

High School Summer Reading Book Clubs - 2021

Dear Students,

Here is the summer reading book club list. We teachers are excited about the choices we are offering you. The books will be on display in the library for you to come by and see. Please look at the list over the next several days and decide on your first few choices. Because we limit the number of participants in each club, remember that you may not be able to get into your top choice, so have a few in mind that you would like to join. Note that some books are for 11th and 12th graders only.

Here are a few things to remember:

- **You may not choose a book you have read before.** For those taking honors English classes, you may not choose a book that you are assigned to read over the summer. If that occurs, you will be asked to change summer reading book clubs.
- If the choice disappears from the Google form, the book club is closed.
- If you get an email from me after you sign up, the book club has closed and you will need to select another book. Check your email.

Rising 9th graders will have a chance to start choosing book clubs on Tuesday, May 4th. You will receive an email during lunch with an invitation to fill out a Google form to make your choice. Wednesday, May 5th, rising 10th and 11th graders will receive an email at 7:45. Rising 12th graders will receive an email on Wednesday, May 5th at the beginning of lunch.

Over the summer you will read the book. When you return, be prepared to take a brief reading check over the book and discuss it with your club. The reading check will be the first grade for your English class. You will be asked what percentage of the book you read as part of that grade.

Blessings,
Mrs. Ford

Choices

The Talent Code by Daniel Coyle—Self-improvement

What is the secret of talent? How do we unlock it? In this groundbreaking work, journalist and New York Times bestselling author Daniel Coyle provides parents, teachers, coaches, students, athletes, businesspeople--and everyone else--with tools they can use to maximize potential in themselves and others.

Mr. Mears

The Energy Bus by Jon Gordon

The Energy Bus, an international best seller by Jon Gordon, takes readers on an enlightening and inspiring ride that reveals 10 secrets for approaching life and work with the kind of positive, forward thinking that leads to true accomplishment - at work and at home. Jon infuses this

engaging story with keen insights as he provides a powerful roadmap to overcome adversity and bring out the best in yourself and your team. When you get on *The Energy Bus* you'll enjoy the ride of your life!

Mr. Furuto

Training Camp by Jon Gordon

Training Camp is an inspirational story filled with invaluable lessons and insights on bringing out the best in yourself and your team. The story follows Martin, an un-drafted rookie trying to make it in the NFL. He's spent his entire life proving to the critics that a small guy with a big heart can succeed against all odds. If you want to be your best--*Training Camp* offers an inspirational story and real-world wisdom on what it takes to reach true excellence and how you and your team (your work team, school team, church team and family team) can achieve it.

Mr. Morris

Christian Living for Teens

Not a Fan by Kyle Idleman

Are you a follower of Jesus? Don't answer too quickly. In fact, you may want to read this book before you answer at all. Consider it a 'Define the Relationship' conversation to determine exactly where you stand. You may indeed be a passionate, fully devoted follower of Jesus. Or, you may be just a fan who admires Jesus but isn't ready to let him cramp your style. Then again, maybe you're not into Jesus, period. In any case, don't take the question---Are you a follower of Jesus?---lightly. Some people don't know what they've said yes to and other people don't realize what they've said no to, says Pastor Kyle Idleman. But Jesus is ready to clearly define the relationship he wants with his followers. *Not a Fan* calls you to consider the demands and rewards of being a true disciple. With frankness sprinkled with humor, Idleman invites you to live the way Jesus lived, love the way he loved, pray the way he prayed, and never give up living for the One who gave his all for you.

Mrs. Freeman

Fault Lines: The Social Justice Movement and Evangelicalism's Looming Catastrophe

by Voddie T. Baucham Jr. (11th and 12th grade)

As a wave of violent riots protesting the death of a black man at the hands of police shook the nation in the summer of 2020, most Americans were shocked. Christians nationwide, eager to fulfill their God-given calling to bring peace and reconciliation, took to pulpits and social media in droves to affirm that "black lives matter" and proclaim that racial justice "is a gospel issue." But what if those Christians, those ministers, and those powerful ministries don't know the whole story behind the new movement that's been making waves in their congregations? Even worse: what if they've been duped into adopting a set of ideas that not only don't align with the Kingdom of God, but stand diametrically opposed to it?

Mr. Wise

When People Are Big and God is Small: Overcoming Peer Pressure, Codependency, and the Fear of Man by Edward T. Welch (11th and 12th grade)

Overly concerned about what people think of you? All experiences of the fear of man share at least one common feature: people are big. They have grown to idolatrous proportions in our lives. They control us. Since there is no room in our hearts to worship both God and people, whenever people are big, God is not. Therefore the first task in escaping the snare of the fear of man is to know that God is awesome and glorious, not other people. Welch uncovers the spiritual dimension of people-pleasing and points the way through a true knowledge of God, ourselves, and others. from Amazon.com

Mrs. Eady

Live Fearless: A Call to Power, Passion, and Purpose by Sadie Robertson, Beth Clark

Dear friends, I don't know about you, but I'm pretty tired of the struggle. You know which one I mean--fear, loneliness, not knowing who I am or what I'm meant to do. . . . Sound familiar? I struggled with insecurity, comparison, and isolation for too many years, from thigh gaps to eyebrows to the lifestyles I felt I had to live up to. I was so afraid of being "found out," that everyone in my life would somehow figure out that I was fearful and small and that I struggled to make my faith a reality and to be secure in who I am. It took a major perspective shift from staring at comments on a screen to really digging into the pages of my Bible to see what God actually says about overcoming fear. Setting aside the fear, anxiety, and comparison to become the joy-filled person God created you to be is exactly what God is inviting you into. To really be seen and known. To be an agent of change by choosing compassion, connection, and acceptance for everyone you come in contact with.

Mrs. Morris

The Pursuit of Holiness by Jerry Bridges

"Be holy, for I am holy" commands God to His people. But holiness is something that is often missed in the Christian's daily life. According to author Jerry Bridges, that's because we're not exactly sure what our part in holiness is. In *The Pursuit of Holiness*, he helps us see clearly just what we should rely on God to do--and what we should accept responsibility for ourselves.

Mr. Wahlman

The Screwtape Letters by C. S. Lewis—fiction

The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis is a classic masterpiece of religious satire that entertains readers with its sly and ironic portrayal of human life and foibles from the vantage point of Screwtape, a highly placed assistant to "Our Father Below." At once wildly comic, deadly serious, and strikingly original, C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters* is the most engaging account of temptation—and triumph over it—ever written.

Mrs. Frost

The Great Divorce by C. S. Lewis - Christian Fiction

C.S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce* is a classic Christian allegorical tale about a bus ride from hell to heaven. An extraordinary meditation upon good and evil, grace and judgment, Lewis's revolutionary idea in *The Great Divorce* is that the gates of Hell are locked from the inside. Using his extraordinary descriptive powers, Lewis' *The Great Divorce* will change the way we think about good and evil.

Mr. Ely

Criminal Pursuit and/or Espionage

Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson—young adult nonfiction

Having killed Abraham Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth flees Washington D.C. and the hunt for the most wanted man in America begins. This is a fast-paced thriller that both follows Booth's actions as well as those of his pursuers.

Mrs. Head

The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler by John Hendrix—graphic novel (but true story)

In graphic novel format, this book tells the story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his fight against the oppression of the German people during World War II. Dietrich was a German Lutheran pastor who was shocked to watch the German church embrace Hitler's agenda of hatred. He spoke out against the Nazi party and led a breakaway church that rebelled against the racist and nationalist beliefs of the Third Reich. Dietrich eventually became convinced that Hitler and the Nazi Party needed to be stopped--and he was willing to sacrifice everything to do so.

Mr. Margene

Dystopian Fiction

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins—young adult fiction

In an act of self-sacrifice, Katniss Everdeen volunteers to be tribute, one of two children chosen to fight to the death in an arena for the entertainment of the citizens of Panem, the city that controls her territory and keeps them in poverty. Will Katniss survive the brutal game, and beyond that, can anything be done to end the cycle of brutality?

Mrs. Schaffeld (Ms. Grubb)

Lord of the Flies by William Golding—classic young adult fiction

When British school boys are stranded on a tropical island during WWII, chaos ensues!
A chilling look into human nature.

