

**\*Each student must read THREE books from the list below:**

***Before and After* by Rosellen Brown.** *Mystery.* 1992. When the chief of police comes looking for Jacob one evening to question him about the bludgeoning to death of his teenage girlfriend, the lives of the Reiser family are changed forever.

***In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote.** *Nonfiction; journalism.* 1966. An account of the murders of the four members of the Clutter family in Holcomb, Kansas, in 1959 by two drifters who fled to Mexico and were later arrested and executed for their crimes.

***The Moonflower Vine* by Jetta Carleton.** *Realistic fiction.* 2009. Missouri author. On a farm in western Missouri during the first half of the twentieth century, Matthew and Callie Soames create a life for themselves and raise four headstrong daughters.

***Donald Duk* by Frank Chin.** *Realistic fiction.* 1991. Donald, the 12-year-old son of a Chinatown chef in San Francisco, hates his name (he isn't a cartoon character); he loves tap dancing; and he struggles to feel comfortable with being Chinese.

***The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant.** *Historical fiction.* 2015. A story of the twentieth century through the life of one woman, Addie Baum, born in 1900 to immigrant parents who are suspicious of America and its effect on their three daughters.

***All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr.** *Historical fiction.* 2014. A blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France try to survive the devastation of World War II.

***Wit: A Play* by Margaret Edson.** *Drama;* 1999. Vivian Bearing, a renowned English professor who has spent years studying and teaching poetry, takes an intellectual approach to her terminal cancer diagnosis for as long as she can.

***The Round House* by Louise Erdrich.** *Adventure fiction.* 2012. When his mother slips into an abyss of depression after being brutally attacked, Joe Coutts, an Ojibwe teenager, sets out with his three friends to find the person that injured his family.

***The Unvanquished* by William Faulkner.** *Realistic fiction.* 1938. Set in Mississippi during the Civil War and Reconstruction, this novel focuses on the Sartoris family and their code of personal responsibility and courage.

***Herland* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman.** *Classic; adventure.* 1915. Three male explorers discover an advanced, all-female society in South America and have trouble understanding how it can work so well without men.

***Grendel* by John Gardner.** *Classic.* 1971. Grendel, the monster, tells his side of the Beowulf story, and compares his values with the chief values of human beings.

***In the Heart of the Heart of the Country and Other Stories* by William Gass.** *Realistic fiction.* 1965. Two novellas and three short stories, set in the Midwest, exhibiting Gass's characteristic and wildly original verbal brilliance and philosophical acuity.

***Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson.** *Realistic fiction; courtroom.* 1995. In 1954, in an island community north of Puget Sound, a local fisherman is found suspiciously drowned and a Japanese American citizen is charged with his murder.

***The Last Child* by John Hart.** *Mystery.* 2009. After his twin sister disappears, thirteen-year-old Johnny Merrimon is determined to find her. When a second girl disappears from his rural North Carolina town, Johnny makes a shocking discovery.

***Catch-22* by Joseph Heller.** *Classic; satire.* 1955. Set in the closing months of World War II, Catch-22 is the story of a bombardier named Yossarian who is frantic and furious because thousands of people he hasn't even met keep trying to kill him.

***For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway.** *Classic; war.* 1940. The Spanish Civil War is in full swing when one man's sense of duty confronts another's self-interest and weariness.

***And We Stay* by Jenny Hubbard.** *Realistic fiction.* 2014. Sent to an Amherst, Massachusetts, boarding school after her ex-boyfriend's death, seventeen-year-old Emily expresses herself through poetry, copes with her guilt, and begins to heal.

***Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools* by Jonathan Kozol.** *Nonfiction; journalism.* 1991. An account of the author's visits to schools in over 30 neighborhoods, including East St. Louis, Harlem, and Chicago, and the inequities he found.

***We Are Okay* by Nina La Cour.** *Realistic fiction.* 2017. Printz Award winner. The summer before college was filled with change for Marin--a changing relationship with her best friend, Mabel, and then a sudden bereavement. When Mabel flies coast-to-coast to visit Marin, the two must face the past together and try to move past it.

***All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy.** *Western.* 1992. Presents a cowboy odyssey for modern times, and features the travels and toils of a 16 year old East Texan boy. The first volume of the author's Border trilogy.

