McCallie Summer Reading
Dear Returning Students,

There is nothing like summer vacation to enjoy a different pace of life, to reflect a bit on where we are and where we are headed, and to find time to grab a book of interest and enjoy a sunny afternoon outside somewhere with no other pressures.

The school wide book this year is On Fire by John O’Leary.

In addition, you will choose to join one of the books groups listed below. It is an awesome range of offerings! You will notice that some groups require reading two books. Other groups require reading a single book and then doing something additional: watching a related movie, taking a walk in the woods, writing a brief reflection on a question the group leader will pose, or visiting a museum. The goal of these “book plus” groups is to make the reading come even more alive for you.

In August, we will meet once with Advisory to review the school-wide book. We will meet a second time by the book groups where you will have a chance to share your thoughts on the book[s] and any ‘plus’ activity.

Summer Reading sign-ups will be as follows:

- Rising Seniors: after chapel on Wednesday, May 2
- Rising Juniors: after chapel on Friday, May 4
- Rising Sophomores: after chapel on Monday, May 7
- Have in mind 2-3 book groups you would like [in case one of them fills up before you sign up] and remember their GROUP NUMBERS as that will be how you’ll locate the right place to sign up. Groups will be limited to 14 people.

Enjoy the reading!

Sumner McCallie
Dean of Faculty and Curriculum, Upper School

On Fire by John O’Leary
ISBN: 978-1501117725

When John O’Leary was nine years old, he was almost killed in a devastating house fire. With burns on one hundred percent of his body, O’Leary mustered an almost unimaginable amount of inner strength just to survive the ordeal. The insights he gained through this experience and the heroes who stepped into his life to help him through the journey—his family, the medical staff, and total strangers—changed his life. Now he is committed to living life to the fullest and inspiring others to do the same.

On Fire encourages us to seize the power to choose our path and transform our lives from mundane to extraordinary. Once we stop thinking solely on the big moments in our lives, we can begin to focus on those smaller opportunities that tend to pass us by. The insights he gained through this experience and the heroes who stepped into his life to help him through the journey—his family, the medical staff, and total strangers—changed his life. Now he is committed to living life to the fullest and inspiring others to do the same.

In August, we will meet once with Advisory to review the school-wide book. We will meet a second time by the book groups where you will have a chance to share your thoughts on the book(s) and any ‘plus’ activity.

In addition to reading the all-school book, each student in grades 10-12 should choose one reading group in which to participate.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW MANY BOOKS DO I HAVE TO READ?
You will read the school-wide book, *On Fire* by John O’Leary, and then the one or two books which are a part of the book group you sign up to be in.

CAN I CHOOSE A BOOK THAT I HAVE ALREADY READ?
Please choose a book that you have never read before.

HOW DOES SIGN-UP WORK?
- Rising Seniors: after chapel on Wednesday, May 2
- Rising Juniors: after chapel on Friday, May 4
- Rising Sophomores: after chapel on Monday, May 7
- Have in mind 2-3 book groups you would like [in case one of them fills up before you sign up] and remember their GROUP NUMBERS as that will be how you’ll locate the right place to sign up. Groups will be limited to 14 people.

AM I ALLOWED TO READ MY BOOK(S) ON AN EREADER (KINDLE, IPAD, NOOK, ETC.)?
Absolutely!

THERE ARE SEVERAL DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF MY BOOK AVAILABLE TO BUY. HOW DO I KNOW WHICH ONE TO GET?
We’ve provided an ISBN for each book to help you find a copy; however, you are not required to read that exact edition.

CAN I LISTEN TO THE AUDIOBOOK VERSION OF ONE OR MORE OF MY BOOKS?
Yes, but you must read along as you listen.

WILL THE SUMMER READING BOOKS BE SOLD AT THE CAMPUS BOOKSTORE?
The Bookstore will carry *On Fire* by John O’Leary and books from every book group. You can also purchase it from another bookstore or online, or borrow it from the library. Starline Books on the corner of Market and Main is a great local bookstore, and the McCallie library has most of the books on the list in print and eBook format.

I HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION ABOUT SUMMER READING. WHAT SHOULD I DO?
Contact Mr. McCallie at smccallie@mccallie.org
Group 1: Tanner Shulman/ Shannon Walker and Mrs Burns

**A Season On the Brink**
John Feinstein  
ISBN: 978-1451650259

Why is A Season on the Brink the bestselling sports book of all time? The answer is easy: Bobby Knight. Audaciously brilliant, exasperatingly volatile, and never boring, the Indiana University basketball coach is Greek drama and comedy neatly wrapped in a red sweater. Like all high-strung people, Knight is particularly interesting when things don’t go according to his playbook. John Feinstein had the good fortune to follow Knight and his Hoosiers through a difficult 1985-86 campaign; that Feinstein could watch that season attached to Knight’s hip gives A Season on the Brink its sights and its sounds. That such closeness allowed entry into Knight’s heart gives the book its fury. The combination is irresistible.

The “plus” component: Students will watch the 2002 movie of the same name.

Group 2: Mr Lowry

**The Dark Forest**
Liu Cixin  
ISBN: 978-0765386694

Sequel to Three Body Problem. In The Dark Forest, Earth is reeling from the revelation of a coming alien invasion—in just four centuries’ time. The aliens’ human collaborators may have been defeated, but the presence of the sophons, the subatomic particles that allow Trisolaris instant access to all human information, means that Earth’s defense plans are totally exposed to the enemy. Only the human mind remains a secret. This is the motivation for the Wallfacer Project, a daring plan that grants four men enormous resources to design secret strategies, hidden through deceit and misdirection from Earth and Trisolaris alike. Three of the Wallfacers are influential statesmen and scientists, but the fourth is a total unknown. Luo Ji, an unambitious Chinese astronomer and sociologist, is baffled by his new status. All he knows is that he’s the one Wallfacer that Trisolaris wants dead.

