

# 2020 BOYS' LATIN HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH SUMMER READING OPTIONS

## Instructions:

All students must read one of the books from the list. Students in honors sections must read 2 books. Students in AP Language have a different reading list entirely.

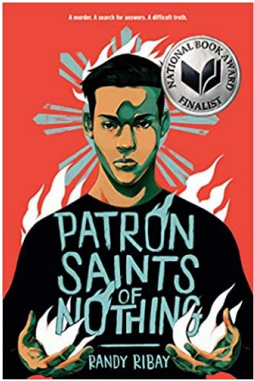
Your written work will be assigned and submitted through Google Classroom. Please be sure to remember your BL email login and plan to have internet access (home, public library, school computer lab) at some point in the summer. Contact [englishdept@boyslatin.org](mailto:englishdept@boyslatin.org) with any questions.

## You may...

- Purchase your book online - Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com or borrow it as an e-book through the Libby App

## You may not...

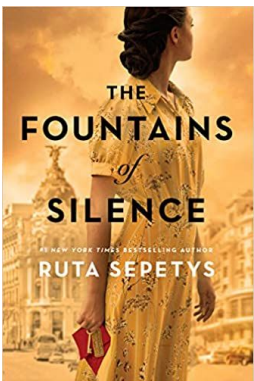
- Read a book you have read before
- Plagiarize any portion of your written work
- Claim you "didn't know" about summer reading



### [Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay](#) | realistic fiction, \$11

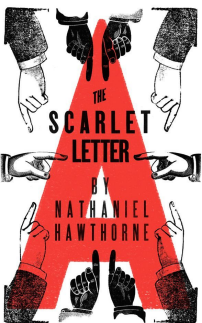
Jay Reguero plans to spend the last semester of his senior year playing video games before heading to the University of Michigan in the fall. But when he discovers that his Filipino cousin Jun was murdered as part of President Duterte's war on drugs, and no one in the family wants to talk about what happened, Jay travels to the Philippines to find out the real story.

Hoping to uncover more about Jun and the events that led to his death, Jay is forced to reckon with the many sides of his cousin before he can face the whole horrible truth -- and the part he played in it.



### [The Fountains of Silence by Ruta Sepety](#) | historical fiction, \$13

Madrid, 1957. Under the fascist dictatorship of General Francisco Franco, Spain is hiding a dark secret. Meanwhile, tourists and foreign businessmen flood into Spain under the welcoming promise of sunshine and wine. Among them is eighteen-year-old Daniel Matheson, the son of an oil tycoon, who arrives in Madrid with his parents hoping to connect with the country of his mother's birth through the lens of his camera. Photography--and fate--introduce him to Ana, whose family's interweaving obstacles reveal the lingering grasp of the Spanish Civil War--as well as chilling definitions of fortune and fear. Daniel's photographs leave him with uncomfortable questions amidst shadows of danger. He is backed into a corner of difficult decisions to protect those he loves. Lives and hearts collide, revealing an incredibly dark side to the sunny Spanish city.



### [The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne](#) | classic literature, \$4 [also available FREE online - click here](#)

Set in an early New England colony, the novel shows the terrible impact a single, passionate act has on the lives of three members of the community: the defiant Hester Prynne; the fiery, tortured Reverend Dimmesdale; and the obsessed, vengeful Chillingworth. These are the central characters in this stark drama of the conflict between passion and convention in the harsh world of seventeenth-century Boston.

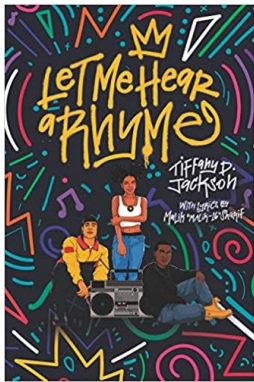
With THE SCARLET LETTER, Hawthorne became the first American novelist to consider the influence of Puritan beliefs on a young nation, and explored humanity's unending struggle with sin, guilt and pride.



[\*\*A Blade So Black\*\* by L. L. McKinney](#) | **fantasy, \$12**

The first time the Nightmares came, it nearly cost Alice her life. Now she's trained to battle monstrous creatures in the dark dream realm known as Wonderland with magic weapons and hardcore fighting skills. Yet even warriors have a curfew.

