance and being drafted in the cultural revolution in China, Fugui was left with next to nothing. Initially banned in China, this book is now revered as a contemporary classic.

Recommended by Asian Affinity Group
The Vanishing Half, Brit Bennett
This is a must-read for anyone who watched the film Passing, another tale chronicling the story of a Black woman who “passes” as white. When two identical twin sisters separate at the age of 16 after growing up in a small southern town, they go very different ways. One decides to stay in the South and ultimately has a daughter; the other travels to the West Coast and marries a white man who believes she is a white woman. Eventually, they also have a daughter who they raise as white. But what happens when their children grow up and find each other across the country? This story explores the notions of perception and identity, and the way in which we can or cannot choose how to define ourselves.

The Ways of White Folks, 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.

We Keep the Dead Close, Becky Cooper
“1969: the height of counterculture and the year universities would seek to curb the unruly spectacle of student protest; the winter that Harvard University would begin the tumultuous process of merging with Radcliffe, its all-female sister school; and the year that Jane Britton, an ambitious 23-year-old graduate student in Harvard’s Anthropology Department and daughter of Radcliffe Vice President J. Boyd Britton, would be found bludgeoned to death in her Cambridge, Massachusetts apartment. Forty years later, Becky Cooper, a curious undergrad, will hear the first whispers of the story. In the first telling, the body was nameless. The story was this: a Harvard student had had an affair with her professor, and the professor had murdered her in the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology because she’d threatened to talk about the affair. Though the rumor proves false, the story that unfolds — one that Cooper will follow for 10 years — is even more complex: a tale of gender inequality in academia, a ‘cowboy culture’ among empowered male elites, the silencing effect of institutions, and our compulsion to rewrite the stories of female victims.” (Publisher)

What Kind of Woman, Kate Baer
“Through poems that are as unforgettably beautiful as they are accessible, Kate Baer proves herself to truly be an exemplary voice in modern poetry. Her words make women feel seen in their own bodies, in their own marriages and in their own lives. Her poems are those you share with your mother, your daughter, your sister and your friends.” (Publisher)
You’ll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey, Amber Ruffin and Lacy Lamar
Amber Ruffin is a comedy writer who hosts her own late-night talk show, The Amber Ruffin Show. She wrote this book with her sister, Lacey Lamar, about their humorous and ridiculous experiences with everyday racism as Black women in America.

Recommended by SHADES

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

AFRICAN STUDIES
Call and Response, Gothataone Moeng
“Richly drawn stories about the lives of ordinary families in contemporary Botswana as they navigate relationships, tradition and caretaking in a rapidly changing world.” (Publisher)

Dear Ijeawele or a Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions, Chimimanda Ngozi Adichie
“A few years ago, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie received a letter from a childhood friend, a new mother who wanted to know how to raise her baby girl to be a feminist. Dear Ijeawele is Adichie’s letter of response: 15 invaluable suggestions — direct, wryly funny and perceptive — for how to empower a daughter to become a strong, independent woman.” (Publisher)

The Girl With the Louding Voice, Abi Dare
Learning to speak up for yourself is hard to do! Join the Nigerian protagonist as she learns to find her “loudering voice” and speak her own truth.

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. 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 July — the shifts in character and relationships — gives us an unforgettable look into the terrifying, tacit understandings and misunderstandings between blacks and whites. (Amazon) 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)

We Should All Be Feminists, Chimimanda Ngozi Adichie
A small but mighty and modern look at feminism by the renowned Nigerian-American author.

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, using 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.

Banned Book Club, Kim Hyun Sook
“When Kim Hyun Sook started college in 1983, she was ready for her world to open up. After acing her exams and sort-of convincing her traditional mother that it was a good idea for a woman to go to college, she looked forward to soaking up the ideas of Western Literature far from the drudgery she was promised at her family’s restaurant. But literature class would prove to be just the start of a massive turning point, still focused on reading but with life-or-death stakes she never could have imagined.” (Publisher)

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.

Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution, Ji-li Jiang and David Henry Hwang
“It’s 1966, and 12-year-old Ji-li Jiang has everything a girl could want: brains, popularity and a bright future in Communist China. But it’s also the year that China’s leader, Mao Ze-dong, launches the Cultural Revolution — and Ji-li’s world begins to fall apart. Over the next few years, people who were once her friends and neighbors turn on her and her family, forcing them to live in constant terror of arrest. And when Ji-li’s father is finally
imprisoned, she faces the most difficult dilemma of her life. Written in an accessible and engaging style, this page-turning, honest and deeply personal autobiography will appeal to readers of all ages.” (Publisher)

_Tsunami Girl_, Julian Sedgwick
“Fifteen-year-old Yuki is struggling at school with her confidence, and goes to Japan to stay with her grandfather, a well-known manga artist to whom she is very close. But during her visit, a calamitous event occurs — the East Coast Earthquake and Tsunami — and her beloved Grandpa is lost. Yuki and her friend Taka must make sense of the terrible situation and come to terms with the loss of their life as they knew it — and see that through renewal and with resilience, they can emerge from this tragedy with optimism for the future.” (Publisher)

**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.

_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.
Europe in the 20th Century

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

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

Comparative Politics

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

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

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

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

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

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

Economics

*The Undercover Economist*, Tim Harford

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

_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 spent 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**

Read the following required title. Other titles listed are optional but recommended.

**Required: American Colonies: The Settling of North America**, Alan Taylor

“In the first volume in the Penguin History of the United States, edited by Eric Foner, Alan Taylor challenges the traditional story of colonial history by examining the many cultures that helped make America, from the native inhabitants from millennia past, through the decades of Western colonization and conquest, and across the entire continent, all the way to the Pacific coast.” (Publisher)

_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.

_We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy_, Ta-Nehisi Coates

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

**Western Civilization**

*The Bull from the Sea*, Mary Renault

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

*Circe*, Madeline Miller

In the house of Helios, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter is born. But “Circe is a strange child — not powerful, like her father, nor viciously alluring like her mother. Turning to the world of mortals for companionship, she discovers that she does possess power: the power of witchcraft, which can transform rivals into monsters and menace the gods themselves... But there is danger, too, for a woman who stands alone, and Circe unwittingly draws the wrath of both men and gods, ultimately finding herself pitted against one of the most terrifying and vengeful of the Olympians. To protect what she loves most, Circe must summon all her strength and choose, once and for all, whether she belongs with the gods she is born from, or the mortals she has come to love.” (Publisher)

*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.

*The Odyssey*, Gareth Hinds

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

*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.

**AP European History**

**Required: Peasant Fires**, Richard Wunderli

“In 1476, an illiterate German street musician had a vision of the Virgin Mary and began to preach a radical social message that attracted thousands of followers and antagonized the church. The drummer was burned at the stake. This swiftly moving narrative of his rise and fall paints a vivid portrait of 15th-century German society as it raises important questions about the craft of history.” (Publisher)

**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.

**Candide**, Voltaire

Voltaire’s 1759 satirical masterpiece leaves nothing sacred. Initially published in secret and immediately banned in many countries, *Candide* traces the ludicrous adventures of a young optimist (as in Leibnizian optimism) from Europe to South America and back, along the way assailing traditional political and social institutions as well as Enlightenment ideals. Didn’t think an 18th-century novella could be a page-turner and make you laugh out loud? Try this one.

**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.

“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 Languages Books**
The following titles are suggestions and in some cases requirements for summer reading from the World Languages 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 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. As it can sometimes be challenging to find books written in languages other than English, please contact the World Languages Department Chair for assistance if you run into difficulties.

**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)

Monsieur Ibrahim et les fleurs du Coran, Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt
“Paris in the 1960s. Thirteen-year-old Moses lives in the shadow of his less-than loving father. When he’s caught stealing from wise old shopkeeper Monsieur Ibrahim, he discovers an unlikely friend and a whole new world. Together they embark on a journey that takes them from the streets of Paris to the whirling dervishes of the Golden Crescent.” (Goodreads) (Recommended for level III)

Oscar et la dame rose, Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt
“Here are the letters addressed to God by a 10-year-old child. They were found by Mamie Rose, the ‘pink lady’ who came to visit [Oscar] at the children’s hospital. They describe 12 days in Oscar’s life, 12 funny and poetic days, 12 days full of funny and moving characters. These 12 days will perhaps be the last 12. But, thanks to Mamie Rose who forms a very strong bond of love with Oscar, these 12 days will become legend.” (Publisher) (Recommended for level III)

Un papillon dans la cité, Gisèle Pinneau
“When Félicie learns that she is going to find her mother in France, she quickly understands that she will have to leave her grandmother, Man Ya, who raised her alone. When, in a city in the Parisian suburbs, she comes to know her mother, Papa Jo and her new little brother, she finds her new life a little better. When she becomes friends with a classmate who has also come from elsewhere, she dreams of only one thing: to introduce him to her distant island.” (Publisher) (Recommended for AP French)

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
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*, 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.

**SPANISH**

**Required for Spanish II: Amnesia**, José Luis Ocasar Ariza
“A robbery, an accident, and a victim who cannot remember a thing. When the police believe an innocent man is the thief, can a nurse help him escape his amnesia?” (Publisher)

**Required for Spanish II Honors: La clase de confesiones**, A.C. Quintero
“Carlos hates Spanish class with a passion, but finds the will to survive when he lays eyes on Jessica. She is the reason he ‘tolerates’ his boring class. However, his secret crush is compromised when his teacher decides to ‘shake things up a bit’ in class.” (Publisher)

**Required for Spanish III: La Lucha**, Melisa Lopez
“It is 1965, and 16-year-old Javier is a typical teen with dreams for the future. Javier wants an education so he can escape the brutal working conditions and poverty plaguing his family. Instead, he has to work in the fields to help support his family. When he hears about a man who has started a workers’ revolution, he joins the movement. He soon learns that landowners do not tolerate even peaceful activism, but his own father may be his biggest opposition.” (Publisher)

**Required for Spanish III Honors: Paisaje de Otoño**, Ana María Carretero Giménez
“A mysterious figure sneaks into the museum in the dark of night, and the painting ‘Autumn Landscape’ vanishes. Will the police get to the bottom of this strange disappearance?” (Publisher)

**Required for Spanish IV: Frida Soy Complicada**, by Gail Bellamy and Vicki Draeger
“Frida Kahlo was not an icon. She was a human being. Here is Frida reimagined in the first person, talking about her life as it inspired her most famous paintings… This book goes inside Frida’s thoughts for a glimpse of her motivations and beliefs, often using her own words.” (Publisher)
Required for AP Spanish IV Language: *La Hija del Sastre*, Carrie Toth and Carol Gaab

“Growing up in a Republican family during Franco’s fascist rule of Spain, Emilia Matamoros discovers just how important keeping a secret can be. After her father, a former captain in the Republican army, goes into hiding, Emilia not only must work as a seamstress to support her family, but she must also guard a secret that will protect her father and save her family from certain death. Will her innocence be lost and will she succumb to the deceptive and violent tactics of Franco's fascist regime?” (Publisher)

Required for AP Spanish V Literature: The assigned summer reading materials for AP Spanish Literature will be distributed directly to enrolled students directly by the World Language Department.

**AP ART HISTORY**

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

*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.

Please note: We will use this material in a writing exercise at the beginning of the school year that addresses how artworks can communicate ideas of power and authority.
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An Ember in the Ashes       Grade 8
The Gilded Ones             Grade 8
You Should See Me in a Crown Grade 8

ASIAN AFFINITY GROUP
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## FICTION

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