The “plus” component: Watch The Farthest-Voyager in Space, Emer Reynolds director. The video streams on iTunes, Amazon and Netflix or DVD may be purchased.

Group 3: Mr Thornton

**Legacy**
James Kerr  
ISBN: 978-1472103536

In Legacy, best-selling author James Kerr goes deep into the heart of the world’s most successful sporting team, the legendary All Blacks of New Zealand, to reveal 15 powerful and practical lessons for leadership and business.

Legacy is a unique, inspiring handbook for leaders in all fields, and asks: What are the secrets of success - sustained success? How do you achieve world-class standards, day after day, week after week, year after year? How do you handle pressure? How do you train to win at the highest level? What do you leave behind you after you’re gone? The ‘plus’ component: Watch the film Chasing Great, which is a documentary which follows Richie McCaw through his final season as he attempts the goal of captaining the All Blacks to the first ever-back-to back Rugby World Cup Wins.

Group 4: Mr Lyons, Mr Hubbard

**Journey Through Genius**
William Dunham  
ISBN: 978-0140147391

Like masterpieces of art, music, and literature, great mathematical theorems are creative milestones, works of genius destined to last forever. Now William Dunham gives them the attention they deserve.

Dunham places each theorem within its historical context and explores the very human and often turbulent life of the creator — from Archimedes, the absent-minded theoretician whose absorption in his work often precluded eating or bathing, to Gerolamo Cardano, the sixteenth-century mathematician whose accomplishments flourished despite a bizarre array of misadventures, to the paranoid genius of modern times, Georg Cantor. He also provides step-by-step proofs for the theorems, each easily accessible to readers with no more than a knowledge of high school mathematics. A rare combination of the historical, biographical, and mathematical, Journey Through Genius is a fascinating introduction to a neglected field of human creativity.

The “plus” component: Mr Lyons will compile a packet of unusual, challenging math problems for guys to work on and test their limits. The group will discuss these problems in August.
Poems of the Masters: Tang and Sung Dynasty Poetry
Translated by Red Pine
ISBN: 978-1556591952
Chinese language skills are NOT necessary.

Poetry is China’s greatest art, and for the past eight centuries Poems of the Masters has been that country’s most studied and memorized collection of verse. For the first time ever in English, here is the complete text, with an introduction and extensive notes by renowned translator, Red Pine. Over one hundred poets are represented in this bilingual edition, including many of China’s celebrated poets: Li Pai, Wang Wei, Tu Fu, Wang Po, and Ou-yang Hsiu.

The ‘plus’ component: You must complete at least two of the four below options:
1) After sitting outside and reading a few of the poems, write two short poems in a similar style [Chinese or English].
2) Recite from memory two of the short poems for the rest of the class [Chinese or English].
3) Do your own translation from Chinese to English of two of the poems.
4) Write out in Chinese calligraphy two of the poems.

Outcast United
Warren St John
ISBN: 978-0385522045

The extraordinary tale of a refugee youth soccer team and the transformation of a small American town

Clarkston, Georgia, was a typical Southern town until it was designated a refugee settlement center in the 1990s, becoming the first American home for scores of families in flight from the world’s war zones—from Liberia and Sudan to Iraq and Afghanistan. Suddenly Clarkston’s streets were filled with women wearing the hijab, the smells of cumin and curry, and kids of all colors playing soccer in any open space they could find. The town also became home to Luma Mufleh, an American-educated Jordanian woman who founded a youth soccer team to unify Clarkston’s refugee children and keep them off the streets. These kids named themselves the Fugees.

Set against the backdrop of an American town that without its consent had become a vast social experiment, Outcasts United follows a pivotal season in the life of the Fugees and their charismatic coach. Warren St. John documents the lives of a diverse group of young people as they miraculously coalesce into a band of brothers, while also drawing a fascinating portrait of a fading American town struggling to accommodate its new arrivals. At the center of the story is fiery Coach Luma, who relentlessly drives her players to success on the soccer field while holding together their lives—and the lives of their families—in the face of a series of daunting challenges.

The ‘plus’ component: Students will watch the documentary Human Flow which can be accessed at minimal cost on this site: https://www.humanflow.com/watch-at-home/.
In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. A brilliant young boy, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin lives with his kind but distant parents, his sadistic brother Peter, and the person he loves more than anyone else, his sister Valentine. Peter and Valentine were candidates for the soldier-training program but didn't make the cut—young Ender is the Wiggin drafted to the orbiting Battle School for rigorous military training.

In the year 2045, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines—puzzles that are based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and that promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them. But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win—and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape.

In the science fiction genre, this is a complex story about scientists/researchers, Christopher Columbus, and alternate history. The researchers are part of the Pastwatch project which enables them to witness and study any time and place in the history of the world. At first the images provided only fleeting glimpses that lack detail and sound, but continued development of the Pastwatch technology enables the researchers to clearly view, hear, and record events and/or individual conversations that interest them. Of course that ability also provides opportunities to affect the events of the past, which provides the possibility of changing history, and therefore changing the present as well.

One day, a good old boy named Llewellyn Moss finds a pickup truck surrounded by a bodyguard of dead men. A load of heroin and two million dollars in cash are still in the back. When Moss takes the money, he sets off a chain reaction of catastrophic violence that not even the law—in the person of aging, disillusioned Sheriff Bell—can contain. As Moss tries to evade his pursuers—in particular a mysterious mastermind who flips coins for human lives—McCarthy simultaneously strips down the American crime novel and broadens its concerns to encompass themes as ancient as the Bible and as bloodily contemporary as this morning's headlines.