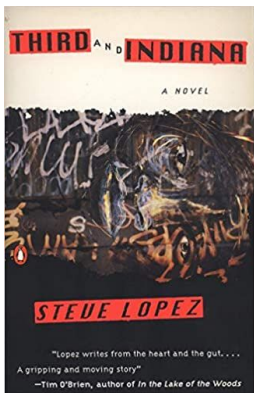
Life in real-world Atlanta isn't always so simple, as Alice juggles an overprotective mom, a high-maintenance best friend, and a slipping GPA. Keeping the Nightmares at bay is turning into a full-time job. But when Alice's handsome and mysterious mentor is poisoned, she has to find the antidote by venturing deeper into Wonderland than she's ever gone before. And she'll need to use everything she's learned in both worlds to keep from losing her head... literally.



[\*\*Let Me Hear a Rhyme\*\* by Tiffany D. Jackson](#) | **realistic fiction, \$11**

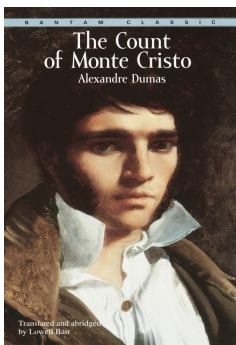
Brooklyn, 1998. Biggie Smalls was right: Things done changed. But that doesn't mean that Quadir and Jarrell are cool letting their best friend Steph's music lie forgotten under his bed after he's murdered—not when his rhymes could turn any Bed Stuy corner into a party.

With the help of Steph's younger sister Jasmine, they come up with a plan to promote Steph's music under a new rap name: the Architect. Soon, everyone wants a piece of him. As the pressure of keeping their secret grows, Quadir, Jarrell, and Jasmine are forced to confront the truth about what happened to Steph. Only, each has something to hide. And with everything riding on Steph's fame, they need to decide what they stand for or lose all that they've worked so hard to hold on to—including each other.



[\*\*Third and Indiana\*\* by Steve Lopez](#) | **realistic fiction, free pickup from HS or \$12 on Amazon**

In the Philadelphia neighborhood known as the Badlands, drug gangs rule absolutely. Each time a life is lost in the carnage of the local drug wars, a boldly drawn chalk outline of a body appears on the street leading up to City hall: a teenaged dealer, a priest, a little girl with a jump rope. Ofelia Santoro rides her bicycle through the dark, decaying streets, looking for her fourteen-year-old-son, Gabriel. She's afraid of what she might find. Gabriel has fallen in with the most savage of the drug dealers, but now wants to get out—if he can. In this gritty, fast-moving novel, acclaimed *Philadelphia Inquirer* columnist Steve Lopez brings home the violence that is scarring America's vast urban wastelands, and the humanity that might save them.

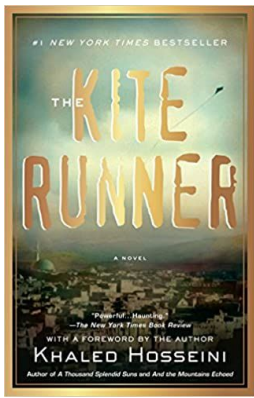


[\*\*The Count of Monte Cristo\\*\*\* by Alexandre Dumas \(abridged\)](#) | **classic adventure, \$4**  
**[also available FREE online - click here](#)**

The story takes place in France during the Napoleonic Wars around the year 1815. The story follows a particular character named Edmond Dantes. When Edmond becomes the captain of a ship, three acquaintances of his become very jealous of his successes.

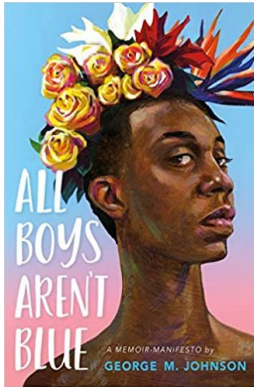
The three create an elaborate plan to get Dantes arrested and out of their lives. They write a letter to a government official claiming Dantes is a supporter of Napoleon. Dantes is arrested on his wedding day and is imprisoned for 7 years. Dantes builds a great hatred towards the four that falsely imprisoned him and swears to get revenge on them. This is his story.

\*Make sure to get the abridged edition. The original is 1200 pages!