***Charming Billy* by Alice McDermott.** *Realistic fiction.* 1998. A young woman, cousin to the late Billy Lynch who has just died of alcoholism, traces the story of his lost love, discovering her own father's role in trying to keep the truth from Billy.

***Lonesome Dove* by Larry McMurtry.** *Western.* 1985. Chronicles a cattle drive from Texas to Montana, and follows the lives of Gus and Call, the cowboys heading the drive, Gus's woman, Lorena, and Blue Duck, a sinister Native American renegade.

***Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison.** *Classic.* 1977. Toni Morrison transfigures the coming-of-age story as she follows Milkman Dead from his rustbelt city to the place of his family's origins.

***Playing With Fire: The 1968 Election and the Transformation of American Politics* by Lawrence O'Donnell.** *Nonfiction; politics.* 2017. Assassinations, riots, old political machines, war resistance, and shifting loyalties...The 1968 election contained the essence of what makes America different, and how we got to where we are now.

***Coal Black Horse* by Robert Olmstead.** *Adventure.* 2007. In the midst of the Civil War, Robey Child's mother sends him to the battlefield to find his father, and the fourteen-year-old is forced to become a man amidst the horrors of war.

***The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* by Michael Pollan.** *Nonfiction; journalism.* 2006. An ecological and anthropological study of eating offers insight into food production and consumption in the twenty-first century.

***True Grit* by Charles Portis.** *Historical fiction; western; humor.* 1968. In the 1870s, when young Mattie Ross learns that her beloved father was gunned down, she convinces mean, one-eyed US Marshal "Rooster" Cogburn to help her seek vengeance.

***Eve's Apple* by Jonathan Rosen.** *Realistic fiction.* 1997. Joseph, a young man adrift in New York City, is anchored only by his love for the beautiful, enigmatic Ruth Simon and he becomes obsessed with her bulimia. A meditation on hunger and longing.

***Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser.** *Nonfiction; journalism.* 2001. The book inspires readers to look beneath the surface of our food system, consider its impact on society and, most of all, think for themselves.

***The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair.** *Nonfiction; journalism.* 1906. Sinclair worked undercover in the meatpacking Chicago stockyards to describe in true detail the horrific conditions among workers and the food they produced.

***A Thousand Acres* by Jane Smiley.** *Realistic fiction.* 1991. Written by a JBS alum. An ambitious reimagining of Shakespeare's King Lear cast upon a typical American community in the late twentieth century.

***Men Explain Things to Me* by Rebecca Solnit.** *Nonfiction; social commentary.* 2014. Solnit humorously explores communication between men who wrongly assume they know things and/or wrongly assume women don't.

***Maus I and Maus II* by Art Spiegelman.** *Graphic novels. 1997.* A memoir about a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and about his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father, his story, and with history itself.

***Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut.** *Science fiction. 1966.* The story of Billy Pilgrim who has come unstuck in time and jumps back and forth from life on a distant planet to the horrors of the 1945 fire-bombing of Dresden.

***The Color Purple* by Alice Walker.** *Realistic fiction. 1983.* Celie is a poor black woman in the South whose letters tell the story of 20 years of her life, from her endurance of abuse beginning at age 14 to her growth toward independence, creativity, and love.

***Men We Reaped: A Memoir* by Jesmyn Ward.** *Nonfiction; memoir. 2014.* In five years, Jesmyn Ward lost five young men in her life—to drugs, accidents, suicide, and the bad luck that can follow people who live in poverty, particularly black men. Dealing with these losses, one after another, made Jesmyn ask the question: Why?

***All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren.** *Realistic fiction. 1946.* All the King's Men traces the rise and fall of demagogue Willie Stark, a fictional character loosely based on Governor Huey "Kingfish" Long of Louisiana.

***The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson.** *Nonfiction; history. 2010.* Chronicles the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled racial terror in the South and moved to northern and western cities, in search of a better life. From 1915 to 1970, this exodus of almost six million people changed the face of America.

***Black Boy* by Richard Wright.** *Nonfiction; memoir. 1945.* Wright's unforgettable autobiography of growing up in the Jim Crow South offers an unsurpassed portrait of the struggles against the ingrained racism and poverty faced by African Americans.