Mrs. Sumerford

The Giver by Lois Lowry—young adult fiction

Jonas lives in a society without pain or suffering. Everyone just has to take one pill a day, and they have the perfect society. At the coming of age ceremony, Jonas becomes the Receiver of Memories, and in his new position, discovers just how much the society has given up for peace.

Coach Kerley

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury - dystopian classic

In Bradbury's science fiction novel, he imagines a future American society where books are not only outlawed, but must be destroyed by firemen whose job is to set them ablaze. The main character, Guy Montag, slowly begins to question his role as a fireman as he realizes the impact

of his actions. Bradbury's novel encompasses both the personal transition and growth of Montag along with a greater societal question of how we should preserve truth and knowledge.
Mrs. Anderson

The Road by Cormac McCarthy—doomsday fiction (11th and 12th grade)

Armed with a revolver and a shopping cart of supplies, a man and his son travel the desolate road in search of safety from the elements and from the marauders roving the decimated countryside of a post-apocalyptic America.

Mr. Wilson

Fantasy and Science Fiction

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire by J. K. Rowling—fantasy

Harry Potter is midway through both his training as a wizard and his coming-of-age. He wants to be a normal, fourteen-year-old wizard. But unfortunately for Harry Potter, he's not normal - even by Wizarding standards. And in his case, different can be deadly.

Mrs. Merry

Mistborn: The Final Empire by Brandon Sanderson (11th-12th grade)

Where ash falls from the sky, and mist dominates the night, evil cloaks the land and stifles all life. Criminal mastermind Kelsier teaches Allomancy, the magic of metals, to another Mistborn, urchin Vin, 16. The unlikely heroine is distracted by rich Venture heir Elend. Can Kelsier's thieving crew take on the tyrant Lord Ruler and bring back colour to their world?

Mr. Bautista

The Next Person You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom - fantasy

In this enchanting sequel to the number one bestseller *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, Mitch Albom tells the story of Eddie's heavenly reunion with Annie—the little girl he saved on earth—in an unforgettable novel of how our lives and losses intersect. The accident that killed Eddie left an indelible mark on Annie. It took her left hand, which needed to be surgically reattached. Injured, scarred, and unable to remember why, Annie's life is forever changed by a guilt-ravaged mother who whisks her away from the world she knew. Bullied by her peers and haunted by something she cannot recall, Annie struggles to find acceptance as she grows. Annie finds herself on her own heavenly journey—and an inevitable reunion with Eddie, one of the five people who will show her how her life mattered in ways she could not have fathomed.

Mrs. Pressley

The Healer's Apprentice by Melanie Dickerson - medieval fiction; Christian author

Rose has been appointed as a healer's apprentice at Hagenheim Castle, a rare opportunity for a woodcutter's daughter like her. Failure will mean returning home to marry the aging bachelor her mother has chosen for her—a bloated, disgusting merchant who makes Rose feel ill. When Lord Hamlin, the future duke, is injured, it is Rose who must tend to him. As she works to heal his wound, she begins to understand emotions she's never felt before and wonders if he feels the same. But falling in love is forbidden, as Lord Hamlin is betrothed to a mysterious young woman

in hiding. As Rose's life spins toward confusion, she must take the first steps on a journey to discover her own destiny.

Mrs. Youngblood

Mystery/Suspense

So Not Happening by Jenny B. Jones - young adult fiction

Bella Kirkwood had it all: A-list friends at her prestigious private school, Broadway in her backyard, and Daddy's MasterCard in her wallet. Then her father, a plastic surgeon to the stars, decided to trade her mother in for a newer model. Then when Bella's mom falls in love with a man she met on the Internet--a factory worker with two bratty sons--Bella has to pack up and move in with her new family in Truman, Oklahoma. On a farm no less! Forced to trade her uber-trendy NYC lifestyle for down-home charm, Bella feels like a pair of Rock & Republic jeans in a sea of Wranglers.

Mrs. McKeen

Death on the Nile by Agatha Christie - a Hercule Poirot mystery

The tranquillity of a cruise along the Nile is shattered by the discovery that Linnet Ridgeway has been shot through the head. She was young, stylish and beautiful, a girl who had everything – until she lost her life.

Mrs. Swafford

The Lost Girl of Astor Street by Stephanie Morrill—young adult historical fiction

Lydia has vanished. Lydia, who's never broken any rules, except falling in love with the wrong boy. Lydia, who's been Piper's best friend since they were children. Lydia, who never even said good-bye. Convinced the police are looking in all the wrong places, eighteen-year-old Piper Sail begins her own investigation in an attempt to solve the mystery of Lydia's disappearance. With the reluctant help of a handsome young detective, Piper goes searching for answers in the dark underbelly of 1924 Chicago, determined to find Lydia at any cost.

Mrs. Ford

Teens

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson - (11th and 12th grade)

After the nameless thing that happened at the party, Melinda suffers from the trauma and gradually closes herself off from her friends and family. However, when Andy Evans's intentions for her former best friend, Rachel, become clear, she realizes that she must try to bring herself to speak.

Mrs. Rollins

Romance

Beauty: A Retelling of the Story of Beauty and the Beast by Robin McKinley—young adult fantasy

Beauty has never liked her nickname. She is thin and awkward; it is her two sisters who are the beautiful ones. But what she lacks in looks, she can perhaps make up for in courage. When her father comes home with the tale of an enchanted castle in the forest and the terrible promise he had to make to the Beast who lives there, Beauty knows she must go to the castle, a prisoner of her own free will. Her father protests that he will not let her go, but she answers, "Cannot a Beast be tamed?"

Mrs. Kolling

A Voice in the Wind by Francine Rivers—Christian historical romance

This story transports readers back to Jerusalem during the first Jewish-Roman War, some seventy years after the death of Christ. Following the prides and passions of a group of Jews, Romans and Barbarians living at the time of the siege, the narrative is centered on an ill-fated romance between a steadfast slave girl, Hadassah, and Marcus, the brother of her owner and a handsome aristocrat. After surviving the massacre of her family and the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans, Hadassah is captured and sold to a well-to-do merchant's family. Brought to Rome, she is pressed into service as a personal slave to hedonistic Julia Valerian.

Ms. Sims

Personal Struggle/Memoir/Biography

Night by Elie Wiesel

Born in the town of Sighet, Transylvania, Elie Wiesel was a teenager when he and his family were taken from their home in 1944 to Auschwitz concentration camp, and then to Buchenwald. *Night* is the terrifying record of Elie Wiesel's memories of the death of his family, the death of his own innocence, and his despair as a deeply observant Jew confronting the absolute evil of man.

Mrs. Hollis

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child.

Dr. Houston

Bruchko by Bruce Olson—missionary memoir

"What happens when a nineteen-year-old boy leaves home and heads into the jungles to evangelize a murderous tribe of South American Indians? For Bruce Olson, it meant capture, disease, terror, loneliness, and torture. But what he discovered by trial and error has revolutionized the world of missions."

Mr. Stuart

Today, Tonight, Tomorrow: Adoption, Addiction, Redemption A story of a Beautiful Life and Tragic Death, and My Recovery by Jan Scruggs - former Briarwood teacher

I have experienced two of the most profound experiences God offers us on this earth: the overwhelming joy of adopting children, and the overpowering grief of losing a child from the tragedy of heroin addiction. In his death, my child was redeemed and set free. I was left picking up the pieces of my broken heart, shaking my head, and trying to understand why. God is good. Did I still believe that? This book chronicles my journey through His Word, listening for whispers from heaven, until finally, I too am set free.

Mrs. Scruggs

Science and Discovery

Just Six Numbers: The Deep Forces That Shape the Universe by Martin J. Rees -

The genesis of the universe elegantly explained in a simple theory based on just six numbers by one of the world's most renowned astrophysicists.

Mr. Selkirk

The Radium Girls: The Scary But True Story of the Poison That Made People Glow in the Dark by Kate Moore

Amidst the excitement of the early twentieth century, hundreds of young women spend their days hard at work painting watch dials for troops overseas using glow-in-the-dark paint made with radium. They are well paid and consider themselves lucky—until they begin to fall mysteriously ill. As the corporations try to cover up a shocking secret, these determined shining girls suddenly find themselves at the center of a historic and deadly scandal.

Mrs. Dirks

Sports and Competition

Woodlawn by Todd Gerelds - non-fiction

In the midst of violent, impassioned racial tensions in Birmingham, Alabama, new football coach, Tandy Gerelds, was struggling to create a winning football team at Woodlawn High School—one of the last schools in Birmingham to integrate. The team he was handed did not have the caliber of players he needed to win—until he saw Tony Nathan run. But Tony was African American and Coach Gerelds knew that putting him in as running back would be like drawing a target on his own back and the back of his soon-to-be star player. But Coach Gerelds saw something in Tony, and he knew that his decision to let him play was about more than football. It was about doing what was right for the school...and the city.

Coach Forester

Wreck My Life by Mo Isom - biography

Jesus promises peace *and* trouble for his followers. But most of us accept the peace and are confused and angry when adversity comes our way. All-American soccer star Mo Isom knows the struggle firsthand. While her life seemed like a success, she was battling an eating disorder, the suicide of her father, and a horrific car accident. It wasn't until God wrecked her life that she

discovered the glory of renewal through Jesus Christ and that wreckage can be sacred rather than scarring. Readers take the journey from broken to bold with her and learn to surrender their lives to the King who was wrecked on their behalf.

Mrs. Wilson

Historical Fiction and Non-fiction

Disney's Land: Walt Disney and the Invention of the Amusement Park That Changed the World by Richard Snow - non-fiction

In *Disney's Land*, Richard Snow brilliantly presents the entire spectacular story, a wild ride from vision to realization, and an epic of innovation and error that reflects the uniqueness of the man determined to build “the happiest place on earth” with a watchmaker’s precision, an artist’s conviction, and the desperate, high-hearted recklessness of a riverboat gambler.

Mrs. Latta

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr—fiction (11th and 12th grade)

Both Marie-Laure, a blind French girl, and Werner, a patriotic German boy, grow up hearing Marie-Laure’s uncle’s scientific broadcasts for kids and love them. When the Germans invade France, Marie-Laure escapes Paris with her father, who has been entrusted with a valuable diamond from the museum where he works. Werner joins the military, eager to help the cause.

Dr. Albritton

The Help by Katherine Stockett—regional Southern fiction (11th and 12th grade)

“Aibileen is a black maid in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, who's always taken orders quietly, but lately she's unable to hold her bitterness back. Her friend Minny has never held her tongue but now must somehow keep secrets about her employer that leave her speechless. White socialite Skeeter just graduated college. She's full of ambition, but without a husband, she's considered a failure. Together, these seemingly different women join together to write a tell-all book about work as a black maid in the South, that could forever alter their destinies and the life of a small town.” (blurb from Amazon)

Mrs. Craft

The Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani - fiction

It's 1947, and India, newly independent of British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. The divide has created much tension between Hindus and Muslims, and hundreds of thousands are killed crossing borders. Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs, or what her country is anymore. When Papa decides it's too dangerous to stay in what is now Pakistan, Nisha and her family become refugees and embark first by train but later on foot to reach her new home. The journey is long, difficult, and dangerous, and after losing her mother as a baby, Nisha can't imagine losing her homeland, too. But even if her country has been ripped apart, Nisha still believes in the possibility of putting herself back together.

Mr. White

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd - fiction

Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina--a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters, Lily is introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees and honey, and the Black Madonna.

Ms. Kimel

The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the New Testament World by Bruce W.

Longenecker (10th - 12th only) - fiction

Transported two thousand years into the past, readers are introduced to Antipas, a Roman civic leader who has encountered the writings of the biblical author Luke. Luke's history sparks Antipas's interest, and they begin corresponding. As Antipas tells Luke of his reactions to the writing and of his meetings with local Christians, it becomes evident that he is changing his mind about them and Jesus. Finally, a gladiatorial contest in Pergamum forces difficult decisions on the local Christians and on Antipas.

Mr. Barnhill

War and Refugees

Ghost Soldiers by Hampton Sides - non-fiction

On January 28, 1945, 121 hand-selected U.S. troops slipped behind enemy lines in the Philippines. Their mission: March thirty rugged miles to rescue 513 POWs languishing in a hellish camp, among them the last survivors of the infamous Bataan Death March. A recent prison massacre by Japanese soldiers elsewhere in the Philippines made the stakes impossibly high and left little time to plan the complex operation.

Mrs. Tedder

Note: The blurbs are copied and pasted from Goodreads.com unless otherwise noted.