[\*The Kite Runner\* by Khaled Hosseini](#) | historical fiction, **free pickup from HS** or **\$14 on Amazon**

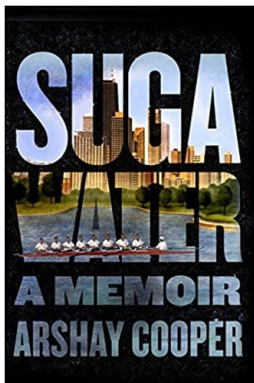
The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, caught in the tragic sweep of history, *The Kite Runner* transports readers to Afghanistan at a tense and crucial moment of change and destruction. A powerful story of friendship, it is also about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies.



[\*All Boys Aren't Blue\* by George M. Johnson](#) | memoir and essays, **\$16**

In a series of personal essays, prominent journalist and LGBTQIA+ activist George M. Johnson explores his childhood, adolescence, and college years in New Jersey and Virginia. From the memories of getting his teeth kicked out by bullies at age five, to flea marketing with his loving grandmother, to his first sexual relationships, this young-adult memoir weaves together the trials and triumphs faced by Black queer boys.

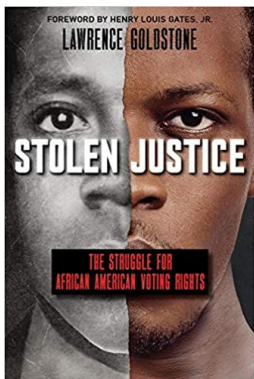
Both a primer for teens eager to be allies as well as a reassuring testimony for young queer men of color, *All Boys Aren't Blue* covers topics such as gender identity, toxic masculinity, brotherhood, family, structural marginalization, consent, and Black joy.



[\*Suga Water\* by Arshay Cooper](#) | memoir, **free pickup from HS**, **not available on Amazon**

Growing up on Chicago's Westside in the 90's, Arshay Cooper knows the harder side of life. The street corners are full of gangs, His mother is a recovering addict, and his three siblings all sleep in a one room apartment, a small infantry against the war zone on the street below.

Arshay keeps to himself. And then one day as he's walking out of school he notices a boat in the school lunchroom, and a poster that reads "Join the Crew Team". Having no idea what the sport of crew is, Arshay decides to take a chance. This decision to join is one that will forever change his life, and those of his fellow teammates. As Arshay and his teammates begin to come together to learn how to row--many never having been in water before--the sport takes them from the mean streets of Chicago, to the hallowed halls of the Ivy League.

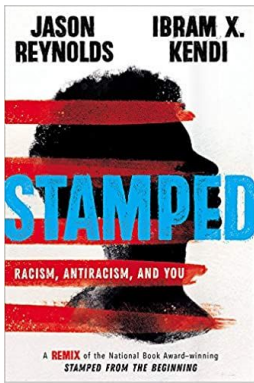


[\*Stolen Justice: The Struggle for African American Voting Rights\* by Lawrence Goldstone](#) | nonfiction history, **\$14**

Following the Civil War, the Reconstruction era raised a new question to those in power in the US: Should African Americans, so many of them former slaves, be granted the right to vote?

In a bitter partisan fight over the legislature and Constitution, the answer eventually became yes, though only after two constitutional amendments, two Reconstruction Acts, two Civil Rights Acts, three Enforcement Acts, the impeachment of a president, and an army of occupation. Yet, even that was not enough to ensure that African American voices would be heard, or their lives protected. White supremacists loudly and intentionally prevented black Americans from voting -- and they were willing to kill to do so.

Though this is a story of America's past, Goldstone brilliantly draws direct links to today's creeping threats to suffrage in this important and, alas, timely book.



[Stamped by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi](#) | nonfiction history and activism \$12

*This is NOT a history book.*

*This is a book about the here and now.*

*A book to help us better understand why we are where we are.*

*A book about race.*

The construct of race has always been used to gain and keep power, to create dynamics that separate and silence. This remarkable reimagining of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's National Book Award-winning *Stamped from the Beginning* reveals the history of racist ideas in America, and inspires hope for an antiracist future. It takes you on a race journey from then to now, shows you why we feel how we feel, and why the poison of racism lingers. It also proves that while racist ideas have always been easy to fabricate and distribute, they can also be discredited. This book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas - and on ways listeners can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives.