



Upper School Summer Reading 2020 – 2021

Below are the summer reading requirements and book lists for Upper School students at BB&N. Naturally, we encourage students to read well beyond the minimum number of required books. Therefore, you will also find a list of great reads recommended by the Upper School librarians at the end of this document.

Students entering Grade 9 in the fall are expected to read two books from the English Department book list and one history book.

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 a student does not have a required book for his or her history or world language course, the student must read an additional book from the English Department book list.

In general, books for summer reading can be purchased at any bookstore or online bookseller. Additionally, students who are members of the Minuteman Library System, Boston Public Libraries (BPL), or local libraries should be able to find many of these books in ebook format for free. Students can sign up for an eCard for BPL access [here](#). If a specific edition of a book is required for a course, it will be noted in the book description.

If you have any questions about summer reading, please feel free to reach out directly to the teacher, Department Head, or Language Coordinator listed below.

English: Ariel Duddy (aduddy@bbns.org, 617-800-2159)
History and Social Sciences: Susan Glazer (sglazer@bbns.org, 617-800-2163)
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Arabic: Amani Abu Shakra (aabushakra@bbns.org, 617-800-2225)
Chinese: Yinong Yang (yyang@bbns.org, 617-800-2297)
French: Cécile Roucher-Greenberg (croucher-greenberg@bbns.org, 617-800-2172)
Latin: Walter Young (wyoung@bbns.org, 617-800-2157)
Russian: Josh Walker (jwalker@bbns.org, 617-800-2290)
Spanish: Rosario Sánchez Gómez (rsanchezgomez@bbns.org, 617-800-2246)

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

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Theobald
Upper School Director

Katrina Fuller
Assistant Upper School Director

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The English Department's Book 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, **except where noted** in the descriptions.

The **asterisked (*)** titles may be particularly well suited to **incoming freshmen and sophomores**, but everyone is invited to read these books.

Seniors should note that one of their summer reading books must be the text specified for their fall course (see the list of assigned books following the English Department book list).

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi: *Americanah* (This novel follows two young Nigerians, Ifemelu and Obinze, as they endure the trials and tribulations of life in Nigeria and of immigrant life in America and England, respectively. Through their experiences abroad and at home, Ifemelu and Obinze learn about race, love, and themselves.)

*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 Bangladeshi war for independence in the 1970s.)

Austen, Jane: *Emma* (Lovers of Jane Austen, rejoice! This novel follows its titular character, Emma, on her misadventures in matchmaking in her small, gossipy village (what village isn't?). Emma is sharp, independent, and stubborn, and with a cast of characters who match her wit, there is no lack of banter, hilarity, and drama. The twists, the turns! I've already said too much.) Do not substitute *Pride and Prejudice* for this novel.)

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.)

Batuman, Elif: *The Idiot* (This funny, incisive narrative told by a Turkish-American girl from New Jersey who attends Harvard is, as *The Boston Globe* put it, "a cutting satire of academia, a fresh take on the epistolary novel, a poignant bildungsroman, and compelling travel literature.")

*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 on his family of Jacob Reiser's violent crime.)

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.)

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 nineteenth-century New South Wales.)

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.)

Coates, Ta-Nehesi: *The Water Dancer* (The debut novel by the National Book Award-winning author of *Between the World and Me* employs fantastical elements that underscore the psychological effects of slavery. A compelling complement to U.S. History reading.)

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.”)

*Courtenay, Bryce: *The Power of One* (A compelling, beautifully told coming-of-age story about a boy in South Africa during the Apartheid era. Ridiculed and humiliated, he finds a mentor and develops an obsession with boxing; both are unexpected developments that change his life.)

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.)

Desai, Kiran: *Inheritance of Loss* (This novel changes points of view and jumps generations to present a complex portrait of Indian post-colonial culture. At the fore is a young, curious woman and her staid grandfather who live in a once grand jungle-side, decaying home, the perfect symbol for her Indian grandfather: a UK-educated anglophile, holding tightly to the British mannerisms, class hierarchies, and aesthetics of colonial times—while revolutionary tension builds all around him.)

