

Joliet Township High Schools “Highly Recommended Reads” for the summer of 2020

Dear Martin by Nic Stone

In a series of journal entries written to Martin Luther King Jr., an African American student attending a private school explores race in modern America after witnessing a violent altercation between his friend and a retired police officer. This New York Times bestseller is recommended for underclassmen, reluctant readers, and students who loved *The Hate You Give*. This book is a 2020 Lincoln Book Award Winner.

Stamped by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi

A gripping and fast-paced history of racist ideas in America written specifically for adolescent readers that shares a hopeful vision for an anti-racist future. Reynolds, who is the 2020-2021 National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature wrote this book as a “remix” of Kendi’s National Book Award winning *Stamped from the Beginning*. This book is recommended for: history buffs, sociologists and social justice advocates.

Scythe by Neal Shusterman

This fantasy-adventure novel takes place in a world without disease, hunger or war – and in which life can only be ended the mysterious Scythes. Two teens enlisted to become apprentice Scythes struggle with responsibilities neither of them wants. This Printz Honor-winning book is recommended for thrill seekers and hopeless romantics. This book 2019 Lincoln Book Award Winner is the first in a series.

There, There by Tommy Orange

In this powerful and complex series of narratives told from a variety of perspectives, Orange’s novel explores the complicated lives of Native Americans living in contemporary Oakland. Recommended for upperclassmen, advanced readers.

With the Fire on High by Elizabeth Acevedo

This novel explores the life of a high school student who got pregnant her freshman year and struggles to meet the demands of parenting and being a good daughter while also pursuing her dream of becoming a chef. This book is recommended for drama junkies, foodies, and students who enjoyed *The Poet X*.