Published to unprecedented acclaim, The Color Purple established Alice Walker as a major voice in modern fiction. This is the story of two sisters—one a missionary in Africa and the other a child wife living in the South—who sustain their loyalty to and trust in each other across time, distance, and silence. Beautifully imagined and deeply compassionate, this classic novel of American literature is rich with passion, pain, inspiration, and an indomitable love of life. Won the Pulitzer Prize in 1983.

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The Road
Cormac McCarthy
ISBN: 978-0307387899

A father and his son walk alone through burned America. Nothing moves in the ravaged landscape save the ash on the wind. It is cold enough to crack stones, and when the snow falls it is gray. The sky is dark. Their destination is the coast, although they don’t know what, if anything, awaits them there. They have nothing; just a pistol to defend themselves against the lawless bands that stalk the road, the clothes they are wearing, a cart of scavenged food—and each other.

The Road is the profoundly moving story of a journey. It boldly imagines a future in which no hope remains, but in which the father and his son, “each the other’s world entire,” are sustained by love. Awesome in the totality of its vision, it is an unflinching meditation on the worst and the best that we are capable of: ultimate destructiveness, desperate tenacity, and the tenderness that keeps two people alive in the face of total devastation.

The Martian
Andy Weir
ISBN: 978-0553418026

Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars. Now, he’s sure he’ll be the first person to die there. After a dust storm nearly kills him and forces his crew to evacuate while thinking him dead, Mark finds himself stranded and completely alone with no way to even signal Earth that he’s alive—and even if he could get word out, his supplies would be gone long before a rescue could arrive. Chances are, though, he won’t have time to starve to death. The damaged machinery, unforgiving environment, or plain-old “human error” are much more likely to kill him first.

Artemis
Andy Weir
ISBN: 978-0553448122

Jasmine Bashara never signed up to be a hero. She just wanted to get rich. Not crazy, eccentric-billionaire rich, like many of the visitors to her hometown of Artemis, humanity’s first and only lunar colony. Just rich enough to move out of her coffin-sized apartment and eat something better than flavored algae. Rich enough to pay off a debt she’s owed for a long time. So when a chance at a huge score finally comes her way, Jazz can’t say no. Sure, it requires her to graduate from small-time smuggler to full-on criminal mastermind. And it calls for a particular combination of cunning, technical skills, and large explosions—not to mention sheer brazen swagger. But Jazz has never run into a challenge her intellect can’t handle, and she figures she’s got the ‘swagger’ part down.

Half the Sky
Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl Dunn
ISBN: 978-0307387097

From two of our most fiercely moral voices, a passionate call to arms against our era’s most pervasive human rights violation: the oppression of women and girls in the developing world.

With Pulitzer Prize winners Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn as our guides, we undertake an odyssey through Africa and Asia to meet the extraordinary women struggling there, among them a Cambodian teenager sold into sex slavery and an Ethiopian woman who suffered devastating injuries in childbirth. Drawing on the breadth of their combined reporting experience, Kristof and WuDunn depict our world with anger, sadness, clarity, and, ultimately, hope.

A Thousand Splendid Suns
Khaled Hosseini
ISBN: 978-1594483851

Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women brought jarring together by war, by loss and by fate. As they endure the ever escalating dangers around them—in their home as well as in the streets of Kabul—they come to form a bond that makes them both sisters and mother—daughter to each other, and that will ultimately alter the course not just of their own lives but of the next generation. With heart-wrenching power and suspense, Hosseini shows how a woman’s love for her family can move her to shocking and heroic acts of self-sacrifice, and that in the end it is love, or even the memory of love, that is often the key to survival.
A tour de force of storytelling years in the making: a dual biography of two of the greatest songwriters, Bob Dylan and Woody Guthrie, that is also a murder mystery and a history of labor relations and socialism, big business and greed in twentieth-century America—woven together in one epic saga that holds meaning for all working Americans today...In this magnificent cultural study, Wolff braids three disparate strands—Calumet, Guthrie, and Dylan—together to create a devastating revisionist history of twentieth-century America. Grown-Up Anger chronicles the struggles between the haves and have-nots, the impact changing labor relations had on industrial America, and the way two musicians used their fury to illuminate economic injustice and inspire change.

The “plus” component: Students will listen to and read through the lyrics a selected playlist of (10-12) songs by Bob Dylan and Woody Guthrie. The songs are extensively referenced in the book and will facilitate the discussion.

The Hutt Gambit
AC Crispin
ISBN: 978-0553574166

Solo is now a fugitive from the Imperial Navy. But he has made a valuable friend in a former Wookiee slave named Chewbacca, who has sworn Han a life debt. Han will need all the help he can get. For the Ylesian Hutts have dispatched the dreaded bounty hunter Boba Fett to track down the man who already outsmarted them once. But Han and Chewie find themselves in even bigger trouble when they agree to lend their services to the crime lords Jiliac and Jabba the Hutt. Suddenly the two smugglers are thrust into the middle of a battle between the might of the Empire and the treachery of their outlaw allies...a battle where even victory means death!

No Pidas Sardina Fuera De Temporada (Spanish Edition)
Andreu Martin
ISBN: Book is in Spanish: meant for students who have completed at least Spanish 3 Honors.

Lejos de la historia densa y lineal a la que estamos habituados, Edna Iturralde lleva a sus lectores a recorrer la vida de Bolívar desde una perspectiva íntima y heroica a mismo tiempo. En un río de conversaciones que toman giros impredecibles, la autora poco a poco nos entrega el legado de un ideal libertario, pero también los enigmas que el General dejó a su paso, su singular temperamento, sus decepciones políticas, su obstinación, sus errores. La vida que le tocó en suerte, marcada por el dolor y la pérdida de sus seres más queridos, lo entregará de corazón al sueño de una patria autónoma y solidaria: recorriendo su propio país y reconociendo la hermandad de las naciones americanas, luchando por la igualdad de los hombres y de los pueblos, este hombre se convertiría en líder del ejército que le entregó a la llamada Gran Colombia su libertad frente a España.

The “plus” component is the reading of this in Spanish.
### Group 16: Mr Herring

**The Ultimate History of Video Games**  
Steven Kent  
ISBN: 978-0761536437

With all the whiz, bang, pop, and shimmer of a glowing arcade. The Ultimate History of Video Games reveals everything you ever wanted to know and more about the unforgettable games that changed the world, the visionaries who made them, and the fanatics who played them. From the arcade to television and from the PC to the handheld device, video games have entranced kids at heart for nearly 30 years. And author and gaming historian Steven L. Kent has been there to record the craze from the very beginning. This engrossing book tells the incredible tale of how this backroom novelty transformed into a cultural phenomenon. Through meticulous research and personal interviews with hundreds of industry luminaries, you’ll read firsthand accounts of how yesterday’s games like Space Invaders, Centipede, and Pac-Man helped create an arcade culture that defined a generation, and how today’s empires like Sony, Nintendo, and Electronic Arts have galvanized a multibillion-dollar industry and a new generation of games.

The “plus” component will be an interactive, part virtual, part real scavenger hunt based on a list sent to book group members in late May. Other instructions will follow. Additionally, after school starts next year, book group members will take part in an outing to a local coin-op arcade.

### Group 17: Mr Jones

**U.S.S. Seawolf**  
Gerold Frank  
ISBN: 978-1520306742

The USS Seawolf was one of the greatest submarine raiders of all time. Having narrowly avoided the attack on Pearl Harbor the Seawolf set out for the seas of the Pacific to wreak havoc on Japanese shipping. Joseph Melvin Eckberg was on the Seawolf from her maiden voyage and remained with her until January 1943. As chief radioman he was instrumental in assisting Captain Frederick Warder to find and destroy enemy targets. From the claustrophobia of being trapped under water and the overwhelming fear of depth charges to the joys of aiding the war-effort and the camaraderie on the ship, Eckberg’s account, told to the authors Gerold Frank and James Horan, gives remarkable insight into submarine warfare of the Second World War.

**A Higher Call: An Incredible True Story of Combat and Chivalry in the War-Torn Skies of World War II**  
Adam Makos  
ISBN: 978-0425255735

December, 1943: A badly damaged American bomber struggles to fly over wartime Germany. At the controls is twenty-one-year-old Second Lieutenant Charlie Brown. Half his crew lay wounded or dead on this, their first mission. Suddenly, a Messerschmitt fighter pulls up on the bomber’s tail. The pilot is German ace Franz Stigler—and he can destroy the young American crew with the squeeze of a trigger... What happened next would defy imagination and later be called “the most incredible encounter between enemies in World War II.”

**Praetorian: The Rise and Fall of Rome’s Imperial Bodyguard**  
Guy De La Bedoyere  
ISBN: 978-0300218954

A riveting account of ancient Rome’s imperial bodyguard, the select band of soldiers who wielded the power to make—or destroy—the emperors they served.

Founded by Augustus around 27 B.C., the elite Praetorian Guard was tasked with the protection of the emperor and his family. As the centuries unfolded, however, Praetorian soldiers served not only as protectors and enforcers but also as powerful political players. Fiercely loyal to some emperors, they vied with others and ruthlessly toppled those who displeased them, including Caligula, Nero, Pertinax, and many more. Guy de la Bédoyère provides a compelling first full narrative history of the Praetorians, whose dangerous ambitions ceased only when Constantine permanently disbanded them.
**A Separate Peace**
John Knowles
ISBN: 978-0743253970

An American classic and great bestseller for over thirty years, A Separate Peace is timeless in its description of adolescence during a period when the entire country was losing its innocence to World War II.

Set at a boys’ boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II, A Separate Peace is a harrowing and luminous parable of the dark side of adolescence. Gene is a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happens between the two friends one summer, like the war itself, banishes the innocence of these boys and their world.

The “plus” component: Students will watch one of the four following films that relate to the prep school experience: Scent of a Woman, Dead Poets Society, The Emperor’s Club or School Ties.

**Caesar’s Legion**
Stephen Dando Collins
ISBN: 978-0471686132

“A unique and splendidly researched story, following the trials and triumphs of Julius Caesar’s Legio X—arguably the most famous legion of its day—from its activation to the slogging battle of Munda and from Thapsus, Caesar’s tactical masterpiece, to the grim siege of the Jewish fortress of Masada. More than a mere unit account, it incorporates the history of Rome and the Roman army at the height of their power and glory. Many military historians consider Caesar’s legions the world’s most efficient infantry before the arrival of gunpowder. This book shows why. Written in readable, popular style, Caesar’s Legion is a must for military buffs and anyone interested in Roman history at a critical point in European civilization.”

**The Seven Story Mountain**
Thomas Merton
ISBN: 978-0156010863

The Seven Story Mountain follows the life of Thomas Merton from his hectic life as a child, from indulging in worldly pleasures while studying at Cambridge, and leading to being ordained as a monk in one of the strictest monasteries of his time. Thomas Merton explicitly explains every detail of his life allowing the reader to become totally immersed in his world.

The “plus” component: Students will keep a journal over the summer which focuses on their spiritual thinking, especially as they read the book. The group will take a trip to the Abbey of Gethsemani during the first weeks back in August.

**On the Road**
Jack Kerouac
ISBN: 978-0143129509

Jack Kerouac’s masterpiece of the Beat era was first published in 1957 and continues to provide a vital portrait of a generation adrift, as well as inspiration for travelers, dreamers, and artists in every generation that has followed.