Diamant, Anita: *The Boston Girl* (This *New York Times* bestseller might give you a new understanding of our city and some of its inhabitants as it tells the story of a plucky young Jewish woman growing up in the early twentieth century.)

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.”)

Doerr, Anthony: *All the Light We Cannot See* (Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award finalist, this is the story of Werner, the orphan turned Nazi soldier, and Marie-Laure, the blind French girl, who face innumerable obstacles to their pursuit of fulfilling lives during the 1930s and ’40s in Germany and France. A page-turner.)

- *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*.) Do **not** substitute *The Great Gatsby* for this novel.
- Follett, Ken: *Pillars of the Earth* (Betrayal, murder, revenge, and faith form the core of this page-turner set in twelfth-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.)
- *Frankel, Laurie: *This Is How It Always Is* (Fresh, well-paced, and full of spunk and compassion, this novel follows a doctor mom, a writer dad, and their five independent sons, the youngest of whom identifies as a girl. Themes of honesty and secrecy, control and release, and science and fairy tales compete with and play off each other in this jambalaya of endearing characters who are as fiercely independent as they are protective and loyal.)
- 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.)
- Gyasi, Yaa: *Homegoing* (In 18th-century Ghana, two half-sisters, Effia and Esi, are separated when one is married to an Englishman and the other is sold into the transatlantic slave trade. This panoramic novel, tracking the descendants of Effia and Esi across several generations in the United States and in Ghana, explores the legacy of slavery both for those who were taken and those who stayed.)
- 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.) Do **not** substitute *The Old Man and the Sea* for this novel.
- Herbert, Frank: *Dune* (Classic science fiction novel about a land of deserts and of the long-awaited Messiah.)

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 novel has long been a favorite of college and high school students interested in the call of the inner life.)

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 Meany*, 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.)

Kadish, Rachel: *The Weight of Ink* (A historical novel that jumps between contemporary times and plague-stricken Shakespearean London with themes of immigration, feminism, and Jewish scholarship. Mysteries to be solved.)

*Kingsolver, Barbara: *The Bean Trees* (Spunky and charming, Taylor Greer and her adopted daughter Turtle share the heart of this story, which begins in rural Kentucky and finally settles in Tucson, Arizona. As the two work to make a life together and to shape a new family from the people they meet, they find unexpected strength, resilience, and joy.)

Lorde, Audre: *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* (Beautifully written, sensual, and historically rich, *Zami* is a fast-moving chronicle of the author's experiences as a young, black, queer woman in New York City. Lorde called this work of nonfiction a "biomythography." In it she employs lush description and rich characterization of people, food, poetry, hustle, and relationships to bring a challenging and beautiful world to life and (above all else?) to explore love between women.)

*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.)

*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.")

Miller, Madeline: *Song of Achilles* (A passionate, fast-paced rewriting of the Western world's first great war novel! This 2012 version reveals the great love between Achilles and Patroclus, two famous heroes of *The Iliad*, and convinces us that Patroclus means it when he declares, "[Achilles] is half of my soul, as the poets say." Miller won the Orange Prize, awarded yearly to a female author for the best original novel written in English, for this book! Note: No knowledge of *The Iliad* required!)

*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.)

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.)

*Murphy, Julie: *Ramona Blue* (From the author of the book that inspired the Netflix movie *Dumplin*, this novel tells the story of Ramona, who is unafraid to be bold and knows just who she is (or so she thought). As space in her post-Katrina, Mississippi-trailer-park home gets tighter and she loses the luster of a summer romance with a girl from out of town, Ramona must find ways to push past her limitations. This novel offers a thrilling and earnest portrayal of a hard-working girl who learns that she doesn't have to settle for the hand she's been dealt.)

