Upper School Summer Reading
2015-2016

Below are the summer reading requirements and book lists for Upper School students at BB&N.

Students entering Grade 9 in the fall are expected to read two books from the English Department Book List.

Students entering Grades 10-12 in the fall are expected to read three books.
- For most students, this will include one book from the English Department Book List, one book in preparation for the student’s History course, and one book (or assignment) in preparation for the student’s World Language course.
- If students do not have a required book for their History or World Language course, they will read an additional book from the English Department Book List.

Naturally, we encourage students to read well beyond the minimum number of required books! Please find a list of great reads recommended by the Upper School librarians at the end of this document.

In general, books for summer reading can be purchased at any bookstore or online bookseller. If a specific edition of a book is required for a course, this will be noted in book description below.

If you have any general questions about summer reading, please contact Karen Wyon, Assistant to the Upper School Director (617-800-2131, kwyon@bbns.org). In addition, feel free to reach out directly to the teacher, department head, or language coordinator listed below.

English Department Head: Sharon Krauss (skrauss@bbns.org, 617-800-2198)
History and Social Sciences Department Head: Gustavo Carrera (gcarrera@bbns.org, 617-800-2133)
World Languages Department Head: Cécile Roucher-Greenberg (croucher-greenberg@bbns.org, 617-800-2172)
Arabic: Amani Abu Shakra (aabushakra@bbns.org; 617-800-2225)
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French and Latin: Cécile Roucher-Greenberg (croucher-greenberg@bbns.org, 617-800-2172)
Spanish Language Coordinator: Rosario Sánchez Gómez (rsanchezgomez@bbns.org; 617-800-2246)
Russian: Josh Walker (jwalker@bbns.org; 617-800-2290)

We hope that you will find both the reading and your summers to be enjoyable, stimulating, and memorable. Happy reading!

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Theobald
Upper School Director

Ross Clark
Academic Coordinator
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The English Department’s list is in alphabetical order by author’s last name. All books are appropriate for students in Grades 9 – 12, and students may choose to substitute other books by the listed authors.

Seniors should note that one of their summer reading books must be the text specified for their fall course (see the assigned books below).

English Department Book List

Angelou, Maya: I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings (The first volume in the poet’s autobiography is set in the small, segregated town of Stamps, Arkansas. It pays tribute to the frank, resourceful grandmother who raised her from a timid child beset by the stresses of her parents’ abandonment and the poverty and racism of her community to a confident, creative young woman.)

Alexie, Sherman: Reservation Blues (Through the story of a Spokane garage band, this novel reveals the humor and frustrations of Native American life on and off the reservation.)

Anam, Tahmima: A Golden Age (A novel about a widow and her family and her small but remarkable role in the Bangaladeshi war for independence in the 1970s.)

Atwood, Margaret: Cat’s Eye (A young woman returns to the landscape of her childhood. Her return triggers memories of the tricky, often cruel dynamics of friendships among girls and the lasting effects of those relationships.)

Austen, Jane: Northanger Abbey (A wry portrait of a young woman with an active imagination and an eagerness for romantic adventure. Northanger Abbey strikes her as just the mysterious locale where her fantasies might be realized.)

Baldwin, James: Go Tell It on the Mountain (A young boy follows in his father’s footsteps and becomes a preacher. An autobiographical novel, set in Harlem in the 1930s.)

Bradley, Marion Z.: The Mists of Avalon (The legendary saga of King Arthur and his companions at Camelot is retold from the perspectives of the women involved. Viviane is “The Lady of the Lake,” the priestess of the Isle of Avalon, a mystical, mist-shrouded island. Her quest is to find a king who will ally himself with both Avalon and a fledgling religion: Christianity.)

Breem, Wallace: Eagle in the Snow (The year is 406. The Roman Empire is in tatters, hanging together only through force of habit and the will of a few strong generals. One of these, Maximus, is ordered to guard the Rhine frontier against the increasingly aggressive Germanic tribes. But Maximus has only a single legion....)

Brown, Rosellen: Before and After (Brown raises questions about the nature of justice, the limits of family love, and the ways in which our knowledge of even those closest to us is determined by our own characters as she depicts the effects of Jacob Reiser’s violent crime on his family. BB&N readers will find many qualities of the Reiser family familiar and will even find themselves, for a brief time, in the familiar precincts of Harvard Square.)
Burgess, Anthony: *Clockwork Orange* (A classic antiauthoritarian novel (in the tradition of *Brave New World* and *1984*), Clockwork Orange features a violent adolescent narrator who speaks his own strange slang. Fast-paced and filled with action, this novel is also a reflection on the nature and significance of free will.)

Carey, Peter: *Jack Maggs* (A sequel to Dickens’ *Great Expectations* from the viewpoint of Abel Magwitch.)

Carey, Peter: *The True History of the Kelly Gang* (The colorful, “true,” and thrilling story of Australia’s answer to Robin Hood, the famous outlaw Ned Kelly, who roved the hinterlands of 19th-century New South Wales.)

Casey, John: *Spartina* (Winner of the National Book Award, this novel delves into the fiery, somewhat quirky character of a Rhode Island fisherman building a 50-foot boat in his backyard as he confronts forces of nature, including the human variety.)

Cather, Willa: *The Song of the Lark* (A gifted young woman from an isolated Colorado town yearns to escape the confines of her poor, repressive childhood and become an opera singer. Although Cather was not a musician, key aspects of the novel are autobiographical, especially in depicting the artist’s struggles and triumphs as she single-mindedly pursues her dream.)

Clavell, James: *Shogun* (Feudal Japan, with its samurai, castles, and ritual suicide is a strange and frightening place for an English ship pilot washed up on its shores.)

Coetzee, J.M.: *The Life and Times of Michael K.* (After the death of his mother, a young man struggles to make sense of his life in a country ripped apart by strife, racism, and hatred.)

Collins, Wilkie: *The Moonstone* (Everyone is a suspect in this, the first detective story ever, set in Victorian England. Who stole the precious moonstone from the country house by the sea?)

Conroy, Pat: *The Great Santini* (A teenage son tries to grow up in a difficult family under a domineering father who is “all Marine.”)

Dai, Sijie: *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* (Two teen-aged doctors’ sons are sent for “re-education” into China’s countryside, where they discover a suitcase full of forbidden French novels and meet an enchanting seamstress’s daughter. Her secret re-education under their influence surprises everyone.)

Diamant, Anita: *The Red Tent* (Well-known Old Testament stories come alive with the researched and imagined experiences of Jacob’s wives and only daughter, Dinah. Dinah narrates the family history from the red tent, where the women give birth and spend part of each month, before the group migrates from Mesopotamia to Canaan and Dinah ends her journey alone, as a midwife in Egypt.)

Dickens, Charles: *David Copperfield* (Like *Great Expectations*, this is a *bildungsroman*, or novel of growing up, that explores the role of the heart and the place of relationships with others in achieving maturity. Dickens once said that of all his fictional “children” David Copperfield was his favorite.)

Doctorow, E. L.: *Homer and Langley* (A novel based on the lives of real-life reclusive brothers who, in the words of the author, “opted out of civilization and pulled the world in after them.”)
DuMaurier, Daphne: *Rebecca* (A young woman, haunted by the spirit of her first husband’s wife, discovers the shocking secret of his earlier marriage.)

Duncan, David James: *The River Why* (In this funny, thoughtful novel, a young man from a family obsessed with fishing sets out on a journey to pursue what he believes is the ideal life: days filled nothing but with fishing. Gus’s journey to the Oregon Coast leads him to a new understanding of himself and the larger world.)

Eire, Carlos: *Waiting for Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy* (A memoir of a boyhood just before, during, and after Fidel Castro’s revolution in Cuba. His parents send Carlos and his brother Tony out of Cuba to a very different life in the United States.)

Fitzgerald, F. Scott: *Tender is the Night* (Brilliant young psychiatrist Dick Diver ruins his marriage by pursuing a tragic relationship with a beautiful young patient. Set on the French Riviera during the 1920s, this novel was Fitzgerald’s next work after completing *The Great Gatsby*.)

Follett, Ken: *Pillars of the Earth* (Betrayal, murder, revenge, and faith form the core of this page-turner set in 12th-century England.)

Forster, E.M.: *A Room With A View* (Following a trip to Italy, Lucy Honeychurch realizes that she must choose between her conventional fiancé and the entirely unconventional George Emerson.)

Galbraith, Robert: *The Cuckoo’s Calling (a Cormoran Strike novel)* (Robert Galbraith is J.K. Rowling’s pseudonym, and a good thing, too, since this crime thriller about the investigation of a supermodel’s suicide is more grisly and seductive than anything you experienced at Hogwarts. Set in London and featuring characters from the homeless to the super-rich, this is fast-paced, high-quality summer reading from an author you know and love.)

Goodman, Allegra: *Intuition* (Set in Cambridge, this literary thriller revolves around a group of lab researchers, one of whom is about to be fired when he suddenly discovers an important cancer medication—or does he?)

Greenberg, Joanne: *I Never Promised You A Rose Garden* (With the help of an understanding doctor, a teenage girl struggles to overcome schizophrenia. A realistic look at the world of split personality and the courage of an indomitable spirit.)

Harbach, Chad: *The Art of Fielding* (The novel comprises five interwoven plot threads about gifted people challenged by events that reveal their vulnerabilities and underscore the life-defining connections among people. Set at a fictional Midwestern college, it includes some good writing about baseball, too.)

Hardy, Thomas: *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (Drunk and exasperated by bad luck, Michael Henchard sells his wife at a country fair. His deed returns to haunt him eighteen years later.)

Hemingway, Ernest: *A Farewell to Arms* (Lt. Frederick Henry discovers the fragility of love and friendship during the Italian campaign of World War I. Considered by many to be the author's most wrenchingly beautiful work.)

Herbert, Frank: *Dune* (Classic science fiction novel about a land of deserts and of the long-awaited Messiah.)

Hermes, Ringo: *Tango & Cash* (In this comedy, a retired hit man and an ex-con join forces to track down a ruthless gang leader.)

Hemingway, Ernest: *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (A young American volunteer in the Spanish Civil War faces the brutal realities of war.)

Hersch, J: *The Life of the Mind* (A biographical account of the life and work of the philosopher)
Hesse, Herman: *Siddhartha* (This story of a young man’s search for enlightenment reverberates with echoes of Buddhism and Hinduism; it delivers the reader into a journey that is at once exotic and familiar. This short novel has long been a favorite of college and high school students interested in the call of the inner life.)

Hosseini, Khaled: *The Kite Runner* (A novel about Amir, the son of a wealthy Afghani businessman, and Hassan, the son of Amir’s father’s servant, starting with their childhood games in Kabul, through a harrowing event that changes their relationship, and to the events in their adult lives that bond them once again.)

Huxley, Aldous: *Brave New World* (One of the great classics of science fiction, this is a thought-provoking and fascinating look at how the future may turn out.)

Irving, John: *The World According to Garp* (By turns dark, outrageous, and funny, this novel charts the eventful life of T.S. Garp. Despite some sad and shocking incidents, it is a page-turner. If you liked *A Prayer for Owen Meaney*, try this: it’s the book that made Irving famous.)

Jones, Edward P.: *The Known World* (Jones uses a sometimes forgotten detail of pre-Civil War America—that some black landowners possessed slaves of their own—to weave an intricate tale that begins with the premature death of one of these slave owners and then recounts the struggle of his widow to run the plantation on her own, a struggle that draws in her family, her slaves, and the sprawling cast of characters in her small Virginia town.)

Keegan, Marina: *The Opposite of Loneliness* (This beautiful, moving, funny collection of nine short stories and nice essays highlights this young BB&N alum’s ability to speak both for and to her generation. Whether she’s writing about romantic tensions, the vital need for talented college graduates to follow their passions in the work force, an endearing exterminator, her mother’s crusade to understand and guard her from the effects of celiac disease, or the car she drove back and forth from Wayland to BB&N, Marina’s prose will make you marvel, laugh, get a catch in your throat, and, we hope, act on the powerful legacy she left behind.)

Kingsolver, Barbara: *Animal Dreams* (A young woman, having returned to her Arizona home town, deals with an aging father, a sister working for a cause in Nicaragua, an ex-boyfriend, and pollution of the town’s river.)

Lessing, Doris: *Ben, In the World* (In this sequel to *The Fifth Child*, the adult Ben Lovatt, a genetic “throwback” to Neanderthal, is on his own in a world of hard-heartedness, crime, and exploitation. The final section, set in Brazil and then Argentina, is one of this great writer’s most dazzling achievements.)

Marshall, Paule: *Brown Girl, Brownstones* (An autobiographical account of a young Barbadian girl who moves with her family to Brooklyn, New York, in the 1930s.)

Matar, Hisham: *In the Country of Men* (A novel set in 1979 Libya in which a nine-year-old boy struggles to make sense of events both familial and political.)

Maxwell, William: *So Long, See You Tomorrow* (A farmer’s murder dissolves the friendship between two boys; years later, one revisits his childhood pain to make sense of troubling memories.)
McCullers, Carson: *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* (The characters of this haunting novel include an enigmatic mute, a disillusioned radical, and a lonely teenage girl; their individual struggles, though set in a small southern town, are universal.)

Merullo, Roland: *Revere Beach Boulevard* (This page-turning story of the mob in Revere, Massachusetts experiments with multiple points-of-view and explores our optimistic yearning for the “mystery of love.”)

Mishima, Yukio: *The Sound of Waves* (In an isolated Japanese fishing village, two teenagers from different social classes fall in love and deal with traditional ideas about honor, family, and community. A timeless, beautifully told coming-of-age story.)

Mistry, Rohinton: *A Fine Balance* (Four strangers, a student, a widow, and two tailors, are forced to live together in a small apartment in India. As political pressure and government intervention mounts, the four are forced to choose between their dreams and each other.)

Mitchell, David: *Black Swan Green* (Don’t be deterred by the slang of these small-village British teenagers or by the protagonist’s stammer; you’ll soon get the hang of both in this rich coming-of-age story set in 1982–1983. Despite the foreign background, you’ll recognize the bullying, the longing to be accepted, undercurrents of familial tensions, and the thrill of youthful adventures.)

Mosher, Howard Frank: *A Stranger in the Kingdom* (Set in 1950s northern Vermont, this novel may remind you of *To Kill a Mockingbird* in part, but it’s also a murder mystery and a chronicle of a family deeply rooted in a place as told by the younger brother whose innocent eyes are opened by the events unfolding around him.)

Okada, John: *No-No Boy* (In post-WWII Seattle, a young Japanese-American man, who was a conscientious objector and imprisoned as a result, struggles with his choice, with his family, and with his dual heritage.)

Orwell, George: *1984* (The classic portrayal of a horrifying future in which the government knows and controls all.)

Pham, Andrew X: *Catfish and Mandala* (A memoir about a young man’s bicycle journey through Vietnam, revisiting scenes of his childhood and working through revelations about family in Vietnam and the United States.)

Proulx, Annie: *The Shipping News* (The quirky, funny, and poignant story of how Quoyle regains control of his life by moving his family to a bleak Newfoundland maritime town.)

Reiken, Frederick: *The Lost Legends of New Jersey* (Set in the early 1980s, this novel depicts life seen through the eyes of a teenage boy who plays hockey, has a crush on the tough girl next door, and faces the unraveling of his family.)

Rodriguez, Deborah: *Kabul Beauty School: An American Woman Goes Behind the Veil* (Venturing to embattled Afghanistan after the 2001 fall of the Taliban, Michigan hairdresser Deborah Rodriguez draws on her own gifts among a group of humanitarian volunteers to open the Kabul Beauty School. This tale of cultural clash and compassion explores female empowerment in a postwar nation. Though not the most literary read, the experiences the author shares are unforgettable, giving readers unprecedented access to daily Afghan life.)
Russell, Karen: \textit{Swamplandia!} (A contemporary novel about a family that runs an alligator theme park on their island in Florida’s Everglades. When the matriarch dies, the family plunges into chaos. One family member, for instance, leaves to work at a rival theme park on the mainland: the World of Darkness. The young narrator sets out on a mission through the lush and dangerous swamps to save her family and its way of life.)

Salzman, Mark: \textit{Lost in Place: Growing Up Absurd in Suburbia} (The author of \textit{Iron and Silk} recounts his hapless adolescent experiences with Zen Buddhism, karate, the cello, and summer employment, in 1970s Connecticut.)

Staveley, Brian: \textit{The Emperor’s Blades} (In this engaging and imaginative new world, follow the adventures of three royal siblings in the aftermath of their father’s murder: a young monk training his body and disciplining his mind, an elite soldier studying how to fight and to kill while passing the most grueling physical ordeals, and their sister grappling with political intrigue from within the capital city’s ministries. This novel is the auspicious first book in a trilogy written by a former BB&N teacher and Bivouac Guide!)

Stegner, Wallace: \textit{Crossing to Safety} (A semi-autobiographical novel tracing the simultaneously strong and strained friendship between two couples who meet in graduate school and then reunite later in life.)

Tan, Amy: \textit{The Joy Luck Club} (The bestseller about the conflicts and affections between four women who were born in China and their California-raised daughters. A moving and imaginative account of the modern Asian woman’s search for identity.)

Tartt, Donna: \textit{The Secret History} (Murder, madness, pagan ceremonies— who said college wasn’t fun? In this bestselling literary thriller, a clique of gifted students at an elite New England university come under the sway of their charismatic classics professor to disastrous results.)

Theroux, Paul: \textit{The Mosquito Coast} (A hilarious and then harrowing portrait of an American inventor who, abominating the decline of his country in the first two decades after World War II, takes his family to the Honduran jungle to begin civilization again. Thoreau’s \textit{Walden} in the middle of nowhere, 130 years later.)

Toibin, Colm: \textit{Brooklyn} (Transplanted by family circumstances from her town in Ireland to Brooklyn, New York, Eilis Lacey copes with homesickness, fellow inhabitants of a boarding house, work and night school, and the decisions romance brings.)

Tolkien, J.R.R.: \textit{The Lord Of The Rings}, Volume I, II, or III. (The great epic of Middle Earth.)

Towler, Katherine: \textit{Snow Island} (As she learns about a summer visitor’s mysterious past, 16-year-old Alice Dagget comes of age on a secluded island off the coast of Rhode Island during World War II.)

Trevor, William: \textit{Felicia’s Journey} (A psychological thriller: a young Irish woman runs away from home to search for her boyfriend in England where she encounters a gentle middle-aged man who is searching for a new friend to join others in his Memory Lane.)
Tsukiyama, Gail: *The Samurai’s Garden* (Twenty-year-old Chinese student, Stephen, moves to his family’s summer home in Japan to recover from tuberculosis. While there, he grows stronger both physically and spiritually as he forges a friendship with the family’s gardener, Matsu, and a woman, Sachi, who suffers from leprosy.)

Unsworth, Barry: *Sacred Hunger* (This carefully researched novel follows the crew of the slave ship *Liverpool Merchant* as they finish construction, recruit sailors, purchase slaves in Africa and voyage across the Atlantic; meanwhile, the British ship owner’s son stays home to woo his beloved and perform a version of *The Tempest*.)

Vergheese, Abraham: *Cutting for Stone* (After the gripping opening scene in which a devout nun gives birth to twins, this poetic novel goes on to trace the paths of several surgeons practicing in an Ethiopian and then an American hospital.)

Wharton, Edith: *The Age of Innocence* (A satiric novel about social life in New York in the 1870s that, through the life of a young lawyer, raises questions about expectations and imagination, obedience and unconventionality, marriage and romance.)

Wolitzer, Meg: *The Interestings* (This novel follows the life trajectories of six teenagers from the summer they bond at an arts camp through middle age, their friendships weathering the effects of varying success, dreams realized or not, and envy.)

Woolf, Virginia: *Mrs. Dalloway* (A stream-of-consciousness account of a day in the life of Clarissa Dalloway as she walks through post World War I London, prepares for and hosts a party, and reflects on her life and times. Woolf’s story is the basis for Michael Cunningham’s novel (and film), *The Hours*.)

Wright, Richard: *Black Boy* (*Black Boy* is an autobiographical story about Richard Wright’s becoming a writer. Raised in the South, he encountered overt racism and abject poverty that could have deterred him from achieving his dreams. This bildungsroman explores how the human spirit can overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles.)

Yezierska, Anzia: *Bread Givers* (A Jewish immigrant girl asserts her independence to get an education and makes choices about assimilation.)

Zuckoff, Mitchell: *Lost in Shangri-La* (When a transport plane carrying sightseeing American servicemen and women crashes near a beautiful and unmapped valley deep within Dutch New Guinea, three wounded survivors must fend for themselves. This true-life adventure story chronicles their attempts to heal and attract help, all while traversing a jungle home to warring tribes of spear-carrying cannibals who have never before encountered a white man—or woman.) You may also be interested in Zuckoff’s just-published *Frozen in Time*, which chronicles a dramatic search-and-rescue mission following the 1942 crash of a U.S. cargo plane in the Arctic wilderness.)

**English 12 Required Books**

**Culture Clash:** *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

**Doppelgangers and Distorted Mirrors:** *The Complete Works of Edgar Allan Poe*

**Fiction Writing:** *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life* by Anne Lamott
Moby Dick: A Whale of a Work: In the Heart of the Sea by Nathaniel Philbrick and “Bartleby the Scrivener” by Herman Melville

Pilgrim Souls: A Month in the Country by James Lloyd Carr

Redeeming the Past: The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

Shakespeare: The Winter’s Tale by William Shakespeare (Pelican edition)

Sibling Bonds and Rivalries: Salvage the Bones by Jesmyn Ward

True Stories and the Personal Essay: The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

The Villain: No Country for Old Men by Cormac McCarthy
Global History II: Making an Interconnected World (Pick one book from the list below)

*King Leopold’s Ghost* by Adam Hochschild (A gripping account of how King Leopold II of Belgium took over the Congo and his brutal treatment of its native peoples. The narrative focuses on the unlikely hero Edmund Morel, a Liverpool shipping agent who discovered Leopold’s atrocities and worked tirelessly to end them.)

*The Girl from Foreign* by Sadia Shepard (The author sets out to fulfill her grandmother’s dying wish that she learn about her heritage. Her grandmother grew up among the Bene Israel, a small Jewish community in India; when she married a Muslim, she left Judaism and, eventually, India, and adopted the name Rahat Siddiqi.)

*Women of the Silk* by Gail Tsukiya (The author takes her readers back to rural China in 1926, where a group of women forge a sisterhood amidst the reeling machines that reverberate and clamor in a vast silk factory from dawn to dusk. Leading the first strike the village has ever seen, the young women use the strength of their ambition, dreams, and friendship to achieve the freedom they could never have hoped for on their own.)

*Daughter of Fortune* by Isabel Allende (Raised in the British colony of Valparaiso, Chile after being abandoned as a baby, a pregnant Eliza follows her lover to California at the height of the Gold Rush and finds adventure and adversity on her road to independence and love. This novel exposes the reader to mid-nineteenth-century life in the bustling ports of Chile, Great Britain, Northern California, and China.)

*Half of a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (A novel set during the civil war in 1960s Nigeria. The story is about the Igbo people of Eastern Nigeria, who seceded from Nigeria in 1967. It focuses on the lives of twin sisters from an elite family, but it is broadly about the impact of this disastrous and bloody political conflict on the Igbo across class lines.)

*From the Land of Green Ghosts* by Pascal Khoo Thwe (In this memoir, Khoo Thwe recounts his upbringing in a Catholic town in Burma, as one of the Padaung people. Khoo Thwe was a political activist while in university in the 1980s, during the repressive dictatorship of General U Ne Win. He ends up a political refugee in England.)

*United States in the Modern World I* (Pick one book from the list below)

*Daughter of Fortune* by Isabel Allende (Raised in the British colony of Valparaiso, Chile after being abandoned as a baby, a pregnant Eliza follows her lover to California at the height of the Gold Rush and finds adventure and adversity on her road to independence and love. This novel exposes the reader to mid-nineteenth-century life in the bustling ports of Chile, Great Britain, Northern California, and China.)