Kerouac’s descriptions of frantic jazz bands and everything he encounters on the road (rivers, mountains, clouds, gas stations, people) are complex but straightforward and unpretentious. His ability to describe cities like New York, L.A. and San Francisco in one clear sentence is uncanny and effortless.

**Into the Wild**
Jon Krakauer
ISBN: 978-0385486804

In April 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. His name was Christopher Johnson McCandless. He had given $25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter. How McCandless came to die is the unforgettable story of Into the Wild.
The Outsiders
S.E. Hinton
ISBN: 978-0142407332

No one ever said life was easy. But Ponyboy is pretty sure that he’s got things figured out. He knows that he can count on his brothers, Darry and Sodapop. And he knows that he can count on his friends—true friends who would do anything for him, like Johnny and Two-Bit. But not on much else besides trouble with the Socs, a vicious gang of rich kids whose idea of a good time is beating up on “greasers” like Ponyboy. At least he knows what to expect—until the night someone takes things too far.

The Outsiders is a dramatic and enduring work of fiction that laid the groundwork for the YA genre. S. E. Hinton’s classic story of a boy who finds himself on the outskirts of regular society remains as powerful today as it was the day it was first published.

The “plus” component: Students will watch the 1983 Francis Ford Coppola movie of the same name which is available on Amazon.com.

City of Thieves
David Benioff
ISBN: 978-0452295292

During the Nazis’ brutal siege of Leningrad, Lev Beniov is arrested for looting and thrown into the same cell as a handsome deserter named Kolya. Instead of being executed, Lev and Kolya are given a shot at saving their own lives by complying with an outrageous directive: secure a dozen eggs for a powerful Soviet colonel to use in his daughter’s wedding cake. In a city cut off from all supplies and suffering unbelievable deprivation, Lev and Kolya embark on a hunt through the dire lawlessness of Leningrad and behind enemy lines to find the impossible. By turns insightful and funny, thrilling and terrifying, the New York Times bestseller City of Thieves is a gripping, cinematic World War II adventure and an intimate coming-of-age story with an utterly contemporary feel for how boys become men. David Benioff is the co-producer of Game of Thrones.

The “plus” component: Students will watch the 2001 film “Enemy at the Gates” which is available on Amazon.com.

Game of Thrones
George R.R. Martin
ISBN: 978-0553593716

Sweeping from a harsh land of cold to a summertime kingdom of epicurean plenty, A Game of Thrones tells a tale of lords and ladies, soldiers and sorcerers, assassins and bastards, who come together in a time of grim omens. Here an enigmatic band of warriors bear swords of no human metal; a tribe of fierce wildlings carry men off into madness; a cruel young dragon prince barters his sister to win back his throne; a child is lost in the twilight between life and death; and a determined woman undertakes a treacherous journey to protect all she holds dear. Amid plots and counter-plots, tragedy and betrayal, victory and terror, allies and enemies, the fate of the Starks hangs perilously in the balance, as each side endeavors to win that deadliest of conflicts: the game of thrones.

The Devotion of Suspect X
Keigo Higashino
ISBN: 978-1250002693

“...The best mystery novel I read [last year] was a standalone translation of a Japanese novel, The Devotion of Suspect X... a puzzle mystery that manages never to become a “cozy...” Ishigami, a mathematical genius who, through the vicissitudes of academic life has become a mere high school teacher, has fallen in love with the divorced mother-of-one who lives next door, and when she commits a killing in self-defense, he takes over the crime scene and arranges a brilliant deception that completely fools the police... [The Devotion of Suspect X] is smart at every level. Each revelation is smarter than the illusion it tears aside. And the conclusion, which depends on an understanding of human character rather than logic or science, is both satisfying and frustrating. Satisfying, because it is utterly just and true to character; frustrating, because quite against our own moral sense we find ourselves rooting for the bad guy – because we understand him so well he doesn’t seem all that bad.”
**Group 25: Mr Chapin**

*Al Capone’s Beer Wars*

John Binder  
ISBN: 978-1633882850

Although much has been written about Al Capone, there has not been--until now--a complete history of organized crime in Chicago during Prohibition. This exhaustively researched book covers the entire period from 1920 to 1933. Author John J. Binder, a recognized authority on the history of organized crime in Chicago, discusses all the important bootlegging gangs in the city and the suburbs and also examines the other major rackets, such as prostitution, gambling, labor and business racketeering, and narcotics.

A major focus is how the Capone gang -- one of twelve major bootlegging mobs in Chicago at the start of Prohibition -- gained a virtual monopoly over organized crime in northern Illinois and beyond. Binder also describes the fight by federal and local authorities, as well as citizens’ groups, against organized crime. In the process, he refutes numerous myths and misconceptions related to the Capone gang, other criminal groups, the St. Valentine’s Day Massacre, and gangland killings.

The “plus” component: Students will also watch the documentary on Al Capone called [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UxINeK4XS4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UxINeK4XS4) from the Biography TV show.

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**Group 26: Mrs Olenchek, Dr Nazor, and Mrs Lifsey**

*Cooking for Geeks*

Jeff Potter  
ISBN: 978-0596805883

More than just a cookbook, Cooking for Geeks applies your curiosity to discovery, inspiration, and invention in the kitchen. Why is medium-rare steak so popular? Why do we bake some things at 350 F/175 C and others at 375 F/190 C? And how quickly does a pizza cook if we overclock an oven to 1,000 F/540 C? Author and cooking geek Jeff Potter provides the answers and offers a unique take on recipes -- from the sweet (a “mean” chocolate chip cookie) to the savory (duck confit sugo). This book is an excellent and intriguing resource for anyone who wants to experiment with cooking, even if you don’t consider yourself a geek.

The “plus” component: Students will prepare two items from the cookbook and photo-document the process to share in August.

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**Group 27: Jake Levine, Max McCloy, and Mr Coffman**

*Tiger Woods*

Armen Keteyian and Jeff Benedict  
ISBN: 978-1471175374

The portrait of Woods that emerges in Tiger Woods is far more rewarding than revelations alone. By tracing his life from its origins as the mixed-race son of an attention-seeking father and the original Tiger Mom—who programmed him to be “the chosen one,” tasked with changing not just the game of golf but the world as well—the authors provide a wealth of new insight into the human being trapped inside his parents’ creation. We meet the lonely, introverted child prodigy who has trouble connecting with other kids because of his stutter and unusual lifestyle. We experience the thrill and confusion of his meteoric rise to stardom. And we come to understand the grown man’s obsession with extreme training and deep sea diving—despite their potential for injury—as a rare source of the solitude he craves. Most of all, we are reminded, time and time again, of Woods’s singular greatness and the exhilaration we felt watching an athletic genius dominate his sport for nearly twenty years.

The “plus” component: Students will watch a made for TV documentary on Tiger Woods as a comparison on in-depth reporting and sensationalist TV: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ugsQJkt5NE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ugsQJkt5NE)

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**Group 28: Ms Granbery, Ms Tocknell**

*Turtles All the Way Down*

John Green  
ISBN: 978-0525555360

Sixteen-year-old Aza never intended to pursue the mystery of fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett, but there’s a hundred-thousand-dollar reward at stake and her Best and Most Fearless Friend, Daisy, is eager to investigate. So together, they navigate the short distance and broad divides that separate them from Russell Pickett’s son, Davis. Aza is trying. She is trying to be a good daughter, a good friend, a good student, and maybe even a good detective, while also living within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts. In his long-awaited return, John Green, the acclaimed, award-winning author of *Looking for Alaska* and *The Fault in Our Stars*, shares Aza’s story with shattering, unflinching clarity in this brilliant novel of love, resilience, and the power of lifelong friendship.

**10% Happier**
Dan Harris  
ISBN: 978-0525555360

We all have a voice in our head. It’s what has us losing our temper unnecessarily, checking our email compulsively, eating when we’re not hungry, and fixating on the past and the future at the expense of the present. Most of us would assume we’re stuck with this voice – that there’s nothing we can do to rein it in – but Harris stumbled upon an effective way to do just that. It’s a far cry from the miracle cures peddled by the self-help swamis he met; instead, it’s something he always assumed to be either impossible or useless: meditation. After learning about research that suggests meditation can do everything from lower your blood pressure to essentially rewire your brain, Harris took a deep dive into the under-reported world of CEOs, scientists, and even marines who are now using it for increased calm, focus, and happiness.

The “plus” component: Students will listen to Dan Harris’ podcast #75, the interview with Jon Kabat Zinn along with three other podcast episodes of their choice. Podcasts can be found at https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/abc-news/10-happier. Students will also practice meditation for 5 minutes every day for 2 weeks using the instructions at the end of the book.

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**Double Indemnity**
James Cain  
ISBN: 978-0679723226

James M. Cain, virtuoso of the roman noir, gives us a tautly narrated and excruciatingly suspenseful story in Double Indemnity, an X-ray view of guilt, of duplicity, and of the kind of obsessive, loveless love that devastates everything it touches. Walter Huff was an insurance salesman with an unfailing instinct for clients who might be in trouble, and his instinct led him to Phyllis Nirdlinger. Phyllis wanted to buy an accident policy on her husband. Then she wanted her husband to have an accident. Walter wanted Phyllis. To get her, he would arrange the perfect murder and betray everything he had ever lived for.

The “plus” component: Students will watch the 1944 movie of the same name.

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**The Godfather**
Mario Puzo  
ISBN: 978-0451205766

With its brilliant and brutal portrayal of the Corleone family, The Godfather burned its way into our national consciousness. This unforgettable saga of crime and corruption, passion and loyalty continues to stand the test of time, as the definitive novel of the Mafia underworld.

A #1 New York Times bestseller in 1969, Mario Puzo’s epic was turned into the incomparable film of the same name, directed by Francis Ford Coppola, which won the Academy Award for Best Picture. It is the original classic that has been often imitated, but never matched. A tale of family and society, law and order, obedience and rebellion, it reveals the dark passions of human nature played out against a backdrop of the American dream.

The “plus” component: Students will watch the 1972 movie by the same name.

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**Red Rising**
Pierce Brown  
ISBN: 978-0345539809

Darrow is a Red, a member of the lowest caste in the color-coded society of the future. Like his fellow Reds, he works all day, believing that he and his people are making the surface of Mars livable for future generations. Yet he spends his life willingly, knowing that his blood and sweat will one day result in a better world for his children. But Darrow and his kind have been betrayed. Soon he discovers that humanity reached the surface generations ago. Vast cities and lush wilds spread across the planet. Darrow—and Reds like him—are nothing more than slaves to a decadent ruling class. Inspired by a longing for justice, and driven by the memory of lost love, Darrow sacrifices everything to infiltrate the legendary Institute, a proving ground for the dominant Gold caste, where the next generation of humanity’s overlords struggle for power. He will be forced to compete for his life and the very future of civilization against the best and most brutal of Society’s ruling class. There, he will stop at nothing to bring down his enemies . . . even if it means he has to become one of them to do so.