Ng, Celeste: *Little Fires Everywhere* (A "deep psychological mystery about the power of motherhood, the intensity of teenage love, and the danger of perfection," this novel traces the intertwined fates of the picture-perfect Richardson family and the enigmatic mother and daughter, Mia and Pearl Warren, who upend their lives. When the Richardsons' old family friends attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle dramatically divides the town—and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides.)

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.) No other Orwell work may be substituted for this one.

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.)

Russell, Karen: *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.)

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.)

*Rivera, Gabby: *Juliet Takes a Breath* (Juliet Palante, a young Nuyorican (Puerto Rican New Yorker) who has just had a difficult coming-out-to-her-family experience, escapes to the West Coast and an internship with a feminist writer she admires. The novel involves complicated characters, humor, crackling-good dialogue, and, as one reader comments, "learning to navigate the world in a way that allows you to retain your humanity.")

*Rowell, Rainbow: *Eleanor & Park* (Set in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1986, this tale of first-love explores the social challenges of two teenage outsiders, an overweight teenage girl from a dysfunctional family and an artsy half-Korean boy from a sports-loving family. Their courage, spirit, and compassion will have you cheering for them in the face of mounting pressure. 1980s music fans will also enjoy the pop culture references.)

*Sáenz, Benjamin Alire: *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* (This contemporary page-turner tells of an unlikely friendship and romantic relationship between Aristotle, who has a brother in prison and a chip on his shoulder, and Dante, a know-it-all with an unusual worldview. It confronts universal issues of identity, friendship, family, and love, and employs beautiful, believable characterization. It won the Michael L. Printz Award for the "best book written for teens, based entirely on its literary merit," as well as the Stonewall Award for books depicting LGBTQ experiences.)

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

Staveley, Brian: *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: *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.)

St. John Mandel, Emily: *Station Eleven* (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.)

*Tan, Amy: *The Joy Luck Club* (The bestseller about the conflicts and affections among 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: *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: *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 *Walden* in the middle of nowhere, 130 years later.)

Toibin, Colm: *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.: *The Hobbit* or *The Lord Of The Rings*, Volume I, II, or III. (The great epic of Middle Earth.)

*Towler, Katherine: *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: *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*.)
- Uris, Leon: *Trinity* (This historical novel presents the lives of Irish several families and their involvement in major events from the mid-nineteenth-century famine through the 1916 Easter Uprising in Dublin. It is an entertaining way to learn about Ireland's history.)
- Verghese, 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.)
- Walker, Brian F.: *Black Boy White School* (Written by BB&N's new English teacher, this novel brings to life the experiences of a 14-year-old boy who straddles two worlds—his dangerous urban home life and the elite New England boarding school he attends on scholarship—and who then must grapple with the complex issues of race, belonging, and his own sense of identity.)
- Westover, Tara: *Educated* (From her harrowing experiences as a homeschooled daughter of Idaho survivalists to a Cambridge-educated Ph.D student, Tara Westover shares the remarkable story of her path to becoming "educated." A tale of survival in spite of (and occasionally because of) her family, this memoir reads like a novel; there are moments when the knowledge that this is a work of nonfiction provides reassurance that the author did, in fact, survive the mental and physical hurdles on her journey.)
- *Wilson, G. Willow: *Alif the Unseen* (A novel that mixes dystopia, fantasy, and Middle Eastern history and culture. The protagonist Alif is a young hacker in an unnamed authoritarian state who must enter the magical world of the jinn to subvert the state security apparatus.)
- 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.) Do not substitute *Summer* for this novel.
- 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. One of these protagonists faces the challenge of coming out, another deals with mental illness.)
- Woolf, Virginia: *Mrs. Dalloway* (A stream-of-consciousness account of a day in the life of Clarissa Dalloway as she walks through post-WWI 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.)