*A Passage to India* by E.M. Forster (A masterly portrait of a society in the grip of imperialism, *A Passage to India* compellingly depicts the fate of individuals caught between the great political and cultural conflicts of the modern world.)
What If? The World's Foremost Military Historians Imagine What Might Have Been ed. Robert Crowley (Counterfactuals--what-if scenarios--fueled countless bull sessions in smoke-filled dorm rooms in the 1960s. What if Sitting Bull had had a machine gun at Little Big Horn? What if Attila the Hun had had a time machine? What if Columbus had landed in India after all? Some of those dorm-room speculators grew up to be historians, and their generation (along with a few younger and older scholars) makes a strong showing in this anthology of essays, in which the what-ifs are substantially more plausible. What if Hitler had not attacked Russia when he did? He might have moved into the Middle East and secured the oil supplies the Third Reich so badly needed, helping it retain its power in Europe. What if D-Day had been a failure? The Soviet Union might have controlled all of Europe.)

Catch-22 by Joseph Heller (“Set in Italy during World War II, this is the story of the incomparable, malingering bombardier, Yossarian, a hero who is furious because thousands of people he has never met are trying to kill him. But his real problem is not the enemy—it is his own army, which keeps increasing the number of missions the men must fly to complete their service. Yet if Yossarian makes any attempt to excuse himself from the perilous missions he’s assigned, he’ll be in violation of Catch-22, a hilariously sinister bureaucratic rule: a man is considered insane if he willingly continues to fly dangerous combat missions, but if he makes a formal request to be removed from duty, he is proven sane and therefore ineligible to be relieved.”)

Grade 11 Summer Reading

United States History (Pick one book from the list below)

Common Ground by J. Anthony Lukas (The climax of this humane account of ten years in Boston that began with news of Martin Luther King's assassination is a watershed moment in the city's modern history—the 1974 riots that followed the court-ordered busing of kids to integrate the schools. Lukas focuses on two working-class families, one headed by an Irish-American widow and one by an African-American mother, and on the middle-class family of a white liberal couple.)

A Hope in the Unseen by Ron Suskind (Cedric Jennings is the illegitimate son of an off-and-on drug dealer/ex-con and a hardworking, badly paid mother; it is her single-minded vision to have the boy escape the mean ghetto streets unscathed. Cedric has listened to her and is, as the book opens, an A student at a run-down, dispirited Washington, DC, high school, where he treads a thin line between being tagged a nerd and being beaten by gang leaders. Suskind, a Wall Street Journal reporter, follows the African-American youth through his last two years of high school and freshman year at Brown University.)

The Autobiography of Malcolm X by Malcolm X (Malcolm X's searing memoir belongs on the small shelf of great autobiographies. The reasons are many: the blistering honesty with which he recounts his transformation from a bitter, self-destructive petty criminal into an articulate political activist, the continued relevance of his militant analysis of white racism, and his emphasis on self-respect and self-help for African Americans. Although many believe his ethic was directly opposed to Martin Luther King Jr.'s during the civil rights struggle of the '60s, the two were not so different.)

Out of this Furnace by Thomas Bell (Using a narrative style that relies on information gathered from several primary sources, this novel describes the struggles faced by workers in the steel industry outside Pittsburgh. It follows several generations in one particular family; themes stressed in it include immigration, assimilation, and the obstacles faced by organized labor.)
The Burning by Tim Madigan (A gripping account of the 1921 Tulsa race riots.)

The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America by Erik Lawson (Not long after Jack the Ripper haunted the ill-lit streets of 1888 London, H.H. Holmes murdered somewhere between 27 and 200 people, mostly single young women, in the churning new metropolis of Chicago. Many of the murders occurred during the city's finest moment, the World's Fair of 1893. Larson's book is a novelistic yet wholly factual account of the fair and the mass murderer who lurked within it.)

Wait Till Next Year: A Memoir by Doris Kearns Goodwin (When historian Goodwin was six years old, her father taught her how to keep score for "their" team, the Brooklyn Dodgers. While this activity forged a lifelong bond between father and daughter, her mother formed an equally strong relationship with her through the shared love of reading. Goodwin recounts some wonderful stories in this coming-of-age tale about both her family and an era when baseball truly was the national pastime that brought whole communities together.)

The Things They Carried by Tim O’Brien (A powerful collection of interrelated short pieces on the experiences of ten US soldiers of the Alpha Company fighting in Vietnam.)

All the President’s Men by Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward (Journalists Carl Bernstein and Bob deliver the stunning revelations and pieces in the Watergate puzzle that brought about Nixon's scandalous downfall.)

Mother Night by Kurt Vonnegut (American Howard W. Campbell, Jr., a spy during World War II, is now on trial in Israel as a Nazi war criminal. But is he really guilty? In this brilliant book rife with true gallows humor, Vonnegut turns black and white into a chilling shade of gray with a verdict that will haunt us all.)

All Souls: A Family Story from Southie by Michael Patrick MacDonald (In this plainly written, powerful memoir, MacDonald, now 32, details not only his own story of growing up in Southie, Boston's Irish Catholic enclave, but examines the myriad ways in which the media and law enforcement agencies exploit marginalized working-class communities.)

A Lost Lady by Willa Cather (Mrs. Forrester, the protagonist of this 1923 novel, witnesses the frontier vanish as the pioneer spirit is supplanted by an ethos of acquisitive commercialism.)

United States in the Modern World II
Washington Rules: America’s Path to Permanent War by Andrew J. Bacevich

History and Social Sciences Elective Courses Required Books

African-American History: Devil in the Grove: Thurgood Marshall, the Groveland Boys, and the Dawn of a New America by Gilbert King

Advanced Placement European History: Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel

Advanced Placement Macroeconomics: Naked Economics: Undressing the Dismal Science by Charles Wheelan
Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics: *Game Change* by Mark Halperin and John Heilemann

Global Economics: *Naked Economics: Undressing the Dismal Science* by Charles Wheelan

Honors History Research Seminar: to be arranged individually with the instructor prior to the summer

Modern American Culture and Society: *Ragtime* by E. L Doctorow

Psychology: No summer reading
WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

ARABIC

There is no summer work for students taking Arabic in Grade 9.

Arabic II
Every Sunday throughout the summer students should write five statements (in the present tense) describing their week. Students who have time and wish to have fun with the Arabic can think about the conjugation of Kana and how other verbs can be conjugated! Students should refer to the vocabulary lists from last year so that they can review the previously learned words and keep them fresh in their minds throughout the summer. Note that the entries should not be repetitive.

In addition, students should choose three Arabic songs that they enjoy (preferably songs not listened to in class). The class will compile the list and listen to these songs together when school begins in the fall. Lastly, students choose pick one of their three songs and determine where the song is from (i.e. which country of the Arab world).

Arabic III
Every Sunday throughout the summer students should write a journal entry (in the present tense) describing their week or reflecting on an interesting topic. Students who have time and wish to have fun with the Arabic can think about the conjugation of Kana and how other verbs can be conjugated! Students should refer to the vocabulary lists from last year so that they can review the previously learned words and keep them fresh in their minds throughout the summer. Note that the entries should not be repetitive.

In addition, students should choose three Arabic songs that they enjoy (preferably songs not listened to in class). The class will compile the list and listen to these songs together when school begins in the fall. Lastly, students choose pick one of their three songs and determine where the song is from (i.e. which country of the Arab world).

Arabic IV
Every Sunday throughout the summer students should write a journal entry (in the present tense) describing their week or reflecting on an interesting topic. Students who have time and wish to have fun with the Arabic can think about the conjugation of Kana and how other verbs can be conjugated! Students should refer to the vocabulary lists from last year so that they can review the previously learned words and keep them fresh in their minds throughout the summer. Note that the entries should not be repetitive.

In addition, students should choose three Arabic songs that they enjoy (preferably songs not listened to in class). The class will compile the list and listen to these songs together when school begins in the fall. Lastly, students choose pick one of their three songs and determine where the song is from (i.e. which country of the Arab world).

CHINESE

There is no summer work for students taking Chinese in Grade 9.

Chinese Proverb Stories by Hongchen Wang and Yinong Yang (ISBN: 9781461106265, Publisher CreateSpace)

Chinese II: Students need to purchase the book above and read the first 10 stories.
Chinese III/III Honors: Students need to read stories 11-20 in the book above.

FRENCH

There is no summer work for students taking French in Grade 9.

French II
- *Un été pas comme les autres* by Huguette Zahler (ISBN: 0877204799, Publisher Amsco): Read Chapters 1-10.

French II Honors
- Complete the work for French II (above)
- In addition, complete exercises A and B for Chapters 1-10.

French III
- *Les Lettres de mon Moulin* by Alphonse Daudet
  - Read the short story *La chèvre de Monsieur Seguin* (available on the Summer Reading page of the BB&N website or by clicking [here](#))
  - Listen to a reading of the short story, available on Youtube [here](#).
- *Le temps des secret*: Un film adapté du livre de Marcel Pagnol
  - Watch the movie *Le temps des secrets* (a 2007 adaption of Marcel Pagnol’s novel) on Youtube (available [here](#)).
  - Write a summary of the film (1-2 page double-spaced)

French III Honors
- Complete the work for French III (above).
- *Les Lettres de mon Moulin* by Alphonse Daudet: Read the short story *Le Secret de Maître Cornille* (available on the Summer Reading page of the BB&N website or by clicking [here](#))

French IV

Advanced Placement French Language and Culture
- *L’étranger* by Albert Camus (ISBN: 207030602, Publisher Gallimard): Read part I (only) and take notes.
- Listen to the reading of Part I of *L’étranger* on Youtube (available [here](#)).

French V Honors: French Theater
- *Le Cid* by Pierre Corneille: Read the entire play (available on the Summer Reading page of the BB&N website or by clicking [here](#))
- In addition, listen to the reading of *Le Cid* on Youtube (available [here](#)).

French V: Cinema for French Conversation
- *Monsieur Ibrahim et les fleurs du Coran* by Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt: (available on the Summer Reading page of the BB&N website or by clicking [here](#))
LATIN

There is no summer work for students taking Latin in Grade 9.

Latin III

*Catilina’s Riddle: A Novel of Ancient Rome* by Steven Saylor: Students should purchase this book (any edition is fine) and read the entire book.

Latin IV and AP Latin

*Homer, The Iliad,* Trans. by Robert Fagles: Students should purchase this book (any edition is fine) and read Books 1, 2, 7, 9, 16, 18, 22, 24 (though it is recommended that students read the entire book).

Latin V Honors: Selected poems provided by teacher from Norton Anthology (available on the Summer Reading page of the BB&N website or by clicking here)

RUSSIAN

There is no summer work for students taking Russian in Grade 9.

Russian II:
- Complete Warm-Up WB 5:0
- Read four Olympiada texts and answer the questions in English
  - One *Рассказ* / short story (your choice)
  - Three “Culture” texts: Geography, Russian History, and Moscow.

Russian III:
- Complete Warm-Up WB 10:0
- Read four Olympiada texts and answer the questions in English
  - One *Рассказ* / short story (your choice)
  - Three “Culture” texts: Geography, Russian History, and Moscow.

Russian IV:
- Complete Warm-Up WB 1:0
- Read four Olympiada texts and answer the questions in English
  - One *Рассказ* / short story (your choice)
  - Three “Culture” texts: Geography, Russian History, and Moscow.

Russian IV AP:
- Complete the work listed for Russian IV (above)
- Read all four Olympiada *Рассказы* / short stories
- Stage 2 Textbook
  - Memorize the charts on pp. 468, 470, 472
  - Review spelling on p. 479
  - Carefully read pp. 432-436, 485-494
  - Prepare for a test week Unit 14 (first week of school)
  - WB Intro Unit.
SPANISH

There is no summer work for students taking Spanish in Grade 9.

Spanish II
- Students should watch episodes 11-17 of Mi Vida Loca, an interactive Spanish course developed by the BBC, available here.
- Take notes on any new vocabulary and summarize the plot of each episode.

Spanish II Honors
- Las Medias de Los Flamencos by Horacio Quiroga: Students should read the entire story (available on the Summer Reading page of the BB&N website or by clicking here)

Spanish III (Grades 10, 11, and 12 only)
- Gael y la Red de Mentiras by Ernesto Rodriguez (ISBN: 8484437426, Publisher Difusion): Before reading the book, students should read the mini-biographies of the characters (pp. 6-7) and write a one sentence description of each character in their own words.
  Students should then read the entire book and complete questions 7-12 on p. 72.

Spanish III Honors (Grades 10, 11, and 12 only)
- El Delantal Blanco by Sergio Vodanovic: Students should read the entire play (available on the Summer Reading page of the BB&N website or by clicking here) and be prepared to discuss the questions that follow the play.

Spanish IV: Culture and Conversation
- Cleopatra by Mario Benedetti: Students should read the short story and answer the comprehension questions (available on the Summer Reading page of the BB&N website or by clicking here)

Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Culture
- Read the four short stories by Isabel Allende (available on the Summer Reading page of the BB&N website or by clicking here)

Spanish V: Contemporary Spanish and Latin American Cinema
- Cajas de Carton by Francisco Jiménez (ISBN: 0618226168, Publish Houghton Mifflin): Read the first three chapters. While reading, make a list of new vocabulary words and define these words. Use wordreference.com to find the correct definition, keeping in mind that there may be multiple definitions for a word or even different parts of speech. Lastly, students should gather general information on the background of the author. Investiga información general sobre el autor ¿Quién es?

Spanish V Honors: Literature, Film, Art, and Multimedia
- La Casa de Bernarda Alba by Federico García Lorca: Students should read the entire play (available on the Summer Reading page of the BB&N website or by clicking here)
MORE GREAT BOOKS

(Recommended by the Upper School Librarians)

Fiction

All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr (This captivating, beautifully written novel presents the parallel stories of two children during World War II: one, a blind French girl who must flee Paris with her father when the Nazis invade; the other, a German orphan whose talents are used to train the Hitler Youth.)

Americanah by Adichie Chimamanda (Though it means leaving her high school love, Ifemelu comes to America from Nigeria to continue her education. She is brave, intelligent, and fierce in confronting her new environment and, ultimately, herself, in this page-turner that takes the reader from her college and graduate school years forward.)

Bellweather Rhapsody by Kate Racculia (It’s 1997, and high school musicians from across New York have convened for a music festival at the Bellweather Hotel, a spooky, old hotel that was the site of a murder fifteen years earlier. When one of the students vanishes, things start to unravel, setting the stage for a quirky, entertaining mystery.)

Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys (In this engrossing historical novel, fifteen year old Lina and her family are ripped away from their home in 1940’s Lithuania and sent to work in the barren, bitterly cold landscape of Siberia, under the Soviet regime’s brutal reign.)

The Book of Unknown Americans by Cristina Henriquez (Told from several perspectives, this heart-wrenching novel shares the story of Maribel and her family, as they adapt to their new lives in Delaware after immigrating from Mexico. In Delaware, they discover the complexities of immigrant life and Maribel meets her first love.)

The Buddha in the Attic by Julie Otsuka: (“On the boat we were mostly virgins” is the first line of this beautiful small book that pulls you into the lives of the Japanese picture brides coming to America in the early part of the 20th century. They mostly married the men who sent the pictures, even though the pictures showed younger, handsomer, men, and even though they were scared and knew little or no English. They mostly survived.)

Close Your Eyes, Hold Hands by Chris Bohjalian (After her parents die, teenager Emily decides to run away, giving up her former life and her identity to escape her past. But when she takes a homeless little boy under her wing, she finds that she can’t escape forever.)

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury (If you like dystopian fiction (or even if you don’t!), check out this classic, in which firemen start fires in order to burn books, knowledge is dangerous, and the public is kept distracted with mindless trivialities. Written over 60 years ago, this novel is frighteningly on point and seriously compelling.)

Half Broke Horses: A True-Life Novel by Jeanette Walls (Based on the real life of the author’s immensely likable grandmother, Lily, told in her own straightforward, no-nonsense voice with humor and honesty. Lily was training horses for her dad at 10, before riding in a rodeo, teaching school, and hiding bootleg liquor under her baby’s crib . . . among other things, and not all at once.)
How It Went Down by Kekla Magoon (After a white man shoots and kills an African-American teenager, the surrounding community struggles to come to terms with the tragedy and the controversies that unfold after it. Told from multiple perspectives, this captivating novel is all the more relevant and powerful in the wake of the last year’s headlines.)

How to Build a Girl by Caitlin Moran (Good for anyone who has ever spent part of their adolescence feeling like a cat locked out in the rain, and wondering how to become themselves. There are instances of poor judgement, ignorance, poverty, sex, drugs, punk rock, and ultimately, a lot of good thoughts about the bumps in the road towards being a kind and happy human.)

If You Could Be Mine by Sara Farizan (In Iran, where homosexuality is a crime, best friends Sahar and Nasrin’s feelings for each other could get them into serious trouble, even executed. Initially satisfied to carry on their relationship in secret, their worlds turn upside down when Nasrin’s parents arrange a marriage for her, and the two girls must decide what to do next.)

The Ocean at the End of the Lane by Neil Gaiman (Upon returning to his childhood home, a man begins to uncover memories that he’d buried long ago of strange and terrible events from when he was just a boy. Gaiman, “the master of horror and fantasy,” spins an unusual and beautiful story.)

Redeployment by Phil Klay (Heartbreaking, funny, thought-provoking. These short stories about the second Iraq War offer an intimate perspective on American soldiers’ lives in wartime. This National Book Award winner earned a place on numerous “Best of” lists in 2014, and for good reason.)

The Rebellion of Miss Lucy Ann Lobdell by William Klaber (We meet Lucy as she is dressed like a man and boarding a train out of town and immediately want to know more about her. Her abusive husband has deserted her, her young daughter is safe with her parents, and Lucy needs to earn money for her family. Despite all she encounters -- and because of all she learns about herself -- she never puts on a skirt again.)

Saving the World: a Novel by Julia Alvarez (The remarkable story of a woman who hand-picked a group of orphan boys to serve as carriers of the small pox virus in order to provide a ready supply of vaccine for Spain's American colonies in 1803, and the modern day Latina novelist who discovered their history.)

Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel (A flu pandemic wipes out the majority of the world’s population and infrastructure. Unlike The Hunger Games or The Giver, this book focuses on the survival of the generation after The End, while weaving back and forth from pre-pandemic perspectives and highlighting the power of stories and words in how to be in the world.)

Tell the Wolves I’m Home by Carol Rifka Brunt (In this touching coming-of-age-novel, fourteen year old June is devastated when her uncle passes away from AIDS, a disease she barely understands and that her mother refuses to talk about. It’s 1987, and AIDS is still shrouded in mystery and stigma. As she mourns, she develops a better understanding of herself, her uncle, and her family.)
Non-Fiction

*Bad Feminist* by Roxane Gay (Beyonce’s one, Emma Watson’s one. What does it mean to be a feminist today? Roxane Gay shares her insightful, funny, thought-provoking take on feminism, pop culture, sex, and gender identity in this series of essays.)

*Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Erik Larson (Larson turns significant historical events into thrilling page-turners. In the first year of World War I the Lusitania’s captain and passengers -- many of them wealthy and well-known Americans -- were sure that Germany would never attack a luxurious, non-military ocean liner. They were dead wrong.)

*Deep Down Dark: The Untold Stories of 33 Men Buried in a Chilean Mine, and the Miracle That Set Them Free* by Hector Tobar (In 2010, a mine in Chile collapsed, leaving 33 miners trapped 2,000 feet beneath the ground for an astonishing 69 days. This is the harrowing story of their nearly impossible survival.)

*Finding Beauty in a Broken World* by Terry Tempest Williams (Williams’ mosaic weaves ecological, artistic, and political stories of fragmentation into a cohesive look at the beauty and interconnectedness of how we live--and how we could live better--in the world.)

*In These Girls Hope is a Muscle* by Madeleine Blais (Classic sports story of scrappy talented kids learning to play together for the championship, with the twist that the athletes are the girls high school team. In an age when boys sports still tend to receive more attention (if not funding) and there are more opportunities for male athletes outside of school, this book remains a vitally inspiring read for everyone.)

*The Secret History of Wonder Woman* by Jill Lapore (By exploring the personal and professional biography of the creator of Wonder Woman, Lapore highlights the Feminist, free love, social justice, and political roots and impact of one of the most successful and compelling superheroes of all time.)

*The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* by Anne Fadiman (A Hmong child is treated for epilepsy in California and the disconnect between the two cultures provides a broader understanding of what is medically, culturally, emotionally, and spiritually best for a person. Emotional and ethical recommended read for students interested in medical careers.)

*Travels with Charley: In Search of America* by John Steinbeck (In 1960, author John Steinbeck set off on a road trip around the U.S. to answer the question “what are Americans like at the turn of the new decade?” This thoughtful, absorbing travelogue is great for anyone who’s ever experienced the insatiable desire of wanderlust and for those with an interest in America during that tumultuous, historical time.)

*What It Is Like to Go to War* by Karl Marlantes (Similar to Tim O’Brien’s *The Things They Carried* but Marlantes uses his experiences in Vietnam as a way to discuss what warriors experience and need, and how we honor soldiers shapes manhood, modern warfare, foreign policy, and overall humanity.)

*Missoula: Rape & The Justice System in a College Town* by Jon Krakauer (Using the college town of Missoula, Montana, as a starting point to delve into the prevalence of rape on college campuses and the various ways in which campus administrations and off-campus legal entities address,
prevent, or ignore this common act of violence. Good for anyone who plans to participate in college life.)

**Biography and Memoir**

*Boy on Ice: The Life and Death of Derek Boogaard* by John Branch (Boogaard was among the first major league athletes of any sport whose untimely death was linked to the violence inherent in professional sports. This is a well researched and engaging read about the excitement and promise of a young hockey player, and the consequences of fulfilling that potential in the current framework of pro-sports.)

*Buck: A Memoir* by MK Asante (Asante grew up in a neighborhood of Philadelphia that he and his friends called “Killadelphia.” This is his memoir about his tumultuous youth in the 90’s, as he struggled to find his identity amidst gangs, drugs, sex, and racism.)

*The Heart of Everything That Is: The Untold Story of Red Cloud, An American Legend* by Bob Drury (Though his name isn’t well-known, Sioux warrior-statesman Red Cloud’s story is fascinating and remarkable. He is the only American Indian ever to defeat the U.S. government in war. This nonfiction page-turner feels nothing like a textbook re-telling of history. Full of gripping battle scenes and high drama, it sheds a bright light on an often forgotten area of American history.)

*Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali (After a childhood in which she survived female genital mutilation and civil war, Ayaan Hirsi Ali has endured an escape from an arranged marriage, death threats, and time spent in hiding as an adult. In this deeply personal memoir, she shares her incredible story and how she became the activist and advocate that she is today.)

*Kabul Beauty School* by Deborah Rodriguez (Rodriguez wanted to make a difference in Kabul, but as a beautician, her skills were laughed off by most foreign aid workers. Until she opened a beauty salon and found her own way into the hearts, minds, and intricate world of Kabul’s women.)

*Man Alive: A True Story of Violence, Forgiveness and Becoming a Man* by Thomas Page McBee (McBee was born female and transitioned to male in adulthood. In this intense, short memoir, he reflects on how the trauma that he experienced both as a child and as an adult informed his understanding of gender and of himself.)

*The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace* by Jeff Hobbs (Robert Peace was born in a ghetto called “Illtown,” son to a single mother and to a father convicted of double murder. Despite these challenging circumstances, he earned a full scholarship to Yale and was building an exciting future. By age 30, he was dead. This compelling biography, written by Peace’s college roommate, explores how Peace, a child of poverty, a graduate of Yale, came to spend his last years in the drug trade, where he met his fatal end.)

*There Was and There Was Not: A Journey through Hate and Possibility in Turkey, Armenia, and Beyond* by Meline Toumani (Meline Toumani grew up in a close knit Armenian family and knew about the Armenian genocide very well, but how do we remember genocide without perpetuating hatred? In this page-turning memoir she talks about moving to Turkey, where she lived for four years, in order to understand and try to answer that question.)