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**Group 29:** Mr Cook, Mr Rodriguez, Mr Odle

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**Group 30:** Mr Porfiri, Mr Reno

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**Group 31:** Koray Alp, Dr Procise

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**Group 32:** Colin Chen and Gavin He
Norwegian Wood
Haruki Murakami
ISBN: 978-0375704024
Toru, a quiet and preternaturally serious young college student in Tokyo, is devoted to Naoko, a beautiful and introspective young woman, but their mutual passion is marked by the tragic death of their best friend years before. Toru begins to adapt to campus life and the loneliness and isolation he faces there, but Naoko finds the pressures and responsibilities of life unbearable. As she retreats further into her own world, Toru finds himself reaching out to others and drawn to a fiercely independent young woman.

Prince of Tides
Pat Conroy
ISBN: 978-0553381542
Pat Conroy’s classic novel stings with honesty and resounds with drama. Spanning forty years, it’s the story of turbulent Tom Wingo, his gifted and troubled twin sister, Savannah, and their struggle to triumph over the dark and tragic legacy of the extraordinary family into which they were born. Filled with the vanishing beauty of the South Carolina Low Country as well as the dusty glitter of New York City, The Prince of Tides showcases an American original at his very best.

They Call Me Coach
John Wooden
ISBN: 978-0071424912
For 27 years, John Wooden led the UCLA basketball team to unsurpassed victories and records. His dedication and inspiration made him America’s “winningest” coach. In this classic bestselling autobiography—updated with a new foreword by Hall-of-Famer Bill Walton—the college basketball legend reflects on his record-breaking career, his life behind the scenes, and how his top players went on to shape and change the NBA. From the everyday basics to important life lessons (“It’s not how tall you are, but how tall you play”), Wooden shares his worldly wisdom on and off the court to offer a personal history of an unforgettable time in college basketball, answering the most-asked questions about his life, his career, and the players who made his teams unbeatable.

Hillbilly Elegy
JD Vance
ISBN: 978-0062300553
Hillbilly Elegy is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The disintegration of this group, a process that has been slowly occurring now for more than forty years, has been reported with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck.
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<th>Group 35: Mr Dan Wadley, Mrs Makepeace</th>
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| **Educated: A Memoir**  
Tara Westover  
ISBN: 978-0525589983 |
| Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her “head-for-the-hills” bag. In the summer she stewed herbs for her mother, a midwife and healer, and in the winter she salvaged metal in her father’s junkyard... Educated is an account of the struggle for self-invention. It is a tale of fierce family loyalty, and of the grief that comes from severing one’s closest ties. With the acute insight that distinguishes all great writers, Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one’s life through new eyes, and the will to change it. |

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<th>Group 36: Mr McCourt</th>
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| **Killing Pablo**  
Mark Bowden  
ISBN: 978-0802123787 |
| A tour de force of investigative journalism—Killing Pablo is the story of the violent rise and fall of Pablo Escobar, the head of the Colombian Medellin cocaine cartel. Escobar’s criminal empire held a nation of thirty million hostage in a reign of terror that would only end with his death. In an intense, up-close account, award-winning journalist Mark Bowden exposes details never before revealed about the U.S.-led covert sixteen-month manhunt. With unprecedented access to important players—including Colombian president Cisar Gaviria and the incorruptible head of the special police unit that pursued Escobar, Colonel Hugo Martinez—as well as top-secret documents and transcripts of Escobar’s intercepted phone conversations, Bowden has produced a gripping narrative that is a stark portrayal of rough justice in the real world. |

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<th>Group 37: Mr Linsley</th>
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| **Rage in the Gate City: The 1906 Atlanta Race Riot**  
Rebecca Burns  
ISBN: 978-0820333076 |
| During the hot summer of 1906, anger simmered in Atlanta, a city that outwardly savored its reputation as the Gate City of the New South, a place where the races lived peacefully, if apart, and everyone focused more on prosperity than prejudice. But racial hatred came to the forefront during a heated political campaign, and the city’s newspapers fanned its flames with sensational reports alleging assaults on white women by black men. The rage erupted in late September, and, during one of the most brutal race riots in the history of America, roving groups of whites attacked and killed at least twenty-five blacks. After four days of violence, black and white civic leaders came together in unprecedented meetings that can be viewed either as concerted public relations efforts to downplay the events or as setting the stage for Atlanta’s civil rights leadership half a century later. |
**Newark: A History of Race, Rights, and Riots in America**  
Kevin Mumford  
ISBN: 978-0814795637

Newark’s volatile past is infamous. The city has become synonymous with the Black Power movement and urban crisis. Its history reveals a vibrant and contentious political culture punctuated by traditional civic pride and an understudied tradition of protest in the black community. Newark charts this important city’s place in the nation, from its founding in 1666 by a dissident Puritan as a refuge from intolerance, through the days of Jim Crow and World War II civil rights activism, to the height of postwar integration and the election of its first black mayor.

In this broad and balanced history of Newark, Kevin Mumford applies the concept of the public sphere to the problem of race relations, demonstrating how political ideas and print culture were instrumental in shaping African American consciousness. He draws on both public and personal archives, interpreting official documents—such as newspapers, commission testimony, and government records—alongside interviews, political flyers, meeting minutes, and rare photos.

**Group 37: Mr Linsley**

**The Future of Humanity: Terraforming Mars...**  
Michio Kaku  
ISBN: 978-0525589532

World-renowned physicist and futurist Michio Kaku explores in rich, intimate detail the process by which humanity may gradually move away from the planet and develop a sustainable civilization in outer space. He reveals how cutting-edge developments in robotics, nanotechnology, and biotechnology may allow us to terraform and build habitable cities on Mars. He then takes us beyond the solar system to nearby stars, which may soon be reached by nanoships traveling on laser beams at near the speed of light. Finally, he brings us beyond our galaxy, and even beyond our universe, to the possibility of immortality, showing us how humans may someday be able to leave our bodies entirely and laser port to new havens in space. With irrepressible enthusiasm and wonder, Dr. Kaku takes readers on a fascinating journey to a future in which humanity may finally fulfill its long-awaited destiny among the stars.

**Group 38: Mr Tucker and Zach Ward**

**With the Old Breed**  
EB Sledge  
ISBN: 978-0891419068

In The Wall Street Journal, Victor Davis Hanson named With the Old Breed one of the top five books on epic twentieth-century battles. Studs Terkel interviewed the author for his definitive oral history, The Good War. Now E. B. Sledge’s acclaimed first-person account of fighting at Peleliu and Okinawa returns to thrill, edify, and inspire a new generation. Based on notes Sledge secretly kept in a copy of the New Testament, With the Old Breed captures with utter simplicity and searing honesty the experience of a soldier in the fierce Pacific Theater. Here is what saved, threatened, and changed his life. Here, too, is the story of how he learned to hate and kill—and came to love—his fellow man.

The “plus” component: Students will either watch a film related to WW2 or will view or conduct an interview with a veteran of the war. Mr Tucker will share exact details at the beginning of the summer.

**Group 39: Mr Bagby**

**Physics of the Future**  
Michio Kaku  
ISBN: 978-0307473332

Renowned theoretical physicist Michio Kaku details the developments in computer technology, artificial intelligence, medicine, space travel, and more, that are poised to happen over the next hundred years. He also considers how these inventions will affect the world economy, addressing the key questions: Who will have jobs? Which nations will prosper? Kaku interviews three hundred of the world’s top scientists working in their labs on astonishing prototypes. He also takes into account the rigorous scientific principles that regulate how quickly, how safely, and how far technologies can advance. In Physics of the Future, Kaku forecasts a century of earthshaking advances in technology that could make even the last centuries’ leaps and bounds seem insignificant.
The Unlikely Disciple
Kevin Roose
ISBN: 978-0446178433

Kevin Roose wasn’t used to rules like these. As a sophomore at Brown University, he spent his days drinking fair-trade coffee, singing in an a cappella group, and fitting right in with Brown’s free-spirited, ultra-liberal student body. But when Roose leaves his Ivy League confines to spend a semester at Liberty University, a conservative Baptist school in Lynchburg, Virginia, obedience is no longer optional. Hilarious and heartwarming, respectful and thought-provoking, THE UNLIKELY DISCIPLE will inspire and entertain believers and nonbelievers alike.

The “plus” component: Mrs Watkins will email the students in the group at the beginning of the summer.

The Manual to Manhood
Jonathan Catherman
ISBN: 978-0800722296

There’s a lot a young man in the making needs to succeed as he grows up and prepares to make his way in the world. Many important skills and character traits he should acquire he might not be quick to ask how to do because, well then, people would know he doesn’t know what he is doing, just yet. For all the guys out there who want to have it all together, Jonathan Catherman offers this collection of one hundred step-by-step instructions on almost everything a guy needs to know, including how to; wear cologne correctly · grill a steak · tie a tie · manage money · talk to a girl · plan a date · write a résumé · ask for a reference · clean a bathroom · throw darts · change a tire · behave during a traffic stop · fold a shirt · clear a sink drain · find a stud in a wall. In fact, if it’s in here, it’s an important skill or character trait practiced by capable and confident men.

The “plus” component will involve documenting attempts at several of these listed items. Mr Bires will contact the group with specifics at the start of the summer.

Ordinary Grace: A Novel
William Kent Krueger

All the dying that summer began with the death of a child, a boy with golden hair and thick glasses, killed on the railroad tracks outside New Bremen, Minnesota, sliced into pieces by a thousand tons of steel speeding across the prairie toward South Dakota. His name was Bobby Cole. He was a sweet-looking kid and by that I mean he had eyes that seemed full of dreaming and he wore a half smile as if he was just about to understand something you’d spent an hour trying to explain. I should have known him better, been a better friend. He lived not far from my house and we were the same age. But he was two years behind me in school and might have been held back even more except for the kindness of certain teachers. He was a small kid, a simple child, no match at all for the diesel-fed drive of a Union Pacific locomotive.

Once in a blue moon a book drops down on your desk that demands to be read. It isn’t by any author you have ever heard of in the past, and there have been no rave reviews that prompt you to give it a try. There is just something about the cover and the short overview of the book that piques your interest. You pick it up and read the first page, and then the second, and you are hooked. Such a book is Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger.

The “plus” component is that members of the reading group will listen to a “homemade” audio version of the novel as well as create their own audio versions of their favorite chapters, poems, or even children books to share with the group. As we enjoy this wonderful novel, we’ll explore the ins and outs of audio books.

Truth Imagined
Eric Hoffer
ISBN: 978-1933435015

Blind as a child, Eric Hoffer—one of America’s most important thinkers—regained his sight at the age of fifteen and became a voracious reader. At eighteen, fate would take his remaining family, sending him on the road with three hundred dollars and into the life of a Depression Era migrant worker, but his appetite for knowledge—history, science, mankind—remained and became the basis for his insights on human nature. Filled with timeless aphorisms and entertaining stories, Truth Imagined tracks Hoffer’s years on the road, which served as the breeding ground for his most fertile thoughts.
The True Believer: The Nature of Mass Movements
Eric Hoffer
ISBN: 978-0060505912

The famous bestseller with “concise insight into what drives the mind of the fanatic and the dynamics of a mass movement” (Wall St. Journal) by Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient Eric Hoffer, The True Believer is a landmark in the field of social psychology, and even more relevant today than ever before in history. Called a “brilliant and original inquiry” and “a genuine contribution to our social thought” by Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., The True Believer is mandatory reading for anyone interested in the machinations by which an individual becomes a fanatic.