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

English 12 Required Books

Doppelgangers and Distorted Mirrors: *Manhattan Beach* by Jennifer Egan

Fiction Writing: *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life* by Anne Lamott and a few stories (titles to be emailed to you) in *Something Rich and Strange* by Ron Rash

Law, Literature, and Social Justice: *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson

Moby Dick: A Whale of a Work: *In the Heart of the Sea* by Nathaniel Philbrick AND “Bartleby the Scrivener” by Herman Melville

Rebel Writers: *It Can't Happen Here* by Sinclair Lewis

Redeeming the Past: *Atonement* by Ian McEwan

Shakespeare: *The Winter's Tale* (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

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

GRADE 9

Global History I: Early World Civilizations

Night by Elie Wiesel (ISBN 978-0374500016). [Click here to download a copy of the book.](#)

Night is an account of the childhood experiences of Elie Wiesel during the Holocaust. He didn't begin writing the book that would become *Night* until 1955, fully ten years after liberation; it was published in 1960. He later emigrated to the United States and wrote dozens of books, works of fiction, essays, and even music. He urged leaders to respond to injustice around the world and in favor of peace and human dignity around the world. In 1986, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. To Wiesel, the memory and legacy of the Holocaust created a profound sense of responsibility to be a witness to suffering and inhumanity in our contemporary world.

As you read this book, please consider the following questions:

- How do we define our identity? How is our identity shaped and reshaped by our experiences?
- What does it mean to be a witness?
- How does the past impact the present? How and how might our memory of history influence our choices in the world today?

GRADE 10

Global History II: Making an Interconnected World/American and Global History: Case Studies I

Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity by Katherine Boo (ISBN: 978-0812979329)

As you read this book, please consider the following questions:

- How might studying the Mumbai slums deepen our understanding of India today as well as contribute to developing global and cultural competence?
- One of the promises of globalization is that it will increase prosperity in poorer countries and reduce inequality. What do the Mumbai slums tell us about the prospect of fulfilling this promise in India?
- The subtitle for *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* is "Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity." What examples of hope can one find in the Mumbai slums? Describe the challenges that the hopeful face in realizing their aspirations.

GRADE 11

United States History

American and Global History: Case Studies II

United States History: African American History

United States History: Gender and Sexuality Studies

We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy by Ta-Nehisi Coates (ISBN: 978-0399590566)

Students only need to read the following chapters:

- Why Do So Few Blacks Study the Civil War?
- The Case for Reparations
- The Black Family in the Age of Mass Incarceration

Students should consider the following as they read:

- What do these essays tell us about who controls the narrative of history?
- Is there an "American story"?
- What themes are apparent in these essays? What's missing?

GRADE 11 AND 12 ELECTIVES

Advanced Placement Art History: *The Accidental Masterpiece: On the Art of Life and Vice Versa* by Michael Kimmelman

Advanced Placement Comparative Government and U.S. Government and Politics: *Overthrow* by Stephen Kinzler

Advanced Placement European History: *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel

Advanced Placement Human Geography: *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the American Meal* by Eric Schlosser

Read chapters 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8, and one other chapter of your choosing. As you read, consider the economic, environmental, and societal/cultural impacts of the fast food industry.

Advanced Placement Macroeconomics: *Naked Economics: Undressing the Dismal Science* by Charles Wheelan

Environmental Studies: *The Rediscovery of North America* by Barry Lopez

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

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 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. Note that the entries should not be repetitive and that this assignment should be completed for at least eight weeks.

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 should pick one of their three songs and determine where the song is from (*i.e.*, which country of the Arab world), the name of the musician, and the cultural significance of the song.

Arabic III

Every Sunday throughout the summer, students should write a journal entry that describes their week and reflects on one interesting thing from their week. Students should refer to the vocabulary lists from the textbook and supplemental materials from last year so that they can review the previously learned words. Journal entries should be at least a half page in length and should not be repetitive. This assignment should be completed for at least eight weeks.

In addition, students should watch the movie, *The Yacoubian Building*, which can be found on YouTube or by clicking [here](#). The movie tackles many topics considered taboo in the Arab culture while examining how people find themselves in certain situations in life. While watching the movie, students must keep a list of all words that are recognized. In addition, students should write down the main issues discussed in the movie and some of similarities and differences with American culture. In the fall, students should be prepared to discuss these similarities and differences, the significance of the movie, the use of the Arabic language (formal vs. colloquial) in the movie, and any cultural implications made by the movie.

Arabic IV

Students should write four two-page papers. Each paper should reflect on the previous two weeks. Entries should not be repetitive and vocabulary learned should be used as much as possible.

In addition, students should watch the two movies listed below. Prior to watching each movie, students should research the country below and its film industry. This research will help to better understand the themes, the languages, and the setting of the movie. When returning to school in the fall, students should be prepared to discuss how the issues presented in each movie relate to American culture.

- Damascus with Love, found [here](#).
- West Beirut, found [here](#).

CHINESE

There is no summer work for students entering Chinese I and Chinese II.

For all courses listed below, students should watch the listed movie. The introductory materials and questions for the movie will be posted in Mr. Yang's PowerSchool Chinese Summer Movie page. Students need to answer all of the questions and be prepared to have a discussion of the movie in the fall.

The movies can be rented on YouTube, Amazon Prime, and/or Google play. Students can submit rental receipts to Mr. Yang for reimbursement throughout the summer or in the fall.

Chinese III/III (Honors)

Feng Xiaogang's chinese language movie "A World without Thieves"

Chinese IV & AP Chinese Language and Culture

Zhang Yang's chinese language movie "Shower"

Chinese V

Derek Tsang Kwok-cheung's chinese language movie "Soul Mate"

FRENCH

There is no summer work for students entering French I, French II and French II (Honors).

French III

Students should watch François Truffaut's classic movie *Les Quatre cents coups*. This movie can be rented on You Tube, Amazon Prime, Google Play, Vudu, and iTunes. Copies of the movie can also be borrowed for free on Kanopy from the Minuteman Public Library System. Additionally, three DVDs of the movie are available at the Upper School Office and can be borrowed for up to one week. Students should also read the accompanying dossier and answer twelve questions of their choice using complete sentences (available for download [here](#)). When returning to school in the fall, students should be prepared to discuss the movie in class.

French III (Honors)

Students should watch François Truffaut's classic movie *Les Quatre cents coups*. This movie can be rented on You Tube, Amazon Prime, Google Play, Vudu, and iTunes. Copies of the movie can also be borrowed for free on Kanopy from the Minuteman Public Library System. Additionally, three DVDs of the movie are available at the Upper School Office and can be borrowed for up to one week. Students should also read the accompanying dossier and answer all of the questions using complete sentences (available for download [here](#)). When returning to school in the fall, students should be prepared to discuss the movie in class.

French IV

Students should read the short story *La Belle et la Bête* by Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont (available for download by clicking [here](#)) and answer the accompanying questions (available for download by clicking [here](#)).

Advanced Placement French Language and Culture

Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi (available for download [here](#))

Students should read the entire book and take notes. When returning to school in the fall, students should be prepared to discuss the book in class.

French V: Cinema for French Conversation

Students should read the story *Monsieur Ibrahim et les fleurs du Coran* by Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt (available for download by clicking [here](#)).

French V (Honors): Culture and Cuisine in Films and Fiction

Students should read up to Page 79 in *La Métaphysique des Tubes* by Amélie Nothomb (ISBN: 9782253152842, Le Livre de Poche Publishing)

LATIN

There is no summer work for students entering Latin I, Latin II and Latin II (Honors).

Latin III

Students should read through [this website](#) and review mythology.

Latin III (Honors)

Catalina's Riddle by Steven Saylor (Publisher: St Martin's Press, ISBN: 9780312385293)

Students should read the entire book.

Latin IV

Aeneid, translation by David Ferry (Publisher: University of Chicago Press, ISBN-10: 022645018X)

Students should read Books 1, 2 and 4 and note major characters and events in preparation for a reading comprehension test.

AP Latin

Aeneid, translation by David Ferry (Publisher: University of Chicago Press, ISBN-10: 022645018X)

Students should read Books 1, 2 and 4 and note major characters and events in preparation for a reading comprehension test.

Latin V (Honors)

Acta Muciorum by Mima Maxey (Publisher: Enchiridion Press, ISBN-10: 1-946943-01-0)

Students should read pages 1-30.

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 (Honors):

- 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 on Unit 14 (first week of school)
 - WB Intro Unit.

SPANISH

There is no summer work for students entering Spanish I, Spanish II and Spanish II (Honors).

Spanish III (Grades 10, 11, and 12 only)

All of the information, videos, and assignments for the summer work in Spanish III can be found on Profe. Sánchez Gomez's PowerSchool page, found by clicking [here](#)).

Spanish III (Honors) (Grades 10, 11, and 12 only)

El Delantal Blanco by Sergio Vodanovic

Students should read the entire play (available for download by clicking [here](#)) and be prepared to discuss the questions that follow the play.

Spanish IV: Culture and Conversation

Students should read two plays: *Dos Obras de teatro cortas: Fuenteovejuna de Lope de Vega* (available for download [here](#)) and *Lazos de hermanas de Silvina Carrasco* (available for download [here](#)).

Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Culture

Students should read four short stories by Isabel Allende (available for download by clicking [here](#)).

Spanish V: Contemporary Spanish and Latin American Cinema

Students should learn new vocabulary related to movies (the vocabulary list can be found [here](#)), watch two videos, and answer the comprehension questions found [here](#). The video *Diez Minutos* can be found on YouTube or by clicking [here](#). The video *Casa* can be found on YouTube or by clicking [here](#).

Spanish V (Honors): Literature, Film, Art, and Multimedia

Students should read *Bodas de Sangre* by Federico García Lorca (available for download by clicking [here](#)).

MORE GREAT BOOKS
(Recommended by the Charles and Elizabeth Almy Library)

LIBRARIAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The Girl with the Louding Voice by Abi Daré (fiction)

This powerful coming-of-age novel follows the tribulations and triumphs of Nigerian teenager Adunni as she is first sold into an arranged marriage and then relegated into servitude for a cruel and wealthy family. A celebration of courage and resilience, this book will make you ache for Adunni's hardships and cheer on her fortitude.

Girl, Woman, Other by Bernardine Evaristo (fiction)

Winner of the Booker Prize in 2019, *Girl, Woman, Other* follows twelve characters, most of them black British women, moving through the world in different time periods and learning how to be themselves. Each character has a chapter and in each chapter you learn how their lives intersect, but their backgrounds and experiences could not be more different from one another. Read *Girl, Woman, Other* to learn about a Britain far different from what you've seen in Austen, Shakespeare, or popular television.

Know My Name: A Memoir by Chanel Miller (nonfiction)

In 2015, Chanel Miller was sexually assaulted by Brock Turner. The court case and his sentencing hearing are well documented and made Brock Turner a household name. At the time of the hearing, Chanel Miller was only known as Emily Doe. Since then Miller has come out publicly and written a beautiful memoir about surviving and healing. *Know My Name* forces readers to not only to look and listen about sexual assault and the American legal system, but it allows Miller to reclaim her story and let us know who she is on her own terms. If you are looking to feel empowered and inspired, read *Know My Name*!

Lost Children Archive by Valeria Luiselli (fiction)

Looking for a twist on the great American road trip novel? *Lost Children Archive* will make you rethink the American landscape. Told through several compelling voices, blending texts, sounds, and images of America, Luiselli's book takes us deep into the lives of one family as it probes the nature of justice, equality, privilege, memory, documentation, and immigration while driving from New York to Arizona. Despite the serious nature of this book, you will be impressed by the two children who not only give this book comedic relief but provide the reader with hope around our uncertain futures.

The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich (fiction)

The Night Watchman is a fictional story about the Native Americans who tried to save their lands from being taken away by the U.S. government in the early 1950s. Focused around the residents of the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota, the story's protagonist is Thomas Wazhushk, a factory worker who begins a letter writing campaign to dissuade Utah Senator Arthur V. Watkins from reneging on long-held treaties between Native Americans and the federal government. Although the stakes for the residents of Turtle Mountain are high, readers will be drawn in and delighted to read about all the personalities living on and off the reservation.

On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous by Ocean Vuong (fiction)

Ocean Vuong's stunning debut novel is a coming-of-age story about surviving. The narrator, Little Dog, writes letters to his illiterate mother and in the process unearths a family history that both divides and unites his family. This book is both a witness to the love between a mother and son and a compassionate exploration of race, class, masculinity, addiction, and violence in America. *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* reminds us how to find joy even in the darkest moments.

Permanent Record by Mary H.K. Choi (fiction)

Pablo and Leanna don't have much in common at first glance. He's a college dropout working at a deli in Brooklyn, she's a popstar with an endless list of appearances and marketing deals. But when

they happen to cross paths, they feel an instant connection that changes both of their lives in unexpected ways. This page-turner got rave reviews for a reason – it’s funny, clever, and compelling, and makes for a perfect summer read!

Red at the Bone by Jacqueline Woodson (fiction)

In *Red at the Bone* two families are joined together by a child from an unexpected teen pregnancy. Moving backward and forward in time, Woodson’s novel explores topics such as history and community, sexual desire and identity, gentrification, education, class, and parenthood. But perhaps what is most striking about this novel is the way that Woodson writes about the ways in which young people make enduring decisions about their lives before they figure out who they are and who they want to be.

The Son by Philipp Meyer (fiction)

The epic of Texas history, told through the story of three generations of the McCullough family. The grandfather’s ambition, the son’s guilt, and the granddaughter’s grit are all part of this sometimes violent but thoroughly engrossing story of the American West from the 1800s to the twenty-first century.

Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid (fiction)

Such a Fun Age is the perfect summer read! The novel focuses on a young black babysitter and the relationship she has with her well-intentioned white employer, and while the premise may seem heavy-handed the deft touch that Reid brings to this satire will make you laugh and devour this book. Some moments will feel familiar while others may make you cringe, but this book captures how everyday biases affect our social interactions in both benign and serious ways. Perhaps the best description of the book comes from Reid herself, she sees the book as a “comedy with good intentions.”

This Is How You Lose the Time War by Max Gladstone (fiction)

For sci-fi fans everywhere: this book is a must-read. Red and Blue are soldiers and spies, serving on opposite sides of a war from the future that has stretched over countless realities throughout the course of time. As these two professional killers battle each other in places like Atlantis, Stalingrad, and other intriguing settings, they get to know one another through a series of letters that never should have been written in the first place.

We Regret to Inform You by Ariel Kaplan (fiction)

Mischa is a straight-A, top-scoring student at an elite prep school, eagerly awaiting high school graduation and college life. That is, until she doesn’t get into a single one of the colleges where she applied. Humor, drama, and mystery collide in this entertaining, fast-paced story of what happens when things don’t quite go as planned.

What Doesn’t Kill You Makes You Blacker by Damon Young (nonfiction)

Sometimes funny, often heart wrenching, and always thought-provoking, Young’s series of essays is a deep dive into what it means to be black in America today, written through the lens of his own experiences. Tackling issues like hypermasculinity, bias in the medical community, and gentrification, Young writes passionately about injustice and discrimination, and the result is one of 2019’s most powerful nonfiction books.

The Yellow House by Sarah M. Broom (nonfiction)

A 2019 National Book Award winner, *The Yellow House* is a compelling and unforgettable study of American poverty and discrimination told through the lens of one family, and the home they occupied for generations in New Orleans. This memoir will stay with you long after you’ve put it down.